

# A Winner's Mindset: Definition and Methods – Discussion Notes<sup>1</sup>

(Pas. Baines, Jr. 10/2017)

Read: Romans 8:37 --- <sup>37</sup> *No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

Matthew 7:20 --- <sup>20</sup> *Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.*

Proverbs 14:12 --- <sup>12</sup> *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*

I John 1:9 --- <sup>9</sup> *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.*

**Introduction:** If we believe that we are losers, we will sow and reap like losers. But if we believe that we are winners through Christ, God can help us to sow and reap like winner. These passages support the idea that believers should work on having a set of life governing beliefs that are aligned with sowing and reaping like winners. A key idea in today's discussion is "*We should be mindful of the definition of and methods of developing a winner's mindset.*"

## **Key Points:**

**1. Winners believe they are winners.** Notice in Romans 8:37; I John 4:4; and Psalm 27:1-3 that there is a winning spirit in the passages. Losers read these passages as simply words on paper. Winners read them as if the passages are about them. Winners believe that **God** is working things out for their good. *Let's work on believing that God is working things out for us, as His people.* A winner's mindset has much to do with what you believe about **God**.

**2. A winner's mindset leads to sowing and reaping like a winner.** Notice in passages like Galatians 6:7-9 that mindset leads to sowing, and sowing leads to reaping. Sowing or reaping without the right mindset will come up short. We run into problems like self-sabotage, lack of energy to press through troubles, or lack of appreciation for the results and/or valuing the results more than God. *Let's work on having a winner's mindset that leads to sowing and reaping like winners.* Faith or mindset without works is dead (see Jm. 2:17).

**3. Make a list.** Notice Lamentations 3:40 calls for self-examination. As a part of examining your current mindset, make a list of what you believe are your current life governing beliefs. Think about your life governing beliefs related to your personal stewardship (i.e., positive and progressive mindset, health, wealth), relationships (i.e., family, friends, others), and contribution (i.e., being a part of making the world a better place). *Let's work on assessing our mindsets.*

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<sup>1</sup> Prepare to discuss the following: What is the point, what scripture supports the point, what is the application sentence, and what is an example of living by the material? After the material is covered, be prepared to answer the following: Which point do you want to spend extra time on, why do you think this point is so important, and what tips do you have for living by this material, in spite of the challenges? **What is one thing you will take from this session and work on, in regard to your discipleship goals?**

**4. Does the fruit match the sign?** Notice that Matthew 7:20 teaches that a tree is known by its fruit, not just its sign. Our actions speak louder than our words. Go back to your list of what you say you believe and add examples for each area. In other words, what recent examples would you list under your claim to believe that personal stewardship is one of your high priorities? What would you put under relationships and contributions? As you examine the relation between what you say you believe and your list of examples, do the two jive? If someone else behaved the way you behave, how would you describe the mindset or life governing beliefs behind their behaviors? *Let's work on honestly assessing how our fruit compares to our signs.*

**5. Repentance vs. Justification.** Notice passages like Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 22:29; and Revelation 3:14-22. And then look at I John 1:9. The devil wants us to think we are alright, when God and our fruit is saying we are wrong. If we are falling short, God is calling us to confess our sins and turn from them. *Let's work on repenting, instead of justifying your sins.*