

Federer Beat the Critics

Roger Federer, a Swiss professional tennis player, won his eighth Wimbledon title for men's tennis in July.

It was one of many trophies earned during his professional career. It was also a win few thought would happen.

Although he is considered to be an outstanding athlete, critics began to write him off because of his age. He was weeks shy of his 36th birthday when he played Wimbledon.

They also lamented his health. He had arthroscopic knee surgery in 2016 and failed to qualify for and compete in many of the same tournaments he was known to dominate.

In the years before his surgery, negative comments from sportswriters and former pros began to surface. The naysayers weren't willing to believe that an "old man" in his 30s could compete against younger and perceivably fitter opponents and win.

Tennis, they said, was a young man's game.



With his victory at Wimbledon, Federer proved these critics wrong. He shared a bit of his winning philosophy with reporters in his post-match interview. "I kept believing and dreaming," he said. "If you keep believing, you can go really far in life."

Federer is right. Sometimes the difference in whether you succeed or whether you don't comes down to one simple characteristic – believing.

That trait should include believing in yourself, in your associates, in the mission in which you are engaged and, most of all, in the God who created you for a purpose and equipped you for success.

If you don't really believe that you can do something, you are not going to give your full effort. And without your full effort, your chances of successfully achieving your goal are greatly reduced.

So, during the tough times – and tough times do come around – keep the faith.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Hebrews 11:1 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter