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From the Desk of Rev. Chuck

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Dear Friends,

While KD was at the UCLA Medical Center recently, I took a stroll around the area filled with shops, stores, and restaurants. In one of the novelty stores I saw a bumper sticker that said, "The last one with all the toys wins." It got me thinking about the game Monopoly and how there is only one winner, the person who has all the money. Then I thought about Jesus's statement to the people in Luke 12:32, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." In other words all the good God created, has, and bestows upon us is for more than one person. It's a win/win for all. It's how we utilize the spiritual principles that will allow us to accept and receive that good into our lives and affairs. It's how we play the game called life.

UNITY teaches that:

Life is a game. A game that can be rough and tough. It is not for little children; that's why we try to take care of little children until they are old enough to play the game. Can you imagine a life without any problems, decisions, or challenges? We would all be vegetables and probably die off quickly without anything to stimulate the powers within us. Now, the way to change your life, the way to be transformed from an insecure, seeming "victim" of life, is to change your mental attitude about this game of life. In John 16:33 Jesus said, "In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." And he said in John 14:12, "The things I have done you will do also."

Jesus overcame the world by meeting the trials and tribulations that came into his life with the realization that God's Spirit was always there to assist and sustain him. As he trusted in and relied upon God's Spirit, nothing was impossible; no problem was unconquerable!

1st rule to the game of life is trust God the creator of all life. God has given us all that we

will ever need to win our game. We're not in competition with anyone but ourselves. As Jesus said in Matthew 6:8, "Your Father knows your needs before you even ask."

2nd rule is to remember that if you play by man-made rules they are subject to change. Have you ever noticed that as soon as you learned the rules to someone's game in life, they went and changed them on you. The only constant unchanging activity in our lives we can truly count on is God.

3rd rule to remember is that each person plays by a set of rules (their personal belief system) that best serves them. Often if you don't play by their rules you get kicked out of their game. Why play their game anyways? Play your own game. It's like golf. You may play with others, however the purpose is to play against yourself and be the best you can be at besting your last score.

4th rule to remember is that there may be times you're up against an opposing player, so you will want to take an active role for your highest and best and not be passive, like the king in this story.

There once was a king who was engaged in fighting off barbarian enemies who threatened his kingdom. He met the barbarians in the fields of dry pampas grass surrounding his kingdom. He was positioned downwind and the barbarians were upwind. The barbarians set fire to the dry grass and the wind sent a roaring blaze toward the king's army.

Being an active thinker and doer the king took positive action and set fire to the pampas grass behind him! The wind blew furiously and the grass behind him burned farther back, leaving an open area free of grass and fire. He moved his men into this area. Now the flames could no longer reach him and, using the original fire of this enemies as a shield, he outflanked them and overcame them!

5th rule to remember is that in the end, the question asked will not be, "Did you win the game of life?" It will be, "How well did you play?"