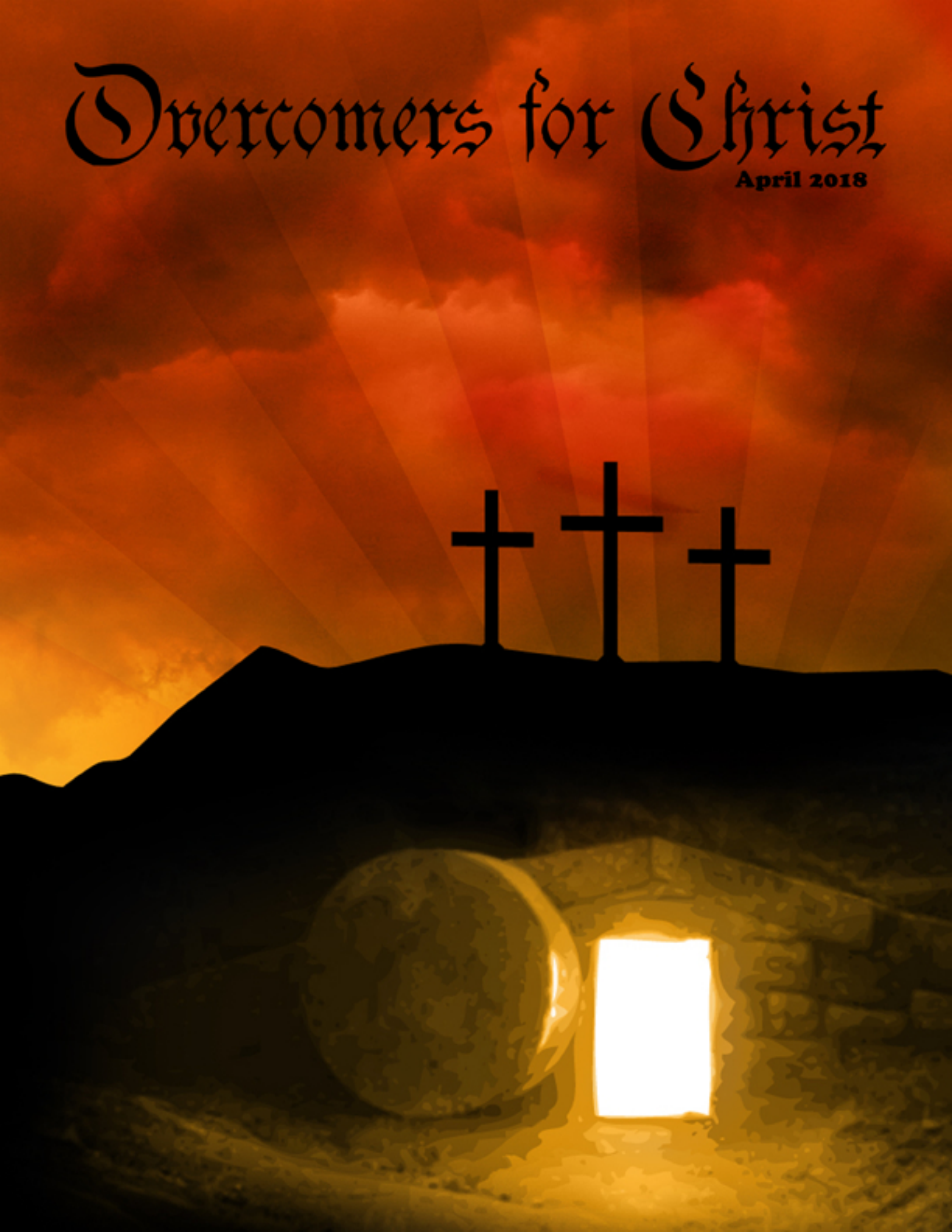


Overcomers for Christ

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Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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Why Aren't My Prayers Being Answered? Written by Amanda Wolfe - Contributed by Cheryl Smith

This is a reoccurring question that many believers continue to ask God, "Why aren't my prayers being answered?" I've heard some people say, "God answers all prayers. Sometimes He says, 'Yes,' sometimes He says, 'No,' and sometimes He says, 'Wait.' Another version I've heard is 'go,' 'slow,' 'grow,' or 'no.'" Either way it always seemed like a disappointing answer to the question.

The Holy Spirit is always so faithful to lead us into all truth... My short version answer to that question is that God certainly does have an answer for all our prayers, but the problem is people aren't often praying those answers. People are instead praying FOR answers rather than praying THE answer, and it's praying THE answer that brings those promises to fruition through our prayers.

God reveals to us through His written Word, the Scriptures, all that He has already provided for us. He has given the answers to all our prayers well before we were ever born, and as we speak forth what His Word says, we release those provisions into our lives by believing upon that which God has already said and already done. The Holy Spirit within us amplifies the Word as we meditate on it and speak it forth, and He brings understanding to our soul (mind, will, and emotions) and imparts faith to us to believe what we are saying. Sometimes there is a lifetime of junk in our soul in that area. Things like doubt, unbelief, religion, wrong teaching, the lies of the enemy, and as we meditate on the Scriptures, the Word empowered by the Holy Spirit in us washes away those things and brings us into that place of agreement so that we can RECEIVE without limit what God has already supplied for us through His Word.

In **2 Corinthians 1:20** we read, "**For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen (so be it), to the glory of God through us.**" This is a picture of receiving by grace through faith. It says that the supply comes from God's provisions in grace where all the promises are already "Yes and in Him Amen" and we access His supply that is there for us by believing what His Word says, by faith.

You might think of it like this: God's Word is the story of His grace toward all mankind. Grace is God's favor and goodness towards us that we can't earn and don't deserve, but He loves us so much He sent Jesus (**John 3:16**), His Word made flesh (**John 1:14**), so we could receive all His goodness stored up for us as the loving Father that He is, in spite of our failures. The Scriptures all point to Jesus from beginning to end. His Word, Jesus, is the fullness of grace and truth.

When we are speaking God's Word, confessing the Scriptures, we are speaking grace. We are speaking God's favor and goodness into our lives, and we are exercising faith, the reliance upon God's Word, when we speak those Scriptures. With a new understanding in our hearts our faith rises up and assures us that everything we are speaking is what God has already provided for us in Christ. We are not praying for these things as if we don't already have them, but instead, through the understanding of the Holy Spirit, we know that all God's promises are already "Yes, and in Him Amen", meaning 'so be it' to us! Our spirit already possesses all the promises of God the day we become born-again.

The Bible teaches us, in **1 John 4:17**, "**Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world.**" Did you just see that? The Scripture just said, "**as He is** (in heaven), **SO ARE WE IN THIS WORLD.**" Brothers and sisters there is a power already inside of us that many of us are NOT accessing and using for His glory RIGHT HERE IN THE NOW, HERE ON EARTH! Our part in prayer is to simply be in agreement with God's Word in our heart AND with our mouths, speak them forth. Listen to what **Romans 4:16-17** says, "**Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham's offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. As it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.' (Genesis 17:5) He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.**"

In **Mark 11:22-24** (NIV) we read Jesus saying, "**Have faith in God. Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you HAVE RECEIVED IT (past tense), and it will be yours.**"

One of the most important revelations of truth that the Holy Spirit leads us into, beginning upon the day of Salvation, is to KNOW that we have received the Gift of Salvation the moment we declared with our mouth that we believe Jesus is the Son of God and that we accept Him as our personal Lord and Savior (**Romans 10:9**). Salvation, if you study it out in the Greek, means MUCH MORE than just going to heaven, and in fact, the majority of the definition pertains to life here on earth. It means to be saved, healed, made whole, preserved, protected, and prosperous. We won't need protection in heaven, and there's no sickness in heaven, so these promises are for here on earth. All of these promises are already ours, and we've been carrying them around with us in our spirit from the day we became born-again, in Christ.

Jesus, as a man, was the image of God's Word which was very much involved in the creation process from the beginning. Let's listen here as John spoke with revelation, by the Holy Spirit, of who Jesus truly was when he said, **"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. (John testified concerning Him. He cried out, saying, 'This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because He was before me.' Out of His fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."** (John 1:14-17)

EVERYTHING that is from God flows to us through His Word, Jesus. Everything was made through His Word, so that's why it's important that we pray, communicating with God, via His Word. The Holy Spirit elaborates for us as we look upon Jesus, the Word. He expands the truth in our heart and leads us into ALL truth as we meditate on God's Word. So as we read these next few Scripture references let's meditate on them and allow the Holy Spirit to bring revelation and plant it in our hearts. Let's first look at **John 1:1-5 (ESV), "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."** Now **Colossians 1:15-17 (NIV), "The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in Him all things were created, things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities. All things were created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."**

God has already answered all our prayers!! The first thing He did before He made us - the first fruit of His creation process was to speak forth His Word by saying: "Let there be light" - that was Father God speaking Jesus, His Word, onto the earth. You might say that was the answer to every prayer right there.

The Holy Spirit works inside of us now to lead us continually into all truth and bring us into remembrance of all God has already said and done. Listen as Jesus Himself assures us, **"But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on His own; He will speak only what He hears, and He will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify Me because it is from Me that He will receive what He will make known to you."** (John 16:13-14) I love the part of Scripture here where it says, **"and He will tell you what is yet to come"**. A lot of times, way in advance, the Holy Spirit will impart a word of knowledge or a word of wisdom into our spirits. Even though we don't understand it at that time, as we continue forward, He'll bring it to our remembrance as we walk directly into what God has already prepared for us. It is truly AWESOME that anything we hear the Holy Spirit speak to our spirits we are assured that it is directly from the Father and Jesus! This is why it is important for us to pray the Scriptures, pray the Word - the Word is full of God's answers to us. God has already spoken; He has already answered our prayers well before we ever pray them! He has now called US to speak forth what He has spoken in the Scriptures. We are called to pray THE answers, not to pray for answers as if we don't already have them living in us and written for us in the Word. God loves it when we come to Him thanking Him that He has ALREADY supplied the answer to everything we will EVER need in this lifetime. But if we don't read the Word of God we have no idea what has ALREADY been supplied for us through Christ Jesus.

Prayer is simple. It's about coming into agreement with what God has already said and already done. We pray the answers, not the problem! We access those things that are supplied and flowing from His grace by speaking His words of grace and coming into agreement with Him; we believe we have what God says we have, even before we've ever seen it, felt it, or experienced it. This is faith, and it comes to us from God. The Bible says faith COMES as we hear the Word. **Romans 10:17** tells us, **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Faith is nothing more than relying upon Christ, God's Word made manifest, and believing upon Him and His finished work on the Cross. The promises are finished and they are already ours, and it's the Holy Spirit that brings us into a place of understanding this truth.

Some describe faith simply as a positive response to God. I've heard Creflo Dollar say this and read an article by Andrew Wommack both using this as a helpful way to think of faith as well. The Greek definition of *faith* reveals faith being: *full persuasion and reliance upon Christ for salvation*.

God has given us His Word, full of His promises, and we respond to His Word positively when we put it in our own mouth and mind and heart and believe upon it. The Holy Spirit is constantly leading us into all truth as we put the Word in our mouth, and praying in tongues brings great revelation as well to reveal God's Word to us and bring us into understanding. Praying in tongues is a whole separate teaching, but be reminded that this is a gift that is yours in Christ, and the Spirit working inside of us is truly our best teacher, so we want to pray in tongues often. When we choose to pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit prays through us what we don't know to pray for ourselves. I like the way the Message translation paraphrase puts **Romans 8:26-27, "Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside**

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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)

Prayer Requests

Please will you pray with me for my mother's surgeries when she goes under operation. Pray that she will be okay and that my whole family's health will be better that our Lord will heal them. Also, pray with me for my cellie's family too. And pray for Overcomers's family and church that they continue to grow in Spirit and continue to spread the love, and that I will be granted an override to a 3 yard custody. God bless you all at

Overcomers for Christ ... M.A.

I need prayer from the **Overcomers for Christ**. Please pray that I get to move closer to my family. Pray that I hear from my son and that he's not doing drugs. Pray for my old neighbor, Granny, to get in better health, also, pray for her son-in-law. Pray that my new cellmate gets what she needs to work out, so that she can keep her daughter with her baby daddy.

Thanks for listening ... **S.T.**

Please pray for my father and his new fiancé, along with all the lost souls in here who deny the Lord, that they may find peace in His name and Word ... **J.M.**

Thank you for all of the prayers, you prayed for my brother Juan Jr. and my sister Juanita knowing that she is now with our Lord, and in peace. Today I ask for prayer for my daughter, that God would help her with her hate, anger, loneliness and bitterness. For her to find God and find the peace that only He brings ... **E.G.**

Please pray that God returns my grandsons Delroy and Ishaihis back to my home with me. My heart and health are broken over my grandchildren. Also, agree with me in prayer that my complete healing and deliverance be restored to me in my entire body ... **I.A.**

I would like to ask you to keep me in your prayers for: 1) I win my PCR and clemency to be released soon 2) AZ prison/judicial reform 50% - 65% 3) God keep my family safe and blessed 4) That God continue to heal, bless, protect and provide for me, my family, friends and dogs ... **A.H.**

I need you guys prayers. I've been going through some stress and worrying a lot lately. See, my birthday and the murder of my brother are in the same month. It was the 7th anniversary of his murder. It seems I always stress a lot during these times.

I'm here doing a 25 year sentence with a 7 1/2 year old daughter out there that I'm only able to communicate with by phone. There's a lot of weight on my back and that, at times, causes me to feel hopeless and abandoned. It's hard at times! I try hard to hold it down strong and firm, please pray for these issues ... **S.R.L.**

Can you please pray for all of the inmates? Could you pray for God to give them peace, strength, love and teach them to love each other ... **C.A.**

Praise Reports

Yes, it's hard to believe that another year has passed. I'm so happy that it has to because I only have 4 more Christmases after this last one and I'll be home. To think that 10 1/2 years ago I was just beginning this journey. God has carried me through, transforming me with every step. I didn't think I would be sitting at a metal table, in a prison dorm, writing to a prison ministry with this much joy in my heart, smile on my face and a peace that I can't describe. But here I am! God IS good! Thank you all for being a part of my journey. Thank you for your obedience to the call that God has put on your lives ... **R.W.**

Allow me to share a praise report with all of you, worship-wise, that we did here this past weekend. For our Saturday night service, me and my guitarist did *I will Call Upon the Lord, Your Great Name* and *Everlasting* (from the Inside Out). Today, the English speaking praise team had the day off so it was the choir and the Spanish team that performed. I sing backup on Spanish team, but today I co-led *I Will Worship* and *I surrender All*. All that I can say, brother Cash, is that when I'm really busy, the time just flies by. I think I may have gotten a little dehydrated today, that's something to watch for in here. I don't know if I mentioned this, but I don't really speak Spanish. But thanks to the Lord I can somehow 'sing' Spanish. It's like a language I already knew, somehow. It's ALL God! It's one of the many great things that He has added to my 'plate' that I would have NEVER known or experienced out there in the free world ... **B.M.**

I hope my letter finds you and everyone at **Overcomers for Christ** in the best of health and in high spirits as it leaves me. I'd like to thank you for the card you sent. It is amazing how God always keeps His promise to us. God has blessed me through all my time in prison. He has transformed me into a new woman, a better woman and I know in His eyes this is the way He wants me, because God gave me another chance at life. I wasn't sentenced; I was saved! I see life different. I appreciate the tiniest things in life. I will go out there and do things the right way! Thank you for all your prayers. I know and believe that, and it is the reason why I have so much faith and I will be just fine. There's a handful of people I will keep in touch with when I leave and keep in my prayers. I pray they are as strong as I am and are able to get through this and put it behind them when they get out, like I did. There were times when I didn't think I could make it, and I had one knee on the ground. You know what I would do? I'd put my other knee on the ground and I'd ask God to give me strength. Then I'd get back up, dust off my knees, and P.U.S.H. (Pray-Until-Something-Happens). Again, I thank God and everyone at **Overcomers for Christ** for your prayers. I appreciate it from my heart. Praise God! He is the best! I love Him and God loves me ... **M.V.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Do Not Be Sin Conscience

By C.L.

Two of my favorite sayings are, "He is Risen" and "The Tomb is Empty". Our justification is in His resurrection because if He were still in hell we'd be consumed with guilt. The old covenant, the ministry of condemnation was such because of the guilt associated with the slaughter of the innocent on behalf of the guilty.

2 Corinthians 3:9 - "For if the ministry of condemnation had glory, the ministry of righteousness exceeds much more in glory."

Praise be to God, we don't have to be nor should we be sin conscience in anyway because He is risen.

My Gratitude to OC4C

By. A.M.

Hello Overcomers for Christ family! Just received your most welcomed and needed uplifting and kind words today. Know that the card you sent continues to make me smile. Thanks for the personal time to bring me a sense of joy and gratitude.

For a very long time I've lived my life shut down to feelings and showing true emotions. So, to give out compliments as I do to you and the OC4C family comes forth as genuine as you will ever receive from a man who has lived the very hard life that I have in my past. Today, I live for the here and the now and embrace the love of our Lord Jesus Christ and the life that He and our heavenly Father have given me to live in all His glory.

For me, from my own experience over the past 10 years since the Overcomers for Christ has opened my heart and eyes to the truths of our Father's love, I have found an inner degree of tranquility that comes from the development and compassion for others ... just as obviously, you yourself have shown to me as well as so many others. The warm hearted feeling for others you show almost always puts the mind at ease automatically. This in turn helps remove whatever fears and insecurities we may have AND gives us hope and strength to cope with whatever obstacles we encounter in life.

Some may think that I am possibly a little over extreme in conveying my thoughts of gratitude for your kind messages ... your words to me ... but your touch upon my life came at a most intense struggle I'd been dealing with in my life recently, a time that I had been praying fervently about the past few weeks.

I've come to realize that Christ uses each of us in our times of distress to help one another according to His plan in each of our lives. In my case, it was your kindness and compassion that have become the key of recognition that led me to discover the importance of every area of life. And it's one of the key facets of life that Jesus has taught all who believe in His work for mankind.

Recently I was attacked by an inmate who was under the influence of meth, because I refused to give him tobacco. I don't smoke or use drugs as I've been a recovery addict since coming to the OC4C and accepting Christ ten years ago. Anyways, as a result of the attack I had my left eyeball pulled out and am now blind in that eye. I've had four operations since August of 2017. Some of which were for cosmetic reasons and I'll still be able to keep my eye but I'm never going to be able to see out of it again.

For the past few weeks, I've really been harboring hatred and ill will towards this sick and drug craved kid that attacked me. When I started praying and asking God for answers as to WHY?? after all that I have suffered in my life ... WHY?? now would such a thing happen to me only a matter of months before I'm to be released. I've been in prison since 1976 and will be in my early 60's when I get out. WHY?? After all of this time did this have to happen to me??!

The answers came to me when I received your kind words, Deborah. The hostility and negativity of prisons and the life it presents inside will never change until the inmates can change their attitudes and make a 180 degree change in behavior, no matter what. To be caring and compassionate, yet show love for a kinder world through the love of Christ is what is required to heal the wounds rather than complaining on one side or the other is the goal for me in my new life. To work with organizations like the OC4C is very important to everyone concerned with prison life. I hope I have been able to express my true feelings in a way that you and ALL the Overcomers for Christ family that I embrace will understand.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Lord Have Your Way with Me

By G.B.B.

Dear Overcomers for Christ family ... God bless you all. Boy, being locked up is a lot harder than most ever know or think, for real. I can't just go over to find out how my loved ones are doing, or make a phone call and honestly, doing without letters as I've gotten older has truly gotten harder on me. One of my niece's I used to take care of was writing to me, she and I were closer than me and my own children, for real. But she, as everyone else has just stopped writing also.

No one truly understands, I have gone a very long time locked away, yes I did this to myself, I made some very bad mistakes and choices also. The one thing I have never lost was my faith in God. My out date has changed. Wyandotte County Kansas has placed a felony hold on me. My new out date is 6/27/2020; I will go to my latest Max date. I hope and pray you all might be able to find it to write to a brother and help bring me up in this time of need.

I was sitting here last night, the rain was just coming down, lightning and all, and I wrote a little song. Maybe you'll like it and just maybe I will hear from you all soon. I'm so sorry to come to you all like this, but I know coming from a brother in Christ Jesus to a family of Christ Jesus children, I believe you all can understand. Here is my song:

Can I be transparent for a minute, some of the rumors you've heard I probably did it! I'm not a perfect man, I'll admit it. But I'm covered by the Blood, I've been forgiven. When I think of things I've done, I shake my head, if it wasn't for Your mercy I'd be dead. God you sure know how to break a brother down, my humility I'm say'n now -

Lord just have Your way with me.

I'm tired of try'n to be a super star, you can have the money, clothes and cars, I just want to be a man after Your heart, I don't know how I drifted so far, Lord I'm ask'n for Your Grace, I got nowhere else to go, that's why I'm praying! All I'm trying to say is -

Lord have Your way with me.

I can be as humble as I know how to be, it's been a long time since I've been down on my knees and it's only You that can set me free! I'll be wait'n here till You rescue me! I don't care what people think, cause I need help! They can't put me in heaven or hell, somebody ought to lift your hands in front of me! It's time for us to be what God wants us to be -

Lord have Your way with me.

Music Minsitry

B.M.

In regard to the worship ministry here, I am the lead singer and I have been in that role for the entire time that I have been on this unit (almost 2 years). I have really grown a lot here. On other yards, I served as a back-up vocalist. In fact, I only served in that capacity out in the world, as a back-up dude, never leading. I have been singing harmonies for about 10 years - roughly. This unit is very music friendly, more so than other yards I have been to.

I got saved back at Calvary Community Church many moons ago, but I was terribly shy and I didn't know I could sing until I was in my thirties, when I helped my friend at a Men's Bible Study while attending Calvary Chapel Surprise in 2006 or so. I didn't feel too scared singing with a bunch of dudes - so I did and a year or so later I was singing in front of the congregation with the big band. God is good, He never gives us more than we can handle and He allowed me to grow really slowly. Our worship leader was a great gal named Julie and right before I was sent to jail, she was making me sing solos to get me more comfortable in this gifting, and it's totally prepared me for my role here in the church.

I've read a couple of good books about leading worship. The Heart of the Artist by Rory Noland, he leads worship at Willow Creek - Bill Hybel's church and Exploring Worship by Bob Sorge. Wow - this book was really good. I guess it's used as a worship textbook in Christian college. I'm kind of a nerd about learning how I can better minister if this is to be a calling for me outside of prison. I am hopeful, but still I'll clean toilets for Jesus, it doesn't matter. Thank you for **Philippians 4:6-7**. I regularly have to shift my focus to Jesus on a daily basis, and He does give me His peace. I give you **Ephesians 4:1-3**, and thank you for reaching out to me.

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Nehemiah 1:1-5:13

When tragic news comes to you, first pray, then seek ways to move beyond grief to specific action that helps those who need it. **(1:4)**

Nehemiah wasn't ashamed to admit his fear, but he refused to let his fear stop him from doing what God called him to do. When we allow fear to rule us, we make fear more powerful than God. Is there a task God wants you to do, but fear is holding you back? God is greater than all your fears. Recognizing why you are afraid is the first step in committing your fear to God. Realize that if God has called you to a task, He will help you accomplish it. **(2:2-3)**

If you are part of a group working on a large project, make sure each person sees the importance and meaning of the job that he or she has to do. This will ensure high quality work and personal satisfaction. **(3:28)**

When you are mocked for your faith or criticized for doing what you know is right, refuse to respond in the same way or to become discouraged. Tell God how you feel and remember His promise to be with you. This will give you encouragement and strength to carry on. **(4:4-5)**

1 Corinthians 7:1-40

Live God's way one day at a time and He will show you what to do. **(7:3-4)**

Don't assume you are in the wrong place or stuck with the wrong person. You may be just where God wants you. **(7:17)**

Some single people feel tremendous pressure to be married. They think that their lives can be complete only with a spouse. But Paul underlines one advantage of being single - the potential of a greater focus on Christ and His work. If you are unmarried, use your special opportunity to seek Christ wholeheartedly. **(7:32-34)**

Psalms 31:19-32:11

No matter how bad our circumstances, the Lord will always protect those who are faithful to Him. **(31:23)**

What is confession? To confess our sin is to agree with God, acknowledging that He is right to declare what we have done as sinful and that we are wrong to desire to do it. It is to affirm our intention of forsaking that sin in order to follow Him more faithfully. **(32:5)**

Proverbs 21:4-7

Pride and arrogance are just as much sin as are any other evil actions. These may not seem like big sins but they will hurt you and others. Remember, humble is what we're aiming for. **(21:4)**

Faithful completion of one's work is a great accomplishment. Being a diligent worker does not come naturally to some people, it is a result of strong character. Don't look for short cuts that result in inefficiency. Work hard as if in service of God. **(21:5)**



"Foot" Notes

Hello fellow Overcomers, I would just remind you all that we need to make time to remember the sacrifice Jesus Christ has made so that all of us could be forgiven of our sins and also be able to reach heaven. Life these days just flies by even on the inside, years go by in a blur. So, in these crazy times we're living in today, it's really important that we don't forget the sacrifice made for all of us while we were still sinners.

Love to ya'll short and tall ... vaya con Dios!!!

helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God." I am praying in tongues and speaking God's Word over things and people all day long whether I'm driving, working or cleaning the house. This communication via the Holy Spirit NEVER interrupts my daily chores or activities. Just existing, in Him, I live and move and have my being. **Acts 17:28a**, (NIV), confirms these very things, **"For in Him we live and move and have our being."** While I do enjoy my focused prayer times apart from working or traveling or doing anything else, God and I are talking all day long. We have one on one time when no one else is around AND He's with me everywhere I go and involved in everything I'm doing.

Salvation is a gift and it came with giving us full access to all God's promises for life on this earth as well as eternity. You can't earn the gift and you also can't lose it. The gift comes simply by believing upon Jesus Christ as the Son of God who came to save us and receiving Him as the Lord and Savior that He is. The same is true of any of the provisions God has already stored up for us before the foundation of time. Those things God has prepared for us: life, health, wealth, joy, peace, prosperity, etc. do not disappear from the spirit realm based on our behaviors. They are ALWAYS available to us, and can only come as a gift through faith in Jesus Christ and believing that what He did on the Cross was enough! The Apostle Paul, in **Ephesians 2:8-9**, gives us insight into this truth when he says, **"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith-and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God-not by works, so that no one can boast."**

God is for us people! ALL of His promises are already yes and Amen to us! We don't have to try and convince God to do something for us, and in fact we can't, since all of His provisions have already been established for us permanently, in grace, before the foundation of time. His goodness abounds and His love for us is far beyond our own! **First John 4:10** tells us, **"This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins."**

Let's look at **Revelation 13:8**, **"... the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world"** as we bring this to a close. God FIRST supplied the blood for our healing. He FIRST supplied the forgiveness for our sins! He FIRST supplied the supernatural ability we would need from Him, His wisdom and creativity, before He ever made us or gave us a destiny. He FIRST supplied Jesus and slayed Him for you and I before He made anything!!! We were made out of the blood! We were made righteous! We were created in a covenant of grace! By His stripes we WERE healed, but that was actually before anything here on this earth even existed. The Cross was a redemptive work to restore what mankind had given up in the Garden of Eden when they were deceived by the enemy.

As ministers of grace (that's what we are as praying people), we speak forth God's will which is revealed to us in His Word, the Bible, and through revelation of His Holy Spirit, we call forth "be it unto us all you have spoken!" "Be it on earth as it is in heaven." Jesus, in what we call the Lord's prayer, spoke to the Father and said this, **"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."** (**Matthew 6:10**) Then in **Matthew 18:18-1**, Jesus again encourages us with, **"I tell you the truth, whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven. I also tell you this: if two of you agree here on earth concerning anything you ask, My Father in heaven will do it for you."**

The real question is: will we receive those promises on this earth? God has already given the answers – the promises and answers are already ours. It's like a teacher giving us a study guide with all the answers the night before an exam. Will we use it like the answer key that it is, or will we instead keep living as if we are still taking a test we don't have the answers for?

While all the promises are yes and Amen to us, while grace abounds towards us, we still have to receive God's provisions. The simple way we receive fulfilled promises in our life, or the answers to our prayers one might say, is by praying the answers God has already given us in His Word. We have been given ACCESS to everything that God's grace alone has supplied for us. The way we access ANYTHING from God is by faith. Faith is the reliance upon what He has already said and already done in and through His Word, Jesus Christ.

Jesus taught us by example. He spoke what the Father had already spoken to Him and made it clear that as we believe upon Him, we are receiving from Father God through Him. **John 12:44-50** reads, **"And Jesus cried out and said, 'Whoever believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And whoever sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in Me may not remain in darkness. If anyone hears My words and does not keep them, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. The one who rejects Me and does not receive My words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. For I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me has Himself given Me a commandment-what to say and what to speak. And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told Me.'"**

So once again to recap the shorter version response in the beginning ... God has called us not to pray FOR answers, but rather to pray THE answers He has already given us in His Word. This is the pathway to His promises and provisions coming to fruition through our prayers.

God Redeeming Us

By Steve Arterburn

"God will take care of your tomorrow too. Live one day at a time." - Matthew 6:34

The day Martha Stewart went to jail, I mentioned to a group that we should pray for her as she entered her new 'gated community', and the group laughed at that. But seriously, jail can indeed be a gift. We prayed for her because good things can happen when people go to jail.

In the Bible there's a story about a man named Joseph who refused to sleep with the queen and was imprisoned for more than 13 years. That was a huge chunk of his life, but it must have been the chunk that prepared him to later be in charge of the entire nation.

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

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

You are beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that? Come up with a smiling face. It's nothing against you to fall down flat but to lie there, that's disgrace. - Edmund Vance Cooke (1866-1932) a 19th- and 20th-century poet

Easter Word Search

Read **John 17-20** to learn more about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

T	H	O	R	N	S	W	Y	S	M	L	A	P	N	G
K	R	I	S	E	N	Y	C	E	N	O	T	S	E	C
R	E	T	S	O	O	R	D	R	K	H	O	T	V	R
B	E	L	I	E	V	E	S	E	O	N	H	B	I	U
Y	T	P	M	E	Z	D	X	S	Y	S	O	C	G	C
E	C	I	F	I	R	C	A	S	E	A	S	D	R	I
E	V	I	L	A	L	N	B	M	O	T	R	B	O	F
S	I	N	U	I	N	N	A	I	L	D	C	T	F	Y
W	V	G	F	A	E	N	P	I	L	A	T	E	E	S
B	R	E	A	D	E	Y	A	R	P	D	I	E	D	B

Alive

Believe

Betrayed

Bread

Cross

Crucify

Died

Donkey

Empty

Forgiven

Gethsemane

Guards

Hosanna

Life

Nails

Palms

Pilate

Prayed

Risen

Rooster

Sacrifice

Sin

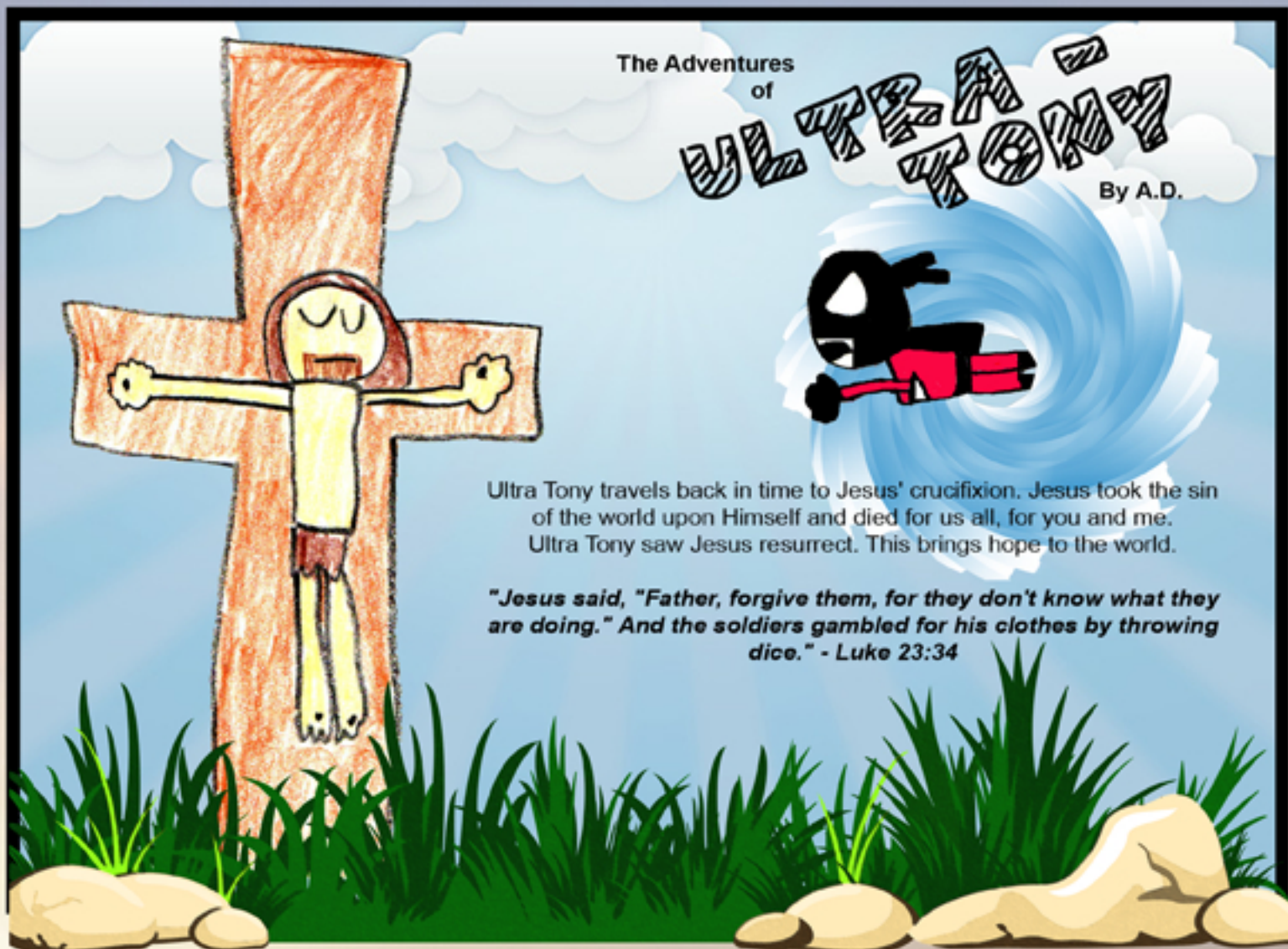
Son

Stone

Thorns

Tomb

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The Adventures
of

ULTRA TONY

By A.D.

Ultra Tony travels back in time to Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus took the sin of the world upon Himself and died for us all, for you and me. Ultra Tony saw Jesus resurrect. This brings hope to the world.

"Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they don't know what they are doing." And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice." - Luke 23:34

Quote Worthy

"Flatter me, and I may not believe you. Criticize me, and I may not like you. Ignore me, and I may not forgive you. Encourage me, and I will not forget you."

- William A. Ward (1921-1994) one of America's most quoted writers of inspirational maxims. More than 100 articles, poems and meditations have been published in such magazines as Reader's Digest, This Week, The Upper Room, Together, The Christian Advocate, The Adult Student, The Adult Teacher, The Christian Home, The Phi Delta Kappan, Science of Mind, The Methodist Layman, Sunshine, and Ideals.

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, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

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Mess
By J.H.

**A mess to a message
Every test is a blessin'
Second-guessin' equals stressin'**

**His love and sacrifice impressive
Foolishness, those lost can't ingest this,
I lean on Him, lost getting my lean on gin,
Grins, smirks and winks, missed all His signs,
Neon pink, some lean on shrinks,
Attempt to find their identity in minks,
Focused on what others think,
When life can end in a blink,**

**My Father is Phenom,
I war with my flesh, Vietnam,
Can't ditch every test, take every breath for granted,
Eternal life I was granted,**

**Planted by still waters,
Fishing for Those lost sons and daughters!**

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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