



A Winning Attitude

by Lawrence Powell

Did you know that defeat is not an option for believers? Success is God's determined end for His children. Perhaps you have a defeatist mentality. Or maybe you've already made the transition from last place to winner in attitude and action. Either way, I want to remind you today that winning must be and remain your goal, your tenacious expectation.

You're a winner! You are a mighty man or woman of valor, a champion indeed. Victory is all over you. You might not look it from the outside, but what others see is a work in progress. You're catching up to what you were born again to be, and that is a courageous, invincible child of God.

Winning is never accidental. If you want success, you have to make a determined and intentional move toward it. It's not happenstance; there's no magic wand to wave that will bring it to us. We've got to participate, to cooperate with God. While we're designed to win, we've got to operate according to Scripture.

"The Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written

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in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success." Joshua 1:8

Winning means watching our mouths. Proverbs 18:21 says that death and life are in the power of the tongue. Our words are not meaningless. They hold power to affect situations, to make changes. Unfortunately, too many of us speak defeat. We let negative talk come out of our mouths and poison our lives and circumstances when we should be letting the Word of God flow instead.

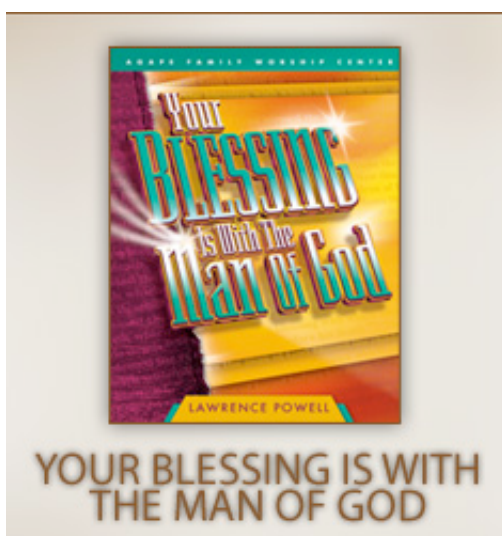
We ought to speak Scripture because it is spirit and life. There's nothing dead about the Bible; there's power in it that, when it's found upon the lips of His people, is creative in force and in ability.



Furthermore, Matthew 12:34 says that it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. One reason so many people are in defeated situations is because their hearts are filled with defeat. There is no Word content in them, so when they open their mouths, vain, empty, silly, negative stuff spews forth. We can't operate like this and expect to win. We need to rid ourselves of negative talk and replace it with the truth of God's Word. Then, when we find ourselves in a situation, when the doctor's told us we're diseased, when we only have six months to live, we'll read the Word and declare Psalm 118:17, *"I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord."* We'll declare that Word of truth and combat the lies of the enemy.



Winning depends on attitude. In Numbers 13, we read the story of the Israelite spies' return from the land of Canaan. Twelve spies came back with the fruit of the land, a cluster of grapes so large they had to be carried by two men, and a report of all they'd seen. Ten of them said, "Yes, it is indeed a land flowing with milk and honey, nevertheless the inhabitants of the land are strong, their cities are fortified and very large. Moreover, we saw the descendants of Anak there, and we were like grasshoppers compared to them." Verse 30 says, *"Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, 'Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it.'"*



Caleb silenced the people. He knew if he didn't do

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something right then, the poison of false testimonies would spread throughout the camp and they would never be able to go in and possess that which God had given them.

No matter how scary things look, you don't have to fear. Whatever the Lord has promised will come to pass despite the many giants in the way. Remember you've got favor on your side. A winning attitude says, *"Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life"* Psalm 23:6.

Something about Caleb you need to know is that his name means "dog." I often wondered what his parents were thinking when naming him. What did he look like when he was born? But the significance of his name is not found in looks, but in tenacity. Caleb was like a bulldog when it gets its mouth on something: those jaws would lock and he wouldn't let go. That's how we need to be. We need to put a faith grip on and hold fast to the promises of God.

Winning is a matter of perspective. Caleb was from the tribe of Judah, and Judah means, "praise." Caleb came from a lineage of praisers. People who praise are visionaries. Praisers can see what others can't.

When you praise and worship the Lord, He opens your eyes. Psalm 50:23 says that God shows those who praise Him the way of salvation. God has a way of deliverance for every negative situation. For example, if you're in debt, He'll show you the way out of poverty and the way into prosperity. If you're sick, He'll show the way of healing.

Don't let circumstances intimidate you. Keep a faith grip on the promises of God and praise the Lord at all times. This is what champions do.

Winning requires action. You can't just be a hearer of the Word; you've got to *do* the Word. The Message Bible says in James 1 verses 22-25, *"Act on what you hear! Those who hear and don't act are like those who glance in the mirror, walk away, and two minutes later have no idea who they are or what they look like. But whoever catches a glimpse of the revealed counsel of God - the free life! - and sticks with it, is a man or woman of action. That person will find delight*



and affirmation in the action."

You see, all twelve spies had the evidence, the fruit of the land, but only two of them believed the rest of the promise that they would possess the land. They heard God's Word, but failed to act on it. Caleb and Joshua both heard the Word and acted upon it, and they lived to find delight in the possession of the promise! I want you to know if God has given you a promise, it's yes and amen. It shall come to pass.

Today, you're not defeated. You're not going to die in your trial, so don't waste your trial with pointless complaints. Look beyond your current circumstances and see Jesus. Your help comes from the Lord.

Beloved, I dare you right now to reach down into your innermost self and release a great praise to God, one filled with faith and expectation, one filled with a winner's attitude. It may be a little rough right now, but you'll make it because you're wired, predesigned and predetermined to win.

Should you stumble along the way, get up immediately. Dust yourself off in Jesus' name and keep moving toward victory. Remember, quitters never win and winners never quit.

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