

Sunday Sermon Notes

"Winning"

Placebo #3: "Winning"

Winners are people we consider to be:

Successful, Powerful, Victorious

Popular statements about winners:

"Winning isn't everything, it's the only thing."

"Everyone loves a winner."

"No one remembers who comes in second."

Problems with being a "winner."

Only a relative few really rejoice with us.

Everyone else is trying to knock us off.

It is lonely at the top.

Winning never really lasts.

Why this placebo can be dangerous.

It can dominate our lives

It can destroy relationships

It can distract from what is important

A battle we cannot afford to lose:

The devil is scheming against us

There are powers arrayed against us

A day of crisis is bound to come

We have the capability of insuring victory:

Belt of truth

Breastplate of righteousness

Shoes of readiness

Shield of faith

Helmet of salvation

Sword of the Spirit

Pray, pray, pray!

Digging Deeper

Notes for Individual Meditation and Small Group Discussion

What is your best or worst memory of winning or losing?

Review the sermon notes from Sunday's sermon. What point in the sermon made the greatest impact on you?

Why do you believe Christians can be so inclined to become focused on the wrong battles in life?

Read: Romans 12:1-8

Discussion Questions

(Remember that not all questions must be used)

In verses 1-3, The Apostle Paul has just told Christians they should offer their bodies as living sacrifices and not be conformed to the pattern of this world. In what ways can trying to be a "winner" be a form of conforming to the world?

How does what Paul say we will discover about God's will differ from what we think God's will will be like?

Paul encourages us not to think too highly of ourselves, but instead to think of ourselves with "sober judgment." In what ways do you think people tend to think too highly of themselves? How might it be possible for people to think too lowly of themselves? Which are you most inclined to do?

What do you think Paul means when he says, "In accordance to the measure of faith God has given you"? Why do you think God gives people different measures of faith?

We are told that each of the members of the body belongs to all the rest. How does knowing this affect our understanding of being accountable to each other?

Paul says we have different gifts, "according to the grace given us." How should knowing this affect our opinion of the gifts we have? What does this imply about the possibility that someone could have not gifts?

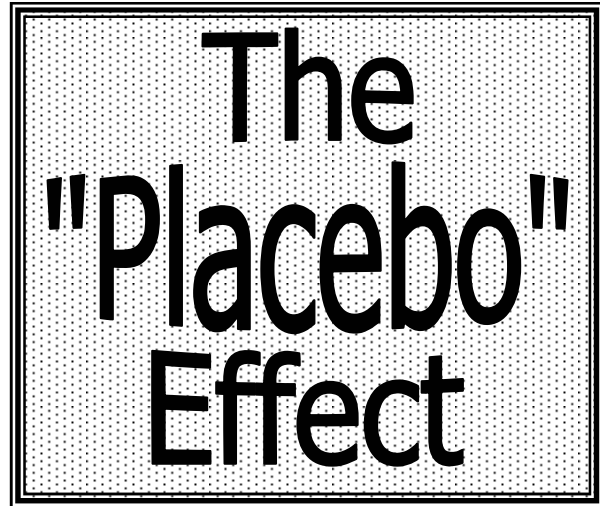
The gift of "prophesying" might be best translated as "proclaiming," "preaching," or "declaring the word of God." It may or may not include an element of predicting the future. How does knowing this help you to appreciate better this gift? Why does having faith affect one's ability to "prophesy"?

Look at the list of gifts. Which of these gifts are you surprised to see listed as gifts? Why do you think we tend to not think of some of these as gifts?

Most of us are not likely to claim many of these gifts for ourselves. However, we can often see many of these gifts in people we know. Begin with someone in your group and let the others in the group describe the gifts of ministry they observe this person having. Do that with each person in your group, affirming and encouraging each other in their different gifts.

Prayer Time:

Give each person a chance to share his or her greatest fear of being involved in ministry. Take time to pray for each other to better do the work of ministry which God has gifted them to do.



The
"Placebo"
Effect

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Ephesians 6:10-18

"Winning"

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