



**Everybody Is
A Trophy**





Everybody Gets a Trophy

- Who knows what this means?
- How do you think this has affected our culture?
- Have you ever heard of something called “imposter syndrome?”
- To put it simply, imposter syndrome is the experience of feeling like a phony in some area of your life, despite any success that you have achieved in that area.



Spiritual Impostor Syndrome

- Spiritual impostor syndrome is the feeling that I am really a poor Christian who has so many flaws that I really don't deserve God's blessings, so we struggle with Trusting Him
- Grace = everybody gets a trophy, tiny acknowledgement that God saved you just because He didn't have a choice; He loves the whole world, after all. I am nothing special
- But I know I don't really measure up, so even though I am saved by grace, I have low spiritual esteem, low faith and little hope



Jesus' Biggest Prayer Jn 17

- ²² The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; ²³ I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected [g]in unity, so that the world may [h]know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that they also, **whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am**, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.



Jn 17, continued

- ²⁵ “O righteous Father, [i] although the world has not known You, yet I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me; ²⁶ and I have made Your name known to them, and will make it known, **so that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.**”
- What kind of meaning do you get from these verses?
- Each one of us has always been really important to Jesus!!



Hebrews 12 Joy of the Lord

- Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,
- 2 ^[a]fixing our eyes on Jesus, the ^[b]author and perfecter of faith, **who for the joy set before Him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.



Hope for Our Hearts

- ³ For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, **so that you will not grow weary [c] and lose heart.**
- Again, what does this mean to you?
- He went through all of this for you, He is committed to you, He wants you
- Don't give up. We can TRUST Him to never fail us!!



His Race, His Prize Was ...?

- You. Me. Us!
- He endured everything, overcame everything, **for us**. He wanted to win US because unbelievably, irrationally and against all odds, He loves and wants US, He loves and wants ME, **He loves and wants YOU**
- Your salvation is not your participation trophy for doing the minimum; not about you at all
- **YOU are HIS TROPHY** for GIVING UP EVERYTHING TO CRUSH SATAN AND SAVE YOU



We Get It Backwards

- We think that Grace and Mercy and Forgiveness are things we earned, that we win – OUR PRIZES for obedience and good behavior and based on our STRONG FAITH
- We think trusting God only works when we are certain we have done what it takes to EARN the big prize of receiving His blessings
- When we are not certain, then we struggle with doubt and fear and hopelessness



But Because He Won US ...

- ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith; and ^[h]that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; ⁹ not as a result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ **For we are His workmanship**, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. Ephesians 2
- Workmanship = “poema” a work of art that He created because he wanted you to exist so he could love you and celebrate victory with you!



Jesus + Nothing = EVERYTHING

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY