

Overcomers for Christ

January 2016



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ August & September 2015



God of the Impossible

By Art L.

It is with prayerful consideration that I sit and write these few words. It is my desire to impart unto the brothers and sisters who are a part of the body, and the Overcomers for Christ family, as well as all those who are blessed with the newsletters, a word of encouragement.

Regardless of whether we are free men and women or prisoners we are all faced, at one time or another, with the disappointments of life. I have been serving God for a good number of years. In those years I have seen personal failure, and I have seen great victory's by the hand of the Lord.

The one thing that I have learned is simply this; in times of difficulty, in times of trial, or at the crossroads of decision, this too is simply the greatest thing that I can do is go back! Return to the fundamentals and the foundations of my faith. These are two Scriptures that come to mind. **Matthew 6:33**, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you.*"

This is very fundamental to me because it is the very first verse I ever memorized. I suppose that it is so because there was an old song that quotes that very verse. Still, as fundamental as it is to me, it holds deep spiritual significance. The second Scripture that comes to mind when I find myself digging deep into the fundamentals of my faith comes from **Proverbs 3:5-6**, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.*"

I do not expect that this will be a heavy 'Revy' (revelation) to most of us. Still, many times in the heat of the battle, we as saints, lose sight of the very simple truths of His Word, for all our high minded thoughts, often we can miss God's direction. In my heart of hearts I know that the will of God and the mind of God are far too complex for me to ever fully comprehend. Still I know that His love for me is unfailing and He will reveal it to me, what I need for the hour, and provide for the need at hand. So I find no need to complicate my walk with Jesus, but only to keep it simple.

Excessive incarceration will definitely make a man or woman a lil' quirky. More than once I have been approached by someone who has asked me, "Brother, are you alright?" I just smile and say, "Sure I am! I'm just encouraging myself in the Lord! This is one thing that I learned many years ago. **Hebrews 4:12** tells us, "*For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*"

In **Ephesians 6:17** Paul refers to the Word of God as the sword of the Spirit. Paul's reference is likening the Word of God to an offensive weapon with which to do our warfare. As you all well know, my brothers and sisters, we are definitely in a spiritual war, in accordance with **Ephesians 6:10-12**, "*Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.*"

Jesus is our example of using the Word of God to combat the enemy. In **Matthew Chapter 4** Jesus was confronted and tempted by the devil. This was just after He was baptized by John and sent into the wilderness. The devil came at Him sideways. The devil first tried to bribe Him, then he tried to put Jesus in a trick bag by even perverting the Scriptures. How many of you know that the enemy often tries to throw you a curve ball by mixing in a little bit of truth with a lie, just to try to make you take the bait? In **Matthew 4:4, 7, 10** we clearly see how Jesus responds to the enemy of our souls, "*It is written, It is also written and Away from me, satan! For it is written ...*" Jesus used God's written Word! Nothing more, nothing less! **Romans 3:3-4** tells us, "*What if some do not have faith? Will their lack of faith nullify God's faithfulness? NOT AT ALL! Let God be true, and every man a liar.*" Again, His Word is quick and powerful! His Word in brief will say it all, when I for many ways am inadequate outside of Christ.

So let's go back to encouraging myself; I have learned this over the years. Just as my Savior used the written Word of God three different times to combat the enemy of our souls, so must I do likewise because He is our example. If we are Christians are we not to be like Him? So, as He does we do likewise!

So in times of distress or concern I've taken to standing in agreement with and quoting Scriptures out loud. I begin by taking the Word of God and making it personal like in **1 John 4:4**, "*(I am a child of God's, and have overcome the world), because the One that is in me is greater than the one that is in the world*", "*In ALL things (I am) more than a conqueror through Him Who loves (me).*" (**Romans 8:37**), "*I can do EVERYTHING through Him who gives me strength.*" (**Philippians 4:13**), and my all time favorite is **Isaiah 54:17**, "*No weapons formed against you (me) shall prosper, and every tongue that shall rise against you (me) in judgment shall you (I) condemn. This the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the Lord.*"

If we will be honest with ourselves we must admit that there are times when the enemy comes at us with doubt, fear, and uncertainty and we often feel the temptation to take the bait while setting the hook ourselves. I for one have found using Jesus' example of using the Word of God to combat the enemy in all my doubts and fears to be very effective. Knowing His Word and believing it enables us to stand IN HIM!

Today I am reading in **Joshua Chapter 10** and I encourage you all to read it for yourselves. In this particular portion of the Scriptures Joshua does something very profound to me. In the midst of a battle Joshua asked the Lord to cause the sun and the moon to stand still so that he could continue to do warfare (**Joshua 10:12**). One could read that and say, "Come on Joshua, that's just crazy! Don't you know anything about science? How's that going to happen?" Whether someone believes it or not **Joshua 10:13** goes on to say, **"So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies ... The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day."**

You see friends; we serve a God whom in all things are possible. **"For NOTHING is impossible with God." (Luke 1:37)** Brothers and sisters we have to learn His Word and learn to use it as a weapon of our warfare. I pray these words of encouragement will be helpful to someone out there as we all remember **Hebrews 10:23**, **"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised IS FAITHFUL."** Let me share **Hebrews 10:23** - from the Message Translation Bible, **"So let's do it - full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps His word."**

Testimony from the Outside ... A Mothers Heart and Perspective

By Teri B.

Dearest **Overcomers for Christ**, my son has continually shared his love for this print and contributed his perspective from time to time. Always expressing his love for Christ.

I felt lead to share my story even if I am not behind the scenes. My son has a bit less than 2 years to the gate and we praise Jesus for all He has done in our lives! If there are any moms out there that are having doubts, may your hope be restored.

Having lived through my son's drug addiction and coming out on the other side of the pain, it's worth sharing. The writing of this story is therapeutic as well as healing. Mostly, it is necessary for me to tell other mother's that, "God does a more sufficient job of clearing the way." After many hours of deliberations and consultations with God, it was clear what had to be done. His guidance penetrates much deeper and more spiritual than anything I am capable of expressing. My son and I became estranged and in 2004, I literally handed him to his heavenly Father and prayerfully asked for help.

Some drug addicts do not act out while under the influence. Some do. Some behave just as irresponsible as a Lab monkey on drugs. They become a prisoner behind their lies, shame, deception and doubt. In this case, a prisoner behind the bars of incarceration, lies, shame, deception and doubt. It was during the years of our separation that God worked His miracle. He gave my son all that he needed. He poured out and covered him with His Mercy and Grace. It was like a revelation had to occur. And it did! Could it be supernatural? You better believe it!!

I had not talked to my son in about 9 years. During which hard work was done. In 2012, I received a letter from my son. The return address was closer than where I had heard he was serving a 9 year sentence. The letter was GREAT! He essentially asked if I would consider coming to the prison for a face to face visit. Big changes had taken place and he was in the midst of obtaining a college degree in Seminary. Translated: He was to be a pastor. WOW!! A visit?! In all of the insanity and years of prison life, I had never participated. I had made that point super clear very early on. Why would I want to go to a prison? It wasn't my sentence, my actions or choices, right? No, thank you. Well, the Lord had a different plan. He revealed to me that I could do this. The same God that gave me the courage to let go and let Him handle my son's journey, inspired me to agree to a face to face visit. Again, WOW!!

It was one of the most amazing days of my life! I hated it so much! But, when my son walked through the door to the visitation area, I knew the pain was gone. The man, who walked towards me with open arms, was exactly what I had been waiting for, all of those years. We hugged and wept. The separation was over. We both realized we would never again have to reunite. The word 'clarity' is a good description of our feelings. We laughed, cried, talked, shared and repeated that about a dozen times. The experience of passing all of the rules and regulations was miserable! I was extremely self-concerned and freaked out until I learned the horror of what my son endured after our visit was over and he disappeared behind those doors.

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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 would like everyone to lift my uncle, Jim, and his family up in prayer. He has been battling lung cancer for two years, and recently the cancer has moved to his liver. He is going to start aggressive rounds of chemotherapy. "Lord, you have given us authority here on earth to call into existence the things that You died on the Cross for ... healing of sickness and disease. I believe in the power of prayer and the supernatural healing for Jim. I know that You answer prayers. I believe in miracles" ... Two years ago, Wade and I prayed for Jim when he was first

diagnosed with brain tumors and lung cancer. He had surgery to remove the tumors and started chemotherapy treatments. Through treatment (and prayer) the brain and lung tumors were reduced. He returned to work and hasn't let this keep him down. Also at that time, we prayed that Jim had more life left than what the doctors said. I prayed to God to give Jim more years here on earth because his kids were still young and they needed him. And here we are two years

later, and Jim is still here and he is a fighter, just like my grandpa, Jake, who had nine lives. I have always said that my family's genes are strong and defy medical logic ... my mom had lived longer than doctors ever said she would, she had severe breathing problems since childhood; my grandpa had been shot in the war, electrocuted, brain aneurysm, and heart by-pass surgery, another uncle who was in a severe motorcycle accident and was in a coma, and now my uncle, Jim, who will also defy the odds like his sister, father, and brother. God is faithful, He is good and He is our healer ...

Exodus 15:26 says that God is our healer and our life giver ... By Jesus' stripes, Jim is healed ... **Michelle Anderson**

I'd like to make a special request if I may that you and your church family pray for my children, that soon we will be reunited and that the guardian angels keep and protect them from any harm! This six year sentence is almost over for me and what a devastating time it has been - I lost my father at age 60, my mother at age 57 and my grandfather at age 80. Both my parents went early in age because of drugs and the lifestyle they chose. I'm left with beautiful memories. Sometimes it doesn't feel real, I know deep down this painful experience is going to always remind me of how helpless and reliant I have been on our Savior Jesus Christ! He is my strong tower ... Amen ... **L.R.**

Now that I go home, my wife is so excited and I have a strong family there to support me. Thank you Jesus!!! My dad beat stomach cancer, bone cancer and now fighting liver cancer and chemo is kicking his butt. Please ask the church to pray for him ... by His stripes he's healed. I pray for his quality of life and for God to heal him and keep him safe ... **B.E.**

Praise Reports

I want to let you guys know that God has been very loving, forgiving and gracious to me. I can't thank Him enough for His people and most of all for Him Himself. Life is a precious blessing and to live day to day and being able to rejoice in His name is the best thing ever. Praise God ... **K.H.**

I am due to be released in October 2016, and my hope is to learn more from my Liberator. Because even though I'm in this place as a prisoner I am liberated from the chains that had me bound. I am now free because Christ lives in me. I am a new creation ... **M.A.**

To **Overcomers for Christ**, just wanted to say, "Thank You," for both of the cards you all sent me that's right, it really put a smile on my face and also lifted my spirit too! May God bless you all and keep blessing your ministry; Praise the Lord, our God and Savior!!! Thank you as well for your kind words too, especially being in prison, being away from family, wives, sons and daughters. Especially when they don't write you when it's your birthday, it really gets to you. But I never gave up and I won't either until I see God in person in the kingdom of heaven on His time not our time! I tell all the brothers here too; I'm not doing my time or the prison guards' time! I'm doing the Living God's time! Praise the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior; may God, our Savior Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit keep blessing you all and our brothers and sisters at the **Overcomers for Christ**; Praise the Lord God Almighty. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, I really needed that spiritual Lift up, especially after my aunt passing away. Thank you for all your prayers, love and support. With much respect, from your brother in our Lord Jesus Christ. God bless you ... **D.G.**

I got released on a program which put me out 90 days early. I had to go to class for 12 classes. The program is Sage - it was good, I enjoyed it. I went to all my classes and didn't miss any, and now I go to TASC when my color comes up. These are things I never dreamed of ever doing, but such is life. My husband and kids are glad I'm home. Wow! Lots of changes, but I am living it like it never happened, and I thank God every day for making me the strong person that I have become. I've always been strong, but I have become stronger, with God everything is possible. They sure missed my cooking ... They tell me, "Mom, we sure are glad you are home, not just because of your cooking, but we really missed you." They have changed of course. Having 3 teenagers is quite a challenge. I want to keep in touch with you and I want to receive the newsletter I used to get in prison. I really enjoyed reading your material and I believe in our Lord and I'll keep my faith, hope and joy always ... **J.K.**

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From the Inside

Right Where I Was

By G.B.B.

First I want thank you for your card and your words. All of you at the *Overcomers for Christ* mean so much to me, for reals. From the time when my wife and three daughters were killed by a drunk driver, over these last eight years, my faith has honestly grown. I remember the night I found out about them being killed. I was locked up and I remember wanting to give up on life. But God came to me right in my cell. I remember God letting me hear my family tell me that everything was going to be okay. And you know what? Everything has been as they said! Sure there have been some tough times here on the inside but I've pushed on. Besides you all at the *OC* there is one other newsletter that writes me and to be honest with you, I have never been so blessed as when I found you all's newsletter. I used to be a very hard man. Not to my family but to others. I never let anyone talk down to my wife and kids and I never talked down to them either.

Here are a few places that I've been studying over the past few days. I hope all of the Overcomers will enjoy them and get revelation like I have. In **2 Timothy 1:7** the Word tells us, **"For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love and self-discipline."** Now look closely at **1 Samuel 16:14** where it says, **"But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him."** What I saw here was that the spirit that left Saul was probably not the Holy Spirit but instead the royal anointing of God. Why? Well because the indwelling Holy Spirit secures and empowers all believers and that is not what was going on here in this Scripture. Next, even though God does have dominion and authority over demons that is NOT the God we serve. Instead it could have been a spirit of depression that came over Saul. Listen to what Jesus had to say about whether God would be involved in such a thing, in **Luke 11:14-28**, but in particular **Verses 24-26**. **"When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that person is worse than the first."** Now honestly you can see God had nothing to do with orchestrating this condition.

I'll close with **Hebrews 13:20-21**, **"Now may the God of peace, Who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing His will, and may He work in us what is pleasing to Him, through Jesus Christ, to Whom be glory forever and ever. Amen."**

Don't Stop Praying

By J.H.

I believe I'm on the right path now, but I need to start spreading His Word more and reach out to share what I have. The majority of the people I mix with either on the basketball court or in passing are gangbangers, active gangbangers. Most of them are good people and some are even my friends. In fact I'm an ex-gangbanger. Most of them are strong willed and are 'self' dependant or survival type people, and Jesus is opposite of that. Sometimes I tell them that Jesus loves them. Other times I tell myself, "I'll just let them see my joy, my attendance at church and my positive attitude. Hopefully my words and my patience will be my testimony." And nine times out of ten I leave it at that. But I know I need to do more.

I've been saved since 2004 but honestly this is the first time I have ever studied the Word. There is a huge, HUGE difference between sitting and listening to a pastor preach and actually sitting down and searching the Scriptures. I feel I'm still a baby in Christ and I do thank God for the motivation He gives me to seek Him. It used to seem like a hassle or a burden. I know that I don't have too, and today it's great because I TRULY WANT TOO and I thank God every day for this new desire to know Him!

I heard a pastor the other day say, "If your left hand hurts, thank God that your right hand doesn't!" That's important, we must remember to thank God for the blessings that we have because not only is it right, but when we receive more blessings it will be like 'icing on the cake'. My material blessings are few and far between in here due to the lack of things I can have and I know it's hard on everyone in here, so stay strong.

I also heard from a friend I grew up playing baseball with, and I got goose bumps! Jesus Christ is real!! I no longer base my beliefs on what I get, but instead on what Jesus has already done! This is a major learning experience I just recently

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got. I used to think, "Well, if I don't have this or that, I must be doing something wrong." But I now know that true joy comes from what He has ALREADY done; we have eternity.

Words of Encouragement

By R.E.

I pray that you have continued to do well in the last half of your treatments, because they are just that 'treatments'. It is through the grace of God that we are healed. Our Lord and Savior said it and I'm in agreement with His Word. It's His Word that we place our faith in. I'll continue to pray for you and your family, which to me are the Overcomers for Christ. Always know that you are NEVER alone because God has placed a division of His Army beside you, "Overcomers for Christ". And with that I'd like to leave everyone with a few words of encouragement. I'm a recipient of God's grace and when one fully understands the importance of that, they'll forever be a changed person.

"Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet, only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, vision cleared, ambition inspired and success achieved. Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming of it."... Helen Keller

"The tragedy of life does not lie in not reaching your goal; the tragedy lies in not having a goal to reach."... Benjamin Mays

"I am not a special person; I am a regular person who does special things."... E.E. Cummins

"It is impossible to know essential Truth and not be responsible to share it. If you know the Gospel well enough to be a Christian, you know it well enough to share it. The man that makes no mistakes does not usually make anything."... Edward Phelps

"We grow, not in spite of our difficulties, but because of them."... Michael Beckwith

"Man can live forty days without food, about three days without water, about eight minutes without air, but only one second without hope." ... Hal Lindsey

"It's only the fear of God that can deliver us from the fear of men."... John Witherspoon

"I have learned silence from the talkative, tolerance from the intolerant and kindness from the unison, yet strange, I am ungrateful to these teachers."... Kohl Gibran

"Troubles are designed not to run you away from God, but to drive you straight into His arms. All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."... R.W. Emerson

Jeremiah 15:19 states, **"If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve Me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be My spokesman ..."**

Every resistance to your vision comes to make you wiser, not weaker. Every opposition comes to strengthen you, not stop you.

In **Matthew 10:34** Jesus spoke, **"Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword."** The sword of which Jesus spoke is the sharpest of all implements of conflict, "TRUTH"! And those who hold it will find themselves hunted by evil.

"Your life does not get better by chance; instead it gets better by change."... Jim Rohm

No matter how far down a wrong road you have traveled, there's no shame in turning back. Specific pain enables us to comfort others specifically.

"A proud man is always looking down on things and people, and of course as long as you are looking down, you cannot see something above you." ... C.S. Lewis

Proverbs 16:9 tells us, **"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."**

I don't trust a man who hasn't suffered, as diamonds are made by pressure, and pearls formed by irritation, so greatness is forged by adversity and sound advice comes from veterans of pain.

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2 Kings 10:32-12:21

Joash didn't go far enough in removing sin from the nation, but he did much that was good and right. When we aren't sure if we've gone far enough in correcting our actions, we can ask:

- 1) Does the Bible expressly prohibit this action?
- 2) Does this action take me away from loving, worshiping, or serving God?
- 3) Does it make me a slave?
- 4) Is it bringing out the best in me, consistent with God's purpose?
- 5) Does it benefit other believers? (12:2)

Acts 18:1-22

Sometimes we can feel alone or isolated especially when we see wickedness all around us or are persecuted for our faith. Usually, however, there are others in the neighborhood or community who are also following Christ. Ask God to lead you to them.

Psalms 145:1-21

Sometimes our burdens seem more than we can bear, and we wonder how we can go on. David stands at this bleak intersection of life's road and meditates on the Lord, the Great Burden Bearer. God is able to lift us up because:

- 1) His greatness is beyond discovery.
- 2) He does mighty acts for each generation.
- 3) He is full of glorious splendor and majesty.
- 4) He does awe-inspiring deeds.
- 5) He is righteous.
- 6) He is kind, merciful, patient, loving, and compassionate.
- 7) He rules an everlasting Kingdom.
- 8) He is our source of all our daily needs.
- 9) He is righteous and kind in all His dealings.
- 10) He remains close to those who call on Him.
- 11) He hears our cries and rescues us.

If you are bending under a burden and feel that you are about to fall, turn to God for help. He is ready to lift up and bear your burden. (145:14)

Proverbs 18:1

This Proverb condemns any person who isolates himself from the community for selfish reasons. Such a recluse is so intolerant of anyone who disagrees with him that he finds fault with all wise judgment. (18:1)

“Foot” Notes

Hello everyone! Blessings to you all throughout this entire New Year, 2016!

Now don't ask me how these following thoughts came into being. But the other day I was perusing the pages of a 'Hot Bike' magazine checking out this custom, lowered full-dresser Harley Davidson (bagger) when the word 'baggage' came to mind. Now, these custom 'baggers' are purposely built to carry baggage. Granted some of them look pretty hot while maintaining the ability to haul extra junk to wherever they may be headed.

Now we humans were NOT designed to haul all that baggage or junk. Yet here many of us are weighed down with so much junk that we can't seem to move even one step forward without all our baggage making itself known. So here's the deal, we weren't purposely built to haul a bunch of junk around! We're not suppose to let what was, or is, hold us back from what, who or where we COULD BE! Que no? The amazing thing is that we've been given an out, free of charge. When we accept Jesus into our lives that alone gives us a way to un-clutter our lives with junk (baggage). Let God deal with that stuff! Trust in God and His promises that through our faith in Him, "All things are possible!" Don't waste your time putting energy into people or things that drag us down. For when we fixate on that stuff "they" are given more attention than "they" are due. Instead, we could be using that same energy and making our situation better by trusting in God and cutting loose ALL that useless baggage.

Back in the day, I used to ride from state to state with nothing more than a few dollars \$\$ and a screwdriver. No baggage required! HA! HA! Love to you all short and tall ... Vaya Con Dios

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Fast forward 3 years ... Like I mentioned earlier we have a couple of years left before we will be blessed with freedom. It never gets easier or pleasant, just acceptable. Because of the gratefulness we both feel to have our relationship restored, time is flying by. You can believe what *Psalm 4:1* says, "*Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress.*"

We both embrace the knowledge that worry helps nothing. To worry about the future is like looking into God's face and telling Him that you do not trust Him. By all means, we trust God's perfect timing and we praise the perfect love He freely gives to His children. In *Isaiah 64:4* we read, "*Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides You, who acts on behalf of those who wait for Him.*" Let me assure everyone who is reading this, God WILL send you blessings and help, and He WILL reveal truth that you would otherwise never have come your way. Many others will receive great insights and blessings because you were "locked up" to learn the way of faith.

THE MAGIC BANK ACCOUNT

Contributed by Courtney Dobbins

The author is not known. It was found in the billfold of Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant (College football player and long-time head coach at the University of Alabama football team) after he died in 1983.

Imagine that you had won the following *PRIZE* in a contest. Each morning your bank would deposit \$86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules, the set of rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.

Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another \$86,400 for that day. The bank can end the game without warning; at any time it can say, "Game Over!" It can close the account and you will not receive a new one.

What would you personally do? You would buy anything and everything you wanted, right? Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all, because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right?

Actually, This GAME is REAL ... Shocked??? ... YES!

Each of us is already a winner of this *PRIZE*. We just can't seem to see it.

The PRIZE is *TIME*!!

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. When we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is not credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.

Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING ... SO, what will YOU do with your 86,400 seconds? Those seconds are worth so much more than the same amount in dollars. Think about it and remember to enjoy every second of your life, because time races by so much quicker than you think.

So take care of yourself, be happy, love deeply and enjoy life! Here's wishing you a wonderful and beautiful day. Start spending ... Don't complain about growing old ... some people don't get the privilege!

Quote Worthy

"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."

- John Quincy Adams (July 11, 1767 - February 23, 1848) - an American statesman who served as the sixth President of the United States from 1825 to 1829. He also served as a diplomat, a Senator and member of the House of Representatives.

Overcomer's Testimonies

SNAP

First I want to thank all of you at the *OC* for continuing to send me your newsletters every month. I know that you all put forth a great deal of effort in order to make that happen.

I was reading the June and July issues of the newsletter where I came across the testimony about your accident. After reading it I felt the urge to share my own testimony with all of you. My testimony also came in the form of a motorcycle accident. So here it goes.

Somewhere in mid-November of 2010, I had a 1979 Yamaha 1100 Super Deluxe. I loved that bike. Since there is not a mandatory helmet law in Arizona and only eye protection, I always chose to wear the safety glasses that I also used at my day job as a sheet metal fabricator. I didn't even own a helmet. One night after work a friend of mine asked me if I would be willing to help him pull the engine out of a Ford Taurus over the weekend. I said, "Sure, I love to turn wrenches!"

I was ready and waiting at his house the morning the engine removal was to take place. I left my motorcycle at his house on 15th Ave. and Peoria, and rode with him to his dad's house at 43rd Ave. and Thomas where the Taurus was. On the way there we came across a church that was having a yard sale of donated items. As we approached the church I seen a motorcycle helmet sitting on the ground and yelled for my friend to, "PULL OVER!" So he did.

Honestly, I didn't really want the helmet to wear but only to have just to say, "Yes I do have a helmet." As I walked over to pick it up I was looking around until I spotted a volunteer helping with the sale. I seen a young lady and asked her, "How much is this helmet?" She replied, "Five dollars." So I quickly said, "I'll take it!" Then my friend and I continued on our journey to remove that engine.

Once we arrived where the car was we got right to work. In just a short amount of time my friend started hooking up the chains for the cherry picker as I got underneath to remove the bolts from the motor mounts. Once the engine was loose we started to remove it from the engine compartment and immediately noticed there were some brake lines going to the master cylinder that were in the way and needed to be removed. So I did just that.

My friend's 5 year old son loved to play with glasses of any type and occasionally he broke them. Since I only had one pair with me I decided I'd better keep them, on top of my head. Once the brake lines were detached I crawled under the car again with a crowbar to help guide the motor out while my friend continued to raise it with the cherry picker. It was during this process that I heard a 'SNAP' on top of my head. At first I thought it was dirt clods or something of that nature falling that was until I moved a little more and discovered one of my safety glass lenses laying on my chest. After a quick examination I realized the 'SNAP' I heard was the frame of my glasses. Evidently what happened was a drop of brake fluid had fallen directly on the frame causing a chemical reaction and weakening them until they 'snapped'.

After we had finished the job there that day we went back to my friend's house where I left my bike. I had a girlfriend that lived right there in the area and we had already made plans to hang out that evening. Since the only pair of glasses I had with me had gotten broken, which was my eye protection, earlier in the day ... the only choice I had was to wear the helmet with a face shield that I had gotten earlier that day. I said my goodbyes and fired up my bike and headed west-bound on Peoria Ave. towards 35th Ave. I had no idea what was soon to come.

As I approached 19th Ave., the light was green so I proceeded towards the intersection. There was a truck facing east in the turn lane, and before I knew it he turned left right in front of me. I had NO time at all to avoid the truck and smashed right into the center of his axle at about 45 mph. His truck spun out three times until it finally hit a light pole in front of the Churches chicken place. I flew off the bike and was airborne for close to 100 feet. I hit the ground so hard that the helmet popped off. But before it did it took the initial impact and saved my life.

I was rushed from the accident to John C. Lincoln Hospital where they soon diagnosed that I had broken my pelvis on both sides. I was placed in ICU. After two days Access insurance refused to cover any more expense at which point I was basically kicked out of the hospital. After I left the hospital I did do physical therapy for quite some time. Although it has now been close to 5 years since that accident I am still trying to get surgery for some internal injuries from that crash. Other than that, I am pretty much healthy by all other accounts.

It took me quite some time of reflecting on the matter to realize that had anything different happened that day, I would have most likely been wearing safety glasses that evening and most likely would NOT have survived that crash. I believe that the Lord was there that day and had the helmet put there at the church yard sale where I could see it for my protection. I later did some research on the HJC (brand of helmet I had bought), which by the way was brand new, and found that that particular helmet was priced at around \$400. So you tell me, does the Lord work in mysterious ways or what?
AMEN! - D.W.

What Others Are Saying...




"I recently received your birthday wishes and I'd like to thank you for the thought and concern that came with it. I know that none of us are kids anymore and birthdays don't have the same impact as they used to, that being said, it's still nice to have someone notice. Thank you. I wish you all the best and as I'm pretty short to the gate, I look forward to shaking the hands of the folks who've extended their hands to me." - D.S.

"A fellow inmate here in prison has given me one of your newspapers. I found it really inspirational, I really liked the poems." - A.L.

"First off I'd like to say, what you guys do is a blessing and truly amazing. I sit here in my cell and once a month, your newsletter comes sliding under my door. Some days are better than others, but surely the day I hear from you automatically turns better. Your newsletter helps me to learn new things to read in the Bible and opens up my mind to the different meanings in the Bible. I thank you for that help to understand what I'm reading. It's also one of the best reminders to stop and take the time to spend some time with God. And I really do appreciate that. This month was my birthday and I was blessed with a little something extra from you guys. The Happy Birthday wishes from Wade, Anthony, Michelle and Julie were very, very, very nice and brought a smile to my face and made me feel great. So, I'd like to say thank you to all of you for brightening, not only my day but also my spirits. It was a real blessing and extremely nice of you all to take the time to say Happy Birthday. God bless all of you! While I'm here writing you, I'd like to let you know that the newsletter you send me makes its way around the pod here, starting with my celly and then passed to other believers, so they can be in on all the wonderful things in it. So it's reaching out further than just me. My celly asked if I'd give you guys his info so if we happen to get split up, he would still be able to hear the things you guys cover in the newsletter." - B.B.


"I haven't written in a while ... Things have been crazy, but the one thing that hasn't changed is the constant thoughts that everything will get better if I opened up the Book. So, I'm writing to thank you for continuing to send me your newsletter, it reminded me again to go back to the basics." - A.P.

"I attend a Bible study five days a week called P.A.S.S. which means Practical Application Scripture Study. It's led by inmates right in the middle of the yard. What a blessing it is to be a part of that and God's Kingdom. It was there that I came across your newsletters. Will you please put me on your mailing list? I love your positive teachings, testimonies, praise reports and prayer requests. My favorite scriptures are ... **Romans 8:2 - "And because you belong to him, the power of the life-giving Spirit has freed you from the power of sin that leads to death."** ... **Philippians 4:13 - "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."** ... **Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope."** - D.S.

"To my Christian family, just so you all at  know, my faith in Christ has been strong, and my walk in the light grows daily. I thank every one of you at  for your love and for your prayers for us on the inside; also I want to thank you for that amazing magazine you send me every month. It helps me to get a better understanding of so many things, and the poems and other healthy things I send to my loved ones, so thanks for everything you send to me, it helps me to grow in Christ. I have been praying for all at  and I want you all to know that Jesus Christ loves you and so do I. Just these little words from God's truth and to know there are people who care and can help one through this time of hurt and confusion is encouraging. So, thank you in Jesus name." - B.M.

"Dear Duck, Michelle, Raymond, Julie and all the rest of my brothers and sisters, all the pretty ladies and handsome men. It's great to see, the blender is on the counter and the bikes behind the couch. This family you have is very special ... I wish to meet them all when I get out. I wish to come over and bring chocolate milk shakes for everyone. I love all the letters and pictures you send. I love my birthday card, thank you very much. Please don't change anything you do, stay on the sunny side of life. I wish for the Lord to grant my prayers like He has yours, very blessed and bright. Your words you send always touch my heart; the looks, the smiles and the love I see at your home I want for me." - B.A.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings ... 2 Ways to Give

There are **two** ways to give to the  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

- or -

ONLINE at <http://livingwordonline.com> - click in the "Give" icon - If you are a 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"

Your giving does qualify as a 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



My Armor
By G.B.B.

Your love is my shield, Your will is my sword.
Your Spirit, my courage, my armor, Your Word.
I run to the foe, and enter the fight,
Not doubting the win, nor Your awesome might.
I battle with satan, each day that I live,
Needing all the power Your mercy can give.
One day I will rest away from all harm,
At home in heaven in Your peaceful arms.

Giving My Word

(Inspired by the poem 'A Promise is a Promise')
By K.P.

I gave my word, to quit doin' crime and to clean up my act,
I started by flushing down my dope sack,
Then I bowed down and asked for forgiveness,
To help me change and permanently get out of that business.

Although it didn't seem to change overnight,
Evidently it did, cuz now I'm living right.
So many roads I chose back then were rough!
That nasty devil had me thinkin' I was the one that was so tough.

But now it's so clear that God intervened,
Without our heavenly Father I'd never gotten clean.
You see, our Lord and Savior knows when enough is enough,
He's that powerful, and without God we'd still be doing that stuff!

Lord Your forgiveness and LOVE I so cherish,
Without You in my life I would have surely perished.
So, I'm giving You my word - less angels will have to look over me,
To free them up so they can save others like I once used to be.

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 Dobbin's **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

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