

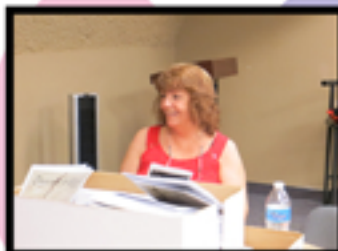
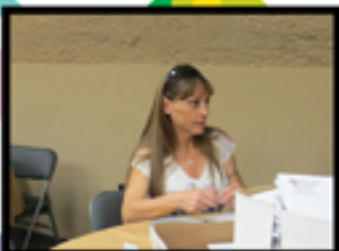
Overcomers for Christ

April 2020



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

May 2019



Fired Up and Flying High

By M.H.

As I begin I want to first thank the Lord Jesus Christ for placing us in each other's lives. I'm thankful for everything your ministry is doing in service to our King Jesus. You have been the same faithful brother since I first met you at Red Rock.

For me, I'm still **'Fired Up and Flying High!'** There is nothing on this planet or any other planet that can quench the Fire that God Almighty has put in my spirit, soul and bones! I don't care how bad it may look on the outside I know there's a greater report. The report of Jesus, the Christ, who is the Word! With 7,487 promises in His Word, that is over 20 promises per day for every single day of the year!

I refuse to get discouraged; I refuse to hang my head. I refuse to walk in defeat when Jesus has already won the victory on the Cross of Calvary. Since when has Calvary NOT been enough for me or for anybody else, especially believers!? It's time for the brother's and sister's to mount up in victory. Pray from victory, NOT for victory! Holy Spirit has really been ministering to me about 'man'. The problem in the body of Christ and in the world is, 'man' doesn't know who they really are in Christ Jesus. The spirit man is still dead, it needs to be awoken! Man is still running around like a blind dog in a meat house, he doesn't know who he is.

So the question I ask everyone is this, "Is your spirit man alive?" This word is for the brother's and sister's who are struggling behind the walls AND for those who are free physically but in bondage spiritually.

It's time for man and woman to realize who they are in Jesus the Christ. When you realize who you are in Jesus Christ it doesn't matter where you are on this earth. You could be in the deepest darkest hole on the earth and still know in your soul (mind, will and emotions) who you are. That is the spirit man's job. The soul identifies with the world system, your flesh and these five senses; what you hear, see, taste, smell and touch. Your spirit identifies with the Word of God. That 'Man' within us is perfect. Jesus, the Christ's job is to make us perfect in order to present us to the Father. Jesus the Christ is the greatest bounty hunter ever, sent directly from heaven. He found sin! He destroyed it all on the Cross of Calvary. Then He exposed satan by disarming him and making a public spectacle of him and his minions, triumphing over them. Look here in **Colossians 2:13-15**, **"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."**

Jesus the Christ is the greatest business man ever, at 12 years old He told His parents, **"Why were you searching for Me?" He asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in My Father's house?" (Luke 2:49)** And the very next verse, **Luke 2:50** it's recorded, **"But they did not understand what he was saying to them."** And we as the body of Christ still don't understand that the currency of heaven is our faith in God's Word! A lot of times we try to forgive ourselves but it wasn't us that went to the Cross! Jesus the Christ is the ONLY Man who can forgive our sin. The Word tells us, in **Romans 10:9-10**, **"If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."**

So it's finished, done right then and there! It's the liar, satan, that uses our thoughts to move our flesh, either for good or bad. Here's a simple example. When you have to go to the bathroom a thought enters your head and tells your flesh to get up and go. If you don't act on that thought you may soon realize that that warm sensation running down your leg was, well, you know, you wet yourself.

Brothers and sisters the devil will come at you hard from time to time accusing you of not being saved based on your action. IT'S A LIE! Then he will come trying to accuse you of, "Not being worth anything but a no good convict, the black sheep of your family." It's ALL a lie from the pits of hell! Listen here for a minute. Jesus has a fivefold ministry that He is exercising at the throne of God, on our behalf.

1) He is our High priest, **"Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest ... Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them." (Hebrews 3:1, 7:25)**

2) He is our Mediator, **"For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time." (1 Timothy 2:5-6)**

3) He is our Advocate, **"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One." (1 John 2:1)**

4) He is our security, **"Because of this oath, Jesus has become the guarantor of a better covenant."** (Hebrews 7:22)

5) And He is our Intercessor, **"Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them."** (Hebrews 7:25)

Man is a spirit made in the likeness of the God head - in the likeness of God. **"So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."** (Genesis 1:27) Man is the highest form of creation. That's exactly why satan is so mad, because God made 'man' in His likeness and similitude. Man is not of this earth. Earth is not in the likeness and image of God. Man IS the greatest of ALL creation! God put an ability in man and man must respond to that ability to be responsible. Spirit Man is the only thing that is perfect. **"However, as it is written: 'What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived' — the things God has prepared for those who love Him — these are the things God has revealed to us by His Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words. The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, for, 'Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct Him?' But we have the mind of Christ."** (1 Corinthians 2:9-16)

If man doesn't know who he is, he surely doesn't know who woman is. What is woman? Woman is the glory of man, his praise, honor, the splendor of life that God could bring forth from a man. Look at these Scriptures that witness to these statements I've made. **"The LORD God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him' ... So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib He had taken out of the man, and He brought her to the man. The man said, 'This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man.' That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh."** (Genesis 2:18, 21-24)

Now, **1 Corinthians 11:7-9, "A man ought not to cover his head, since he is the image and glory of God; but woman is the glory of man. For man did not come from woman, but woman from man; neither was man created for woman, but woman for man."** She will bring forth the very likeness and image of our flesh. Brother's, we become a father to our child the minute it's conceived. There was no way that Adam could deny Seth as his son. Why? Because sin had come in the flesh to bring man back into the likeness of God.

There are forty-two generations from Adam to Jesus. (**Matthew 1:1-17**) It's just like Spirit Man doesn't have color. That's why satan is not prejudice or a racist, he will get in any person of any colors thoughts, mind and emotions. Jesus the Christ gives us a Blood transfusion that can't be denied. Man gets his victories from speaking the Word to his situations, not by fighting, shooting etc. Jesus the Christ is obligated to teach man who he is. Jesus will sup with us, dine with us. He is the tree of life, with His love for us being number one.

Let me please encourage us all to prayerfully consider and apply this Word to our lives, in the name of Jesus the Christ. When we do we will stay **'Fired Up and Flying High!'** Remember this, we're fired up because the fire inside of us burns hotter than all the fires around us. We're flying high because we're seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus!

Quote Worthy

"It is part of Satan's program to make our faith complicated and involved. Now and then, we need a rediscovery of the simplicity that is in Christ and in our faith in Him."

- Vance Havner (1901-1986) widely recognized as one of America's most traveled evangelists and popular Bible conference speakers


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 request, would you please pray for me and my family? My husband will be released the end of next year. According to DOC, I have more years to do. However, I've been led by the Lord to apply for clemency. I want to be obedient, but have a lot of issues with the whole process. My prayer is that I will just allow God to be who He is and just trust in Him ... **K.P.**

I'm doing just fine, my being here in county jail was a calculated decision on my part in order to get my PO to place me into a faith-based long-term treatment center, God willing. Leaving prison and being homeless with no money or job or transportation left me in a very desperate, somewhat hopeless situation. So, I chose to violate and petitioned my PO, judge and attorney to release me after the 90 day violation into long-term Christian program. With three years of parole to do, no family in California to reside with, I needed half-way housing to get off the streets. Please pray for me, that this is God's will ... **R.E.D.**

I have a friend for whom I'm requesting prayer. We will call him 'Nick' and he is a slave to tobacco and I have encouraged him to pray for the strength to quit. He says he can see the wisdom in quitting but he also says that tobacco makes him "happy". I vehemently disagree. I reasoned with him imploring him to quit but he is as stubborn as he is enslaved. Would you all join me in praying for him to realize how happy he can be emancipated from the detrimental addiction like nicotine? Lord please help 'Nick' realize how liberating it is to be delivered from addiction, in Jesus name ... **P.W.**


Sadly, there are still a lot of lost souls still out there. Please continue to pray for me and my family. God bless all of our  family ... **H.J.**

I have several prayer requests. Please pray for my mom as she is going through a lot of stress with some property dispute out in California. Pray for the healing with my wife and kids, and the problems that my incarceration has caused in their lives. I'm also a little bit anxious about getting out here soon, finding a job and place to live all while dealing with probation full-time in my life ... **B.M.**

I feel so alone. My family is not happy with me at this point and neither is my 16 year old daughter. I hope you all can pray for me and that my daughter will come back into my life and be a part of my life. She has said that she won't even talk to me and if she seen me she would go the other way. Please pray for us brothers and sisters as I can't live my life without my child. Believe with me that Christ will bring her back to me ... **R.C.**

Praise Reports

I wish you and all the Overcomer's family, the very best of all that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ has for us all, amen!! I just wanted to check in and send you all my sincerest love and respect. You guys are one of the greatest gifts God has bestowed to me and I am always very, very grateful for that ... **R.E.D.**

 family, May you all continue to be blessed with God's love. I'm writing to let you know that my time in prison will be coming to an end in about six weeks. Praise God! It has been a long journey with both gains and losses. I was blessed with a great woman in my life last year and then shortly after that my mother passed away. Before my mother died my son who none of my family had seen in over 20 years went to visit her at her bedside. He was the last person she spoke to. I had been praying for years that she would get to see him and as you all know, all things are possible through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! Praise God! God has blessed me with many good things over the years. God has also given me the strength to deal with all the adversity. I want to thank all of you for sharing the Gospel with all of us in here. Your newsletters, cards, etc really do inspire people and can be the difference between a good day and a not so good one. Right now I'm blessed to have a good support system in place upon my release AND my sister has expressed to me that she would like to start attending church services with me after I'm out. Praise God ... **R.Q.**

Wade thank you for writing, your mail plus Michelle's card found me when I needed it most. Praise God! I went through some hard times at the other unit and to be honest, I failed a lot. Addiction is a bad, bad thing! But through it all I always turned back to God and Jesus. Then God said "Enough!" and moved me to a lower custody yard. Praise God! When I got here to this medium yard there were a lot of Christian brothers here. We hold church 3 times a week plus volunteers come on Mondays. So our services are Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. In it I'm learning more and more about my Lord and Savior. God asked me one morning when I was doing my studies and praying, "What did you learn from your experience at the other yard?" So I stopped and thought about what I didn't have or do and instead what I do have and use every day, and four days a week, help from the church and drug programs. I can't do this by myself. I need to lean on God, Jesus and rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance. God has used my trials to teach me that even as a Christian I still need the help of other Christian brothers and sisters and the church. Praise God ... **M.G.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

What He Did for Us

By W.L.

By His spoken Word - A child was conceived and born of a virgin birth,
He left His throne and glory in heaven and came to earth.
He humbled Himself and lowered Himself to serve,
He came to give the world a Gift it did not deserve,
A Gift born of love that no one could earn.

He came to heal, to restore and to give sight,
He showed us how we were living was not right,
On all darkness He shed light.
He taught us to keep watch during the night
With all authority given from above,
As the Spirit ascended on Him like a dove,
With compassion He wept with us out of love.

He healed many as thousands were fed,
Most of the time He had nowhere to lay His head,
By the Word of God He resisted the devil and the devil fled.
He stood up and announced He was the life giving bread,
With great zeal He left the temple cleansed,
He had twelve men He called disciples,
These were the fishers of men found in our Bibles.

He chased away demons that were frightful,
He spoke to our hearts, His teachings were insightful,
To those who wish to slay Him, one of His chosen chose to betray Him,
Still, He would finish the job His Father gave Him, at Pilate's court they would display Him,
He chose not the way of violence, in front of His accusers He remained silent,
To Him precious our lives meant, they beat Him and mocked Him in all defilement.

With a cat of nine tails they whipped His back, you can almost hear as the whip cracked,
They scourged Him until His body went slack, for us He took this brutal attack.

On His head they placed a thorny crown, As He carried a heavy Cross He fell to the ground,
Jeers and insults came from the crowd, can you imagine how He felt when He heard that sound.

All alone His followers could not be found, nailed to a Cross He was sentenced to death
A criminal to His right and to His left, as His mother watched He drew His last breath.

This Man was Jesus and He died for our sinful living, for every sin those nails were driven
You may think this was the end, but it was just the beginning,
The tomb was found empty for the Lord has risen, and now by His grace we can be forgiven.

The Power of Obedience

By M.D.

Let me start with **Romans 5:19**, "**For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one Man the many will be made righteous.**" This Scripture teaches us that our choices to obey, not only affects us, but many other people too. We see an example of this in Scripture when the Israelites experienced the fruit of their disobedience after the Exodus from Egypt. Had they promptly obeyed God, their lives would have been so much better. Listen here to **Hebrews 3:8-11**, "**Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion, In the day of trial in the wilderness, Where your fathers tested Me, tried Me, And saw My works forty years. There-**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

fore I was angry with that generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart, And they have not known My ways.' So I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'" As a consequence, according to God's Word, many of them and their children died in the wilderness because they would not submit to God's ways. Their children were affected by their decisions. And so are ours.

Today, my oldest son rarely even wants to speak to me. He's always busy or whatever because he doesn't know what to say to me due to the fact that I've let him and his brother down time and time again, always disappointing them and returning to prison. God has made me aware of how my sons have suffered greatly from my own disobedience. And it's because of that I realize the importance of my obedience today. And through my obedience, restoration is available. Our decisions to obey God affect other people, and when we decide to obey God, that affects other people too. You may choose to disobey God and stay in the wilderness, but PLEASE keep in mind, if you have children or ever will have children, your decisions will keep them in the wilderness with you. They may manage to get themselves out when they are grown, but I can assure you that they will pay a price for your disobedience. Obedience is a far-reaching choice; It closes the gates of hell and opens the windows of heaven, and it has the power to affect many people. Just think of it: Because of Jesus' willingness to be obedient, countless multitudes will be brought into right standing with God.

Your very life may be in better shape today had someone in your past obeyed God. If there is a cycle of disobedience in your family or among your friends, why not break it by refusing to be disobedient in YOUR life? Tell God that you want to obey and ask Him to help you overcome your disobedience. That way, you will set yourself up along with your children for great blessings.

I Thank Christ Jesus

By G.H.

From Ephesus, Paul wrote to the Corinthians, in **1 Corinthians 16:9**, "*For a great and effective door has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.*" And yet again, Paul writes in **1 Timothy 1:12, 16**, "*And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry ... However, for this reason I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show all longsuffering, as a pattern to those who are going to believe on Him for everlasting life.*" In 2013, one of my mentors sent me a quote that is now on the inside cover of my Bible and on my prayer board. It reads, "Of all the people in all of the prisons in the United States, God chose you according to His purpose and He has a plan for you. You are God's answer to the issues in your pod, your dorm, your prison. Be faithful to your calling and through you God is leaving His fingerprints in your prison." Tragically, many prisoners who profess to be believers continue looking at prison as punishment or even only correction. Instead, they worship the release gate and the world beyond the fence. Yet for those who truly believe the Gospel and begin denying self, taking up the Cross and diligently following Jesus, a world of peace, joy and amazing opportunity awaits. I pray we will find men and women of faith.

New Things On the Rise

By B.M.

Our worship team attempted a new song called *As You Find Me* by Hillsong. It's really powerful, I encourage all of you there and the **OC&C** readers to listen for it. There's one line in the song that ministers to me and the brothers here in the worship team. It's pretty simple but powerful, "Your love is too good to leave me here ..." That 'here' for us might be prison, but it could include many other things. The love of Jesus is too good to leave us in loneliness, pain, guilt, shame, anger, disease, physical disabilities, distress and even death right? Listen here to **Romans 8:37-39** as Paul expounds on this thought, "*In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"

Because of our walk, this sanctification will be tough, but it isn't forever. Jesus will make all things right and all things new someday. Not necessarily today, but that day will come. And for those of us who might feel that we've bankrupted our lives, it's game over and there's no going back. In the middle of this deep lose that we cradle and hold - Jesus is there and He takes our utter failure and absorbs it in His eternal love. That's my Jesus, that's who I praise and worship.

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Isaiah 41:5-42:25

One day God will gather all of His faithful people and we should not fear because God is with us, God has built a relationship with us and God gives us the guarantee of His strength over death and sin. Take time to consider all of the ways in which God has helped you this far. **(41:8-10)**

When you feel broken and burned out God won't step on you and push you aside as being worthless. Instead, He will gently pick you up. Through God's Spirit, we can show this kind of sensitivity to the people around us who may be suffering. **(42:1-4)**

Look at all the amazing things God will not only do for us but also do through us. Let your praise to God show how you truly feel. **(42:10)**

Sometimes partial blindness, seeing but not understanding or knowing what is right, but blowing it off instead of doing it is even worse than being completely blind. **(42:19-20)**

Ephesians 2:1-3:7

Satan is only temporary ruler of the part of the world that has chosen to follow him. It is our Lord Jesus Christ who is permanent Ruler of the whole world. **(2:2)**

Because of the resurrection of Christ, we know that we too shall be raised from the dead. **(1 Corinthians 15:2-23)** We've been given power to live right now as Christians. **(2:6)**

We should always respond with gratitude and praise for our salvation and faith. **(2:8-9)**

When Paul started sharing the Good News, God gave him the ability to speak very well. You are probably not a minister, apostle or evangelist but God will put opportunities before you to tell people about Jesus Christ and along with those opportunities God will provide the strength and courage to do so. **(3:7)**

Psalms 67:1-7

This Psalm speaks of the fulfillment of God's great commission, when Jesus said to take the gospel to all nations. **(Matthew 28:18-20)** We need to count ourselves as a part of the great cloud of believers who know Jesus Christ, glorify Him for the Good News and continue to share His gospel so that the harvest will continue to grow in abundance. **(67:2)**

Proverbs 24:9-10

Times of trouble can be useful. They can show you who you really are, what kind of character you have developed. In addition, they can help you grow stronger. When Jeremiah questioned God because of the trouble he faced, God asked how he ever expected to face big challenges if the little ones tired him out. **(Jeremiah 12:5)** Don't complain about your problems, the trouble you face today is training you to be strong for the more difficult situations you will face in the future. **(24:10)**

"Foot" Notes

Okay so I was minding my own business, kicking back on my bunk just thinking (I know, bad idea) when the Spirit began to nudge me to write my thoughts down. Since I was trying to slip off into nap mode I tried to blow it off until later, but no bueno. I don't know where the Spirit is leading but here we go.

I was laying here realizing that my oldest tattoo had just turned 40 years old, crazy right? Continuing on, I was 44 years old when I chose to go all in and follow God, the Lord Jesus Christ. And that has now been 14 years ago. So now, at 58 years old I look back at my journey and I'm sure, just like all of you, there's been some ups and downs. Yet by trusting in and glorifying God through it all He has smoothed out the rough spots. I do know this, that I can tell you all that as you continue to grow in your faith, making the right decisions gets a heck of a lot easier. Heck, I've even had days where I've made the right decisions without putting any thought in to it at all. Thank You Jesus for the constant tuning of my being, that being said ... I'm still not allowed to be without constant supervision from the Holy Spirit! Ha, it be's what it be's and I'm a better man for it.

Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Remember, don't drive faster than your angels can fly!!

Who Do People Say That I Am?

By W.R.

People wear masks and often present themselves in a manner other than what they are.

Believe me, satan himself masquerades as an angel of light, as seen here in **2 Corinthians 11:14**, **"But I am not surprised! Even satan disguises himself as an angel of light."** Judas was chosen by Jesus to be one of His disciples but the Scriptures tell us, in **John 6:70**, Jesus asked, **"Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a devil?"** The same man, in **Matthew 26:15**, betrayed Jesus asking, **"What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.** Do you know the interesting thing about that exchange? In the Bible, silver color means truth. We as Christians betray Jesus every time we sin, and for a lot less than 30 pieces of silver! In most cases we do so for our own selfish needs and desires.

Who do people say that you are? We can call ourselves Christians, we can call ourselves anything but who we really are, can and will be seen by the fruit that we bear. Jesus gave us a measuring stick in which to identify His followers when He said, in **Matthew 7:15-20**, **"Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them."** Jesus took it even a little further in **Luke 11:23**, when He said, **"He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters."** And His words are translated like this, **"This is a war, and whoever is not on my side is against Me, and whoever does not gather the spoils with Me will be forever scattered."** in the Passion Translation. So it's obvious that Jesus drew the line in the sand over 2000 years ago. Either we are with Him, bearing and gathering good fruit, or we are against Him. There's no middle ground here, there's no straddling the fence either. You read it, Jesus has left no doors open for compromising 'The Truth'.

In God's Word it tells us that we are either the children of God OR we are the children of the devil. Now let's read **1 John 3:8-10**, **"He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God."** And we've already seen above that Jesus made it clear to us that, **"by their fruit you will know them."** So the question remains, "Who are you?" But now I find myself posing that same question to myself, "Who am I?" And, "Who do people say that I am?"

In **Matthew 16:13-14**, when Jesus asked His disciples, **"Who do people say the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets."** But then Jesus turned and asked Peter this very same question in **Matthew 16:15**, **"But who do you say that I am?" Verse 16** shows us, **"Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"** The religious leaders rejected that truth and were even offended by it and the people asked, in **Mark 6:3**, **"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't His sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him.** And then in **John 1:46**, Nathaniel posed this question, **"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"** With this statement from Nathaniel I would assume that Nazareth must have been a pretty bad neighborhood and that being a carpenter was not a very prestigious occupation.

It's obvious that the religious leaders and the people were making certain assumptions while coming to certain conclusions in lieu of Jesus' background. And all of us are or have been guilty of that same point in our own lives. We all form opinions and predigests towards others before we even know them or have anything concrete in which to base our opinions upon!

Nathaniel had already formulated an opinion about Nazareth and the people living there before he had even met Jesus. We see this in his questioning, **"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"**

Now I would like to personalize this question and take it to another level by asking you, "Could anything good come from the East/West side of Dayton? Can anything come out of a drug/crime infested neighborhood? Can anything good come out of a prison?" I've known some pretty shady characters throughout the 48 years that I've been in prison. AND I've read about some pretty shady people in the Bible, who by all means should have been in prison. Take for instance Moses, David and the Apostle Paul. They were all murderers. Absalom, King David's son, killed his own brother Amnon for raping their own sister Tamar. (Read **Exodus 2:12**, **2 Samuel 11:11-15**, **2 Samuel 13:11,14, 32**, **Acts 7:58** and **Acts 8:1-3**) By the worlds standards they were all criminals and if they were alive today they would all be in prison or sitting in a cell on death row awaiting their execution!

In all probability the disciple Peter would have been in a cell with all of them for aggravated assault after cutting that guys ear off, **"Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it and struck the high priest's servant, cutting off his right ear."**

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(The servant's name was Malchus.)" (John 18:10), the night that Jesus was arrested. That incident would have gotten Peter a 10 year sentence today!

So the question remains, "Who do people say that I am?" And "Can anything good come out of prison?" If you were to pose that question to the people in society they would in all good conscious, and rightfully so, label me as a criminal, a murderer. And by the worlds standards they would be justified in coming to that conclusion. But God uses and has a different standard in His judgment. He looks beyond our social status and appearance and instead peers in to our hearts. The Word tells us in **1 John 3:15, "Anyone who hates a brother or sister is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life residing in him."** And **Jeremiah 17:9** reads, **"The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?"** When Nathaniel asked Philip, **"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"** listen to Philips response, **"Come and see!"**

So again I pose the question to you, "Can anything good come out of prison?" And I would tell you, "Come and see the pierced hands of God that touches even the hardest of hearts, and watch them soften. I would ask you to come see the lepers of our society, who have been cleansed by a touch of the Master's hand. Those who have been set free from drug and alcohol addictions. I would ask you to come with me to the worst part of your city and see the pierced hands of God as they wipe away the tears from the prostitutes face and forgive another for the most reprehensible crimes that you could imagine." The hands that fashioned the stars and shaped the mountains are now molding and shaping all these lives into the treasured possessions that God has created them all to be. These same hands are reaching out to you today, beckoning you to come to the Cross to witness for yourselves the lives that have been changed by the touch of the Master's hand!

And now I would ask you to come with me to Death Row and witness for yourselves the joy radiating from the face of the man condemned to die, the one who has just received a pardon, not from the governor, but from the King of kings! Then I would ask you to come and see me. I would ask you to read my testimony and read my poetry in which I have bared my soul with pen and paper so that you could look into my heart. It's there that you would see the life changing power of God at work in my life! THEN, I would ask you, "Who do you say that I am?"

What Others Are Saying...

"Greetings Christian brothers and sisters, our Christ has risen! Hallelujah! I'm back inside these walls again, please send me your OC4C magazines and keep me in your prayers. Got to get that fire back in my bones! God bless you all." - **L.M.R.**

"I hope and pray that everyone at **Overcomers for Christ** and their families are blessed, doing well and in great health! I have been receiving your newsletters for years now and I do read each one of them from cover to cover. Thank you, I am always blessed in some way while reading them each month! Whether it's a word, Scriptures, story, Foot Notes, prayer requests, brain teasers, poems, Quote Worthy, art work, etc. I will say that everyone at **Overcomers for Christ** are committed and consistent in producing your monthly newsletter! Once again, thank you. And just know 'it does not go unnoticed', believe me on that. Just know that everyone at **Overcomers for Christ** and their families are in my daily prayers! I do appreciate everything that you all do ... **DO NOT STOP!**" - **L.M.**

"Hello to everyone at **OC4C**. I just wanted to drop you all a line to say, 'Hello!' Please tell Heidi Marie I said thank you so much for the card that she sent. It seems that you guys always come through just when I am sometimes down, and you lift me up. I would like to stand in the gap and pray **Jeremiah 29:11** over all of you there at **OC4C**, and I will do so as long as it takes. And once I review the praise report from you, then I'll stop. Our God is so good and there is nothing that compares to Him! Tell everyone to always smile, because it makes the enemy so, so mad!" - **R.G.**

"**Overcomers for Christ**, I am a born again believer of Christ. I was turned on to your newsletter by a fellow inmate and I liked what I read and was wondering if you could send me my own copy and any other inspirational materials you have about Christ. My birthday just past and every day I thank God for waking me up to see another day, because the road I was going down I never thought that I would be here this long. Even though I am in prison I am alive! Thank you all for spreading the Word of Jesus Christ and all the miracles He has done in your lives." - **J.C.**

"I want all of you there to know that I thank God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ every night for ALL of you there at the **OC4C**, for being the faithful, obedient ambassadors that you all are!" - **C.M.**

"May everyone there at the **OC4C** be blessed every day of your lives. Thank you for being there for us - for all the work that you are doing for God and His Kingdom! And for all of the time and effort that you put forth to bring us the Word of God as well as your service to Him and us. Thank you all and may God bless and watch over you all!" - **W.R.**

Bible Quiz: The Easter Story

It was all part of God's mysterious plan of salvation that Jesus would be killed, then rise from the dead as a sign that we too can overcome death and live with God forever. That's what Easter is all about.

1. The Easter story begins with an event of Jesus' life that we celebrate on Palm Sunday. What event is it?
 - a. Jesus preached a famous sermon in Palm City.
 - b. Jesus rode a donkey into Jerusalem, and the people spread palm branches on the road ahead of Him.
 - c. Jesus put a curse on a palm tree that would bear no fruit.
2. As part of God's plan, one of Jesus' disciples betrayed Him to his enemies. What was his name?
 - a. Judas
 - b. Matthew
 - c. Peter
3. What is Good Friday about?
 - a. The day Jesus died on the cross
 - b. The day Jesus escaped from His enemies
 - c. The day Jesus preached His final sermon before His death
4. What do we celebrate on Easter?
 - a. The day Jesus escaped from His enemies
 - b. The day Jesus preached His last sermon on Earth
 - c. The day Jesus rose from the dead
5. What happened 40 days after Jesus rose from the dead?
 - a. Jesus' enemies tried again to kill Him.
 - b. Jesus ascended to Heaven.
 - c. Jesus visited Jerusalem for the last time.

Answers: 1.a 2.a 3.a 4.c 5.b

ATTENTION

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Editor's Note

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Hello everyone! Over this past year, 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
Florence - Florence High School 1000 S. Main St. Florence, AZ 85132

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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Heaven

By G.B.B.

Over the rainbow is a place made of gold,
It's a place called Heaven where we'll never grow old.
The gates will be open to all who are saved,
We'll see our loved Ones, the way has been paved.

Over the Rainbow one day I will be,
There's a mansion for you and a mansion for me.
There'll be no more tears, surely no fear
We'll be there with Jesus, forever so near.

God give me eyes that I might see,
The work that can be done by me,
Ears that I might hear
The cry of those who need me near.

God give me the lips that I might speak
Comfort and peace to all who speak,
Comfort and peace to all who seek.

Give me a mind that I might know
How to help others grow.
God give me hands that I might do
All the things You need me to.

Give me prayer that I might pray,
The things You would have me say.
And this one thing all else above,
Give me a heart that I may love.

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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