

Issue 16

July/August/September 2023

**LOSING
TO
WIN!!!**

**The
Meaning of
the Journey**

**Discover the
SECRET
PLACE**

**Youth Cross
Experience
Christian Magazine**



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Editorial

LOSING TO WIN

“Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.”

Matthew 10:39

This scripture has been a pondering thought for me for some time. I thought it strange to lose your life when you find it. It was psychologically hard to comprehend. Until. Its truth has been revealed to me and that's when I decided to lose my life.

For those of you who have been following my journey thus far, you are witness to what God has been doing in my life. This is going to be for everybody who wants the gold or is chasing after something that they think makes them who they are.

Just a brief description of my journey thus far. I started writing poetry at the age of 9, started a book at 14 and writing plays. Began writing my music and rapping at 15. Published my first poetry book at 16 and started a dance team. Began my second poetry book at 17 and published at 19. At 20, I founded the YouthCross Experience Magazine. I also began a new project – a novel. At 21, I went on my first online broadcast which I later co-hosted and guest hosted at 23. At 22, I began writing for the Emmanuel's Voice Christian Newspaper and at 23 published my first novel.

The above were just dreams I was chasing and it became a reality faster than I thought it would. Some, I never imagined, I would be doing but God made it possible. Judging from the above I would think that I found my life. This is my life – my path and purpose. I know it will just grow, I tasted it and

I want more. Any person who tastes their dreams in reality will want more. So then, why did I feel worthless? Why did I feel lonely? Why did I feel lost? People hope to one day live their dream and here I was living it but felt pointless. It felt meaningless. I never knew how to find joy in my success. I never knew how to find peace in my rest. I never knew how to rest! It was always do this and do that. I never took the time to sit back and look at where I am in the moment and enjoy it. And then this scripture “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it” sunk in. I am nothing and no matter what I achieve in life will not make life worth living because that isn't life.

You can find your passions in life and you can climb to the top but when you get to the top, what then? What do you do? This is the part of the journey that not a lot of people talk about and then you get them turning to drugs, alcohol and sex to find comfort and celebration. It's the truth, we see it. It's not uncommon.

When you find your life, you will want to lose it! Because it doesn't settle you. You will always feel like something is missing. That void will not be filled by anything this world has to offer. That void can only be filled by Jesus. I decided to give it all up. “Take it all Jesus. I don't want any part of me to be hidden from you. Everything that I can achieve is only possible through you and my life makes no sense without you.” Losing your life to gain Christ is the greatest gift you will ever receive. We thank

Editorial

LOSING TO WIN

CONTINUED...

God for the breath of life every single time – breath we only have because He gives it to us. We sing the lyric “You give and take away”. God gives us and God can take it away. For from God is all things and to God is all things – to understand that is to understand what your life means. Worship. Worship God with your whole being. Worship God with your life’s work. Worship God in your grief and sorrow and worship Him in your joy and gladness. To escape the darkness you need to cling to the Light. You praise Him in everything that you do and go through. I don’t mean quitting your job and going full time into ministry. I mean no matter what you do, do it in a manner that pleases God. Let the way you carry yourself and what you do bring glory to God and not bring disgrace to His name.

The only way you will ever truly gain is when you strip yourself to the deepest part of your soul and surrender all of it to Jesus. This doesn’t mean that if you are striving to become a top chef you must quit and cook for the church. It means climbing with Jesus in you. That way when you reach the top you are not standing alone. You will have people around you, but trust me, that loneliness is real. Turning to the pleasures of this world will not cure it. Only Jesus can!

Lose the way you are looking at your life and seek God to find the way He sees it. His ways are much better than ours and He always sees for His children. You don’t have to be fancy to have it all. Simplicity with Jesus is fit for royalty. A life lived for Christ is

worth several crowns and endless wealth. This awaits you in heaven.

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. Isaiah 41:10.

Give your all to Jesus. Surrender your plans and let go of controlling your life. You can reach any goal you want. You can achieve anything you want. But when you reach the top, you will search for peace and joy and you can only have them if you have Jesus. When you decide to lose your life to Jesus, that’s when you will win.

Britney Jenine
Editor-In-Chief



THE SECRET PLACE

Psalms 91. A very famous scripture often used by the majority of believers for protection most of the time.

Let me draw your attention to the first verse of the scripture **"Whoever dwells in the secret of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty"**

The hours spent in your secret place will determine the measure of your breakthrough. With life becoming inundated believers have lost the time to spend in their secret place with their Abba Father. Many believers have made their secret place the last place to go when they are faced with life's challenges.

If we look at the life of Jesus, He too spent hours in His secret place. Even the night before His crucifixion at the Garden of Gethsemane - He spent it in His secret place. More time was spent in prayer in the secret place. I can call the secret place your "War Room".

Ephesians 6:12 "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".

Our fight is not against the flesh but is against spiritual attacks and demonic altars. Your secret place is your War Room because this is the place where you fight spiritually. Where you get into battle and destroy the plans of the enemy. Your War Room is your place where you destroy the powers of darkness and destroy satanic altars against you and your family as you have the authority to do so.

Your greatest battle is won down on bended knees. When the weakest saints get down on their knees and pray hell begins to tremble. In your secret place every spiritual battle is won.

The secret place is also a place for you to have an intimate relationship with your Abba Father. We often give off so much and sometimes find ourselves empty. Secret worship is so important for a believer. The sad truth is many believers depend on worship from the Sunday morning worship team or songs played. I believe in your secret place the Lord gives you song and pure worship to Him. Many believers today lack this intimate relationship with the Father and I believe the Father is waiting to have a deep relationship with His children. Secret worship and prayer brings forth public miracles. For the worship leaders, worship team members remember you can't worship at the altar if you can't have secret worship.

Birthing room is also another word that comes to mind when I think of a secret place. In your secret place you birth your breakthrough and miracles. In your secret place you PUSH "Pray Until Something Happens". Your greatest breakthrough and miracle will activate in your secret place.

Words cannot explain the feeling when you get into your secret place with your Abba Father. Today I encourage you before you spend time with anyone else, let's get back to our secret place and allow the creator to shape mould and minister to you His creation. In your secret place the Lord begins to minister to you.

I encourage you to find time today and find a place to go back to your secret place.

THE SECRET PLACE

BY DRELYN LUKE GOVENDER

Set time aside every day and build your altar again. Families it's time to build the altar again. Too long the living room has become just a vacant room because families are too busy with social media and their own lives. I believe families too can have their secret place because there's also power when two or three prays. Remember a family that prays together, stays together.

Above all I believe it's time for you as an individual to find your secret place again. Remember Psalm 91 can activate in your life if the first verse is practised.

Your greatest breakthrough is activated in your secret place. The number of hours spent in your secret place will determine the level of your breakthrough.



Don't Give Up on the Fight - Don't Give Up on God! The Victory is Yours because God Gives Victory to His Children!

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO LOSE TO WIN

Life can surely hit you hard sometimes. When you least expect it, life has a way of challenging you in ways that you don't feel prepared for. Life sometimes tests and shapes you in a manner in which you feel least equipped. It seems like you don't get to choose the exercise equipment God challenges and builds your strength with.

When this is happening, it's easy to drop into a victim mindset. It is easy to feel stuck, defeated, and like you are a losing player in the game of life. This victim mindset says that we have lost, that nothing good is on the horizon. Never forget that the volume of the argument does not reflect the validity of the argument. Just because the victim mentality argues that we are losing, doesn't mean that it is true. In fact, I have come to realize that during the times in my life where I thought I was losing, I was actually winning.

An empowered perspective helps me see that I can only get stronger when working against resistance. It is when I struggle that I strengthen. It is when challenged to my core that I learn the depth of who I am. It is when we feel broken that we can become experts at mending. "Difficult roads often lead to beautiful destinations".

When so much is going wrong, it is easy for emotions to build up and it is hard to remain calm. When things are going bad, it is understandable to wish to change your life. When you cannot reach your goals, it is natural to want to make a change. Although my life is better today than it was 10 years

ago, we still go through challenges that bring back the pain. When things get tough, I remind myself that no pain comes without a purpose, and there is always something to be thankful for. It doesn't mean you are a loser or a failure because you made mistakes and struggled. When you don't like where you are in life, you change it. Each one of us has the capability to change our destiny. Your life does not need to be filled with everything positive all at once, know what to hold on to and what to let go of because there comes a point where sometimes you have to lose to win.

We as human beings often feel the need to hold onto things even if we know it is not right of us for the fear of losing. We don't like to lose but rather to struggle and accept our circumstances. The Word of God says that He has better things in store for us and if we don't let go of things that hold us back then God eventually removes those things and it becomes painful. But ultimately, as life goes on we realize that truly by letting go of those things we have prospered. When times get tough, don't give up and remind yourself that no pain, is no gain. When losing any battle in life it does not mean you have lost the war, it means you will have to put in more effort to win next time.

‘Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize’ 1 Corinthians 9:24-27.

When I look back at my life and all the times I have lost I realize that I had to go through all that for me

SOMETIMES YOU HAVE TO LOSE TO WIN

BY LORRAINE PILLAY

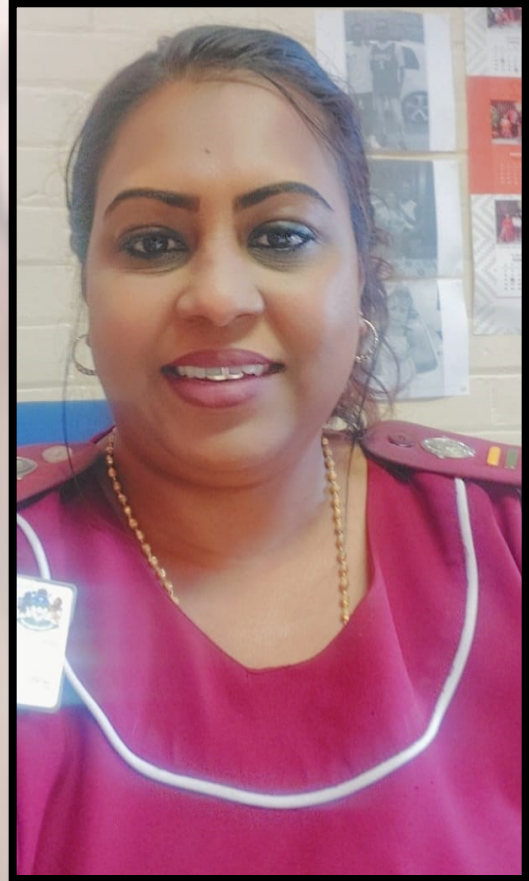
to be successful today, and appreciate what God has given me in life. When I was 18 years old, I became a mother and all my dreams of becoming someone seemed impossible. I tried many things in life and failed and I gave up and accepted that this my life and I will stick here forever. But God showed up years later and showed me that all the struggles that I have been through has made me stronger and it made a fighter, and determined to achieve more. The challenges we face today can be our strengths for tomorrow. I've learnt to trust the process of life. The journey of life teaches you that things will not be rosy throughout and if you don't experience the losses and wins in life, you will not appreciate what God has given you. Recognize that you have to lose to win.

The ultimate losing to win example is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins.

The devil thought he defeated Jesus when he crucified Him but it was a victory for each and every one of us as Jesus rose from the dead and became victorious.

“For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel will save it” Mark 8:35.

“Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in spirit” 1 Peter 3:15.



I am who I am because the tears of my past have watered the magnificence of my present. It is from my broken hearts that I learned the measure and power of true love. Every job I was denied opened the door to new opportunities. Every relationship that hurt me led me to my true love. Every mistake I thought would be the end pointed me towards an incredible success. Sometimes when you think you're losing, you're winning.

I hope this article will bring a blessing to your life.

Oh Sweet Solace

Oh sweet solace, shall I find?
In the wake of tragedy, so unkind
How I'd mourn, how I'd cry
Trembling to have said the final goodbye

Oh sweet solace, come to thee
Bring me comfort, this I plea
I do need it, I promise thee
I need your comfort, come to me

To sit on a rock, under the scorching sun
To breathe in air, I deserve none
But I am here, breathing this air
Trying to understand how it's fair

Oh sweet solace, help me see
Help me walk the path before me
Help my faith pull me through
Oh sweet solace, I need you

BY K.P. STORM

POWER VERSES

You can't win every battle. Sometimes victory comes in from bowing out gracefully quote by Toni Payne.

Encouraging scriptures that helps us as children of God to focus on him and not our circumstances.

Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that there is a time for everything. There is a time to win and a time to lose, but we need to focus on the Lord and you will triumph in effort.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”

Deuteronomy 31:6

“Be strong and courageous. Don't be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you, he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Colossians 3:23 - 24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.”

Colossians 3:23 - 24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.”

Matthew 19:26

“Jesus looked at them and said, with man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

Philippians 4:13

“I can do all things through him who gives me strength.”

POWER VERSES

Psalm 37:23-24

“The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him, though he may stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.”

1 Peter 1:13-16

Therefore with minds that are alert and fully sober, set your hope on the grace to be brought to you when Jesus Christ is revealed at his coming. As obedient children, do not conform to the evil desires you had when you lived in ignorance. But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do, for it is written: "Be holy because I am holy".

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

“Do you not know that your bodies are the temple of the holy spirit who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own, you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”

Colossians 3:23 - 24

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Jesus Christ you are serving.”

Philippians 2:3

“Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

1 Timothy 6:10-12

“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from their faith and pierced themselves with many griefs. But you man of God, flee from all this and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses.”

Psalm 139:23-24

“Search me God and know my heart, test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.”

POWER VERSES

Mark 8:34-38

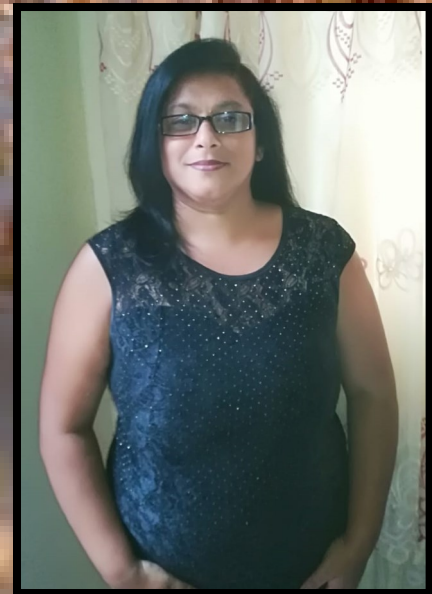
“Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said, "whoever wants to be my disciples must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation the son of man will be ashamed of them when he comes in father's glory with the holy angels ".”

Philippians 3:12-14

“Not that I have already obtained all of this, or already arrived at my goal, but I took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”

The greatest glory never comes from winning but from rising each time you fall. A person is defined by what he chooses to do with his life, not by what happens to him. Quote by Clay Aiken.

May you be strengthened and empowered by the power of God the Father, Christ is His Son and blessed Holy Spirit.



BY PADMINI GOVENDER (TOOTSIE)

BIBLE STORIES

(Matthew 16)

The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired him that he would shew them a sign from heaven.

He answered and said unto them, When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red.

And in the morning, It will be foul weather to day: for the sky is red and lowering. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?

A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas. And he left them, and departed.

And when his disciples were come to the other side, they had forgotten to take bread.

Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, It is because we have taken no bread.

Which when Jesus perceived, he said unto them, O ye of little faith, why reason ye among yourselves, because ye have brought no bread?

Do ye not yet understand, neither remember the five loaves of the five thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

Neither the seven loaves of the four thousand, and how many baskets ye took up?

How is it that ye do not understand that I spake it not to you concerning bread, that ye should beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees?

Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

BIBLE STORIES

(Matthew 16)

And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.

But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.

Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Biblical Facts

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible's content was written over the course of at least 500 years



DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible was written in three languages
Those languages are Hebrew, Aramaic,
and Greek.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Bible was written on three continents
Most was written in what is modern-day Israel (Asia). But some passages of Jeremiah were written in Egypt (Africa) and several New Testament epistles were written from cities in Europe.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most of the people who wrote the Bible were of Hebrew ethnicity.

DID YOU KNOW?

Chapters and verses were added in the 1200s CE.

DID YOU KNOW?

Each book of the Bible is a standalone work.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are at least 185 songs in the Bible.

Youth Cross Experience

Thank you to our Team who have contributed towards making
YOUTHCROSS EXPERIENCE a SUCCESS.

Our team:

- Britney Jenine
- Drelyn Luke Govender
- Padmini Govender
- Lorraine Pillay

If you would like to be part of this magazine, don't hesitate to write to us.

We will inform you about our requirements.

This is a good opportunity to impact someone's life!

Invite us on WhatsApp and let us know what topics you would love to read about. This is also a great way to directly receive our latest Issues .

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Next Issue :

October/November/December 2023
Men's Edition - November 2023

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Editor-In-Chief

Owned by God
Redeemed by Christ
Sealed with the Holy Spirit

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