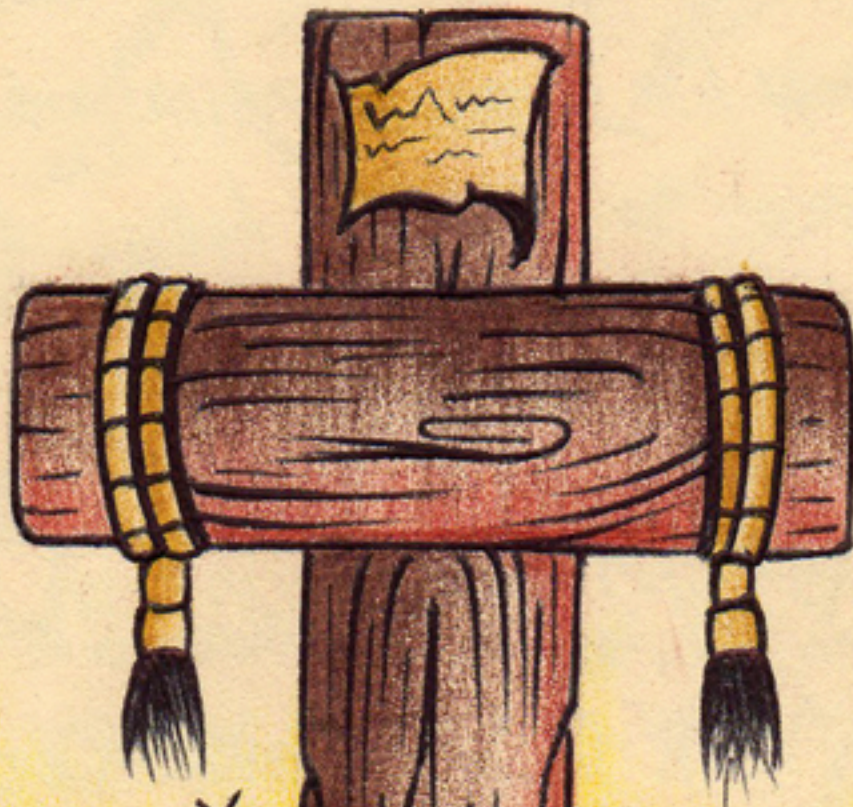


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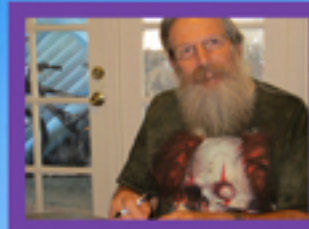
April 2015



*The Message of the
Cross ... is the Power of God ...*

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

October/November 2014



Grace Message - Part III

By C. L.

NO ONE HAS EVER CONFESSED EVERY SIN! At the same time, anyone who is trying to confess every sin is sin conscious and a slave to sin. At that point he or she has put themselves back under the law and its impossible demands. To fully get this we need to understand why the law was given. In **Romans 4:3-5** we read, **"What does Scripture say? 'Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness."** Remember that Abraham lived long before the law but the Word still says that he was righteous by faith.

Look here in **Romans 4:20**, **"Abraham never wavered in believing God's promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God."** Have you ever read this and thought to yourself, "Wait a minute, didn't he sleep with his wife's maidservant because he doubted God? And didn't he lie, twice, about Sarah being his sister to save his own hide?" Yes, this is true about Abraham, Sarah, David and all of the patriarchs. In the Old Testament all of their faults were revealed; murder, deceit, adultery and on and on. But the New Testament reveals that none of that is remembered because they lived by faith and are counted as righteous. Take the opportunity and look over in **Hebrews chapter 11** to what is referred to sometimes as the hall of faith. In **Hebrews 11:1-2** it reads, **"Now faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."** At the beginning of nearly every verse or at least in most of them they state, **"By faith Abel, By faith Enoch, By faith Noah, By faith Abraham, By faith Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, and Moses"** and so on and so on. In other words they are seen by God as though they lived as perfect as Jesus. Why? Because all of their failures were credited on Jesus at the Cross, God's wrath was poured out **completely**, and now it is as though those failures had never happened. This is Grace!

As Israel departed from Egypt they were still under God's grace. So what happened? Israel wanted to be self-righteous and proudly declared that they could do all God had spoken. Listen, **"The people all responded together, 'We will do everything the LORD has said.' So Moses brought their answer back to the Lord."** (**Exodus 19:8**) All of a sudden everything changed when they made that declaration. That loving pillar of fire by night and cloud by day became a mountain that would kill anyone who came near it (**Exodus 19:12**), and so at their request the law was given. See, Israel wanted God to keep doing good for them but they wanted His goodness to be because they deserved it or had earned it. But brethren, I'll tell you that every time someone asks for the law and seeks to be righteous and deserving of God's love and goodness, He is right there to show us, **"You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and then you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow Me."** (**Mark 10:21, Matthew 19:21**) As we can see from these passages the law did not make the man repent because the law has no life giving power. **Second Corinthians 3:6-9** (Holman Christian Standard) tells us, **"He has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit, for the letter kills, but the Spirit produces life. Now if the ministry of death, chiseled in letters on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel were not able to look directly at Moses' face because of the glory from his face - a fading glory - how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?"** Similarly the law did not produce holiness with Israel. The Israelites left Egypt laden with gold yet they complained about everything and God, under Grace, lovingly met their every need. Now, when everything is seemingly going well, the first thing they did, being in their self-righteousness, was to make a golden calf to worship, while Moses' was gone up on Mount Sinai. (**Exodus 32**)

In **1 Corinthians 15:56-57** Paul tells us that, **"The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."** Freedom from sin will only come by revelation of the Holy Spirit, concerning our righteousness in Christ. The only way to partake of divine nature and escape the corruption that is in the world is to know without any uncertainty that God sees us, in Christ, as perfectly righteous. **Second Peter 1:3-4** affirms that, **"His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and goodness. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature, having escaped the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."** As we read on through **2 Peter 1:5-7**, Paul lays out a list of seven qualities to add to our faith. And **2 Peter 1:8-9** explains why it's important to add these qualities to our faith, **"For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. BUT whoever does NOT have them is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they HAVE BEEN cleansed from their pasts."** So we can see here that ungodliness and the lack of fruit in our lives is at times actually a direct result of not knowing or understanding that we have ALREADY been cleansed from sin, right?

Hebrews 10:14-18 says, **"For by one Sacrifice He has made perfect FOREVER those who are being made holy. The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First He says: 'This is the covenant that I will make with them after that time', says the Lord. 'I will put My laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.' Then He adds: 'Their sin and lawless acts I will remember no more.'"** Now listen closely to **Verse 18**, **"And where these have been**

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

forgiven, sacrifice for sin is NO LONGER NECESSARY." So now, **Hebrews 10:22**, "... let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from an evil (guilty) conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water." The word 'evil' in this verse is actually translated as guilty. I encourage you to read **Hebrews 10:26-29** for yourselves but for those without Bibles here's the just of it. If we insult the Spirit of Grace, by counting the Blood by which we were (past tense) sanctified, an unholy thing, which we do every time we try to DO something to make it right when we sin, we are in a sense saying that Jesus was not enough sacrifice for ALL our sins. Now I want to go back and look specifically at **Hebrews 10:26**, "**If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sin is left,**" Every sin that every person has ever or will ever commit was credited to Jesus at the Cross and punished. Justice has been served and the sin debt has been paid in FULL! I've heard Andrew Wommack say, "God is Not mad at you, in fact He is Not even in a bad mood!" In fact, when Jesus took the punishment of the world's sins ALL of OUR sins were in the future!

I personally believe that there remains only one sin, if I can say it like that, that Jesus didn't take, and it is the only sin, yes the only sin, that we commit that will send us to hell. NOT believing in Jesus' sacrifice for our sin, our forgiveness, our righteousness in Him is a sin that Jesus couldn't take. Why? Listen here to **2 Timothy 2:13**, "**If we are unfaithful, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.**" Therefore, for the sin of denying Christ there is NO OTHER sacrifice that will be made, EVER! So the bottom line is this, IF we deny Him AFTER we have received the knowledge of the TRUTH (who we are in Christ and Who He is in us), the sacrifice WILL BE OUR VERY SOUL!

At this point you may be asking, "So what about this Armor of God that we hear all kinds of teaching on?" First of all, what is armor for? Armor is to protect against assault. With that let's look at what **Isaiah 54:17** (KJV) has to say, "**No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.**" Now, think about satan's position. Our enemy, satan, has absolutely no chance of overcoming us except for trying to trick us into forfeiting our inheritance of God's righteousness for our own righteousness. The liar will come at us with things like, "You have to read your Bible more! You're not praying enough! Look, you have forgotten to ask God to forgive you of this thing or that thing! All you're ever doing is asking for forgiveness, what a filthy sinner you are! God will bless you if you are holy like Him!" Have you been hearing any of these things in the back of your mind? If so listen up! We ARE the Church, and as the Church it's time for us to rise up into our HERITAGE and be who God says we are, and to see ourselves completely and perfectly righteous so that we will have a stronger faith towards and in God! God has already anointed us, as the Church, to live and share the Gospel with signs and wonders (**Acts 2:43, 4:30, 5:12, 6:8, 7:36, and 14:3**) so that the lost and the dying will run TO Jesus for redemption instead of running FROM God in fear!

While I was writing this article God spoke to my heart and showed me just how twisted and perverted the Gospel has become. Some of you may or may not agree with this, and that's okay too. For instance, why is the Church absolutely outraged that the 10 Commandments have been or are being removed from public places? God did away with the law, remember?! Listen to what Paul is saying here in **2 Corinthians 3:7-11**, "**That old system of law etched in stone led to death, yet it began with such glory that the people of Israel could not bear to look at Moses' face. For his face shone with the glory of God, even though the brightness was already fading away. Shouldn't we expect far greater glory when the Holy Spirit is giving life? If the old covenant, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new covenant, which makes us right with God! In fact that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new covenant. So if the old covenant, which has been set aside, was full of glory, then the new covenant, which remains forever, has far greater glory.**" Clearly the truth, God's Word, says that this New Covenant that came through Jesus Christ, **which remains forever**, and **has far greater glory** is superior to the old law! With that being the case then why are we, the Church, trying to use the law to advertise the goodness of God?? We need God's LOVE, the Cross, in the public places! And by the way, that's US Church! You, me and Christ Jesus in us, need to be loving souls back from the pits of hell.

After a long illness and nearing death King Hezekiah, the king of Judah, went to God in fervent prayer and that prayer resulted in God adding another fifteen years to Hezekiah's life. (**Isaiah 38:1-6**) Listen to what Hezekiah had to say after God's generosity of love, "**Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In Your love You kept me from the pit of destruction; You have put all my sins behind Your back. For the grave cannot praise You, those who go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness. The living, the living - they praise You, as I am doing today; parents tell their children about Your faithfulness.**" (**Isaiah 38:17-19**)

The law is not for the righteous but the unrighteous. The law, indeed has a purpose! The law is in place to bring us away from our self-righteousness to a place where we can recognize our unrighteousness and need for a Savior. But, it has NO power to save! Again, **2 Corinthians 3:7** states that the law is the ministry that brought death. The present state of the church, its rules, its judgment, its religion and its legalism leaves no doubt to why a dying world is running from God and

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Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

Prayer Requests

I want to thank you for receiving me as part of your family. The newsletters are so inspirational, I've learned a lot from them. What really touched me was in the newsletter where the guy had a bone disease and he remembered the girl who had touched Jesus Christ and was healed. I wonder if I mail out a piece of cloth and give it to God and pretend that Jesus passed by so I can touch Him, will I be healed too? I have had this disease since I was 19 years old that has not left my body. It can cause cervical cancer. I want to be healed, the doctors say it will go away on its own, that they can't do anything in here. Jesus is my Healer ... **S.P.**

I have a friend, Alan, who I grew up with that I've known since I was 12 years old. I will be 40 years old. Before I came back to prison, I was out there and I saw the hardship that he and his family are going through. To me, he felt alone and his mother has stood by his side. The family struggles. I've seen the pain, hurt and loneliness with no support. It hurts me inside. I wasn't use to these kinds of things, I am a runner and a street game player. I left, fell out of the game. I was sad inside and felt torn up for once, man, the guilt took me for a loop. I got soft inside. His mom, Donna, is a Christian and her church is small. I believe she prayed and the seed was planted. Since then I hear the words my friend told when he was out, "Change Roni, your brother and family love you." I get a front going and want to leave from hearing anything. When we would talk there was a love that was different. I could sense he cared. Because of him caring, I listened and his mom prayed and planted the seed. Since then when I was out in the game I got what we called "weak" and was pretty much done. It was like I couldn't wait to go to jail and start my time. I am here studying God's Word, looking more lady-like, not so rough like a tom-boy and wear make-up, fixing my hair and my fingernails are growing. I care about me more. I love them both and ask if you can pray for them both. Pray for Alan and encourage him to be saved, to live forever in Gods kingdom. I'll do my part and pray for them every day and ask God to help them, to touch their hearts and lives. This is all I can do from this side of the fence. This is a request and from there God will send His messenger, I did my part and from this point I move on with Christ and believe, Amen ... **B.L.**

I would like to ask if you can pray for my Grandma? Her name is Mildred - we all call her "Grannie"! She is a believer and I haven't heard from her in five months, so I have been worried about her and her health. Last I heard, she got out of the hospital for her hands. She is 90 years old! If possible pray for me? I have been staying strong in the Word of God reading, praying 7 days a week and 24 hours a day as well. I am just trying to stay focused, four years now clean and sober and getting ready for the streets. Thank you for all your support, kindness, mercy, joyful and peaceful words and prayers! **(Galatians 5:22-24)** ... **D.G.**

Praise Reports

As for me, things are going according to God's plan of course. I haven't really been into studying God's Word in the last year or so, but I talk with Him daily and completely see His plan for me coming together. Life is crazy-cool and God is awesome! Most people in my shoes would be dreading release, taxes and probation. However, I know that within five years, my taxes will be paid, restitution and probation dealt with, and life will be comfortable and full of success. My journey in here has brought me to where my business focuses will be. Even in what seems to be the worst of circumstances, God is bringing me to a place of success that will not only surprise everyone, but should amaze them as well. I can honestly say, I wouldn't go back and change anything if I could. It is clear to me that this was the intended path to be used not only for my victory but especially for my testimony of His presence in life itself. Perhaps the biggest success through this time is the character of the man I have become through this experience. I'm happy with that guy ... **D.E.**

I am very blessed to read your **Overcomers for Christ** issues. I've been learning how to be more like Christ. I study His Word and read books. It is my heart's desire; it actually feels good to have a good desire not of bad fruit. I do struggle on a daily level. I've learned to not condemn myself a lot from what I view, a lot of us do. I help those and tell them of good courage not to condemn themselves. The Lord has been good to me. He has been there for me and it amazes me. I get teary eyed and praise Him for His mercy, grace, love and blessings. Even for the struggles because I really learn from them, something new each time. It's a beautiful thing ... knowledge, wisdom and understanding are a powerful gain ... **B.L.**

I just wanted to say thank you for all your prayers and all your spiritual words, booklets and taking your time to write all of us brothers and sisters that are locked up in prison. May our Father, the Lord Jesus Christ and Holy Ghost bless you all and your ministry, Praise the Lord. We need all the strength, prayers, encouragement, and to lift up each other in Christ like unity. Like the Scripture says, "To preach the gospel to all creatures!" The body of Christ is the church, Praise the Lord. Glory to our Lord and Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God and the Holy Ghost. Praise the Lord! With love and prayers, glory and honor to His Holy name. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ. **Overcomers for Christ**, I appreciate all your prayers for my migraines as well the curse of migraines. I've been free for four months ... **D.G.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Butterfly Effect

By J.R.

"And these things write we unto you; that your joy may be full." (1 John 1:4) ... "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ." (Galatians 1:3)

Let me share this with you all. I thought it was great! I hope that you all love it as much as I did. Have you heard about the butterfly effect? In physics, it describes how tiny changes in initial conditions (such as the flap of a butterfly's wings) can affect weather thousands of miles away. Imagine - a fragile butterfly can alter weather patterns on another continent! Had it not flapped its wings, the trajectory of the weather system might have been vastly different. What can we learn from this?

You may feel insignificant at times, as fragile as the butterfly. It may seem like you're flapping your wings when you are standing alone for truth and honesty in the work place, at home or even in prison. You say, "What can I do in the face of this problem that is so big?" More than you may think! Your faith, your words, your deeds, your prayers, your example, your kindness and your perseverance can release the power of God and activate the forces of heaven to go to work in any situation. God loves to use things that we might consider to be insignificant - like Moses' rod which parted the Red Sea, or David's slingshot that brought down a giant, or a boy's lunch that fed a multitude of people.

Your flapping wings can initiate changes that will influence lives around you for all eternity. Jesus tells us, in **Matthew 17:20**, ***"If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*** It's not about the size of the seed you sow, but about the God Who can make it grow. It's not about the prayer you pray, it's about the Greatness of the one that answers prayer.

In a previous newsletter Michelle mentioned that God's Word says that Wade HAS BEEN HEALED, it has already been done because Jesus died on the Cross and took all of our sicknesses and diseases on Himself, so we know by faith that Wade IS HEALED. And to that I say, "THAT'S THE TRUTH, borne and revealed to us in the written Word of God!" Many people don't realize just exactly what Jesus has done for them when He went to the Cross. In **Galatians 3:13** it tells us, ***"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of law, being made a curse for us - for cursed is everyone that hangs on a tree."*** What the Scripture is talking about is the curse that would come upon the people when they did not obey the laws of God. You see, Jesus paid the price so that we could be made completely whole - spirit, soul and body. There is nothing more that He can do about it. It's up to us to believe it and receive it just like we did when we got saved. There are times we want to blame God instead of thanking Him!

In closing the Lord is saying, "If My people want to know where they are needed, tell them they are needed in the streets, in the hospitals, in the missions and they are needed in the prisons. When they go there they will find Me and the next move of My Spirit; and they will be judged by My word in **Matthew 25:42-43**, which says, ***'For I was hungry and you gave Me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite Me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe Me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after Me.'*** When Christ is the center of our focus, everything else comes into proper perspective. Take care and remember, God is good ALL THE TIME!

Developing Positive Relationships

By C.H.

Oh wow! I can't believe you wrote me back! Thank you so much! Your card brightened my whole being!

I just got out of court, for the second time they pushed back my trial, and this time no one even told me or the jail (where I am housed), so I was transported and left in a room while other people went through their court procedures. I was told by a guard that I would not be seen for my trial - with no other information. My attorney also couldn't be bothered to find the time to come speak with me either, so it's been one of those days! Receiving a card from you was just so awesome.

I have been in prayer so much lately, it's like an addiction - who knew there were positive addictions, and to think this one addiction just replaces my drugs, drinking, smoking and just about all the unhealthy addictions you could dream up that I suffered from. But now I don't know when I could find the time to include that junk in my life anymore.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

There is so much I'd love to share with you - I hope that's okay. It's just I have this great fire in my heart and I have "Overcome" so much stuff already that I never dreamed I would. God is just moving mountains in my life. And do you know what? Even though I'm going through this situation which I feel is deeply unjust to the ultimate at the same time, I'm not scared. Even if I get this bum rap, it's okay because I know God has got major plans for me, even if it's in prison or in treatment or in some institution. It will be right where our Father can use me. I truly believe I can overcome anything in Christ!

But hey, everyone - even me, in my fresh exuberance of this light shining down upon me, in me and through me; needs other believers to study with, share with, hope with, dream with and build a future that is hopeful, productive and bright! I have learned by my past that I just can't do it alone! And you all are so great because you have some practice at this, and I am still so new at even wanting to try and establish any kind of relationship with healthy people.

I never got to read your newsletter; I just got to see a flier with pictures of previous newsletters in print and pictures of your group being together. You guys just looked so real, like you'd been there, done that, but found a better way. You didn't seem stuffy or pretentious or like you ain't ever been through nothing but knew all the answers! No, you all looked just the opposite - like you had been through some stuff and maybe you didn't have all the "answers" but you knew that God is love, Jesus saves and that you were in it together - seeking, learning, praying together and being together in Christ. It's just like the kind of folks I would hope to know existed, but didn't.

A lot of what has kept me from trying again at life, or even believing that God still loved me was that I didn't know where to find the down to earth REAL people, because I had somehow through pain, addiction, more pain, broken dreams, hopelessness - (and all those kind of things) surrounded myself with others who were in the same place ... it's called despair. And boy are there feelings that go along with a ticket into that carnival, all kinds of them and all kinds of people holding onto such an array of different prospects and different kinds of hatred, some quite a bit more developed than others and oh, so very dangerous!

It can become appealing to be around someone who people respect (or rather fear), especially when you're sick of being the darn target all the time cause you have been victimized and left to sit in these trappings of victimization that goes with it. Social exile, extreme depression, confusion and loneliness - which leads to bitterness - cause you were helpless to have stopped what had already happened in your life - what could you do to even pretend to think it'd be any different next time - and once people know they can get away with victimizing you and do get away with it - boy do you GET IT. You don't even know what has hit you until it's too late or feels like it's too late.

At least that's how it was for me and without support or family in the world; no one to turn to ... I just couldn't stop the avalanche of things seeming to just topple upon me, and it seemed like one horrific event after another - no time to take a breath before another life changing tragedy would unfold before my very existence! Whew! I got to take a breath!

You know, when it gets to that level of darkness, I had a very hard time believing I was ever going to find the door out of it all. And with the way the world is changing so very fast, right before our very eyes, even if you know you are loveable (regardless of how you have been treated) and you know God is there, and that it's the human that makes bad happen - not God, you still start to wonder if God knows you are there. I've always known Him, it was His Son I lacked a relationship with. But not NOW, I'm happy to say! It's like a Bright Light just started to beam upon me and I began to see my path, being illuminated - and every day I'm seeing more and more of that Light in this seemingly dark hour - amazingly, I only see light. Isn't that wonderful? I have seen quite a bit of the opposite of light in the physical and spiritual sense.

But now, I'm looking to see all the light my eyes can stand! And I'm looking forward to the day when the Spirit is in and with me to such an extreme that you'd be hard pressed to not see it in me or flowing out of me in the creative way God uses the Spirit to connect His children!

I really hope Jesus hurries up and gets here! I'm ready for life! I'm ready for a new hope, then I'll have that giant vacuum in my heart filled with love and a family. I don't have a family except my mom - and I just started to get to know her about a year ago. I started off in writing her letters! Now she and I are just getting our chance to be a mother and daughter! Well, God bless your ministry! I'll pray about developing new positive, healthy relationships.

Foot's Bible Study Notes

2 Samuel 22:1-24:25

"To the wicked you show yourself hostile" means that to those that sin, God is a judge who will punish them for their sins. God destroys those who are evil. (22:27)

David poured out the water as an offering to God because he was so moved by the sacrifice it represented. When Hebrew people offered sacrifices, they never consumed the blood. It represented life, and they poured it out before God. David would not drink this water that represented the lives of his soldiers. Instead, he offered it to God. (23:16)

What was wrong with taking a census? A census was commanded in numbers to prepare an army for conquering the Promised Land (**Numbers 1:2, 26:2**) A census amounted to a draft or conscription for the army. The land was now at peace, so there was no need to enlist troops. Israel had extended its borders and become a recognized power. David's sin was pride and ambition in counting the people so that he could glory in the size of his army, its power and defenses. By doing this, he put his faith in the size of his army rather than in God's ability to protect them regardless of their number. Even Joab knew the census was wrong, but David did not heed his advice. We sin in a similar way when we place our security in money, possessions, or the might of our nation. (24:1-3)

Acts 2:1-3:26

Christianity is not limited to any race or group of people. Christ offers salvation to all people without regard to nationality. (2:7-8)

The "last days" include all the days between Christ's first and second comings and is another way of saying, "From now on." "**That great and glorious day of the Lord,**" (2:20) denotes the whole Christian age. (2:16, 21)

We often ask God to solve a small problem, but He wants to give us a whole new life and help for all our problems. When we ask God for help, He may say, "I've got something better for you." You may ask God for what you want, but don't be surprised when He gives you what you really need. (3:5-6)

When we pray in Jesus' name, we must remember that it is Christ Himself, not merely the sound of His name, who gives our prayers their power. (3:16)

Psalms 122:1-123:4

The psalmist was not praying for his own peace and prosperity but for that of his brothers and friends in Jerusalem. This is intercessory prayer, prayer on behalf of others. Too often we are quick to pray for our own needs and desires, but neglect interceding for others. Will you intercede for someone in need today? (122:6-9)

The psalmist lifted his eyes to God, waiting and watching for God to send His mercy. He cried out to God because he knew that the evil and proud offered no help - they had only contempt for God.

Proverbs 16:19-23

If we can take instruction from those who are wiser, we will prosper. And if you truly trust in the Lord you will be happy, no matter what may cross your path, with the Lord at your side and in your heart. Happiness becomes a part of your character.

For centuries, people sought a fountain of youth, a spring that promised to give eternal life and vitality. It was never found. But God's wisdom is a life-giving fountain that can make a person happy, healthy, and alive forever. How? When we live by God's Word, He washes away the deadly effects of sin (See **Titus 3:4-8**), and the hope of eternal life with Him gives us a joyful perspective on our present life. The fountain of youth was only a dream, but the life-giving fountain is a reality. The choice is yours. You can be enlightened by God's wisdom, or you can be dragged down by the weight of your own foolishness. (16:22)

“Foot” Notes

Well, as the end of this year has rolled upon us I'm grateful for my friends with such faith in Jesus Christ. I am glad and grateful that my own faith, and trust in God has grown over this last year. Of course, I've had to let a couple people go just because I refuse to have to deal with drama, etc. I feel that God has better things in store for me than to spin my wheels around those who just don't get it. I pray that y'all had a pleasantly blessed holiday and I'm anxious to see what God has in store for us all in 2015.

the church instead of running towards us, the Church! Don't forget that Jesus is the head of His Church! The Church has got to rise up in the TRUTH of His Word and put on the full Armor of God. That beautiful Helmet of Salvation that says, "God will NEVER leave us and we will NEVER undo the salvation He paid for, no matter how many times we mess up because He paid for every mess up!" Put on the awesome Breastplate of His Righteousness that makes us justified in confessing our righteousness when we sin instead of the sin that doesn't belong to us. (Read what Paul has to say about this in **Romans 7:17, 20 & 23.**) Now take hold of the Shield of Faith that believes God's Word against every weapon that might cause us to question our relationship, fellowship and right standing with God. Paul, in **2 Corinthians 10:3-5**, lays it all out clear that we do not live by the standards of this world, **"For though we live IN the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretention that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, AND we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ."** Firmly holding the Shield of Faith we will be able to quench all of the 'fiery darts of the enemy' that are actually lies masquerading as God's truth, Who IS fire! As we grasp the Sword of the Spirit, which is God's Word, we begin wielding it skillfully rightly dividing the truth and knowing the difference between spirit, soul and body we begin applying the Word to our lives accordingly. Now that our feet are ready and prepared with the Gospel of peace, which is God's Grace, we are now ready and able to take this TRUTH to the world! AMEN!?

The REAL Gospel is being restored to its purity and simplicity, at a new level, for the first time in many, many centuries. The latter rain is coming. So in closing I ask you, "Will you believe and be a part of God's truth or will you continue in legalism and risk being a part of the great falling away that WILL occur because of the message of God's Grace?" For all of you who will choose to believe the simplicity of God's Grace I ask you to, **"Be bold Church, and pray for me/us, that I/we may continue to have the boldness to proclaim God's Grace regardless the cost. To you, the Church, I send my love, in Christ, that His Grace may abound in you mightily."**

What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you for writing. The card you sent was really, really pretty. Thank you guys and God bless you all for remembering my birthday. I love the personal touch and that you all signed it. This organization that I do Bible studies through, even though I do appreciate it, sent me a generic card addressed to me OR current resident. I got a chuckle out of that. It makes me appreciate special people like you guys that truly care that much more" ... **V.H.**

"Thank you and all the laborers at **DS&S** and the people typing up the testimony *From Death Row to Paradise Row*. For making it possible to share what God has done in my life with others. For I know, it's going to glorify the Lord. It's His testimony of His grace and mercy, not mine. I'm so thankful to you and your staff who decided to use the testimony for I know a lot of prisoners will be reading it and its people like them - the untouchables, the lepers of society - that I am trying to reach." ... **W.R.**

"I want to thank you for the birthday wishes not once, but twice. I really want you all to know that you are special people and making a difference in so many lives. Receiving your newsletter every month strengthens my faith, encourages me and helps me to stand true to God and remain strong in Him. In October 2013 you published my letter in there and that was the most amazing feeling I've had in a long time. I was very ecstatic and I let everyone that is still close to me see it. I really like reading your prayer request column because a word of encouragement through prayer, to a hurting friend, can come like a refreshing rain. As I continue to care in tangible ways, it grows into a life giving stream of healing and love. Consider Paul's words in **Galatians 6:2**, **"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."** Michelle I did pray for your uncle Jim. And Wade I will pray for your cousin Haley as well. It was never meant to be easy. Jesus said it best when He declared, in **John 16:33b**, **"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."** Keep me in your prayers and I will do the same" ... **J.R.**

"Hi, I'm writing you guys to let you know how grateful and thankful I am of you all, for being a guiding light of faith and for always being an inspiration to me for my time while incarcerated." ... **A.S.**

"The pictures you put in the newsletter do tell a story. I enjoy them very much. It helps to take my thoughts out of this place." ... **D.M.**

"First of all, in my humble opinion, the December 2015 newsletter cover was the best ever! I love the **DS&S** cross on the side hack and of course ole Big Nick would be rolling on an ole Panhead! Very cool!" ... **Foot**

"I recently came across your newsletter. WOW! I haven't seen it since I was at USP Marion, and a brother would always give me his newsletters when he was finished reading them. I got transferred over a year ago. Just last week I walked by this trash can and saw your newsletter. WOW ... of all places! I truly appreciated that brother that let me read his newsletter. Can you please send me the newsletter every month?" ... **D.C.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

Greetings believers, God is good Amen! I'd like to share my testimony with you. I'm currently serving 57 months for three bank robberies. On February 25, 2010, I was rescued, God answered my pleas. In 2005, I was released from Oklahoma State Prison and I moved to Oregon. Eight months after my release, I had a motorcycle accident on the morning before my wedding. I broke my neck in five places and my back in eight places. I used the injuries to fuel a drug habit that caused my downward spiral to where I am at today.

The whole time I was out there from August of 2005 until February 2010, I knew God had a calling on my life, but like Jonah, I fled. In December of 2006, I was diagnosed with cancer on my left kidney which resulted in the removal of that organ. There were complications from the operation which led the doctors to finally tell me after six months of hospitalization that, "Mr. Marlin, we've done all we can do. We will give you enough dope to keep you comfortable until you expire," like I was a package of meat and my date was up. Well, as we all know too well, God is in control and it wasn't what He had planned.

My wife contacted the church (I had only attended one time), and Pastor Gordie Pearson came to visit me in the hospital, and we prayed and he left, and within a week I was completely healed. I'm talking about leaking two gallons of fluid into my stomach cavity that had to be drained once a week to NOTHING! The doctors were floored and amazed. I was asked by the main doctor (the one who did the operations, yes, two of them) what did you do different? I said, "We prayed." He said, "Wow, don't stop." Amen!

Once again I was off using my prior injuries and pains to continue using drugs heavily. At the six month point, I had to go for a check up on my remaining kidney, and yep, now it is engulfed with cancer. My options, leave it in, have kidney failure and I die, or to have it removed and go on dialysis and wait for a kidney which I was told that I wouldn't get (because of my prior I.V. drug use and being a convicted felon), wait for an infection and die. Wow, not again! So once again Pastor Gordie, my wife, our church and I prayed. Within a month it was gone, no trace. Once more the doctors were floored and amazed and again I said, "We prayed." God is good, Amen!!

I continued to use because of my pain and it finally cost me my marriage, my home and my life. I overdosed seven times and had to be brought back to life. Now I have a string of bank robberies behind me and had just left a bank that I attempted to rob, but they wouldn't give me any money. I ran and hid in a doorway. I was at my end, I sat down and I prayed, "LORD, please make it stop." I was dope sick, run down and just flat out sick and tired. As I prayed, I knew God had me. I sat there tucked away from everything on a back street, nobody around. I knew I couldn't leave there, it would be bad if I did. I'd go rob again, so I just kept praying, "God, please make it stop," and to this day I don't know what God looks like but I do know what He drives and it's a white Crown Victoria Ford with Portland Police on the side in big blue letters. There was no reason this lady officer should have been cruising where she was and no way she could have seen me short of divine intervention. She stopped, got out and said, "I need your name sir." From that point on it wasn't over, it was on.

The Lord has been at work in my life. I didn't go through withdrawals, didn't get sick and got the least amount of time I could, I got the best judge, lawyer and D.A. I got sent to the best prison, it's been unreal. I am in a drug program and have a job instructing in recreation and I teach hobby craft. Our body of Christ here is strong. We are experiencing institutional transformation. Daily, God's work is getting done here. I've met lots of men here who are about advancing God's Kingdom and it's awesome. - **B.M.**

God Redeems Us By Steve Arterburn

The day Martha Stewart went to jail, I mentioned to a group that we should pray for her as she entered her new 'gated community', and the group laughed at that. But seriously, jail can indeed be a gift. We prayed for her because good things can happen when people go to jail. In the Bible, there's a story about a man named Joseph who refused to sleep with the queen and was imprisoned for more than 13 years. That was a huge chunk of his life, but it must have been the chunk that prepared him to later be in charge of the entire nation.

Then there was Chuck Colson. While imprisoned for crimes committed during the Watergate scandal he came to trust in God, and when released from prison, Chuck founded what has grown into an international prison ministry that has touched the lives of thousands upon thousands of prisoners.

Your situation might be just as humiliating as Martha Stewart going to jail, but God can redeem it. He makes the best come out of the worst, if you'll trust Him to do so.

God's Grace

Titus 3:7

By Bill Brinkworth

<http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/puzzle/grace.html>



Find the individual words of this scripture:

"That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." – Titus 3:7

Quote Worthy

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus."

- Blaise Pascal (1632-1662) - a French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the Word of God. **"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows."** – Galatians 6:7

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put 'For Overcomers for Christ'. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. 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

As I Love
By M.M.

As surely as the sunset in my latest April
shall translate me to the ethereal world,
and remind me of the ruddy morning of youth.

As surely as the last strain of music
which falls on my decaying ear
shall make age to be forgotten
or, in short, the manifold influences of nature
survive during the term of our natural life.

So surely my friend shall forever be my friend
and reflect a ray of God to me
and time shall foster and adorn
and consecrate our friendship,
no less than the ruins of the temple.

As I love nature,
as I love singing birds and flowing rivers,
and morning and evening,
and summer and winter,
I love thee, my friend.

Victory - Jesus Is the Answer
Author unknown - Contributed by S.D.

If we dwell on the past,
It can rob us of the future.
If we learn from the past,
We will have a future.

So don't dwell on the past, it's not the future,
That's why they call it the past!

God forgives in Jesus Christ His Son.
God gives us the victory,
In the Lamb Who's Blood it's won!

So don't dwell on the past, it's not the future,
That's why they call it the past!

Jesus is my future,
He took away my past,
So I can live in the present,
And not worry about the past!
Because God gives us the victory!
I'm free at last!

WE LOVE BECAUSE
HE FIRST LOVED US

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