

Becoming a Champion for Christ

The Champion's Creed

If you think you are beaten, you are.
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win but you think you can't
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you're lost.
For out in the world we find,
Success begins with the fellow's will,
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you are outclassed, you are;
You've got to think to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man;
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the one who thinks he can.

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 to 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.*

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.

Ten Components of "The Champion's Creed."

1. I Can Believe. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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.*

- **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?

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 you are more than a conqueror through Him?
- You can believe and you must believe if you are to be a champion for Christ.

The Number one reason why people give up so fast is because they tend to look at how far they still have to go, instead of how far they have gotten.

I CAN BELIEVE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

2. I Can Change. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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**
- 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.

I CAN **BELIEVE**, I CAN **CHANGE**!!!!

3. I Can Be Loved By God and Love Others. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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 a 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.

4. I Can Forgive And Be Forgiven. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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.

- God **forgives us** when we repent and ask!
- We also should **be willing to forgive** -
- As **we have been forgiven**!!!

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

- But what if they keep sinning against me?

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. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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.

- Our weapons **ARE NOT** carnal.
- BUT **mighty** in God....
- FOR pulling **DOWN** strongholds...
- Bringing **EVERY THOUGHT** into captivity..
- To the **OBEDIENCE** OF CHRIST!!!!

Philippians 4:7-8 - CEV

⁷Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, **God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand.** And **this peace will control the way you think and feel.**

⁸Finally, my friends, **keep your minds** on whatever is true, pure, right, holy, friendly, and proper. **Don't ever stop** thinking about what is truly worthwhile and worthy of praise.

6. I Can Make A Difference. - - - I AM A CHAMPION

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.

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 - CEV

¹⁵ Then you will be the pure and innocent children of God. You live among people who are crooked and evil, but you must not do anything that they can say is wrong. Try to shine as lights among the people of this world, ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the message that gives life. Then on the day when Christ returns, I can take pride in you. I can also know that my work and efforts were not useless.

- Children of God without fault.
- **Crooked and perverse** generation...
- We are to **shine as lights.**
- Holdfast to **the WORD of GOD!!!**
- Our efforts **are not in vain!**

7. I Can Accomplish Great Things. - - - I AM A CHAMPION

John 14:12 CEV

¹² **I tell you for certain** that **if you have faith in me,** you will **do the same things that I am doing.** **You will do even greater things,** now that I am going back to the Father.

- If you **believe** in Christ.
- You will not only do the same things... But, **GREATER THINGS** in Christ.
- **Because, CHRIST IS IN YOU!!!**

8. I Can Stand In The Midst Of Adverse Circumstances. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!

Ephesians 6:12-14 - NIV

¹² For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

¹³ Therefore **put on the full armor of God,** so that **when the day of evil comes,** you may be able to **stand your ground,** and **after you have done everything,** to stand.

¹⁴ **Stand firm then....**

9. I Can Defeat The Enemy. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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. - - - I AM A CHAMPION!!!

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.*

CLOSE: - - - I AM A CHAMPION

TOM HOPKINS' The Champion Creed I am not judged by the number of times I fail, but by the number of times I succeed. And the number of times I succeed is in direct proportion to the number of times I can fail and keep trying.

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.

I CAN BELIEVE

I CAN CHANGE

I Can Be Loved By God and Love Others

I Can Forgive And Be Forgiven

I Can Rule My Thought Life

I Can Make A Difference

I Can Accomplish Great Things

I Can Stand In The Midst Of Adverse Circumstances

I Can Defeat The Enemy

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