



## EMPOWERMENT: Who Wants to Be a Winner?

Author: Susan E. Hohman

### **P**review

Do you know why superhero comics, books, and films are so popular? Because everyone likes a powerful hero; no one likes feeling powerless. We tend to look up to individuals who seem to have great power, whether through popularity, finances, or the means to get things done.

One of the best things we can give ourselves is the power to BE whatever we want to be. Of course, we have outside influences and guidance, and that can be a good thing when deciding our future. But it's kind of nice to know that simply by deciding and making a plan we can start on our quest to becoming something great for God.

### **P**raise

Several years ago the song "Majority" was a popular Christian chorus. The words say:

*I've got power that you can't see*

*God is living inside of me*

*I can fight any enemy*

*'Cause God and I make a majority!*

Think about these equations: me + me = just me, little ol' me, solo, uno

God + me = majority, overcomer, victory

I'm pretty sure most of us would choose the second formula over the first!

### **P**arable

"How would your life be different if...You didn't allow yourself to be defined by your past? Let today be the day...You stop letting your history interfere with your destiny and awaken to the opportunity to release your greatest self." ~ Steve Maraboli, *Life, the Truth, and Being Free*, author and motivational speaker.

Notice in the above quote Mr. Maraboli did not say that WE are the greatest (as in negating God's greatness), but that we can release our greatest self when we stop allowing our future to be influenced by our past and its mistakes.



Yesterday's milk when spilled becomes tomorrow's stinky garbage. But yesterday's milk with a little sweet fruit added and mixed up (blended) with some crushed ice becomes a delicious crushed ice milkshake! What you DO with what you have makes all the difference!

## **P**resent

So you're not a hero. Nor a superhero. Not even a winner most days. Does that mean you're powerless? Not on your life! You know how at pep rallies the cheerleaders point out the good qualities of the team and encourage you to support them? Well, thankfully, Moses was a pretty good cheerleader for the Israelites most of the time. *Read **Deuteronomy 31:6** in your Bible.* He told them to BE strong and courageous. He told them NOT to fear or be in dread.

Then he told them WHY: "...because it IS the Lord your God that goes with you." And...most important..."He will not leave you or forsake you." Those are not "iffy" words. Those are positively powerful and potentially persuasive promises! And those same promises are for us today. Tell yourself: "I WILL be strong. I AM courageous. I will NOT fear or dread." Yeah! Say it again. And again. And again. Do you believe it yet?

Just in case someone thinks they need a little New Testament verification of these words of Moses, let's consider what John wrote to the church. *Read **1 John 4:4**.* So we see that we are from God AND have overcome "them" (whoever the 'thems' are in our lives) because the One IN us is greater than the one (whoever the 'one' is) in the world!

## **P**ractice

*11 Timothy 2:15*, in the English Standard Version, tells us this: "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

1. Do you feel unworthy to work for God? You don't have to be a worthy superhero in order to be effective in your ministry.
2. How often do you feel you've not given it "your all" when you are trying to fulfill God's mission for you? What would be your BEST effort, and how can you get to this place?
3. If you have no need to be ashamed and you seek God's approval in doing what He's asked of you, do you feel ready to take the initiative to present the truth to others?



In other words, take off the limits you may have placed on yourself and start working at whatever God has called you to do!

## P<sub>ray</sub>

God, we know that many times we are our own worst enemy when it comes to confidence in our abilities. We also know you don't ask for us to be superheroes to carry out Your plan for our lives. We aren't out to save the planet; we are sent to save the world by presenting the gospel and the salvation message to them. Give us the courage to stand strong and face the enemies of self, others' criticism, and lack of desire, and let us work powerfully and diligently for You.

## P<sub>lus</sub>

I love it that not only should we powerfully present the truth, we are encouraged in **1 Timothy 4:12** (as youth) to set the example to other believers. Read this Scripture passage daily to remind yourself of your obligation.



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### STUDENT WORKSHEET

1. One of the best things we can give ourselves is the power to \_\_\_\_\_ whatever we want to be.
2. Choose which formula you prefer:
  - a. Me + Me = just me, little ol' me, solo, uno
  - b. God + Me = majority, overcomer, victory
3. What you \_\_\_\_\_ with what you have makes all the difference!
4. In **Deuteronomy 31:6**, Moses told the Israelites two things:
  - a. BE \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. NOT \_\_\_\_\_
5. **1 John 4:4** tells us that we are from \_\_\_\_\_ and have overcome \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Try to answer the following questions about yourself as honestly as you can.
  - a. Do you feel unworthy to work for God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. How often do you feel you've not given it "your all" when you are trying to fulfill God's mission for you? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Do you feel ready to take the initiative to present the truth to others?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. You have an obligation to set the example for other believers. Read **1 Timothy 4:12** daily to remind yourself of this.