

## The Oldest Winner! [concluded from 362202]

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by Wayne Goff

...*“Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered”* (1 Peter 3:7). It is a great advantage to have a faithful spouse to help you get to heaven.

### “It Was Worth It!”

After a lengthy interview, answering all the many questions asked, Phil said near the end of the conversation: “It was worth it!” That spiritual application is obvious: “Heaven will surely be worth it all!” we sing, and so it will be. *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,”* (2 Corinthians 4:16-17). *“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us”* (Romans 8:18).

### Think On These Things

The last comment Phil made was that he also worked on the mental aspect of his game. He didn’t really want to go into it, but apparently he does meditation of some sort.

Children of God know all too well the value of the mental aspect of life! *“Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things”* (Philippians 4:8). *“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night”* (Psalm 1:2). As you think, one day you become. If you think on positive, affirmative, spiritual thoughts, then you will become a **strong** believer. If you focus on doubt, fear, worry and negative thoughts, then you will become *fearful*. Jesus teaches us to focus on love, righteousness, goodness, and trust in God, if only we will do it.

Phil explained that during the last two days of the four-day tournament that he had to **block out** a lot of the outside noise. By that he meant the **negative comments** from well-meaning players, media, and even his own negative thoughts. Everyone wondered if a man his age could actually play well enough for four days to win the tournament. He did.

### Summation

So here are the things you and I can take away from this event and apply to our spiritual lives: (1) Decide if you really want to go to heaven; (2) Decide if you’re willing to pay the actual price; (3) Decide if you can find a “sponsor” – friend, spouse, etc. to help you get there. In the New Testament, this is the church, a body of true believers who are here to help each other make it to heaven. (4) Decide if heaven is worth it all; and (5) Decide to spend time in meditation of God’s Word and of the goal you desire to reach. Remember Romans 10:6-8. With God’s help heaven is within the grasp of all who want to truly “trust and obey”! Don’t grow weary in well doing. Don’t quit!

### You Can Do It!

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by John Ruskin

The story goes that two men were talking. One was a huge, strong fellow while the other was quite small in stature. The small man was admiring the physical proportions of the other and said, “Boy, if I was as big as you I wouldn’t be afraid of nothing! Why, I’d go out in the woods and find me the biggest bear and I’d that big ol’ bear limb from limb!”

The big fellow smiled and said, “There’s a lot of little bears in the woods, too!”

It is not what we have that counts, but how we use that which God has given us.

The weakest among us has a gift, however seemingly trivial, which is peculiar to him, and which, worthily used, will be a gift to his race forever.

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