

Overcomers for Christ

July 2024

IN CONGRESS

Unanimous Declaration of the thirteen

When in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, that whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence in the superstitious reverence for the Laws of Man, and the just regard to the Rights of the People, are equally necessary to a firm establishment and to the duration of the Civil Liberties of the People.

Section 1. All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2024



Vision/Imagination Part 5

By Wade Anderson

Last month, as we rolled to a stop, I mentioned the way that I reignite the vision God has shown me is by remembering the many things and experiences He has already done in my life. Those memories always well up an abundance of gratitude and thankfulness and lead me to praising Him and giving Him thanks for never leaving me and always guiding me! Let's lift the park brake and move forward ...

Our imagination is the dominating controlling factor in our lives. You can imagine never accomplishing a certain thing, and guess what, you'll hit that mark every time. Or you **CAN** imagine yourself accomplishing a certain thing and it's possible to hit that mark as well. Both positive and negative images are obtainable! Our imagination works like a governor on a vehicle. A governor is a built-in safety feature that controls the speed of the vehicle. Once you hit the certain speed that it is set for, the governor kicks in to restrict the amount of air and fuel the engine receives. It doesn't matter how much you push the throttle; the governor will not allow you to go any faster. But here's the good news, unlike car manufacturers, God **IS** your Manufacture, and He **DOES NOT** set your imagination limits, you do!

Maybe you grew up where someone in your family told you that you would never amount to anything. Maybe it was a spouse in a certain relationship that talked down to you or told you that you were worthless. Maybe a parent or parents were drug addicts or alcoholics, and you grew up 'thinking' their sins would also be your sins. Whatever 'you' allow to control your own imagination of or who you desire to be, guess what? That's exactly where 'you' allow 'that' to put a cap on your imagination. The sins of the father/mother are **NOT** your sins! It's when 'we' listen to those lies and allow them to dominate us, that's what holds us back from our God given potential. Other people's opinions are simply that, their opinion! Maybe that was their view of their life **BUT** it doesn't have to dictate your dreams and visions.

As I start right here, please know that I have nothing but great memories and experiences of my youth.

I was born in a small town in Ohio. It was a great place to live as a kid, a place where everyone knew everyone, and everyone was very friendly. It was a place where we didn't have to lock our doors, and whatever you left in the front yard the day before was still there in the morning when you got up to get it. Being such a small town, going to school and loving automotive work, by the time I was 18 years old I'd pumped gas and changed tires in nearly every service station we had in that town. When I was a lot younger my dad managed many different stations of his own. That was one of the 'bugs', not sins, I caught from him, mechanics. Even though I did love the small-town living, and the relationships there, it was like a governor for me. The limits for me seemed to be capped off. Another 'bug', not sin, that I took from my dad was that he loved the vagabond lifestyle. As a kid we lived in numerous states, and I even remember going to three different schools in three different states while I was in the 6th grade alone!

My dreams were way bigger than I believed I could obtain there in that small town, so at 21 years old I packed up my motorcycle and headed for Arizona. I only knew three people in Arizona, the guy I left Ohio with and his parents that put us up until we got settled in our own place. Leaving that small town in Ohio and arriving here in the Valley of the Sun it was like I jumped from the pan and directly into the fire. The opportunities were **EVERYWHERE**, with 24-hour accessibilities to **EVERYTHING**. Opportunities for both good and bad! Everywhere you looked in the 70's there was construction blowing out of the ground. Leaving Ohio as a mechanic, my grandfather, who was a union carpenter in Ohio, had encouraged me to come to Arizona and learn the carpentry trade. I arrived here in Arizona and did just that. I got a job as a laborer and worked hard at it. Work was so plentiful that after I got the hang of humping lumber and pounding teco nails, I seen that I could leave any one of those jobs, find another one in the matter of an hour **AND** even give myself a little raise!

I did that for a short time, moved around from job to job, until I decided it was time to get settled in with one company and start working my way up to bigger and better things. That worked, and I began to devour everything that I was being taught. I came to work early and stayed until the foreman left the job. I worked hard to acquire the dreams and vision my grandfather and I had for myself. This pleased my grandfather. But even at that, I later realized that I too had put a cap on my imagination. Let me explain.

Remember, I was single and 21 years old. Now don't laugh at me when I tell you my vision coming to Arizona. I left Ohio in October of 1977. Believing this was the Wild West, my aspirations were to come here, find me a Native American girlfriend, buy me an Apache pickup truck, learn the carpentry trade, and eventually start building motorcycles. I told you not to laugh! With lots of job opportunities and the money being so good, I had, within a couple of years, accomplished all of that and more. Yes, even the Native American girlfriend came some years later. That's a **WHOLE** other story we won't get into. All I will say is, I sure got a schooling in that relationship.

After moving up the ladder as a carpenter to a foreman, I soon was doing customer service for a huge framing outfit here in the valley. I'd gotten married, not to the Native American, had a young daughter, bought our first home and together our vision changed again. By then we were driving nice vehicles, for that time, I had two motorcycles and the sky seemed like the limit. At that point I had set new visions and goals. Here again, don't laugh at me. I started seeing my retirement like

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

this. We'd have a nice motorhome, pulling a trailer with a motorcycle on it. I've always loved to fish, and still do, so 'I capped my imagination off by dreaming of traveling aimlessly around the states, fishing everywhere we landed and riding my motorcycle. More or less, a vagabond like my father.

Another 'bug', not sin, I caught from my dad was that he loved to work on motorcycles. I remember him, when I was a kid, working as a motorcycle mechanic in a Harley Davidson dealership in Colorado. Acquiring a Cushman Eagle at the age of 12-13 years old, from my uncle Bill, I too developed the love for working on and riding those machines. As I kid, I worked on that Cushman and whatever mechanical thing I got my hands on, in the front yard or in the dirt. As the years rolled forward, I continued to work on **ANYTHING** and **EVERYTHING** mechanical, but now in my own garage at home. Remember, I'd set my vision to build custom motorcycles from the ground up.

Let me assure you, it's a lot different to be a parts changer than to be a mechanic, start a project from an idea and build it all the way through to a finished product. I set my vision on Titan Motorcycles Company of America and kept knocking on the door until one day I was hired. Same as always, I started at the bottom rung and worked hard to move further in that company, while learning as much as they were willing to teach me. I started out in an area known as Sub-Assembly building the wire harnesses for the bikes they were building on the floor. After being there for about a month, I was recruited from there to the paint department where I sanded, buffed, and polished these \$40,000 to \$50,000 high-end paint jobs. I **REALLY** learned a lot of patience in that department.

Then one day a floor build foreman, Sap, came from inside to see me in the paint department. He said, "I need good builders inside to help me assemble these bikes. I heard you're a bike builder. What are you doing out here in the paint shop? If you come inside and work for me, I'll give you a \$2.00 an hour raise, right now." After talking with, Stubbs, the guy I was working for out in the paint department, I took Sap up on his offer and went inside to start their build class. Even though Titan offered several different models of bikes, every one of them had to be built with exactly the same hardware, in exactly the same places. Every wire had to be in exactly the same place on every model they offered. After a week in the class, they put me out on the floor, building bikes. Back then, after each builder finished the bike they'd built, he was the one that took that bike out and put the first twenty miles on it. To me, this was the perfect dream job. Also, to me, that meant that the quicker I built a bike, the more bikes I could ride 😊.

Each day before I went to work, I prayed, "Lord, help me to be the best builder that I can be. I'm, not asking to be better than anyone else Lord, I just want to be the best me that I can be." To me, the bikes weren't really that hard to build. They brought all of the brand-new parts to your cell. Everything was there, even the nut and bolt kits were labeled and on a shelf. I'd walk into the cell, pick up the build sheet to see exactly which bike I was building, check to see which parts I still needed from the parts department, get them ordered and get started assembling that bike. The frame was there on the lift table, the front end, tires, motor, and transmission ... everything brand new. Within a short amount of time I was building a completed motorcycle, from parts to running, in less than twelve hours. This was simple stuff to me. Each day I studied the process, to figure out how I could improve my performance, to build a better bike in less time.

After a few months there on the line, one of the shop foremen came to me and told me, "Duck, we want you to know that you are one of the top three builders out here on the line. Your bikes are the cleanest and have very few things to correct after the twenty miles. Come in the office, we want to tell you what's on our minds." I told him, "Are you sure?" He answered with, "What! You don't think you build a great bike for us?" It wasn't that I didn't believe him, but all that I did every day was come to work to be the best me that I could be. Wait! That was my prayer every morning! When I put my focus on building the best bikes, the vision became much easier to obtain and soon what was in my imagination became a reality, right before my eyes.

Later that day I went into his office where they gave me a substantial raise. That particular floor foreman was getting ready to leave Titan, and within a few days I was given his position, with 10 guys under me. Having the process down pretty well, I went to these guys and began to sit with each one of them. I explained how to better set their work area up, and how to make sure every part was there before they started a bike build. From there I was able to focus on each man individually and invest the time in him so that he too could build a better bike quicker. Sounds a little like discipleship doesn't it. Why did I tell you all of this? I just want you to see that even though we set certain goals and visions for ourselves, many times we're the ones that put a cap on our imagination. In some of my earlier dreams and visions I believed that I set the bar pretty high, for that time anyways. As you read through all of this you should be able to see that I achieved **ALL** of the things I'd imagined in my heart, to that point. It was time to dream bigger and set my imagination to a higher level.

Remember the motorhome with a trailer and a motorcycle retirement plan I had? Well, since giving my life to the Lord, and over the course of these past seventeen years, God continued to encourage me to not put limits on Him. Today, we do sometimes 'rent' an RV and tour around the United States with our grandchildren. While we're on the road we book fishing excursions on the ocean and use the fishing charters equipment to do the fishing. When we're done fishing, we then have

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

May the good Lord bless all your endeavors my brother. Amen! Now, there's a youngster by the name of Andrew that just showed up this week, and he asked me to tell you hello. He hasn't met you, but I guess you had sent him a couple of cards. I have already got him signed up for college classes. I can only pray that he too sees that there's a better life out there. He has just over two years left, just enough time to gain some useful knowledge and educate himself. All this has just brought forth some thoughts. It's funny how lately God will inspire me on something when it's time for the newsletter, He will never fail us if we just listen. - **Foot**

"Happy" is a good word for the day! I pray for you all at **Overcomers for Christ** and all God's best for the soldiers of His that are at work doing His will!! - **L.R.**

Thanks for your words, I was thinking along those lines too! I won't let the devil interrupt my walk with Jesus!!! I will keep praying and talking with Jesus about it!! Your words helped me realize it is more the devil than me!! So, thanks!! I hope you have a great day, and I will pray for you and your loved ones plus all the awesome people at **Overcomers for Christ**! Your friend in Jesus. - **M.G.**

In January, my aunt had her leg amputated just below her knee and then in March her husband passed away. Her desire is to return to her home and be independent. Please join me in prayer ... that she supernaturally learns how to operate in her new norm, and she is able to move herself from bed to wheelchair, wheelchair to bathroom and any other tasks that she will need to accomplish herself. She loves the Lord, and her faith is so strong and I know that God is going to grant her the desire of her heart to be at home. - **M.A.**

PRAISE REPORTS

I always thank God for everything He places into my life, and you all are a huge part of that thankful prayer. Just when I feel off or out of sorts, BAM! I get a letter/card from you. I don't know why or for what reason (actually I do, it's God), but I am happy to know and have you all in my life. I pray this lasts a lot longer too! - **L.S.**

Brother Duck, it's really good to hear from you and I'm grateful Chaplain gave you, my information. As you know, I'm here with J.B. and we both are facilitators for the Second Chance program. We teach classes together and spend most of our days fellowshiping together. For me, things are good spiritually. I do miss the church services and fellowship we had at Red Rock. I do recognize that it was a special time and a special place. That time was to prepare and equip us for the ministry opportunities that God has us walking in here and now. - **J.J.**

Brother, while reading all that you wrote about Jesus dying for you, and how thankful you've been for His mercy and love towards you, I could easily relate. The truth is we were both hell bound for sure, that if God wouldn't have had mercy on us, poured His grace and love over us AND if we hadn't responded to His calling voice. He's used you as a vessel to touch a lot of people's lives, mine just being one of them. We both have more to be thankful for than most others. Like Jesus told the woman who washed His feet her hair and tears, "You are forgiven much." We both can relate to that. I'd like to share this little thing with everyone, titled Reflections. "Life is a journey, a process and discovery. Not only of the world, but of ourselves and our purpose in it. Painted by our passions, our struggles, and our relationships as it brings us face to face with ourselves, with our beliefs and with our God!" - **W.R.**

Just finished reading M.R.'s testimony in the newsletter. It's great! Had me worked up pretty good. Amazing how God can use our struggles, turn them into blessings, and then use them to bless others. I have a few of the brothers reading it right now as well. I remember the night here in Bible study when I told Mike he needed to start working on his testimony. It was the same night I told him to contact you when he got out of AZ prison. The first time I met M.R. was the day I helped you baptize him. M.R. will always have a special place in my heart. I was blessed to read his testimony in full form tonight. - **J.T.**



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

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Committed

By H.A.M.

There's a fable about a chicken and a pig going to a church prayer breakfast. The church had asked the chicken to provide the eggs and the pig to provide the bacon. The pig said, "Miss chicken, you're certainly involved, but I'm committed!"

Commitment is the root of our faith. **James 4:10** tells us, **"Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will lift you up."** **James 2:18** states, **"Yea, a man may say, thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."** True faith creates a lifestyle.

John 8:31 is quoted as saying, **"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, 'If ye continue in my Word, then are ye My disciples indeed.'" Notice His last word there, 'indeed'. Now let's see how Jesus set the bar through perfect love and perfect humility. "So after He had washed their feet, and had taken His garments, and was set down again, He said unto them, 'Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord; and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither He that is sent greater than He that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.'" (John 13:12-17)**

Acts 7:51-60, gives an example of earthly opposition to faith, and works demonstrated. **"Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it. When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep."**

Stephen did not count his life to be more valuable than his labor of faith, his reward he saw before his departure. That being eternal joy, love, peace, and contentment beyond our limited comprehension.

In **Matthew 16:28**, **"Verily I say unto you, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in His kingdom."** And **Luke 9:27**, **"But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God."** Taste here is a word that describes the remorse felt for lost souls who had a choice but chose eternal damnation instead.

Let's look at **Deuteronomy 30:19**, **"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live."** The word Christian means to be Christ-like, which means to live a life of love, mercy and hoped desire. **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** (2 Peter 3:9)

Our Lord does indeed send people into our lives, and we must be careful because so does the devil. What and who we listen to is obviously important. Listen here as Jesus makes this same point, **"I speak not of you all; I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with Me hath lifted up his heel against Me. Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am He. Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth Me; and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me."** (John 13:18-20) Serious contemplation on verse 20 reveals a direct relation to, **"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."** (Galatians 6:10) Also read **Proverbs 21:13, 28:27** and **Matthew 25:40**, **"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

In closing let's review **Luke 6:31** as being quoted as God's Golden Rule, *"And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise."* (KJV) *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* (NIV)

Focus

By M.M.

Hello!! I started today with a good Bible study it was on 'FOCUS', what are the things we focus our minds and lives around. Not only having 'FOCUS' for our future, but on our daily things. I shared Scriptures and the point of my daily focus is to wake up and focus on being a faithful man of God, what I can do today to grow into a better man, husband, dad, papa, friend, and servant of God. I do my best. I know how to read my Bible, pray, fellowship, and take steps toward a better today in my recovery and standing in my morales and values TODAY.

It was a good study and much more, it was an hour long of good conversations and prayers!!! Here's something else the Lord spoke to me, **"TRY TO STAY CONSCIOUS OF ME** as you go step by step through this day. My presence with you is both a promise and a protection. After My resurrection, I assured My followers, 'Surely I am with you always.' That promise was for all of My followers, without exception. The promise of My presence is a powerful protection. As you journey through your life, there are numerous pitfalls along the way. Many voices clamor for your attention, enticing you to go their way. A few steps away from your true path are pits of self-pity and despair, plateaus of pride and self-will. If you take your eyes off of Me and follow another's way, you are in grave danger. Even well-meaning friends can lead you astray if you let them usurp My place in your life. The way to stay on the path of life is to keep your 'focus' on Me. Awareness of My presence is your best protection."

Matthew 28:20 – *"And teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Hebrews 12:1-2 – *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

The Narrow Is the Gate

By L.B.

I pray all is well with you and the Overcomers for Christ family! I'm praying for peace and prosperity for our newcomers as they join us as well! I enjoyed the newsletter for this month, my spirit needed nourishment. I enjoy all that it brings to the table, especially here where it can be dark and lonely. I have done all of my 30's and 40's in prison, and next month I'll be 48. Where did time go?

Anyway, I've always tried to be a good leader, never a follower. I know that God says narrow is the gate that leads to eternal salvation and broad is the way to destruction. I've kept that in mind in a lot of situations. I don't fit in or feel accepted, but being a chosen vessel, I tend to find myself closer to God and farther from man or woman, while being used where I am for the purpose of His kingdom.

Just know I'm on my way to NA right now. It's just sad to my spirit because I'm surrounded by girls in their 20's who came in on fentanyl, and its being made easier to not stay sober on this Suboxone they're handing out in the med lines. We all know how that story goes and I'm just glad we know how the real story ends. The devil is defeated, his place is hell fire and brimstone, and Victory is ours! We can rest assured in that, PRAISE our Fathers Holy Name!! Thank You Jesus!!

Foot's Bible Study

Daniel 11:36-12:13

David stands large in the gallery of God's remarkable servants. Born of royal heritage yet taken into captivity when only a teenager. David determined to remain faithful to God in the land of his captivity, even at great personal cost. David spent his entire lifetime advising his captors with unusual wisdom. God chose him as His servant to record some of the events of the captivity, and some significant events concerning the future. As an old man, having been faithful to God throughout the years, David was assured by God that he would rise from the dead and receive his position in God's eternal kingdom. Faithfulness to God has a rich reward, not necessarily in this life, but most certainly in the life to come. (12:13)

1 John 1:1-2:17

As an eyewitness to Jesus' ministry, John was qualified to teach the truth about Him. The readers of this letter had not seen or heard Jesus themselves, but they could trust that what John wrote was accurate. We are like those second and third generation Christians. Though we have not personally seen, heard, or touched Jesus, we have the New Testament record of His eyewitnesses, and we can trust that they spoke the truth about Him. (1:3)

John 20:29 says, *"Then Jesus told him, 'You believe because you have seen Me. Blessed are those who believe without seeing Me.'"*

Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, also read **John 4:10**, He can stand before God as our mediator because His death satisfied the wrath of God against sin and paid the death penalty for our sins. Thus, Christ both satisfied God's requirement and removed our sin. In Him, we are forgiven and purified. (2:2)

Psalms 123:1-4

The psalmist lifted his eyes to God, waiting and watching for God to send his mercy. The more he waited, the more he cried out to God because he knew that the evil and proud offered no help, they only had contempt for God. (123:1)

Proverbs 29:1-4

If you stubbornly refuse to ever accept criticism you will become broken without any possibility to grow and become a better person. (29:1)

Those who love wisdom bring joy to their parents but if they hang around with fools all is wasted. (29:3)

“Foot” Notes

Independence Day, hmm ... what would our founding fathers think of what's become of their hard fight for freedoms? What exactly are we celebrating anymore? All the leaders that WE THE PEOPLE have voted into office time and again are destroying what this country was founded on. We sit by watching as our religious freedoms are slowly being squeezed out. Religious freedom was one of the main reasons our founding fathers left England in the first place. What's happening to us being able to have our own opinions without being targeted by this "cancel culture"?

Christianity is also in the cross hairs of cancel culture. This is a cancer that has started on both coasts and is moving inward exponentially. Greg Laurie, an evangelist in California, caught a lot of flak because his worship event billboards showed him holding a Bible. Yet nobody has a problem with a scantily clad female's being exploited on some advertisement. Our grandchildren already cannot enjoy the same freedoms we OG's had as kids without having to have some kind of permit, permission, license, reservation, or no freedoms at all.

Is this Christianity's road a Damascus moment? Are we truly blind to what's happening before our eyes? What happened to our America being the greatest nation in the world? It's being parted out and sold out to foreign entities. Our religious freedoms are under attack! Have we already passed the point of no return? We as a nation need to turn back to the Word of God, all we need to fix our society is within those pages, "Remove the scales from our eyes Lord, I ask this in Your precious name Amen!" (Acts 9:18-19)

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

the fish processed and mailed home to Arizona. And instead of a trailer with a motorcycle on it, I'm able to just walk into any dealership anywhere and rent a motorcycle, if I desire to ride in that area. Listen now to **Ephesians 3:20, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us."** It's great to set visions and goals for our lives, but in doing so make sure that you aren't setting your expectations too where it frustrates you that you haven't reached 'that' certain place yet. Take smaller steps, bite off smaller bites and never allow the enemy to steal your vision! And most importantly, **DON'T PUT LIMITS GOD!**

When I first gave my life to Jesus and came in from the shop, to live inside our home, the 'money' flow had dwindled immensely. Sure, Michelle had a great job and most of the bills were paid on time, but the lack of extra 'money' was really noticeable to her. You see, when I was working in the shop, selling drugs, and building motorcycles, I always had fat deep pockets. I never considered myself to be a 'pusher', I was a 'sales' person and I was too good at it. Having great amounts of 'money' pass through my hands I always threw all of my change in a box. I always kept the 'monkey business money' in my left front pants pocket, and the right front pocket was personal money. Many times, Michelle or Courtney would come out to the shop wanting to get their hair either straightened or curled and asking for some cash. I always started by pulling the 'money' from the right pocket asking them, "Look, this is all of the 'money' that I have, is this enough?" They'd done this so many times that Courtney would say, "You've got more 'money' than that dad! Take it out of the left pocket." I'd pull the wad of 'money' from the left pocket, and always gave them what they needed. Of course, that only caused me to use my 'sales' techniques even more to make up the difference.

With so many paper bills passing through my possession I started to collect and stash bills with an "" after the serial number instead of a letter like 'A' or 'C'. It's a longer story to explain than I've got time for right now, but just know, they're pretty rare and not a lot of people are even aware they exist. In fact, I learned this from another 'sales' person. I had a vague idea of their meaning, but it took going to the Treasury Department in Washington D.C. to get their **REAL** understanding. In fact, when we were on our tour, I asked the guide about these bills, and she was **SHOCKED** I even knew anything about the "" bills. Again, we were able to pay our bills, but gas money and extras were slim. The only vehicle we had was the one that our daughter had when she was in high school, a 2000s Kia Rio. This car had been rear ended twice and totaled, but we bought it back from the insurance company and drove it ourselves.

Sometimes Michelle and I would stop at different car dealerships, and even though we didn't have the money to invest in a new vehicle, we'd stop, look around and set our imaginations higher. While we were there on the lot I'd tell Michelle, "I can see that God is about to bless us beyond our wildest dreams, and when He does, I'm going to buy you this vehicle." Other times we would be somewhere shopping, and I'd take her by the greeting card area. After standing there reading a few cards together I'd turn to her and say, "If we had money, I'll buy you this card." We'd both laugh because we weren't that broke. It was just our way of dreaming bigger. What we were doing was creating new pictures in our imagination.

Growing up I always watched my grandmother tithe off my grandfather's wages. I remembered she also had a heart for orphans, and I watched her send money to feed them in other countries. My grandparents even helped support our family of five boys and my cousins, two boys and one girl. But in all of this, the thing that stuck out to me the most was the fact that not one of us did without. So, in a way, I guess you could say my grandmother had planted a seed in me that I didn't even realize was there until I gave my life to Jesus in 2007 and began to live for Him.

Now back to where I came out of living in the shop, to now living inside the house with Michelle. Remember, we were on a tight budget and looking for a church family. Although we loved going to Living Word, at that time Living Word only had one location in Mesa, and we lived in the north central valley. We didn't always have the gas money to get there. It was 42 miles each way, and Michelle still had to have gas for her work week ahead. On those weekends we found a good church here somewhere close and went in and worshiped the Lord. I never spent any time in the shop anymore, but then one day I remembered that I had all of that change and the "" bills stashed in the shop. I went out and gathered it all up, brought it in the house and put it on the dresser. After counting it all up there was over \$1000. Placing 'that money' on the dresser I was led to this Scripture, in **Proverbs 13:22, "The wealth of the wicked is laid up for righteous."** I told the Lord, "Very clever, Sir. And we'll use it for exactly that."

The very reason I put those quote marks around 'money' in this part of the message was to draw your attention to the fact that I was aware that it had come from ill-gotten gain. Money in itself is **NOT** evil, it was just the tool to maneuver my way through those worldly choices, and the same 'money' was **NOW** going to be used to increase the Kingdom of God! Watch this, even though I was wicked when I laid it up, we were now the righteousness of God. God was now able to turn all of that 'money' around and use it for His glory! **AMEN!?**

Like I mentioned, our money had an issue, it was lacking. I knew that tithing worked, as I said earlier, because I saw it with my own eyes through my grandparents' lives. That was when we **REALLY** began to lazar focus on the promises God talks about here in **Malachi 3:10-12, "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house.**

Test Me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the Lord Almighty. 'Then all the nations will call you blessed, for yours will be a delightful land,' says the Lord Almighty.'"

We noticed right off that God said, ***"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse ..."*** and then seeing that He said we could ***"test Him in this."*** We decided to do just that. I don't mean that we didn't believe God, but not only was our money lacking, our understanding was lacking as well. Even though we understood that the whole tithe would be 10% we felt stretched even at 5%. The more we focused on the goodness of God and His faithfulness to us, even at this point in our new walk, we began to get a mental picture, an image of what, ***"and see if I won't open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to contain it"*** might look like. Soon I began to see myself walking around the streets pulling a wagon where the goodness and blessings of God were in such abundance that they flowed over the edges of the wagon, dripping on the sidewalks everywhere I went. Then I imagined people yelling at me, "Hey! You're dropping this stuff all over the ground. Aren't you going to pick it up?" In these images I remember saying, "Nope, you can just have it! My God supplies all of my needs according to the His riches in glory through Christ Jesus!"

God began to show us in our hearts, that He wasn't trying to rob us or take our money. What He was doing was showing us that holding tightly to the money was a heart issue. If He could get us to test and trust Him in this matter, money would never be an issue for us again. When I had that image of pulling that wagon, and telling the people they could just keep all that was overflowing, that's when I received a greater understanding of, ***"Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion." (2 Corinthians 9:10-11)*** Did you just see that? God said He gives seed to the sower, bread for food and increases your store of seed. To who? The sower! That looks to me like the sower already receives a double portion. A sower uses some of the seed to replant and some of it to make bread; that sower is never in lack.

Remember how I had the image of my wagon overflowing? Listen now to ***2 Corinthians 9:8-11, "Besides, God is able to make every blessing of yours overflow for you, so that in every situation you will always have all you need for any good work."*** I'm not saying that if you don't tithe you won't see God's blessings in your lives. But if you ever expect to experience God throwing open the floodgates of heaven and pouring out so much blessing you won't have room to contain it all, you'll have to let go of the value the world puts on money, and trust and test God with just 10% of your income.

Let me share this little illustration I shared with my grandsons when they were little (I borrowed this from Kenneth Copeland). I explained to them that God was only asking us to give back to Him 10% of what he had already given to us. They didn't understand how God had supplied their allowance when it was their mom and dad that gave it to them. That took a minute to get through, but they trusted me. I told them, "Here's two jars, one we'll put your name on and the other we'll put God's name on. Out of every dollar you earn God is only asking you to put a dime in His jar and the other 90 cents you can put in your jar." Reluctantly, at first, they got started. At some point they came to me and asked, "Grandpa, why is my jar full and God's jar has hardly anything in it?" I told them, "That's exactly what I wanted you to see. Ten cents out of every dollar is all God asks of us, the rest belongs to you." They were pretty happy, and willing, at that point.

As Michelle and I began to increase our tithe to 7%, we continued to pray over our little Kia Rio. We declared, every time we left for Mesa, "You **ARE** a warhorse for the Lord! You will **NOT** grow weary or faint. Because you are our means of transportation for this ministry God has given us, and we are tithers, our God will rebuke the devour on our behalf!" At some point, the Spirit of God had already led me to, ***"Put Me in remembrance: let us plead together." (Isaiah 43:26)*** So, we began to remind God of His promise, ***"I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe." (Malachi 3:11)*** Then, one day we both realized that our little warhorse was running like a champ. Because of being totaled twice, she normally would go through front tires pretty quickly. But now, even the tires didn't seem to be wearing out like they used to either!

We knew that it was God, not money, that had become our real source. By this time, we had made the commitment to continue to stand in faith, with the 'whole tithe' as we eagerly watched God fulfill His promises to us. That was when the revelation of 2 Corinthians 9:6 was forever etched into my heart, "Remember this: The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously." Knowing all that God had already delivered me 'out of', I knew from then on there would be no 'sowing sparingly' for our future!

Once again, this looks like a good place to put the brakes on, for now. I not only hope, but I also believe that some of you are picking up what I've been laying down each month, here in these messages. When we all stand in faith, walking in obedience to His plan for each of our lives, the enemy doesn't stand a chance of stealing the visions that our Father has

already prepared for us to run **AND WIN!** Next month we'll get right into where Jesus is explaining the parable of the four types of soil, in **Matthew 13**. See you all next month.

WORD OF THE MONTH

Philomath

Pronunciation – filə math

Noun – a lover of learning; scholar; a student of mathematics

"Britt was a such a **philomath** that even after she received her doctorate in astrophysics, she went back to school to take an art history seminar."

Did You Know ... Are you fond of learning? If so, you're a **philomath**. This word comes from the Greek word *philomathes*, which ultimately traces to *philos*, meaning "dear" and the verb *manthanein*, meaning "to learn". True philomaths will also be pleased to learn that *manthanein* is believed to be a relative of an old word, *mundon* from the language of the Goths (the Germanic people who overran the Roman Empire in the early part of the Christian era). That Gothic word means "to pay attention".

FUN FACTS

- July 20th – In 1944, Adolf Hitler survived an assassination attempt orchestrated by several senior-level, Germany military officials.
- July 20th – In 1969, Neil Armstrong, commander of Apollo 11, became the first person to set foot on the moon, followed by Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin.
- July 20th – In 1976, Viking 1 landed on Mars and transmitted the first photos of the planet's surface.
- July 26th – In 1992, Nolan Ryan struck out his 100th batter of the season, setting a major-league record of twenty-three consecutive seasons with at least 100 strikeouts.

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

Editor's Note

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

Hello everyone! We are 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. 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
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

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

Most Dear to Me By A.B.

Most dear to me are those I love,
Who share and bless my life,
Who fill my heart with countless joys
Despite days touched by strife.

Most dear are friends I cherish most,
As Overcomers for Christ whose loyalty is true ...
Whatever my lot, whatever my pain,
They're faithful, through and through.

Most dear eaching blessing that the Lord
Bestows with loving grace
No matter if sometimes err,
I'm safe in His embrace.

Most dear, indeed, the Voice within
That guides me night and day,
And gently chides my questing soul
Each time I chance to stray,
Overcomers for Christ lifts me within prayer ...

Most dear of all, my faithful Lord,
Who died to set us free,
That we, one day, might find true joy
With Him eternally.

***"Then all who take refuge in You will be glad and forever shout for joy.
Protect them that You may be the joy of those who love Your name." -
Psalm 5:12***

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