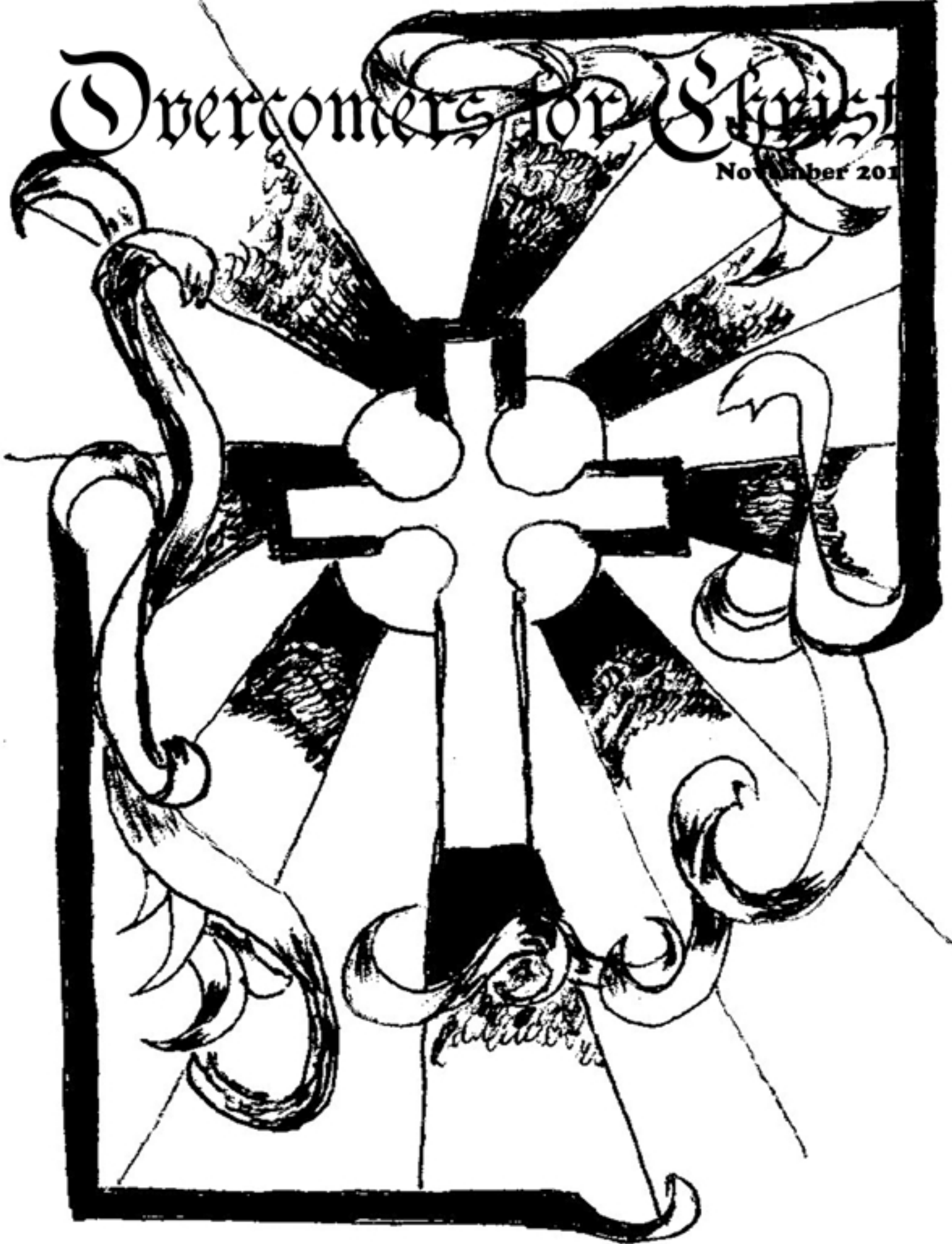


Overcomers for Christ

November 2011



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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KNOW GOD THEN EXPERIENCE HIM

By Vern Deadmond

The most familiar verse from the Bible for Christians and non-Christians I would have to say is **John 3:16**, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* If you were to ask a group of Christians what this Scripture meant, you would have a strong majority (if not all) tell you that it meant you would be saved and not go to hell. We know salvation is defined as the redemption of man from the bondage of sin and liability to eternal death, and the conferring on him everlasting happiness. (*Webster's American Dictionary 1828*)

Unfortunately, this is what we are taught salvation is from the moment we get saved and we continue to hear throughout our Christian life. And then we continue to witness to the unsaved that they need to repent or go to hell. Really? This is only the surface of what true salvation is or as Jesus states in **John 3:16**, everlasting life or eternal life. Salvation encompasses so much more of our life. I like to compare salvation to an iceberg. What most Christians know of salvation is only the tip of the iceberg, which is the part you see floating in the ocean. This is only 10-13 percent of the size of the iceberg. Look below the waterline, and you see this massive chunk of ice, but you have to make an effort to see what is below the waterline. To get a greater understanding of eternal life, we need to look more into the Word of God. Does Jesus tell us what eternal life is? It just so happens He does, but you have to look for it in the Bible. **John 17:3** states, *"And this is life eternal, that they might know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou have sent."*

Eternal life is to know God. Meditate on that verse for as long as you want, as you do think about how little you actually know God. To know God for whom He truly is, we have to put effort into knowing Him. Relationship doesn't just happen the first time you are introduced to someone. A relationship develops over time, you spend time around this person and you have conversations with this person. You get to know who this person is, their personality, what they believe, how they will react to circumstances, etc. How much time have you spent getting to know God? How well do you know God? Once you really get to know God, you will discover that He is not who you thought He was.

"God will never be real to you until you have a healthy visual concept of Him, as He really is." - Arthur Meintjes

During my first year in Bible College, a personal prophetic word was spoken to me. It was nothing earth shattering at the time, it wasn't a word that knocked the socks off my feet. The person just told me "it's all about relationships." At the time it didn't make a whole lot of sense to me, but I didn't feel that the word was all together incorrect either. So, I did what I have been taught over the years, and I put that word on the shelf. I didn't discard it, nor did I go home and try to figure out what it meant. Then about a year later, I was putting together a small teaching for school and it was regarding relationship with God my Father. That word that had been spoken to me the previous year all of a sudden leapt off the shelf, and I received the revelation then that all that matters, the one thing that is most important to God – is to know Him and have a personal relationship with Him. The moment I received this revelation, that was when the earth shook and the socks were knocked off my feet as God became so real to me. I know without a doubt God desires above everything to have a personal relationship with me, this is what matters to Him.

2 Peter 1:3-4, reads *"According as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

Everything that God has given to us comes through the knowledge of Him. It is through this knowing Him that His grace operates through our life. Wait a moment, I just said that by knowing Him is what allows His grace into our lives, but the Scripture says His divine power. This is why you need to study God's Word. Look up the definition of 'grace' in a Greek dictionary, the Greek word is 'charis'. It refers to God's divine influence in our life. Influence is subtle power, so God's grace can be defined as His divine power that flows into our lives. His grace, His power, His promises all come through knowing God. If you don't ever attempt to know God, then you will never experience God's promises in your life.

When the Word speaks of knowing, this is in the sense of an intimate relationship between husband and wife. The two know each other physically, sexually, and mentally. They know things about each other that no one else knows. We are to have this type of relationship with God. Now don't go get weird and flaky and think, "How am I to know God sexually." Cast that imagination as far away as you can, that is of the devil. God wants to talk with you, as you converse with Him, He will converse with you and share such revelation with you that you will want to sit in His presence more and more. There is nothing like being in His presence, and you don't just have to be in a church service to experience His presence. I would go to church to sit in that presence, but I discovered I can be in His presence anytime I want to study His Word or talk with Him. His presence will come into my home anytime I want to invite Him in, His presence will go on walks with me if I invite Him to come along, and His presence goes with me in the car on the way to work.

The responsibility to know God falls on us. Continue reading in **2 Peter 1:5**, "**And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge.**" We are to give all diligence to knowing God, to having a relationship with Him. The first thing you need to do in getting to know God is to know His Word, when you study His Word you will begin to know God. And it is through knowing God you will be able to receive all things that pertain to eternal life.

I was born-again when I was 9 years old, and it wasn't until I was 28 that I began to serve God. But it wasn't until I was 52 when I submitted to God. What do I mean? It seems all my life; I was doing for me, not for God. And at 52, I said to God, I want to know more of You, I want to see Your power flow through my life. I quit my job and moved 800 miles away to go to Bible College to learn about Him. I went there with no job, because a job would distract me from immersing myself in Him. Once I committed and submitted to what God wanted to do in me, it changed my life completely. In the physical realm, I have never been so blessed in my life. Spiritually speaking, my eyes and ears have been rejuvenated. When I read and study God's Word, I find those printed words have life in them, and I comprehend so much more than I ever did before and I don't struggle to understand it, and I found my spirit getting so full of joy with this new understanding. I can't help but want to share it with other people.

And now I have understanding of the **Hebrews 12:2** - "**Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**" Jesus was able to face the Cross because He saw that by His submission, my relationship and your relationship with God was about to be restored. Jesus' final prayer before being arrested was recorded in **John 17**. In **verse 13**, He prays that we might have His joy fulfilled in ourselves. I encourage you to submit all of your life to know God with all diligence.

Overcomer's Testimonies

I really do hope that by the time that you receive this letter in your hands it finds you in the best of God's love and care! You are probably wondering who is this ... I am your brother in Christ, who reads your newsletter every month. It helps me stay strong in faith, knowing that I am not alone in the world. Looking at your pictures gives me hope, thank you for everything you do for Christianity. I was sentenced to natural life in prison in 1993 or 1994, sorry I don't keep track of time that well, but I do know I have been down 25 years.

Ten years ago, I was addicted to meth and heroine; all broken down in a prison cell, I got down on my knees and prayed for the first time in 15 years. I was going through heroine withdrawals. All I remember is praying for Christ to come into my heart and heal me. I told the Holy Spirit He was welcome here. I closed my eyes and blacked out. I remember waking up the next morning completely healed! The strong craving for heroine, gone! I no longer felt loneliness in my heart, although I was in debt to the "a certain group", I was not afraid.

I remember picking up an old Bible that somebody left behind in my cell. I just opened it to **Deuteronomy 31:6**, it said, "**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.**" So, I got down on my knees and I prayed to God. I said, "My Lord, my debts are now Your debts help me then to make things right with these people." At that time, I did not realize I was praying out loud. My neighbor to the left heard me. He was already aware of my situation. He was told by a friend of his to stay away from me, cause I was going to get hurt at lunch time for not paying my bills.

Back then I did not know that he was a Christian, a lot of brothers in here go under cover, cause other inmates see Christianity as a crutch. He talked to his wife, and then talked to the people I was in debt to and paid them \$800.00 to take the green light off my back. On his way back from school, before lunchtime he stopped in front of my cell and told me not to worry, that my debt has been paid! He also said that he signed me up for church! I told him that it was not possible, cause my wife just left me for another man. She said that she was done supporting my bad habits! He said, "I paid it in full!" I told him, I had no way of paying him back his money. He said, "Don't worry bro; you can repay me by staying sober and dwelling on the Word of God!"

God is just amazing. Ten years ago, I remember praying to our Lord for the law to change and for Him to set me free! Not too long ago He answered my prayer. I was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to two natural lives in prison. Not too long ago I was given a celly named Crazy Eddie, a legal beagle always filing lawsuits. After reviewing my case, he said, "Dude, I'm sending you home!" The law has changed, the Supreme Court ruled! I did not know anything about the law, so he filed some paper work on my behalf. Before I knew it, I got a letter from a judge, appointing me a lawyer to represent me in my post-conviction relief. I met him in person this week, as well as a Mitigation Specialist for the second time. I don't know the words to express the feeling of God moving in my life; all I know is that it is "amazing". The attorney told me, "Your case had slipped through the cracks and that I was lucky to have filed in time."

... continued on page 10

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

It has been a long time since I have communicated to you all. I want to say thank you for the birthday card that you all signed and sent to me. I must be honest, I've been struggling in my walk with Jesus. I haven't fully given myself to Him and it's only been hard on me. I ask that you pray for me to be able to get right with Jesus. I will do my part as well. I thank you guys for sticking with me. My mom likes to jump in and out of my life which really messes with my mind. Thank you guys so much and God bless you all and your families and your church ... **K.H.**

I ask of you for your help to pray for my mother's pain to go away. As **James 5:14-15** says, **"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."** I ask for your help to pray for my mom to be cured. Also for me to be able to see my daughter once again and to be a father to her ... **E.M.**

How is everyone doing? As for myself, trying to stay positive here in this place. I know God is with me here, I'm just missing my family. I'm asking to please pray for my wife and my daughters, that they stay safe while I'm away. I miss and love them so much. I pray that God is watching over them. Thank you so much and please pray that I stay positive ... **P.M.**

Please pray for complete healing and deliverance in my entire body. Also, for protection for my life and that the Lord will stop the host of witchcraft enemies from spreading shameful lies on me and taking my pictures without my permission. Please pray for me that the Lord will destroy all of those pictures that the enemy took of me. Also, please pray for my grandsons protection and that the Lord will return them back home to me. They were taken away by injustice and lies. Pray for salvation for my loved ones ... **I.A.**

God bless you, brothers and sisters at *Overcomers for Christ*, sorry that it took me so long to write, but I've been in the hospital, so ain't really had the time. But now they have me in the medical ward. They did surgery on my chest because of a bad infection and I almost didn't make it. But now I'm a little better just taking it one day at a time. Well, pray for me please, I have been depressed. Thank you with all my heart for the beautiful card, as well as, for the positive words inside. Real talk ... I really needed your words and the cards. It brought me some sunshine in a gray world. The assistant deputy warden is starting a sober living pod, trying to help inmates get off and away from drugs in the prison. I am signing up for it and hoping to keep my new job they just gave me. Please pray for me and ask other brothers and sisters to pray please ... **J.M.**

Praise Reports

Dear Wade, Michelle, Deborah, Trina, Julie, Cash, Sparkles, and all of God's children who inspire me through His works in *Overcomers for Christ*. Thank you for the birthday card you sent me to celebrate the life I have been blessed with ... God is awesome!! For years you have been celebrating my birth and sharing God's love with me. This is the last year I will be having a birthday in mankind's physical prison walls. It's been a long time coming to reach my release date ... after 42 years collectively in prisons from Nebraska, New Mexico, Arkansas, and lastly Arizona. It's been a long great ride in life ... not real great ... but real and it's my life I have come to realize has the grace of our Father and Jesus from the very beginning of this long journey I have been on. I really am blessed to have the *Overcomers for Christ* in my life. May God bless you all with infinite love. I know I am indeed a blessed man. On a separate note, I will be released in 11 months ... I am more excited about meeting the *OC* brothers and sisters than I am getting out on that day. A release day is just another day given to God's children, to celebrate life as one is a whole lot better when it's celebrated together in all His glory. Please know you are all thought of every day by me, and you are all in my prayers daily ... **A.M.**

Well, the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter hit me right when I needed it the most. I was feeling down and I was by myself, then BAM! The newsletter showed up AND I get a cellmate who is also a Christian and we get along great. It's amazing how God works! ... **M.G.**

God bless those who fail yet still find the will to stand. Lord bless those of us who have lost loved ones while we have been incarcerated. Bless those of our loved ones who have chosen to remain silent in our time of trial and tribulations. May they remain strong in the way they know how, and let that their silence within our lives be used as a testament to God's glory, for without His light and blessings we would not have made it out of the darkness ... **J.L.**

I used to have trouble controlling my fists ... some are tested and some are not. Some people know enough that they are panicking, but not very many people admit it. Things tend to happen right on time. The key is to not doubt Christ, the King of Peace, the One and Only. I should be dead but Jesus is alive! I lost contact with my family for a while but God restored them to me right on time. Brothers and sisters in faith, I am encouraging you to stay on the right path. Just know you are doing the right thing. I encourage you to stay healthy and pray and receive God's forgiveness. Bless you all ... **A.L.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

HOPE
By M.D.

The writer of *Hebrews* used this word to remind believers that God has given a hope that holds firm in any storm (*Hebrews 6:13-20*). Hope is a healthy attitude. Anticipating good brings comfort to the mind and heart. In contrast, a state of hopelessness is a terrible condition in which to find oneself. It's both overwhelming and depressing to think that what your facing cannot be changed or resolved. For the person who has lost all hope, life looks like a long dark tunnel going nowhere. Included in *Proverbs* is a verse that describes the result of this oppressive feeling when he says, "**Hope deferred makes the heart sick.**" (*Proverbs 13:12*) Emotional, physical and even mental illness haunt a person who feels trapped in a bleak situation. BUT as long as there is a God, NO situation is hopeless. In Him, we have the promise of a second part of that same *Proverb* that states, "**Desire fulfilled is a tree of life.**"

Believers/Overcomers for Christ have a hope that anchors our soul. Our relationship with Jesus Christ brings us close to the throne of heaven, where we can cast ALL our burdens before an omnipotent God. Moreover, we can cling to Him through any trial that comes our way. Because of the Lord's great love, He provides strength for weary bodies, peace for anxious minds and comfort for grieving hearts. In short, He lights that darkened tunnel and tenderly guides us through trying times. Therefore, I MUST hold on to "HOPE". I'd like to share, with our Overcomers for Christ family, a couple of very powerful teachings that I came across through , In Touch by Charles Stanley.

God Works Through Our Trials - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

The troubles and suffering that we experience in life are not random events without purpose. God works through them for our good (*Romans 8:28*). We may not like or understand exactly what He's doing, but knowing some of His general goals helps us trust Him and cooperate so we can reap the benefits of a season of affliction.

Protection. After Paul fervently asked that his thorn in the flesh be removed, God revealed to him that it was a protection from pride. We all have areas of weakness that could lead us to sin, and God in His wisdom knows how to safeguard us. Sometimes pain accomplishes what nothing else will.

Reliance. Paul's thorn, which made him weak, also taught him to endure by relying on Christ's grace and strength. In the same way, the troubles in our life bring us to the end of our rope so we'll reach out to the Lord in humble dependence. Then we are positioned to receive the divine strength He promises to provide.

Divine Perspective. When Paul finally realized what the Lord was trying to accomplish in his life, he viewed his suffering in a total different way. He stopped focusing on it as pain and hindrance and instead became content. Paul could actually rejoice because he recognized that Christ's power in him was more important than freedom from pain.

Unless we realize that God always prioritizes the eternal over the temporal, we won't see the value of pain. According to *2 Corinthians 4:17*, "**Momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.**" Therefore, we don't lose heart.

Passing Down a Legacy of Faith - 2 Timothy 1:1-9

What do you want to pass down to your children? We'd probably like to provide a large inheritance, but there's something even more valuable - a spiritual legacy.

Paul admired the faith heritage that was passed down to Timothy by his mother and grandmother. Although Eunice and Lois could not bestow salvation on Timothy, they modeled their faith in God and His Word. Timothy's greatest inheritance was spiritual instruction and godly examples from these influential women. Mothers and fathers that want to pass along a faith legacy will make the following values a part of their life.

Principles. Know and practice biblical principles. Parents can't pass down what they don't possess, but those who love and obey God's Word will eagerly share what they've learned.

Pattern. Apply scriptural principles to your life and live them out in front of your children. A consistent pattern of obedience to God inspires children to seek Him, whereas saying one thing but doing another sets a poor example.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Persistence. Never give up in your attempts to impart spiritual knowledge. I learned this wise habit from my mother, who set out to install in me the values needed to become a godly adult. To teach a particular lesson, she'd keep telling me and showing me until she was satisfied I'd gotten the message.

It's never too late to begin crafting a faith heritage. Like Timothy's mother and grandmother, let's not settle for merely raising our children to adulthood. Instead, our goal should be to become godly examples who inspire and teach them to love and follow Jesus. First of all, beloved brothers and sisters at the *Overcomers for Christ*, I'm so very grateful for your monthly periodicals. They are a great source of inspiration. I just turned 60 this past February and with the exception of ugly teeth and thinner hair, my youth is and continues to be renewed like the eagles. Praise God!

Here's a bit of wisdom for you and all of our readers. Right NOW God is working all around you in your lives. I pray that God will open your spiritual eyes to see what He's doing. The Holy Spirit and the Word of God will instruct you and help you know when and where God is working. Once you know where He's working, you can adjust your life to join Him where He is working. Once you join God in what He is doing, you will experience Him accomplishing His activities through your life. When you enter this kind of intimate love relationship with God, you will know and do the will of God and experience Him in ways you have NEVER known Him before. Only God can bring you into that kind of a relationship, AND He stands ready to do so!

'SPOKEN'

By H.A.M.

Strongholds in life appear so weak until they can't be broken, life and death are in the tongue, you'll reap just what you've spoken. Faith insures that you'll be set free, a proven benefactor, Living Word your eyes will see, pains tears changed into laughter. So live life with an expectancy, things called not, as though they were, then you'll see Christ's joy in life as sorrows start to blur. He who stilled the stormy sea, will calm your raging soul, and you'll find rest in Christ's love, He'll make you more than whole. Our future's read, the past is gone, omnipotent love's been revealed, Salvation's come down from His throne, whom all darkness to light must yield.

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. Lost people need to hear the truth, voices boldly must proclaim, how Jesus spilt His life and blood, sinless - but bore its horrid pain. Living Water grow within, provide loves confidence, narrowing straight the path before, to reflect Christ's countenance. God's glory we were made for, mirrored image of our Lord, for Holy Spirit victory, God's Word must be our sword. Then no weapons formed against us, shall prosper in any way, and we'll see God's light in glory, forever and a day. Never will we cease to gaze, at His glory up on high, as we worship in His Spirit, our hearts will stoop to fly. In one way evil, may take its toll, but in seven it must flee, heavens love has conquered, cause Jesus set us free. The sacrifice who's life now saves, gives victory through God's Son, and heavenly might has foiled deaths plight, by Christ Jesus we have won.

Lord You are our battle shield, and Living Word for our flight, souls shelter and strong tower, endowing Spirit's light. Lamb of God, the Restoring Breath, who's cleansing blood does renew, breathe on us immortality, rebirthing love, that comes from You. Ancint our hearts, with the oil of joy, filled with prayer, may our lamp stands be, make us overcomers - for those not compelled to see. Cause joys mirth to be contagious, like Christ's light beacon bright, a reminder of eternal bliss, sky bound in His sight. Reflect us such Your ways oh Lord, may Your armor enclose our all, cause us to vessel Your honor, lest storms gaze stumble and fall. Holy Spirit speak within us, prompt our hearts to be love's best, reflect God's Word living, to yield Shalom's holy rest. Mercies greatest mystery is Your forgiving love, so vast, expanding time for all to come, while seeking to forget sins past. God seems incomprehensible, omnipotent, trivine, Love, He's Father, Son and Holy Ghost, all from a paradise above.

Jesus our Lord and Good Shepherd, as the Bread of Life, He did save, Immanuel, God within us, God's Son couldn't stay in the grave. So now we have a new Spirit, the Comforter who's from above, He's our indwelling Helper, as God's omnipresent love. Soon will be our Lord's returning, bright with angels strong and tall, those loving Him are yearning the trumpets rebel call. So we're not content to be lukewarm, proclaiming His love won't cease, He took away life's pain, replacing it with love's sweet peace.

Job 37:1-42:17

By spending time observing the majestic and intricate parts of God's creation, we can be reminded of His power in every aspect of our lives. (37:23)

God asked Job several questions about the animal kingdom in order to demonstrate how limited Job's knowledge really was. God was not seeking answers from Job. Instead, He was getting Job to recognize and submit to God's power and sovereignty. Only then could he hear what God was really saying to him. (39:1)

The next time you are tempted to complain to God, consider how much He loves you. Remember Job's reaction when he had his chance to speak. Are you worse off than Job or more righteous than he? Give God a chance to reveal His greater purpose for you, but remember that they may unfold over the course of your life and not at the moment you desire. (40:2-5)

Cling tightly to your faith through all your trials, and you too, will be rewarded by God, if not now, in the life to come. (42:10-11)

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:10

Our troubles should not diminish our faith or disillusion us. We should realize that there is a purpose in our suffering. Problems and human limitations have several benefits.

- 1) They remind us of Christ's suffering for us.
- 2) They keep us from pride.
- 3) They cause us to look beyond this brief life.
- 4) They give us opportunities to prove our faith to others.
- 5) They give God the opportunity to demonstrate His power. See your troubles as opportunities. (4:17)

The Holy Spirit within us is our guarantee that God will give us an everlasting body at the resurrection. We have eternity in us now. This truth should give us great courage and patience to endure anything we might have to experience. (5:5)

Psalm 44:9-26

The writer cried out to God to save His people because of His unfailing love. Nothing can separate us from God's love, not even death. (Romans 8:36-39) When you fear for your life, ask God for your deliverance, and remember that even death cannot separate you from Him. (44:22-26)

Proverbs 22:13

This proverb refers to an excuse a lazy person might use to avoid going to work. The excuse sounds silly to us, but that's often how our excuses sound to others. Don't rationalize laziness, take your responsibilities seriously and get to work. (22:13)



"Foot" Notes

Hello to ya'll! So, I spend a lot of time rooting around in the Word, looking for Scripture that is rendered or boiled down, so to speak, that helps explain Christianity, especially to new folks who end up getting caught up in a lot of complex stuff that's hard to chew.

That being said, my new favorite is **Psalm 27:3, "Trust in the Lord and do good."**

Brothers and sisters, it doesn't get any more basic than that. It's simple, self-explanatory, and to the point.

May God's blessings cover ya'll with hope, grace, and joy. Love to ya'll, short and tall ... vaya con Dios! Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

A Lesson in Thanks

"In normal life we hardly realize how much more we receive than we give, and life cannot be rich without such gratitude. It is so easy to overestimate the importance of our own achievements compared with what we owe to the help of others." - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Giving thanks is good for our souls. Still, we all have the question, "How can I give thanks in all circumstances?" The answer is: Only by the power of the Holy Spirit. Immediately after commanding the Thessalonians to give thanks in all circumstances Paul says, **"Don't put out the Spirit's fire."** (1 Thessalonians 5:19) You need the fire of the Holy Spirit in your soul if you are ever going to be able to give thanks in all circumstances. Perhaps we can learn this valuable lesson from a great man who went before us.

Abraham Lincoln's life was marked with pain and difficulty.

- When he was nine, his mother died.
- Though he loved books, he received little formal education.
- His sister died in childbirth.
- At age twenty-four he was left badly in debt when a store he invested in failed.
- When he was twenty-five the woman he loved caught fever and died--he suffered deep depression.
- Three years later he proposed to another woman and she turned him down.
- At thirty-four he lost the nomination for U.S. Congress--one of many elections that he would lose.
- Only one of his four sons lived to adulthood--one died just short of age four, one at age 11, one at 18.

Lincoln faced great obstacles and suffered deep depression. He would be remembered as one of the greatest presidents for his courage in ending slavery.

And we owe to him gratitude for his great Proclamation of Thanksgiving. Lincoln was not a man who grieved without hope. He knew the absolute necessity of giving thanks in all times. Consider these words, share them with your family this Thanksgiving ... Proclamation of Thanksgiving

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
A PROCLAMATION.

The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God. In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity, which has sometimes seemed to foreign States to invite and to provoke their aggression, peace has been preserved with all nations, order has been maintained, the laws have been respected and obeyed, and harmony has prevailed everywhere except in the theater of military conflict; while that theater has been greatly contracted by the advancing armies and navies of the Union. Needful diversions of wealth and of strength from the fields of peaceful industry to the national defense, have not arrested the plough, the shuttle or the ship; the axe has enlarged the borders of our settlements, and the mines, as well of iron and coal as of the precious metals, have yielded even more abundantly than heretofore. Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect continuance of years with large increase of freedom. No human counsel hath devised nor hath any mortal hand worked out these great things. They are the gracious gifts of the Most High God, who, while dealing with us in anger for our sins, hath nevertheless remembered mercy. It has seemed to me fit and proper that they should be solemnly, reverently and gratefully acknowledged as with one heart and one voice by the whole American People. I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those who are sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November next, as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the Heavens. And I recommend to them that while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverances and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and fervently implore the interposition of the Almighty Hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and Union.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States to be affixed.

Done at the city of Washington, this Third day of October, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-three, and of the Independence of the United States the Eighty-eighth.

Abraham Lincoln

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I have a daughter who is 25 years old. I talked to her on the phone not too long ago. I had not heard from her in years. She now wants to be a part of my life, and that alone makes me want to be a better person, a stronger Christian. I am 40 years old; I can't wait to meet my grandson!! Take him camping and fishing along with my daughter. I had a dream, and in that dream God broke my chains and set me free, to do just that. I'm just waiting for that day to come! My conversion to Christianity has been the best thing that ever happened to me, and I want others to know my truth. Through God, all things are possible!

Today, there is no hatred in my heart; I am happy and full of joy!! No drug in the world could ever replace that feeling. I want to thank you all for the Birthday Cards you have sent me these past few years, they made me feel real good inside, somebody remembered me! Even though most of my biological family has forgotten me, or passed away. My Christian family is plenty and strong. God bless you all for everything you do every day. There has always been a Christian around me to lend a helping hand, especially when I needed it most! When I was lost and addicted to drugs, they helped me replace the needle for the Word of God, and for that, I will always be grateful!!!

My only addictions are writing and listening to Gospel music. You are probably wondering why I am writing you, telling you all this. I dream a lot and that's probably cause I am always thinking, I'm real quiet. I had a dream and in that dream I was burning up alive in a lake of fire, it felt so real! I woke up dripping in sweat; I could feel that pain of the flames! All I can remember is invoking the power of Christ, but it was not Christ who pulled me out of the lake of fire, it was you! I remember you telling me that everything was going to be all right, that the flames would never touch me again. Your face was clearly from the pictures, I see your newsletter every month, but your hair was white as snow.

Please keep my in your prayers! I believe that we are all here for a reason, we all have a purpose. Mine is to help others in here overcome addictions, like I did in here. Most prisoners are not looking for the change in their lives, they are lost and blind. But there is always the possibility of finding one who is, and that is what keeps me going strong! I am doing my best to study the Word of God, to be able to spread His message behind these walls. I'm on my way to becoming a preacher, and nothing is going to stop me, not the devil or his minions!!

I'm trying to sign up for G.E.D. courses right now, I already turned in the inmate letter. Before this law came into effect, I did not care about an education, but now that I might have a release date, I really do. I should be back in the county jail fighting my case early next year, isn't that great? All thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ who heard and answered my prayer. I will continue to stay sober one day at a time, please keep me in your prayers. Any help in educating myself in the Word of God is greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking your time and reading this letter. - **I.V.**

What Others Are Saying...

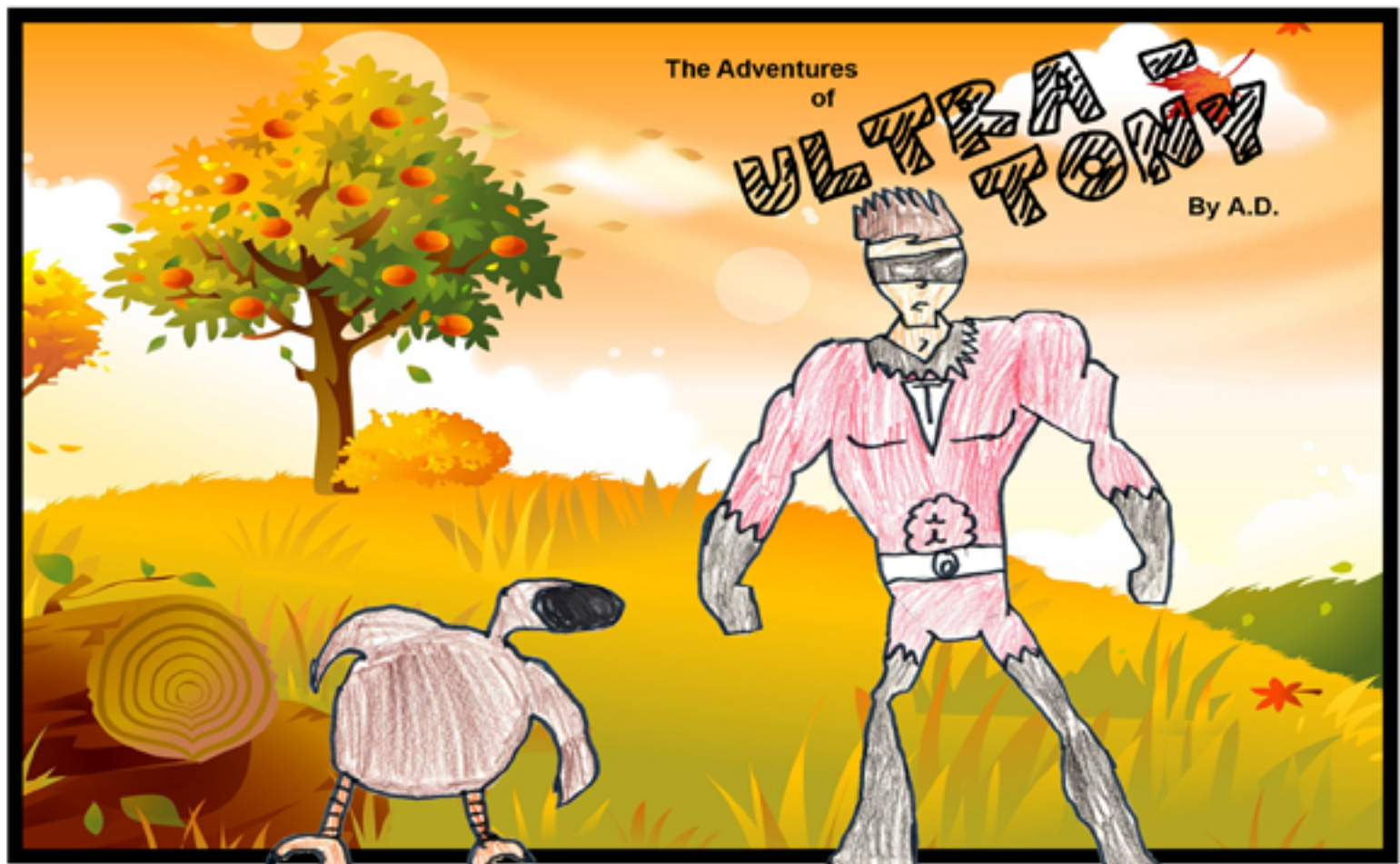
"Hello, I am writing because I recently got to read some of your newsletters. I must say I enjoyed reading them and would like to know if I could be placed on your mailing list? You guys are doing a wonderful thing for us. May God bless you all. Thank you." - **M.O.**

"Greetings and blessings to all the *Overcomers for Christ* brothers and sisters. I want you to know that I have been praying for you since the last time I spoke with you on the phone. As you may remember, after my jail time I was released while on pre-trial for 5 months. It was in those 5 months that I had the honor of attending the *Overcomers for Christ* meetings. During those 5 months, I also stayed sober and lived for God. I fought a good fight and knew that God had plans for me right here at prison. When I got here I was so excited to run across your newsletter to get the address." - **B.M.**

"I thank God for you and the ministry team there at the *OC4C* along with the support of Living Word Bible Church. I am encouraged by your words of teaching and wisdom in the newsletters, and especially by the letters and messages sown by fellow prisoners. I continue to seek your counsel and advise." - **G.H.**

"*Overcomers for Christ*, I'm writing you this letter to let you all know that I got the mail that you send me and I appreciate it very much. I don't get much mail here but it's no big thing. I would just like to thank all of you there for the things you are doing for all of us." - **R.D.**

"I extend grace, peace and blessings to all of you there at the *OC4C*!! 'WOW' you guys never cease to amaze me, thank you for the wonderful birthday card. And so far, you all are the only ones that have even thought about me at this time. And I send a special thanks to Deborah for the other card that she took the time to send to me as well. It seems that you all always come through at just the right time. Sometimes I'm really feeling down and you always come through. Just know that God has you all doing His work, you are doing a great job and I pray that He bless you beyond measure!" - **R.G.**



The evil turkey is trying to steal people's thankfulness. Ultra Tony is stopping the evil turkey from stealing people's thankfulness.

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God." 2 Corinthians 4:15

Quote Worthy

"In those desperate times when we feel like we don't have an ounce of strength, He will gently pick up our heads so that our eyes can behold something—something that will keep His hope alive in us."

- Kathy Troccoli - a contemporary Christian music singer, songwriter, author, and speaker.

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.

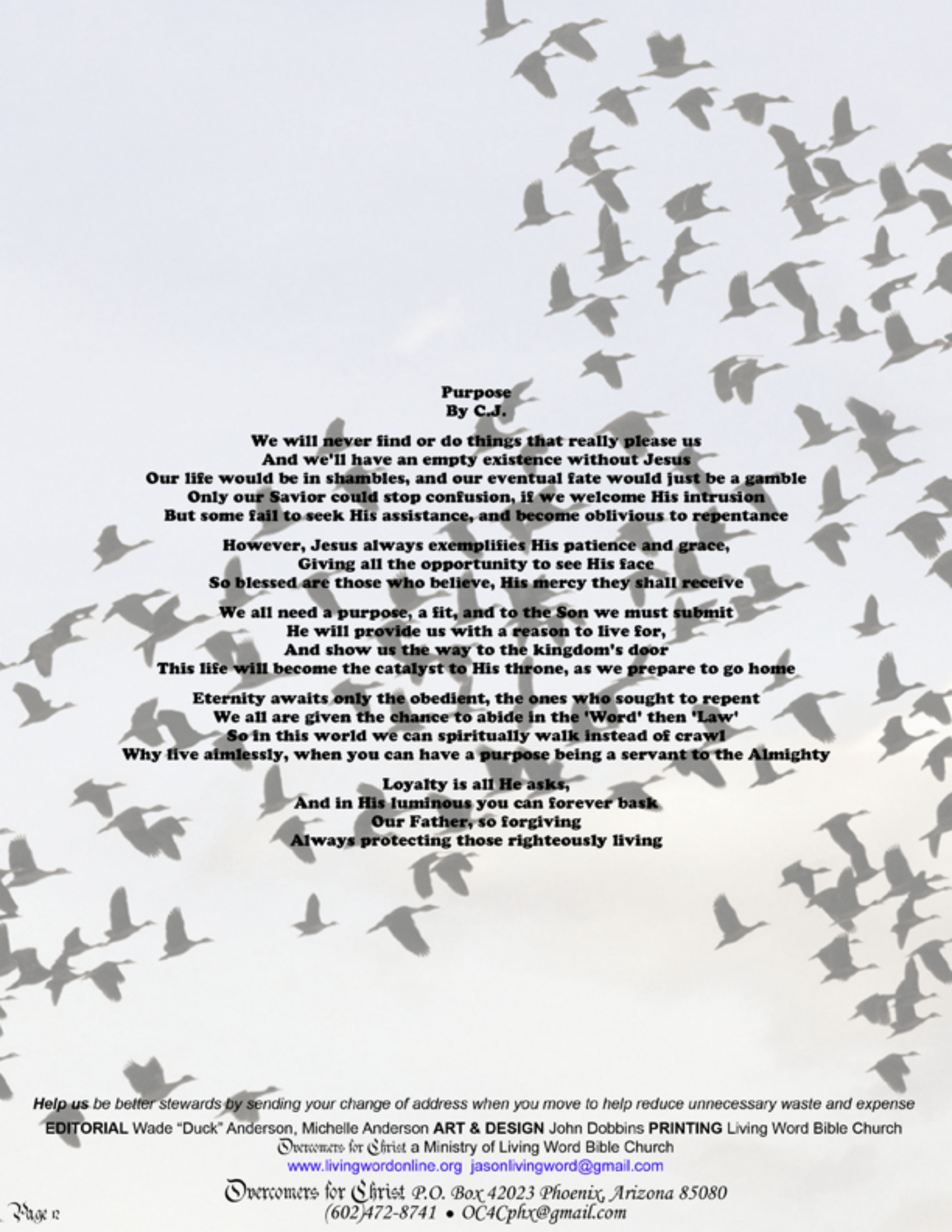
Here is how you can give to the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry:

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

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

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

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Purpose
By C.J.

**We will never find or do things that really please us
And we'll have an empty existence without Jesus
Our life would be in shambles, and our eventual fate would just be a gamble
Only our Savior could stop confusion, if we welcome His intrusion
But some fail to seek His assistance, and become oblivious to repentance**

**However, Jesus always exemplifies His patience and grace,
Giving all the opportunity to see His face
So blessed are those who believe, His mercy they shall receive**

**We all need a purpose, a fit, and to the Son we must submit
He will provide us with a reason to live for,
And show us the way to the kingdom's door
This life will become the catalyst to His throne, as we prepare to go home**

**Eternity awaits only the obedient, the ones who sought to repent
We all are given the chance to abide in the 'Word' then 'Law'
So in this world we can spiritually walk instead of crawl
Why live aimlessly, when you can have a purpose being a servant to the Almighty**

**Loyalty is all He asks,
And in His luminous you can forever bask
Our Father, so forgiving
Always protecting those righteously living**

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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