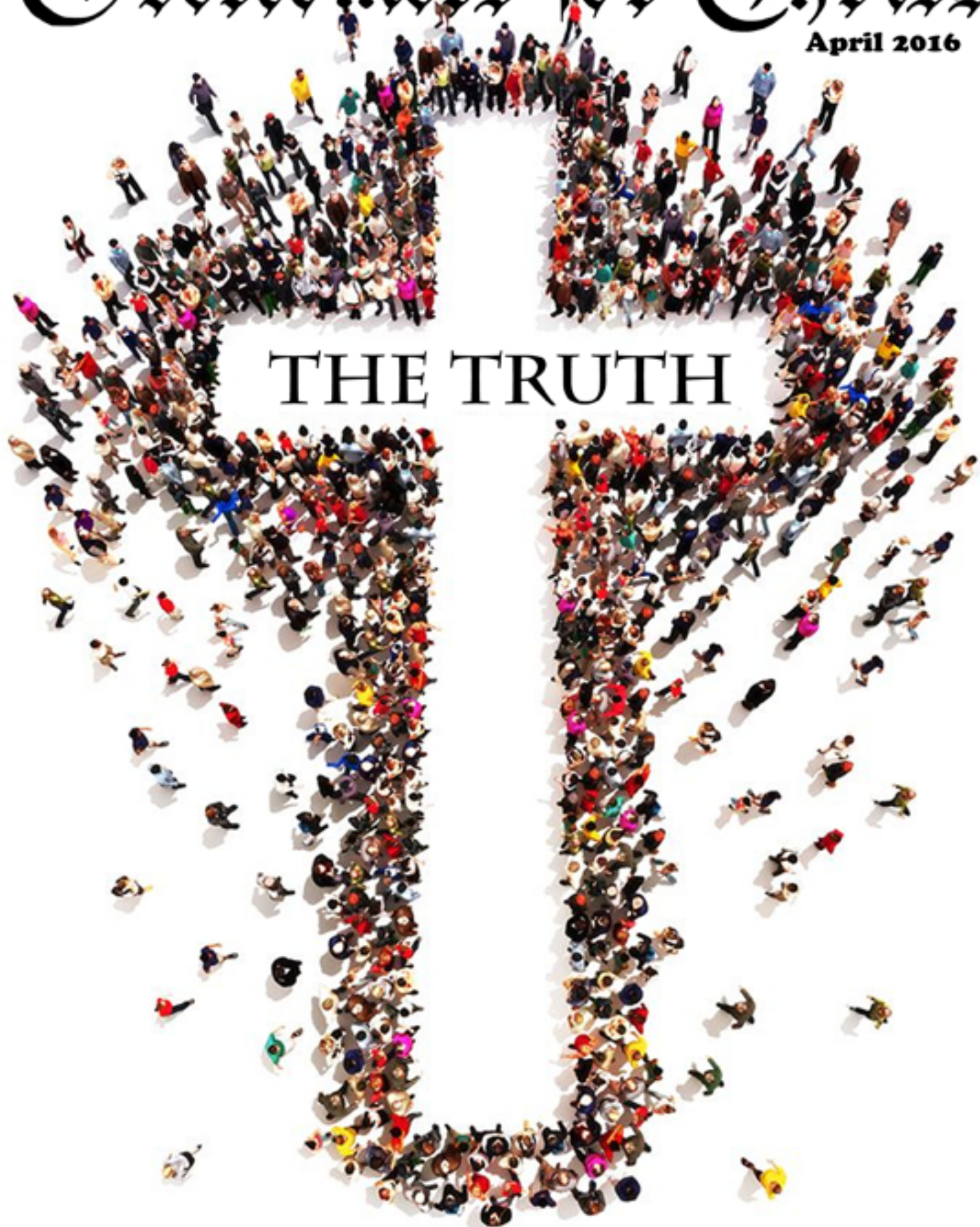


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Do You REALLY Know Who You Are IN CHRIST JESUS? - Part 2

By Wade Anderson

Ready? Here we go ... Looking again at the phrase 'old and new covenant' should cause us to search to find the difference between the two and where we stand today, right? Let me see if I can paint a picture that most of us will better understand. Let's look at 'old' and 'new' as an ID card. When we were still 18 years old we had an ID card that told us we were not 'legally' allowed to do this or that or even enter certain places. That ID card held us back from many things we thought we may have wanted to do or be a part of. In fact, it really restricted us. BUT, when we turned 21 we were given a different ID that allowed us what we then referred to as 'even more and better benefits'. What am I saying? I'm here to tell you that when you received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior you were given a different identity! Your new identity is IN CHRIST JESUS! And in order for us to learn to grow from where we were to what Jesus has ALREADY made available to us and for us it's important for us to find out who we are IN HIM!

Let me ask you this question. "Now that you are a new creation IN CHRIST (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) whose fault is it that you are not living in divine health, operating in His peace, that you are walking in lack instead of abundance, and continually being beat up by the enemy with your past?" It's not God's fault that you fail to find out all of the benefits your new identity IN CHRIST has provided for you! It's your lack of understanding NOT His lack of providing it! And the single most important thing God wants us to know is, "Because of what My Son Jesus has ALREADY accomplished, I'm no longer mad at mankind! I no longer hold your sins over your heads in judgment because I placed them ALL on the body of My Son Jesus at the Cross! If I were to judge you again after ALL that Jesus went through I'd have to apologize to My Son for all that I put Him through. You CANNOT balance Law and Grace! You are either on one side or the other. You can either live according to the Law and have to obey every letter of it, or you can receive and live in My free Gift of Grace. Then, instead of running from Me when the enemy has condemned you of something, you can now run too Me for My help."

Under the New Covenant we no longer have to listen to the lies and deception of the devil! I want to share a few Scriptures with you all declaring the Good News. In fact, the more we read the more is revealed about God's love for us rather than anger even before we were what we would consider lovable.

***"When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners ... God showed His great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. And since we have been made right in God's sight BY the blood OF CHRIST, He (Jesus) will certainly save us from God's judgment ... So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God - all because of what our Lord Jesus Christ HAS DONE for us in making us friends of God."* (Romans 5:6, 8, 9, 11)**

***"For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death THROUGH CHRIST JESUS our Lord."* (1 Corinthians 15:56-57)**

***"But thanks be to God, who made us His captives and leads us along IN CHRIST'S triumphal procession. Now wherever we go He uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume."* (2 Corinthians 2:14)**

***"But now a righteousness from God, apart from law, has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness FROM God comes THROUGH faith IN JESUS CHRIST to ALL who believe."* (Romans 3:21-22)**

***"All that passing laws against sin did was produce more lawbreakers. But sin didn't, and doesn't, have a chance in competition with the aggressive forgiveness we call GRACE. When it's sin verses GRACE, GRACE wins hands down. All sin can do is threaten us with death, and that's the end of it. GRACE, because God is putting everything together again THROUGH (CHRIST JESUS) the Messiah, invites us into life - a life that goes on and on and on, world without end,"* (Romans 5:20-21) (Message)**

***"Now EVERYTHING is from God, who reconciled us to Himself THROUGH CHRIST and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that is IN CHRIST, God was reconciling the world to Himself, NOT counting their trespasses (sins) against them, ..."* (2 Corinthians 5:18-19) (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

***"... we are ambassadors for Christ; certain that God is appealing through us, we plead on Christ's behalf, 'Be reconciled to God.' He made the One who did not know sin to be sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God IN HIM."* (2 Corinthians 5:20-21) (Holman Christian Standard Bible)**

Let's take a look at **Romans 8:1-17** from the New King James Version and the New Living Translation together. I do this with the expectation that your hearts will be stirred to search even deeper; with the desire to know and better understand your identity, which has ALREADY been provided, through God's grace, by faith in Christ Jesus' finished work.

"There is therefore NO CONDEMNATION to those who are IN CHRIST JESUS, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit." (NKJV) This is big folks! In other words God is saying that when we are IN CHRIST we no longer have to listen to the accusations from the devil about our past, about what we just did, or about anything we will do in the future. NOT because of anything that we have done but because of EVERYTHING that God has already provided for us THROUGH CHRIST JESUS! When the devil looks at us he no longer sees 'us' but instead he sees us through the blood of Jesus, CHRIST IN us! HALLELUJAH!! What God says about us is reality - anything different than that is a lie!

"For the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you THROUGH CHRIST JESUS from the power of sin that leads to death. The law of Moses could not save us. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. He sent His own Son in a human body like ours, except that ours are sinful. God DESTROYED sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins. He did this that the requirements of the law would be FULLY accomplished for us who no longer follow our sinful nature but instead follow the Spirit." (Romans 8:24) In the Old Testament days animal sacrifices were continually being offered as 'sin offerings'. These sacrifices showed the Israelites how serious sin was in their lives; blood had to be shed before their sins could be pardoned. Reality was that animal blood could not remove sins. This illustration was symbolizing and pointing to the sacrifice that only Jesus would fulfill in order to pay for ALL the sins of the world.

"Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit. If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. That is why those who are still under the control of their sinful nature can NEVER please God." (Romans 8:5-8) We see in these verses that Paul has divided people into two categories - those who are dominated by their sinful nature and those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit's direction. Jesus gave us a way out of this first category and following Him brings life and peace. It's wise for us to keep our lives centered on and in God. And when difficult times arise in front of us, and they will, we should ask ourselves, "What would Jesus want me to do?" And then do that. Choosing to follow Jesus is always the best choice.

"But you are NOT CONTROLLED by your sinful nature. You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who DO NOT have the Spirit of Christ living in them are NOT Christians at all.) Since Christ lives within you, even though your body will die because of sin, your spirit is alive because you have been made right with God. The Spirit of God, which raised Christ from the dead, lives in you. And just as He raised Christ from the dead, He WILL give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit living WITHIN YOU." (Romans 8:9-11) The Holy Spirit is God's promise or guarantee of eternal life for those who believe in Jesus. If you've ever wondered whether you are truly a Christian or not, all you have to do is check yourself to see if there is evidence of the Holy Spirit in your life. If you find no evidence, well, that would be a great time to get right with God.

"So, dear brothers and sisters, you HAVE NO OBLIGATION WHATSOEVER TO DO WHAT YOUR SINFUL NATURE URGES YOU TO DO. For IF you keep on following it, you WILL perish. But IF through the power of the Holy Spirit you turn from it and its evil deeds, you WILL live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Romans 8:12-14) This is pretty self explanatory. When we are IN CHRIST JESUS we no longer have to follow the temptations or urges of the flesh because we now have God's very own Spirit inside of us, to help guide us away FROM our old selfish desires.

"So you should NOT be like cowering, fearful slaves. You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into His family - calling Him 'Father, dear Father.' For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we ARE God's children. And since we ARE His children, we WILL share His treasures - for EVERYTHING God gives to His Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering." (Romans 8:15-17) In the Roman culture, the adopted person lost all rights in his old family and gained all the rights as a legitimate child in his new family. He then became not a partial heir, but a full heir to his new father's estate. Paul used this illustration to reveal to us that once we've given our lives to Christ we've been grafted in to God's family. We then have been given both the privileges and the responsibilities as a child in God's family. Paul goes on to also mention here that through our new identity IN CHRIST we not only share in His inheritance but as well, in His sufferings. What does this suffering look like to us today? Well, many of you there behind those walls and fences know sometimes firsthand what Paul is referring to. Perhaps you've ran into situations where others there around you don't like the way you're always talking freely about your faith IN CHRIST. Maybe you are even told to 'SHUT YOUR TRAP' about this Jesus you profess to follow while you're in their midst. Well, if either of these things have happened or are happening in your walk with Jesus then the consensus would evidently be that you're headed in the right direction. The enemy sees and knows that your identity is IN CHRIST JESUS and you're following the leading of the Holy Spirit. Keep it up because the devil now knows you have something worth trying to steal, your hope, your faith and your confidence IN CHRIST!

... continued on page 9

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 went for my MRI and guess what? I have a plate in my head, so they couldn't see inside to be able to tell me what is going on with these headaches. Now I wonder why they didn't tell me this when I was in the hospital before? So now I'm asking everyone to pray for my healing and the headaches to be GONE! I've learned that we don't thank God for our hurts and our pains because those things are from the devil. Instead, we thank God in advance for the healings, that He loves us and for doing all the great things in our lives. I've also learned that we live in the radiance of His presence and to fix my eyes on what is not seen instead of what is seen. In fact, His light shines most brightly through believers who trust Him in the dark places of our lives. Trust in the supernatural and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit ... **M.G.**

I've been blessed to be here, the only problem I am having is my thoughts sometimes. I just want to give up but I don't, I keep pushing forward, **"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."** (2 Timothy 1:7) **"And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God."** (1 John 5:5) These are just some of the verses that I keep close to my heart. God has been very good to me, He has kept me safe. Please pray for my family for I haven't had any contact with them. I miss my kids, I pray all the time for everybody. I refuse for satan to keep my family from me. I know God hears me according to 1 John 5:14-15, **"And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for."** I leave no room or opportunity for the devil. **"However, he has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ."** (Ephesians 4:27) Also, pray for my celly that he may keep this cell full of peace, joy, and love ... **A.G.**

I could use a spiritual lift up ... I could use some strength and I could use a prayer for some good news, like a card from family and wife ... **D.G.**

I need some help and somebody to pray for me and my kids and grandbabies. I want God to send me a good man ... **K.M.**

Please keep me and my family in your prayers, as I will do the same for you ... **S.D.**

A prayer request for my mother, may God bless her in her recovery as it's been a difficult couple of years for her ... **R.Q.**

I have a grandma, she is 94 years old. I haven't heard from her in a while, so can you please pray for her ... **D.D.**

Please keep my family in your prayers, and everyone here ... **A.G.**

Praise Reports

Here's a little praise to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As of lately, I've found myself in the hole, this has turned out to be a blessing, as I've used this time to get back into reading the Bible. This in turn has brought some fellow brothers in Christ my way, and we have been able to fellowship even in lockdown. It just goes to prove that our Lord and Savior will provide the Light for use even in the darkest of places, amen! God bless you all ... **R.Q.**

I received the beautiful card you sent. I loved the encouraging words. I love getting mail from people who love Jesus the way I do and who knows where our powers lay. I really love to use it to defeat the enemy. The devil is a liar and he does a very good job of it. I have no fear, for satan was beat a very long time ago. It gets really hard in here at times. I know my God is going to give me my release very soon. This is one of the worst prisons in Texas. I ended up here and at first I was so afraid. I thought God had forsaken me. But oh no, He only became stronger and His power became more powerful. I will not be brought down by the devil. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. The same Christ who rebuked the wind and calmed the raging sea and commanded, **"Peace be still,"** and the wind stopped and an over-coming calm took its place, is the same wonderful Christ I serve today. I praise Him for putting you in my life and look forward to building an agape love through our Lord together ... **J.M.**

So, I received my first newsletter from the **Overcomers for Christ** today in the mail. Reading the story and testimony from the outside about a mother who became estranged from her son due to addiction couldn't have touched me on a better day. I struggle with separation and nightmares and distance from my family. I cannot help but feel comfort in knowing that I need to pray for my atheist family, to find comfort and peace in their lives. I can only hope and pray that one day my mother's eyes and vision will be cleared. Thank you God and **Overcomers for Christ** for putting this newsletter in my hands on the perfect day ... **Amanda D.**

Greeting in the name of our loving Father Jesus Christ to all my brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ**. Praise Him in all things for He is almighty, omniscient, and omnipotent. Praise God!!! First of all, I would like to say thank you all for all your prayers and words of encouragement, it really means so much to me to know people are really there for me. Jesus has been doing great things for me here in prison. I am sorry that this is going to be short and sweet, but it's because I am working on answering letters to family members that just started writing me, Praise God for this. Please know God is working through me here in this place they call prison. Once again thank you for your prayers, your letters and cards of encouragement; it's a true blessing to me ... **A.G.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

When You Don't Know What to Pray For, God Puts People in Your Life That Do By K.P.

Thank you for always seeming to remind me that I am not alone ... as 2015 started off on a sour note! My youngest of four children was put into the care of CPS in February of 2015. Shock, worry and fear ruled and overwhelmed my heart and soul. Being in prison while your children NEED you most is a painful and heart wrenching experience that I would wish on NO ONE. Allegations of neglect sting because it would be insane for me to claim innocence. Defining the word 'neglect' and anybody that has placed themselves in prison is technically guilty of the same crime, if they have young children. Sure, 'if' my daughter's mother hadn't invited CPS into our life I probably wouldn't have heard from them. Regardless of the way that it happened, it did and besides I was the first one to screw up. Right?

So, I went to my knees and prayed for strength, forgiveness and most importantly a miraculous outcome in this case at hand. After I'd prayed I hit the door running. Meaning, I did what I could do which was to do what the judge, CPS and my attorney asked of me to do. I signed up for every self-help class that was available here. I involved myself in programs like Anger Management, Cage Your Rage, Better Parenting, Think for a Change, Prevent Domestic Violence, AA and NA and all while working a 40 hour work week. THEN just when I thought all of this was working in our favor CPS changed the case plan from Family Reunification to Outside Adoption. My heart hit the floor!! This new decision came in October, just after my youngest daughter's 5th birthday. With my heart breaking and at the vortex of losing my remaining marbles ... I almost lost it.

As November came in a new neighbor moved in and I received a new job assignment. I consider myself 'old school' and don't take to change fast. Sure my old neighbor had habits that I never want to live with again, but you know, after awhile you just get used to someone. Ha! Ha! I guarantee you that old neighbor NEVER did for me what this new guy did for me! This new neighbor and I started our new jobs together which paid us 8 times more money AND gave us 10 more hours a week and those 10 hours paid us time and a half! Now instead of scraping by we are dreaming of what we will be spending our savings retention fund on. Even though these were some great days, most of my days I also spent overwhelmed with grief. My next court date was quickly coming, January 2016, and all that I could do the month of December was to get all of my completion certificates mailed out to my attorney, write down what I wished for to happen and HOPE the judge and CPS would consider the previous case plan.

Mean while, this new job was a lot more work, especially when your marbles are being depleted by stress and depression. The old neighbor would have NEVER noticed the difference I was going through let alone ask why I had all the photos of my youngest daughter hanging on my board. For some reason conversation led me to open up about the crisis I was going through with this new neighbor. We don't talk all of the time but when we do things that are said, at this point, have been motivating to my soul. Throughout the month of December this NEW NEIGHBOR had mentioned prayer. The night before the court case he prayed silently for my case. On the day of the court hearing I went to the telephonic court hearing room and picked up the phone. This whole thing was confusing enough and then listening without being able to look into the eyes of the people who have the ability to grant whether you ever see your child again is yet another thing!

This is where I thank God! Only God could have made what happened happen! The court and CPS commended me for all of my efforts! They granted my request for visitation with my youngest daughter AND they have unanimously agreed that changing the case plan back to 'Family Reunification' is in my child's best interest. Even with a year and 10 days left to serve here I'm happier than I have ever been since being locked up.

In the midst of all of this my heart still hurts for my daughter's mother. Way back when all of this started I said a little prayer for her to get right and fix all of this. I ask that everyone reading this will lift her in your prayers as she has fallen to an all time low. I do thank God for all that He has helped me to achieve. I thank Him for His hand of persuasion when He sent me this new neighbor and his prayers. I also thank God for keeping me alive through all of my darkest hours so that I could make it to where I am today mentally and I also thank God for all the service and dedication of the Overcomers for Christ.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

To Define Strength

By G.B.B.

To define strength means having the capacity to endure. I've learned to have strength and endure as my faith has been tested. The trials of life have helped build my trust in God. You see, it wasn't until I lost my wife and daughters that I began to realize what real strength was! I had begun to see the pain that I had caused others as well as feel the emotion and heartache that had been done to me. It was too much to bear so I took a leap of faith and said, "Yes God, You can have me and all that I carry."

It was painful because that meant standing up to my fears and to many of my peers. I have learned at times to stand in silence that not everything needs to be defended. I've learned to walk out my Salvation and that's not always the easiest task at hand. But it can be accomplished by the helping hand of God. **Philippians 4:13** (NLT) tells us that, "**For I can do everything with the help of Christ who gives me the strength I need.**" Through this verse and many others I've learned NOT to become bitter about what has happened in my life and the humiliating experiences but to leave the bitterness behind. The true lesson in being humble was not to give in but to let go and depend on God's strength in love and forgiveness.

Both the truths and the lies of my past are rough and through them I've learned that it takes strength and courage to leave it all behind where I can then fall into God's loving arms of Grace and His strength. The storms of my life have built and proven the strength of my Anchor, my Lord Jesus! I've seen a lifetime of tragedies turned into valuable life lessons. It all takes not just strength but love as well. As you read these verses from God's Word, ask yourself, "What does strength mean to me?" I pray that God bless you all through His Word.

"O my strength I sing praise to You; You O God, are my fortress, my loving God." (Psalm 59:17)

"Blessed are those who's strength is in You who have set their hearts on pilgrimage." (Psalm 84:5)

"The Lord is my strength and my song; He has become my salvation." (Psalm 118:14)

"But those who hope in the Lord WILL renew their strength. They WILL soar on wings like eagles, they WILL run and not grow weary, they WILL walk and not be faint." (Isaiah 40:31)

"The sovereign Lord is my strength, He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to the heights." (Habakkuk 3:19)

Laughter

By M.G.

I was reading a book where women were asking this same question, "What will keep me young?"

I thought to myself, "Is the secret of youth different for everyone? Is there some universal anti-aging potion?" Then I thought to myself again, "I'm 67 years old and I still feel young and I don't use anything to help me keep looking young!" Well, anyways, I answered my own questions by saying, "Laughter is my drug of choice!" Simple as that. Laughter is the language of the young at heart and the antidotes to what ails us all. Laughter is available to anyone at any time. With large doses, the benefits show up on our face, in our body language and it even puts a spring in our step! So I ask you, "Who needs a face-lift or some crazy diet that doesn't work?"

Do you ever want to just throw back your head and bellow, "Give me a break"? Life has its way of mounting up until we are slumping down. Soon after that our joyful noise turns into grumpy groans. Well, you are not alone. That type of attitude proclaims, "I've gone far enough! I've given way too much and I am NOT doing this anymore!" And as I look around me here I see that all the girls seem to be saying that. For me, today, I choose laughter!

Suddenly, now, I hear myself praying ... when I say now I mean RIGHT NOW! ... "Dear Lord, like a child with her mom, I thank You for not always dropping everything in the universe and rushing to my rescue. Instead, I thank You that You have allowed me to feel my neediness and experience my limitations. This in turn allows me to understand that it is You and only You that can/will save me. I don't want to refuse Your perfect plan; instead I want to find my refuge in You. It's then that I will find the stamina to make it through to the end. AMEN!!"

2 Kings 20:1-23:30

Faith and prayer, if they are sincere and directed toward the One True God, can change any situation. (20:5-6)

In reading the biblical list of kings, it is rare to find one who obeyed God completely. Josiah was such a person, and he was only eight years old when he began to reign. For 18 years, he reigned obediently, and then when he was 26, he began the reforms based on God's laws. Children are the future leaders of our churches and our world. A person's major work for God may have to wait until he is an adult, but no one is ever too young to take God seriously and obey Him. Josiah's early years laid the base for his later task of reforming Judah. (22:1-2) The Word of God should cause us, like Josiah, to take action immediately to reform our lives and bring them into harmony with God's Will. (22:11)

It is not enough for us to say we believe what is right, we must respond with action, doing what faith requires. This is what James was emphasizing when he wrote, "**Faith that does not result in good deeds is useless.**" (James 2:20) This means acting differently at home, school, work and church. Simply talking about obedience is not enough. (23:4-8)

Acts 21:18-22:16

Sometimes we must go the second mile to avoid offending others, especially when doing so would hinder God's work. (21:21)

When you witness for Christ, first identify yourself with your audience. They are much more likely to listen if they feel a common bond with you. (22:3-4) We must faithfully and responsibly present the Good News and leave the results to God. (22:6)

Psalms 150:1-6

In a way, the book of Psalms parallels our spiritual journey through life. It begins by presenting us with two roads: the way to life, and the way to death. If we choose God's way to life, we still face blessings and troubles, joy and grief, success and obstacles. Through it all, God is at our side, guiding, encouraging, comforting, and caring. As the wise and faithful person's life draws to an end, it becomes clear that God's road is the right road. Knowing this will cause us to praise God for leading us in the right direction and for assuring us of a place in the perfect world He has in store for those who faithfully followed Him. (150:6)

Proverbs 18:9-12

The phrase "Name of the Lord" is a way of speaking of God's person. God's protection is a prominent theme throughout Scripture. (18:10) The path to honor, which the proud so covet, is humility. (18:12)

"Foot" Notes

Hello again, I just wanted to share some "waking" thoughts, I had as I woke up the other day. You know what I'm talking about, the thoughts that sometimes race through your mind as you're barely opening your eyes.

So my thoughts were about how a lot of religious people seem to get all caught up, all holier than thou with all these laws and rules that they cling to and look down on or ostracize anybody who doesn't tow 'their' line of thought. How can they so easily blow off the fact our only path to Salvation was through the Blood of Christ? It's the Blood of Christ that covers all sin and only through our faith in Christ are we accepted into heaven. You cannot get to or gain access into heaven through antiquated rules or laws. If that was what was necessary none of us could or would be perfect enough to make it. It's only because of Jesus' sacrifice that we are cleansed and our ability to have any standing with God, was purchased.

Put your efforts into having a relationship with Jesus Christ. Do not worry about what anyone else says because they certainly can't get you into heaven. Trust only in the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart, give all your faith to Him and you too shall be covered by His Blood sacrifice, amen! It was like God had woke me up to write down these thoughts so here they are.

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

REMEMBER THIS, "GOD'S NOT MAD AT YOU, IN FACT HE'S NOT EVEN IN A BAD MOOD TOWARDS YOU!" In heaven, when God brags about you He pulls out His wallet and shows the angels your picture saying, "Look at My son, look here at My daughter. They're the apple of My eye!" Okay, so God having a wallet may not be biblical but you better believe He IS bragging about you! God Loves you!!

What Others Are Saying...

"I want to thank you all there at *Overcomers for Christ* for your thoughtfulness in the remembrance of my birthday. It really made my day when I got your card. I was thanking Jesus Christ for all of you because you guys are a big blessing to me and everyone in here. May the Lord Jesus Christ keep on blessing all of you over there, give everyone my thanks." - **S.D.**

"There is not a month that seems to pass that I don't find myself lost in despair, asking myself, as I look at these same four walls, day in and day out, 'Is there not even one who cares for me? Am I really so bad that my life amounts to these four walls?' And I am at a loss of words to describe the amount of gratitude I have for you all there at *Overcomers for Christ*, because it is you that bring me hope, where sometimes I just can't see any. I like the personal letters ... the power that flows through the letters is great. I keep them in my Bible as bookmarkers and read them for encouragement. The monthly issues that you send to me never fail to teach me that I am not alone. There is no contact or hope that I receive except from you all, thank you." - **T.M.**

"Thank you so much for the newsletter and everything you do for all of us behind bars. I was very moved by the Grace Message in December 2014 and January 2015 edition. I've passed it along to some of the brothers here on my run and it touched them as well. Again, thank you all for remembering us." - **R.W.**

"I was first introduced to your *Overcomers for Christ* magazine in jail. I received a two year sentence in prison. One of the first things I found when I got here was a copy of your December 2014 issue. I have made the choice to immerse myself in the Word. I think your magazine is a perfect compliment." - **T.P.**

"I wanted to let you know that I have moved, so will you please change my address so I can start receiving my newsletters here. I thank you and appreciate your time. I also want you to know that I enjoy reading my newsletters. I sometimes share some of the stories I read in there with my cellie. I find comfort in a lot of what I read and it reminds me why I changed my ways and now do my best to walk in the light, so I again thank you and I pray that our Father in heaven will bless you for all your good works." - **J.W.**

"I hope that this letter finds all of my brothers and sisters at *Overcomers for Christ* in the best health and utmost highest of spirits, praying for you always in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ name. Thank you all for always sending me the newsletter every month. I enjoy reading it because it's very encouraging when I feel down. I also pray for all my brothers and sisters and for their prayer requests." - **L.Z.**

"I've enjoyed your newsletters for years, actually being in and out of prison too many times to care to say. I appreciate being added to the newsletter you mail to us inside. I've got a couple years to go and the inspiration I found from you helps me in different ways." - **W.S.**

"I have been receiving newsletter for a while now, thank you! My little sister, Maria, goes to your church. This newsletter has been a big help to me and to those I pass it along to. Praise the Lord! You sent me a birthday card ... Wow!! The card is beautiful, thank you, and that our Lord and Savior put it in your hearts to send it to me. Well, that just makes it that much more special! Birthdays and holidays are hard in here, but I thank God for the strength He gives me to overcome, and the joy He puts in my heart. May God bless this ministry and everyone involved with it." - **J.Q.**

"Again, thank you for the newsletter and everything else you do for us on the inside. You are a real blessing to so many of us, even those not yet on your roster. The newsletter gets passed around in here every month and we hear the feedback from several of the guys in the building. Please accept this tithing in Jesus' name to continue the work God has called you to do. Thank you for being obedient and for walking out God's mercy and grace towards each life you touch through this ministry." - **R.W.**

"After seeing what God has done with my brother, Cory, you can imagine how encouraged I am. It was nice seeing his article in the December 2014 issue of the newsletter. Of course, I was pleased to see my own article *Lukewarm*. But even more touching was in the comments of one of our brothers who mentioned that my article on boundaries and our children slapped him in the face. It's a good feeling when we can encourage our brethren about Kingdom business, especially, where our children are concerned. I thoroughly enjoyed our December 2014 issue of the newsletter and was compelled to write you." - **M.D.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

An Angel in the form of a 'Black Rooster'

While reading your March newsletter I felt inspired to share some of my own testimony.

In March of 2010 I was in a very bad car accident. I fell asleep while driving and hit a truck head on. We were both doing over 60 mph at the time of impact. I had my 2 small children in the car with me ... I was driving a 1997 Mustang. Our vehicles hit so hard that the back ends came up in the air and almost touched each other. My 4 year old daughter was in the back seat, sleeping while my 5 year old son was in the front. I remember waking up and there was smoke everywhere. I immediately began frantically searching for my children. I was trapped in my seat, the engine was basically in my lap and my right foot was practically severed because it was still on the gas pedal which was now up on my chest.

I first saw my little girl. I could see her brown hair on the floor board on the passenger side. Her face was down and there was a lot of blood. I couldn't tell if she was alive and I couldn't reach her with my leg crushed into my chest. It took every bit of my strength to push my leg off of my chest and reach for the strands of my baby's hair ... just then she gasp for air and I knew she was alive! Then I began to visually search and scream for my son. I couldn't find him anywhere, and I began to think the worst. Then I looked out of the shattered windshield and saw my baby boy standing in the road yelling, "Please stop! HELP MY MOMMY!"

We were all life flighted to the hospital but my children went to a different hospital than I did. I wasn't able to see them until a few weeks later when they came to see me in the hospital. I couldn't figure out how my son got out of the car and the police couldn't figure it out either, AND he had NOT ONE scratch, bump, or bruise on him. I asked him when he came to see me in the hospital, "Son, how did you get out of mommy's car that day?" I'll never forget his answer, and it awakens my soul each time that I think about it. He said, "Mommy, you looked right at me and told me to GO! You said it was safe for me to go with that black rooster."

I know that God sends us His angels in all forms and on March 13th, 2010, He sent us an angel in the form of a black rooster to remove my son from the car so he wouldn't die in the accident. I don't understand the significance of the 'black rooster' but I don't question it either.

My baby girl only had a few cuts on the top of her head causing all the blood I seen. And, the man in the truck, he lived too! I'm now serving a total of 8 1/2 years in prison for that car accident ... but each day I feel blessed! I know that God has a special plan for my children ... He doesn't send His angels for nothing!! - J.W.

Quotefall

H	R	E	S	B	T	O	A	M	G	W	O	O	E	S	T
P	E	O	F	E	S	C	I	B	E	F	H	S	L	S	E
L	V	Y		E	S		N	E		I	I	E	M		

Focusing on God From New Life Ministries

All of us may find our courage tested by the inevitable disappointments and tragedies of life. After all, ours is a world filled with uncertainty, hardship, sickness, and danger. Trouble, it seems, is never too far from the front door. When we focus upon our fears and our doubts, we may find many reasons to lie awake at night and fret about the uncertainties of the coming day. A better strategy, of course, is to focus not upon our fears, but instead upon our God. God is as near as your next breath, and He is in control. He offers salvation to all His children, including you. God is your shield and your strength; you are His forever. So don't focus your thoughts upon the fears of the day. Instead, trust God's plan and His eternal love for you. And remember: God is good, and He has the last word.

"Whether our fear is absolutely realistic or out of proportion in our minds, our greatest refuge is Jesus Christ." - Luci Swindoll

"Fear and doubt are conquered by a faith that rejoices. And faith can rejoice because the promises of God are as certain as God Himself." - Kay Arthur

Today's Prayer ... Your Word reminds me, Lord, that even when I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I need fear no evil, for You are with me, and You comfort me. Thank You, Lord, for a perfect love that casts out fear. Let me live courageously and faithfully this day and every day. Amen!

Editor's Note – Teen Challenge Bike Run

The *Overcomers for Christ* is NOT a Motorcycle Club or Motorcycle Ministry. However, we ARE a ministry that loves to ride motorcycles, especially when it's to glorify God!

The pictures on page 2 of this month's newsletter was a joint effort of Christians, a group of people from all walks of life that have felt the touch of God's love and grace in their own lives.

On this Saturday we all came together for the 9th Annual Teen Challenge Bike Run. We came together to support and raise money to further the work that Teen Challenge does in helping other men and women beat addictions and strong holds and turn their lives around. It was an awesome day of testimonies, food, great people, and fellowship ALL to glorify our Lord Jesus Christ.

Solution to Quotefall on page 10: Professing themselves to be wise they became fools (*Romans 1:22*)

Quote Worthy

"Adversity is always unexpected and unwelcome. It is an intruder and a thief, and yet in the hands of God, adversity becomes the means through which His supernatural power is demonstrated."
- **Charles Stanley - Senior pastor of First Baptist Church in northern Atlanta, Georgia. He is the founder and president of In Touch Ministries and also served two one-year terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention from 1984 to 1986. He has an evangelical and dispensationalist theology.**

Ministry Tithes & Offerings ... 2 Ways to Give

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, and mail this newsletter. None of this would be possible without the faithful support of many people who believe in this ministry. The vision of this ministry is to offer hope, love, and encouragement to those who are incarcerated. You are investing in spreading the Word of God to lost souls, and encouraging and mentoring believers.

There are **two** ways to 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

By **ONLINE** at <http://livingwordonline.com> - click in the **"Give"** icon - If you are new online giver, then click on **"Create Account"** and then follow the account set-up. If you are existing online giver, then select **"Give Now"**. Once you are logged into the website, then click on **"Give Now"**, and under the **"Give To"** drop-down select **"05 Outreach"**, then from the drop-down to the right select **"Overcomers for Christ | Prison Ministry"**

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray that all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

The Message of Encouragement
By M.B.

A mighty wind blew night and day,
It stole the oaks leaves away.
Then snapped its boughs and pulled its bark,
until the oak was tired and stark.
But still the oak tree held its ground,
while other trees fell all around.

The weary wind gave up and spoke,
"How can you still be standing oak?"

The oak tree said, "I know that you
can break each branch of mine in two.
Carry every leaf away,
shake my limbs and make me sway.

But I have roots stretched in the earth,
growing stronger since my birth.
You'll never touch them, for you see
they are the deepest part of me.
Until today I wasn't sure of just
how much I could endure
But now I've found, with thanks to you,
I'm stronger than I ever knew."

**This makes me think everything He has created has its place, and we are so special
in His plan, so brothers and sisters don't worry His plan is great, and we all have
our place in it.**

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

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