

## **Stop the Losing Streak**

### **Ready:**

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord." -- Luke 2:10-11

### **Set**

The Cleveland Browns experienced a problem in the 2016 NFL season, a 14-game losing streak. The 2007-2009 NFL Detroit Lions lost 19 games in a row, the first team in history to go 0-16 when they lost every game in the 2008 season. The 1976-77 NFL Tampa Bay Bucs went 0-14 in 1976, being shut out in three of their first five games. In 1977 they were shut out in six of the first 12 games, all losses. A 26-game losing streak!

The D3 Caltech basketball team had a 26-year losing record! However, the astounding 310-game losing streak was only for conference play, as they did win some games. But 310 games without a victory against rival schools in the Division III Southern California Intercollegiate Athletic Conference is about as unbelievable as it gets. From January 1985 to February 2011, they couldn't win a conference game!

But the greatest drought lasted over 400 years. It was the period from the prophet Malachi (Old Testament) to the coming of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. It was 400 years of silence from God. No prophets, no spoken word. But the silence was broken as an angelic host lit up the night with singing, praising and a heavenly announcement.

The long streak of God's silence came to an end with a celebration like never before! The undefeated, amazing, almighty Savior was born! And since that moment in history, we celebrate God coming to earth to seek and save the lost, the defeated!

Maybe your team isn't winning many or any games. Maybe it's been a while since you have felt loved. Maybe you have dealt with sickness and pain for such a long time, you can't remember a pain-free day. Don't allow those losses or unfortunate defeats overcome your spirit! Our Messiah, Jesus Christ has arrived to give us hope, peace, joy and love! He has arrived to show us how to live in a way that honors Him! Our God is not silent--He is alive!

If you feel like you haven't connected with God in a long time...it's time to end that streak! Start a new streak, a winning streak! Pick up the Bible. Allow the very words of God to speak to you. And then I would encourage you to talk to Him in prayer. Team up with others who are doing the same! Make it a daily habit!

### **Go**

- Where do you feel defeated?

- What is your game plan to get on a winning streak?

### **Workout**

Luke 9:23-24; Hebrews 3:12-14; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

### **Overtime**

“Heavenly Father You are victorious! Search my heart, know my defeats and heal my wounds. I need Your strength to get back up and live for You!”

### **Bible Reference:**

Luke 2:10-11

Luke 9:23-24

Hebrews 3:12-14

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18



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