

Overcomers for Christ

July 2022



Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God.

- 1 Peter 2:16

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

July 2021



Miracles of Jesus: Jesus Healed the Lepers and Me

By Michelle Anderson

This article will highlight Jesus' healing lepers, in the Bible there are two miracles where Jesus healed people with leprosy. A miracle is defined as an extraordinary event manifesting divine intervention in human affairs. Jesus was and is in the miracle business. In the Bible, there is no disease that ostracized people more than leprosy, people were afraid of lepers. People with leprosy were forced to live alone and away from society, they were social outcasts. In **Numbers 5:2**, it illustrates how lepers had to be removed from camp, **"Command the people of Israel to remove from the camp anyone who has a skin disease or a discharge, or who has become ceremonially unclean by touching a dead person."** Also, in **Leviticus 13:46**, it states how lepers had to be isolated, **"As long as the serious disease lasts, they will be ceremonially unclean. They must live in isolation in their place outside the camp."** In addition to being deemed physically unclean, they were also declared spiritually unclean. This meant that they were unworthy to worship or praise God. Jesus did not see the lepers as unclean. He treated people with leprosy with compassion, and He did not look at them with disgust or fear.

The miracle of the leper being healed by Jesus was illustrated in three of the Gospels, **Mark 1:40-45**, **Matthew 8:1-3** and **Luke 5:12-15**. Jesus also healed ten men of leprosy; this miracle is told in **Luke 17:11-19**. The significance of healing the man with leprosy was to restore the leper's social stance which gave him new meaning to life and to clean the leper spiritually and physically. The significance of healing the ten lepers was the lepers needed to be obedient and have faith. Jesus did not heal them first, He told them to go see the priest while they still had leprosy, then on their way to the priest they were healed. In Merriam-Webster Dictionary, *faith is defined as belief and trust in and loyalty to God; firm belief in something for which there is no proof; complete trust; something that is believed especially with strong conviction.* The ten lepers had to have faith when Jesus told them to go see the priest, they had to trust in what they could not prove or had not seen yet.

In **Mark 1:40-45**, Mark was probably speaking to the Gentile Christians and telling them of how Jesus healed the leper. **"A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. 'If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,' he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' Instantly the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed. Then Jesus sent him on his way with a stern warning: 'Don't tell anyone about this. Instead, go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.' But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus, and He couldn't publicly enter a town anywhere. He had to stay out in the secluded places, but people from everywhere kept coming to Him."**

Luke's account of Jesus healing the leper is illustrated in **Luke 5:12-15**. Luke was a Gentile physician and missionary companion of Paul. Luke was sharing this miracle with Theophilus. Theophilus was a literate, thoughtful Greek, and Luke wants to show him the greatness of Jesus, that he really is the incarnate Lord of glory. Luke wants Theophilus to know that Jesus healed the leper. Here is Luke's account. **"In one of the villages, Jesus met a man with an advanced case of leprosy. When the man saw Jesus, he bowed with his face to the ground, begging to be healed. 'Lord,' he said, 'if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.' Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared. Then Jesus instructed him not to tell anyone what had happened. He said, 'Go to the priest and let him examine you. Take along the offering required in the law of Moses for those who have been healed of leprosy. This will be a public testimony that you have been cleansed.' But despite Jesus' instructions, the report of His power spread even faster, and vast crowds came to hear Him preach and to be healed of their diseases."**

The healing of this man with leprosy was also told in **Matthew 8:1-3**. Matthew was speaking to the Greek speaking Jewish Christians. In Matthew's account he does not mention that the man had to go to the priest. **"Large crowds followed Jesus as He came down the mountainside. Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached Him and knelt before Him. 'Lord,' the man said, 'if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.' Jesus reached out and touched him. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be healed!' And instantly the leprosy disappeared."**

The significance of these Scriptures is that by healing the man of leprosy Jesus was restoring his social stance which would give new meaning to this man's life. He would not be an outcast, he could return to living with others, and praise and worship God. Jesus did not shun or avoid the leper when the leper approached Jesus. The leper had no right to have spoken to Jesus. The leper was supposed to keep his distance from society. Jesus showed the man compassion and stopped and listened to the leper's request. Jesus understood the desperation this man had. Jesus reached out and touched him, and the leper was instantly healed. In Merriam-Websters dictionary, *compassion is defined as a sympathetic consciousness of others' distress together with a desire to alleviate it.* That is exactly what Jesus did, not only for this man with leprosy, but for all of humanity. Jesus also showed the leper mercy. *Mercy is defined as compassion or forbearance*

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

shown especially to an offender or to one subject to one's power; lenient compassionate treatment; a blessing that is an act of divine favor or compassion; compassionate treatment of those in distress. "Compassionate treatment of those in distress" this definition describes Jesus' interaction with this man, it also describes how He interacts with us on a daily basis. In the Old Testament, it illustrates how lepers were outcasts. Lepers had to call out, "Unclean, unclean," when anyone approached them. In **Leviticus 13:45** it states, **"Those who suffer from a serious skin disease must tear their clothing and leave their hair uncombed. They must cover their mouth and call out, 'Unclean! Unclean!'"** To Jesus the leper was not unclean; he was a human soul in desperate need of healing. Jesus is the one that truly made the lepers clean, both spiritually and physically. In the article *Jesus Heals the Leper and What It Means Spiritually* written by Vanessa Barthelmes, she states, "Jesus blessed the leper and used the words 'be clean' He was not only talking about his physical body He was also healing the leper to be clean spiritually in God's eyes." Once the man was healed, Jesus instructed the leper to go to the priest and offer a sacrifice.

When Jesus healed the ten lepers, Jesus also told them to go to the priests. In **Luke 17:11-19**, Luke tells of Jesus' healing the ten men with Leprosy. Luke's audience is Theophilus. **"As Jesus continued on toward Jerusalem, He reached the border between Galilee and Samaria. As He entered a village there, ten men with leprosy stood at a distance, crying out, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!' He looked at them and said, 'Go show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. One of them, when he saw that he was healed, came back to Jesus, shouting, 'Praise God!' He fell to the ground at Jesus' feet, thanking Him for what He had done. This man was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Didn't I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?' And Jesus said to the man, 'Stand up and go. Your faith has healed you.'"**

When Jesus healed the man from leprosy, it was immediate upon Jesus touching the man. The contrast in the story when Jesus healed the ten lepers is that the lepers were healed when they left to go to the priests. Their healing was in their obedience to do what Jesus told them to do. Their obedience was required to see the manifestation of the miracle. These men had to be obedient and have faith in what Jesus instructed them to do. Obedient is defined as being submissive to the restraint or command of authority; willing to obey.

The similarity between the two miracle accounts of Jesus healing people with leprosy is that in both healing the man and the ten men, Jesus asked them to go to the priest. The significance here is that by going to the priest they could fulfill the law; the priest could examine them and declare them clean. This declaration would make them physically and spiritually clean according to society's law at the time. In **Leviticus 13:3**, the Bible states, **"The priest will examine the affected area of the skin."** In **Leviticus 13-14**, the Bible instructs people how to handle people with skin diseases. Jesus wanted the leper to obey the human law, and this was a public testimony that showed that the leper had been cleansed, and this would restore his social status. (**Mark 1:44**) Jesus commanded the lepers to go to the priest, so the priest could verify that the men no longer had leprosy. This followed the instruction in **Leviticus 13-14**, where there is instruction on how the priests examined the skin to determine if a person was clean or unclean. The priests would examine them to verify the cure. Then the lepers would be declared clean.

The Bible is written using many real-life stories, these stories parallel our lives and touch us emotionally. They show us how that being obedient and having faith in God and Jesus worked in the lives of people 2,000 years ago, and that if we have the same measure of faith and obedience, God and Jesus can work in our lives today. That is why the miracles of Jesus healing the lepers speaks to me because I was healed of eczema after I was saved. I had severe eczema for 39 years, it was all over my face, neck, chest, arms, and legs, it caused me great physical and emotional discomfort. I felt like the lepers felt in the Bible, I felt like an outcast and at times, I did not want to be around people, because I thought people either felt sorry for me or were disgusted or shocked by my appearance.

When I got saved, I heard Dr. Tom Anderson teach on healing, the power of our words, and confessing Scripture. When I read about Jesus healing the lepers, I knew that healing was for me too. At this time, it was revealed to me that I needed to be obedient, just like the leper had to be obedient when Jesus told him to go and give the offering to the priest. Not long after I was saved, I went to an allergist, and he tested me to determine what I was allergic to. I found out that I was allergic to almost everything in the environment, dust, pollen, grass, trees, dander and so much more. I also learned that I was allergic to corn, wheat, all tree nuts, peanuts, sesame seeds, tomatoes, bananas, strawberries, and latex. The allergist said that you cannot control the environment, but you can control your food intake, he told me to eliminate all these foods from my diet. That is where my obedience came in, I had to eliminate these foods from my diet, and I did. Within in three months, I was 90% healed. I had some residual redness and itchiness and I spoke with God and said, "I believe Your Word and I believe Jesus died on the Cross for me to be 100% healed. I am not being vain Lord I am standing on Your promise that I am made in Your likeness and image. You have given me a ministry and You know how uncomfortable I am speaking in front of people when I am broken out. If this is what You want me to do, then I want this 100% gone." God

continued on page 9 ...

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

I felt compelled to reach out to you at this time to pray for the one who's reading this letter and this awesome ministry.

Let's pray ... Heavenly Father, I bind myself today to this called vessel and this chosen ministry that Your power will guide them. That Your might will uphold them! That Your wisdom will continue to teach them. That Your eyes will watch over them! That Your ear will hear them. That Your Word would give them speech! That Your hand will guide them, as You lead Your angels before them to become their shield and shelter against the snares of the enemy and his vices. Whether far or near, whether few or many! In Jesus' Name, amen! I pray something was spoken today from God's Holy Spirit to inspire the sweet Comforter that's in you. Continue to trust Him in the midst as I do the same.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." I'll end this spiritual love letter with my experience today, I breathe in everything I am meant to be. I let go of the false! I breathe in the amazing, God's amazing grace ... **D.J.**

Can I please ask you one more favor, can you please pray for me to leave my addiction to meth at the gate when I get out, please? Please pray for me, I don't want to be a slave to my addiction no more. I want to watch my baby girl grow up ... **A.P.**

Please join me in prayer for my youngest son, Jacob (yes after the Bible Jacob). He has fallen into a dark pit of evil - Heroin! He is now facing several issues with the law and is in need of intervention! Please pray that he gets the proper help he needs for the addiction and that the judge will accept him going to a sober living home instead of jail time.

Jacob is only 22 years old. I ask if you could pray for my youngest son, Jacob, who is in jail now facing 7+ years. He got hooked up with the wrong crowd, started using 'satan's blood', aka heroin. Did a lot of stupid things to pray for the habit. He's trying to get into a program for suspended sentence to avoid prison. I pray he gets a Christian program. He's not prison material ... **G.P.**

My prayers are with you all and God bless you for reaching out to all of us like you do ... **T.E.**

I need help to be a better man and husband, my Father Jesus Christ help me. Why would God give me a wife? The reason why is because He loves me, and I hope to meet this woman soon. If I know who she is, I know she is here for me, it will change my entire thinking about women because I want to be with one person only. Why would God give me money? I know money is not everything in the world. What is important is God's love and peace in my heart. And I pray that God shows me the wife he has for me. And she shows up in my life and writes me letters while I am in prison. I feel lonely and not loved. But I feel loved by my Father in Christ ... **M.C.**

Praise Reports

Overcomers for Christ family! I have a praise report. We serve an awesome God and Living Father! I was moved two months ago to a new complex and was blessed with a job only three days after getting here. His peace and joy rain down on me daily and I am just so, so thankful that He has adopted me as His child! It really blows my mind and truly puts me in awe to think that I was predestined, and a part of His magnificent plan; and that nothing can ever separate me from the love of God! I am so thankful for your ministry and all that you do ... **C.M.**

I know it's been quite some time and you get so many letters, but back in 2012 I wrote you all a little about myself and I received this beautiful letter from you and Julie. I'm serving a 22-year sentence of which I now have only 6 ½ years left. I lost my faith when I lost my brother back in 2011. But I'll tell you, God knew His timing and I have regained my faith and hope back. God has directed you and other people into my path that has my faith burning in a good way. I now do Bible studies and have a mentor from New Freedom. I fell off, but I'm back on. I have so much hope for my future and I'm ready to hit the pavement and start running. Today, I know that God has great plans for me and I'm so ready ... **R.G.**

Our Father has surely shined His love down upon all of your generations and generations to come. Please relay my congratulations to the rest of the family. Great grandparents! Praise God brother! Praise God! I love you all and am very, very happy for the 'Anderson Tribe'. We all are so very blessed and highly favored. And as you said in your card, 'God is so good to us Jerry! Every area of our lives is truly blessed.' I know this is true, as the Holy Spirit in me says to you and your family, 'Papa' has so much for you all and it's only good, good, good ... **J.S.**

Thank you all for the card and for your prayers concerning my daughter. I want you all to know that God heard all of our prayers in regard to my daughter. She got her own apartment with a friend of hers from work. She is out of that horrible place she was living in. God sure did answer our prayers. I know that when God's people come together in prayer, nothing can stand in the way ... **V.F.**

Well, hello! I hope and pray that all is well with ya'll. Mom's health has been going well, as I'm sure I told you the cancer is handled! I like to think the radiation was His answer for the lung cancer and He handled the spot in her throat Himself. It just ain't there anymore the doctor said. Praise God!! She feels strong now. Life is good and I pray the same for all of ya'll. Only 8-ish months left and I'll be back out there with freedom after 8 years of this. I'm looking forward to that. God bless ... **B.A.**

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(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

In The Name of Jesus

By M.C.

Praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! When we speak in the name of Jesus there is power in His name that will manifest what we need, whether it be in our body, soul, mind, or spirit. We are more than conquerors and we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us.

We all are very blessed in our lives with Jesus, we just have to remain focused on the truth of God's Word. When we encourage one another to change, and then help each other in those changes it's always good. Everyone deserves the chance to progress that change. That's why I'm grateful for you all being there to read our mail and respond with such encouragement.

When we speak God's Word it is so powerful, in the name of Jesus. Amen?! Speaking the Word, in the name of Jesus, helps manifest the kingdom in our lives and surely helps in our spiritual growth. It's great to wake up every morning, look at ourselves in the mirror, and with boldness and honor say, "I am a child of God and my God loves me!" We must be true to ourselves and allow our true identity in Christ to shine on others. Remember, it is the Word of God that reflects who we truly are, not what people think or how the world around us tries to mold us.

God is on the Move

By S.C.

I did get your letter, thank you so much for your encouraging words. In your letter you said, "God is going to move. He's getting ready to open the windows of heaven and pour out His Spirit on His church." Brother, I do believe this statement!

God's Word is truth, it says exactly that in **Malachi 3:10**, "***I will open the windows of heaven for you. I will pour out a blessing so great you won't have enough room to take it in!***" In context I know the Lord is speaking to us here about our tithes, but I do believe this also confirms the words in your letter! God WILL send us the needed rain you and your household will be blessed! God's Spirit is upon all of His church, He is who upholds us all!

"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57) Through our Lord Jesus Christ we walk and live in victory, AMEN!? ***"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith." (1 John 5:4)***

I just wanted to encourage you all with word's that edify the soul. They are not my words, but His Word! Jesus is the bread of life through Him we shall never hunger or thirst!

What Is Love?

By P.O.

People have asked this question for so long, for so many years that it's lost it's real true meaning in this life. This is just this man's answer to that question. Opinions have varied all throughout time, some coming with pain and strife.

So, "What is Love?"

It's a hot cup of coffee on the front porch, with the love of your life on any given morning.

It's a walk on a sandy beach in the rain, laughing and enjoying the pure water down pouring.

It's the smile on anyone's face you reach out to help, and their surprise when you ask for nothing in return.

It's doing the right thing in life no matter what, even if the response you receive is ... it's not your concern.

It's seeing the sunrise and shine each and every day, the sun you thought satan had done everything to take it all away.

It's knowing that God has given you unbiased true love in life.

God has given you, your very own family, a son, a daughter and a beautiful wife.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

People ask me, "What is love to you?" I respond by saying, "It's all the above; and so much more."

It's the trees, animals, lakes, rivers, winds, and the seas shore to shore.

Most of all it's the true unbiased love of God that gave His only Son.

So! That we all on this earth would know life, laughter, love, and fun. But still you ask, "What is love?"

Love is the very life that God gave you, Praise Him and thank Him. Live your life right by God while you can, for you'll never know the end, what day, time, where you'll be or when.

This was written by a man who wasted too much of his life in search of it, when it was right in front of him all along ...
LOVE ... God's love!

Think on these Facts

By J.S.

I would like to share the following encouragement with the extended Overcomers for Christ family.

All that God has made bears the marks of His wonders:

"All of Your works will thank You, Lord, and Your faithful followers will praise You. They will speak of the glory of Your kingdom; they will give examples of Your power. They will tell about Your mighty deeds and about the majesty and glory of Your reign. For Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom. You rule throughout all generations. The Lord always keeps His promises; He is gracious in all He does." (Psalm 145:10-13)

"How amazing are the deeds of the Lord! All who delight in Him should ponder them. Everything He does reveals His glory and majesty. His righteousness never fails. He causes us to remember His wonderful works. How gracious and merciful is our Lord!" (Psalm 111:2-4)

Our Father does care:

"The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right; His ears are open to their cries for help. But the Lord turns His face against those who do evil; He will erase their memory from the earth. The Lord hears His people when they call to Him for help. He rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed. The righteous person faces many troubles, but the Lord comes to the rescue each time." (Psalm 34:15-19) He loves to share with us His creation.

Our Father does save:

"But the Lord will redeem those who serve Him. No one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned." (Psalm 34:22) In the midst of a world of 'god's', that are not good 'god's' at all, there does exist – in reality, our Father, the One true living God. And He is altogether good, good, good ... ***"Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!" (Psalm 34:8)***

Beloved, these are psalms/songs that we can still sing "out loud" to our Father (I call Him my Poppa). I can guarantee you that you have no need for a perfect singing voice, rhythm etc.

Our Father loves spending time with His loved ones ... us. He loves sharing that which He has made with His loved ones ... all of us. With those facts in mind I want to encourage you all to meditate on these things that the Holy Spirit brought to my thinking a short while ago.

Acknowledging God as our Creator and the fact that He loves sharing everything with us and keeping in mind the obvious reality that He did not make the 'following' and 'everything else' just for Himself. He made these things for all of us.

Ezekiel 1:1-28

Why did the Jewish people in Babylonian need a prophet? God wanted Ezekiel to:

- 1) Help the exiles understand why they had been taken captive,
- 2) Dispel the false hope that the captivity was going to be short,
- 3) bring a new message of hope,
- 4) Call the people to a new awareness of their dependence upon God. (1:1)

The glory of the Lord appeared like fire and a glowing halo or rainbow to Ezekiel. Ezekiel fell face down, overwhelmed by the contrast between God's holiness and his own sinfulness and insignificance. Eventually, every person will fall before God, either out of reverence and awe for His mercy or out of fear of His judgment. Based in the way you're living today, how will you respond to God's holiness? (1:27-28)

Hebrews 2:1-18

Listening to Christ means not merely hearing but also obeying. In *James 1:22-25*, "**Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.**" We must listen carefully and be ready to carry out His instructions. (2:1; 2:3)

God's grace to us led Christ to His death, Jesus did not come into the world to gain status or political power, but to suffer and die so that we could have eternal life, bringing His many children into glory. If it is difficult for us to identify with Christ's servant attitude, perhaps we need to evaluate our own motives. Are we more interested in power or participation, domination or service, getting or giving? (2:9-10)

Knowing that Christ suffered pain and faced temptation helps us face our trials. Jesus understands our struggles because He faced them as a human being. We can trust Christ to help us survive suffering and overcome temptation. When you face trials, go to Jesus for strength and patience. He understands your needs and is able to help. In *Hebrews 4:14-16*, "**Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.**" (2:18)

Psalms 104

What God created each day is mentioned by the psalmist as a reason to praise God. God's act of creation deserves the praise of all people. (104:1)

Today, many people are arrogant enough to think they don't need God. But our every breath depends on the life He has breathed into us. Not only do we depend on God for our very life, but He wants the best for us. We should also desire to learn more of His plans for us each day. (104:29)

Proverbs 27:3

The resentment caused by a fool is heavier than any amount of storms or sand. (27:3)

“Foot” Notes

Hello, everybody!! On a daily basis we all have to face and deal with temptations. Let's all take a look at *1 Corinthians 10:13* (NLT), "**But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, He will show you a way out so that you will not give into it.**"

We've all heard it said that "God will never give you more than you can handle." But He will give you enough for you to realize that you cannot get through it alone! Keep turned towards God and you'll get through anything.

Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!!

revealed to me that there was another vice that I needed to remove from my life, it was something that did not even mean anything to me, I was not even aware of the significance of why it was blocking my complete healing. I obeyed God and removed this thing from my life and continued to not eat foods that I was allergic to. Then, I stood firm on my belief and faith in God's Word and waited for the full manifestation of my miracle. I would not back away until I was completely healed. Within a month, I was completely healed.

Being healed of eczema restored my confidence and desire to share my testimony with others, just like the man healed of leprosy did in **Mark 1:45**, "**But the man went and spread the word, proclaiming to everyone what had happened. As a result, large crowds soon surrounded Jesus.**" I have a desire for large crowds to surround Jesus, and for them to know that miracles happen today.

Overcomer's Testimonies

Second Chance At life

Well, I really need to start off by telling you some of my history. I am 52 years old. I started my criminal activities in 1984 from 1984 to 1987 I was in and out of Arizona Youth Authority. When I graduated from high school, I went to N.A.U. for my generals and finished my schooling at the U.T.I. I retained a master's in automotive.

When I finished there, I moved to Colorado and then to Utah, where I soon went to jail and then prison. I went to prison in 1988 and remained there until 2011. In 2002, on my last attempt to parole, I was convicted of a sex crime, "Peeing outside of a bar". So of course, also in 2002, I had to step down from my rank in a 'white' gang I'd been in for several years.

That crime changed my whole entire life, I just didn't know it yet! I moved from Salt Lake City, Utah to Iowa, in 2013, to avoid the Gang Task Force! I tried to outrun the registry, but that didn't work. I was picked up 21 days later in Des Moines, Iowa. I was found guilty of failure to register. I went back to prison for 27 months. After my release I violated five times. The last time I was at a halfway house where I got high. Next thing I know the halfway house gave me a urine test and I was, you guessed it, guilty!

I let the Meth control me! So, I packed up all of my clothes in a backpack and went on the run. I was gone for almost 18 months. That's when I was caught and arrested, in Phoenix, and taken back to Iowa. I plead guilty not knowing I had picked up a new indictment. They gave me 18 months for the violation, and 8 months into that violation they took me to Des Moines for the indictment. I was found guilty of double jeopardy and given 30 more months.

When I left the jail, they sent me back to prison in Memphis C.C.A./Core civic. After I was there for 15 days 6 gang members assaulted me and I laid in my own fluids for 11.5 hours. When I was taken to a hospital 3 hours away, they found a faint pulse and the Lord gave me a second chance. From that beating I received a T.B.I., (traumatic brain injury). This is why I expounded on the "Second Chance at Life" ... **C.F.**

FUN FACTS

Jul 6th – In 1785, the U.S. Congress chose the dollar as the monetary unit for the country.

Jul 6th – In 1854, the U.S. Republican Party was formally launched at a convention in Jackson, Michigan.

Jul 6th – In 1892, sixteen people were killed during fighting between guards and striking steelworkers at a Carnegie Steel Co. plant in Homestead, Pennsylvania.

Jul 6th – In 1942, diarist Anne Frank and her family went into hiding in a secret annex in a warehouse in Amsterdam.

Jul 10th – In XX, The United Kingdom's Royal Air Force, which battled the German Luftwaffe during the Battle of Britain, counted eleven American pilots among its 2,900 members.

Jul 13th – In 1863, draft riots began in New York City. An estimated 1,000 people were killed or wounded.

Jul 13th – In 1973, Alexander Butterfield, deputy assistant to U.S. President Richard Nixon, revealed the existence of the "Nixon Tapes" to a senatorial committee investigating the Watergate scandal.

Jul 13th – In 1977, a twenty-five-hour blackout hit the New York City area, leaving some 9 million people in darkness and resulting in looting and disorder.

Look Up and Move On

By Steve Arterburn

“All bitterness, anger and wrath, insult and slander must be removed from you, along with all wickedness. And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.” - Ephesians 4:31-32

The world holds few if any rewards for those who remain angrily focused upon the past. Still, the act of forgiveness is difficult for all but the most saintly men and women. Are you mired in the quicksand of bitterness or regret? If so, you are not only disobeying God’s Word; you are also wasting your time.

Being frail, fallible, imperfect human beings, most of us are quick to anger, quick to blame, slow to forgive, and even slower to forget. Yet as Christians, we are commanded to forgive others, just as we, too, have been forgiven.

If there exists even one person—alive or dead—against whom you hold bitter feelings, it’s time to forgive. Or, if you are embittered against yourself for some past mistake or shortcoming, it’s finally time to forgive yourself and move on. Hatred, bitterness, and regret are not part of God’s plan for your life. Forgiveness is.

TODAY’S PRAYER

Heavenly Father, free me from anger and bitterness. When I am angry, I cannot feel the peace that You intend for my life. When I am bitter, I cannot sense Your presence. Keep me mindful that forgiveness is Your commandment. Let me turn away from bitterness and instead claim the spiritual abundance that You offer through the gift of Your Son. Amen

What Others Are Saying...

“Overcomers for Christ, it has been a while since my last correspondence. I’ve been doing good. I still do my studies and still commune with a few people here. Blessedly I know the Lord is with me every step of the way. Not a day goes by that I don’t talk with Jesus. I still enjoy the newsletters and I share them with my friends. Even though it’s been a rough couple of years for us all, with the pandemic, I’m staying positive. God bless you all.” – **T.E.**

“Hello, I got your card accepting me into the OCS family and where you spoke about God restoring our relationships. I know you are so true! No doubt, not to mention the blessings after blessings that come our way, even in life’s ups and downs. God is so Good! No if we can convince the rest of the world, just think of the kingdom here on earth! This can only be accomplished when we participate with the Holy Spirit, allowing Him to work within us and through us.” – **R.S.**

“I wanted to write to you and let you know that I am thankful and appreciate the things that you all do for me. I really love when I receive mail from you, the feelings I get when I read your words blesses me. I know deep inside your heart you really do love Jesus and His beautiful Word. I know that God is watching over you and your team there.” – **M.C.**

“I want to thank you all for staying strong in who you are in Christ. Keeping up the good work of our Lord!! You are all an inspiration to us here on the inside. Thank you for your commitment and faithfulness for the OCS family.” – **M.M.**

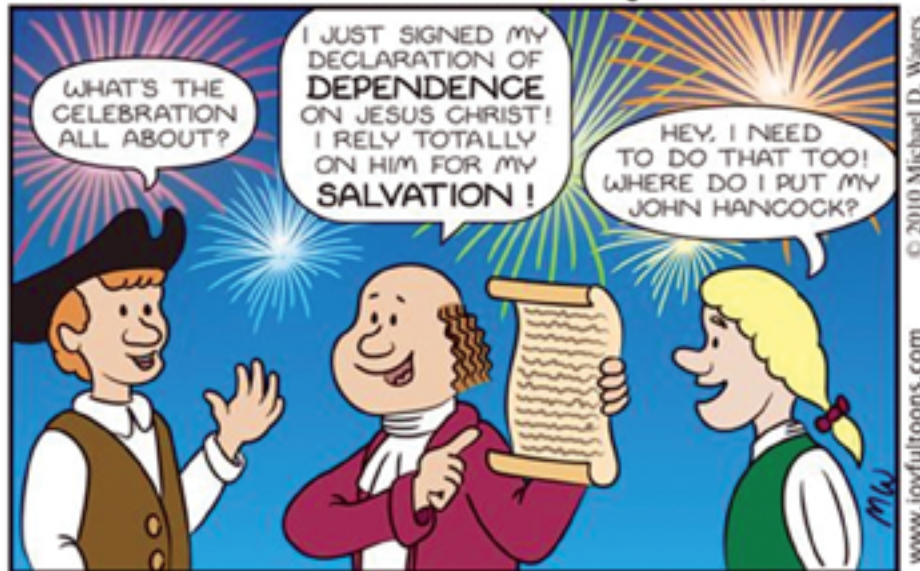
“Like you wonderful people, I am a Christian. A friend recently gave me an issue of last month’s edition of Overcomers for Christ and WOW, guys I absolutely loved it. I am convinced that your program is the TRUTH, delivering the GOOD NEWS for all to hear, and I want to be a part of it. A lot of people shun and shoo you in prison for following your faith as a Christian the way I do, and you would be surprised by how a lot of the churches that I’ve tried to reach out to from my community just do not want to be associated with people who are in my position. But here I am in one of our country’s most extreme penitentiaries and I find your monthly subscription ... GOD BLESS YOU! I love what you guys are doing. I would really appreciate your monthly subscriptions. Please sign me up, I look forward to the Good News you all send. Again, God bless you and I send my love.” – **T.E.**

“God bless all of you at Overcomers for Christ. Sorry it’s been so long since you’ve heard from me. Yet I hear from you all in our monthly newsletter. I’ve told the Chaplain all about Overcomers for Christ. He sounds really excited for you to come visit us. All of my brothers and sisters who are doing state time, if you have the tablet, make sure to log onto the pando app. Some really amazing worshiping going on, Prison Behind Bars, it’s amazing.” – **C.P.**

Christian Comedy

The best golfers always wear two pairs of pants just in case they get a hole in one.

DECLARATION OF DEPENDENCE A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



My salvation and my honor depend on God;
he is my mighty rock, my refuge.

— PSALM 62:7 NIV

Quote Worthy

"The greatest use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it."

- William James (1842 – 1910) an American philosopher, historian, and psychologist, and the first educator to offer a psychology course in the United States. James is considered to be a leading thinker of the late 19th century, one of the most influential philosophers of the United States, and the "Father of American psychology".

ATTENTION

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Editor's Note

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Hello everyone! We have been working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. The request was finally approved! This is **FREE** of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, **FREE!**

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 **Ahwatukee** - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 **Gilbert** - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the *Overcomers* for Christ ministry:

By **check** or **money order** – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

Hope II By J.H.

My hope is ...

You use discouragement as nourishment, for your motivation,
Fly so high haters can't reach your elevation,
Hope you uplift others up cliffs,
And smother loved ones with forgiveness, we all need it sometimes.

Shine, when it's not popular to do so,
Move slow when others move quick,
Encourage when others throw bricks,
Laugh, growth happens when you trudge through pits.

Brighter days, many ways, you have many days, to uplift and elevate someone's pain.
A direct to peace, place others first, through their struggles love 'em,
It develops toughness, sandpaper eliminates roughness,
We all fumble, we all tumble.

Build, even though sandcastles crumble, there's more sand, dust yourself off,
Next plan!

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

EDITORIAL Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com