

Overcomers for Christ

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2023

Happy New Year

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

February 2022



Love in the Church

By M.D.

I recently had someone who wanted to discuss with me the love that should be in Jesus Christ's church. My acquaintance said to me, "There is no unity of love in the church of Jesus Christ today, as there was with the early Apostles." We are all told, "Without love the church cannot grow and the Holy Spirit of God cannot have room to show Himself in the church." I thought, certainly there is room for much improvement within the church in this realm.

The conversation really got me thinking deeply in my mind. So, I got out my Sword, my concordance, my Bible dictionary and my Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and dove in! My thoughts were all questions about love first off. What is meant by 'unity of love'? Does this mean a unity based on love for the Lord? Or a unity based on a mutual love between brothers and sisters in the local congregation? Or is it a general love for mankind that would cement the church together by a common cause? Or does this love include all of these things?

And what is love? Is it a fleshly desire (Epithumeo or Porneeria)? Or is it an emotion, brotherly love (Philadelphia)? Or is it a godly love – a love like that of God (Agapee)? Is it a love that is passive, compliant, and permissive? Or is it a love founded upon inflexible principles? Is it a love based on man's concepts; or is it a love founded upon the examples and precepts of God?

Does love dictate different levels of actions towards different ones? Or does it dictate exactly the same level of performance toward all, in heaven and on earth? Does it forbid punitive correction and compel only benign platitudes?

The Living Word says, "**Behold, therefore, the kindness and severity of God ...**" (Romans 11:12) And to know of a certainty that kind of SEVERE, He is always the God of love. Let us understand completely that love is not at inane and silly refusal to admit what is wicked, nor a defense of wrong actions on some pseudo-benevolent impulse, neither a continued giving which is styled charity to those who refuse to work or who use the gift wrongfully. God's Agapee was still in force when the Spirit wrote by the hand of Paul, "**If a man will not work, he shall not eat.**" (2 Thessalonians 3:10)

The love of the Bible is God-like love, Agapee. This is the love prompted by esteem and veneration (for God primarily) and exercised to the glory of our Lord. It is a pure, non-self-seeking love after the example of Jesus Christ, who died even for His enemies, if they return from their enmity.

It is not a sentimental love. Agapee is a love tempered with compassion but founded upon justice. It is a love that may sorrow over the sinner but will never condone nor defend nor cover the sin. It is the love by which God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son; Yet it is the same love by which also, "**He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the Gospel of our Lord Jesus.**" (2 Thessalonians 1:8) It is a love that permits the child of God no sentimental attachment for the world or the things of the world. (2 Corinthians 2:12) For such attachment precludes the love of God as found here in James 4:4, "**Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**" And 1 John 2:15 tells us, "**Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you.**"

Within the church, love is of two kinds – Agapee and Philadelphia: The non-emotional Agapee is based on a knowledge of our close relationship as children of God; And the emotional Philadelphia which, based on our self-knowledge of our own unworthiness, prompts us to accord our brothers and sisters precedence before ourselves in everything. We rejoice with them in their blessings because of a humble love that precludes jealousy and rivalry between brothers and sisters, and is truly a tender, emotional attachment.

When Jesus was asked about the greatest commandment, He said that it is to love God; and next below that is to love mankind. Let's look at Matthew 22:37-38, "**Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment.'**" Yet within that love for mankind there are different levels of priority. The immediate family claims highest precedence as we read here in 1 Timothy 5:8, "**But those who won't care for their relatives, especially those in their own household, have denied the true faith. Such people are worse than unbelievers.**" The church family follows immediately after this, for we are commanded to put our Christian brothers and sisters even before ourselves, as here in Galatians 5:13, "**For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers, and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.**"

Let's read Matthew 5:43-46 together, "**You have heard the law that says, 'Love your neighbor' and hate your enemy. But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven. For He gives His sunlight to both the evil and the good, and He sends rain on the just and the unjust alike. If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much.**" What Jesus is saying here is, love those outside the church, even personal enemies, those who have fallen

away, and the very most vile and vicious criminals. Love them for their souls for that is the basis of **Matthew 28:19-20**, *"Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

We cannot legislate love within the church. Neither can we eliminate from the church all those who do not show the proper love.

We must remember three things:

1) Be sure to remove the beam from our own eyes before we attempt to remove the speck from our brother or sister's eye, as Jesus stated in **Luke 6:41-42**, *"And why worry about a speck in your friend's eye when you have a log in your own? How can you think of saying, 'Friend, let me help you get rid of that speck in your eye,' when you can't see past the log in your own eye? Hypocrite! First get rid of the log in your own eye; then you will see well enough to deal with the speck in your friend's eye."*

2) Listen to what Jesus said in the parable of the weeds, in **Matthew 13:24-29**, *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. But that night as the workers slept, his enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat, then slipped away. When the crop began to grow and produce grain, the weeds also grew. The farmer's workers went to him and said, 'Sir, the field where you planted that good seed is full of weeds! Where did they come from?' 'An enemy has done this!' the farmer exclaimed. 'Should we pull out the weeds?' they asked. 'No,' he replied, 'you'll uproot the wheat if you do.'" To avoid harming the pious, the impious are not wrested from the church until Jesus comes to judge the church.*

3) To continually keep before the church the dire warning concerning love that is contained in **1 Corinthians 13**, *"If I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels, but didn't love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophecy, and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but didn't love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless. But love will last forever! Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete, and even the gift of prophecy reveals only part of the whole picture! But when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child. But when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely." As we can see here in Scripture, the lack of true love nullifies every good thing that one does!*

The final judgement of the world will be based on the individuals love. Many who have been members of churches – vocal advocates of the Lord – will be lost, condemned while still crying out their own exploits in the Lord's name.

Here's what Jesus Himself, in **Matthew 25:31-46**, has to say about this matter, *"But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit upon His glorious throne. All the nations will be gathered in His presence, and He will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will place the sheep at His right hand and the goats at His left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. For I was hungry, and you fed Me. I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me into your home. I was naked, and you gave Me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for Me. I was in prison, and you visited Me.' Then these righteous ones will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see You hungry and feed You? Or thirsty and give You something to drink? Or a stranger and show You hospitality? Or naked and give You clothing? When did we ever see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these My brothers and sisters, you were doing it to Me!' Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. For I was hungry, and you didn't feed Me. I was thirsty, and you didn't give Me a drink. I was a stranger, and you didn't invite Me into your home. I was naked, and you didn't give Me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn't visit Me.' Then they will reply, 'Lord, when did we ever see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help You?' And He will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these*

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THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

I have a small prayer request that God may continue to bless and keep all of you safe and covid free. The units here are getting the virus under control. I am just working and exercising, staying fit as I can. I was a little down over the past couple of weeks, this time of year is not good for me, my mom passed away October 14, 2015, and her birthday is November 4th, then you have the holidays right around the corner. But I have gotten a lot better especially since I have learned to trust and follow in the Father and call on Him in my times of distress. Please pray for me to get through this crucial time, thanks ... **R.G.**

Know this, you all are always in my prayers. As I have had my fair share of struggles, I always know that when I turn to our Father those struggles will be a stepping stone leading me closer to the Lord. **Overcomers for Christ** family, as long as you put your faith in the Lord you will always be successful in all your endeavors. Even when it doesn't look like it on the surface, His plan always prevails. In His time, not necessarily when we want it. AMEN? ... **B.S.**

May the Lord be with you all. Here we are under "modified program". There is no church, library, school, and visits (only through video). Gavin Newsom doesn't want anyone here in California enjoying themselves. Thanks for everything you have been doing, my lovely people. I'm asking for prayer - The church needs to stop all the activism. I have seen Christians on the secular and Christian channels fighting for prison reform, universal health care, distribution of wealth and for illegals. We need to take care of the orphans and widows. And we also need to take care of the truly poor people ... **A.J.**

Fire up the presses on this one!! My father was diagnosed with throat cancer. I'm sorry to say! He's lost over 21 pounds and can't eat or drink. They put a stint in his throat so that he's able to eat and drink. I need you to get my dad on the prayer list and get the prayer warriors in action. Not to mention I am not completely confident in his salvation. I need to be sure my father's salvation is secure. I'm praying for his healing of course and I'm confident my brother is doing all he can to be sure he's taken care of medically. But I'm more concerned with what's going on with him spiritually and I'm upset with myself for waiting this long to do all this. I am writing you to intercede on his behalf, as well as my brother who I know is not saved. I need to get on top of this issue with all my family members including my two sons. Just to be sure I've done my part and that they all know and understand the gospel of Jesus Christ and that it is only through Him and His shed blood that they will see the gates of heaven and enter the kingdom of God ... **M.D.**

Praise Reports

I love **OC4C** - your ministry is beautiful. My love is contagious. Society is so broken, and I hurt over it. I suppose that is pure compassion. Praise the Lord! Heavenly Father, Lord Jesus, and Holy Spirit, we came to you to bless you to bless Your Name in our praise and worship. You are the King of kings and you are the Lord of lords. The only true living God. Our Rock and our Counselor. We love You; You are the greatest of all ever. We come to You in agreement with a petition and this petition is covered in scarlet and because of your Blood, Jesus. Your Blood allows this petition to be fragrant and sweet smelling before Daddy that He will hear our prayer but not just hear but listen and act on it in His time. Providing it in His Will will cause Him to be honored and glorified Him over and over and over again through eternity. He is worthy of glory, honor, and praise. Honor, glory, and praise that will go beyond eternity and all because of love. So simply even a simple man - single minded like me can understand it. Lord, it is written that we are reconciled, we are reconciled because of Your love. We praise You and worship You and that Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven by your angels. God bless you; I praise Him every day ... **K.Z.**

I've got to tell you God has given me favor while being here in prison. When I came into prison, I was a mess with so much weight. It was like a weight around my neck holding me to the bottom of the dark ocean. Today, six years later, I can say that I may not be out of the water, but now I can see the sun shining. Last year I got divorced and that cut a weight off me. I had two counties after me for child support. Then last year one of them got hold of me to let me know that account was closed, with zero balance. They had been on me for a good 20 plus years. Last month I wrote to the other county and offered them a lump sum of \$2,000, and they accepted it. That case was \$97,000! Even though they said I could handle it when I was released, I said 'HECK NO!' It wiped my retention out, but I sent that check out last week. Today, I really do believe that God does have a wonderful plan for me. And not only has some enormous weight been lifted, I'm on my way up. Prison has seriously been not only a blessing, but I've got a brand-new start. I'm super excited about what the future holds ... **T.L.**

Well, I'm just getting ready to get out of here, for the last time. I'm NOT coming back again; this will be my last time! I need to say thank you for finding me and sending the newsletters out to me. I'm happy for your 15-year-old ministry! I think that is cool too. I'm doing okay, just waiting out my last 97 days ... **C.F.**

I want to thank God! After getting sentenced to nearly 3 centuries (297 years), I will appear before the Board at the end of 2023 ... Hallelujah!! ... **A.J.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Committed and Strengthened

By R.C.

These past 3 years I have committed and strengthened up my own relationship, to live out the rest of my life for God in Christ as well. Your latest articles "God's Word Is Seed" has had a profound affect on me and resonates with me because I understand the many layers of truth of what's being illustrated through my spiritual eyes. Your newsletters help encourage me and my growth.

"When an evil spirit leaves a person, it goes into the desert, searching for rest. But when it finds none, it says, 'I will return to the person I came from.' So it returns and finds that its former home is all swept and in order. Then the spirit finds seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they all enter the person and live there. And so that person is worse off than before." (Luke 11:24-26) I can relate to these Verses, because every time I got out of jail or prison this is exactly what happened to me, after living my life without Jesus Christ. There definitely a spiritual battle going on in our minds to rule over our lives.

"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:5-9) I love the beginning of these Verses! His words are powerful and pretty much giving us a promise and blessing.

I'll conclude with this Scripture, as it tells the whole truth, *"No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Matthew 4:4)*

A Second Chance

By C.C.G.

Thanks to all of you there at the **Overcomers for Christ** I can give God a praise to His glory and testify to others whenever the Spirit prompts me to.

I came down in 2020 and I have on paper until 2031. God bless, for in this time I have been given 'A Second Chance'. Thank You God! A second chance at sobriety and love, real love. I'm talking about that unconditional all-important love for God, my neighbor and myself. Honestly, when I came back to prison, I was not very happy let alone loving towards myself or others, that included God. Honestly though, all three are the same and you are not truly loving unconditionally until you realize that. God is the Creator and a part of the created (us) for His Holy Spirit lives in us all.

I have come to the conclusion that once I remembered God is on the judgement seat and it is His burden alone, a weight has been lifted off of me. Even though I am not perfect at it yet, I am through His grace and by His Holy Spirit, overcoming my judgmental ways of my past just by letting God be God and me simply being me. That last part is hard too because I have not been me in so long. Far too long I have been worried about 'fitting in' and what didn't fit in with my version of myself. My new advice, if I may, "Learn to love yourselves unconditionally and in doing so, you'll learn to love God and others."

At first, none of this is easy by any means because of the doubt, lack of faith and self-worth. So, when these, among other things creep into your subconscious trying to tell you you're not worthy, remember, "He who endured such things from sinners" and that you ARE the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus!

Remember these lamenting words of Jeremiah, in **Lamentation 3:58**, *"O Lord, You have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life."*, as truths of your own. God as pleaded the case for all of our souls and has redeemed all of our lives by the loving sacrifice of Christ Jesus! **First Timothy 1:15** ensures us, *"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."*

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

And in saying that also remember what Jesus said, in **John 8:7**, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." Allow God His burden to be His, the judgement seat.

Learn to love unconditionally. **First Timothy 4:4-5** affirms this, "For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving; for it is sanctified by the Word of God and prayer." In context I know this last Verse is speaking about food, but in life isn't everything spiritual food to learn from. **Revelation 21:7** reads, "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his/her God and he/she shall be My son/daughter. Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, Be holy, for I am holy." (1 Peter 1:13-16) And further down the page, in 1 Peter 1:22-25, "Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever, because 'All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But the Word of the Lord endures forever.'"

Remember this - In Christ we ARE Overcomers for Christ! AND to overcome this world as Christ did, we must learn the truth and love MUST be unconditional!

Holy Spirit Writing

By J.L.

I'm finding myself touched by the April 2022 newsletter, just upon opening it I see beautiful service, even the little guys and gals in these helping out learning young to serve God. As I see you all there in the pictures, being there for us preparing the newsletters and cards/letters, we see you doing them. I picture myself there next to a family being of service wherever I'd be privileged to do so. Then, that sermon about prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit ... Wow!! This sermon was thought about a lot and when I was in the shower it hit me the hardest.

In the sermon, there you all spoke of 'speaking in tongues', then a verse popped into my mind that upon finishing my shower I looked up the exact place that verse was - **Galatians 6:6**, "Those who are taught the word of God should provide for their teachers, sharing all good things with them." So, it came to me how we are sharing with our teachers, each other. Life is full of lessons as our Bible teaches us, be it good outcomes or more uncolorful ones, ones that bring about longer courses along our path, still we are constantly learning.

So, I've come to the conclusion, not only is it possible to receive God's Holy Spirit power to speak in tongues, but also to write in tongues. I'm not sure about but I write different than I speak. On paper, it's as though the pen just goes. In an old college creative writing course, the instructor told us that when we write it's best to just write as the words flow out without crossing stuff out or erasing because that's the truth.

I just wish to thank you for being a part of a lovely plan, my life. In **Jeremiah 29:11**, God speaks of His plan that's hopeful and lasting because He speaks of a future. My course wasn't peachy and my dad went through lots of it with me and so it's nice to be able to have him now able to share these newsletters with me. I've been sending them to him because I hope he gets touched to read words about him that I wrote to you. This is proof of progress in my spiritual walk with Christ Jesus as well as a young girl able to hold words and teachings from a man who did his very best to lead me to my Savior.

I sent him the last newsletter and I wish to share with you how incredible it is. It's not about puffing myself up, but how writing in tongues has hit along a path God intended or it wouldn't have reached you, then me, then dad, then his Bible study class he teaches, and then all the way to North Carolina where he shares a Bible study with my aunts. One of my dad's letters is the Bible study he taught where Overcomer for Christ is mentioned and then another letter that talked about hope and a future!! All I can find words to say to God is ... Thank You!! And to you all for being so available, obedient, and real.

Foot's Bible Study

Ezekiel 14:12-17:24

If we push God aside for anything, even education, family, career, or pleasure, we are abandoning Him in the same way Jerusalem abandoned God by seeking alliances with pagan nations and adopting their customs. **(16:1)**

As you become wise and more mature, don't turn away from the One who truly loves you. **(16:15)**

It's easy to judge and condemn Sodom, especially for its terrible sexual sins. Ezekiel reminded Judah, however, that Sodom was destroyed because of its pride, laziness, gluttony, and unconcern for the poor and needy. It is easy to be selective in what we consider gross sin. If we didn't commit such horrible sins as adultery, homosexuality, stealing, and murder, we may think we are living good enough lives. But what about sins like pride, laziness, gluttony, and indifference to the needy? These sins may not be as shocking to you as the others, but they are also forbidden by God. **(16:49)**

Ezekiel's prophecy of judgement ends in hope. When the people put their hope in foreign alliances, they are disappointed. Only God could give them true hope. God said He would plant a tender shoot, The Messiah, whose Kingdom would grow and become a shelter for all who come to Him. See **Isaiah 11:1-5**. This prophecy was fulfilled and the coming of Jesus Christ. **(17:22-23)**

Hebrews 7:18-8:13

Salvation comes through Christ, whose sacrifice brings forgiveness for our sins. Being ethical, working diligently to help others, and giving to charitable causes are all commendable, but all of our good deeds cannot save us or make us right with God. There is a better hope. **(7:18-19)**

If our heart is not changed, following God's rules will be unpleasant and difficult. We will rebel against being told how to live. The Holy Spirit, however, gives us new desires, helping us want to obey God. See **Philippians 2:12-13**. With a new heart, we find that serving God is our greatest joy. **(8:10)**

Psalms 106:13-31

In the wilderness, the Israelites were so intent on getting the food and water they wanted that they became blind to what God wanted. They were more concerned about immediate physical gratification than lasting spiritual satisfaction. They did not want what was best for them, and they refused to trust in God's care and provision. See **Numbers 11:18-53**. If you complain enough, God may give you what you ask for, even if it is not the best for you. If you're not getting what you want, perhaps God knows it is not in your best interest. Trust in His care and provision. **(106:13-15)**

Proverbs 27:7-9

Those who are full or have everything do not appreciate what they have, while those who are hungry or have nothing, anything is good. **(27:7)**

“Foot” Notes

Hey ya'll, so just recently I received a card from a person I would consider to be one of my 'handlers'. Handler meaning one who would without question yank me back into line should I wander astray. Being a free ranging artiste, one needs a handler to wrangle one in.

So, the card had a request to replace chapters of Bible studies that were misplaced. No problem, but the addition of a seemingly short deadline kind of a shorted me out at first for a free-range artiste does not work well under deadlines. HaHa!!

The point is that after setting down I only had to rely on and trust in God to accomplish this request.

In life we tend to stress before we look over the whole situation. Then when you take it to God, He's got your back. Ya!! Just buckle down and get it done! Nuff said!!

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

My brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help Me. And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life."

As we can see from Jesus' comments above, those who feel they have never done anything worthy of the Lord's notice will be saved purely because their unsung actions of love. Paul encourages us in **Philippians 2:12**, "**Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear.**" There is often such a thin line between actions of love and exploits of vanity that each of us must work out in our own Salvation with fear and trembling. Each of us must daily bear this concern: Is this for the Lord and others; or is it in all honesty, only for myself?

"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love (Agapee)." (1 Corinthians 13:13) These things you may teach and proclaim with all urgency, for where there is no love, there is no hope.

May the Living Word Bible Church and the entire Overcomers for Christ family live out the love of Christ, in Spirit and in truth!

Give Your Worry to God

By Rick Warren

"Don't worry about anything." - Philippians 4:6 (NLT)

Work doesn't keep you up at night; worry does.

In the Bible, God gives clear direction about the role worry should play in your life. **Philippians 4:6** says, "**Don't worry about anything.**" (NLT)

Why do you need to let go of your worry?

Worry is unreasonable. Here are a couple of reasons why that's true. First, worry exaggerates the problem. Have you noticed that, if somebody says something bad about you, the more you think about it, the bigger it gets? Second, worry doesn't work. To worry about something you can't change is useless. And to worry about something you can change is a waste of time; just go change it!

Worry is unnatural. No one is a born worrier. You might think you are, but you're not. Worry is something you learned. Since worry is unnatural, it's also unhealthy. Your body wasn't designed to handle worry. When people say, "I'm worried sick," they're telling the truth. Doctors say that a lot of people could leave the hospital today if they knew how to get rid of guilt, resentment, and worry.

Proverbs 14:30 says, "**A peaceful heart leads to a healthy body.**" (NLT)

Worry is unhelpful. Worry cannot change the past, and worry cannot control the future. All it does is mess up today. The only thing that worry changes is you. It makes you miserable! It's never solved a problem.

Worry is unnecessary. God made you, he created you, he saved you, and he put his Spirit in you. Don't you think he's going to take care of your needs? There's no need to worry.

Want to learn to better manage your stress? A great first step is to refuse to worry about anything. Why? Because worry is unreasonable, unnatural, unhelpful, and unnecessary.

The Bible says, "**You can throw the whole weight of your anxieties upon Him, for you are His personal concern.**" (1 Peter 5:7)

God personally cares about you and for your needs. So, what should you do with all those things you're stressed, anxious, and worried about? Let them go. Give them to God.

Talk It Over

- What does your current state of worry say about how much you trust God?
- What are you worried about right now? What can you do to change the situation or to let the worry go?
- In what practical ways can you "throw the whole weight of your anxieties" on God?

Overcomer's Testimonies

I am 35 years old and I'm writing you from a California State Prison. Unfortunately, I landed in this predicament due to some poor decisions I made involving drugs and guns. Fortunately, I am only serving a 72-month sentence, which I should be released within the next 2 years.

Let me explain how I came across your information. I'm here in the 'SHU' and ended up getting celled with a man with a life sentence that used to ride with a certain motorcycle club. He explained to me that you too were a biker and that you asked God into your life and now you are a man of God. Anyways, he happens to get your newsletter and he shared it with me. I liked what I read so he told me to write to you and ask to be put on the monthly mailing list.

I have been a believer most of my life. However, I can't say that I walked as one for a lot of it because the Lord knows I've strayed. Even at that, the Lord always draws me back to Him. Sadly enough, this takes place after I come back to prison and get sober. Some people call this place, 'God's hotel' but I don't know that I agree with that. On the other hand, I sure do get closer to the Lord while I'm in here. While I'm here I read His Word, I pray, and it strengthens my relationship more and more every go around. Truth be told I want this to be my last go around.

I'm sick of this being a repeating cycle in my life. I truly want to make the necessary changes/choices to stay out of here. I understand that a big part of those choices has to do with me keeping my eyes on the Lord and putting Him first place in my life and then He will help me build my life around that. I own my part that's a big hurdle, but with the Lord it's all possible.

I guess I'm trying to honestly seek any and all the support systems I can. I know that I need good trustworthy Christian people in my life. I don't want to live that old life anymore. I truly believe that the Lord put me in this cell with this particular man so that I would run across your newsletter and get me motivated to find out more about you and your church.

I will currently be releasing to Washington, but I do have a child down there in Phoenix. I will most likely be locating down there after that. I saw in your newsletter that your church locations are there in that area so that might be a good fit for me.

I went to Arizona in 2012 and started my life over there. I was there for a few years, and I succeeded. In fact, I probably did the best I've ever done in my entire life. I had a good job, was working, I was clean and sober, I was being responsible. Not to blame anyone else but I'd brought a girl down there with me and we ended up having a bad breakup. Everything from there fell apart. I ended up moving back to Washington, and long story short, I ended back here in prison again.

Since then, I really feel like the Lord's been putting it in my heart and on my mind to come back to Arizona and start all over again there. But this time I don't believe He wants me to be in any other relationship except the one with Him. This way, with Him I can work more on me and pick up the pieces of my life to get back on the right path. I want to be able to be a good father to my children and just be a better man in general. I do know that God is the key to all of this being accomplished. - P.K.

Christian Comedy

Innkeeper: The room is \$15 a night. It's \$5 if you make your own bed.

Guest: I'll make my own bed.

Innkeeper: Good, I'll get you some nails and wood.

Quote Worthy

"Let's make one resolution this year: to anchor ourselves to God's grace."

Chuck Swindoll - an evangelical Christian pastor, author, educator, and radio preacher. He founded Insight for Living, headquartered in Frisco, Texas, which airs a radio program of the same name on more than 2,000 stations around the world in 15 languages. He is currently senior pastor at Stonebriar Community Church, in Frisco, Texas.

FUN FACTS

January 5th - In 1933, construction began on the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Bay.

January 5th - In 1957, U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower announced that the United States would intervene militarily and economically at the request of other nations in response to the spread of communism.

January 5th - In 2005, the dwarf planet Eris was discovered.

January 19th - In 1977, snow fell in Miami, Florida, for the only time in recorded history.

January 19th - In 2006, NASA launched the New Horizons space probe to study the dwarf planet Pluto.

January 23rd - In 1944, the Detroit Red Wings set a record for the most one-sided hockey game by beating the New York Rangers 15-0.

January 26th - In 1950, the Indian Constitution went into effect, marking the birth of the Republic of India.

January 26th - In 2015, Libby Lane became the first woman to be appointed as a bishop by the Church of England.



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Editor's Note

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

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

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

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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Little January

By Winifred C. Marshall

(1761–1839) – A writer who was born in Newark, England. The youngest daughter of John Marshall, scion of a family of distinction though not wealthy. She was educated in the classics, and at an early age demonstrated a literary talent, writing stories and poems.

Little January
Tapped at my door today
And said, "Put on your winter wraps,
And come outdoors to play."

Little January
Is always full of fun;
Today we coasted down the hill,
Until the set of sun.

Little January
Will stay a month with me
And we will have such jolly times
Just come along and see.

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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