

THE 21 HIDDEN KEYS TO SUCCESS GOD'S WAY



by Dr. Frank Smoot

"The Hidden Keys To Success God's Way"

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Why Most People Don't Have A Clue What Their Creator Wants To Give Them

In the world of marketing and advertising, there's a popular expression that says everybody is listening to "WIIFM." What is WIIFM? Not a big radio station, but an acronym that stands for "what's in it for me?" To succeed, marketers must make their prospective buyers and clients understand what's in it for them.

My job is to make sure you understand WIIFY: what's in it for **you**. I want you to understand how you can use your intimate relationship with God to get to your ideal weight and stay there, safely and permanently. After all, that's what **He** wants for you!

We will examine twenty-one separate actions that will propel you to success at weight loss. However, they don't only govern just your weight and your physical body. They also give you the power to make dramatic improvements in every area of your existence-- because there is no part of your life that's not affected by your relationship with God.

21 Success Keys: How To Be Victorious, Claim Your Power, and Receive Everything God Is Trying To Give You

Key #1 - Be Clear About What Really Works -- and What Never Will Work

If you have read the *Weight Loss God's Way* Success System manual, you now understand why traditional / conventional / Diet Industry weight loss methods fail an appalling 96 percent of the time. But more importantly, you know what does work, and you know why it works.

If I have done my job, by the time you're finished with that manual, you will never again waste your time on body-oriented or food-oriented weight loss methods. Instead, you will focus on the non-physical root causes of being overweight, and invest your energy where it will bring you safe and lasting results.

You will understand and accept that your excess weight -- a problem that's easy to see -- is actually just a physical manifestation -- a **symptom** -- of non-physical problems that are not so easy to see. Which brings us to...

Key #2 - Make Sure You Deal With Root Causes, Not Symptoms

In the following excerpt from an edition of "Life In The Word," a monthly publication of Joyce

Myers Ministries, Joyce shows us how Jesus, our ultimate role model, understood that we need to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness:

First of all, we need to learn to feed our spirits regularly just as we feed our bodies. The very best "foods" for our spirit is a steady diet of God's Word. The Word ministers power and life to us, renewing our minds and changing us into the likeness of Christ from one degree of glory to another.

Jesus said... "The words (truths) that I have been speaking to you are spirit and life." (John 6:33) He knew the power of Scripture firsthand; He had studied it since He was a child. And because Jesus had taken time to implant the Word into His heart, He was able to resist every temptation of the enemy and live an overcoming life of power. This is something we all need to be working on as well!

Key #3 - Understand That All Root Causes In Life Are Non-Physical

The single most important (and possibly the most counter-intuitive) concept you must grasp is that, while excess weight is clearly a physical problem, weight loss success is fundamentally a **non-physical** process.

The problem for us humans is that we are **habituated** to seeking physical solutions to physical problems. We do this as automatically as we breathe. So what we really need to understand is the truth of Romans 4:17, where we are told "He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed -- the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were."

In truth, nothing you can see or touch has its origin in the physical realm. Just as God spoke things into being from the non-physical realm, so we can—and so we do—because we are made in His image and likeness. Although this can be a tough concept to grasp, and a tougher one to accept, the sooner we're able to accept it, the sooner we can stop wasting time doing what can't work, and start seeing the kind of results we know we want.

Key #4 - Focus Your Attention FIRST On Your Mind and Spirit, Not Your Body

We need to realize that spiritual thinking, not eating and drinking, is the true source of joy and our God-given power. "For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." (Romans 14:17)

The best defense against the devil's endless temptation is to get the Holy Spirit into our inner man and pray for our own renewal. Pursue **first** God's Word and wisdom. We need to pray for the healing of our inner person, not for changes in our outer circumstances. True joy and peace and health are the result of changing our inner being so that we can deal effectively with **whatever** comes against us.

"I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in

your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith." (Ephesians. 3:16-17) If you will be strong in spirit, your spiritual self can actually heal and empower your physical self. If we truly understood this, we'd spend a lot less time lifting weights and a lot more time lifting praise.

Key #5 - Know Where The Real Power For Positive Change Is, And Then Get Your Priorities Straight

"Indiana Jones and The Tragedy Of Lost Priorities" That would be a truly accurate title for one of his movies. We need to stop looking for the Ark of the Covenant and start looking for the contents of the ark—God's Word—because that's where the **real** power is.

"The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word." (Hebrews 1:3)

Anytime we put the world's way before God's way, we are opting for sin and error. We are missing the mark. And it doesn't matter whether we do so consciously or unconsciously. Missing the mark is missing the mark, and ignorance of God's law is no excuse. Your own unconsciousness is also no excuse. If you're driving down the road and your mind wanders off the task at hand, and you run off the road and hit a tree, does it really matter whether you consciously intended to or not?

Adam and Eve had spiritual priorities until the fall. Then they started operating from fear and guilt instead of love and faith. There was only one thing they weren't allowed to do, and they did it anyway. This is why, in the Lord's prayer, we pray for God not to lead us into temptations (food) but deliver us from evil (missing the mark because of our earthly priorities) and letting ourselves be influenced by the Tempter.

Major point: Your resistance to doing the things that will improve your life and align you with God's word and God's will is a perfect measure of the degree to which Satan has **already** gotten control of your mind.

Please read that sentence one more time. Remember, your body and mind did not get saved -- just your spirit. Jesus tells you how to get your mind and body (flash) saved, but he can't do it for you.

Ephesians 1:17-18 makes it clear what our priorities should be. We are to pray for wisdom. But perhaps the clearest statement of the believer's power is straight from Jesus: "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

But let us never forget where the real source of our power is: "You may say to yourself, "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today." (Deuteronomy 8:17-18)

Key #6 - Be Crystal Clear That God, Not The Diet Industry, Has Your Solutions

Prioritize God! Our glory is from God, and not the result of our own works, deeds, or accomplishments. Our glory is from being in Him. "It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption." (1 Corinthians 1:30)

Study the Word. You can be a Christian and you can be saved, but still have no victory without the Word in your life. You need to learn it, say it, and live it. "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24)

We are new creations in Christ. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" (2 Corinthians 5:17) But when we step back into our old worldly ways, then we are not **behaving** like new creations, and so we cannot expect to receive the benefits and blessings that new creations **could** receive. The biggest part of the renewing of our minds is to really grasp that we are new creations when we are in Jesus.

It's not about doing life our way. It's not about our good works or hard works or tithing or any such thing. It's about living our lives God's way. If we don't, all we can really expect is to hear Him say, "I never knew you." (Matthew 7:22)

Key #7 - Know The Truth About Sin, Evil, and You

There is little in life more important than shifting from sin consciousness to righteousness consciousness. We're all going to miss the mark from time to time. That's a given. But what we do when we miss the mark, well, that's what really matters. That's where sin consciousness is lethal.

Sin consciousness results in guilt, shame, embarrassment, unworthiness, and a host of other toxic experiences. But even worse, such toxic experiences lie at the heart of "compensatory" eating. When life isn't sweet, we eat something that is. When life is empty, we eat to feel full. But no amount of eating can ever fill the inner void that comes from sin consciousness and worldly priorities.

The truth is that life is "an open book test" -- and God wrote the book. The key to avoiding sin is to stay focused on God's Word, to focus on God's priorities, and not earthly priorities. How will you know which is which? Only by studying and applying God's Word in your daily life.

Key #8 - Free Yourself From "Old Time Religion"

Religion has, unfortunately, helped to keep our sin consciousness alive, with old-time ministers telling us we are full of sin. I actually heard one the other day say that we are "filthy, stinking

sinner." Well, friends, we're either washed clean of our sins, or we're not.

1 Corinthians 11:7 tells us that man is the image and glory of God. We need to get that we are not worthless, lousy, sinners. We are joint heirs with Jesus! If we believe Jesus, then we can't believe those hate-filled, fear-mongering ministers. We need to make a choice. Which one will it be? If Jesus says we are saved and our sins are forgiven, why on earth should we believe anyone on earth?

Of course, our learned worldly beliefs will constantly try to drag us back into a sin and error consciousness, even though our past sins and errors have been thoroughly cleansed by God in Jesus to the point where we need not even have a memory of them. "And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ **once and for all**." (Hebrews 10:10) [emphasis mine]

If you are saved, you are not a "sinner" any more. Saved by grace means no more sinner. Not no more sin, but no longer are you a sinner by nature. Now you are a saved person who still sometime sins, but you're no longer a sinner. We were sanctified once and for all by the sacrifice of Jesus. Now our job is to believe and to expect, to have faith and to feel worthy. You have the right to have no more consciousness of sin after getting saved. So release any feelings of guilt, remorse, or unworthiness. Let all that stuff go! God says it's gone. Now **we** need to let go of it.

Sin consciousness comes from fear that we are unworthy, and produces uncourageous actions. Sin consciousness keeps us from believing that we deserve what we want, which keeps us from going boldly after it. In Jesus we are not guilty, or unworthy, or sinners. We are saved by grace. But until we accept this, we cannot benefit from it—and might as well not even have it!

Key #9 - Know That You Were NOT Put Here To Suffer

Are we of the mind that we need to sacrifice and suffer to please or impress God? Remember always that God did not put you here to suffer, but to learn how **not** to suffer. There is nothing noble about suffering. It is your faith and joy and belief that please God, not your misery.

God wants you to discover and use the resources He has given you to put an end to your suffering. The foremost of your anti-suffering resources is Jesus. Jesus is the ultimate resource for joyous and successful living for a multitude of reasons. Here are a few. First, Jesus is your direct connection to God. He keeps an open channel -- a virtual "hot line" -- available all the time.

Second, the messages of Jesus contain wisdom far beyond what mere mortal writers could ever provide. If you will study these messages, you **will** find the freedom, joy, and peace you seek. They are not mere "theory" or speculation. They are as factual as they could possibly be, and more relevant to your success than anything else you could ever study.

It is not possible for you to "impress" God—and certainly not by your pain and suffering. That's why Jesus came here and did what He did—to set you FREE of your pain and suffering! He took

it all upon Himself. So you don't have to! That's what being saved is all about!

You don't ever need to spend another second of your life in pain and suffering. You can, if you so choose. But that will be your choice. God wants you to succeed, not suffer!

Key #10 - Know That You Are Worthy Of All God's Gifts

One man's offense (Adam) caused the sin of many men. One man's sacrifice -- Jesus -- offers salvation to all men. (Romans 5:17) Jesus' sacrifice entitles you to grace, which is defined as "unmerited favor and as a gift of righteousness." "If we believe on him we will be credited with the righteousness of God." (Romans 4: 24)

What's important to understand is that grace and the redemption that goes with it is **not** earned and cannot be earned. It can only be received and excepted. And the price of admission is simply to believe. When we pay this simple price, we receive the right to be like Jesus. We are entitled to live joyfully with no guilt or shame. -- No more guilt! We are absolved!

Key #11 - Take An Active Role In Your Own Healing! God Gave You That Power!

When we become a new creation in Christ, we are new to be sure. But we are not a finished product yet. We are more like a new blank slate. We need to be written on. And guess who will do that writing if we don't. The world will write on our slate, and the Devil will surely have his hand in it.

Just as we had to take an active in seeking our salvation through Jesus—by declaring it—we also have to be active in renewing our mind, and thereby improving our experience of life. We didn't have to "earn" our newly-available blessings from God, but we do have to claim them.

We have to be active, not passive to get what God says we can have. God wants you to succeed! But to do so, you must create your life experiences consciously -- God's way -- or your "default settings" will create them unconsciously for you -- the Devil's way.

Key #12 - Be A Believer - Nothing Is More Important

Believing God is the key to your righteousness and God's rewards. "And he believed the Lord and the Lord credited it to him as righteousness." (Genesis 15:6) Abraham believed in God's promise, and reaped righteousness. Abraham's belief was the "price of admission" to God's blessings The only price.

God's blessings and our righteousness can only come as the result of our belief. Not hard work, not good deeds, not preaching, not tithing, not even witnessing. The price of admission is belief.

"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the

sea, blown and tossed by the wind." (James 1:6) When we are born again, we enter a blood covenant with God. After we are spiritually reborn, our primary job is to **act** like we are reborn.

We do this by believing in new ways, by embracing God's Word, by stepping into our new lives, and by affirming our new selves with new behaviors and new priorities. Our new job is to believe. We need to:

1. Believe Jesus died for us
2. Believe He rose for us
3. Believe we are saved
4. Believe that our salvation was a gift,
5. Believed we were saved by Grace, not by anything we did or could ever do.
6. Believe that we are as worthy to receive all of God's gifts as we were to receive our salvation the first place.
7. Believe that the righteousness of God is now ours as part of the covenant
8. Believe that we can have what ever we want
9. Believe that we deserve it
10. Believe that it is done, and stay in faith until God brings it into our lives.

Key #13 - Forget The Past -- and Especially Forget Your Own Past Errors

"For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (Colossians 1:13-14)"Their sin and iniquities I will remember no more." (Hebrews 10:17)

If God is willing to forget every sin you've ever committed, why aren't you willing?

Key #14 - Focus Only On What You Want In The Present and The Future

We need to focus on who we **are** in Christ, not who we **were** in the world. It is guaranteed that whenever we allow our thinking to be like that of the world, we will reap as the world reaps. Even a cursory look around tells us that life the world's way is not something to be desired. That's why God's the world is constant "reference point" for what **not** to do.

The way to escape the world's fate is to do as God does -- to call forth that which is seen from that which is unseen. And that means focusing on the future and what you want, not on the past and what you did wrong, or on the present and what you don't have. Let all that stuff go!

Key #15 - Know That You Deserve To Get What Your Heart Desires

Has anybody ever told you that you were no good and would never amount to anything? They lied! 1 John 3:2 tells us that "Now are we the sons of God. Revelations 1:14 tells us that we are kings and priests. You are capable of and entitled to all health, happiness, and prosperity. If any

man says you are limited, remember that God says you are not. All things are possible with God.

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3) You are already blessed! Stop struggling and worrying. Get rid of the guilt and fear. Your victory is a "done deal" if you will simply **accept it and walk in it!**

Key #16 - Do Not Associate With The "Children Of Fear" Or Any Of Satan's Other Cohorts

Although we have made many references to the need to let go of fear to receive God's blessings, we have not yet spoken about what I call the "Children Of Fear." In reality, all negative experiences in life are the result of fear, which in turn is caused by an absence of faith.

"Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward." (Genesis 5:1) "But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole." (Luke 8:50)

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. (Luke 12:32)" "And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death." (Revelations 1:17-18)

Any negative feeling, thought, or action you create can ultimately be traced to fear. All fear-based experiences are unpleasant. Whether we are experiencing anger, anxiety, greed, guilt, or any other "Children Of Fear," we **guarantee** ourselves suffering. Only the subtle flavor changes; but the misery is a constant.

Here's an eye-opening way to look at fear. Fear is actually our way up telling God we don't trust Him. Fear is our way up telling God we don't think he has our lives under control. Is that the message you want to send your Creator? If so, you can be sure of one thing: Sewing seeds of fear can only reap a harvest of fear-based experiences.

In the final analysis, fear does nothing but block your progress and make you suffer. The perfect antidote to fear is faith. To see God's blessings instantly materialize before you, replace fear and doubt with faith in trust. Not only is this the key to the blessings you seek, but it also feels good.!

Key #17 - Renew Your Mind. It's Your Job!

If a flying saucer were to hover over the Capitol Building and wait for the masses to assemble, I'll bet we'd be eager to hear their message. If Jesus were to appear over that same building, would we be as interested in what He had to say?

If He wanted to get our attention, He might say to His people,

"Earthlings, transform your mind! Your mind is the key to it all. Your spirit is saved, but your thoughts are totally up to you. This is where your work needs to focus. When your mind and spirit are healed, your body will follow."

But what kind of renewing did Jesus want us to pursue? Certainly not more of the same old worldly nonsense that has kept us imprisoned where we are. No, in a statement of great boldness, Paul tells us in Philippians 2:5, "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

Why should we have this mind that Jesus had? So that we can rise above our programmed earthly selves and stand out as examples for the rest of humanity! Major success key for life: Get your focus off your self, and start focusing on how you can be a blessing to others. This is how Jesus lived, and is the perfect example for us. When we think of Jesus' life, what do we instantly think it was all about? Was it about self-serving, or service to others?

How to renew your mind: "You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)

Why did Jesus tell us in Romans 12:2, "Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind?" Because our programmed worldly minds simply can't discern the wisdom in God's Word, which is where our success keys are to be found.

Note that Jesus provides His rationale in the very next sentence, in Romans 12:3: "Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will."

How to renew your mind: Read, think, speak the Word -- it's the perfect antidote for a mind that's been poisoned by decades of exposure to cultural "norms. and worldly "wisdom." The Word is the perfect cure for whatever ails us. And we're again reminded what to think about in Phil 4:8-9

"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."

To succeed on earth, just align your thinking with God's Word. It's really just that simple.

Key #18 - Be Bold And Consistent In Your Asking

When we are born again children of God, we have the same kinship with God as his Son Jesus did. You are no longer a servant but a joint heir. "But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full

rights of sons." (Galatians 4:4-5)

"Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." (Hebrews 10:19-22)

So what does this mean to us? That we are to **boldly** come and ask God for what we want. Hesitation comes from fear, and fear comes from sin consciousness. But the righteousness consciousness you automatically received by being born again is bold and fearless. "This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe." (Romans 3:22) Both sin consciousness and righteousness consciousness are available to you. The choice, as always, is yours.

Key #19 - Surrender Your Ego To God's Will

Try as I might, I can't come up with the words to describe how wonderful life feels when you put God at the center of it. But the way your life feels is only the beginning of the blessings you get by surrendering your ego to God's will. Your blessings expand in every direction like the ripples on the surface of a pond when you drop a rock into it. Let's look again at what I consider the single best bit of advice Jesus gives us:

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." (Matthew 6: 31-33) [emphasis mine]

When you are in God's Word, you are on target and out of sin. The way to stay on target is to stay in the Word, to acknowledge God's wisdom and gifts, and to surrender your ego to God's will. When you drop the rock of God's presence and Word into your frail, earthly heart, you take the first step toward rising above all the stress, struggle, and failure that characterize most lives.

The Bible is replete with warnings for us to not trust in worldly wisdom or in our own wisdom. Instead, we are to surrender our heart (read: ego) to God and let Him guide us in all our ways.

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. (Proverbs 3:3-7)

Let's take a closer look at Matthew 5:5; "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Perhaps the most misunderstood word in the Bible is "meek." Meek does not mean passive or wimpy. It means "teachable." To be teachable, you have to get your ego out of the way. You have to surrender your will to that of your teacher: Jesus.

Before we can imitate Jesus, we must undergo a "death and resurrection" of our own. What must die? Our old ego. It must die to the ways of the world. Your sin consciousness must die, and your righteousness consciousness must be born.

First your spirit gets reborn, then your mind, then your body. That's the order. But as long as your ego is still loyal to the world, your mind can't be renewed. The secret of your success is to unlearn what you have learned that doesn't work, then learn what **does** work, and then **do it**.

Key #20 - Stay In Faith—Always!

The greatest challenge in every human life is to stay out of trouble and away from the devil's influence. Even if we are born again, we are not immune to the evil one's tentacles. Even though Jesus has purged us of our sin and we are entitled to the righteousness of God, we still suffer whenever we allow our faith to be replaced by fear.

Why do we still lapse into fear and doubt and unworthiness? Because the devil can still whisper in our ear. And when he does, we too often believe him. Why do we believe him? Because he says what we **fear** to be true. In fact, the lies of the devil will **always** confirm our worst fears.

Of the 246 times the word "faith" is used in the Bible, 230 of them are in the New Testament. And when you consider that the New Testament is only 23 percent of the Bible by volume, yet contains over 93 percent of the mentions of "faith," the point becomes ever clearer: Being in faith is what it's all about. "The righteous will live by faith." (Romans 1:17)

But how do we stay in faith? By reading and listening to the Word. "Faith comes by hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." (Romans 10:17) We also need to remember that what we want in life is a **product** of faith, not a precursor to it. "We live by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7) If we believe only in what we **do** see rather than in what we **want** to see, we short-circuit the design of God's creative process.

"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised." (Hebrews 10:35-36) "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." (Romans 5:1) Bottom line: It's all about **your faith**.

21 - Prioritize Love For Everyone--Starting With Yourself

What is love? Love is action, not feeling. Love is about giving. Love is not concerned with what we are or are not getting. That's not love, but need and emptiness. Having said that, let's let Scripture speak for itself about love.

'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This

is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments. (Matthew 22:37-40)

Please note the phrasing, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Jesus' assumption is that you already love yourself. Truly, that is where love must start. We can't give water to others if our own well is dry.

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. (John 13:34)

Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. (1 Peter 4:8)

What makes love such a powerful force? Because fear -- our ultimate enemy -- cannot coexist with love.

There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. (1 John 4:18)

In sum, the path to victory is to love God, to love Jesus, to love each other, and -- first and foremost -- to love the closest example of God's handiwork we can find: ourselves!

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