



Growth Ministries Inc.

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HOW TO BECOME THE BIGGEST WINNER, PART 2

Dr. Anthony L. Moore

In Part 1 of this article, we talked about running the Christian race, now I'd like to share with you an Action Plan for how to be victorious in running your race to become the **Biggest Winner!** First, you must run the race with perseverance and never give up! No matter how hard it gets, do not give up. If you fall down, ask the Lord to help you get back up again, and get back in the race. Secondly, we must lay aside every weight and sin that so easily weighs us down. In other words, we need to let go of envy, low self-confidence, laziness, arrogance, self-pity, jealousy, hate, prejudice, racism, pride and anything else that takes our focus off of Jesus! When people fly hot air balloons, one of the ways the balloon is able to go higher, is to throw weights off of it. As long as you hold on to negative things, you will be weighed down, depressed and stressed to the point that you will be paralyzed [in your mess]. You have to declare by faith, "I'm too blessed to be stressed or depressed, and I'm more than a conqueror!"

In a practical sense, you can't run this race, unless you accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Jesus will help you, strengthen you, and lift you up when everything and everyone else is against you. Paul said in Romans 3:31, "*If God be for you, who can be against you?*" He also said in Romans 8:28, "*And we know, that all things work*

together for good for them who love Jesus and are the called according to His Word." The scripture doesn't say everything will be good, it says, it will work together for your good. There is a positive purpose in every situation, sometimes you just have to ask God to show you. I heard about a man who was leaving for work, and noticed he had a flat tire. He was already late, so he was frustrated and angry that he had to call for help because he didn't have a spare tire. He wound up being a couple of hours late for work. On his way to work, he heard on the radio

Hebrews 12:1-2 (KJV)

"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?"

that a tragedy had occurred at his place of employment and thousands of his co-workers were killed at his office. He worked at the World Trade Center in New York; this was on September 11, 2001. Today he is alive because of a flat tire. Finally, in order to win this race, you must stay focused on the purpose for running the race, which is Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith. If Jesus is not Lord of your life, I invite you to say this prayer, "**Lord, Jesus, forgive my sins, come into my life, and I make you my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' name, amen.**" If you said this prayer and believed in your heart, you are saved! Now, run your race and be victorious...YOU are the **Biggest Winner!** Grace and Peace!

"FROM THE YARD"

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

Hebrews 13:5 I will never leave you nor forsake you.

In his book, *If God is Good*, Randy Alcorn writes about a grieving father who lost a son and says to a friend, "Where was God when my son died?" His friend answered, "The same place He was when His Son died."

In your most distressing moments picture Jesus' outstretched hands on the cross and ask the question, why did you do that for me? You'll see the depth, height and width of His love for you (Rom. 8:37-39). It renders the vastness of His willingness, motivated by love, to pay the ultimate price. That price tag reveals that we have a God who does not just sympathize with our pain but that He suffered in spite of us.

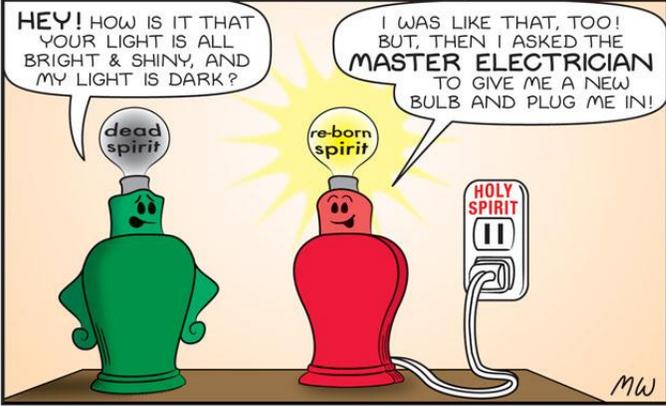
The beauty of the cross is that His story can be our story. When we experience a tragedy like crime and turn it into triumph it is no longer just something that happened to us because God never wastes pain. He will give it a purpose and make sense of it in mission (2 Cor. 1:3-7).

~Brian Lionberg

"WORDS TO GROW BY"

Linda Lewis, Director of Communications, Growth Ministries Inc.

Don't Worry!
God is never blind to your tears,
Never deaf to your prayers,
And never silent to your pain.
He Sees, He Hears, and He will Deliver.
Believe in yourself... You can and you will get through this.
Search within yourself and you will find strength and hope for tomorrow.
Look for something **positive** in each day,
Even if some days you have to look a little harder.
God's got you!

The Lighter Side of Growth Ministries	Growth Ministries Activities
<p>DARK LIGHT</p> <p>A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters</p>  <p>But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!</p> <p>- MATTHEW 6:23 NIV</p>	<p>December is a reminder of how much God loves us as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Right after Christmas Growth Ministries had the pleasure and honor of joining AAO for their Kwanza banquet at Lansing Medium Unit.</p> <p>We will also be hosting a weekend of activities for Black History month at LCF. Stay tuned for dates and times.</p>

Closing Words

Life is about choices. You can choose to be angry at life or you can choose God's peace. You can choose to walk in fear or you can choose to trust God to fight all your battles. You can choose to worry about how you are going to make it or you can choose to let God provide for all your needs. I choose God. There is a big promise associated with that choice as stated in His Word below.

Deuteronomy 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live.

~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.