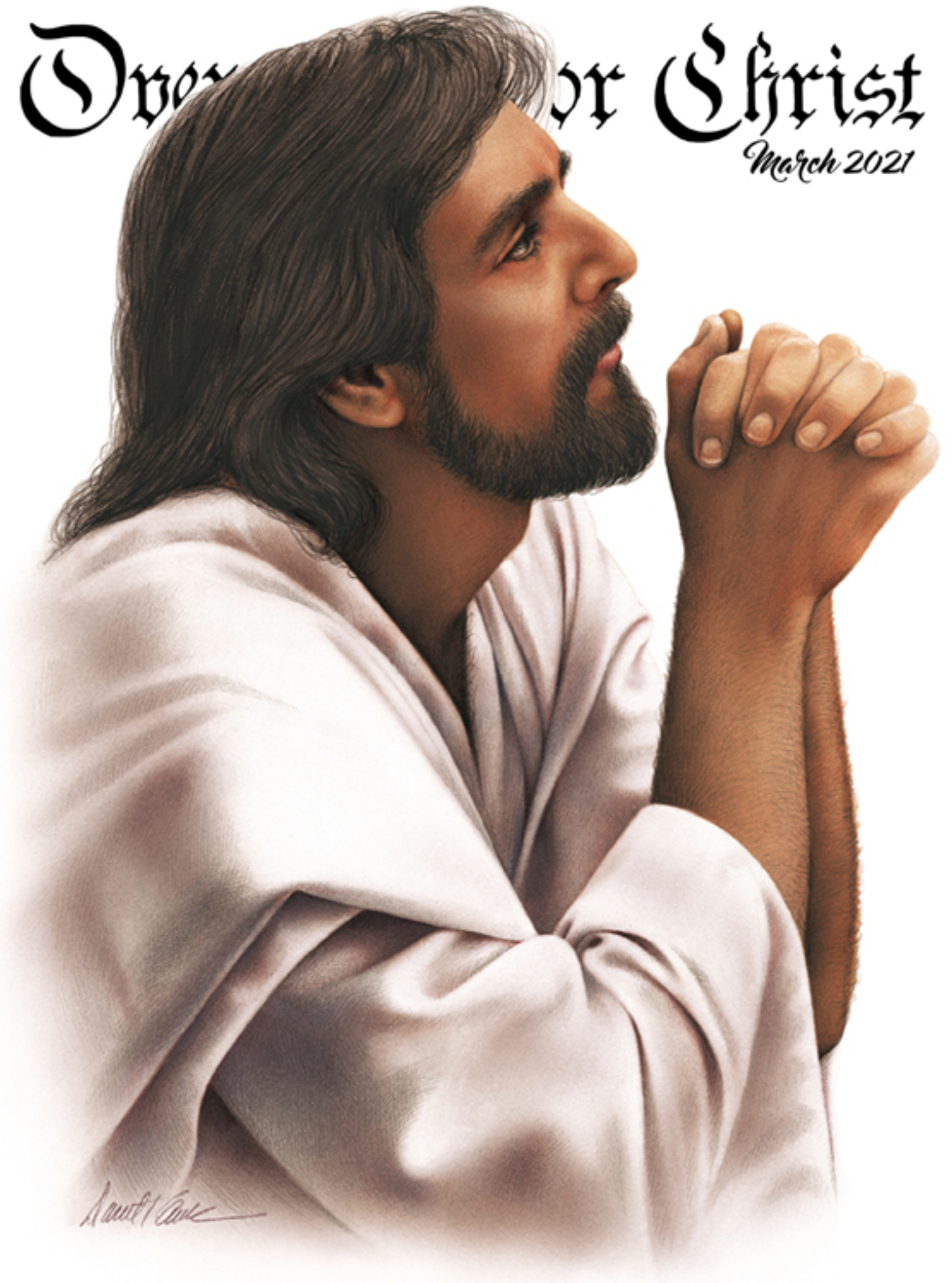


Devotion for Christ

March 2021



David C. Cook

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

February 2020



Oh, How Precious is His Word - Part One

By Vern Deadmond

What value do you place on God's Word in your life? Consider this question for a couple of minutes, and be honest with yourself. As you ponder what God's Word is worth to you, consider not only what His Word has saved you from, but what it's promises hold for you. Pray this quick prayer and then continue to read. *"Father, open my ears to hear what You want me to hear from Your Holy Spirit, open my eyes to see what You want me to see, and I will not harden my heart, I receive the seed of Your Word willingly and I ask for an abundance of fruit to be produced in me from Your Word; in the mighty name of Jesus...Amen."*

I write to you to share how wonderful and precious is the Word of God, it is a great treasure that we should desire above all else. Most Christians do not hold His Word in high esteem, nor do they value or see the Word as the greatest treasure available to them. Without the Word, there would be no salvation for us. The Word is our stability, our rock in a crazy world. Our world is being shaken, but not God's kingdom. Therefore, it is more imperative than ever to build our life on the foundation of God's Word; the Seed of His kingdom.

As I am writing this article, I think about all of you in prison. Many of you never received salvation until it was shared with you after you were incarcerated, or you may have received Jesus as a child but you choose to neglect it for whatever reasons and because of your bad choices you are now locked up. You have been removed from society and from those influences of friends. Possibly, in desperation, you have turned to God and hopefully found Jesus. But what happens to you when you have served out your sentence? You think and believe that when you are released you won't go back to those things that got you in trouble. But when you find yourself on the outside, will you return to the same friends and people you use to hang out with, and get sucked in to the life you had before you went to prison? Will you break your conditions of probation or worse; end back up in prison?

I met a guy at Bible college named Robert. He identified as a heroin addict and he told me I could not understand the power the drug had over him because I had never taken heroin. He couldn't have been more mistaken. Sin is sin. Some have problems with alcohol, but not drugs. An alcoholic will tell someone who doesn't have the same problem they can't relate to the desire for alcohol. Stop identifying who you are with your sin. You need to see yourself in Jesus, He is your identity now. Second, I differ with him because it doesn't matter what sin someone does, sin is sin, and there is no sin that Jesus did not overcome. I challenge you to find in the Bible where God says certain types of sin have more power over you than other types of sin. You won't find it. Some people will claim they can't resist the temptation of drugs, or the temptation of sex, or alcohol, or pornography, or even food. If you are a born-again Christian, there is no sin that Jesus did not overcome; period, end of story. Jesus said it as He hung on the cross, *"It is finished."*

Romans 6:14, "For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace." The Word doesn't say, some sin shall not have dominion over you, it says **"sin shall not have dominion."** We are to believe and accept what the Word of God says. It says sin does not have power over you anymore. The power of sin has been broken over your life, and you need to begin to fill your mind and spirit with the Word of God. It is the Word of God that has God's supernatural power and ability to work in you to free you from the sin that holds you. Jesus is your hope of being free from the dominion of sin and you will find Him in the Word of God as you seek Him. **Psalms 119:9** says, **"How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word."** And then there is **James 1:21, "Therefore, lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls."** It is the Word of God that you take and plant into yourself that has the ability to set free your mind, will, and emotions; the Word will break the power of sin over you. The power of the Word of God goes beyond natural understanding and natural laws, it goes to work inside of us in a supernatural way. Instead of using your free time to think on sin and do it, use your time to dwell and pursue God through His Word, allowing it to work inside of you.

The Word of God is a seed that must be planted in the heart. Jesus tells us in what is known to us as The Parable of the Sower, that the seed is God's Word, and our heart is the ground that the seed is sown or planted in. Jesus tells us, in **Luke 8:5-8, "A sower went out to sow his seed. And as he sowed, some fell by the wayside; and it was trampled down, and the birds of the air devoured it. Some fell on rock; and as soon as it sprang up it withered away because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up with it and choked it. But others fell on good ground, sprang up, and yielded a crop a hundredfold."**

When the disciples were alone with Jesus, they asked Him to explain it to them. Jesus broke it down for them in **Luke 8:11-15, "Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God. Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the Word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. But the ones on the rock are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. Now the ones that fall among thorns are those who, when have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. But the ones that**

fall on the good ground are those who, having heard the Word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."

Jesus tells us clearly that the seed is Word of God, and that the ground is our hearts. There are four types of ground; the wayside, the rocky soil, the soil overgrown with thorns, and the good ground. The wayside is a term that means a road. A road's surface is hard and the Word of God is unable to penetrate into the ground to take root. This represents a person who has hardened his heart by refusing to believe God. A person cannot be saved and receive eternal life until they believe and allow God's Word to begin to take root in their heart. But there is hope for the unbelieving heart, just look at a concrete driveway or sidewalk; cracks develop and this allows for the seed to penetrate into the soft soil underneath. And as that root begins to grow, the cracks will split wide open allowing for more seed to penetrate into the soil.

Another way to look at this is like a farmer's field that is not prepared for planting, but then the farmer goes out and spreads his seed on the surface. The birds then come and eat the seed off of the ground. The soil has not been turned to break the hardness of it, thus the seed is not hidden from the eye of the thieving bird. If you choose to not believe God's Word, the Word never gets down into your heart and the devil comes and steals that Word.

The next type of soil or heart is the rocky ground. When the Word of God gets into our heart – the seed finds its way into the soft ground and begins to grow. This person receives salvation, but is stagnant in his walk with God and does not grow and develop as a Christian, he goes on about his life as it was before he received Jesus. He may go to church, but that is the only time he hears the Word. He relies on the pastor; he may even develop a relationship with the pastor. He becomes dependent upon the pastor, never growing in his relationship with God, letting the roots of the Word to go deep into his heart. He pursues other activities to occupy his free time, doing the same things he did before he was saved and hanging with his same friends. He doesn't change the external influences on his life and eventually he stops believing and neglects the greatest gift that has ever been given to him. This Christian was never close to God, the fountain of living water; this is the living water that nourishes and provides moisture to the seed of God's kingdom. Remember in **Luke 8:6** of the parable, Jesus said, *"Some seed fall on rock; and as soon as it sprang up, it withered away because it lacked moisture."* The roots that began to grow were not being watered and nourished. Then we read, in **Jeremiah 17:13**, *"... those who depart from Me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living waters."* Here the scripture is clear, God is the fountain of living waters.

It is so critical when you receive Jesus to remain close to Him, become a disciple, a student, and a pupil of Christ. Don't just go to church and hear a sermon once a week, but commit to reading and studying the Word from the Bible every day, allow God's Holy Spirit to be your teacher and seek to know God your Savior as your best friend, spending time with God. When you are committed to being a disciple of Christ, you are being watered and nourished by God Himself. We see, in **Psalms 1:3**, *"You shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever you do shall prosper."* This scripture describes the disciple, his trust is in God, and he is not withdrawn from God. Our food and bread are the Word of God, and just as natural food produces growth and health in our body, the Word of God produces the same, growth, health, and prosperity. Planting God's Word inside our hearts will bring about the fulfilling of God's promises in us.

For some time, I thought 'I' had to water the seed of the Word of God, so it would grow and produce fruit in my life. But I didn't know how to water this seed, and it led to wrong thinking on my part; believing I had to do good and that my obedience caused the Word to grow in me. This leads to a law mentality, and not a grace mentality. What I mean is, we don't receive from God because we keep His law perfectly, we receive from God because He loves us, and He is not the one withholding anything from us. God's Holy Spirit taught me that it's not me who waters, but He does. My responsibility is to unite with God and remain in a state of fellowship with Him, for He is the fountain of Living Water. I join myself with Him and stay there, and He provides the nourishment needed for the Word inside to grow deep roots and produce fruit in my life.

A disciple does not just read one verse, he reads and studies verse by verse. Let's read from the beginning of **Psalms 1**. **Psalms 1:1** says, *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful ..."* This goes back to my point that when you receive Jesus, you need to stop hanging with your old friends who do things contrary to God and His Word. Find new friends, hang with people that are like-minded with the new creation inside of you, and you will be a blessed man/woman of God. Continue reading **verse 2 of Psalms**, *"But his delight is in the law (Word) of the Lord, and in His law (Word) he meditates day and night."* The blessed man or woman of God takes great pleasure in meditating on God's Word. And it is this man/woman that is the tree planted by the rivers of water. What causes us to be blessed? The Word of God, the seed of God's kingdom working in us. If you are not sowing and planting the Word into your heart, there is nothing there for God to nourish, to work with. You have to plant some Word.

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

Blessings to you and everyone on staff. I pray everyone is safe and doing well. Thank you so much for the card. You and your wonderful staff are so considerate and thoughtful. As we come to the close of a tumultuous year, we who trust in the Lord know this is but a moment in time. I'm happy to report that my grades are in the 90% plus. There is a strong possibility I will be moved. Prescott is still on the horizon for my release, still working on the details. I know wherever the Lord leads me or puts me, that's where I need to be. Our brother, E.B., was called home two weeks ago. Please pray for P.S. He has had some complications due to diabetes. Please pray for R.L. cancer treatment. And lastly, The Voice of the Martyrs for their continued efforts to bring the Good News to those who are under persecution. May the love and peace of our Lord, keep your hearts warm always ... **R.H.**

As the God appointed pastor of The No Walls Ministry, I ask that you keep us in your prayers and pray for the staff here at Ft. Grant. Also, pray for me that I reconcile with my family when I get released. May God bless **DS&S** as you continue to do God's will ... **J.M.**

Please pray for healings for Virgo and Gregg. So many people are going hungry now so we pray for help and food shall come from around the world to feed the hungry, Amen! M.L. has two Proposition 57 hearings coming up and for other Christians hearings in 2021. So, we get relief in Jesus' Name, Amen! We thank and praise you Lord for being You, You're awesome ... **G.M.L.**

Heavenly Father, I want to thank You for this day! Thank You that You love me so much that You just continue to show up and show out at all times. Thank You for brother, Wade, and **DS&S**. Continue to bless that ministry! Protect them, help them as they need. We love You and thank You in Jesus' Name, Amen!! I am currently going through *One Year with Jesus in the Gospels* and it is an incredible book. So, as you can imagine there is a lot of people who judge one another here. I have been working with the Lord on a couple of things of trying to make some feel welcome without condemning them. I have been praying and today Andrew Wommack said that we are called to be witnesses not a judge. It is the Holy Spirit's job to do the conviction we are to brag on Jesus. Tell others what He has done for us. We are His witnesses in word and deed. It has to be both not one only. Lord, we love You and thank You for all that You do. Bless our enemies! Protect and help our loved ones. Be with those in need and reveal Yourself to all, in Jesus' Name, Amen ... **D.F.**

Praise Reports

I'm grateful to be here at this new yard. Several of the men here have come together forming a brotherhood. We meet three nights a week, "Each one sharing a song, a teaching or a revelation for the edification for the body." We are growing together in Christ while also meeting for prayer two nights a week. We also fellowship in groups of two or three throughout the remainder of the week. What an exciting opportunity to replicate the New Testament church! We actually practice the 'one another's' with one another each day. Praise God! ... **G.H.**

My praise report is this; I have seen and witnessed God working in (T.D.C.J.) with both its officials on the inmates behalf over the past 25 years of my incarceration. I give God Praise for the changes that have occurred over the past few years here in the Texas prison system. For all of the brothers and sisters within this system, I would like to encourage you all that God sees the problem or problems we are having with our 'Good-Time' and Work-Time credit as (3-6) offenders that are not being honored at this present time. I ask that you not lose heart, and know that God is on our side now and that changes are coming very soon. And we should give praise to God even before these changes start taking effect. Whether you are just starting your sentence or have been in the struggle like I have been over the years, may all our praise be given to our Lord. Without Him we have nothing. But with Him we have everything, so praise Him because He IS worthy of our praise ... **T.T.**

Brothers and sisters at Overcomers, I pray for you all and your families. Just a short note to say that I am blessed to know you all and I thank Jesus for you. I am doing good. Things in here have changed but all for the good. Jesus has blessed me and has shown me a little part of what He wants for me. Not the whole picture but what I need for right now. Our God is so loving and faithful ... **M.G.**

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, this is a praise report. We, The No Walls Ministry, have gained some members! Praise God ... **J.M.**

I pray and hope all is well in Christ Jesus. Do you remember R.L. that used to write you the last few years? That's my little brother and he got out in Feb 2020 on my mom's birthday. He moved to Oregon with mom and my other brother. He is doing great and going to church. I talked to him ten times already and I believe every time I have talked to him, He prays for me over the phone ... **G.M.L.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Influence of Faith

By M.D.

In today's culture, faith is often seen as a possession that only affects its owner. Because of our love for independence and self sufficiency, in many ways we've lost the sense of community and outreach that the church is meant to embody. We live like little islands in our own "personal relationship with Christ", but God wants our faith to influence others, both within and outside the church, both in and out of prison.

Elijah's faith influenced others, the entire nation of Israel. By believing and delivering God's message, he was an example to them in word and deed. When he asked the Lord to reveal Himself as Mighty God, fire fell from heaven and the people believed.

The prophets motive in the showdown at Mt. Carmel was to draw the people back to the Lord. We usually think of 'sharing our faith' with those who don't know Christ, but our confidence in God can also encourage weak or wayward believers. Likewise, those strong in faith can strengthen us when we are struggling with doubt.

The Church is described as a body whose parts are all interconnected. Look here at **1 Corinthians 12:12**, "**For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.**" God never intended for us to be autonomous, living in our own personal faith. We are not like a bag of marbles; Rather, we are to be like a bunch of grapes whose juices blend in times of pressure.

As Overcomers we must guard against living an isolated Christian life. Share your confidence in God's faithfulness. If you're troubled by doubt or fear, let go of any pride or shame, and seek help from a strong believer. Mutual blessings await when we reach out to one another.

Be Encouraged

By D.F.

Let's pray: *"Lord Jesus, I come before You today thanking You that my sins are forgiven. I pray that You speak to me and through me at all times in my life. Lord, I thank You for dying for me. Protect and help us at all times. Lord, I know You are always doing something to help those that are still lost, to bring them to You before it's too late. You are in control of it all Lord. I pray that when people see me they see You. I love You Lord! In Jesus' name. Amen"*

When I seen you last I was a mess in the county jail. It has taken a little while to get over that mess that I made. Not until after being in and staying in the Word did I really start becoming a doer and not just a hearer only. In the last several months, I have been blessed beyond what I deserve.

When this 'virus' started to get bad the Lord put it on my heart that though I have eight years left to do here, tomorrow is not promised and whatever is happening is going to happen. Now I do my best to stay active by working out my physical body as well as my spiritual well being. I am thankful that the Lord has blessed me with a recreation worker job because I get to spend four hours a day outside. The Lord brings people to Himself through me. I get to speak to inmates and officers about Jesus.

When I started this job, a few months ago, I had just finished reading a book called The Purpose Driven Life and it was saying that as believers we are to be a part of all parts of ministry and to find out what our spiritual gifts are. I am an encourager. I really try to help people the very best that I possibly can. If I can be kind and say something nice, hold a door or smile, I try to do it. It costs me nothing and it helps me at the same time it may help that person. Being a doer of the Word really is a blessing!

Oh yeah! I also must mention that I have befriended some baby squirrels. There are like eight of them and I try to bring them food. I believe they now know that I am not going to hurt them. They come right up to me and hold my finger while they eat the bread right from my hand. I see even this as practicing love. They know that I am the guy with the food. I see it like the message Jesus taught in **Matthew 6:26**, "*Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?*" So, if God provides me with food while I'm in prison, I want to help Him feed those cute little guys.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

I am just in awe of what God is doing in my life and I still have eight more years here. I know that all of this is preparing me for more on the streets. I just know it! I thank the Lord so much. After all the things that I've gone through, I can now help other people get through their tough times, too. Thank you for showing me a lot of love and prayers when I was in the county. I feel that we are going to do some work together.

I'll close with this, "Lord, help me to stay in the moment and do what I can to help others see You! Be with the entire Overcomers for Christ family, protect them and bless them."

Knights at the Round Tables

By D.H.

Overcomers for Christ and all the **Knights at the Round Tables**, I have great joy and hope because of all of you! I am proud to be a member of the Overcomers for Christ, and to have served with the Lord's warriors and knights at those round tables.

Thank you for not throwing me away and still loving me after I had lost my footing. When I look at the pictures they are not just pictures. To me, they are filled with love. Wade, you are a true warrior filled with wisdom and truth. Michelle, such a great prayer warrior who puts love in everything you do. Julie, what a no nonsense down home country style warrior for God. Monty, the straight shooter always there with wisdom and kindness. And then there is Maria! Oh God bless Maria, she is the warrior of happiness. Always giggling and overflowing with God's joy! Phoebe, your smile is infectious. You are full of God's Word and always ready to pray for anyone. For all of the others there that I didn't mention, that come and go, God sees you all as warriors at those round tables! I know firsthand why those meetings are called the "The Glory Meetings of the Overcomers for Christ." I love you all, you are my family and I can't wait to get back to you to serve there again for Christ. I wish I hadn't fallen down, but I know that God is not finished with me yet. He who started a good work in me will complete it, Amen?! I'm crying with love and joy even as I write this!

Many of us are at war with sadness, loneliness, aloneness, and sorrow. But you all show up in letters, cards and newsletters to bring great joy to us with everything that you do. And to anyone of you that are getting out and are Overcomers for Christ, I encourage you to show up and serve at the round tables. Firsthand, I know that these people are on fire for the Lord, they are the real thing. In all of that, I want to warn everyone getting out to stay close to the Lord and don't put off your communication with Jesus. We have to spend quality time with Him to see that He will not fail us.

Like myself, I know there are those of you getting released that have prayed and have fantasies of how 'you' think things are going to be out there. You may have prayed and have 'your' plans in place but my fellow OCS brothers and sisters, if your prayers don't seem to be getting answered the way 'you' thought they would, don't get mad at God and give up. Don't give up and go on your way, because God will NOT make you serve Him. After whispering over and over to you to not go, He will let you do what you most desire. Things will fall apart, until you come back to Him on bended knee. He will allow you to mess up 'your' plans. But PLEASE trust in Jesus! God does hear and answer all of our prayers, but it doesn't always happen like 'you' thought or when 'you' thought it would.

God is still answering my prayers in His perfect time. He is still blessing me. This time in prison is very different. I don't see things like I used to. I despise being here this time and because of that, I know this will be the last time I will come back to prison for the wrongs that I have done. I know I'm hard headed and God knows it as well. He also knows my heart's desire is to serve and please Him wholeheartedly. No matter where I end up living in the valley, I **WILL** be with my Overcomers for Christ family every other week. I'm ready for 'The Glory Meeting' with the warriors at the round tables!

Jeremiah 13:1-15:21

Proud here refers to self-exaltation and contempt for the spoken or revealed Word of God.

While it is good to respect our country and our church, our loyalties always carry a hidden danger - arrogance. When is pride harmful? When it causes us to look down on others, be selfish with our resources, force our solutions on other's problems, think God is blessing us because of our own merits, or be content with our plans rather than seeking God's plans. **(13:15)**

Interceding for the people, Jeremiah asked God if Judah's repentance would bring back His people. But God refused to come to their aid **(15:1)** because the people were insincere, wicked and stubborn. They knew he wanted to bless them, and they knew what they needed to do to receive that blessing. They wanted God to do His part, but they did not want to do theirs. It's easy to express sorrow for wrong actions, especially when we want something, but we must be willing to stop doing what is wrong. God will forgive those who are truly repentant, but hypocrites will be severely punished. **(14:14-22)**

Moses and Samuel were two of God's greatest prophets. Like Jeremiah, both interceded for the people before God. Read **Exodus 32:11; Numbers 14:11-20; 1 Samuel 7:9, 12:17; Psalm 99:6**. Intercession is often effective. In this case, however, the people were so wicked and stubborn that God knew they would not turn to Him. **(15:1)**

1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:20

The Holy Spirit changes people when they believe the Good News. When we tell others about Christ, we must depend on the Holy Spirit to open their eyes and convince them that they need salvation. God's power, not our cleverness or persuasion changes people. Without the work of the Holy Spirit, our words are meaningless. The Holy Spirit not only convicts people of sin but also assures them of the truth of the Good News. Read more on the Holy Spirit in **John 14:23-26; 15:26-27**.

By his words and examples, Paul encouraged the Thessalonians to live in a way God would consider worthy. Is there anything about your daily life that would embarrass God? What do people think of God from watching you? **(2:11-12)**

Psalm 82:1-8

This Psalm calls the rulers and judges of Israel 'gods' and 'children of the Most High'. They are called gods because they represented God in executing judgment. **John 10:34-36** records Jesus using this passage to defend His claims to be God. His argument was as follows, if God would call mere people 'gods', why was it blasphemous for Him, the true Son of God, to declare Himself equal with God? **(82:6)**

Proverbs 25:11-14

It is often difficult to find people you can really trust. A faithful employee (messenger) is punctual, responsible, honest and hardworking. This person is invaluable as he or she helps take some pressure off his or her employer. Find out what your employer needs from you to make his or her job easier and do it. **(25:13)**

"Foot" Notes

Hey y'all, well if all the yards are going through these Covid issues, I pray the good Lord helps you all by giving you the strength to endure, Amen! So, all but 35 inmates tested positive on this yard. We've been on a hard lock down being fed in-house with daily vitals checks. I was face down for a few weeks and was actually on the comeback when we were all diagnosed. There were a couple days I thought I was done here. I'm doing a lot better with only a cough, breathing issues and fatigue to deal with but getting better slowly day by day.

There are angels out there putting in overtime on their prayer bones for us all I cannot thank you enough because I'm pretty sure God has more for all of us to do here for Him.

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

What Others Are Saying...

"Overcomers for Christ, I have been receiving your newsletters for several years now, but I was moved to a new yard last year. Because I haven't written before now, I receive my newsletters very late. So, I am in a different prison and would very much appreciate it if you now mail my newsletter to this new location. Your newsletter is one of the highlights of my month and helps so much in giving me Jesus' peace and keeps me grounded. God bless you for all the cards and love you send us. I love you all!" - **A.B.**

"Hello family! Just dropping a few lines your way to thank you all for continuing to send me the Overcomers for Christ newsletter, it has changed my life completely. Thank you for your service. You may have no idea how much you all mean to people like me who had no hope in life, until crossing paths with people like you! Thank you for everything all you do with the love of God, for all of us. Please keep sending me your newsletters as they continually help renew my mind, a lot. I will be looking forward to my birthday card this year, like every year. You brothers and sisters really know how to lift my spirits! Thank you! Thank you!" - **I.V.**

"Dear Wade and Michelle, today I was reading **Luke Chapter 15** about the lost sheep and the lost coin. It reminded me of your work with the Overcomers for Christ. You search for the lost, lead them towards Jesus and celebrate their victory in Christ to a new way of living in their hearts. Thank you both for all you do for God! You're making this world a better place, one sheep at a time." - **Linda**

"Dear Overcomers for Christ, thank you so much for the birthday card and wishes. Things are going great for me in here. I'm getting ready to get out here in a few months. God is working in my life. Keep up the great work out there." - **A.T.**

"Thank you Wade, Michelle and all the brothers and sisters at the OCS. Thank you for all you all do for us. I know we don't always write back enough and I personally apologize for that. We tend to get complacent but not you guys, you're always Johnny on the spot. Again, thank you." - **A.V.**

"Brothers and sisters at OCS, God bless you all! It warms my heart every time I hear from you. Your newsletter is both inspirational and informative. And I love the unexpected cards that you send from time to time. It is very uplifting just to know that you are thinking about me. You are certainly a blessing to me! I pray that God opens the opportunity for me to be a part of the OCS team and assist you in the work there. Living Word is my church; The Anderson's are my mentors. Enclosed is my tithe." - **R.A.**

"I am more than grateful for your help, services and programs. May you be blessed in all of your endeavors for Christ. Thank you for your time, patience and all that you do for others less fortunate on their path towards freedom." - **L.S.**

"Greetings and salutations to you sir! I was pleasantly surprised by your card because I had forgotten I wrote you. Surprisingly, I have been occupied by my tablet and had erroneously concluded that the only messages I would receive would be emails from my family. I forgot about you brother, the veritable superhero of correspondence who always shines his light into the preponderantly dark world. Your prayers are appreciated and so is your devotion to writing letters. So please accept my most heartfelt thanks!" - **P.W.**

"I just wanted to write this to thank all of my brothers and sisters at the Overcomers for Christ ministry for giving me all the moral support by sending me your newsletters and cards. When everybody else forgot all of you there didn't. I will be paroling and wanted to let you know, in order to help with your costs, this month will be my last newsletter. God bless you all." - **L.Z.**

"Brother, I hope everything is well with you and everyone at the OCS family! I received your letter today and was so happy. I felt so blessed to get a response from you! You have lifted my spirits to know there are still good people who care for one another in these sinful times where so many are lost and misled in our world. Your words have helped to comfort me and encourage me and I will not doubt God or lose my faith - God is so good and always on time! Your reply to me was confirmation that the Lord still has His hands on me and has plans for me." - **A.O.**

"Living Word Bible Church and Overcomers for Christ, I am currently incarcerated at Red Rock Academy and I would like to receive your monthly magazine, if it is possible. I am not new to being a Christian, but kept stepping back into the world. I've now been given a sentence of 28 years. I have found a few of your magazines and they are a joy. The poems and the letters in them help me to keep going when all else seems to be of no hope. Thank you." - **E.B.**

"I hope and pray that all is great out there. I will be there in a few years. I see the pictures and sometimes I put myself in them. Especially, any with food in them, I love to eat. My brothers and sisters, I love you all and keep up the great work." - **M.G.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

Check Your Pride at the Door

First of all I want to thank God for all of you there, and for taking the time out of your schedule to write me. Well, let me explain how the *Overcomers for Christ* address ended up in my cell.

At first I thought it was a piece of trash and was going to throw it away. But I couldn't, so I just left it there. The next day while I was cleaning my cell, there it was again and this time I was for sure going to get rid of it. But this time was different. As I was getting ready to toss it in the trash, I felt a tug on my heart NOT to get rid of it. I knew it was the Lord telling me something, so I looked at the paper and I saw a group of people sitting around tables smiling. Then looking at the bottom of the page, I saw there was an address. And that's when the Lord said, "Write these people" and so I did. Let me share my quick testimony.

Before I came in to prison I was already serving the Lord on the outside. God has blessed me with many gifts and one of those gifts was to lead the praise and worship for the Rock School of Ministry in San Diego. The worship music caught attention around the city, then a few other churches wanted to hire me to lead their worship teams with the pay number.

Let me say this with a humble heart, God blessed me beyond words and I had a support system like never before. Sadly I say, I did not live up to God's expectations. In fact, I failed badly. I allowed pride and temptations to distract me. And before I knew it I was using Meth and drinking every day, to the point where it affected the people I loved negatively. To support those habits, I would sneak into people's homes to steal whatever I could to continue getting high. This is just one of my testimonies, I have many more.

God is so good to me! Even through it all, He remains the same God as always. To be completely honest, I thank God for where I'm at today. AND I'm forever grateful knowing He will NEVER forsake me. I pray God's blessings over every single person who has overcome addictions of EVERY KIND! I know that I have. - T.D.

Consumed by Lust

By Steve Arterburn

"But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." - Titus 3:4-5

Radio personality Paul Harvey once told of how an Eskimo kills a wolf. The Eskimo coats his knife with animal blood and lets it freeze. Another layer of blood is added, then another, until the blade is completely concealed. The hunter then fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. A wolf follows the scent, finds the source, and begins licking. Aroused by the taste, it licks the blood-covered blade progressively faster and harder.

Amidst the wolf's frenzy, it doesn't notice the eventual sting of the exposed blade on its own tongue, nor that it's now consuming its own warm blood. The wolf simply craves more, until it falls dead in the snow.

It's a grisly story, but a poignant illustration of how we too stand in danger of being consumed by our own lusts.

"My will was perverse and lust had grown from it; and when I gave in to lust, habit was born; and when I did not resist the habit it became a necessity. These were the links which together formed what I have called my chain, and it held me fast in the duress of servitude." - St. Augustine (354-430) - a theologian, philosopher, and the bishop of Hippo Regius in Numidia, Roman North Africa. His writings influenced the development of Western philosophy and Western Christianity, and he is viewed as one of the most important Church Fathers of the Latin Church in the Patristic Period.

Quote Worthy

"Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness."

– Desmond Tutu - a South African Anglican cleric and theologian, known for his work as an anti-apartheid and human rights activist.

A Towering Problem Trivia

1. Where in the Bible can you find the story of Babel?
2. When the people first started building the Tower of Babel, they all spoke the same language. True or False
3. The people who built the tower spoke
 - a. Latin b. Hebrew c. French and Spanish d. an unspecified language
4. Did you know that the Tower of Babel was built in Babylonia? The Bible says the people had settled on a plain in Shinar, which was in ancient Babylonia. (**Genesis 11:2**)
5. The tower was built of
 - a. wood b. stone c. brick d. steel
6. The people were building a city as well as a tower. True or False
7. The people wanted a tower that would
 - a. let them see the Atlantic Ocean b. be three feet taller than the Empire State Building c. make a suitable home for Rapunzel d. reach to heaven
8. God was happy when He saw the tower. True or False
9. When God saw the tower, God
 - a. gave the people a golden calf b. asked Satan to loan the builders pitchforks to help them finish it c. told the workmen how to make better bricks d. made the people all speak different languages so they wouldn't finish the work
10. Why is the story of the Tower of Babel so important?

- Answers**
1. **Genesis 11:1-9**
 2. **True (Genesis 11:1)**
 3. **d. Everyone spoke the same language, but the Bible does not say what language the people spoke. (Genesis 11:1)**
 5. **c. (Genesis 11:3)**
 6. **True (Genesis 11:4-5)**
 7. **d. (Genesis 11:6)**
 8. **False (Genesis 11:6-7)**
 9. **d. (Genesis 11:7)**
 10. **The story of the Tower of Babel is important because it shows us that God places limits upon mankind (Genesis 11:6); it explains why we speak different languages (Genesis 11:6-9); it shows how God scattered the people all over the face of the earth (Genesis 11:9).**

Living Word Bible Church Locations

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Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

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

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Audaciously Emboldened
By K.Z.

The moon turned blue when I stole your heart because God caught His breath too
Omniscient love poured spiritually into all softens the impact after a prideful fall
Passion is yours hidden or you'd throw it out with the trash and everything else
The Son chases away the blue moon hoping He'll see your heart again

A love so daring a heart so true with sublime beauty
Audaciously Emboldened I seek resale of all the hearts you've stolen
This love is beyond compare, transcendent it shouldn't be esteemed lightly or dis-
missed

The goal of a man in love is to exemplify loyalty, truth and love

Having to be simply the best beyond any love you've known truer than the rest
Captive love the heart afire with irradiated love rapaciously feeding on your love
Oh yeah it's real 1000% incomparable to all, courting you with such great fervor
Love and kisses substantiates the gravity of my pledge to you communicating my
laws

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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