

Overcomers for Christ

December 2021



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

November 2020



Are We There Yet?

By H.A.M.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is the gift of power, while the lack of power is due to the absence of His indwelling fullness. Let's look here in **Luke 24:49**, "**Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.**" And now, from **Acts 1:8**, "**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**" These red lettered words are from the mouth of Jesus Himself. The indwelling fullness requires a continual desire and effort to submit. **Isaiah 44:3** tells, "**For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring ...**"

"If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13) We see here that God eagerly waits to give His Holy Spirit to those that ask. You ask why? In **1 John 4:8** it tells us, "**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**" Listen, "**But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**" (**Galatians 5:22-23**) It's the fruit of His Holy Spirit that brings the perfection of love, thus freeing us, "**For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.**" (**Romans 10:4**) Here, Jesus confirms, in **John 16:13**, "**However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.**" (**John 16:13**) So divine revelation is wrought through God's Spirit of truth and unabridged.

The Holy Spirit has the power to renew God's people. In fact, regeneration is one of the Holy Spirit's works. The Holy Spirit imparts to the willing God's nature, so that the regenerated think God's thoughts, wills only what God wills, loves what God loves, and hates what God hates. Look at **Titus 3:3-7**, "**For we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**"

Consider the boldness in what the Apostle Paul wrote here, in **Acts 21:10-13**, "**And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, 'Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.' Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, 'What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.'**"

Paul's example is a picture of someone who is rooted in Jesus and regenerated. He was already to be bound as a prisoner because he was already bound to Jesus. No other name or loyalty brought life for Paul. "**Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified.**" (**1 Peter 4:12-14**) In other words, there should be no other options! "No hurt, no big shirt."

Acts 5:38b-39 reveals, "**for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.**" That brings to mind how some ministries teach that we should pray for patience. First off, it's not that we have a lack of patience. Patience is a fruit of the Spirit. What we need is already inside of our born-again spirits. Instead of praying, what we should be doing is digging deeper into what is already in us. Maybe, whatever is requiring more patience is in fact what James says here in **James 1:2-3**, "**My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.**"

Now I don't know about all of you, but I find plenty of trials and tribulations in my life without asking for extra portions. We are, however, instructed to keep our eyes peeled, even while tolerating physical and/or psychological torment, especially in our evangelical ministries. That's exactly what **2 Timothy 4:5** says, "**But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.**" Paul encourages us, here in **Philippians 4:7**, "**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**" And in the Old Testament, **Isaiah 26:3** states, "**You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trust in You.**"

Like the rhetorical question kids ask on a long road trip, "Are We There Yet," Our stance or position should be like that of the Apostle Paul, **"I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."** (*Philippians 3:14*) The conditions are simple, unalterable, and universal. God waits to fill ordinary people with extraordinary power and turn a baffled faith into a rapturous conquest. You ask how? Look at these three different Scripture addresses. **"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."** (*Luke 24:49*) **"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** (*Acts 1:8*) And *Acts 2:4-6*, **"And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven. And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language."** It's important to note, in this latter verse there were approximately 120 people! Curiously, the Holy Spirit often takes the ones who give the least natural promise and uses them far more than those who give the greatest natural promise.

We as Christians direct people towards God's Word to get knowledge of Jesus, but it is only as the Holy Spirit takes the Word of God and illuminates it, that people ever get a real living knowledge of Christ. *First Corinthians 12:3* states, **"Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit."** Now look here in *1 Corinthians 2:11-14*, **"For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."**

So, neither personal testimony nor that of the Word alone will suffice. Unless your testimony is imposed (established) by the Holy Spirit, and He Himself testifies, others will not believe. You can reason with them indefinitely and still fail, but the Holy Spirit can cause you to be victorious quickly. Listen to Jesus here in *John 16:7-8*, **"Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment ..."**

Prayer is crucial for successful evangelizing; it's what plowing is to sowing seed. **"... but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."** (*Acts 6:4*) The Holy Spirit in answer to the prayers of those who will let Him pray in them, will prepare hearts to receive God's Word. The Holy Spirit's praying will stir hearts into believing and gladly receiving salvation as seen here in *Acts 2:41*, **"Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."** In *Romans 8:26* Paul tells us, **"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."**

In closing, I would like to impart the following. The only people who really pray are the people who need God, know they need God, and cannot make it without God. God tells us, through Jeremiah, **"Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."** (*Jeremiah 33:3*)

Peace from Fears and Anxieties

By J.M.

Family at the *Overcomers for Christ!* I just received the latest newsletter and read it through completely. Thank you all so much for the work you all do for the Lord as it richly blesses me.

Recently an acquaintance here of mine expressed his deep feelings of fear and anxiety around all of this Coronavirus scare. He is not alone, as I hear many inmates expressing their fears also. In that, my heart goes out to them because in most cases I do not know where they stand with our Savior, Jesus Christ. As a result, I wrote this guy a letter to share with him how I feel about fears and anxieties. I also felt led to send most of that same letter to you so as to hopefully encourage some of the *Overcomers for Christ* family that read this newsletter as well. Here it is.

After hearing you, and many others, express your fears and anxieties surrounding this ugly virus that is going around, I feel led to share with you my thoughts, feelings and beliefs.

Listening to your words, my heart goes out to you. I do know how you feel, in fact, I too felt the same way even before this current threat. You see, I am in the age range (73) where those thoughts, fears and anxieties came frequently and easily.

continued on page 9 ...

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THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Praise Reports

Thank you for the awesome July newsletter. A surprise was in there as you placed something I'd written to you in a response to another sermon I heard/read. I appreciated that because it was so unexpected and at the same time, meaningful. At the present time I'm really seeing and learning, especially through trials. In these times I remember the stuff you all teach in the newsletters as well as words from my blood father, Mr. L. It's true that when parents plant the seeds - train up their children in the ways of God, as adults it shows by their fruit. So, it felt like the best gift I could pass on to my father, to share the newsletter because it was unplanned, but special. I can't do much for my dad, but I bet him reading about what his daughter feels about Jesus, touches him on the inside parts. A similar thing happened through a volunteer from Prison Fellowship, before the COVID stopped their coming inside. But He who is in us is way better, greater, cooler and stronger than he that is in the world! Anyways, this lady attends the same church as my dad, a Baptist church in Phoenix. She ran into him at church a few months ago and spoke a few words about me that were also 'like WOW!' My stepmother even had a hard time believing what this complete stranger was telling her and my dad. They both soon realized it was true, God sent this lady to them to confirm His Word about training up our children in the ways of Jesus Christ and when they are older, we will see the fruit. I remember long ago there was a beautiful lady here named Theresa G. who introduced me to the **Overcomers for Christ**, and when I say 'long ago' I mean it. She has since gone on to be with our Father in heaven, but it's cool to know that it was her who hooked me up with this newsletter that I still read and pray for others' needs. The sermons are always on point AND it all helps me get out of my own trippin' and loneliness. All three of these events have touched my life on a huge level. I am truly blessed to be a part of a family of love ... **J.L.**

Well, I've gotten through all of this new court stuff and finally landed where I'm going to be for some years to come! Yes, you heard right. They gave me another 10 more years. In that, I will continually press forward and upward in who I am in Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen!? I've already started a Bible study, praise God! The Lord is good to us my brother. Something has been laid on my heart and I'd like to ask you a question. 'Could I possibly start writing a little something for our **OC&C** newsletter like I used to years ago?' Again, God has been downloading lots of things in me, over these past couple of years, and it's all stored in my heart to give away. I'm not really sure why I think I have to ask you this question again. We've been together, off and on, in this vision/mission since 2007 ... **M.M.**

I sincerely pray that all of you there are resting in the ever-growing peace that passes all human understanding (**1 Peter 1:2**). Towards the end of that verse it says, "**May peace and grace be multiplied to you.**" The word there that excites me is 'multiplied'. This walk with Jesus and our obedience will allow us to connect with the fruit of His Spirit that already live inside of us. I love this promise, in **1 Peter 1:23 (AMP)**, "**for you have been born again [that is, reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for His purpose] not of seed which is perishable but [from that which is] imperishable and immortal, that is, through the living and everlasting word of God.**" And then when we read, here in **Galatians 5:22-23**, "**But the FRUIT of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; ...**" we see 'the fruit' not 'the fruits' that, according to **1 Peter 1:23**, we already have inside of us from the second we become born again. So, in reality we already have unlimited love, unlimited joy, unlimited peace, unlimited patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control living inside of us! Praise Jesus our cup is continually overflowing! I truly believe that my personal calling is in these prisons and juvenile halls. God is so perfect in His plan and wisdom. While I was trying to kill myself with drugs, gangs and other things, **Romans 8:28** says, "**And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.**" I want to thank all of you there at the **OC&C** for truly being in the trenches. You all are truly difference makers, and your work never ever goes unnoticed ... **J.H.**

Hello **OC&C** family! Today I can honestly tell you, I am doing a lot better since I am out of lockdown and back out on an open yard. I've already signed up for church services. I've also signed up for school, in order to get my GED AND I've applied for a job! Things are looking brighter thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ ... **V.I.**

Greetings in the mighty name of Jesus! Vast improvements have been happening in my relationship with my dad. And the gratitude I feel towards all of you there and the power of our newsletter is endless. Jesus is obviously working through this newsletter to change lives and restore relationships. Life is better than one might think. But wait, there's more! Last week volunteer services started back up after over a year of no services, aside from an occasional Chaplains service. We should be able to attend evening services every Thursday for my building, provided everything goes according to administration. I'm obviously looking forward to building our congregation again! And, I only have 3-4 courses left to complete my AA degree in Bible studies ... **M.D.**

I just got your letter in the mail tonight. It is always good to hear from you. I don't know what it is but every time I read your words; I can feel the power of the Holy Spirit through them. Praise God, right there is my answer! Thank you all for giving us His love to share with others. It also helps us make friends along the way. As you well know, I've just come off my 3-year set off and just seen parole. I do believe that I am probably going to make this one ... **R.G.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Lord Is at the Door

By M.M.

Many of us are learning, some the hard way, just how fast time really goes by, and none of us are guaranteed another tomorrow. The Lord is at the Door. The things going on in this world should be of no surprise to those of us who have read much of the Bible. The pestilence, disease, wars, earthquakes, COVID-19, Haiti, Afghanistan, North Korea, and America – all of these things are the beginning of birth pains. Now is not the time, as if there ever is, for the church to remain in complacent living and in lukewarmness. It's time for all of us to step up and step out of our comfort zones. It's time to step into boldness, walk with courage and know how righteous we are by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Brothers and sisters, it's time for us, the inside family of the *Overcomers for Christ*, to step up like brother Duck and sister Michelle did all those years ago. They saw the vision and received the mission with boldness as they continue to press forward for the glory of God! We all have a platform through this newsletter ministry to follow through with the things God has placed inside each of us. The Lord is at the Door and He's asking you, "Whom shall I send?" Will you answer the call and receive all that He has already prepared for you and the multitudes He is ready to place before you?

A Special Shout Out to My Dad

By M.D.

Overcomers for Christ family. Please allow me to send a special shout out to my dad, who also happens to be a member of this *OC&C* family and the inspiration of my words here today. My dad has been a great example of an 'Overcomer' in my life, and it's taken me over 50 years and a 'LIFE' sentence to finally realize this. With the Lord's help I'd like to share a little bit of what I've learned about being an 'Overcomer' from my dad.

The value of hard work. 'The harvest is plentiful, yet the workers are few.'

Financial stewardship. 'Who then is the faithful and wise steward.'

Relationships. 'How the essence of true love always incorporates the truth of Scripture.'

Lifestyle evangelism. 'Showing me a meaningful way to walk through the hurt and heartaches of life, the inevitable challenges and difficulties with the truths of God's Word.'

I was introduced to Jesus and made the altar call to accept Him as my Lord and Savior in 1986 when my dad and step-mother took me to church. I recall the very first Scripture that my dad turned me on to. It was, "***What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?***" (***Romans 8:31***) I've witnessed my dad overcome the power of addiction to alcohol and drugs. We all know what it feels like when life disappoints us or doesn't work out as we had hoped. My dad has shown me that no matter what kind of discouragement, grief, pain, trouble or heartache we encounter, God always offers us a new beginning, a change of heart or a powerful spiritual turnaround. And how to prevent my current circumstances from getting the final say while allowing the Holy Spirit to lead and guide me.

My dad has given me advice on how to turn my struggles into strengths, by allowing God into my deepest hurts. Through this revelation I've learned how spiritual applications of confession or honesty and how God's Word can and will help me form a daily connection with Jesus. My dad has encouraged me to find joy in my life in spite of my circumstances, and how RIGHT NOW is the time for passionately renewing my love for God in return for the love and precious promises He's given me. My dad may not even realize how he has encouraged me to listen to God and how God still has a perfect plan for my life, even here in prison. It's all happening as the Lord shapes and molds my heart and mind, through prayer, meditation, and devotion to Him. By doing these things I've been able to restore relationships with family and loved ones. And even repairing my past mistakes.

Because of how I now see my dad I've found I'm experiencing the truth, as God has made vast improvements in my relationship with my dad. The catalyst for this restoration of our relationship has come through our connection to the *OC&C* newsletter. Through this newsletter both he and my stepmother have seen for themselves what the Lord is doing with me and through me, for His kingdom. I'm so grateful to the entire *OC&C* family for all of your prayers, cards and especially the newsletters!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Our Purpose Is Love

By C.G.

Peace be with all of you there in the church. It seems that I can only ever write about one topic, and that is love. I do believe this is what I was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write. Because of that, I am hopeful that it will be helpful as it was a delight to write. As we read the recorded words in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) we begin to see, all that is taught by the Apostles is what they learned from Jesus Himself. In **Matthew Chapters 4-7**, we get the first teachings of Christ in how to stay strong, keep any adversary at bay, and how to live a normal loving caring life. What makes love most important?

For starters, Jesus said so! But equally so, unconditional love for everyone and everything in God's creation is the only way to see the complete righteousness and love that God has prepared for us. Let's read **Matthew 5:46** together, *"For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?"* Loving those who love you is important, but Jesus just alluded to loving even those who don't love you. And the only way to achieve this is by unconditional and equal love for all. Move down a couple of verses to **Matthew 5:48** and let's read again, *"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."* Please understand this, we are made in God's image and as He is, so are we. God's Image does NOT consist of anger, disappointment, depression, sadness, weakness, and foolish hardships!

Look here, in **1 Corinthians 13:3-8a**, what love looks like, *"And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing. Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails;"* I say, and am very, very confident, while being led by the Holy Spirit, when you love unconditionally and equally all that God has put in this life for you to experience, you will.

You are perfect in His sight. When you are smiling, laughing and being your joyful self, you are perfect. We all have the answers to a joy filled life; God wrote it all down on our hearts. The thing we have to do is, *"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."* (**Romans 12:2**) Let's look at Jesus' words, the letters written in red, here in **Matthew 22:35-40**, *"One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, 'Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?' And He said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. This is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."* Even while "they" were trying to trick Jesus He clearly states that the most important things for us to remember and work towards achieving is, *"YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND."* And *"YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF"*

God has blessed us within our born-again spirits, with everything we need to live our lives like He has asked. In everything that we do, before we act, maybe we should ask ourselves, "Will God see love in my actions? With all the right motives, will everyone involved feel loved and will I love myself before and after this?" I truly believe that when we take just a minute to stop and think before we act, we will live a better, more Christ-like life. Taking that little time out to think before we act will bring us more joy and happiness. This in turn will collectively lead to the peaceful life that God has promised us when He sent Jesus to the Cross! Jesus made it all possible, by obeying God, so we can achieve it by living it first.

Remember, God created you to be you, but He also made us diversified so we are not all the same. He also made us all to be one through love, which in essence, is like God. Listen to what the Apostle John had to say about love, here in **1 John 4:7-13**, *"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. The one who does not love does not know God, for God is love. By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. In this is*

continued on page 11 ...

Jeremiah 42:1-44:23

Jeremiah and his associates spoke their own curse, Jeremiah merely elaborated on it. It was a tragic mistake to ask for God's guidance with no intention of following it. Be sure to never ask God for something that you know in your heart you really do not want. It is better not to pray than to pray hypocritically. God cannot be deceived. **(42:5-6 LASB/NLT)**

When we forget a lesson or refuse to learn it, we risk repeating our mistakes. The people of Judah struggled with this: to forget their former sins was to repeat them. To fail to learn from our failure is to assure future failure. Your past is your school of experience. Let your past mistakes point you to God's way. **(44:9-20 LASB/NLT)**

2 Timothy 2:1-21

As Timothy preached and taught, he would face suffering, but he should be able to endure. Paul used a comparison with soldiers, athletes and farmers who must discipline themselves and be willing to achieve the results they want. Like soldiers, we have to give up worldly security and endure rigorous discipline. Like athletes, we must train hard and follow the rules. Like farmers, we must work extremely hard and be patient. But we keep going despite suffering because of the thought of victory, the vision of winning, and the hope of harvest. We will see that our suffering is worthwhile when we achieve our goal of glorifying God, winning people to Christ and one day living eternally with Him. **(2:3-7 LASB/NLT)**

Psalms 92:1-93:5

Honoring God is not limited to young people who seem to have unlimited energy and strength. Even in old age, devout believers can produce spiritual fruit. There are many faithful older people who continue to have a fresh outlook and can teach us from a lifetime of experience of serving God. Seek out an elderly friend or relative who can tell you about his or her experiences with the Lord and challenge you to new heights of spiritual growth. **(92:14 LASB/NLT)**

Proverbs 26:3-5

We shouldn't take foolish people seriously and try to reason with their empty arguments. This will only make them proud and determined to win the argument. In some situations, you ought not even try to answer fools, for there is no way you can penetrate their closed minds. You may, in fact, be stooping to their level if you do choose to answer. Fools will abuse you, and you will be tempted to abuse them in return. There are other situations where your common sense tells you to answer in order to expose their pride and folly. **(26:4-5)**

"Foot" Notes

MERRY CHRISTMAS OVERCOMERS!

Well as another trying year comes to a close, I just pray that you all held on tight to your faith as we continue to go through all this nonsense in the world. It's probably not much of a stretch if I say that we've all lost some loved ones way before their time and can only take comfort in knowing they are with God now where they will suffer no more.

As children of God, we all need to lean on our faith and support each other during these crazy times. You don't have to look very hard to see that Christians are under attack and persecutions are on the rise right here in these United States. I pray for all of you in my daily time with our Creator.

What's kind of odd to me is those of us on this side of the wire you could say have a front row seat to see what's going on and yes, it hurts that we cannot be out knee deep in the battle alongside all God's warrior's standing with you in unity. Yet we're praying for you all.

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

Please let me share with you what I have found that has given me Unshakeable Peace!

The peace I'm talking about came over me when I first came to prison 8 ½ years ago. Actually, it was not all at once, but has been a continual process over these years. This process has prepared me to be able to endure this current crisis or any future crisis with peace in my mind and heart. This in no way means that fears and anxieties don't still come up every once in a while. But what it does mean is this, I am able to deal with it all in a much healthier way.

This whole process began with me, for real, when I finally gave in and totally surrendered and committed my life to Jesus Christ, Who is my God, my Savior, my Friend, my Confidant, my Helper, my Guide ... well, my EVERYTHING! Through this I can totally lean on His promises, and I do.

Who is Jesus Christ to me? He is God in human form – the great "I AM." **John 1:1** states, ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."***

John 1:14, ***"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."***

Here are just some of the many, many promises which have been given and that I fully trust in.

John 3:16, ***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."***

Romans 6:23, ***"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."***

Romans 10:19, ***"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."***

Romans 3:23, ***"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."***

Romans 3:28, ***"Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law."***

John 14:27, ***"Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."***

2 Corinthians 5:8, ***"We are confident, I say and willing to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."***

Once I confessed my sins, not to man, but to Jesus I asked for His forgiveness and I believe He has forgiven me. At that point I accepted and received Him as my personal Savior. At that instant of repentance and His forgiveness He in exchange promised me eternal life with Him. Instantly, His Holy Spirit came to live within me and fulfills every one of His many promises. In the red lettered Scriptures above, the very Words of Jesus, one of the many promises include His peace (**John 14:27**). All that I had to do was to ask Him and He accepted me as His own.

Do I understand it all? No, but the Apostle Paul explains, in **Philippians 4:7**, ***"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."***

My heart truly goes out to you and your pain. You also can have this same peace that I do. I pray you will know this is all said in love and concern.

When my heart tries to falter, I put this certain CD in and listen to it. I can't give you the CD but I can send you the words to the song with this letter. The song is All My Tears (be Washed Away) by Julie Miller and Emmylou Harris.

When I go don't cry for me, in my Father's arms I will be
The wounds this world left on my soul will all be healed, and I'll be whole
Sun and moon will be replaced, with the light of Jesus' face
And I will not be ashamed, for my Savior knows my name
It doesn't matter where you bury me, I'll be home, and I'll be free
It doesn't matter where I lay, all my tears be washed away
Gold and silver blind the eye, temporary riches lie
So, come and eat from heaven's store, Come and drink and thirst no more
So, weep not for me my friend, when my time below hath end
But my life belongs to Him, Who will let the debtor in
It don't matter where you bury me, I'll be home and I'll be free
It don't matter where I lay, all my tears be washed away.

I sure hope my words and the words to this powerful song help you even just a little bit with the fear and anxiety you expressed to me. I CAN believe it completely because I have accepted Jesus as my personal Savior. Even though I have no one personally, on the outside and no idea where I will be buried or by whom, I remain fully dependent on his promises, because He has NEVER failed me! I will close this with these last two Scriptures.

Deuteronomy 31:6, "Be strong and of good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them, for the Lord thy God, He it is that doeth good with thee; He will not fail you nor forsake thee."

Isaiah 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, who's mind is stayed on Thee; because he trusteth in Thee."

Overcomer's Testimonies

Revelation 12:11

By S.C.

In the Amplified Bible, **Revelation 12:10-11** reads like this, **"Then I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, 'Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren (satan) has been thrown down, he who accuses them before our God day and night.' And they overcame and conquered him (satan) because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, for they did not love their life and renounce their faith even when faced with death."**

Just stopping by to say that the newsletters are very encouraging. The Word of God is alive and active and never returns to Him void! I have been locked up a little over 5 years and surrendering my life to the Lord Jesus Christ has been the best thing that's ever happened in my life. That's the year, 2016, that the Lord put me to work under His will. In 2018 I was baptized in water, where the old man died and as I came out from the water my new man was resurrected in Jesus.

In 2016 I started serving in the church here in prison when I joined the choir singing to the Lord. Then in 2017 the Lord began to use me to lead praise and worship. Then, in 2018, I was removed from that position by the Chaplain. I had no idea what had happened, and he didn't give me a reason. Come to find out, through another inmate, there was someone else in the choir who was accusing me of things and telling lies. Apparently, he wanted that leadership position. Just let me say this, when God is for you and has placed you in a specific place nothing can ever overthrow His decision. In just a short time God removed him from the choir.

At that same time, I caught the chain to another yard and after being there for only 2 weeks the Lord opened a new door for me. Again, I was being used in the choir, but on the prayer team there as well. That's when He led me to be baptized, submerged in water. Fast forward to April 2019, I was transferred to another unit where again the Lord began to use me. He not only opened the doors for choir but as well He got me involved with a Christian Spanish radio station. That's when I began to write out sermons that were being used on this radio station. Every Monday night these sermons were being read by another Christian brother. It was so, so awesome what God was doing, and I was more than overjoyed.

Now I'm on another yard, and I know now that all of this has happened through the Lord preparing me for something even greater. Since being here I've been given the opportunity to preach the Word of God here in this church as well as the faith-based dorm where I live, for now. And God still uses me to lead the praise and worship.

The Word of God says, in **Isaiah 55:11** (NKJV), **"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."** This is God's promise and His promises never fail us. Just because God has started certain things in our lives does not mean that's all He has for us. He always has bigger plans for all of His children. This is just a taste of God's goodness in my own life. If Him being the Creator of heaven, earth and everything that's here belongs to Him, how much more will He not give us!?

Allow me to encourage you all, always be strong in the Lord God because He has anointed you in leadership, you are soldiers for Christ!

Quote Worthy

"True humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less."

- C.S. Lewis (1898 – 1963) a British writer and lay theologian. He held academic positions in English literature at both Oxford University (Magdalen College, 1925–1954) and Cambridge University (Magdalene College, 1954–1963). He is best known for his works of fiction, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Space Trilogy*, and for his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *The Problem of Pain*.

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love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has seen God at any time; if we love one another, God abides in us, and His love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit."

When we love who God created us to be, we are glorifying God. So, let your light shine. Don't allow the unacceptance and lack of understanding of others make you conform into an unhappy version of yourself. Instead, take a step back, take a break and look at your life. It's when we can do this that we are able to get back to the beautiful, loving, caring and happy 'you' that you truly are deep inside.

The Saddest Word

By Stephen Arterburn

"Find rest, O my soul, in God alone; my hope comes from him. He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will not be shaken." - Psalm 62:5-6

Several famous people were asked what they felt was the saddest word in the English language. Listen to what some of them said:

"But," said Lyricist Oscar Hammerstein II.

Writer John Dos Passos quoted John Keats: "Forlorn! The very word is like a bell."

Statesman Bernard M. Baruch said: "Hopeless."

President Harry Truman quoted John Greenleaf Whittier: "For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: 'It might have been!'"

"But", "forlorn", "hopeless", "it might have been" . . . together these words describe the heart of a person without Christ. What a contrast these sad words make to the promises of God.

In Jesus Christ, a forlorn, hopeless heart haunted by "buts" and "it might have beens" is transformed into a heart of hope and purpose. Be encouraged by God's specific promises of joy and hope of transformation for your life.

Christian Comedy

A guy goes in for a job interview and the manager says, "We're looking for someone who is responsible."
"Well, I'm your man," the guy replies, "In my last job, whenever anything went wrong, they said I was responsible."

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Here is how you can give to the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry:

By **check** or **money order** – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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The First Christmas

By Marian Swinger

It never snows at Christmas in that dry and dusty land.
Instead of freezing blizzards, there are palms and drifting sand.

And years ago a stable and a most unusual star
And three wise men who followed it, by camel, not by car.

While, sleepy on the quiet hills, a shepherd gave a cry,
He'd seen a crowd of angels in the silent starlite sky.

In the stable, ox and ass stood very still and calm
And gazed upon the baby, safe and snug in Mary's arms.

And Joseph, lost in shadows, face lite by an oil lamp's glow
Stood wondering, that first Christmas Day, two thousand years ago.

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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