

Becoming a Champion for Christ

The Champion's Creed

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I. Introductory Remarks.

As born again believers, we must all come to realize that God has given us the ability to be champions in life. We can reign over all things. There should be nothing too difficult for us. When we look to God our possibilities in life are without limitation.

Luke 18:27 *But He said, "The things which are impossible with men are possible with God."*

Philippians 4:13 *I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*

Another translation says, "I am ready for anything through the strength of Him who makes me strong". The Jerusalem Bible says, "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength."

1 Timothy 1:12 *I thank him who has made me equal to the task, Christ Jesus our lord...*

Romans 8:37 *Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.*

In this message I want to give you ten things that God says you can do through His strength. This is what we will call the champion's creed. If you live your life by the champion's creed you will discover that God has truly made you a champion in life just like the apostle Paul, King David and many others.

II. Ten Components of "The Champion's Creed."

1. I Can Believe.

The first and most important aspect of the Champion's Creed is our belief in what Jesus has said concerning our positions with Him and what He can do through us. We must believe.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Mark 9:23-24 *Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"*

- Do you believe that God has made you equal to any task that He gives you?
- Do you believe that God will take your impossibilities and turn them into possibilities?
- Do you believe that you are more than a conqueror through Him?
- You can believe and you must believe if you are to be a champion for Christ.

Ephesians 1:19-20...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places.

2. I Can Change.

In order to go on to be the great champion God has ordained you to be, you must be willing to go through the changes of being conformed into the image of Jesus Christ. Our life in Christ consists of yielding ourselves to His transforming grace.

2 Corinthians 3:18 *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

This means putting on the new man, who is created after Jesus Christ and putting off the works of the flesh which are a part of our old sinful nature.

Ephesians 4:22-24...that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, {24} and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in righteousness and true holiness.

3. I Can Be Loved By God and Love Others.

One of the key ingredients in becoming a champion for Christ is that of being able to fully receive His love into our lives. This is what gives us the freedom and the liberty to grow and mature and be blessing to others.

Romans 5:5 *Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.*

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another."

1 John 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

4. I Can Forgive And Be Forgiven.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 4:32 And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ also forgave you.

Luke 17:3-4 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. "And if he sins against you seven times in a day, and seven times in a day returns to you, saying, 'I repent,' you shall forgive him."

5. I Can Rule My Thought Life.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

Philippians 4:7-8 ...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy; meditate on these things. (fix your minds - Phillips Version)

6. I Can Make A Difference.

We have been sent into this world to be salt and light. It is when we are doing those things that glorify God that we are able to make a difference in the world which we live.

We have been given to this generation to serve the purpose of God.

Esther 4:14 *"For if you remain completely silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. Yet who knows whether you have come to the kingdom for such a time as this?"*

Acts 13:36 *"For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell asleep, was buried with his fathers, and saw corruption;*

Philippians 2:15-16...*that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.*

7. I Can Accomplish Great Things.

John 14:12 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

8. I Can Stand In The Midst Of Adverse Circumstances.

Ephesians 6:12-14 *For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness.*

2 Sam. 23:11-12 *And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. Then the people fled from the Philistines. But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. And the LORD brought about a great victory.*

9. I Can Defeat The Enemy.

1 John 4:4 *You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Luke 10:19 *"Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

10. I Can Be A Finisher.

2 Timothy 4:6-7 *For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.*

III. Concluding Remarks.

In conclusion, let's remember that God's desire towards us is that we all become great champions for Christ. As we continue to live our lives by the champion's creed, putting these ten components into effect we will become the great champions that Christ has made us.