# WINNING BY LOSING

This week we are going to focus on winning by losing. Yes dear children of God, many a time, we lose in order to win. You may think that "I was disappointed, embarrassed, I lost, I had to cut a sorry figure...' but all this happened so that you could experience this big victory in your life. We have lost many things, many times like jobs, businesses, health and so on and because of this we think that we have made a mistake and that is why we have lost. I have read this saying "It is possible to make no mistakes and still lose." This is not a weakness but this is life. I tell you children of God, because we lose, we learn many things in life.

"When we win we glow, when we lose we grow!" When we lose or face embarrassments and disappointments, psychologically our brain benefits from the mistakes that we make. Our brain gets a wake up call we make a mistake or when we lose something or get disappointed in something. We react in two ways. One is, we can find out what went wrong, why it went wrong, how to prevent it the next time and how to avoid it. The other way is to completely shut down and say to yourself repeatedly that 'I've made a mistake, I've lost.' In the second instance, what happens is that we shut ourselves down and keep repeating the same mistake again. There are many opportunities that life offers when we lose. We win by losing.

# What does the Bible say about losing?

*Mathew 19:21 Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."*

*Mathew 19:29 And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My name's sake, shall receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.*

We may have lost money, position, jobs, businesses. But there are some who have let go certain things in their lives. The Lord says that these will receive a hundredfold blessing. Whatever you have lost, you will receive it a hundred times.

*Mark 8:35 For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it.*

*Mark 9:35 And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all."*

*John 12:24 Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain.*

The Lord says when we lose our life we will gain. If you have lost anything you gain it for me. If you want to be the first, be the last. If you want to be the first, be the servant. He also says if a grain of wheat needs to produce a harvest, it must die. All of these show that we lose something to gain something.

Today, children of God, if you want to gain something, it will all start by losing something. Do you know what faith is? It is losing in order to gain something that we don't see right now. These days, if you want to become a big businessman, you will have to leave your works. Some want to do both! It is not possible.

You would've come across exchange offers for old items. We have to give the old items to get new ones. Dear children of God, similarly losing is the exchange for what we are going to gain.
If you feel you have lost again and again, I want to tell you that you have not lost but you learnt to win. If you want to win over your body and get good health you must lose weight. Yes, if you want to have a good body you need to lose many kilos. Some want to gain many kilos and still win. Here we can only win by losing.

Have you seen slow races and cycle races? We have to slow down and let the others go by. How much ever we go slow and let the others go in the front, we will win. We have to make slow progress in order to win. Many may cheer you to go fast, but you are actually winning by losing. Similarly, we will consistently win the race that the Lord has kept for us. We always want a positive result but you see this year we pray ardently that our COVID-19 result should be negative! Do we ever like negative results? No negative words, answers, speech etc. Today when we go to the doctor and he speaks of COVID-19 positive it becomes a big issue!

Sometimes, negative is also good! Two negatives becomes a positive. Isn't it? Similarly two failures can become a victory for you. Do you believe it? We need to learn that it is okay for us to lose in order to win.

# 1. LOSE THE OLD TO GAIN THE NEW.

Many of us find it hard to lose the old to get the new. We keep hoarding the old and there is no place for the new. Let us look at this:

*Hebrews 11: 8–10 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.*

God told Abraham to go to a place that he did not know. He did not know what was lying ahead; he did not know what was going to happen; nor where he would stay. But because the Lord told him to go, he went in faith.And he says, he was looking at the city whose builder and architect is God. You may think what did he lose?

If God tells us to leave a place and go to the place He directs, we will find it so difficult. We always want to be in a comfort zone.

*Genesis 12:1–2 Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you.2 I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.*

Abraham may have thought that he was already blessed. Is there more to this? Most times, we do not receive the blessings that God has for us because we are afraid to leave the place where we are, just in case we lose what we already have. God says even if you lose these things you will gain bigger things.

Lose the old to gain the new! At that age Abraham had to trust God and go to a place that he did not know. He lost all to gain the great blessing that God had for him.

Don't be dwelling in the past that you've lost it but in order to receive God's blessings we need to let go of these.

Is God asking to lose something to gain the blessing that He has for you? Be ready!

## 2. YOU WILL NOT LOSE IT IF YOU GIVE IT TO GOD.

If you surrender it to God you will not lose it. As long as we have it with us, we will lose it. When I give it to God, I will never lose it. Let's look at this:

*Hebrews 11: 17–19 By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, 18 of whom it was said, "In Isaac your seed shall be called," 19 concluding that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead, from which he also received him in a figurative sense.*

Today, many of us pray so hard for certain blessings in our lives, children, position, increase etc. When all that comes and God asks you to leave it, how will it be? Always remember, when you give it to God, you will never lose it. Dear children of God, always remember, when you give something to God you will never ever lose it.

That is why it is important to give your time in prayer to God, your talents, your tithes etc. Give it to God where it is safe. In reality how many of us have submitted our children to God?

Dear children of God, many of us want our children to become big in life and if nothing sets for them to go for God's ministry. When we submit our children in the presence of the Lord, He will look after them. When God asked Abraham to give his only son, he was readily willing. God gave him back to him. He made him the father of many. You will not lose it when you give it to God.

It may appear that it is gone from you but He will give it back to you. Give it to God and not to anybody else. Give your plans to God. You will not lose. Submit your decisions to God, He will take care.

## 3. VISIBLE LOSS HOLDS INVISIBLE GAINS.

It may have seen an obvious and evident loss but this particular loss has invisible gains and blessings in our lives. Blessings in disguise. Let's see this:

*Hebrews 11: 24–27 By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, 25 choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he looked to the reward.27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king; for he endured as seeing Him who is invisible.*

Moses was brought up as the Pharaohs' daughter's son in the palace. The moment Moses came to know that he was a Hebrew he left all his grandeur and left Egypt. He focused and believed the invisible God and lost all that was pleasing for the eyes and bore the burden of God's people. He lost all that was visible to the eyes and trusted an invisible God and gained the blessings that were invisible to the eyes. God did many miracles through Moses. Nobody got the opportunities to speak with God the way Moses did. All this because he was willing to lose all that he had.

Dear children of God, we should not be worried about losing anything because God has kept His invisible blessings for us. It is by losing we win, to get the blessings destined for us. We have to lose the old to gain the new; when we give it to God we will never lose it; visible losses will result in invisible gain.
Don't be dwelling on your past failures and losses, they have paved the way for your new blessings.

Even when I was in Australia, the Lord told me to leave and go back to India. I did not know what I am to do in India, similar to Abraham. I worked as a translator and youth pastor. But I lost something in order to gain something today. The ministry that the Lord wanted to execute through me.

Whatever you have lost, it will come back before your eyes as the invisible blessings. You will win what you have lost, the gain that you will receive because of your loss also will be great.
We all know marathon race. It is not about the people who run fast but it is about the people who run strong, steady and patiently.

Dear children of God, don't worry if you have lost something. It is called winning by losing!

I pray that the Lord will change all your losses into victories. Amen.

WINNING
LOST BATTLES