



**THE  
WAY**

# CONNECTICUT GRAPEVINE

April, 1986

Dearest Believers of Connecticut:

God's best to each of you in the name of Jesus Christ!

The on-the-field premiere of "Athletes of the Spirit: The Spiritual Competition" was magnificent. I know that most of you were able to be there and it is now available to view it again and again in your homes on the beta tape. The truth and imagery that this production portrays is superb and its' design is to enable us to more fully understand the scope and personal involvement of each believer in the day-by-day spiritual competition.

The richness and depth of this allegorical imagery can be seen throughout the church epistles which emphasize to us, the church, that we are to compete as spiritual athletes in the arena of the mind. The degree of proficiency that we attain is totally dependent upon how disciplined and trained we become with the resources God has given us. The more expertise we acquire through our committed stand the greater the victory we will see in our daily competition and in the rewards we will receive at the bēma.

The spiritual contest is taking place now and every believer is either a victim or a victor. The choice is ours and the only logical one is to be the gold medal champions God has called us to be. The following verses from Ephesians in their expanded form give us the succinct, clear doctrine to practice so that we can be victorious in the competition.

Ephesians 6:10-17 (expanded)

From now on keep on being strong in your sold-out commitment to and in our Lord, and in the willfully exerted power of His might for you, for with vigor you can do.

Clothe yourself with all the equipment, trappings, and gear of a gymnast of God, with a view to being able to win standing up against the systematic, scheming methods and devices of the Devil;

Because your wrestling contest is not with a view toward fighting flesh and blood, but with a view to being distinctly independent of all principalities, including the exercised authority of sultans who rule and exert their worldly powers by devil spirits in every place beneath the heavens.

Because of this, clothe yourself with the complete equipment, gear, of God, so that you may be able to withstand and resist the evil one in the contest; and if you prepare yourself with all the equipment in everything, you will stand firm and erect before the bēma.