

Living Hope  
**How to Be a Winner Not a Whiner**  
1 Peter 4:1-11  
Art Birch

***Trusting-serving living transforms victim mentality into victory mindset.***

**Winning in the Unbelieving Community 4:1-6**

- The starting point: “<sup>1</sup>...since Christ suffered in his body....”
- The transforming secret: “<sup>1</sup>...arm yourselves also with the same attitude....”
- The astounding benefit of physical suffering: “<sup>1</sup>...whoever suffers in the body is done with sin.”
- The future of those who reject God and us: “<sup>5</sup>But they will have to give account to him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

**Winning in the Believing Community 4:7-11**

- Think clearly: “<sup>7</sup>...be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.”

- Love deeply: “<sup>8</sup>...love each other deeply....”
  
- Be hospitable happily: “<sup>9</sup>Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.”
  
- Serve deliberately: “<sup>10</sup>...use whatever gift you have received to serve others...”

“Trust and thankfulness will get you safety through the day. Trust protects you from worrying and obsessing. Thankfulness keeps you from criticizing and complaining: those “sister sins” that so easily entangle you.

“Keeping your eyes on Me is the same thing as trusting Me. It is a free choice that you must make thousands of times daily. The more you choose to trust Me, the easier it becomes. Thought patterns of trust become etched into your brain. Relegate troubles to the periphery of your mind so that I can be central in your thoughts. Thus you focus on Me, entrusting your concerns into My care.”

-Sarah Young, *Jesus Calling*, February 21.

**For Reflection and Discussion:** What difficulties are pressuring you to think like a victim? Will you adopt Jesus’ attitude of entrusting all to your faithful Creator? Do it now!

**In Preparation for Next Sunday:** Prayerfully read 1 Peter 4:12-19, asking God what He is saying to you. Ask Him also to powerfully move in our gatherings next Sunday.