

Overcomers for Christ

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PENNEY

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Do You REALLY Know Who You Are IN CHRIST JESUS? - Part 1

By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: "Gracious and Almighty heavenly Father I ask Your Holy Spirit to rise up from the pages of Your most Holy Word and quicken all of our spirits with the truth hidden in them for us today. We invite You Holy Spirit to be our teacher, to cut through the religion that has held us captive to wrong believing that has been so deeply entrenched in each of us. I ask that everything that is written here in this message today be washed in the precious Blood of Jesus and only truth remain in our hearts. In Jesus' name, AMEN! AMEN!"

I know that some of the things we cover in these newsletters mess with a lot of peoples religiosity. Meaning, for so many years many of us have been taught by well meaning pastors and leaders that, "If you haven't confessed all of the sin in your life and God comes in the middle of the night, well, unfortunately for you you're going to burn in hell!" And this is just one wrong teaching. Brothers and sisters, that would keep us in a constant state of sin consciousness instead of being focused or conscious of what God has ALREADY provided through the finished work of Jesus! I'll be the first to admit that from one tiny bit of understanding to the next God is always dialing me in to listen more closely to His Holy Spirit's leading. I know it's a little early in to this message, but can I be frank with you right now? Thank you for your excitement and loud "YES", but I really wasn't attempting to get that response due to the fact that I have to be frank anyway. Do you think even for a second that God didn't already know, when Jesus hung on that Cross, that you and I were still going to sin, and sin and sin? Because of His love for us all and knowing the way we would be is exactly why He sent His only Son (**John 3:16**) to be 'the once for ALL sin offering (**Hebrews 10:10**)!' I know some of you will have to chew on this for awhile before you digest it BUT here it goes anyway. Jesus laid His life down not only for those who would believe and receive Him BUT for the WHOLE world, whether some do or not it is still available to EVERYONE!! AND EVERY SINGLE SIN COMMITTED BY EVERYONE FOREVER AND EVER HAS ALREADY BEEN PAID FOR IN FULL!!! Grace is NOT a license to sin but it brings awareness for repentance. Grace is provided UNDER THE BLOOD OF JESUS!!!

The Apostle Paul shows us in **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** (Message) that, "**Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One Man died for EVERYONE. That puts EVERYONE in the same boat. He included EVERYONE in His death so that EVERYONE could also be included in His life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on their own.**" I don't believe that I'm going out on a limb when I say that most of our issue is not sin. And if anyone believes that I'm making light of sin that's just pure ignorance. We cannot pick and choose what pieces we wish to believe. We cannot believe this last part of **Romans 6:23** (Message), "**But God's gift is real life, eternal life, delivered by Jesus, our Master**" without noticing the first piece of the Scripture, "**Work hard for sin your whole life and your pension is death.**" Obviously one can see that there is an option available, one of our choosing. So our bigger issue is the lack of faith to believe in the Word of God. What we need is LESS DOUBT! Jesus told his own disciples that it wasn't that they needed more faith. What He said they needed was faith in God and less doubt (**Mark 11:22-24**). If Jesus said it we would be wise to believe it!! After reading just this paragraph you shouldn't want to run out and sin more but instead it should cause you to reevaluate the commitment you have with God. In fact, these truths should start to ring in your new spirits and cause you to want to sin less and less not more! When a person is truly saved their inner being, their new Spirit will ultimately cause even their flesh to take notice and pay attention. In **2 Corinthians 5:16** Paul, quite simply attempts to tell us (my paraphrase here), "Listen, you have no way of knowing what is going on in the heart of another human being. In fact, it wasn't that long ago you looked at Jesus the same way!" Paul goes from that statement directly into **2 Corinthians 5:17** and says, "**Therefore, if anyone is IN CHRIST, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, ALL things have become new.**"

As you've heard me say before, I too was one of those young lads that was told, "you are going to church" 3 - 4 times a week. Because of their 'taking me' I was saved at an early age ... then saved again ... and again ... and again. This continued on over and over for a few years. This kind of teaching is truly confusing to most seasoned Christians let alone a young person like myself that never truly understood what I could have possibly done that would have made God so mad and angry with me from one week to the next!? My question to myself was always, "Why would the God that is so full of love want to see me crying and belly aching, feeling shame and condemnation, at the altar ALL THE TIME?" With all of the 'encouragement' to be at the altar, sometimes it felt like I was being pushed to confess things I hadn't even thought of or done, yet! That's what the law or religion does towards a person, if it's not pushing you it's pointing out 'your' sin. That lack of true understanding built a wall of total confusion around my heart and in my mind. The Bible tells us all, in **1 Corinthians 14:33** that, "**God is not a God of confusion but a God of peace.**" And then in **John 10:10** Jesus clearly tells us, "**The thieves purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give life in all its fullness.**" Please believe me when I say, I'm in no way trying to insinuate that those attempting to lead me or teach me in my young Christian walk with the Lord Jesus Christ were of the enemy! No!! In fact, I'm 100% confident that they were teaching us at the level of understanding that most Christians still operate under to this day. So today, receiving a new understanding, I've chosen to take what they planted in me, pull up the religious weeds, sow and water the soil of my heart with the truth of God's Word and allow the Holy Spirit to minister personally to my spirit. I encourage you all to do the same. I realize today that the

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

enemy was trying to keep me confused so that he could slowly rob me and destroy any of what was sown into me so that I wouldn't even consider all that God had made available for me. And you know what? That worked for about 37 years. Once I totally surrendered my whole self to God in April of 2007 He revealed to me, through these Scriptures in **Isaiah 55:10-11** (NLT), that He was clearly waiting on me to wake up to this truth. **"The rain and the snow come down from the heavens and STAY on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with My Word. I sent it out, and it produces fruit always. It WILL accomplish ALL I want it to, and WILL prosper everywhere I send it."**

Looking back on it all today it isn't hard for me to see that long before I turned 14 years old, I was losing interest in my walk with a God. I was led to believe that even though God was a loving God, one wrong move and He would become mad and angry with me. And even though I'd been raised with 'some' wrong believing, 'subconsciously', I had been given a roadmap back to where I belonged. This is as well the story found in **Luke 15:11-32**. This young man had grown up in a family that loved God and loved him but at some point he became deceived through the way he was perceiving the world from his 'comfortable' surroundings, and he too left to explore the world. Sound familiar? Many of us are fortunate, like the young man in this story, that when we "came to our senses" we were able to pull out that roadmap and wander our way back home. If we would honestly and selflessly admit and be aware, stopping to look around, we'd be able to see that MANY, MANY of those in our very midst have never heard of Jesus let alone received the memo that He loves them! This would also indicate that we are letting them die and go to hell on our watch without even sharing Jesus with them! Why?! The Prodigal son story is the story in our own lives; that God loves us and will always take us back! This in NO way means that we should take advantage of God's grace and mercy right down to our last breath. You know why? Because we don't know exactly when that will be. Wouldn't that be like playing Russian roulette? This roadmap says, "After you have beat yourselves up over and over again attempting to fit in somewhere you weren't meant to be you can always turn and come the opposite direction. Look up, and see that I am ALWAYS standing here, not with condemnation and a whip but with opened arms and a big smile on My face motioning you to come home and rest IN ME."

Over the years of learning through my own situations I've come to understand that, it was my own actions that landed me in ALL the predicaments I found myself in. It was either my choice to listen and follow someone else's direction or my own decisions but either way it was still my choice! And the only way I've learned to move forward out of thinking that it was always someone else's fault, was to own up to my own actions, accept my responsibility, ask for God's help and with His help move forward.

I said that in order to say this. The God we serve DOES NOT put us in prison or predicaments to teach us something! NO!!! It's our own actions that land us in situations that begin to open our eyes. Through such situations it's then that God can seize the opportunity and use it to get our attention. God never sent us out into the world to be tested or tempted! It was and always is our own fleshly desires that lead us astray. Let me say right here that when you 'feel' like you are going through some sort of test or trial, "DON'T STOP AND CAMP THERE!" And don't say that it is from God! God doesn't throw opposition in front of us to see if we are strong or not! But instead look at opposition as an opportunity to grow stronger. Why else would our enemy, the devil, throw things in our way UNLESS he seen that God had great things just ahead of us to do?! I heard someone say the other day that, "If you are not running into opposition from the enemy, chance could be that you're both headed in the same direction." People we are NOT strong enough on our own to walk around in this corrupt world without the life giving Spirit of God speaking to us and helping us with His strength! Sure there may be some people that at first glance seem to be happy, content and well put together and not serving God. But when we invest the time in getting to know them at a deeper level we begin to see that some of them are covering up all sorts of baggage. Others, too, have been deeply cut and scarred and hardened by religious people's 'opinion' of who they should be and what they should look like in God's eyes. Wait a second, isn't the 'cleaning us up' part the Holy Spirit's job?!

Obviously, as we begin to open the Bible and read we see that there is an Old Testament and a New Testament, right? The Old Testament is the old covenant, Law and the wrath of God pouring out everywhere. The old covenant was full of do good get good, do bad get bad. In a general sense, we all have experienced this principle and know that for the most part things do work that way. But the teaching was that when you did good for or to God He would be good to you. There was no way you could follow every letter of the Law so that meant that God was angry and mad at you and may even pour His wrath out on you even to the point of your death. The old covenant produced a mentality where people were always trying to do something to get something. People were doing the best 'they' could ever do in order not to receive the judgment of God upon themselves. The Law was so harsh that NO one ever stood a chance of fulfilling all of its requirements. But listen closely, the Law wasn't set in place to cause us to trip and fall so that God could be mad and angry. Instead, the Law was put in front of us to show us that we ALL so desperately need help! Someone that can and will help us to accomplish all we'd never be able to accomplish without Him! AMEN?! And that leads us directly into the New Testament.

When we get to the New Testament we begin to see that something has changed. Almost instantly we begin to see that

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

Prayer Requests

I have a prayer request. Could you please pray for my mother. Her and my father were married for 35 years before their marriage was ruined do to my father using Meth for years. He eventually cheated on my mother. Now she is alone and her memory is starting to get bad ... sometimes real bad. My grandma passed away from Alzheimer's and I just want you all to pray that the Lord touch my beautiful mother and her memory and bring back her happiness, security and the peace she deserves. I KNOW that when we ALL come together and pray for these things they WILL come to pass. I'd also like to pray for every struggling addict, may they get the help they need and the courage they need to be sober. One last request, I would really like for my children to come visit me soon ... I miss them terribly! ... **J.W.**

I should have been home last November but they decided to take away my TR and instead let me out on my ER, which is just around the corner, because I have a detainer out of Texas. As you can see, I need prayer brothers and sisters, please! I've already given the state 6 years. I've lost almost everybody I love, my mom, my dad, my first cousin, my granddad ... I'm almost 40 years old now, come on. I will admit though that I'm stronger now and I feel the cost I've paid. My girls need me, they need a mom. All this time I've lost I'll never find again! Pray for my release. I've put in for a quash warrant. I've seen it happen ... girls left and right getting their detainers dropped ... **L.R.**

Brothers and sisters I'm asking you all to come into agreement with this prayer request I'm asking the Lord for here. Drugs and wicked friends have taken my boy away from me as he has turned his back on me. I'm asking our Lord to open his eyes and show him who has always been there for him. My boy's name is Miguel. I'm asking for prayer that our Lord guide my boy as he is entering adulthood in life. I pray the Lord help me also as I do this prison time and I pray for ALL the inmates doing their time, no matter how much time it may be. I ask that the Lord guide all our children as we are not there with them. Lord, keep us all safe from all harm, evil and wickedness. I ask these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen! ... **A.S.**

I need all the prayers this way, because I'm in Ad Seg. I didn't do anything wrong just got upset because the prison guard wanted to move me in a cell that I had issues with, in the past. Long story short, COs are trying to take away parole date because I am short to the house. I'm staying focused and reading the Bible and praying. I could use a spiritual lift up ... I could use some strength and I could use a prayer for some good news, like a card from family and wife ... **D.G.**

Praise Reports

This morning, I woke up to see the falling snow and I have to say it's awesome. I have been in snow but never seen it fall down, so it's a blessing from God for me to know what God created. I am sorry it took so long to write, but there was a lot going on in my life, you know the devil is always at work, so he tried to get me moving backwards but that does not work. There is a pretty good size group of Christians here and church services also. I went to my first seminar here and it was good, two days of the Lord. I have been attending church, staying in faith and praying. I also enrolled in American Bible Academy and I have to say it's good. I needed to settle in and down and I see myself doing it ...
God bless you all ... **B.P.**

I want to thank you for the picture of Magic, it gives me some comfort to see his face on my wall. Secondly, thank you all so much for the birthday card you sent. I know since I've come back to my Father that I never am alone, He is with me always and I love Him for that. I'm also very lucky that I have a strong bond and relationship with my mom and my two kids so between my Lord and Savior, my immediate family and my new family from **Overcomers for Christ**, I'm the luckiest man in the world ... God bless all of you ... **A.V.**

I received your card, it really lifted a lot of weight off my shoulders. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, you all lifted my spirits up. Praise God! Thank you, I appreciate all your prayers, cards, magazines and your love from God, our Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Praise the Lord ...
D.G.

My wife and grandmother beat cancer, Praise the Lord Jesus Christ ... **D.G.**

I don't know if you remember me or not, but you said if I was interested in getting your newsletter to go ahead and write back. Well, here I am!! I've made that choice to turn my life around and put my trust in the Lord. I read your newsletter from this time last year and it sounds a lot like my life. If you will send me outreach stuff I'd love to get it. I want to leave this life and people behind when I walk out of here, make a new life for myself and find like-minded people with positive outlooks on life with Jesus in their lives too. I just happened to be watching this Christian channel one night, and they were talking to some Christian band and in the background there was this sign up on the wall. It read, "Try God for 30 days and if after the 30 days, you're not happy, you can go back to being miserable." That was like four months ago ...
God bless ... **C.B.**

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From the Inside

The Best
By D.M.

I really do love the best that life has to offer, therefore I know I must look my best and act my best, have manners, respect and honor, regardless of negative emotions ... stay positive, nothing is impossible.

Like they say, "Birds of a feather flock together." Beware of the company you keep. Like minds really do attract like minds, the universal law of attraction.

Stay righteous, the right course. Always being your best takes giving first, we reap what we sow, the universal law of growth, ya gotta come better than the best out there, yet stay humble.

It starts with self-discipline, for every cause there's an effect. Listen, sometimes it takes being an intelligent follower. Ask our Heavenly Father, it takes faith and belief to move those mountains. Bring on obstacles!! Don't see problems, find solutions. Through those struggles we gain intelligence, knowledge, endurance and wisdom. This strength moves muscle, what does not kill us really does make us stronger, through God's grace, I thank Jesus, a more heavenly vision.

Show His love in action! I've seen first-hand what a lot of love can do. Love much, thank you. Those who don't understand bring hate to the table, it's okay, I'll pray with God's strength for hate to leave hearts.

To grow needs light, let light shine from inside. Got to have thanks for God's gifts, God gave me wily energy unstoppable. Can't stop, won't stop love, Power! Again! Big thanks God, it's all from You.

Excerpt from David's 400 -Maintenance Manna 1 Samuel 22:2
By L.R.

I recently came across a book and I'd like to share this with you all. The book is called *David's 400 -Maintenance Manna 1 Samuel 22:2*.

On the back it reads:

My call and election will be sure! I am a part of the unashamed. I have been endued with 'Holy Ghost Power'. The die has been set. I have crossed over the line. My decision is sure. I am a disciple of His. I won't shrink back, let up, slow down, back away or be still. My past is covered under the Blood, my today is redeemed and my future is secure. I'm finished with low living, sightseeing, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tampered visions, mundane talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals. I no longer need the accolades of this world. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded or rewarded by man. I now live by faith, learn by prayer and labor by God's power.

My face is set, my destination is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, and my companions are few. My Guide is reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bribed, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifice, hesitate in the presence of adversity, negotiate at the table of the enemy nor ponder at the pool of popularity. I won't give up, shut up or let up until I have stored up, prayed up, paid up and preached up for the cause of Jesus Christ. I am called to be one of Christ's remnant people. I belong to Him and no other. I must press on until He comes, give until I am out, preach until I drop and work until He stops me. I must testify to all that one more might hear and be drawn from the flaming darkness that desires to consume them. I must reach for another and touch but one more. When Jesus returns He will have no problem recognizing me. My call and my election will be sure for I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Glory to God! That's the whole truth! The hammer hit right on the head of the nail for me!! I hope you all enjoyed this.

I am So Lost
By A.C.

I am going to get straight to the subject ... I'm so lost right now. Let me try to explain this as best as I can. I am so confused with myself and sin right now. I'm trying so hard, I read my Bible, I pray, etc. But for some reason, I still tend to

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

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From the Inside

sin a lot. I get caught up with all these worldly things and drama here in prison. It's hard to understand why I still sin. I lust, gossip, sometimes curse, and all kinds of stuff that I am not suppose to do. And I don't understand why and I get so angry and frustrated at myself.

I didn't know who else to write but you guys. My main question here is ... Why do I keep sinning? Why can't I stop? Like I said I'm trying so hard. I mean I love the Lord with all my heart and I believe He'll help me.

I wanna live for Him and all for Him but I tend to fall ... a lot. I'm not gonna give up, I'll always get right back up and move on from it.

But I'm so confused ... why? I don't wanna sin, but I still do it. I get out soon and I'm so scared for what the outside world has in store for me. I'm ready, because of course I don't wanna be in here. But I get scared because I don't want to fall into darkness, like how I used to be. I just wanna keep on serving Him when I get out and not forget about Him like I have done before.

I think one of my problems is I'm trying so hard to be perfect, and I feel so guilty when I sin. I need to remember He has forgiven me.

Please keep me in your prayers. Pray that I'll stop living this double life and submit and give myself 100% to our Lord. I'm lost and I need help.

We Are Never Alone

By A.C.

Today is a very hard day for me. One of my brother's, little brother, died a couple of years ago. Being locked up doesn't allow me to go and spend time at the grave. Not just him but two sisters and mom. I feel shame for being in here, especially at my age and not being able to take part on the outside, to be with the rest of my siblings. I have some memory loss and can't remember some things, I get some of it back as time passes. Coming in here I lost everything – can't remember addresses of anyone. So it pleases me very much for your time that you take for me. I know I'm not alone, I have my loving LORD with me and now I have you.

God bless you and your family and all the people in your circle for doing all that you do. Puts a smile and joy in our hearts and lives. We're never alone.

Now I Can Do All Things

By C.C.

I used to lay at night sometimes and cry myself to sleep
Thinkin' about all the people I've neglected while
rippin' and runnin' those streets.

Hustlin', jackin' and trying to make ends meet
but I got to keep shoes on my kid's feet.

I was blind to the truth in everything I did,
let's face it, I was lost. Who am I trying to kid?

Lost my wife, my children, and everything I had,
and I wasn't there for my kids and you call that a dad?

I didn't care if I lived or died,
even had thoughts of suicide.

I had to hit rock bottom, that's what I had to do.
Anyone been there? Then you know this is true.

I was hard headed, rebellious and had too much pride,
but something had to give because I was broke inside.

I was numb to all emotions and I had no feeling
and I just let the devil keep on stealing.

Well, I finally got fed up with that no good thief
and I had a different outlook on life changed all my
beliefs.

I had to give it all to the God above
because I was longing to be touched with His kind of
love.

Love that never changes and love that never fails.
The love of God always prevails.

He's healed me from the pain and the pride that I once
had

He's even molding me into a godly dad.

I'm nothing without Him and never could be,
but I can do all things through Christ so now I claim
victory.

I want to thank You Dear God for everything You've done
and I want to thank You most of all for sending Your
Only Begotten Son.

2 Kings 17:1-19:37

Sometimes it is difficult and painful to follow God, but consider the alternative. You can live for God or die for yourself. Determine to be God's person and do what He says regardless of the cost. What God thinks of you is infinitely more important than what those around you think. See **Romans 12:1** and **1 John 2:15-17**. (17:7-17)

We must be careful that aids to our worship don't become objects of worship themselves. Most objects are not made to be idols - they become idols by the way people use them. (18:4)

Prayer should be our first response in any crisis. Don't wait until things are hopeless. Pray daily for His guidance. Our problems are God's opportunities. (19:1-7)

We should not be afraid to approach God with our prayers, but we must come to Him with respect for who He is and what He can do. (19:15-19)

Acts 20:1-21:17

The way of the believer is not an easy road ... being a Christian does not solve or remove all problems. Paul served humbly and "with tears", but he never quit, never gave up. The message of salvation was so important that he never missed an opportunity to share it. And although he preached his message in different ways to different audiences, the message remained the same ... "Turn away from sin and turn to Christ by faith." The Christian life will have its rough times, its tears, its sorrows, as well as its joys, but we should always be ready to tell others what good things God has done for us. His blessings far outweigh life's difficulties. (20:18-21)

Paul knew he would be imprisoned in Jerusalem. Although his friends pleaded with him not to go there, he knew that he had to because God wanted him to. No one enjoys pain, but a faithful disciple wants above all else to please God. Our desire to please God should overshadow our desire to avoid hardship and suffering. When we really want to do God's will, we must accept all that comes with it - even the pain. Then we can say with Paul's companions, "The will of the Lord be done." (21:13-14)

Psalms 148:1-149:9

All creation is like a majestic symphony or a great choir composed of many harmonious parts that together offer up songs of praise to the Lord. Each part (independent, yet part of the whole) is caught up and carried along in swelling tides of praise. This is a picture of how we believers should praise God - individually, yet as part of the great choir of believers world-wide. Are you singing your part well in the world-wide choir of praise? (148:5-14)

Although the Bible invites us to praise God, we often aren't sure how to go about it. Here, several ways are suggested ... by singing, dancing, or playing musical instruments. God enjoys His people, and we should enjoy praising Him. (149:3-5)

Proverbs 18:6-8

These Proverbs remind us that a fool's mouth is his/her downfall. If we allow foolish words to spew from our mouths, we can only expect contention and destruction as a response. Think about the words you choose to use. (18:6-7)

It is as hard to refuse to listen to gossip as it is to turn down a delicious dessert. Taking just one morsel of either one creates a taste for more. You can resist rumors the same way a determined dieter resists candy - never even open the box. If you don't nibble on the first bite of gossip, you can't take the second or third. (18:8)

“Foot” Notes

Blessings to ya'll, I pray your walk eases as your faith in Jesus Christ grows. This time around I wish to share a quote I got off the board up at services. The author is unknown, but I loved it, "Sin may have kept us longer than we wanted to stay, took us further than we wanted to go, and sin ALWAYS costs us more than we planned to pay."

Love to ya'll short and tall ... vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

'this' is a new and much easier way to live, a better covenant. One based on the love of God not the wrath of God. Jesus Himself tells us in **John 3:16**, *"For God loved the world so much that He gave His One and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will NOT perish but have eternal life."* Because of, and through the Person of Grace, Jesus Christ, this new covenant is meant for us to see and be understood as Good News! Even though there is going to be some battles to fight, the war is over brothers and sisters! **Romans 3:25** clearly tells us we should rejoice, *"For God sent Jesus to take the punishment for our sins AND to satisfy God's anger against us. We are made right with God WHEN WE BELIEVE that Jesus shed His blood, sacrificing His life for us."* It is NOT because of all the sin in our lives that sends us to hell, it's because we fail to choose Jesus to be Lord in our lives that lands us there! We'll pick back up right here next month. See you then ...

What Others Are Saying...

"I received your newsletter; it put a smile on this big face of mine. Thank you for thinking of me!" - **A.G.**

"Thank you, brethren, for blessing me with the birthday card. You lift my heart with joy. Please be encouraged in your work knowing that people who read your words are then yielding much fruit for His glory and honor." - **N.P.**

"To all my Christian brothers and sisters, I thank you all so very much for remembering my birthday. I look forward to hearing from you all monthly. I learn so much from you. Thank you for your love and guidance ... sometimes it seems to be a light in these dark times. I am truly grateful for you all." - **T.M.**

"Hello my brothers and sisters out there at LWBC. My celly and I would like to receive your newsletters. This would be a seed planted in both of our lives. God willing, we can start overcoming more things after reading your output." - **M.A.**

"Thank you so much for letting me be a part of your ministry. You give inmates like myself, hope for our new journeys in life once we are released. All of you do a good thing at **OC&C**." - **H.T.**

"I just received the monthly issue. Thank you for all the inspirational work you all do for the good of yourselves, humanity and for the Glory of God. My favorite portion of your newsletter is the Glory Meeting section. I love to see all your smiling faces. What a beautiful way to share God's blessings with all of us. May your work continue to bring hope and happiness to this distressed humanity." - **A.S.**

"Thank you so much for remembering me for my birthday. Your kindness is overwhelming and a great blessing. Also, thank you for including me in your mailing list for the newsletter. I enjoy reading it and sharing it with the guys. It has blessed my life and I'm sure has touched others in here as well. Please accept this tithe into the storehouse so you can continue to bless the incarcerated men and women you are in contact with and for those yet to come." - **R.W.**

"I would like a monthly newsletter and daily devotional please. Your address gets passed around a lot. Thank you for sharing your newsletter." - **S.T.**

"Thank you so much for the birthday card and I just love the newsletter every month, it's fantastic. I love the teachings and the poetry and the pictures. I get out in April and I would really like to help. I would love to be of service. I get this message of service from the Lord through things I read in the Bible or books or teachings, and I believe it is my gift of the Spirit. I really feel it will help keep me God centered and on track when I get out. Thank you again for everything you do and may God bless each and every one of you." - **T.F.**

"Beautiful brochure, thank you for sending it. There are over twenty girls who enjoy it. Then in church, I am going to pass it to another block of twenty girls. So by the time we are done sharing in here, over 80 girls will have read and shared this one brochure." - **L.C.**

"Brothers and sisters in Christ, praise be to God! I see He continues to bless and encourage your endeavor. First hand, I know what a mighty service your ministry does for God's kingdom. In the past, I'd look at the newsletter with expounding joy that I wanted and want to be a part of such charity who wouldn't, amen? I know that God blesses His servants and oh what a blessing it is to serve. In the past, I was on your mailing list. I have maybe close to a year until I'm out, freedom on the inside, amen!!! Would you beautiful people kindly make me a receiver of your newsletter once again? It's just amazing how much love and charity you all put forth through the newsletter." - **J.J.**

"I'm in prison; I read **Overcomers for Christ** from Living Word Bible Church and fell in love with it. It touched my heart, reading the prayer requests and **From the Inside**. All of it was just amazing. I love the Lord; I have a song in my heart for the Lord. All the time Jesus has been there for me. Being in prison for the first time has been hard. But I know that I am not alone, I have the Lord Jesus Christ with me. I would truly love to get more info about **Overcomers for Christ**. The Lord bless you." - **R.T.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

I'm writing to you with a great and awesome praise report for our Lord who hears our prayers and delivers. On Thursday, December 17th, I was called into the CPO office where I was told that my probation revocation hearing was scheduled for January 6, 2016. I then wrote my wife and prepared for that day, but God had other plans.

My wife had sought out a lawyer and my parents sent my wife a \$3500 check for the non-refundable retainer. My folks paid extra so that it would be delivered Friday morning, so that my wife could pay the lawyer that afternoon, but God had other plans.

For those last 30 days, I was desperately holding on to my faith and struggling to serve in the dark, because I was blind. Blind to the plans that God had for me, blind to the truth that He was always there. In my blindness and despair, I told God that I hated Him, and He in return loved me more. On that Thursday, I had peace as I focused on the phrase in the Bible that was running in my mind, **"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts," (1 Peter 3:15)** I did and I had peace. I was ready to face the parole board and accept whatever decision they passed down, but God has other plans.

On Friday, December 18th, God showed up in a big and awesome way, there and then He became real for me. I was sitting on my bunk when 2 guards came rushing in with trash bags. They said, "Hurry, and put all your property in the bags." They were rushing me to hurry because of count. I had no idea what was going on. Was I being moved to another unit or did I do something wrong and I was being sent to lockdown? I had no idea.

The guards took me to intake and took my belongings to the property room. A few minutes later the guards took me to medical. They jumped the line to get me processed through medical quickly. Then a guard took me aside and asked if I knew what was going on. I said, "I'm being rolled up, and sent to another yard." All I could think was this is a big mess. I need to get ready for the parole board, not moving to a new unit with a new address. This was going to make contacting my wife harder. This couldn't have come at a worse time.

The guard said, "No, you're leaving." I said, "Leaving, to where?" He said, "You don't understand, you're getting out of prison today. Right now!" I looked him in the eyes and said, "You're lying." He just smiled and said, "No, it's true." They gave me release clothing, rushed me on a special transport to get my picture and ID. There were lots of guards running around, rushing to process me out. They took me to the parole office, where the parole supervisor, who violated me just a month before, told me that new information had come to light and they decided to believe me, that I did not tamper with the GPS device, and that they were going to give me another chance. They squashed the violation. It was gone, like it never happened.

"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, like the rivers of water, He turns it wherever He wishes." (Proverbs 21:1) If the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, so is the parole supervisor, so is the warden, and captain and guards of DOC. It does not matter if they serve Christ or not, when the Spirit of God moves all must bow down before Him. All must follow the will of the Lord God, my Lord God, our Lord God, forever and ever, amen!!

The first time I was released was according to the will of the courts. My release day was scheduled by them and they carried out their plan. The second time I was released, it was according to the will of God, according to His schedule and His plan. He showed up and said, "Get My child out of prison now!"

I don't know all of why this happened, but I know this, that the way I got out of prison is a testament to the fact that HE IS THE LORD GOD! No one knows His ways, no one gives Him counsel. His will is done, and there is none like Him, not on Earth or in all the heavens. HE IS THE LORD GOD! All the inmates, all the guards, all the parole officers saw it with their own eyes. This Lord, this God is a Deliverer. **"Is My hand shortened at all that it cannot redeem? Or have I no power to deliver?" (Isaiah 50:2b)**

What kind of God is this, that He would do this for someone like me? One I will serve always. I'm not sure what's going to happen to me, what my future holds, but I no longer care. Now God is real to me. Not just a prayer, not just a hope, but an active, real, living God that is with me and for me.

Thank you so much for all your prayers and I hope this praise report will start your new year off with great joy in your hearts and with praise and thanks to God on your lips, for He has heard you and He has answered with a big gigantic, "Yes!" Praise the Lord, and to Jesus the Christ, our Lord and Savior, goes all the honor and glory forever and ever, amen!!
- J.I.

A World Brimming With Temptation

By Steve Arterburn

"Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the Devil, your great enemy. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour. Take a firm stand against him, and be strong in your faith." - 1 Peter 5:8-9

It's inevitable: today you will be tempted by somebody or something in fact, you will probably be tempted on countless occasions. Why? Because you live in a world that's filled to the brim with temptations and addictions that are intended to lead you far, far away from God.

Here in the 21st century, temptations are now completely and thoroughly woven into the fabric of everyday life. Seductive images are everywhere; subtle messages tell you that it's okay to sin "just a little"; and to make matters even worse, society doesn't just seem to endorse godlessness, it actually seems to reward it. Society spews forth a wide range of messages, all of which imply that it's okay to rebel against God. These messages, of course, are extremely dangerous and completely untrue.

How can you stand up against society's tidal wave of temptations? By learning to direct your thoughts and your eyes toward things that are pleasing to God . . . and by relying upon Him to help you stay focused on things that are ***"whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable"*** (Philippians 4:8). And here's the good news: the Creator has promised (not implied, not suggested, not insinuated-He has promised!) that with His help, you can resist every single temptation that confronts you.

Once you firmly decide to stand up to temptation, you are never alone. God is always with you, and if you do your part, He will do His part. But what, precisely, is your part? A good starting point is simply learning how to recognize the subtle temptations that surround you. The images of immorality are ubiquitous, and they're intended to hijack your mind, your heart, your pocketbook, your life, and your soul. Don't let them do it.

Ask yourself these important questions: What images, people, or places are you likely to encounter today that might encourage you to think impure thoughts? And how will you prepare yourself to respond to these temptations?

Most Christians do not know or fully realize that the adversary of our lives is Satan and that his main tool is our flesh, our old nature - Bill Bright

The first step on the way to victory is to recognize the enemy - Corrie ten Boom

Quote Worthy

"The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy."

- Martin Luther King, Jr. (January 15, 1929 - April 4, 1968) - an American Baptist minister, activist, humanitarian, and leader in the African-American Civil Rights Movement

Ministry Tithes & Offerings ... 2 Ways to Give

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, and encouraging and mentoring believers.

There are **two** ways to give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

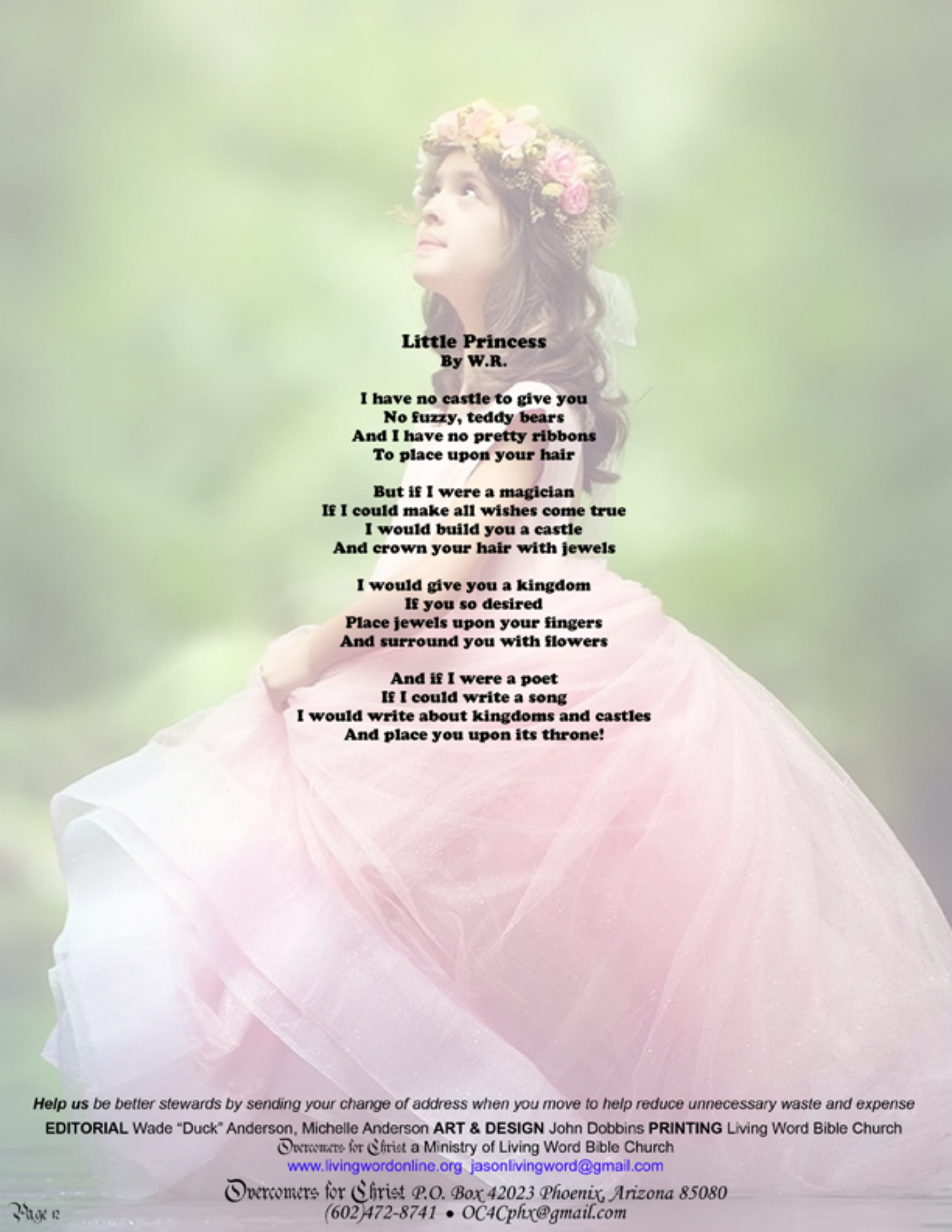
By **CHECK** or **MONEY ORDER** - Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put **"For Overcomers for Christ"**. Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

By **ONLINE** at <http://livingwordonline.com> - click in the **"Give"** icon - If you are new online giver, then click on **"Create Account"** and then follow the account set-up. If you are existing online giver, then select **"Give Now"**. Once you are logged into the website, then click on **"Give Now"**, and under the **"Give To"** drop-down select **"05 Outreach"**, then from the drop-down to the right select **"Overcomers for Christ | Prison Ministry"**

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray that 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. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

*Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com*



Little Princess

By W.R.

**I have no castle to give you
No fuzzy, teddy bears
And I have no pretty ribbons
To place upon your hair**

**But if I were a magician
If I could make all wishes come true
I would build you a castle
And crown your hair with jewels**

**I would give you a kingdom
If you so desired
Place jewels upon your fingers
And surround you with flowers**

**And if I were a poet
If I could write a song
I would write about kingdoms and castles
And place you upon its throne!**

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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Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080

(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com