

SERIES C: Topic 12

Winning

A stand-up comedian wins when he gets applause. The applause you need most could be love, approval or praise. Are you going at life in a way you are likely to get the kind of applause that would mean the most to you?

People don't root for the guy who is disappointed with himself. They root for the underdog who is genuine, reliable, caring and so focused on finding a way to win that he's unaware of himself or his limitations. That's because he is a winner.

Even if you never place or finish in an event, you can be a winner in life. Winning has nothing to do with what you accomplish—it's about your character, what you value, how trustworthy you are and the extent to which you take other people's needs into consideration as you work toward your goals.

Being a winner is using the capabilities you have effectively, and loving what they produce.

Why does the other guy always seem to get the job, the girl, the good tickets and the fancy car—while you don't?

- He arrived first and came "ready to play."
- He wanted it more and tried harder.
- He worked "smarter."
- He learned what he needed to know.

- He was more persistent.
- He had tried and failed numerous times and learned from his mistakes.
- He got advice from someone who had already succeeded.
- He gave up all the things he could have been doing, while he prepared.

Winning requires persistence, a running start, keeping your eye on the ball and expecting success. It is being aware of and prepared to react to all the things that could go wrong, as well as all the things that can't go wrong but somehow do.

Imagine you are in a dirt bike race, and the fastest way to the finish requires you to make it up a steep hill. You are on the gas, and because you are looking uphill for the right route, you fail to notice a rock on the edge of the path. You hit it and land hard in the bushes. You now have bent handlebars, no front brake, a hurt shoulder and shaken confidence. You will now have to take an easier route and finish in the back of the pack. Some of the "rocks" that cause your life to stall or go backward, or that put you out of the race include:

- Early marriages or marrying the wrong person.
- Having children too early in life.
- Overspending.
- Substance abuse.
- Proceeding with inadequate thought or preparation.
- Choosing fun now over long-term benefits.
- Not taking education seriously.
- Job hopping.
- Not respecting rules or authority.

- Being reckless with your health or body.
- Not doing things when they should be done.
- Not trying hard enough.
- Lack of self-control.
- Attitude, self-pity, pride, or arrogance.
- Indifference to what is right or wrong.
- Neediness, impatience, envy, or laziness.
- Hopelessness or selfishness.

To earn millions, professional baseball pitchers will spend years replacing good habits with better ones. That's how some of them can throw a ball 100 miles an hour. They put everything they've got into every pitch.

Seeing your efforts succeed is the best motivator. "Nothing breeds success like success."

The events of the past can't keep you from being a winner in the future; being a winner depends entirely on what you do NEXT.



ASK YOURSELF

Which "win" have I wanted but never gone after?

What have I attempted that deserves another try?

What subject do I want to know everything about?