

Overcomers for Christ

MARCH 2014



CHRIST BE WITH ME, CHRIST WITHIN ME,
CHRIST BEHIND ME, CHRIST BEFORE ME,
CHRIST BESIDE ME, CHRIST TO WIN ME,
CHRIST TO COMFORT AND RESTORE ME.

CHRIST BENEATH ME, CHRIST ABOVE ME,
CHRIST IN QUIET, CHRIST IN DANGER,
CHRIST IN HEARTS OF ALL WHO LOVE ME,
CHRIST IN MOUTH OF FRIEND AND STRANGER

GLORY MEETING OF THE Overcomers for Christ

OCTOBER MMXIII



"NO ONE SHOULD EVER SAY THAT IT WAS MY IGNORANCE IF I DID OR SHOWED FORTH ANYTHING HOWEVER SMALL ACCORDING TO GOD'S GOOD PLEASURE; BUT LET THIS BE YOUR CONCLUSION AND LET IT SO BE THOUGHT, THAT AS IS THE PERFECT TRUTH IT WAS THE GIFT OF GOD." - ST. PATRICK



God's Created Man – Chapters 2-3

By Duane Stewart (Introduction by Wade Anderson)

Introduction

Hello everybody! Before you read the message below I'd like to lay a little ground work by letting you all know who the writer is and how I became acquainted with him. As you can see his name is Duane Stewart but his family and I call him Uncle Bud. Bud is Debbie Tacker Kovach's uncle. I came to know Uncle Bud when I went to visit a late mentor of mine, his brother, Debbie's dad, Bob Stewart, in Paris, Texas, nearly seven years ago. I had only known Bud for an hour or so when he asked me if I wanted to go along with him to buy some calves at the auction for his farm. I said, "Sure, I've never been to a cattle auction before," and away we went. I'll never forget that day. We were sitting there in the cattle yard where all of the people were bidding on the livestock. Having never experienced anything like this before I was just jabbering away to Bud while he was doing what it was he was there to do. Pretty soon he was laughing and chuckling out loud and as he leaned over to me he said, "Duck, you might not know it but you've bought a whole herd of cattle. Every time you wave your hands while you're talking you bought another cow!" Whoops! I guess it was lucky for me that someone outbid me, huh?

What I'm saying here is ... Those whom God places in our lives to help us don't have to have some great bright light around them. For me, it's not been a bolt of light next to that individual. What it has been though is the Light that shines through each of them, Jesus, that has attracted me to them. In fact, God has used many of you to minister truth to me and I can't even see you. But I do recognize the Spirit attached to the words you have written.

Anyway, Bud has been faithfully e-mailing me these messages that he writes and sends around the world for at least six years now. He has been mentoring me, whether he knew it or not, through his messages all of this time. I can't express to all of you enough how life changing it will be for you to have at least two or three spiritual mentors physically present in your life. Spiritually mature men or women of God to talk to and draw from their wisdom has proven for me to be a spiritual anchor, so to speak, when I found myself drifting and floundering with how to handle this thing or that. God places these men and women in our lives and we have to recognize them and then intentionally let them know the impact they are having in our lives through their journey with Christ. Of course, Jesus Christ is our true Anchor in life that NEVER moves, but He uses these spiritual mentors a lot of times to be His voice of reasoning in that immediate moment. Sure we can learn and grow through books, CDs and some Christian TV, but none of these things take the place of a man or women of God sitting face to face with you or even a call on the telephone when you're in the midst of a struggle or just looking for a little guidance. A truth I'm sure some of us have learned from our pasts is that those you surround yourself with could eventually either help destroy you or they could ultimately help propel you into your God given destiny! That's why I have chosen men like Dr. Tom Anderson, Pastor Jason Anderson, Pastor Jeff Zubeck, the late Bob Stewart and his brother Duane Stewart, as a few of my spiritual mentors.

I'm convinced this is just a fraction of Duane Stewart's testimony and only some of the many accomplishments (testimony) that he and his brothers have achieved through submitting to and following the call God has placed on their lives.

Here are Duane's words of accomplishments/testimony that lead into his message.

The results of receiving an inspirational call from God to prepare for a Christian ministry at the age of twelve, I, because of shyness as well as a lack of understanding, rebelled from such a life-style that began my search for life by traveling the world for another twelve long years while looking for fulfillment. While involved in all manners of worldly pleasures in looking for some kind of fulfillment, I found none, so in returning back to the United States I allowed myself to respond and renew a relationship with God by yielding to that earlier inspirational call from God. In responding, I spent time in educating myself in preparing for said ministry of the gospel. This time of preparation has lasted now for forty-nine years as I have found out that learning God's ways are a never-ending process. In the process of this preparation, many changes in my life have taken place as the requirements of God is to restrict a person from any type of freewheeling life-style such as I had participated in. As the old rebellious habits were progressively broken, God began to use me in areas of ministries that were used by God to help restore some of those who could have been considered my former peers, peers of an old rebellious, unrighteous life-style. Thus, these ministries include as follows which now includes for the last ten years a writing ministry that circles the globe with the kingdom of God teachings:

1. Evangelism Director of Teen Challenge of Arizona – a drug rehabilitation center.
2. Founder and Director of "Searchers End" – a ministry established for helping "street kids" during the Hippy-Era of drugs and the free-love society.
3. Established a program entitled "C.R.O.P. – Christian Rehabilitation Opportunity Program" – a program used for the purpose of returning these "street-kids" back into the educational system to gain an education as well as job skills through technical and community colleges.

4. Have built two church buildings and was Pastor of four church groups – with two said church groups the results of the restoring and rehabilitation of the persons who eventually became the ministry at these church groups.
5. Have also traveled the nation for over twenty-five years ministering at various Christian Convention groups as well as some foreign International groups.
6. Have also been involved as one of three elder ministers (Stewart brothers) of a new forming Christian gathering entitled “The Fellowship”. This ministry involved outreaches in the form of rehabilitation and overcoming training centers. We shall also help in the establishing of teaching programs to train those interested persons in preparing for ministries, which could also reach out to the ones they could formerly, call “peers”.
7. Have been and am still involved in ministering Kingdom Life to nations in Scotland, Romania, and Africa (seven nations).

In two of these African nations, God has encouraged us to establish training centers among local natives in training them for the ministry. In this, there are already four training centers established and growing daily.

Our Vision also includes:

1. A local Dream Center for deliverance and spiritual establishment – for ministry, education, and job skills. This has already been accomplished and is up and running.
2. Local employment programs – seeking out business owners to receive help and support in enlarging the program.
3. Desire to establish businesses to help support outreaches and the teams for the various outreach ministries. Businesses that shall also help rehabilitated persons in forms of employment.

God's Created Man – Chapters 2-3

God, in the creating of His man for the specific purpose of having dominion over His creation, we have this assurance from Scripture in **Colossians 1:27** which states, **“To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.”** However, not ending here, God's desire is in the prayer that Christ spoke to the Father. **John 17:20-22**, **“I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one.”** Thus, it is not just Christ in us, but that we may also be in Christ. Our place in Him is dependent upon sharing the priority of seeking out and doing the Father's will. Being one in Him speaks to us of an order, which moves us away from our will to do the Father's will only. Herein obedience to God is better for man than all his sacrifices.

In this, we have the understanding from God that He becomes the tabernacle in which humanity is to dwell. God's tabernacle is a dwelling place, a habitation, which indicates that it is a dwelling place, which contains the presence, the nature of Jehovah Himself. This speaks of dwelling in the light of God called Shekinah. Shekinah is a word that expresses the glory and presence of God is manifest. To those who dwell in the Father's tabernacle and His Shekinah glory, God's character is manifest and reveals the glory of His presence. **Psalms 15:1-3** states, **“Lord, who may abide in your tabernacle? Who may dwell in your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, and works righteousness, and speaks the truth in his heart; He who does not backbite with his tongue, nor does evil to his neighbor, nor does he take up a reproach against his friend.”** In meeting these requirements, we must consider the truth; the works of the carnal fleshly nature of the fallen man do not fulfill these requirements. Therefore, man has the need to go through a change, a transformation. This change comes by allowing God to write a new nature upon our hearts. This new nature causes the old corruptible nature to fall away by God engrafting His nature within the man. Walking upright speaks of a people who walk without blame before God. The works of righteousness speaks of a people, who once were as filthy rags but now purified to do the Father's works. In speaking truth from the heart speaks of a new nature that we have gained through the experience of being free because of knowing and becoming the truth, that God is.

First Corinthians 3:16-17 shares this truth, **“Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are.”** How can one defile the temple of God? This defiling comes by corrupting the temple through false teachings, by pride, by immorality and disobedience. Therefore, man needs to remain pure in obedience to God that He might be glorified. **First Corinthians 6:19-20**, **“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”**

The kingdom of God is a spiritual reality and available to each person who receives and allows Jesus Christ to become his Savior and Lord. In the receiving of His Kingly rulership, He becomes King in our lives, over our affairs and through our lives by our service and love for Him. **Luke 17:21**, *"Nor will they say, See here! Or see there! For indeed, the kingdom of God is within you."* Man never lives independent of God's power and grace. Man is to come to the light and walk only in that light.

For this cause, to become God's tabernacle of expression, we must awaken. With our salvation consummated, we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ and submit to His lordship. We must accept His moral standards while living in constant fellowship with Him. We are to depend upon His strength while making no provision for the flesh. This means living a lifestyle that does nothing to foster fallen man's sensual desires and appetites. **Romans 13:11-14**, *"And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awaken out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts."* Now this word "provision" is the word "PRONOIA" which has the meaning of, "fore planning, foresight, forethought, premeditated plan, preparing for, providing for." Therefore, if we are willing to come awake, to wake up from the realm of being a spiritual dead man, God has left us a promise that far exceeds the desire we have to know Him. **Ephesians 5:14**, *"Therefore He says: Awake, you who sleep [spiritually dead], arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light"*.

One of the principles of God which He governs us by is, that with every promise and requirement He speaks forth to His people, He empowers within the word received the ability to make it so. Thus, when God speaks to us individually or collectively, within that which He speaks is the power to bring it forth, to become its manifestation. In **Matthew 5:48** Jesus commands, *"Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."* This command is not something we can fulfill and become in our own strength, but His strength enables man to fulfill it through faith, not to become gods but to be in His likeness. This incorporated place of perfection is in our lives by the law of love that He imparts to those who love Him. This love is the road, the pathway of the overcomers. These overcoming saints shall enter the high realms of being glorified. Who and what is it to overcome? Back to **Genesis** this word "overcome" has the same meaning for us as the words "to subdue." God purposed this for man at the time of His creation. What then does God require of man when He speaks to us of the place of being glorified? The word "glorified" means to exalt to dignity in company with, the risen Christ. **Romans 8:16-18** reveals, *"The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us."* An "heir" is one who has come to possess the inheritance. This word denotes 'a joint participant, co-heir, and fellow heir, one who receives a lot from another'.

A question often asked is, "If this place of overcoming, perfection, and becoming heirs is available to a people, why do we not see it manifested?" To this question we must declare, this way has always been available but hidden because of the hardness of man's hearts and the traditions of our ancestors. Many of these traditions are the results of rejection to revealed truth for the sake of self-satisfaction. For this cause, a call from God continues to ring out. **Isaiah 60:1-2**, *"Arise, shine; for your light has come! And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and shall be seen upon you."* This is a promise of restoration that brings hope to all who shall believe. Can the world sink any lower in sin, suffering and willful wickedness? I think not, for darkness is all around us while gross darkness has consumed the minds of men and women who have become carnal-minded in all their ways. Nevertheless, **Mark 9:23** made this promise, *"Jesus said to him, 'If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.'" Believers are those who have put their trust in God. These believers have placed their faith in God and they are convinced they can rely on Him. Believers know that God has the ability to act and the power to accomplish. Christ gives us the assurance that however powerless man's efforts are to make things happen, God can demonstrate His dynamic power that translates people from a world of carnality into God's kingdom, a people who walk in the Holy Spirit in obedience to Christ alone.*

In the creating of His man, God breathed into him the spirit of life and he became a living soul. As a living soul, man begins to move in a life, which consists of the mind, will, emotions and the desires of God, from the stance of innocents. As God's creation, Adam and Eve begin to walk with God in the spirit of the day which was theirs, as they begin to learn and move with God in the fulfilling of God's purpose, first in them and then to be extended from them to all creation. Thus, in the innocents of their existence, they moved about the garden, experiencing the enlarging of their mind, their will, their emotions, and their desires. As their soul functioned after the order of God, in obedience to the fellowship they had with Him, they remained pure in all they expressed and manifested. However, through Eve, in disobedience to God's leadership and with Adam willfully partaking from that which Eve offered, they found themselves in a place of death, which was separation from the glory of God that had manifested forth from them in their union with Him as living souls. This fallen

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Sky Bound
By H.M.

Holy Spirit speak within us
Cause our hearts to become love's best
Reflections of God's Word living
Bringing us to Shalom Christ's rest

May Your voice lead in the present
And guide wholly our future too
There is nothing in Your presence
We'll be hindered to triumph through

God's righteousness and bright glory
By and through Jesus we will see
Holy Lamb beside His Father
Love's submergence sweet ecstasy

O how blessed are God's people
For through Jesus we now abound
In Christ the King and Lord of lords
All victories true are found

Living water grow within us
Providing righteous confidence
Narrowing straight the path before
While reflecting Your countenance

Jesus let our lives not be spent
In carnal unpeccable ways
For today leads to our future
And Omnipresence paves our way

Lost people need to hear the truth
Our voices boldly must proclaim
How Jesus spilt His life and blood
Our sins selflessly bore in pain

Spiritually misled and blinded
O Lord Jesus cause to beware
Only Your light Lord our Savior
Brings true joy beyond all compare

Jesus said forgive them Father
God's love in pain poured out on high
For us while on the Cross hanging
We all left Him there to die

People mockingly point and stare
Saying my tears are all in vain
And my faith in Christ is worthless
That God's true love is just insane

Lost in spiritual wickedness
Confused thoroughly heart and mind
Futilities made apparent
When forgiveness is left behind

Christian soldiers who praise the Son
Must intercede in Spirit too
When following the lead of Christ
We'll find through prayer what we can do

Wake up the sleeping disciples
It's never too late to sow
Christ lived and died for questions
Though countless answers He did show

We now have holy access
We're not just born to die
Because when trumpets sound
We'll meet Him in the sky!

Faith Looks Forward
By T.G.

I am writing to say congratulations on your 6th year anniversary of *Overcomers for Christ*. I love all of the content of your newsletter and I wait patiently every month to receive my copy. Today, I want to share with you and all of your subscribers an article I wrote. I also want to give L.L. my thanks and love for the article he wrote, also that he is in my prayers. Here is my article.

Forget those things which are behind. You can't go forward when you're holding on to the past. You can't have the speed and force you need to press back the forces of darkness as long as you're looking over your shoulder. Fear looks back! Faith looks forward! Jesus is always up ahead. Heaven is in front of us. So, forget those things which are behind literally. Maybe you're behind on being the husband or wife or parent you need to be. Maybe you owe a debt to society you feel you can never repay. Perhaps you feel you are behind in the growth of your fellowship with God. Don't dwell on the ways in which you are behind! According to **Romans 3:23**, "**For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**" in different areas of their lives. God knows that. Repent and go forward!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God isn't holding anything against you. He's made provisions for your shortcomings and failures. Begin to pray every day, "*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done,*" in my life today. (**Luke 11:2**) According to **Psalm 23**, "**The Lord is my shepherd, I do not want.**" Stop working hard to get back into God's will. Let Him lead you into it. RELAX! Stop looking back at the past. It's over. Everything God has for you is up ahead. Go for it in faith and joy.

Rely on God

By M.T.

I'm God's baby boy, a brother in Christ. I have to concern myself with how my Father and Brother see me, not with what others think. Besides, God's will is God's will. I could try to control situations, but what's the use? What's gonna happen is what's gonna happen. "**Thy will be done ...**"

Always seeking the Kingdom of God sort of takes the weight off my shoulders, not a whole lot of decision making to be done. If I always seek the Kingdom first, then I'm doing God's will. Doing what the Lord wants me to do takes the guess work (and rotten results) out of things.

I may be out of my mind, but I'm not too concerned about the outside and falling into too many unhealthy traps or running into one of those giants. One thing that saddens me about the outside is that I won't have near the amount of time for study out there as I do in here. But I know that I can live my life in prayer and for the Lord at all times. Heck, even my work can become my prayer. Doing it honestly, completely, efficiently and safely as I can is being a good steward of one of the Lord's gifts. A job is a gift from the Lord.

Please don't get me wrong, I'm not overly confident about my abilities. I'm not being puffed up. I'm confident in the Lord and His abilities. I know that if I rely on and trust in Him, then I won't have to worry. As **Matthew 6:33** says, "**But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**" Seek what is pleasing to Him, then I know I won't have to worry about taking care of business. The Lord will grant everything unto me that I need. I know it won't just drop from the sky, but He will give me the opportunities that I need to obtain everything I need.

May the peace of Christ reign in all of your lives.

My Friend

By R.A.

There is a Greek term 'Philia' that is used in Scripture that describes a type of love. Have you ever heard of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the city of brotherly love? It derives its name from the Greek word 'Philia'. This is used 29 times in the New Testament. But I want to discuss an issue in the Old Testament that exemplifies this sort of love. An open love, a friendship, a comradeship. I know you have heard the story of King David and Johnathon, Saul's son. How they had a friendship with each other. A type of love for each other that carried through a lot of troubles and hardships. In **1 Samuel 18:1-3** it says, "**The soul of Johnathon was knit to the soul of David, and Johnathon loved him as his own soul.**" This means that Johnathon wanted the best for David, and David for Johnathon. They looked out for each other, they desired to be around each other, and wanted nothing but the best for each other. This is a 'Philia' relationship.

Who else in the Old Testament wanted this kind of relationship? Let's turn to **Genesis 2:15**. Here we see God putting Adam in the garden of Eden and putting him to subdue the earth and all that was in it. Now in **Genesis 3:8**, we see God walking in the garden in the cool of the day. I believe God came to walk and talk with Adam to look out for him, to share life with him, in fact, to establish a 'Philia' relationship with Adam. Our God wants to be our God, our Provider, our Protector, and our Friend. **John 15:13** sums it all up, "**Greater love has no one than this, to lay down one's life for his friends.**"

Brothers and sisters - would we lay down our life for Jesus? Do you have a 'Philia' relationship with our Lord? "O' God, I have tested Thy goodness, and it has both satisfied me and made me thirsty for more. I am painfully conscious of my need for further grace. I am ashamed of my lack of desire. O' God, the triune God, I want to want Thee, I long to be filled with longing. I thirst to be made more thirsty still. Show me Thy glory. I pray Thee, so that I may know Thee indeed. Begin in mercy a new work of love within me. Say to my soul, Rise up my love, my fair one, and come away. Then give me grace to rise and follow Thee up from this confinement where I have wandered for so long. Amen!!!"

FOOT'S BIBLE STUDY NOTES

1 Samuel 13:1-16:23

As you face problems and temptations, focus your attention on God and His resources, trusting Him to help you (**Romans 8:31-37**). (**13:6**)

Have you ever felt surrounded by the "enemy" or faced overwhelming odds? God is never intimidated by the size of the enemy or the complexity of a problem. With Him, there are always enough resources to resist the pressures and win the battle. If God has called you to action, then bravely commit what resources you have to God, and rely upon Him to lead you to victory. (**14:6**)

God is too great to be an afterthought. When we turn to Him first, we will never have to turn to Him as a last resort. (**14:35-36**)

When we gloss over sin in order to protect what we have or for material gain, we aren't being shrewd; we are disobeying God's law. Selective obedience is just another form of disobedience. (**15:9**)

Dishonest people soon begin to believe the lies they construct around themselves. Then they lose the ability to tell the difference between truth and lies. By believing your own lies, you deceive yourself, you alienate yourself from God, and you lose credibility in all your relationships. In the long run honesty wins out. (**15:13-14**)

John 7:1-53

Because the world hated Jesus, we who follow Him can expect that many people will hate us as well. If circumstances are going too well, ask if you are following Christ as you should. We can be grateful when life goes well, but we must make sure it is not at the cost of following Jesus half-heartedly or not at all. (**7:7**)

Everyone was talking about Jesus! But when it came time to speak up for Him in public, no one said a word. All were afraid. Fear can stifle our witness. Although many people talk about Christ in church, when it comes to making a public statement about their faith, they are often embarrassed. Jesus says that He will acknowledge us before God if we acknowledge Him before others. (**Matthew 10:32**) Be courageous! Speak up for Christ! (**7:13**)

When you search for God's truths, make sure you look carefully and thoughtfully at the Bible with an open heart and mind. Don't jump to conclusions before knowing more of what the Bible says. (**7:40-44**)

Psalms 109:1-31

While we must hate evil and work to overcome it, we must love everyone, including those who do evil, because God loves them. We are called to hate the sin, but love the person. Only through God's strength will we be able to follow David's example. (**109:4**)

Proverbs 15:4

We're cautioned against having a deceitful tongue. This is a reoccurring theme throughout Proverbs. We all know how easily our mouth's can get out of control if we don't be careful. Often times, we end up saying something that can cut deeply, crushing one's spirit. The problem with words is that once they leave your mouth they're out there and you can't take them back. Let's do our best to speak gently which in turn will keep us from hurting others.

"Foot" Notes

Hello again, and may God's blessing be upon you all. I just got a letter from one of my closest brothers whom God is working with and through in amazing ways. He used the term "drunk on the Spirit". My first thought was "absolutely". Who wouldn't want to get drunk on love, peace, joy, and Word of Jesus Christ? That's an intoxication that we as Christians would love to have and share with our friends, que no? We all know that with just a few sips of the Word we start feeling pretty good and to the best of my knowledge nobody has ever blacked out or hurt anybody from too much of the Word. So, I've got a suggestion for those of you who, like me, have an addictive personality ... If ya' got to have a bump of something to get you through the day ... pound some shots of the words of Jesus Christ, for it's the best high going! Love to ya'll short and tall, and never ride faster than your angels can fly ... Vaya con Dios!!

condition caused man to cease from being a living soul manifesting light to one that went about in darkness, no longer overshadowed with the light of God shining forth from them. The soul, as it became because of the fall, was now asleep to God the Father, to become a being that lived under the influence of a carnal mind, the mind of the flesh. Casting aside the leadership of God, they became a god unto themselves. Losing their position with God in the garden, God sent them forth from the garden to rule over self and the now cursed creation. Now, instead of fellowshiping with God, their desire was to hide from Him.

However, in their failure, God left for them the promise of **Genesis 3:15**, ***"And I will put enmity between you and the women, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*** This promise is one that declares that the Seed of the woman would someday crush the serpent's head. The human race, under God and those in Christ will eventually completely triumph over the flesh man and all evil influences. **Romans 16:20** says, ***"And the God of peace will crush the adversary under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen."*** This word "crush" has the meaning of ... to trample upon, break in pieces, shatter, bruise, and grind down, smash. This speaks of regaining a victorious life wherein restoration is man's rightful inheritance according to the promise of God. For this cause until restoration is completed, out from Eden man now lives. With God guarding the way of return for man, through the sacrifice of the coming Christ, man could return and be filled with all the goodness of life. **Genesis 3:24**, ***"So He drove out the man, and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life."*** Therein God preserves the way for man to one-day return to his inheritance through the blood of Christ, through God given revelation and man's obedience.

Man, unable to have true life without the life of God, he finds himself separated from God, with a fallen soul. Within this fallen soul, the realm of his own existence, the promise of a God-life is in an embryonic state, to awaken and grow into maturity by receiving and following the leadership of Christ. **Matthew 16:24-26** declares, ***"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save, his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will man give in exchange for his soul?'"*** This dying to oneself has the deep-seated meaning of putting the interests of God's kingdom first in one's life. This includes renouncing self-centered ambitions as we receive the sacrifice and Lordship of Jesus Christ and Him alone.

With God having placed within each receiving vessel a sacred seed from Him that is in the heart of each man's soul, ask yourself this question; is it true, that within each seed, that seed contains the exact pattern of the mature plant? This means that within each man's soul, dwells the exact perfect pattern of man's own destiny. Nevertheless, another truth also exist, which is, this perfect pattern within can be altered or changed by the man himself. How? When man completely rejects the pattern he alters it or ignores it. Again, man, allowed to choose whom he will serve has a choice between God's purpose and man's purpose. Herein the man who permits the pattern placed and contained within the sacred seed of God to grow and come forth, he can again be filled unto the fullness of the glory of God, which is Christ's stated prayer in **John 17:5, 22**, ***"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was. ... And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one."***

With the God sent coming of the Holy Spirit living within, how does one contact his soul and the Christ life set within him? Man, who has ruled over himself since birth, having a fallen soul, finds himself, through situations and circumstances, in need of a Savior. Thus, the promise in **Matthew 11:28**, ***"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."*** Here lies the invitation to come unto Him, a returning to our created purpose. Here men fellowshiping with God and He with men, find their need by allowing Him to become Lord of that need. This is not just a one-time experience, but also a learning of how to maintain that relationship. Thus, **Psalms 46:10** speaks, ***"Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."*** By knowing a relationship with God, He is exalted. How? Through a people who are willing to be still and know God. "Be still" from this verse means, 'to desist; cease your efforts'. This denotes that we are to withdraw from outside influences and carnal activities, all those things of a life-style that occupies our thoughts and motivates us outside of God. In this place of "being still" man will develop the power to listen.

By shutting down all the many voices of the world that are speaking to us and by opening up our stilled minds to hear God's voice, He will speak. What are we listening for? Are there not many, many questions about God and His ways that we need to find answers too? In this we can come to Him, seek for answers and in the answers you can begin to be acquainted, first within yourself. "Be still" from life's intense outward motions, turn inward, and God will begin to instruct and give answers. Be obedient, follow each instruction with an honest heart and God will create a fellowship with you that grows nearer, dearer and louder. The pace quickens as a person lifts his thoughts to God in praise and worship. This does not mean singing songs only, but it means a turning of your heart to Him in love and adoration. Here the soul matures as compassion engulfs the whole being in his relationship with God.

Again, how does one hear from the soul? *First Kings 19:11-13* gives us some insight as God reveals Himself to Elijah, *"Then He [God] said, 'Go out, and stand on the mountain before the Lord.' And behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly a voice came to him, and said, what are you doing here Elijah?"* Here Elijah learns that the voice of God is the sound of stillness (desist, cease your own efforts), indicating that the voice of God is mostly felt from within rather than heard. When all else is stilled, God speaks, and His voice brings forth a knowing that does not always need to make a sound. It becomes a still small voice within the soul as His words make a sound. We begin to know that we know that we know. Herein God relates with man as man relates to God aside from the many voices of the world.

In obedience to God's revealed Word, man begins to fellowship with God in a relationship of walking with Him in the spirit of the day. Herein God's created man begins to subdue, first his own earth (body, soul and spirit), and then the earth, the world around and about him. In this relationship, man lays hold of and begins to take dominion over the earth (carnality) with God's kingdom established to become the visible expression of God in all the earth. To this, we say amen.

What Others Are Saying...

"I thank you for recognizing my birthday and sending me thoughtful birthday greetings. I often hear people say they have "seen Jesus" well I can say I have also truly "seen Jesus" in your awesome love gesture. I thank you for showing me Jesus and the love He has clearly given you all. May our Lord continue to so richly bless you." - **R.C.**

"Thank you for sending me the birthday card that I received. Also, thank you for remembering and thinking of us that are incarcerated. The world definitely needs more people like you guys. I look forward to reading your next **D&S** newsletter when it arrives." - **T.K.**

"I am so blessed by your newsletter. The Lord has and is blessing your ministry. I've got three guys who are always on me about "Has it come yet?" ... "Hey, is it here yet?" Such a blessing to me to see people hungry for the Word." - **J.W.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

To Be Honest

I was so excited to finally get some mail from someone. All of this may sound somewhat confusing to you but this is where I'm at right now. I was born and raised in Sacramento, California. After I got out of prison in 2010 I went to stay with my grandpa. I started getting loaded and when he found out I was using again he kicked me out. From there I went to a men's home called Victory Outreach. I learned how to get in to prayer there and I was on fire for Christ! I was there for only three months before I was kicked out of there for getting loaded. I confided in another brother in Christ there at Victory Outreach that I didn't want to go back to the streets again; I wanted to stay in the house of God and remain a servant and disciple. He then told me about the men's Calvary Christian Center. So, I went there and I loved listening to the pastor that was there. Every time he spoke I always had a notepad out taking notes. I felt even more on fire for the Lord while I was there. I wanted nothing more than to serve Christ for the rest of my life. But one day I threatened a brother there for telling on another brother for something he shouldn't have been doing. So, the brother that I threatened went and told on me too and I was kicked out, again.

Once again I returned to the streets and started back down the path to my old ways of being a dope fiend and a thief. Once I was kicked out of Victory Outreach I had no real desire to be a servant or disciple for Christ; even when the opportunity arose to read the Word or get involved with fellowship did come to me. To be honest, I guess I wrote you guys out of desperation to get mail and have contact with someone on the outside. I thank you again for writing me. About a month ago I was hanging out with this homeboy everyday and we talked about getting out and robbing dope dealers. Admittedly, I was getting encouraged and motivated to get out and run amuck with this guy. Then out of the blue he was moved across the yard to another pod. I do still see him every day but we don't talk about what he plans to do when he gets out anymore. His moving has caused me to become less motivated to go back to the life of crime when I get out.

Lately I have been sticking to myself, doing my own thing and hanging out with some good guys who have good intentions. A lifer moved into our pod last night and after I helped him clean his cell I left. As I watched I saw him pull out a Bible. Last night, 12/19/13, was the first night that I laid in bed and before going to sleep I said a prayer to Jesus and our Father God. I asked Him to allow me to be a part of His Kingdom again and I thanked Him for always being there for us. I thought about joining this new brother for his morning Scripture reading. I know in my heart, now, it won't be long before I want to live for Christ again. Thank you again for reaching out to me and thank all the Overcomer's for having me in your prayers. - **S.J.**

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

PRAYER REQUESTS

I find it sad how in here people always want to bring others around them into the same emotions or misery they are feeling or dealing with. That's why I'm doing my best to find guidance in the Lord and His Word, even though in fact that is hard in here. And I admit I often slip and take a while to get back up again on the right path. Temptation is strong and gripping in here. All prisoners in here need guidance to keep their sanity and on the right path towards a better life and true freedom. Please add all prisoners along with their loved ones to your hearts and prayers. Not all here are lost, yet some just need a push or someone to believe in them ... **J.M.**

I've got some things going on in my life I need prayers for. My son is battling addiction and wants out of it but doesn't know the way and I pray God will reveal to him His deliverance and perfect plan for his life. Also, my children's mother is facing some very serious life decisions and I'm praying God will make His voice plain and clear to her and give her answers with an amazing peace, so she'll know it's Him. Also, that I would keep only God's will and her best interest in mind in giving her counsel and support. Above all I pray God will be glorified in these situations. Praise God we fight from victory and not for victory ... **C.L.**

I learned my son, Lucas, was sent to DOC, he signed for a year. As far as Kyle, my other son, he still has yet to write me or call either of my sisters. I just can't wrap my head around what could possibly be going on in my boys' heads. Haven't they learned anything by watching how much pain and loneliness I have endured all these years without them? I can't understand why they would allow themselves to be in a situation that could/has put them in the same place. I pray for my boys. I pray for all of my family for that matter. I do walk with God in my heart every day. I know He is my truth, light, and faith. I thank Him as often as I think of it. I know He loves me and He loves my boys too ... **K.C.**

Thanks for all your prayers for my mom and kids. Keep up the prayers; I believe our Lord will answer our prayers ... **N.W.**

I've got some problems with my son, I'm hoping he will make an effort to change his ways. I do take it to the Lord in prayer. It seems complicated but I know nothing can be complicated to God, so I continue to trust Him ... **J.S.**

PRAISE REPORTS

An update on my Uncle Jim ... he is back to work. He had two brain tumors and a tumor in his lung, and after undergoing surgery, radiation and chemotherapy and most importantly a lot of intercession prayer, one brain tumor is gone, and the other brain tumor and lung tumor reduced in size significantly. God is so faithful and He gets all the glory for Jim's speedy healing. I ask that you continue to pray for the complete restoration of his health and thank God for the healing that has been done (and is visible), but also the healing that we know is already done but we have not seen yet ... **Michelle Anderson**

The doctor got the cancer tumor out of my wife. Glory to God! She's healthy, healed and walking around. Praise God ... thank you with the utmost respect for your prayers ... **D.G.**

God does not talk to me, but I have seen Him answer prayers for me. I do see Him working in my life, Amen! My beautiful mom, who I love so dearly, is going to a church in AJ now and has gotten my youngest daughter going with her! Praise God because my daughter was going down a bad path and quick! In and out of jail for petty things but we know where that leads. My daughter and her boyfriend are going with my mom to church ... Amen ... **R.S.**

I want to share with you the miracles of God's work here on this yard. A group of twelve men, who love and serve the Lord, have started a prayer group from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Now collectively we come together in His name and we are all learning that we are His threshing instruments here to thresh the mountains and beat them small (**Isaiah 41:15-16**). It is so amazing to see the Holy Spirit work in these men's lives and of those around us. We build each other up to edify and lift Him up and give Him all the glory and honor in Christ Jesus. It tells us in **2 Timothy 2:3**, "**You, therefore must endure hardship as a good soldier in Jesus Christ.**" I'll take the worst day in hardship with the Holy Spirit over my best day walking in the addictions and afflictions that were over me in my past. Amen! I have three plus years remaining of a 10 ½ year sentence left to serve, however, I've never been more free than I am today in Christ Jesus. I love the Lord so much and I continue to grow in His love every day. May God continue His blessings on your ministry ... **D.C.**

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the Word of God. "**A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows.**" – **Galatians 6:7**

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put 'For Overcomers for Christ'. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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Questions

By B.A.

Lost, abandoned, used, and worn
Confused and scared in my soul I mourn.
How did I get here? Where did I go wrong?
Why is this sentence I must serve so long?
Questions needing answers run through my head
Am I awake? Alive? Would I be better off dead?
Please send your light to shine down on me
Offering my soul peace and serenity
In life you're told to follow the Truth and Light
To stay in His Word and try to do right.
Intentions are good but to hell they may lead
You can't get to heaven by a simple good deed.
Now taken, shaken, and treated like a lame
Wake up people your life is no game.
This last question I ask may it burn in your soul
Will you choose heaven or spiral to hell out of control?

FEAR By Q.S.

LYING IN MY CELL FIGHTING MY INNER DEMONS,
WHEN ALL ALONG IT'S MY SOUL THAT'S SCREAMING.

THE DEVIL CLOSE BY, LURKING ABOUT
MIMICKING CHANTS AND LITTLE DEMONS OF DOUBT.

GOD CLOSE BY A CELL OR TWO AWAY
DIVINELY LISTENING TO EACH ONE OF US PRAY.

SO SWALLOW YOUR FEAR AND STAND ON SOME PRIDE
WHAT'S THERE TO BE AFRAID OF WITH GOD ON OUR SIDE.

"IF GOD IS WITH US WHO COULD BE AGAINST US."
ROMANS 8:31

Quoteworthy

"Read the Bible as if you were seeking for something of great value. It is a good deal better to take a single chapter and spend a month on it than to read the Bible at random for a month."

- D. L. Moody (1837-1899) - An American evangelist and publisher

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