

Part 1 Developing The Champion in You

Sermon Title: **Part 1 Developing The Champion in You**

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C. Elijah Bronner: Winners are not those who never fail but those who never quit.

Female: You are listening to brothersoftheword.com. This is part one of the series titled "Developing The Champion in You" by C. Elijah Bronner. This message is number 7689. That's 7689. Listen to over a thousand free messages on brothersoftheword.com.

(Music Playing 00:00:21 - 00:00:50)

Female: And now for 7689 "Developing The Champion in You" part one.

C. Elijah Bronner: Thank you for joining Brothers of the Word because brother, you need the Word.

Now, we welcome all of you joining us by television and those of you joining us online at brothersoftheword.com. Stay tuned to today's message. Always a wonderful delight and joy to have you to tune in and join us. Well, I would like to share just a little humor, I actually shared this one on Thursday night and the teacher was speaking to little Johnny and she said, "Now, you must not say, I ain't going. You should say, I am not going, he is not going, we are not going, they are not going." Little Johnny replied, he said, "Wow. Ain't nobody going then."

Well, open your Bible if you will to the Book of 1 Samuel, the Book of 1 Samuel chapter 17, the Book of 1 Samuel chapter 17 and I just want to read one verse there. 1 Samuel chapter 17, 1 Samuel chapter 17. It's just one verse, verse 4. 1 Samuel, there in the Old Testament, chapter 17 and verse 4. When you get there, say amen. And verse 4 it says, "And there went out a champion, everybody say, "champion", out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span." And so, that's Goliath, he was a champion, and he wasn't the champion for long because David became the new champion and so, this 17th chapter here is a chapter about champions. So, it's a chapter about champions, and I just want to speak from the subject, "Developing The Champion in You." "Developing The Champion in You." I begin to realize that God, inspires champions. God, inspires champions. There's something in the people of God that God inspires and pulls out of us. And it's a champion quality that God inspires in his people. He made Gideon a champion. He took him from being a coward and turned him into a champion. Gideon's 300 men

became champions. They defeated an army of 132,000, 300, defeated a 132,000. They became champions and I begin to just see the transformative power of God as he developed champions, made champions out of people. David as we see here in 1 Samuel here at 17. He became a champion. He became a champion. David's mighty men all became champions. You don't have to turn there but in 2 Samuel chapter 23, you will read about the host of David's mighty men and all of the exploits. David had some bad boys. He had some bad boys. Man, he had some bad boys. The Bible says one of his boys was so bad, he had killed so many men that the sword stuck to his hand. And so, these were champions, these were actually misfits who came to David and David turned them into champions. He turned them into champions and everyone of them became just as mighty as David. So, I begin to see God his transformative power turning ordinary people into champions, into champions and so, Samson was a champion. Now, Samson was a one-man army. There was no army with Samson. Samson was the army. He was sort of like an Incredible Hulk. He was the army. He was the army. But he was a champion. He was a champion. He was a champion. And then of course Jesus. Jesus became our champion. Jesus became our champion. Jesus became our champion. He swept the devil up and down, snatched the keys out of his hand and He's our champion.

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Jesus is our champion. And so, there's this champion quality in all of us that God calls for, that he pulls out of us, that allows us to win over the problems of life. We all have this ability to win over the problems of life. The Bible says in Romans 8:37 that we are more than conquerors. It didn't say that you were a conqueror, it said, you are more than conquerors. Man, that's the spirit of a champion. That's a spirit of a champion.

I looked up that little phrase "more than conquerors." I looked it up in the Greek and this is what the Greek said about that little phrase "more than conquerors." It says, super victorious, super victorious. It means overpowering and achieving abundant victory. That's who you are. You're more than conquerors. You are more than conquerors. More than conquerors. Well, that's that spirit of a champion. That's that spirit of a champion. The Bible says, "We are overcomers." We are overcomers.

Jesus said in John 16:33, He says, “Now, in the world you’ll have trouble.” But he said, “Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” And because He has overcome the world, we have overcome the world because we’re in Him. We share His victory. He has overcome the world. We have overcome the world. And in fact, 1 John chapter 5 verse 4 says that, “Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world.” “Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is a victory that overcometh the world even our faith.” That’s the spirit of a champion. That’s the spirit of victory. That’s the spirit of victory. Notice, 1 John 4:4 says, “Greater is He that is within you, than He that is within the world.” What is that in you? That’s the spirit of a champion. That’s the spirit of a champion that’s in you. It’s the Holy Spirit. It’s the Holy Spirit. Folks, you ever thought about this? We’re in covenant with the one who spoke the world into existent by nothing but His Word. We’re in covenant with Him. We’re in covenant with Him. That’s who we are. That’s who we are. That’s who we are. And so, greater is He that’s within you than He that is within the world.

2 Corinthians 2:14 says that, “God always causes us to triumph. He always causes us to triumph.” That’s victory. There’s a spirit of a champion that’s in us. There’s a spirit of a champion that’s in us and it won’t let us quit. That’s the Holy Spirit in us and He will not let us quit. He won’t let us quit. Dr. Edwin Louis Cole, he says, “Winners are not those who never fail, but those who never quit.” That’s who a winner is and so, the Holy Spirit, He won’t let us quit. He’ll keep bringing you back on your feet. He will not let you quit because that’s the spirit of a champion. That’s the spirit of a champion on the inside of us. The reason I’ve started thinking about this particular subject, this message was actually inspired by Evander Holyfield, when he came to visit with us a couple of weeks ago to our men’s ministry and he came in unannounced. He came in really as a surprise and he actually came and spoke two hours to just an intimate group of us, only about 15 of us were there. And he spoke for two hours and then he even stayed and answered question for an hour. So, we had 3 hours with the champion. Three hours with the champion. Three hours with the champion. And this champion, he is the only man who has won the heavyweight title of the world five times. He’s the only man in history who’s done that. He’s the only man ever who has won the heavyweight championship of the world five times. And so,

just his presence and I told him this, is said, “Evander, you really didn’t have to talk. Just your presence signifies something, your presence spoke volumes to us and your presence made an impact simply by you showing up, by you walking in the door.” There’s something significant just about your life, what it speaks which you have accomplished, which you have done, your greatness.” So, I say, “You really didn’t have to talk two hours. All you really had to do was show up because there’s a message in your presence. There’s a message in your presence. There’s a message in your presence.” And I have some time to think about this.

00:10:00

And I said, “Lord, why would you send Evander our way?” And actually, one of our members, Brother Eddie Low, he invited Evander and that’s how he came to be here. But I said, “Lord, why would someone who has done what he has done, why would you send him by here to us?” And I just begin to write down some things I felt were the revelation of the Holy Spirit as to why he was sending him our way and what he was saying to us simply by his presence. And this is what I received from the Holy Spirit and I just wrote it down. It said, well, I send him by there because I wanted to awaken something in you. I wanted you all to see an example because I want you all to live at your highest potential. I wanted you to recognize the spirit of possibility, the spirit of victory, the spirit of triumph, wanted you to have a winning spirit, a champion, I wanted you to dare to dream, there’s greatness in you, you are created with greatness, you’re created for greatness, there is a champion in you. Live without fear, without reservation, live bold, daring, courageous and strong. Fear paralyzes us, fear keeps us from pursuing our dreams, achieving, it robs us of God’s best in our lives, it hinders us from broadening our horizons and experiencing the fullness of life as God has intended. Fear can keep you going from where you could have won. Fear keeps you from going where you could have won. And so, He send Evander by simply and it spoke to me that He was simply saying, I send Evander by to say to you all, have some fight in you. Have some fight in you. Turn to your neighbors and say, “Have some fight in you.” Have some fight in you. Have some fight in you.”

You know, the Bible says in Ephesians 6, it says, “Put on the whole armor of God.” Man, that’s equipment for fighting. That’s

equipment for fighting. Put on the helmet of salvation and the breastplate of righteous and have your loins girded about the truth, have a known the shoes fast, sharp prepared with the Gospel of peace, taking the shield of the faith and above all, taking the sword of the spirit which is the Word of God. Folks, that's equipment for battle. That's equipment for fighting. And so, I believe that a big part of that message from Evander was, have some fight in you. Have some fight in you. Listen, you have three choices when you're about to get beat up. You have three choices where your about to get beat up. You have three choices where your about to get beat up. You can give in, you can give up, or you can give it all you got. Those are your three choices, you can give in, you can give up or you can give it all you got. But have some fight. Have some fight. Turn to your neighbor again and say, "Have some fight in you." Have some fight in you. Have some fight in you. God (00:13:15). Have some fight in you. Have some fight in you.

I love this little story here. It's a story about this little mouse. It reads, this is a true story by the way. Taiwan Fire Fighters, caring for a viper snake, they've tossed in a tiny mouse into his cage as a snack, but then they watched as the mouse turned mighty and kill the snake. The fury little rodent skittered in and out of range of the snakes gaping jaws and long fangs. Darting in for a bite and then skittering away constantly on the attack. At the end of the fierce 30-minute battle at the fire station, the snake was dead, the mouse had barely a scratch on him and that's what one fire fighter told the newspaper. Folks, you got to be like mighty mouse. You got to be like mighty mouse. You got to have some fight in you. Have some fight in you. Now, they were tossing him in to be that snake's lunch. But that little mouse said, not today. I'm not going to be your lunch today. They have picked the wrong mouse for your lunch. They picked the wrong mouse for your lunch. And that's way you got to be alive. You got to be that way in life. You got to be that way in life. When something is trying to beat you up, when something is trying to take you out, remember that little mouse. Remember that little mouse. Remember that little mouse.

00:15:01

Have some fight in you. There's a champion in you. There's a champion in you. There's a champion in you. There's something

interesting we find out about being a champion but your enemies actually expose the champion in you. Your enemies actually expose the champion in you. If there had been no Goliath, David would have never been a champion. If there had been no snake, there wouldn't have been a mighty mouse. Your enemies actually revealed the champion that's in you and it's recalled sometimes in life, we need something to provoke us, we need something that calls forth what God knows is in us. So, don't be too fearful of enemies because maybe God's trying to pull something out of you that he knows it's in you and only an enemy can pull it out of you. Sometimes we have to be provoked before we really rise and become a champion. We have to be provoked. Sometimes something has to provoke you in life before you rise and become a champion.

I remember hearing the story years ago about heavyweight champion George Foreman. He said he was just a teenager, he was getting into a lot of trouble, his life was going down the wrong path and he said, one day he was sneaking out of his apartment early in the morning, he was going to cut school that day and as he was sneaking out, his cousin was sitting in the living room and George said he turned to his cousin and he said, "look, don't tell mama that I'm sneaking out and I'm skipping school." His cousin responded, he said "Oh! Go on, don't worry, I won't tell them because you ain't going to be nothing in life anyway."

George said something about that didn't sit right with him. He said there was just something about that statement. He said don't worry about it, you're not going to be anything in life anyway. He said, that statement mobilized his life, changed his life. He said from that moment, he went and joined the Job Corp and that's where he began boxing. He made a decision to put his life on the right track from that one statement of his cousin. He said don't worry about it, you're not going to be anything in life anyway. Sometimes we need something to provoke us, so God use enemies to provoke us, to pull the champion out of you. To pull the champion, to pull the champion out of you, so don't be afraid of enemies, don't afraid of enemies. Well, as we sat there under the tutelage of this heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield for three hours, three hours and I mean he talked the whole three hours. In fact, he talked so feverishly and so full that I never even had the opportunity to introduce him to the group. He just jumped up

and started talking immediately as soon he got in there and he talked for three hours and said it was just so much and so I began talking notes because I understood the impact, I understood the significance of who this was. In fact, I brought a picture. It's not every day that you get to – Brother Eddie Low bought this to me. He brought this to me. But it's not every day, it's not every day that you get a chance, not every day that you get a chance to rub shoulders with the only man in history who has won the title five times and so as he shared with us for three hours, I begin taking notes and I was just trying to glean certain principles, glean certain keys, what is that makes you a champion. He shared his whole life story, what is it that causes you to be a champion and so I jotted down. I just took notes in my phone and I jot it down as many things as I could but I came away with eight key principles or eight keys on becoming a champion that he shared with us over that three-hour period. Here's the first one. I won't have an opportunity to get into many of them today but I'll do it in a subsequent session but here's the first key I jotted down, something he said and we are talking about developing the champion in you but he said discipline. He said discipline, discipline and this is what he said, he says, "do the things you don't like first. Do the things you don't like first. Do the things you don't like first."

Joe Frazier, he says, "champions aren't made in the ring, they're only recognized there." They aren't made in the ring, they're only recognized there. And Joe Frazier also said, he says, "what you do or don't do in the dark will show up under the bright lights in the ring." What you do or don't do and what he's talking about is the early morning dark hours where you should be grueling in preparation and in training. He said, what you do or don't do in the dark will show up under the bright lights in the ring and so the first thing he shared with us is about discipline, discipline.

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Discipline is the ability to do what you should do whether you feel like it or not. Discipline is the ability to do what you should do whether you feel like it or not. Somebody said this and it says, "do today what others won't, so tomorrow you can have what others can't." Do today what others won't, so tomorrow you can have what others can't. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians chapter 9:24-27, he talks about discipline and

actually the Apostle Paul uses the imagery of athletes. He uses the scenario of world class athletes like the Apostle Paul did the same thing that I'm doing today. He used the illustration of world class athletes to teach the principle of discipline, to teach the principle of winning and having a winning attitude, becoming a champion and the Apostle Paul, he used those principles and incorporated them into his own life and the Apostle Paul actually says in the 1 Corinthians 9:27, he actually says, "I discipline my own body like a boxer." He said, "like a boxer, I literally beat myself up" and this is what he is saying, he saying the biggest fight that you will ever have in life is not your opponent, it's against yourself.

The hardest person to beat is not an opponent, it's you. And so the Apostle Paul says, "like a boxer, I fight myself, I beat myself up because I am my biggest adversary when it comes to discipline, when it comes to needing to do the things I should do and doing them is me that I have to fight" and so he said, "like a boxer, I beat my body black and blue, fighting, disciplining my own flesh" and he used that illustration and imagery of a boxer. Nothing great is ever accomplished without discipline. Nothing great is ever accomplished without discipline.

I'm out of time, that's all, I just came to teach a little bit, just teach a little bit with some of those with some of those. Just some of the keys that Evander shared with us from his own life and he didn't really share them in any particular order. He just talked for three hours and I noticed the gems and nuggets as he talked and I wrote them down but I wrote down about eight specific things, about eight specific things that I saw in his life that calls him to be a world champion five times and I wrote them down and I'll share them, I'll share them with some of our upcoming sessions. I'll share some of the rest of those principles I learned from the champ. But God wants to develop the champion in all of us. Turn to your neighbor and say, God wants to develop the champion in you. God wants to develop. God wants to develop the champion, the champion in you.

Praise God, praise God, praise God. Oh, man. That was the spirit of fight, that was the spirit of fire. The Bible says fight the good fight of faith. Fight the good fight of faith. Fight the good fight of faith. We are called to fight. See, a good fight, when it says fight the good fight, a good fight is a fight that you win. That's a good fight. Fight the good fight of faith. So, God

has called us to be winners. He's called to be champions. He's called us to win over the problems of life. He's called us to enforce the victory that Christ Jesus has already obtained for. The devil is already defeated. Honestly, I don't really fight the devil because he's already defeated. I simply enforce the victory that Jesus Christ has already whipped over his head. I'll just remind him of the beating he's already taken. Sucker, you're already whipped. You're already whipped. Any time the devil tries to tempt me, I just remind him. I'll say, man, you're already been beat to pieces. Jesus has already stopped you. He has already mashed your head in. How are you going to talk about me? You got a black eye already. He is already defeated. But he's going to defeat us all.

We don't have to be afraid of the devil. Our job is to enforce the victory that Christ Jesus has already obtained. You're already victorious. You're already aware now, you're already a champion. That's what the Bible says, whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world because the spirit of a champion is already in you, it's already in you. It's already in us, and so the scripture says, you resist the devils and he will flee from you, as in terror. He will run from you as in terror. Man, that's a victory. We simply enforce the victory that Christ Jesus has already obtained. Praise God.

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