

1. Introduction

- a. Summer Olympics begin this year 24 July end 9 August
 - i. Average ticket to attend opening ceremony \$2220 - \$2680 or an event \$60 - \$1160
- b. Winter Olympics will be in 2022 and begin on 4 February and end on 20 February
- c. According to *Money.com* The US Olympic Committee gave thousands in cash prizes to medal winners of the 2018 winter games...for example \$37,500 (gold), \$22,500 (silver) and \$15,000 (bronze). The actual medal itself varies in worth depending weight, design, etc. IE at the 2018 PyeongChang Games' 1% gold plated medal was estimated \$577, solid silver medals \$320, and bronze (copper alloy) \$3.50. In general the medals are worth more money if sold at auction, where a gold medal may sell between \$20,000 and \$50,000. The endorsements/speaking deals the champion gets are considered priceless. *"When I look at what my medal gave me, it gave me a lifetime of door-opening and opportunity."* (Dierdra Dionne, Canadian skiing medalist) Whether an athlete is a 1st timer or continues to compete successfully also weighs in on the value of endorsements...as well as gender, country, future win expectations, etc. (*money.com*, 2018)
- d. Many want the gold medal but how many are willing to do what it takes to get there? The champions will not wake up 23 July 2020 or 3 February 2022 and head to the Olympics to stand on a podium. As it is with us...many want the testimony of the victory but are they willing to train, compete and persevere?

2. Promise (What did God say that I can say?)

- a. Find out what God promised. Reinhard Bonnke's book, *Faith: The Link with God's Power*, someone went through the bible and counted that there are 7,874 promises God made to us. Surely there is at least one that covers our situations.
- b. Mk 7:7 He promised if we seek we will find.
- c. Ps 84:11 No good thing will he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
- d. John 16:24 Ask and you will receive
- e. Mt 7:8,11 Everyone who asks receives, who seeks finds, knocks will be opened...how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!
- f. James 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the father of lights
- g. 2 Timothy 2:15 NLT Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive his approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth.
- h. Joshua 1:8 AMPC This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.
 - i. According to Jerry Savelle, there is a spiritual law revealed in this verse...
 - ii. *"Talking the Word + Meditating the Word + Acting on the Word = Prosperity, Dealing Wisely, and Success"* (his book *Victory and Success are Yours*)

3. Prayer (Say it!)

- a. What's in our heart comes out of our mouth...even when we pray. Are we saying what God said or something else?
- b. In John 5:1-9 there is the story of a man with infirmity for 38 years hanging out with a crowd of others who were lame, blind, etc. The Bible says out of the heart of the mouth speaks (Lk 6:45). When Jesus asked if he wanted to get well, out of the abundance of his heart the man speaks. "I can't, sir," the sick man said, "for I have no one to put me into the pool when the water bubbles up. Someone else always gets there ahead of me."
- c. Eph 3:12 In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.
- d. We don't have to doubt when we use His word because He'll back what He said. Isaiah 55:11 It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.
- e. *"...His ultimate purpose is that we will not be just helpless dependents, like babes at the breast, but His co-workers."* (RB, Faith: The Link...)
- f. 1 John 5:14 NLT And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him.
 - i. Hebrews 11:6 Without faith it is impossible to please Him - ask in faith!
 - ii. How do we get faith? Rom 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing and hearing by the word of God.

4. Practice (Keep saying it!) (perseverance)

- a. In a race/competition, there is always a competitor. There may be someone talking trash that they are going to take the victory and leave us defeat instead. Don't listen. Trust Christ and don't get distracted. We have purpose! So don't quit! Keep at it.
- b. *"...He actually created the kind of world in which prayer would be necessary. Prayer was not an after thought when the devil upset things. Even Jesus prayed. To help the ongoing affairs of the Kingdom of God, prayer is essential. A lot goes on that God does not want, but we should pray that His will be done [on earth as it is in heaven, right! Mt 6:10]. We ask, and then He performs. He planned that we should co-operate in that way just as He put Adam in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it (Gen 2:15)."* (RB, Faith the Link...)
- c. John 14:13 Whatever you ask in my name, that will I do.
- d. *"We are collaborators. The world and the people in it need care and the promise that Christ will do whatever we ask is for the fulfillment of that purpose..."* (RB, Faith the Link...)
- e. James 4:2 You do not have because you do not ask.

5. Conclusion

- a. Most have heard some form of the abductive reasoning phrase "walks like a duck, talks like a duck...must be duck". If people see our walk and hear our talk, would the conclusion be "must be a Christian?...must be a champion?"

- b. In the book *"Victory and Success are Yours"* by Jerry Savelle, he quotes Kenneth Copeland saying, "You can go to hell if you want to, and God will protect your right [choice] to go.' But you don't have to go to hell if you'll make the decision to allow Jesus to become Lord of your life.'" We get to choose!
- c. God has given us so many instructions to help us walk out the victory that was bought for. We can choose to pursue them or not..."Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT
- d. Let's be diligent to find out what He promised, say that, and keep on saying that, so that brick by brick we'll walk that road to victory. Why? Because we have a job to do... Mark 16:15 Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature.
- e. We are victorious champions because of Christ, now all we have to do is walk like a champion, talk like a champion right up the road of victory.