

Overcomer for Christ

March 2017



Men's Advance 2017

BUILT TO WIN



Listening With Expectation By Wade Anderson

I know I mentioned last month that we would pick up this month where we left off. Well, this is still in that direction.

Let's pray: "Lord, I thank You for Your personal attention to every one of our lives. I thank You that as You said, You did not leave us here on this earth alone, as orphans but You have sent and sealed us with the promised Holy Spirit. Father I thank You that You love us even more than we'll ever be able to comprehend while we are here on earth. Right now I'm asking You to wash every single word written on the pages of this newsletter in the precious blood of Jesus and only truth be revealed in the hearts of every person that reads it. I ask these things with complete confidence, in Your Son Jesus' name. Amen, Amen and Amen!"

In the month of January the church, Living Word Bible Church, corporately, went on 21 days of fasting and prayer. I personally did this to hear the direction for the *Overcomers for Christ* for 2017. First let me say that by fasting I was NOT expecting to move God. However, what I was doing was disciplining my mind, will and emotions (soul). By simply taking back control of these areas I found it very easy not to buy into 'Just grab that donut', 'Listen to your belly growling', 'I'm HUNGRY, feed me' and the list of reasons to stop went on and on. I found, for myself anyways, the fasting in itself to be a healthy process for me to follow at least 2-3 times a year. Fasting helped me detox and clean my system from lots of the unnecessary wastes my body had stored up. In the midst of disciplining myself in those areas and tuning out the everyday noises and activities I had also set aside specific prayer time and alone time in the Word with God. Remember, if it weren't true that God wants to speak to us Jesus wouldn't have said, in *John 10:27* (NIV), "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me." I can tell you that God loves to speak to us and He WILL speak to us, especially through His Word, when we set aside the time to hear from Him. I'm not saying that I heard the audible voice of God. But I did hear Him speak specifically two separate times through His Word in these 21 days. At this point, I can share one of those times with all of you.

I guess I should add that as the church whole/corporately there had been some specific Scriptures recommended for 'everyone' to pray in those 21 days. These Scriptures were in NO WAY meant to be mandatory! If that were the case that would indicate legalism and place us all back under the law. NO! Instead our senior pastors had been seeking God's direction for some time prior to this and when they heard from the Lord they then gave the congregation this same direction ONLY as a suggestion NOT as a 'YOU MUST DO!' I pray you all know that God can and WILL use one certain Scripture and give it SPECIFIC/PERSONAL meaning to each individual that asks. God knows exactly what each of His sheep are in need of every single second of every day!

It was on the morning of the third day, as I was reading *Isaiah 54:2*, "**Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: SPARE NOT, Lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes**" that certain words in that passage seemed to leap off the pages at me. As these certain words stood out I immediately highlighted them. At that point I grabbed the *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and began to look these specific words up. As I went through each word a picture began to be painted on what was a blank canvas, right in front of me. There is no way that I can tell you what you or anyone else will hear God speak to you in these same words. But I can tell you just a portion of what God spoke specially to me about them. But first I want to share that Scripture in context of what God had given to Isaiah to tell His people, the Israelites.

We have to understand that these people being spoken to were nomads and their dwelling places or habitations were in tents. God was speaking to them, as He does us, in ways to help them relate and better understand. The tents they traveled with and lived in had sides that could be lifted up. So, when they lifted the tent curtains (sides) it increased the square footage allowing for more people to come under that protection and out of the hot desert sun. As the curtains were lifted it would then require the cords to be lengthened and the tent stakes to be driven deeper into the ground in order to better support the weight of the whole tent. Do you see the picture? I believe this is what God gave Isaiah to tell the Israelites. 'Look, I'm getting ready to increase the size of My family. In My timing I will send My Son, Christ Jesus, to be the promised Messiah. I'm giving you all the heads up. Through the sharing of the Gospel, the GOOD NEWS, I am going to stretch forth and touch every end of the earth and graft into the body, the Gentile people!' (My paraphrase) There were several words that leaped out at me but we're only going to cover these two, "**SPARE NOT!**" As I said earlier, I then looked these two words up in the *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*. **Spare** in the Hebrew, in this particular reference was (2820) chāsak, pronounced as khāw-sak along with (2821) chāshak, pronounced kwāw-shak. Then by adding the NOT with the exclamation point (I've added the 'Do not's') this is what I found God saying. 'Do not' refrain or (reflexively) preserve, 'Do not' darken, 'Do not' hinder, 'Do not' hold back, punish or withhold (as withholding light). 'Do not' cause darkness, 'Do not' be dim and 'Do not' hide.' In other words, what I understood Him say to me was ... 'At ALL cost send forth the message of the Gospel! It's time for increase, not in numbers but in substance.' Almost instantly after this I felt Him tell me, 'As for the *Overcomers* ministry 'team', you are going to receive others to the group as servants. I am enlarging the 'team family'. I'm sending others to help hold your arms up as I did with Moses.' Clearly, God's intentions are to grow

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us all in 'greater abundance', through a deeper revelation of His Word.

All of this took place, as I said above, on the third day of fasting and prayer. Since 'we' had started this on the 2nd of January this would mean that God gave me this word on January the 4th. I'm only setting this time line up so you all can see how specific, personal and faithful God is when He gives us a word.

Fast forwarding some now ... I'd already gotten to the other side of the 21 days, with ease I might add, and had headed out to Woodland Park, Colorado for the Andrew Wommack all men's retreat. This year's conference was titled, '**Built To Win!**' At some particular point in the conference we were told that a minimum of 905 men had registered for this event! Praise Jesus!! In another issue of the newsletter I've mentioned the 1st and 2nd years, this was now the 3rd year I'd attended this specific men's event. After the 2nd year God placed it on my heart to build a bigger group of men so they could experience it for themselves this 3rd year. Well long story short, throughout that year I'd gathered together a group of 10 other men to go along. We were at this conference for 2 nights and 3 days listening to speakers like Jeremy Pearsons (Kenneth Copeland's grandson), Andrew Wommack and James Brown. No, not the rock and roll legend James Brown! James Brown the once great basketball player while at Harvard University. He is better known today as 'J.B.' He's now seen on CBS Sports, as an NFL commentator for FOX TV as well as many other places in sports. I pray you all believe me, for now, until you too experience these things for yourselves, that when God calls this many men, heads of households and leaders in many, many positions in His body and community together He DOES HAVE A SPECIFIC MESSAGE FOR THAT GROUP OF MEN! (Ladies, these same opportunities await all of you out here as well.)

I said all of that to say this. Just because I'd felt that God had already given me a specific word I didn't sit still and WAIT for it to just happen right in front of me. NO! I continued on forward so as to be positioned both in listening, with expectation, and to experience ANYTHING else He might have for me! I'm learning over time that God is never finished with us and because of that I generally 'GO' with a spirit of expectation. God does have a specific destination for each of us so I choose to look at each day as an ADVENTURE! One second He will show me something that seems to blow my head off my shoulders and in that very next second He says, "You think that's something, watch this!" And that leads me to this next part.

It was somewhere in the first few days of February, while I was home, that there was a knock on the front door. When I opened it, now standing right in front of me was someone that had been on the mailing list for several years. As we embraced and greeted each other we then went inside to talk. Just before we sat down he reached inside his jacket pocket and then reached to hand me several pieces of note book paper. I asked him, "What's this?" His answer was, "While I was sitting in solitary confinement I had lots of time to talk with God but most importantly, time to listen to Him talk and lead me. Around the 4th or the 5th of January God laid it on my heart that when I was released I was suppose to submit myself to *Overcomers for Christ*, under you. I'm willing to do anything to help you; assist in making your edifying magazine the spiritual powerhouse you envision it to be, with WHATEVER you need for me to do! As I sat there in the hole and listened God began to give me several articles or messages, if you can use them that is the first one." While we were sitting there I reached over and opened up my folder of notes. As I took them out I began to read to him the studies and word that God had shown me at nearly the EXACT same time frame God had spoken to him. He looked at me, and with a great big smile on his face said, "Well then, it looks like we're right where we're supposed to be."

But wait, there's more! Within a couple days of each other two other men called and told me pretty close to the same message. God had given each of them the same mandate. The definition of mandate is *an official order or commission to do something*. After Jesus was crucified and had risen He gave this Great Commission to EVERY born again believer... *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, AND teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* (Matthew 28:18-20) PRAISE THE LORD!

I'll close with this. Remember on page 3 where I mentioned that God had told me, through Scripture, that He was going to enlarge the *Overcomers for Christ* team family? Well, the first meeting in February, 5 new people got on board! So, I encourage everyone to discipline yourselves to make some alone time with God. Because when we do He is always faithful to tell us what's on His heart.

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

Hello there to my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. Let me start this letter with much respect and appreciation for your welcoming card and newsletter. By the grace of God, I am making it through my rough times as my release date is coming. I have prayed and put all of my trust in our Father God! I have been in prison since 2007 and so much has changed, please join me in prayer as I ask for guidance from our Father, to lead me in the right direction. I believe in the Scripture that speaks of two or more agreeing in prayer that their prayers shall be answered. Even when I pray alone our Father hears me. It is rough though. I don't get much mail and it is depressing sometimes because I feel all alone. I gave my life back to our Father God a couple months ago, as you know and it's not as easy as I thought it would be! I've been down the past few days as so much has changed around me ... **S.F.**

Please place Kathy D. on your prayer list. She's my stepmom and was married to my dad when I was around 5-10 years old. She had a son when I was 10, then she divorced my dad due to physical abuse, taking her son with her. Well, God took her son home early. Last year he died in his sleep (30 years old) and now Kathy is terribly grief stricken and every day is such a struggle for her. Please pray for her. I'm always grateful for your ministry ... **R.D.**

Thank you very much for the card that you guys sent me. It really did bring joy to me and put a smile on my face. I really did appreciate it. I just wanted to write to say thank you and show my appreciation for what you guys do for me. I do ask that you please pray for me to stay strong when temptation comes my way and the strength to stay in the Word. I will be sure to keep you guys in prayer. Thank you again and God Bless. I love you guys ... **K.H.**

I have a request of ya'll. I could use some prayers along the line of God's anointing of S.B. as he is looking through my case trying to find a way to get me in court on a rule 32. In hopes of getting me resentenced to where all of my charges could be ran concurrent with 25 to life. Which would give me a shot at getting out. My legal guy says that being my crime was considered a spree everything should have been ran concurrent and not consecutive. This is a long shot at best but as we know all things are possible through God and if God willing it shall be done ... **S.C.**

Please add my name to your prayer list at church that God change my sentence. It is time now to go home with my family and that I am struggling in here with no money. And pray to keep my grandson out of the streets and keep Keisha off of drugs. And watch over my kids and family and to send me a good man. I need big miracles. My friend also needs somebody ... **K.M.**

Praise Reports

Thank you so much for writing me back. It's always so exciting when you hear your name called for mail. I don't receive any money and I wash clothes for a lady in my dorm.

It doesn't pay much but it's enough for me to get my hygiene necessities. I don't complain because I also know God always has my back and He will always provide me with what I need. I'm so grateful to know His love and to have Him in my life. Despite my long sentence, I'm at peace in my life. I know God is always working in me. I accept whatever He has for me. It took me a very long time to get to this point. It took me a long time to learn to trust in God and have faith, to learn to let go and let God. Thank you for your kind words, God bless you ... **S.P.**

To all my brothers and sisters at **DS&S**, I want to thank all of you for the birthday card and warm wishes you sent. Thank you for the encouraging card you sent me on my move. I am up here with Foot and get to see his smiling face every day, which is a blessing in itself. As Foot has probably told you it is a good yard, everyone is very productive here. The only downside for me being here is I can't get visits. It's too much of a hardship on my mom and son. Mom is 77 now and my 22 year old son has high functioning autism, so it's hard for them. But I know the Lord has sent me here for a reason and I've learned through my new life in Christ, don't ask questions, He will reveal it to me when He thinks it's time for me to know. I want you all to know the work you all have been entrusted with is a blessing for you, as well as for us and I want to thank you for all that you do ... **A.V.**

God has been working daily miracles in my life and I am most grateful for His divine intervention in a downward spiral that began in my late teens and early twenties and only ended about 14 months ago after nearly 23 years in and out of prison. I am now 51 this coming January and have dedicated my life to serving Christ. Christ has given me a sense of peace and comfort that is beyond measure and my only desire is to bring Him glory and honor. He has brought me out of an addiction that ruined every relationship I ever had. Fortunately, though, by having no family or friends to turn to, I sought out Christ's presence in my life out of pure desperation. The spiritual rewards of God's grace and love have been my great reward. That which I never deserved, but He gave me just for calling on Him and believing on His Son Jesus. I am currently in a discipleship program, which my spirit is enjoying immensely. I would recommend it for any willing Christian ... **T.M.**

Some good news, I thought I was getting out on IPS but I received a notice of discharge from probation. I guess they allowed my probation to run while I've been here. All they are going to do is file for a restitution order so I have to pay \$1,500-\$1,600 for probation fees ... **S.V.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

What do we think about ... a lot?

By J.R.

I hope and pray that everyone is doing well. I know it's been a while since I wrote last, and I apologize for that. I really enjoyed the birthday card you all sent to me. It added some joy to my life. Jesus loves all of His creation. He is very interested in our joy and peace of heart. We all have time. God has lots of it. Sometimes we find the most glorious aspect of the God-life in the darkest moment of life. When we are in the valley, there is nowhere to look for help but from above.

There are so many cruel twists in a long prison term. One is the feeling of being forgotten by the world and by those you love and need. The mail, which arrived in bundles during the early years, gradually trickled down to no one or only one letter every blue moon. Friends and family members, who once seemed eager to visit, have not been seen in years. My brother dropped in a few times after mom passed to kill a couple of hours, updating me on his latest problems. In spite of his chaotic life, I enjoy the visits.

I really can't recall if I told you or not that I am currently in solitary confinement for a battery that happened in January 2011 when I was in the general population. It was an unfortunate thing that happened. I feel bad about it now. Last year, I thought that I had a pretty good chance of going back to population, I did more than what was expected of me to be let go. They turned me down for the third time. To be honest, I became very frustrated with them. I had a few episode with officers getting disciplinary reports for stupid stuff. I did exactly what they were hoping for.

I am more conscious and mindful of my anxiety now. I realize that you cannot effectively give God all of who you are if you haven't really dealt with what is causing you to hurt. So, instead of just praying, I started talking openly about my issues; with the administration to my mental health therapist. I cannot do good to myself or to the people around me being in this cell 24/7. The worst part of it is lack of social interaction. I also went through a stage of depression, a stage of withdrawal and a stage of anger. Had it not been for my firm belief in God I wouldn't be here writing you today.

My healing process is telling my story. You have to acknowledge your mistakes and dig deep inside yourself and make changes that might make you uncomfortable. This one on one treatment helps you deal with your emotions, even while you're enjoying your spiritual side. Having therapy isn't a sign that you're crazy; it's a sign that you love yourself enough not to go crazy. Sometimes the pain you go through isn't just for you; it's really to help someone else. And sometimes rejection doesn't blind you; it leaves you with even better vision.

As I spend more and more quiet and quality time with God, He continues to pull these deep things of substance out of me. I have discovered and embraced my story in a powerful way. Life is full of injustice, but our story is still our story and that will never change. The only thing that can change is what the rest of our story is. The Apostle Paul tells us the story we cannot change, that is already done, can be used to benefit those who are seeking the same redemption and restoration we have attained. We can use our story to show them the grandeur and power of God to take any human soul and redeem it. Of course, we use wisdom and the leading of the Holy Spirit in sharing our story because sometimes there are things that do not need to be repeated, because it brings too much glory to the evil one.

Jesus does understand what it is like to be here on earth and is able to sympathize with our weaknesses. He will give us grace for whatever we ask for, to walk out His will. Even when you mess up, there may be natural consequences that He may or may not release us from, but spiritually He gives us 70 X 7 chances to start over and get it right. That comes from the whole 70 X 7 forgiveness principal. With all this said, it is vitally important to understand the spiritual warfare aspect of everything. There are evil forces with sinister plans for me. But I have authority in the name of Jesus Christ over them.

We must spiritually feed ourselves and also become students of our emotions, our psychology, our anatomy and physiology. What do we think about A lot? Dirty thoughts? Clean thoughts? Forgiveness or Revenge? I feel strongly that every one of our actions has a consequence. Every action affects something. Jesus taught that even thoughts matter. Your faith, your words, your deeds, your prayers, your example, your kindness and persistence can release the power of God (or the devil) and activates the forces of heaven (or hell) to go to work in that situation. All seed is important seed, even if it is a small seed. Everyone needs to know the what and why of their life. Purpose and hope is a powerful motivator for me. Take care and keep up the good deeds.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God is with Me

By J.R.

I have been going through a lot over the last years. But I've come even closer to God in my plight. I know I'm a sinner and this time of my life is a penitence for the sins that I have committed. At first, I am sad to admit, I blamed everyone but myself and cursed God as if He forced my hand Himself. I have come to see the truth and the lies and I've grown so much I don't even feel like the same man. I came to prison a boy of the world but I am glad to say that I will leave a man of our most gracious God.

At this time, I am in a lock down cell and I am being persecuted for nothing. But I tell you with a humbled heart that I have put my issues in God's hands. I trust in Him to not lead me astray. As in *Psalm 40:12-17*, **"For troubles surround me, too many to count! My sins pile up so high I can't see my way out. They outnumber the hairs on my head. I have lost all courage. Please, Lord, rescue me! Come quickly, Lord, and help me. May those who try to destroy me be humiliated and put to shame. May those who take delight in my trouble be turned back in disgrace. Let them be horrified by their shame, for they said, 'Aha! We've got him now!' But may all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout, 'The Lord is great!' As for me, since I am poor and needy, let the Lord keep me in his thoughts. You are my helper and my savior. O my God, do not delay."**

I know my God has my back and does not put me through anything I cannot survive. When I feel lost, I just stop and ask Jesus and God to help open my mind and eyes to see that as long as I try my hardest to walk in His footsteps, that as long as I believe in His Word, that I'm never lost because no matter where I'm at, He is with me!!

Thank you to OC4C

By D.S.

First and foremost, I want to write you and tell you how grateful I am to get a birthday card for the 3rd year, since I've been added to your mailing list. What blesses me the most is to see God increase your lives by the amount of love that radiates through your ministry into the pages of your letters. The ones that sincerely gave their lives to the Almighty Creator have been fed by those pages as they literally become a beacon of hope to all who share the same vision that God has revealed to us through the revelation of His Word.

May God continue to teach you the mysteries of compassion through selfless love. May the enemies of opposition transform into urgent cries for help in others as you supply the need that is in abundance by the wisdom that God has blessed you with.

May you continue your path with much diligence and discernment as you guide all those who look to you to point out the road that has been paved by Jesus for all to walk on. That path that leads directly towards the very face of God Himself. Once again, I thank you for everything you've given up in order to be a living blessing in the lives of others.

I have 24 weeks remaining from my 8 1/2 year sentence. I will eventually be released and my goal is to use my life to be a living blessing to all who I come in contact with, just like your life has been to mine.

I look forward to reading the future newsletters that have been filled with hope and enlightenment. Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do. May God continue to prosper you and your ministry.

2 Chronicles 6:12-8:10

It was unusual for a king to kneel before someone else in front of his own people because kneeling meant submitting to a higher authority. Solomon demonstrated his great love and respect for God by kneeling before Him. His action showed that he acknowledged God as the ultimate King and Authority, and it encouraged the people to do the same. (6:12-13)

How often do we look for immediate answers to our prayers and when nothing happens, wonder if God has heard us? God does hear, and He will provide for us. We must trust that God will answer at the proper time. (7:12)

Romans 7:14-8:8

"I am sold into slavery with sin as my master," may be a reference to the old nature that seeks to rebel and be independent of God. If I, being a Christian, try to struggle with sin in my own strength, I will slip into the grasp of sin's power. (7:14)

Paul divides people into two categories; those who let themselves be controlled by their sinful nature, and those who follow after the Holy Spirit. All of us would be in the first category if Jesus had not offered us a way out. Once we have said yes to Jesus, we will want to continue following Him, because His way brings life and peace. Daily we must consciously choose to center our life on God. Use the Bible to discover God's guidelines, and then follow them. In every perplexing situation, ask yourself, what would Jesus want me to do? When the Holy Spirit points out what is right, do it eagerly. (8:5-6)

Psalms 18:1-15

God's protection of His people is limitless and can take many forms. David characterized God's care with these military symbols:

- 1) A rock that cannot be moved by any who would harm us.
- 2) A fortress or place of safety where the enemy cannot follow.
- 3) A shield that comes between us and harm.
- 4) Strength of salvation, is a symbol of might and power.
- 5) A stronghold high above our enemies.

If you need protection look to God. (18:2-3)

Proverbs 19:22-25

Those who fear the Lord receive "protection from harm" because of their healthy habits, their beneficial lifestyle, and sometimes through God's direct intervention. Nevertheless, the fear of the Lord does not always protect us from trouble in this life. Evil things still happen to people who love God. This verse is not a universal promise but a general guideline. It describes what would happen if this world were sinless, and what will happen in the new earth, when faithful believers will be under God's protection forever. (19:23)

There is a great difference between the person who learns from criticism and the person who refuses to accept correction. How we respond to criticism determines whether or not we grow in wisdom. The next time someone criticizes you, listen carefully to all that is said. You might learn something. (19:25)



"Foot" Notes

Hello to ya'll, just me sharing thoughts again. You know, loss is a part of life and all of us will deal with it at some point. Years ago, winter of 1993, I lost my dad and at that point in my life I was already in the midst of a downward spiral. Of course, I had locked God out of my life so how I dealt with that loss then was completely off the rails, full blown criminal antics not caring about the outcome.

These days dealing with loss, which at 54 happens a lot more often. I rely solely (or souly) Ha ... on God. Leaning on and trusting in Him, He and only He knows the why of it. So now I grieve in a better frame of mind when loss comes my way. I trust completely in the fact that God knows what He's doing and God will be with me as I get through it. With our hearts open and filled with God all things will pass. Love to ya'll short and tall. Vaya con Dios!!!

The Preacher By Pastor Jack Flash

The testimony I'm giving you can be, if you choose, article #1 of the many God has instructed me to give you.

I had grossly misspent my life in selfish rebellion against the commands of God AND the laws of man, when the narcissistic existence of this foolish one was forcefully interrupted by the Gospel message of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen. I had wasted the previous 24 years as a violent convict in the midst of the prison system, when the Grace of God was poured abundantly upon the worst of sinners, me, changing my life for evermore ... Praise the Lord!

My dire circumstances had compelled this desperate man to begin reading the Word of God in 2003, and after focusing on the New Testament for many months, I THEN fully repented of my evil lifestyle and renounced the secret ways of that brotherhood in August of 2004. As I read **Philippians 3:8**, "**Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ and become one with Him**" I recognized this would have to be the exact approach I too was now embarking upon. So, at the cross of Christ, I then turned my back on everyone I had loved and everything I had selfishly believed in. At the throne of Grace, I bowed down in unconditional surrender to the power of God and His authority over me. It was then that I committed my life to the will of God and His purpose for me. And by the Grace of God, I accepted Jesus as my Savior and allowed the King of kings to become the Lord of my life. Thus I was truly 'Born Again', a child of God and as the Apostle Paul states in **2 Corinthians 5:17**, "**Therefore, if ANYONE is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old things have passed away: behold, all things have become new.**" Praise the Lord!

I continued walking faithfully 'the path of life' our Lord had prepared specifically for me, and in doing so our gracious Father has continued pouring His great favor upon this now obedient son. I studied the Word throughout each day, seeking the Lord with all my heart. I was on my knees morning and night, submitting continuously to the Father's perfect plan for me. I became, 'Crazy for Christ'; committing my life to living fully for the Son of God who died for me AND rose again. Praise the Risen Lord!

I had been sick in body and soul until coming to the cross of Christ. Then, the hand of God began a healing process that continues to this day. The Word of God renews my mind with eternal truth and reforms my heart with His unfailing love. The Holy Spirit of God counsels this grateful son about the teachings of Jesus, empowering this servant to fulfill our Father's purpose for me. As I've learned to embrace the Grace of God, I've also discovered my own eternal identity and thus I'm becoming the man of God I was created to be. I continually strive to be an obedient son and faithful servant, Christ's ambassador on this earth. I now know I'm here to be about my Father's business ... ALL for His honor and His glory! Praise the Lord!

I was finally released from 'the belly of the beast' (super max, segregation) in 2006, and placed on an open yard for the first time in 17 years. I then spent the next decade preaching the Gospel of Christ and teaching the Word of God to countless other convicts, like myself, of every race. In 2016, our merciful Father brought this prodigal son home, delivering me out of the darkness of prisons wickedness and into the light of His loving kindness. I was paroled to 'Church On The Street' (Phoenix), a beautiful place of God's healing Grace, and what seems to me my personal 'Garden of Eden'.

The new life and blessed times of Pastor Jack Flash are now in my Father's perfect hands. I simply hold fast to the great faith our Father has given me; and as always, I bow down in grateful surrender and pray, "Not my way, Abba, but Your will be done." Praise the living God! Praise the coming King!

I'll close with these words of Scripture from the Apostle Paul, in **1 Timothy 1:12-17**, "**How thankful I am to Christ Jesus our Lord for considering me trustworthy and appointing me to serve Him, even though I used to scoff at the name of Christ. I hunted down His people, harming them in every way that I could. But God had mercy on me because I did it in ignorance and unbelief. Oh, how kind and gracious the Lord was! He filled me completely with faith and the love of Christ Jesus. This is a true saying, and everyone should believe it: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners - and I was the worst of them all. But that is why God had mercy on me, so that Christ Jesus could use me as a prime example of His great patience with even the worst of sinners. Then others will realize that they, too, can believe in Him and receive eternal life. Glory and honor to God forever and ever. He is the eternal King, the unseen One who NEVER dies; He alone is God. Amen.**"

Overcomer's Testimonies

My name is Christopher. I am currently serving a 37 month sentence for a gun charge. My cellie gets your newsletter and I read it and wanted to tell you how good it feels to know somebody outside these walls cares about us.

I broke my neck in 2008 at work and got hooked on pain pills which completely destroyed my life and ended up landing me in prison. When I got locked up on June 9, 2014, I had taken over 50 pills in a 12 hour period and woke up in a hospital bed with doctors trying to save my life. On June 15th, a pastor from the jail came by and said God told him to come talk to me. He prayed with me for about ten minutes and when we were done, the most peaceful, happiest feeling I've ever had came over me. I knew right then that I was forgiven.

I still struggle every day and with nine months left until I go home, it gets a little harder each day. I know with God on my side, I can make it through anything. I just wanted to say thanks and ask to be kept in your prayers. - **C.H.**

What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you so much for the wonderful birthday wishes. I cried happy tears when I was reading it and I shared it with everyone. It made me feel loved and reminds me that God is always with me and He is always reminding me that I'm not alone. Thank you again." - **S.P.**

"Thank you for your newsletters and cards. They have helped me both find and keep my faith through the most painful trials of my life." - **D.W.**

"Dear brothers and sisters, it has been a while since I've last written to all of you, no excuse is plausible at this time. I have been keeping all of the brothers and sisters in my thoughts and prayers none the less. I just had another birthday and was very pleased that you guys sent me a birthday card. Thank you, it meant the world to me, especially nice to know I am not forgotten in the confines of prison. Much love and support I've received from the Overcomers for Christ community these past 10 years, time sure does fly! I really don't know how I would have coped without the love of Jesus and the O+C ministry. Thank you and God bless everyone in this fine ministry." - **A.M.**

"Overcomers for Christ, thank you for your remembering my birthday. Thank God for your ministry. Your monthly letters bring lightness to my dark cell. Thank you so much for everything. I wish there was something I could do to show ya'll my appreciation. Keeping ya'll in my prayers, will have to do for now. God is good ... all the time. Again, thanks for the birthday wishes and monthly encouragements." - **J.H.**

"I really appreciate you guys. You are awesome for praying for me and my family. It is coming together. God is good, all the time. Thank you for sending me the newsletter that makes my day. I am truly blessed to have you guys. You take time out and do things like send us inmates things. I know that you touch my heart. Thank you again for being a true blessing to all of us." - **K.M.**

"I want to thank you at O+C for the birthday card, it was very uplifting. I wish to thank you all at O+C ministries for the newsletters and the uplifting work you put into each month's packet. God bless you all!" - **J.R.**

"I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I'm glad to inform you that in approximately 40 days, I will be a free man after 15 years of incarceration. I would like to thank your ministry for being a tremendous support group for me during this incarceration period. I will miss you, but you will never be forgotten. I love you all." - **T.M.**

"I am writing to say thank you for all the letters, cards and magazines that you sent me my whole time down. At times, it was the only mail I got. I'm letting you that I am getting released. I don't want you to use your resources to send things to me at this address, when I'm not here. Again, I want to thank you for all the things you sent me all these years. It helped me grow in my faith in Christ." - **K.S.**

"I received the beautiful card you sent. The kind words you wrote were an amazing gift. It brought tears to my eyes that you think so much of me. I'm blessed to have you as friends. I'll save your cards and letters for a lifetime, always looking back at them as a reminder how God brought us together. I knew when we first met that everything was going to be okay." - **M.S.**

Restoration By Maria Gonzalez

I would like for this letter to be in the newsletter.

My understanding of God's Word is that He, through my daughter, showed me why love was so important. When I asked my daughter and my granddaughter for forgiveness, they simply said, "I love you." To me that was unconditional love, just like God has for me. Yes, God is a great motivator. My daughter helped me get my life back again and my grandchildren too!

It made me think that I could have done so much more for them before I was locked up, but even though they are grown up, I can still do something. They are giving me great-grandchildren and I can make amends there. I do believe God did restore me back into my family to do things different.

I was so excited when I met the family at *Overcomers for Christ*, there is where my heart is staying. Here I can get to know our God more than ever.

I wish you the best New Year and to all the *Overcomers for Christ* and all the ones incarcerated.

Riddle Me This

You Might Have to be Christian to Answer This

Riddle: How many of each animal did Moses bring on his arc?

Answer: Moses did not have an arc, Noah did

Who Was He?

There was a man who went one day
On top a Joppa house to pray,
And while he waited for his meat
He dreamed he saw a great big sheet
Let down from heaven, and inside
Fowls and creeping things did ride,
The one who prayed was told to eat,
For God had cleansed this "common" meat.
Who was he? (Acts 10)

Answer: Peter

Quote Worthy

"Christ beside me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ within me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me."

- St. Patrick - a fifth-century Romano-British Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. Known as the "Apostle of Ireland", he is the primary patron saint of Ireland.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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.

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

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. 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.

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Yesterday and Today
By C.S.

**I sat there, in a haze, fingering a notion that seemed pale and vague.
It called to me in sweet juniper overtones.
Gingerly touching my yesterday.
Such a tired and flagrant word.
How we yearn and burn for yesterday.**

**Today is lost, in the fray of that beguiled search, and only does today
Mean something of substance unit it is no longer ... no longer today.**

**So I continue on, putting up the years
Like stones on a shelf to admire only
When they are no longer in my hand.
The irony is thick here ... the future is enough.**

Bible, Church and Prayer
Contributed by A.B.

**When life becomes empty of friendships and joy and you are disposed to despair,
Reach out to the Lord for the comfort of love, He offers the Bible and prayer.
In the church of the Overcomers for Christ is special,
Where you can commune with the Spirit of God.
From a throne, on a wooden pew, He knows of heartaches you suffer to bear.
When life becomes barren and old,
And He knows why you cry alone and afraid,
In a place that is empty and cold as this.
So, He offers you heavens of peaceful content,
And the grace of His comfort and care.
In words of the Bible, and refuge of love.
That is the Overcomers for Christ is to your every prayer,
God bless you all for your love and comfort.**

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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