



SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 2

Another terrific week of homeschool soccer. This truly is a unique environment for players not only to learn the game, but most importantly, to grow spiritually and develop their leadership skills. Our devotional themes are intended to challenge and encourage each individual, and our prayer is that they implement the principles found in God’s Word.

TUESDAY – STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS! Scripture tells us that the great Apostle Paul had a thorn in the flesh – “a messenger of Satan” to torment him (2 Corinthians 12:7). Exactly what that “thorn” was is unknown, but whatever it was, it caused him discomfort, and three times, he went to the Lord to take it away. God’s answer? “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Did you get that? Power comes through our weaknesses and our frailties, because it’s at those times when we must rely on the power of God living in us through the Holy Spirit. Think about it, if we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit – the very Spirit of God – then we have all we need to live victoriously, regardless of our circumstances. We’re reminded by the lyrics of song writer, Jeremy Camp that, *“The same power that raised Jesus from the grave lives in us”*. Yes! The same power that ● Created the heavens and the earth ● Breathed life into our bodies ● Sent Jesus to be crucified on a rugged cross to pay for our sins ● Raised Jesus, defeating death, hell and the grave ● Ascended to heaven to prepare a place for all who would come to Him by faith...Lives in us! Our weakness is merely an opportunity to demonstrate the strength of God in any given situation. Afraid of public speaking? Trust God to be your strength. Walking through a sad season of life? Let Jesus be your guide. Facing financial or relational struggles? Lay them at the feet of the One who said, “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30). As Cody Carnes encourages us in his awesome song: *“Run to the Father”... I run to the Father, I fall into grace, I'm done with the hiding, no reason to wait, My heart needs a surgeon, my soul needs a friend. So I'll run to the Father again and again and again and again...”*



THURSDAY – CONTROL YOUR TONGUE! Words. They can help and heal or hurt and haunt. They can encourage or put down, and they can destroy or bring comfort to a wounded soul. Is it any wonder then, that the Bible has lots to say about our speech and the attitude of our hearts? The book of Proverbs, for example, is chock full of wise counsel about our speech patterns: those with positive impact and those with negative impact. In the New Testament, James confronts us with the uncomfortable truth that “no man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With the tongue, we praise our Lord and Father, and with it, we curse men, who have been made in God’s likeness” (James 3:8-9).

Just because you think it, doesn't mean you have to say it!

So, let’s cut out the tongue and all will be well, right? If only it were that easy (although very painful)! The problem is not the tongue, but the inner man – the place where thoughts are translated into words. It’s been said that the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart, and that statement is so true when as it relates to our speech. After all, says Jesus, “Out of the overflow of his heart, his mouth speaks” (Luke 6:45). Our world is a battleground, not a playground, and we desperately need men and women to apply the salve of choice words to prepare us to face the enemy head on. So let’s check our heart and ask the Lord to reveal those areas which need cleaning out. Then, and only then, can we follow Paul’s instructions to “Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone” (Colossians 4:6).



See you on Tuesday!
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SPORTS QUEST
“Sharing Biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage next generation leaders through soccer”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13)