

Overcomers for Christ

June 2024



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ February 2024



Vision/Imagination Part 4

By Wade Anderson

I closed last month by testifying of how God had softened the hearts of both Pat and Skeeter and turned them towards Him. In our earthly understanding we will never fully be able to comprehend all the ways our Father desires to use us. I find great encouragement, strength, and peace when I read and FOLLOW *Proverbs 3:5-6* (NLT), ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He WILL show you which path to take.”*** With that, are you all ready? Let's continue.

None of us know whether someone is truly saved or not, and it's **NOT** our job to judge someone else's walk. Keep in mind, Jesus' words in *Matthew 7:1-2*, ***“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”*** Judging someone else's walk by what we think we see, and our own walk by our good intentions, is **WRONG!** Jesus is the fruit inspector **NOT** us! Jesus again says, ***“A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”*** (*Matthew 7:18-20*)

First, we must remember what Jesus said and who He was referring to here. In context, Jesus was speaking about how to recognize false prophets. He was simply saying that false prophets can't produce good results and true prophets can't produce bad results. I believe Jesus was telling us to watch for the fruit of those we place ourselves under as our teachers or leaders. Now I want to hone in on *Matthew 7:19*, ***“Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”*** I remember reading this early on in my walk and thinking to myself, “Does this mean that if we don't produce good fruit that God will cut us down and through us into hell?” My spirit man just couldn't relate that to the God I know now. I remember even questioning God about this. “What about a person recognizing their sins and failures, repenting and turning back to You, Lord?” Holy Spirit then revealed to me that this was comparable to what Jesus had said in *John 15:5-6*, ***“I am the Vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in Me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.”***

Our failures are a result of not abiding in Christ, the Vine. Notice that Jesus didn't say that He would cast forth the unfruitful branches. God is not the one who punishes His true believers. Then, after reading the words of the Apostle Paul, in *1 Corinthians 3:10-15*, I gained some clarity on the 'fire' being spoken of in *Matthew 7:19*. In *1 Corinthians 3:10-15*, Paul breaks it down, ***“According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.”*** True believers will still be saved even though their works of the flesh will be burned, that's the loss they will suffer. So, keep in mind that when we unplug from the Source of all our strength and blessings (God) we will become unfruitful, because we can do nothing without Him. I pray you all see what can come out of some simple asking of Holy Spirit and seeking through God's Word to find His clarification.

I've already said this several times throughout this message, but when God called me to 'GO', like Abraham, I didn't have any idea where I was going or what this 'GO' would entail. But at the end of each day I could lay down, with my Jesus cleats a little more worn and dust on my feet knowing that at least I was 'moving'. Moving in a forward motion it kept the vision ahead of me. With the confidence that it was God's Spirit that was guiding me, I knew that wherever He was leading me, the Father was telling Him to take me.

This new vision was like a roadmap for my new life. Reflect on this for a second. Most of you have read in personal letters and the newsletter that every summer, when our grandkids get out of school, we do road trips with them across the United States. A few years ago, our youngest grandson, Anthony, had a vision and proposed to us that it would be cool if we could get him in all 50 states by the time he graduates. He was about 9 years old at that time. The next summer trip Michelle, Anthony and I flew to Ohio where we then rented a vehicle for the rest of the trip. In Ohio we picked up our grandson Dylan and one of his friends that he went to school with. From there we first went to Niagara Falls. Next, we spent some time in New York City before we made our way over to the East Coast. We went over to Maine and up to the top of New York before taking a different route from there and clicking off some more states. We covered 13 states on that one trip.

Early on in my younger years ... “Don't look at me like that! Yes, at one time I too was younger and had no grey in my beard!” ... I'd traveled across this country many times in cars, on motorcycles or hitchhiking. Back then I just picked a destination and with time not an issue, I traveled at leisure. Somedays I just picked a road and went. Even though it was fun

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to just go somewhere down the road I always realized I'd better make some correction to my route if I were to get to my destination. Even today I still do this on my motorcycle, not picking a route, because it's great to just ride freely from time to time.

Now just think for a second what a mess we would be in if Michelle and I hadn't already discussed our trip destinations and hadn't drawn up the routes. We do this so that we are able to have an idea and a semi-clear picture of where we are headed and when we will get there. I call Michelle my 'spreadsheet queen'. Each year, we sit together and form a plan/vision for the summer. As Michelle already has a spreadsheet of where we've already been, she begins to figure out which states we still have left to get Anthony into before he graduates. As she puts together the certain destinations and activities we'll do, she then starts to see the route we will take and **THEN** forms another spreadsheet. This one has every Harley Davidson dealership on this route, the days they are open and what times they open and close. Again, just think what a mess we would be in if we hadn't sat together and planned where we should be at the end of every day. Most of the Airbnbs, hotels and other adventures she already has booked before we even leave on the trip. All we do is slip in, get unpacked and enjoy a great night's sleep. This allows us to get up the next morning and start the rest of our adventure with clear vision and direction. Likewise, not every road will get us to where God wants to take us in our life. But following a vision from God gives us that roadmap to a better, healthier and a more prosperous life ... as we follow Him.

It's sad for me to say, but many Christians don't have a vision of what God wants to do with their lives. Sometimes they see a glimpse of God's will for their life but fail to engage in seeking the Lord any further. Many well-meaning Christians believe that this journey/adventure is by God's will, "If He wants me somewhere He will take me there." You're right, sort of. But when we don't seek the Lord for clear direction how do we even know that it's God directing us?! Over my 17 years in the same church, I have watched so many people come and go. Some I know have been directed by God to go here or there. Where others leave due to some sort of offense. Offense is the largest dividing factor in most churches. But guess what happens? Because they've allowed the offense to come between them and whatever it was, the enemy wins again. When they reach their next location guess what they find, more people, people that could eventually offend them again! Don't allow offenses to separate you from a great place to grow.

Listen here to *Psalm 92:13-14*, "**Those planted in the house of the Lord, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green ...**" Now listen to *Psalm 1:2-3*, "**Those whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on His law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers.**" You do know that the enemy's greatest strategy is division, right? If he can get you to allow yourself to be offended, he'll have control of you **NO MATTER WHAT CHURCH YOU ATTEND!** The key word in both of the above Scriptures is planted. Jumping from one church to another you will **NEVER** grow roots deep enough to have these two Scriptures come to completion in your life. If the devil gets this kind of a hold over you, well, you'll let everything offend you and before long you will look like the rest of the world. Instead of you yielding fruit in your old age, your leaves will wither, and hardly anything you do will prosper! You'll end up being miserable, with no lasting fruit or green leaves! *Proverbs 29:18* (KJV), tells us, "**Where there is no vision, the people perish.**" Vision, or the image produced in our imagination, gives us hope for the future. Many times, the vision isn't a complete picture, but it's generally enough to excite us and cause our feet to start heading in a certain direction. Without vision we'll never fulfill God's plans for our lives. Why? Because circumstances and life situations will easily divert us, hardships will try to steal the vision and most people just quit. Believe me, over the years many things have come at me trying to steal the vision to lay down the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter. Sometimes it's the people in our immediate path, sometimes health issues and other times its ministry doors closing that had been wide open for many years.

Sometime in 2010 I went to the Lord with this on my heart. Knowing how many times I had come and gone through the doors of the county jail system myself before catching my case to prison, I said, "Lord, what if we could get these newsletters into these people's hands while they're still there in the county jail? Maybe some of them would hear Your voice, turn from their old ways, and never enter the doors of the felony system." I didn't know how this would happen, but I could see it.

Shortly after me sharing this with the Lord, someone called me and said, "You don't know me, but someone else gave me your number and told me you might be interested in coming into the county jail. I really need someone to go with me to the Durango Jail tomorrow and I was wondering if you might be available to do this?" My quick answer was, "**ABSOLUTELY!**" Never meeting this person, I showed up the next day where she asked to be, and we did two services that day. While I was there, I shared with her what I had on my heart about the county jails. Between the two services she took me over and introduced me to the Durango Jail Chaplain. I shared with her this same vision I had for the county jails. As soon as I finished sharing this with her, she turned to me and asked, "About how many copies will you be able to provide us each month?" I told her, "Will 25-30 copies a month work?"

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What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you for the birthday paper you all signed and sent to me. God is good all the time! Well, as for myself, I am blessed to see another birthday. I just turned 58 and I thank God for allowing me to come to know Him and live this many birthdays." - T.F.

"The other day, my celli and I both received the cards you sent us. We both thank you and the church for everything you all do for all of us." - F.C.

"Brothers and sisters, I'm deciding to say 'thank you' for all the blessings your Christian organization shares with me. I have been reading the newsletters, all the articles, as well as the cards you sent me. It literally brings tears to my eyes as I say, 'I'm coming.' You all have never left me and been with me since 2016." - J.B.

"I just received your card thanking me for my tithe to your ministry. And for that, I say to you, thank you for what you do to reach out to others. Thank you for occasionally saying 'hello', and for your monthly newsletter. It's the only mail that I get, but I know, for a fact, the Lord is with me wherever I go. I'm not sure if you have a regular church building, services, or a congregation, which really doesn't matter. I have seen through the pictures sent in the newsletters, a family of servants and know through our communication, that you do reach out to people who seek to hear the Good News." - G.T.

"Greetings! Harold (Wade), I'm glad we get this opportunity to communicate this way. And thank you for sharing your story or some of it with me, there's a lot going on in my life, and a lot to look forwards to! And ALL the Glory be to God in the end, can we agree!! Gratefully your friend and sister in Christ." - L.R.

"I understand things around us drag us away from Jesus, I have to stop and think or say what's more important this or Jesus!!! We had a nice Bible study tonight. I have been reading and studying about speaking things into happening with the power of Jesus!!! I put the paperwork in for a pastoral visit today, can't wait to see you and pray together and talk!! I am reading a good book about Jesus' parables and breaking them down for the reader, it's opened my eyes to things I didn't see in the parables the first time I read them! Thanks for emailing me, I keep you and the *Overcomers for Christ* family in my prayers always!!!! Your brother in Christ." - M.G.

"I'm doing well. I'm feeling good and all your prayers are very much appreciated. I always welcome them. Thanks for keeping me strong all these years, you're my brother for real. These cats say they are, but you are! Thanks for that Duck. Have a blessed day." - E.V.

"God works in mysterious ways ... I was backsliding on the Lord's ways and have been doing things of the flesh. And then I see this new contact in my emails and decide to see who it is. I know the Lord is telling me not to lose my focus from Him. I don't doubt who my Lord is, my faith remains. I do look forward to seeing you again. And yes, I will go to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry. Brother Duck, thank you for all your support and not forgetting about me. Keep that drive my brother, you do so much that means a lot to a lot of people. May the Lord bless you and your home. Your brother in Christ." - R.L.

"I just wanted to thank all of you for the birthday greetings! It always touches my heart to hear from all of you and to see all the kids sign the paper 😊 At any rate, I appreciate you all and I'm grateful to be a small part of the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry." - M.D.

"I hope things are going great with all of you there at the *Overcomers for Christ*. I still get your monthly newsletters, and I enjoy them very much. When I'm done reading them, I pass them on to others to read as well. You all are great pen pals too. Have a great day!" - H.O.

"Hello *Overcomers for Christ* family! I was so happy when I received the birthday card that you all sent me. No one else, not even my kids remembered or sent me a card. Thank you all so much." ... B.T.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Change

Written by Scotty Moore, Contributed by Foot

My favorite author of the New Testament was Paul. Not only did he write over half of the New Testament, but he also wrote four letters from prison.

Who was Paul?

Paul was a Pharisee. In **Acts 23:6**, "**Paul realized that some members of the high council were Sadducees and some were Pharisees, so he shouted, 'Brothers, I am a Pharisee, as were my ancestors! And I am on trial because my hope is in the resurrection of the dead!'**" What is a Pharisee? There were Sadducees and they were always at odds with the Pharisees. Where the Sadducees believed there was no resurrection or angel or spirit, the Pharisees did (**Acts 23:8**). But whether they were one or the other they were held in highest regards in the Jewish community.

Paul was also a Roman citizen. Which granted him special legal rights and immunity from most local laws. In essence Paul had diplomatic immunity and could do as he pleased. He was untouchable.

Prior to his conversion, Paul was a Pharisee zealot who was involved in hunting down and punishing Christians. He was under the direction of the religious leaders in Jerusalem, but he must have had permission from the Romans, even though that isn't mentioned. In **Acts 9:21**, it says, "**Then all who heard were amazed, and said, 'Is this not he who destroyed those who called on this name in Jerusalem, and has come here for that purpose, so that he might bring them bound to the chief priests?'**"

Paul was a zealous Jew who believed what he was doing was right. Obviously, he was wrong, and that point was made very clear to him.

Paul's conversion - **Acts 9:1-6 (NKJV)** - "**Then Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. As he journeyed, he came near Damascus and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven. Then he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?' And he said, 'Who are You, Lord?' Then the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.' So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'**"

And Paul's change had begun.

It is at this moment that Paul's life changed forever. The shining light, the voice, and the scales I am sure, helped, but Paul was an educated man and no fool. He realized his errors and strove to do God's will. Only now he had the truth directly from Jesus and not from a bunch of hypocritical priests and politicians. **Acts 9:19-21 (NKJV)** says, "**So when he had received food, he was strengthened. Then Saul spent some days with the disciples at Damascus. Immediately he preached the Christ in synagogues (where other Pharisees he used to persecute and work for on command and request were), that He is the Son of God.**" Even to his own detriment, he gave up all for Christ ... Money, position, even the respect of his elders who sought to have him killed.

Nobody wanted to believe Paul had changed. Even Ananias, whom the Lord called on to heal him and witness to him, was as scared as a long-tailed cat in a room full of rocking chairs, but he did as the Lord had commanded as it is written in **Acts 9:13-15 (NKJV)**, "**Then Ananias answered, 'Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much harm he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem. And here is the authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on Your name.' But the Lord said to him, 'Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.'**"

So was Paul wrong in his beliefs prior to his conversion?

Obviously, but this is where perception and perspective come into play. The perception of Paul and the Jews was that they were doing God's work. The perception of the first Christians was that he was not. Can we blame ignorance for our sins? I think not, and Paul recognized this.

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From the Inside

How do you think it was for Paul to show people that he was a changed man? Here is a guy who persecuted, rounded up, jailed, and had early Christians killed. Then, inside of a week was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ ... crucified, resurrected, and their Messiah. Did they think he was trying to trick and trap them? I am sure they did, but over time he proved himself.

People can and do change, I am proof of that. Accepting the change can be difficult. We all want to believe that a person can and has changed, but a lot of those times the change is short lived and we are disappointed and hurt. Then we become wary and calloused and start to believe that is impossible. According to the Scripture found in **Ecclesiastes 3:1** (NKJV) **"To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven."** In **Acts 9:1-2**, Paul was in the middle of heading out to persecute Christians when his change took place. In other words, there are appointed times for specific events to occur in our lives. Sometimes we believe we are ready, but God has more lessons for us to learn.

I am sure scales and light from the sky would help change people really fast, but sometimes that change comes from the word or action of another, as it was in my case, but that is a story for another time. Our job as Christians is to encourage that change, but we also have to believe in the change and that it is possible. There is nothing harder for a person who is, sincerely, trying to change to see doubt in another's eyes. It becomes disheartening and they start asking "What's the point in this?" And they fall back into old patterns. I am sure Paul felt this same adversity when he was changed and witnessing, but he was a strong man. Not everyone is as strong in their convictions or in the word as Paul was, and we need to help them along, not give up on them. Encourage them, help them when they fall, don't beat them up and remind them of their stumble. Look what happened to Paul, again he wrote half of the New Testament (including the letters from prison) and became the greatest apostle for Christ. Maybe the person you help change becomes someone as big as Paul. Change is possible!!!

I've Got an Out Date

By F.F.

Hello, D&C family! Thank you so much for sharing with me your words of wisdom!! To some, it may sound crazy, but your words soothed my soul completely! You told me to just remain steadfast, God's plans for you have not changed. It wasn't a 1/2 hour later that the whole issue was resolved! Thinking back on it now, I see that it wasn't so much me having to do more days that had me messed up. It was that I didn't have a definite out date anymore! Crazy huh!? Through all these years of incarceration I've always known when I was supposed to be released. Then, all of a sudden to just come at me, out of nowhere and say you're getting out somewhere between this date and that date, messed me up!??

I go to medical every morning and there's this older Sargeant, younger than me, (haha). He gives me a light on my way back and always asks, "How many days, Frank?" I tell him the number of days and thank him for the light. When I told him I don't really know Sarge, I don't have a date anymore. Even he was a little taken back. It may sound crazy but that's the one thing we all have in common here on this yard, we all have an out date. It was really upsetting me. But I didn't even realize it until after I read your mail. So, thanks again for giving me some clarity.

Anyways, I'm looking forward to coming and helping in the newsletter ministry, to give back for all the help you've given me through the years of correspondence. Between the cards, letters, and newsletters, **Overcomers for Christ** has filled a hole in me that I wasn't even aware of.

I can feel it now, it feels like I'm getting ready to start a new chapter in my life's book. What started out as fun and exciting, turned into repeats of failures to even living happily and free. Today, I've got a good feeling about the future chapters and I'm looking forward to learning and living in how to finish my race strong. It sure feels like it's been a long time, but I'm believing God.

Foot's Bible Study

Daniel 9:1-11:35

Daniel begged for mercy, not for help, because he knew that his people deserved God's wrath and punishment. God sends his help, not because we deserve it, but because He wants to show great mercy. If God would refuse to help us because of our sin, how could we complain? But when He sends mercy instead of the punishment we deserve, how can we withhold our praise and thanksgiving? (9:18)

Those who are wise will teach many, but they will also face great persecution. Difficult times show up over weaknesses and our inability to cope. We want answers, leadership, and clear direction. During these times, God's Word begins to interest even those who would never look at it otherwise. We should look for opportunities to share God's Word in hard times. We must also be prepared to face persecution and rejection as we teach and preach. (11:33-34)

2 Peter 4:1-5:21

It is easy to be frightened by all the wickedness we see all around us and to be overwhelmed by the problems we face. Evil is obviously much stronger than we are. John assures us, however, that God is even stronger. He will conquer all evil and His Spirit and His Word live in our heart! (4:4)

Jesus never promised that obeying Him would be easy but the hard work and self-discipline of serving Christ is no burden to those who love Him. And if our load starts to feel heavy, we can always trust Christ to help us bear it. In **Matthew 11:28-30**, Jesus said, *"Come to Me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you. Let Me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light."* (5:3-4)

Psalms 121:1-122:9

We should never trust a lesser power than God Himself. Not only is He all powerful, He also watches over us. Nothing diverts or deters Him. We are safe, we never outgrow our need for God's untiring watch over our life. (121:1)

The psalmist was not praying for his own peace and prosperity but for that of his brothers and friends in Jerusalem. This is intercessory prayer, prayer on the behalf of others. Too often we are quick to pray for our own needs and desires but neglect interceding for others. Will you intercede for someone in need today? (122:6-9)

Proverbs 28:27-28

God wants us to identify with the needy, not ignore them. The second part of this proverb could be restated positively, "Those who open their eyes to poor people will be blessed." If we can help others when they are in trouble, they will do whatever they can to return the favor. Paul promised that God will supply all our needs ... **Philippians 4:19** ... *"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus."* He usually does this through other people. What can you do today to help supply someone's needs? (28:27)

"Foot" Notes

Hey everybody! Check it out ...

The definition of remnant, according to Webster is, 'something left over, a piece of fabric, a surviving trace.' Remnant is mentioned seven times in the Bible. God called His faithful few the remnant.

"But I will gather together the remnant of My flock from wherever I have driven them. I will bring them back into the fold, and they will be fruitful and increase in number." (Jeremiah 23:3, NLT). Those who remain faithful despite their trials are called the remnant. Jesus found ways to downsize His followers wanting the few who would stay with Him no matter what. From the seventy that followed, He gathered twelve, out of those there were three, but in the end, John was the only one who was there when Jesus was crucified.

Staying in the Word no matter what we may face, staying strong in our faith makes us a part of the remnant brothers and sisters.

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

Knowing now that I desired to come in and disciple in the county jail, that Chaplin then gave me the contact information to get badged to do just that! That was in 2010. With that badge I was then able to sit one-on-one with **MANY** different men, read with them, encourage them and yes, even cry with them from time to time. Many times those little rooms would be filled with the presence of God as we had church and disciplined one another. I was still giving that Chaplin her 25-30 copies a month **AND** I was able to take them inside with me and pass them to all of the men that I visited. I did these visits 3-4 times a week, in all the Maricopa County Jail locations, sometimes six or more visits a day and several hours each day, up until COVID hit. That was a good 10-year season.

I knew without a shadow of a doubt that it was God that had opened those county jail doors for me to minister in there. I used to love to watch the CO's eyes when I gave them my sheet of men I wanted to visit and then gave them my driver's license. They'd look at the computer, see my rap sheet and say, "Sir you can't come in here with felonies." I'd just smile and say, "If you look at your D212 sheet you'll see my name there allowing me entrance." They didn't understand it, but they had to let me in.

At one point a certain 'new' Sergeant told me there was **NO WAY** I would **EVER** be allowed inside the jail! Being a convicted felon meant **NO WAY!** I didn't argue with Him, and I didn't tell him that I'd already been coming in for over two years already. Instead, I just left and called the county jail coordinator I'd been working with. She told me to just come upstairs, and she'd fix it for me. Right there she issued me a badge, instead of my driver's license and I never missed a visit! So, you might imagine, when the county jail doors closed down, during COVID, it rocked the world that I had grown to love. After all that God was doing in the lives of these men while I was there, it was hard for me to believe that I would not be going there on a daily basis to visit with these men. Some of these men I'd been discipling for up to eight years. I'd never had such an abundance of time on my hands since God opened those doors. What I'm telling you here is that it's God that puts dreams and visions in our hearts. And I believe, He then wants us to pursue Him with these things so that He knows we've received it, **THEN** He can begin to direct our steps to reach that destination.

Some of you may be saying the old cliché words, "Well, when one door closes God will always open another." This is generally the truth. But in order to locate that new door, we have to vigilantly seek His guidance and direction. It's only when we seek God, that I will promise you He **WILL** start to paint a more clear picture or image of where He desires for you to go. Here's the key though, God can give you direction but it's impossible for Him to guide you until you begin to move. Just like you can't steer a parked car, you can't get where He wants to take you until you first leave where you are! Over the next couple of years, as the COVID played out, I continued to seek God for His direction.

Here's another key I picked up while listening for God to show me His will for this next season. I prayed and sought after God, but it didn't seem like He was giving me any direction. I could have gotten discouraged that I wasn't seemingly hearing Him. But sometimes God not saying anything, for me, was Him actually telling me to remain where I was, He's preparing the place for me to go. Knowing that this newsletter and mail ministry was still on the table, I didn't try to switch lanes of my own deciding, I just stayed in that lane and kept doing what I **KNEW** He had mandated for me. After so much activity, for so many years, someday I 'felt' like I must be missing something. Lots of times those types of thoughts are from the enemy. The enemy is the one that will always do his best to make us feel like we aren't adequate or not 'doing' enough for God. Of course, he never wants us to do more for the Lord, but he begins to paint a picture of our lack of 'doing' as we've missed God. God is **NEVER** the one that causes us to feel inadequate. It's the enemy that condemns us, God's Spirit only gently convicts and redirects us to move! Remember, if we aren't at peace when we are following God, we'd better look up and make sure we aren't following our own agenda.

I'll probably put this out there many times through this message, but it's something I believe needs to be thought about, and often. Do 'you' have a vision, a hope-filled picture of your future? Does that picture match the one God has painted for you? Remember, it doesn't matter what you've done in the past, the decisions you've made to take you off course. God is better at getting you back on track than any GPS system. **Proverbs 16:9**, Passion Translation says this, **"Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there."** Making a wrong turn does **NOT** mean that God can't and won't redirect your steps. Use the power of your imagination to reignite the vision God has shown you, then listen **AND** follow His voice. The way that I reignite the vision inside of me is by remembering the many things and places God has already done in me and through me. This wells up an abundance of gratitude and thankfulness inside of me, and I begin praising Him for never leaving me and always guiding me!! Thank You Jesus!!

This looks like a great place to put the brakes on, for now. So, let's see if you can guess what we'll be talking about in next month's newsletter. Yep, Vision/Imagination!

Overcomer's Testimonies

This testimony is all Glory to our Father, I have been in this facility for eight years. About maybe four or five years ago a man named Mike moved to my run and he lived right across from me. His was of a different faith, Asatru. I no longer live in the same building as him, but we see each other and chat often. Well, Mike is a Recovery Support Specialist on this unit, they teach classes to help people in their recovery. Well, I work maintenance, and we are currently remodeling the buildings and the classroom they use for classes, we had to fix some drywall, and I was about to spray the texture on the new drywall then float it in with the old one. So, I had to go tell Mike that I was going to be working there so he could cancel the class. He was in the shower, and I told him. He yelled "Paul can you stop by later for some prayer," well it shocked me. This was on a Wednesday, that night at our worship service on the yard, the Spirit was tugging me to go to talk with Mike. After we prayed, I shot over to Mike's living area. I asked him what he needed prayer for. Well, the Chaplain is on leave and Ashland college was having a graduation and they needed someone to pray in the ceremonies and he thought of me, however they had already asked someone during the day.

We get to talking, and Mike says that he is miserable, goes on this whole spill about his life right now and that he sees the peace and glow in mine and a couple of brother's lives and he wants it. He tells me that he was brought up in a Christian home but as he got older, he went his own way. His Mom and Dad are still active in the church. He is broken and on the verge of tipping and he doesn't like the feeling, and he wants what he sees in me and some of the brothers. I'm ecstatic, my spirit man was doing every kind of flip one could do.

So, I tell Mike, "Mike it wasn't for me to go pray for graduation, I was to come to tell you that my Father is knocking on your door, and I would advise you to let Him in. Don't wrestle with Him." The Spirit of God gets to speaking and he is convinced he is ready. I didn't force him to pray, the Holy Spirit was nudging me that I did my part. Well one of our brothers lives next to him, so I come out and tell him what happened, and later that night they pray together, and he gave his life over to Christ. Wow, blew my mind! He tells me that night I see Christ in you Paul, you glow, and you have peace in you. All glory to God. And that is what he desired, and you should see Mike now he is glowing himself.

I honestly could tell you that I maybe have shared the Word of God with this brother maybe two times. But he saw our Father in me. Just like Joseph who found favor in Pharaoh because Pharaoh saw God's favor in his life. I say this because it is key for us to live a life worthy of the calling placed on our lives as children of God and followers of Jesus. We have to embody everything the Word tells us; we are called to be set part. We are called to be the light, but a light that shines bright. Paul says it the best to the church of Thessalonica, "Follow my example as I follow the example of Christ."

What kind of example are we leaving others? Is it drawing people to our Father or is it confusing them? We water down the Gospel by the way we live. I told the brothers it's time for us to rise up and be kingdom men who embody and show the world the light that lives in us. Amen!! Your brother in Christ - P.G.

Did You Know?

28 years the Berlin Wall stood separating East and West Berlin.

Quote Worthy

"Life is not a matter of holding good cards, but of playing a poor hand well."

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850 – 1894) a Scottish novelist, essayist, poet and travel writer. He is best known for works such as Treasure Island, Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Kidnapped and A Child's Garden of Verses.

Christian Comedy

RIP ... boiling water ... You'll be mist 😊

WORD OF THE MONTH

Bonhomie

Pronunciation – bā-nə-'mē

Noun – good-natured easy friendliness

"For older athletes, the *bonhomie* among teammates and rivals ... is often as important as the exercise."

Did You Know ... English speakers borrowed *bonhomie* from the French, where the word was created from *bonhomme*, which means "good-natured man" and is itself a composite of two other French words: *bon* meaning "good", and *homme* meaning "man". That French compound traces to two Latin terms, *bonus* meaning "good" and *homo* meaning either "man" or "human being". English speakers have warmly embraced *bonhomie* and its meaning but have also anglicized the pronunciation in a way that may make French speakers cringe, we hope they will be good-natured about it!

FUN FACTS

June 8th – In 1949, George Orwell's *1984* was published.

June 8th – In 1968, James Earl Ray, who was suspected of assassinating Martin Luther King Jr., was arrested in London.

June 28th – In 1919, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson was the first of the leaders at Versailles to sign the treaty ending World War I.

June 29th – In 1956, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed into law the United States' Federal-Aid Highway Act, creating the interstate system.

June 29th – In 1972, in *Furman v. Georgia*, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty as it was then applied in the United States was unconstitutional "cruel and unusual punishment".

ATTENTION

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Editor's Note

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Hello everyone! We are working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. This is FREE of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, FREE!

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!

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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

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Flames

By R.H.

**Burning heat hearts on fire, flesh and spirit fiery darts,
lake of fire with roads to walk.**

**Bars and pits, hole of destruction, furnace of smoke,
chambers of death, bottomless graves, oh prisoners of
hell, straight is the gate and narrow is the way, your
moments await, choose ye this day.**

**Son of righteousness grant us grace, fill me to the brim,
come down, come down, come down. Light on light, path
is clear, roads to walk.**

**Flowers in the fields, grass today, wind blows man is
gone. Life is short, a vapor away, father of lights, streets
of gold, power and glory blessed eternity Father above
come down, come down, come down.**

Be blessed, roads to walk.

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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