



## HOW TO BECOME THE BIGGEST WINNER, PART 1

Dr. Anthony L. Moore

There's a popular television show called, The Biggest Loser that focused on weight loss. Contestants would go on the show and compete with other people to see who could lose the most weight. I want to talk about how to become the biggest winner. In this

race you are not competing against others, you will be competing against yourself. The Apostle Paul provided us with Hebrews 12:1-2.

In this scripture passage, Paul explains the Christian life by comparing it to an athletic race. The

witnesses he speaks about are the Christians [Heroes] who have died, gone on before us and are cheering us on. They are not spectators, but inspiring examples. The Christian life is pictured as a marathon, rather than a sprint. During that time in history, some Hebrew Christians were tempted to drop out of the contest because of

their persecution. That's why Paul said, "Run with perseverance and patience..." because many Christians today give up and quit too easily. Although you will have trials and problems in life, the goal is to "Fix our eyes on Jesus..." not on our problems. Then, just as a runner should focus on the finish

### Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

line, Christians must focus on Jesus, who is the goal and objective of our faith: "The finisher or perfecter of our faith" Jesus is both the start and finish of the race, He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end! He is the supreme witness because He has run the race (suffered shame, the crucifixion and resurrection), and has overcome victoriously. Next time, I'll explain in Part 2 how to run this race and become victorious!

### "FROM THE YARD"

Each month we will bring you content from one of your brothers inside.

#### **Jesus, the Perfect Gift** **2 Cor. 9:15**

As a child growing up in the Northeast I was always enamored with Christmas time: The tree with its glitter, ornaments and excitement and exuberance of the season. But, it was always about waking up to presents.

Someone asked me what my favorite Christmas song is. That is difficult to answer but the Little Drummer Boy is at the top of the list. The reason why is that today I now wake up in a prison cell Christmas morning understanding the eternal significance of the true meaning, purpose and perfect gift we have in Jesus.

Being fully divine and fully man, Jesus came in power to redeem, to restore, and to bridge the gap of the broken hearted by which God came to earth and by which we come to heaven. And like the Little Drummer Boy I may not have much in terms of a commercialized Christmas but what I now enjoy is to glorify and offer praises to Jesus for being the perfect gift.

*~Brian Lionberg*

## “WORDS TO GROW BY”

Linda Lewis, Director of Communications, Growth Ministries Inc.

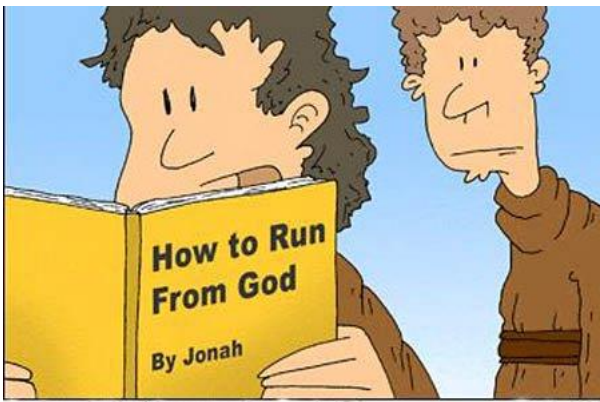
You may not control all the events that happen to you, but you can decide not to be reduced by them.

You will face many defeats in this life, but never let yourself be defeated.

Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud. Do not complain. Make every effort to change things you do not like. If you cannot make a change, change the way you have been thinking. You might find a new solution.

~*Maya Angelou*

### **The Lighter Side of Growth Ministries**



IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"

### **Growth Ministries Activities**

In November, Warden Sam Cline allowed members of Growth Ministries to join him in a new initiative called The Warden's Ambassadors. We had the blessed opportunity to accompany Warden Cline as he made rounds in the Maximum Unit visiting, praying and sharing the love of Christ with various inmates.

Stay tuned for more happenings coming soon.

### **Closing Words**

I am often amazed at the steadfastness of many of the men I encounter when visiting Lansing Correctional Facility. I have had the opportunity to meet several men from the African Awareness Organization and Brothers in Blue. The thing that impresses me the most is how these men have confidence in who they are despite their current situation. Through spiritual growth and education, they have a confidence stronger than that of many men I know who consider themselves “free men”. If you wish to have what they have, I encourage you to reach out and connect with one of these groups to find out how to get it.

~*Lonnie Johnson, Executive Director, Growth Ministries Inc.*

Growth Ministries Inc. is a Christian based not for profit organization with a passion and desire to assist individuals improve spiritually and socially through a variety of services, activities, and events.