

## **Experiencing Spiritual Victory!**

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### **Spiritual Intimacy leads to Spiritual Power, and Spiritual Power leads to Spiritual Victory!**

**Hebrews 12:1-3 (NLT):** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith, let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.*

*We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.*

One of the things I love about Paul's writings is that he often used sports analogies to illustrate spiritual principles. One of Paul's favorite sports analogies is that of runner. To Paul, a runner was a fitting depiction of the Christian life.

### **How Do You Experience Spiritual Victory?**

1. You must look at the **LIVES OF WINNERS.**

**Stop comparing yourself to losers!**

**Hebrews 12:1a:** *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a huge crowd of witnesses to the life of faith...*

**1 Corinthians 9:24 (NLT):** *Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!*

### **How Do You Experience Spiritual Victory?**

2. You must look at **YOUR OWN LIFE.**

**Hebrews 12:1b (NLT):** *Let us strip off every weight that slows us down, especially the sin that so easily trips us up. And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.*

### **How Do You Experience Spiritual Victory?**

3. You must look at the **LIFE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

**Hebrews 12:2-3 (NLT):** *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates (the author) and perfects (the finisher) our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne. Think of all the hostility he endured from sinful people; then you won't become weary and give up.*