



Winning and Losing

“Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, “I have acquired a man from the Lord. “Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in the process of time, it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell.

So, the Lord said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.” (Genesis 4:1-7)

Winning in Time and Eternity

1. The way to rule over sin: Turn from what is wrong and do what is right. Then your works will be accepted by God.
 - a. You can't blame lust for your failure. You must blame yourself.
 - b. Neither sin nor other people made you fall.
 - c. The devil did not make you do it.
 - d. Turning toward right is your choice. You then begin winning.
2. The Bible is filled with winners and losers. God has told you how to win (Micah 6:8).
 - a. Following the word consistently brings success and maturity.
 - b. Following the leadership of the Holy Spirit also brings success.
3. In our country, political correctness says we have no winners and losers, first, and last place.
 - a. We cannot all be winners.
 - b. But winners can inspire losers to reevaluate, learn, and now win.
 - c. We cannot all be winners for just showing up.
4. Even in heaven there are winners and losers, rewards for finishing well, and loss of rewards for not.

5. Don't feel guilty because you succeeded.
 - a. In the Christian life, anyone who obeys God can and will succeed.
 - b. In our country, anyone who follows rules, does not give up, can win.

Whether You Win or Lose, Keep the Right Attitude

1. Your win did not cause someone else to fail. You caused your win.
2. Your loss was not caused by the winner. You caused your loss.
3. Guilt in the winners has caused the contestant field to be reduced and your odds are now better, so try harder.
4. You can either resign to failure or take it as a challenge to improve.
5. It is not the coach's job to put your son on the field to let him play.
 - a. It is the father's job to teach him at home and bring up the skills so he can play.
 - b. The coach is looking for a winning team and your child can train and enter as a winner.
6. God put the blame on Cain for Cain's failure.
 - a. He did not ask Abel to back off and not try so hard next time.
 - b. Cain's anger and pouting was his fault, not Abel's or God's.
 - c. Abel did not need to feel guilty for pleasing God.
7. God told Cain he could return with the right gift, the right way, and God would accept it.
 - a. God always makes a way for forgiveness and restoration.
 - b. Accepting responsibility for our actions and choices are the beginning of turning failure into success.
8. Athletes everywhere, throughout the years, have grown stronger by recognizing their failures and learning from the winners.
9. After a race, two things usually happen to the loser's advantage:
 - a. The winner rests on his victory.
 - b. The loser can get over shock and sorrow and learn from the loss.