

Overcomers for Christ

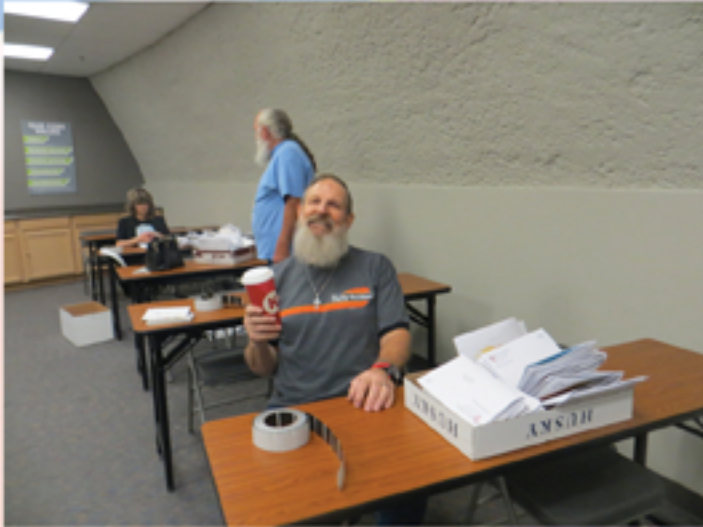
September 2022

15
YEARS

ANNIVERSARY

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

October 2021



"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To Him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"

1 Peter 4:10-11

God's Word is Seed!! – Part I

By Wade Anderson

Hello everyone! I personally would like to thank each and every one of you for coming along with us on this adventure of a lifetime. It's not just an adventure of a lifetime, but more importantly, an adventure for an eternal lifetime! Hallelujah! Amen?!

Let's pray: *"Heavenly Father, I thank You for Jesus. Your Word is seed and when we plant Your Word in our hearts, meditate on, and believe it, Your Word brings new life to every area of our lives. I invite You, Holy Spirit, rise up on the inside of me and be the teacher here today and always. Show us all the importance of Your Word in and for our everyday lives. I thank You Father for this assignment and as Your Word has assured me, You have never left me or cast me away at any time in this fifteen-year relationship/adventure. Your Word is truth and You Sir are faithful to bring forth the harvest from Your Word. I also thank You that You have brought, as the world would define us, 'such a great host of misfits' together as Your family! I thank You that in spite of our weaknesses and shortcomings You still call us Your children. I thank You for Your love and direction in ALL of this **Overcomers for Christ** family! It's in Jesus' name I pray and believe. Amen!"*

Fifteen years ago, it was like someone had put something in the water that we all were drinking as eight of us, from deep in the worldly lifestyle, found ourselves gathered together each Sunday at 2pm. The original intent of the gathering was to share the Word together, strengthen, pray, and encourage each other to stay strong in the Lord. What started as eight, in a kitchen, then a living room, and eventually a huge back yard soon turned to forty-five in a matter of a couple of months. When people heard what 'we' were doing they couldn't believe it. So, people were coming just to see if it was true. Our faith was so strong that we believed 'set the chairs up and they will come'. And guess what? They came! Many of those coming 'to see' had been so beaten down by religion that they were unwilling to enter the church. So, we met them where they would come, and instead, we set the chairs up outside in a huge circle, and God was faithful to fill every chair! Some people came drunk, some came high, but they all felt comfortable 'outside the church building'. God met us all right there in those circles and many people got saved and came alive in the Spirit of God! Praise Jesus! But listen, NONE of it was because of 'us'! God used the likes of 'us' to gather together and share from our hearts what He was doing in ALL of our lives. It was His Word that moved people to make changes in their lives. To God be ALL the glory!

As some of you 'ole timers' with this ministry know those humble beginnings were compiled of many personal handwritten letters. The new life inside of me was more than I could contain. I started writing letters in May of 2007 and that consumed me for the next five months. In September 2007 I heard a new word, "Send hope, love and encouragement." In one sense I was more confused than ever, but on the other hand there was a peace when I questioned God, "What do You mean? The only people I know are prostitutes, murders, thieves, convicts, and drug addicts?" When God answered me, in my spirit, "Exactly! Those are My people, exactly like you were, who have lost sight of hope, love, and encouragement", I had a glimpse of the direction He was leading. That was the 'seed' that gave birth to the **Overcomers for Christ**. I had absolutely no idea what we were getting ready to do. The only thing I knew was there was a burning desire inside of me to write and share what the Holy Spirit was showing me personally in the Word of God. All of this has to do with 'seed', but first ...

I want to address the thought that some of you out there may be on the fence about God's Word being 'seed' and 'the absolute truth'. I've heard some people attempt to dilute the validity of Scripture by saying, "The Bible is a book written by men. It's just like other books, it's been corrupted and mistranslated, it's fiction." Here's the Webster's Dictionary definition of fiction and non-fiction. *'Fiction is a genre of writing that typically tells stories about imaginary people and events. At the same time, non-fiction is based on real people and events. So, in essence, fiction can be seen as fake, while non-fiction is real.'* I want to share a few facts about the Bible that will show you all that the Bible is real and life changing for all those who choose to open its pages and enter a relationship with its Author. It's only when you dare to open its pages and allow God to speak directly to you that it becomes more than just a book.

Just the sheer volume of manuscripts of the Bible compared to any other writings in history is a great testimony to its accuracy. Let's just say you didn't have an original document but you had two copies of the original and there were differences between those two copies. That would mean that there is a 50/50 chance that one of those copies was correct, right? Now let's say that you had four copies of an original document and three of them were the same. That would mean that there is a 75% chance that those three were correct. Why am I telling you this?

There are thousands and thousands of manuscripts and scrolls of the Bible, around 2,400 manuscripts of the New Testament alone. This alone should give us phenomenal confidence in the accuracy of these copies. Many documents – documents upon which we base much of our knowledge of history are accepted without question with only eight to twenty copies in existence. There is infinitely more proof of the life and ministry of Jesus than there is that Julius Caesar existed, yet there isn't disbelief about Julius Caesar?

The ancient book that is closest to the Bible in the number of manuscripts is Homer's *Iliad*. The *Iliad* has fewer than 1,900 copies of the original document. That means that from a mathematical perspective, just the sheer volume of New Testament copies guarantees, with a 99.5% confidence, that the translation has been preserved.

These relatively fewer copies of Homer's *Iliad* have several hundred lines in question, while 24,000 copies of the New Testament have only a few dozen lines in question and none of which makes any firm basis or difference. The closest copy of the *Iliad* was written five hundred years after Homer's original, while the closest copy of the New Testament Scriptures was written less than fifty years after the originals. This alone should indicate that many of those who witnessed the events recorded in the New Testament were still alive when the earliest copies were made. That being said, if the copies were in error, some of the eyewitnesses would surely have discredited them, right? But that didn't happen. Instead it is just the opposite. These copies were widely used while eyewitnesses were still alive, and the silence of these eyewitnesses is confirmation of the accuracy of these documents. There is no other writings in the history of mankind that has this kind of authenticity!

Here's what the Bible says about this topic, ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God."*** This phrase, ***"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God"*** is translated from the Greek word *theopneustos*. This Greek word is a compound word made up of *theos* and *pneo*. According to the *Strong's Concordance*, the word *theos* means "a deity, especially ... the supreme Divinity," and the word *pneo* means "to breathe hard." Put these two definitions together and they literally mean "God breathed". This means that God inspired men to write the Scriptures, they were moved by God as they wrote.

Now you may be asking, "So if the Bible is God breathed, what is its purpose?" I'm glad you asked. It's easy to see what its purpose is when we read **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (KJV)**, ***"All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man (or woman) of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."*** With that, my question is this, "Are you willing to open the pages of the greatest Book ever written? Are you willing to surrender to the Holy Spirit's direction, His correction and redirection and begin the relationship of your life? God's Word is your perfect opportunity to have your life changed from the inside out!" Right believing leads to right living!

The Bible tells us in **2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT)**, ***"Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God."*** W.E.Vine, an English Biblical scholar, theologian and writer, most famous for *Vine's Expository Dictionary* of New Testament words, wrote that this word 'moved' signifies "that they were 'borne along,' or impelled, by the Holy Spirit's power, not acting according to their own wills, or simply expressing their own thoughts, but expressing the mind of God in words provided and ministered by Him." I'm a firm believer that although none of us can add to or subtract from the Word of God, everytime any one of you writes for this newsletter it too is inspired by God's Holy Spirit and is 'seed' to help set someone else free.

Let me share some more facts, things that you can look up for yourselves. The Bible is unique and unequalled in the impact it has had on the world. No other book written has shaped civilization as much as the Bible has. No other book has been published more or been translated into more languages. Over four BILLION copies have been sold worldwide, and twenty MILLION copies sold each year in the United States alone. The Bible has been translated into over 2,200 languages and dialects, reaching over 90% of the world's population.

The very fact that over 90% of the world has been reached with the Word of God excites me! Why? Because I know, and I'm excited the Lord's return is in the near future! Jesus gave us ALL, as His disciples, this Great Commission in **Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)**, ***"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."*** With over 90% of the world reached, it's apparent that 'some' people have taken Jesus' words to heart and have been diligent in making disciples in all nations and teaching them to obey all the commands He has given us. When I say I'm excited for the Lord's return that doesn't mean that I believe I can just kick back, become complacent and wait for the Lord's return. NO! There is still an urgency to continue making disciples! This means that from the beginning of the church age, in the **Book of Acts**, until now over 90% of the world has no excuse to say they never heard of Jesus. Even though it has taken over 2,000 years to reach this point **2 Peter 3:9 (TPT)** explains, ***"This means that, contrary to man's perspective, the Lord is not late with His promise to return, as some measure lateness. But rather, His "delay" simply reveals His loving patience toward you, because He does not want any to perish but all to come to repentance."***

For myself, when my life was radically changed, I chose to believe every word, from cover to cover, written in the Bible. There were many times I didn't quite understand some of it but I gave over my lack of understanding to exactly that, 'my' lack of understanding not the validity of His Word! Even though my mind wasn't there just yet, I continued to feed my soul

continued on page 9 ...

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

Please join me in prayer for a new Christian Chaplin. The Chaplin we now have is Mormon and doesn't teach us the whole truth of God. Yeshua Is the true God! I have my ups and downs but do my best to stay in the Word of God. I know I need to spend more time WITH God so please pray that I stay close with God ... **R.S.**

I could really use the help and prayers of the **DS&S** family. I would really love to come to Arizona. There are many reasons for this. My Judge here has said that I need to do 120 days in a halfway house, so I just need a good phone number and address in Arizona. I'm really needing to get out of this state and get back to the dessert ... **C.F.**

Hello **DS&S** family, I have a situation that needs some prayer. I would love it if you all would agree on God's Word (**Luke 15:17-20**) with me? My son has left my mom's house without letting me or anyone else know where he is. Believe with me that we will find him, reconcile with him and God will protect him ... **T.M.**

I just wanted you to know my prayers and hope for healing and strength for all of us and all the persons in **Overcomers for Christ**, pray for as well you'd be surprised the awesome power in prayer and doing so!" - Amen! Here goes - Land of the Lost - I don't think anybody really knows where they are going? All they seem to care about is who can get over on who? Who does what for what, all the way to who cares? I feel you could show these lost souls which way to go, but they're so lost they'll never know. I bet God was really frustrated with the whole free will deal. Cause there are a lot of unsaved people in the world. God bless all the unsaved people in the world. Help me pray for all God's children. God loves everyone. I used to be lost until I found out "Don't be caught dead without Jesus" ... **S.M.**

Praise Reports

Praise Jesus! Your last card to me lifted my spirit, encouraged my soul, and caused a great love to be known to me. Yaa see, I've been getting 'the forgotten about blues' from what is left of my genealogical family. I came to the revelation, AGAIN, upon reading your words to me; that I have a new family that loves me and cherishes me FOR REAL TRUE LOVE. Your timely words are confirmation 'anew' that I am blessed and highly favored because I am a family member in the family of God ... **J.S.**

God is blessing me in many ways and most of all, in staying true to my new life and avoiding all of the negativity here around me. I'm truly blessed and so much of that is because the **Overcomers for Christ** has shown me how to accept the love of Jesus. I thank Jesus and all of you there that work side by side, from the deepest realms of my heart ... **D.P.**

Praise Jesus, family! I'm getting close to the gate! I have 5 months left and it has been a long ride. One minute it seems so far away and the next it feels like it's tomorrow. I've got my address approved, job offers in state and federal fire, my sons and mother's support ALL BACKED UP BY GOD ... **B.A.**

Praise Jesus! You are both fishers of man and fish! Upon my release, I will need to learn more in both of those areas. I do believe that is what God wants for me. I don't know all of the details but I'm learning from God daily and taking all the hints I get from you as well. I'm excited to see where He leads me and daily, I am learning how to fight the flesh of addiction. I'm learning how to trust Jesus and I'm sure all will go well as I do ... **M.G.**

I want to thank all of you there at the **DS&S** for continuing to publish the **DS&S** newsletter. It is uplifting and inspirational, in this place and in these times. HOWEVER, we have one who has overcome the world! The enemy will always say whatever it takes to have us engage in spiritual warfare BUT JESUS said, "He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies." (**John 8:44**) So thank you Lord that we too are overcomers ... **I.S.**

David Cook

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Sin Or Holiness?

By H.M.

Have we accommodated the world, rather than calling the world to accommodate Christ? Please consider **Luke 16:15**, effectiveness is not found in being like the world, **"Then He said to them, 'You like to appear righteous in public, but God knows your hearts. What this world honors is detestable in the sight of God.'"** The world is described in **Philippians 3:19**, effectiveness is being distinct in Christ, **"And become one with Him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with Himself depends on faith."**

Effectiveness is being distinct in Christ which is explained in detail through **Colossians 3:1-17**, if our lifestyles are not constantly rebirthing, changing – we are not truly repentant. If Jesus is not in control of our life through the Holy Spirit, we have no safe place to live.

Colossians 3:1-17 – **"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all His glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires. Don't be greedy, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world. Because of these sins, the anger of God is coming. You used to do these things when your life was still part of this world. But now is the time to get rid of anger, rage, malicious behavior, slander, and dirty language. Don't lie to each other, for you have stripped off your old sinful nature and all its wicked deeds. Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like Him. In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and He lives in all of us. Since God chose you to be the holy people He loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful. Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom He gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."**

Read **James 1:14-15** – **"Temptation comes from our own desires, which entice us and drag us away. These desires give birth to sinful actions. And when sin is allowed to grow, it gives birth to death."**

Read **Romans 6:23** – **"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord."** Sin is hated by God because it leads to death, and much too often through our poor example. Read **Ezekiel 18:4** – **"For all people are Mine to judge—both parents and children alike. And this is My rule: The person who sins is the one who will die."**

The word **"if"** in **John 15:14** is expressionistic, **"You are My friends if you do what I command."**

The former is the opposite of luke warmers. Considering only Scriptures that refer to mercy, grace, and love, without works is a form of carnality. **Romans 8:6-7** explains the resulting aftermath, **"So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. For the sinful nature is always hostile to God. It never did obey God's laws, and it never will."**

James 2:22 NKJV states, **"But do you want to know, oh foolish man, that faith without works is dead?"** To be on fire for the Lord is to loathe our sin, not to find comfort in it.

Read **John 2:15-16** – **"Jesus made a whip from some ropes and chased them all out of the Temple. He drove out the sheep and cattle, scattered the money changers' coins over the floor, and turned over their tables. Then,**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

going over to the people who sold doves, He told them, 'Get these things out of here. Stop turning my Father's house into a marketplace!'"

Read **James 4:17** - *"Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it."*

One compromise always leads to more compromises, see **Proverbs 14:12**, *"There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death."*

We must always ask ourselves if we are living a life for Christ or trying to win a popularity contest. Consider the word "hate" in **Luke 14:26** means to "love less than", *"If you want to be My disciple, you must, by comparison, hate everyone else—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be My disciple."*

Furthermore, religious activities are useless if we've prostituted the grace of God, turning it into a license to sin. See **2 Timothy 3:7**, *"Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth."* Jesus is not some sort of a divine cheerleader, He's the Savior who gave His life for our sake!

Worldly philosophies are enemies of God, they glorify sin, which as **Hebrews 11:25** NKJV explains has a season of pleasure, condemnation is found in the pleasures of unrighteousness, but sanctification comes by the Holy Spirit, *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin."* See **2 Thessalonians 2:12-13**, *"That they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth."*

Holy conviction of sin is most uncomfortable, especially in the presence of a Holy God.

Matthew 7:21 - *"Not everyone who calls out to Me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of My Father in heaven will enter."*

James 2:19 - *"You say you have faith, for you believe that there is one God. Good for you! Even the demons believe this, and they tremble in terror."*

In closing, let me reiterate that faith is the beginning of obedience and obedience is the completion of faith. **Ephesians 2:10** NKJV states, *"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them."* May the Shalom of Heaven be poured out in abundance on all those who take heed to follow God's word.

It's Time to Stand Up

By M.C.

God has a plan for all of us to stand up and help Him fulfill His agenda/plan! We are to be the people that share and spread the Word of His truth. It's up to all of us, not just a few of us, to let the hurting people know that they are not alone. With Jesus, His Holy Spirit inside of you, God is right next to you! Just thank Him for His grace, mercy, and love by praising Him all of the time.

There is power in the name of Jesus when you speak it out loud. God gave His Son, to save our lives for a reason, you are now a child of God! He has taken away the penalty for our sins, eternal damnation, with the life of His Son and replaced it with eternal life with Him in heaven. Plus, we have an amazing life here on earth until we get to heaven! Praise God! Speak God's Word over yourselves daily as you look in the mirror. Look in the mirror and tell yourselves, "I am blessed! I am anointed for such a time as this! I am a child of God! I know You love me, Jesus!" It may take a while to convince the guy/gal in the mirror, but I promise you, it won't take long, and you'll start to believe it and you'll never feel the same! I've done this so many times that I actually feel God's love running through my body until it hits my heart.

continued on page 11 ...

Ezekiel 3:1-27

In his vision, Ezekiel ate God's message and found His spiritual food not only good for him but also sweet as honey. If you digest God's Word, you will find that not only does it make you stronger in your faith, but it's wisdom also sweetens your life. You need to feed yourself spiritually just as you do physically. This means doing more than giving God's Word a casual glance. You must make digesting God's Word a regular part of your life. **(3:1-3)**

A watchman's job was to stand on the city wall and warn the people of approaching danger. Ezekiel's role was to be a spiritual watchman, warning people of the judgment to come. Some think that "I will hold you responsible, demanding your blood for theirs" means that just as a watchman on the wall would pay with his life if he failed to warn the city of approaching enemies, Ezekiel would pay with his life if he refused to warn the people of coming judgment. Others believe this simply means that God could hold Ezekiel accountable. **(3:17)**

Hebrews 4:1-16

The Israelites of Moses' day illustrates a problem facing many who fill our churches today. They know a great deal about Christ, but they do not know Him personally – they don't combine their knowledge with faith. Let the Good News about Christ benefit your life. Believe in Him and then act on what you know. Trust in Christ and do what He says. **(4:2)**

The Word of God is not simply a collection of words from God, a vehicle for communicating ideas. It's a living, life – changing dynamic as it works in us. With the incisiveness of a surgeon's knife, God's Word reveals who we are and what we are not. It penetrates the core of our moral and spiritual life. It discerns within us, both good and evil. The demands of God's Word require decisions. We must not only listen to the Word, but we must also let it shape our life. **(4:12)**

Psalms 105:16-36

Did God cause the Egyptians to hate the Israelites? God is not the author of evil, but the Bible writers don't always distinguish between God's ultimate action and the intermediate steps. Thus, by God blessing the Israelites, the Egyptians came to hate them. See **Exodus 1:8-22**. Because God caused the Israelite's blessing, He is also said to have caused the Egyptians hatred. God used their animosity as a means to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. **(105:23-25)**

Proverbs 27:4-6

Who would prefer a friend's words to an enemy's kisses? Anyone who considers the source. A friend who has your best interest at heart may have to give you critical advice at times, but you know it's for your own good. Any enemy by contrast may whisper sweet words and happily send you on your way to ruin. We tend to hear what we want to hear, even if an enemy is the only one who will say it. A friend's advice, no matter how painful, is much better. **(27:6)**

“Foot” Notes

Happy 15th anniversary, *Overcomers for Christ!*

I'm asking all of you Overcomers who receive this newsletter to join me in agreement as I pray:

Lord, I bow before You and humbly ask that You continue the blessings You've provided so many through this newsletter over the last 15 years. That the next 15 years continue to grow the Overcomers ministry. That You continue to provide for and bless not only Pastor Wade Anderson and his family but everybody who puts in time to put this newsletter together, everybody who has submitted their own testimonies and articles as well. In Your precious name we pray Amen!

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

until my mind began to get in line with my new spirit. I'm not saying that I have it all figured out, but I know the difference, in my spirit, between just reading a book and when I read the Bible. Now I do understand that you could say, "But Duck, you are just a man and how do we know that the things you share are not just your thoughts and interpretations?" Brothers and sisters this is exactly why these newsletter messages and articles are filled with the written Word of God. We purposely add whole Scriptures and sometimes multiple translations, not just the address. Why? Because we want you to line the messages up with the Word of God. If what is written in these newsletters doesn't line up, disregard what 'anyone else has written' and believe the Scriptures! The most important thing is that you get His Word in you so you can easily see and know the difference.

Listen, I've already purposed in my heart, over fifteen years ago, that God's Word is infallible. It's WAY too late for anyone to try to sway me away from it being the complete truth. I personally experience, in every area of my life, God's written Word come to life. NO ONE could ever convince me that the complete direction of my life has changed by coincidence or simply because I walked away from drugs. Heck, let's start there. For over 37 years of my life I was more than eyeball deep in drugs and the lusts of the world. I didn't stop doing drugs because of my own efforts. I attempted that feat many times and without God it only lasted a brief time before I was more than above eyeball deep AGAIN! God knew the direction He had for my life, He knew my heart was sold out for Him when I walked across the yard and made that promise to Him and without even asking He took all the desire and taste away. It took me totally surrendering to God's Spirit's direction for my life that has delivered me from that 'old vomit'! Consider this, a person with an argument will never win against a person with an experience.

Conviction is absolutely necessary to us as Christians. We must have conviction before we can really be committed. Commitment means dedication, allegiance, loyalty and steadfastness. It begins with deep commitment to God and radiates to all that He has said. Also, we cannot be committed to God without commitment to His Word. Jesus stated this in **Luke 6:46-47**, *"Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord', and do not do what I say? As far everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like."*

It doesn't matter where you're at on this planet it's easy to see that society as a whole has moved further from the absolute belief in the Word of God to Relativism. What does this mean? Relativism is the idea that what is true for you is not necessarily true for me. This belief system states, "There are no absolutes." In our society today it has become politically incorrect for any of us to be absolutely sure about anything! When we take this stance this new ideology screams that we are ARROGANT, we are the ones that are wrong! This too speaks to the power of Scripture and satan's fear of and fight against the Bible. Isn't it obvious that there is demonic opposition to Scripture? I'm going to go ahead and just say it, those who disbelieve the Bible are under that demonic influence. But, this does not mean that God does not love that person. What it means is He hates the demonic spirit that has attached itself to that person. Remember, Jesus is always right there beside you coaching and motioning you to come out from under that old spirit and to Him! AMEN!

With conviction I'm speaking to us all, "If we don't start standing up and sharing God's truths, in love, with those that are being misguided by this corrupted world's direction, either way, we WILL have to stand before God one day with the decision "to not tell the truth." We ARE the body of Christ, His bride, His church, yet many in the church are afraid they will 'offend' someone with their belief in Jesus. WHAT!! In that sense, aren't you outwardly offending Jesus?!! YES!! ABSOLUTELY YES!! Further along in this message I will confront some topics that I've been convicted to address.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 11:12** (NKJV), *"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force."* Of course Jesus didn't mean physical violence here. Let's read **Matthew 11:12** (NLT), *"And from the time John the Baptist began preaching until now, the Kingdom of Heaven has been forcefully advancing, and violent people are attacking it."* Let's take this Scripture apart to get a better understanding of what Jesus was saying here.

"From the time of John the Baptist began preaching until now," Not much time had passed at this point since John first began his ministry, which was to declare that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand, that the King was coming. Once the announcement was made, the signs of the Kingdom began to break forth, especially when Jesus started to preach.

"The kingdom of heaven..." The Kingdom of Heaven or The Kingdom of God was Jesus' main message. The world belongs to God, but Adam gave the right to be the ruler of it to satan. Now the world is mainly the kingdom of darkness, of the world, of satan. The economy of the kingdom of satan is hate, lust, pride, envy, greed, and these are what make his world go around. Along with those are sorrow, pain, sickness, and death. Doesn't this all sound so familiar? The Kingdom of God breaks in from heaven as Jesus announced, demonstrated, and taught how to live in this new reality.

"Has been forcefully advancing, and the violent people are attacking it." This may be the most confusing part, but I would see it to mean this Kingdom must be forcefully laid hold of. Think about it this way, if it weren't for the Word believ-

ing, Word driven, sold out for the truth forcefully advancing people, 90% of the world would have never known Jesus! Now I never found this in any of the studying I did, but I'd be willing to bet that those 90% were more than likely reached by only 20% - 30% of the Christian population. Just think where that percentage would be if 50% of the population stood up and spoke up for Jesus! We enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with vigor and total commitment. We take authority over the darkness and drive it out before us when we command spirits, sickness, and even death to leave our presence. Turning the dominion of darkness upside down is an act of violence. So when we pray, "**Let your kingdom come,**" it's good for us to understand that in that statement 'we' ARE striking a violent blow to satan's kingdom. AMEN!?

Now, in **Matthew 10:16** (NLT), Jesus said to His disciples (us), "*Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves.*" Again, let's take this Scripture apart for a better understanding.

"So be as shrewd as snakes and harmless as doves." Here Jesus was using figures of speech that compare two totally different temperaments in order to instruct His disciples in how to behave in their ministry. Just before He tells them to be wise as serpents and harmless as doves, notice He warns them "*Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves.*" The world, then as now, was hostile to believers and not incidentally hostile, but purposefully hostile. Wolves are intentional about the attack they inflict upon sheep. In such an environment, even today, the question becomes: "How can we advance the kingdom of God effectively without becoming predatory ourselves?" Jesus taught His followers that, to be Christlike in a godless world, they must combine the wisdom of the serpent with the harmlessness of the dove.

When Jesus told His twelve disciples to be as wise as serpents and harmless as doves, He laid down a general principle about the technique of Kingdom work. As we take the Gospel to a hostile world, we must be wise (avoiding the snares set for us), and we must be innocent (serving the Lord blamelessly). Jesus was not suggesting that we stoop to deception but that we should model some of the serpent's famous shrewdness in a positive way. Wisdom does not equal dishonesty, and innocence does not equal gullibility.

Today, many people apparently think that they can be pleasing to God apart from steadfastness to His Word. His Word is not politically correct today, nor has it ever been. In fact the Word continues to be mocked, ridiculed and compromised. Brothers and sisters we cannot be as "wise as a serpent" while compromising the source of wisdom - God's Word! In order to live successful Christian lives 'today' requires that we strike the greatest balance between the dove and the serpent. We should strive to be gentle without being pushovers, and we must be sacrificial without being taken advantage of. In it all we must be aware of the unscrupulous tactics used by the enemy, but always take the high road. Peter puts it this way, "**Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.**" (1 Peter 2:12)

Yes, it's true that sometimes our faith is tested by distressing circumstances, but faith becomes stronger when tested if the test is passed. Let me ask this, "Do you have any conviction when it comes to the Lord and His Word?" There is only one way to know for sure! You must be tested! We'll stay in the context of *God's Word Is Seed* into the next couple of months.

15 Years Old!

By J.D.

It seems like yesterday I was getting involved with the ministry and now we are turning 15 years old. I have watched us grow over that time and I couldn't be prouder of the impact that we are making with our readers. Having the opportunity to share His Word is something I would have never pictured myself involved in, but seeing the hope and joy that the ministry brings to so many makes it amazing to be a part of. I want to thank everyone that contributes their words and time to the newsletter making it what it is today. I look forward to what the next 15 years brings!

Quote Worthy

"We know that in September, we will wander through the warm winds of summer's wreckage. We will welcome summer's ghost."

— Henry Rollins

Christian Comedy

I have the world's worst thesaurus. Not only is it terrible, it's terrible.

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From the Inside It's Time to Stand Up By M.C.

... continued from page 7

Remember, we all have done things in our lives that we are not proud of. The enemy knows those things also so don't let him get in your head and start telling you lies! Lies like, "You are not good enough to be a child of God's. Look at the things that you have done against God!" Those things don't come from God, that's the enemy! Stop listening immediately, turn towards him and begin to tell him who you are in Christ Jesus, and I guarantee you before you're done, he'll be long gone. Don't dwell on your past, learn from it, and move forward.

When you confess God's Word over your life, and get regular at it, you'll begin to see a shift in your life. Start expecting God's best for every area of your life because everything good comes from God! Your life will begin to be amazing because God has you in the palm of His hand and He loves you!

FUN FACTS

September 4th – In 1998, graduate students, Sergey Brin and Larry Page, filed paperwork to incorporate Google, their two-year-old research project.

September 6th – In 1995, Cal Ripken Jr. of the Baltimore Orioles played in his 2,131st Major League Baseball game, breaking Lou Gehrig's consecutive-games record.

September 7th – In 1822, Brazil declared independence from Portugal.

September 7th – In 1927, inventor Philo T. Farnsworth transmitted the first image by electronic means, an innovation that would eventually enable broadcast television.

September 7th – In 1979, cable sports network ESPN was launched with the premiere of the long-running daily series SportsCenter.

September 7th – In 2008, the U.S. government took control of the mortgage financing enterprises Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

September 18th – In 1997, a \$1 billion donation pledged to the United Nations by media mogul Ted Turner.

ATTENTION

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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

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Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296


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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The Tears of the Redeemed

By H.I. – Inspired by Ruth Bell Graham

Perhaps we will land upon that thirsty shore, not as expected in full sail
But with rudder bent, cargo overboard, anchors lost, broken wreckage
for Him to gather.

Perhaps we will walk those hungry shores seeking the band of cast-
aways,
Who suffered much through their own folly.

Perhaps their dreams and hopes yet live on where His voice echoes:
“It was good that it was in thine heart.”

Perhaps this tempest-tossed turbulence, these enemy waters -are not
against us –
Perhaps they are the tears of the redeemed.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

EDITORIAL Wade “Duck” Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

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