

Overcomers for Christ

June 2023

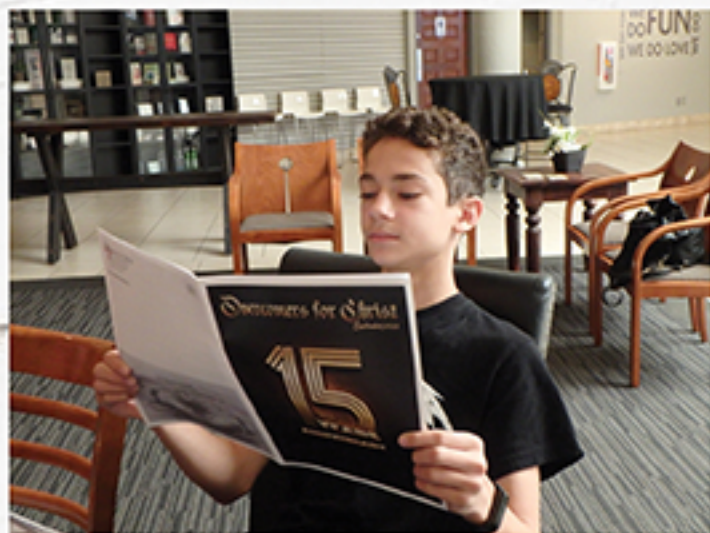


The
LORD
is the
STRENGTH
of my life;
of whom will I be afraid?

PSALMS 27:1

Ross Cooper

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ September 2022



The Origin of Eternal Life – Part 1

By Vern Deadmond - GLOW Evangelistic Ministries

I recently was challenged by my pastor to present a teaching on "Love" to all of the leadership of the church I attend. For myself, I have never studied or meditated on the subject. I know, pathetic! But as you sit there reading this and judging me, realize most Christians do not grasp and understand God's love. I have so much enjoyed learning about God's love that after I presented my teaching to the leadership, I have continued to search the Scriptures to learn and receive more revelation of God's love. Christians as a whole (the Church) have an attitude and only go to church on Sunday because they should, but don't want God to interfere with their life after church service. What do I mean? They wake up each morning of the week and live out their day without any thought about God until Sunday morning when they roll out of bed to go to church. Or when tragedy hits them, they cry out and ask, "Where are You God?" Understand this, where their hearts are is where we find what they truly treasure. I have seen Christians get more fired up for their favorite sports teams on Sunday's than they do for God. They will wear their favorite players jerseys to church to show who they idolize, but will they wear a t-shirt that declares Jesus to the world? When we truly understand God's love for us, we will boldly proclaim Jesus to the world with no shame. We will unabashedly share with all those around us, the love of God.

People around us every day will know we are Christians when our treasure is Jesus. What I hope to accomplish writing to you is for you to be able to receive the revelation of God's love for yourself. I can tell you all about it, but if you are unwilling to seek God of your own volition to know Him, you will not receive revelation of His love. When you receive revelation from God's Holy Spirit, it will be grafted into your heart, and you will be on your way to being a mature and perfect being in Christ. You will have such joy and excitement for what God imparted into you, and you will know beyond a shadow of doubt that you received truth from Him. So, I encourage you to read what I write for you and then get alone with God and your Bible – read it and listen to what His Holy Spirit says to you.

Let me start with a question, what do you believe Salvation is? The basic understanding of Salvation is that we receive everlasting life, right? In **John 3:15-16**, we read, *"... that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* Most people read this and think, great! I believe in Jesus and when I die, I'm going to Heaven. But that is only scratching the surface of what eternal life truly is. Jesus tells us exactly what eternal life is in **John 17:3**, *"Now this is eternal life: that they know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent."* (Read full chapter)

Eternal life is when you know God and Jesus Christ! This word "know" is referring to really knowing God as you would know your spouse. When you really know your spouse, you know his/her character and personality. You know how he/she will react or say, so if someone said to you that your spouse did something or said something that is not who they are, you would know that he/she never said that or did that. You would be able to say you don't believe the rumor because you know your spouse, and he/she would never say that or do that. So how do you know your spouse like this? It's your personal and intimate time that you spend with him/her, talk and fellowship with them. This is what God wants for each and every one that believes in Him. When you know God, you know He wants the best for you, He wants you to live a prosperous life, He wants you to live a life full of health, you know His will for you, and you know He loves you. Most Christians say, because they said the Salvation prayer and are saved that they know God. But do they know what God's will is, what His plan is for them? Do they believe God is an angry God? Do they believe God wants them healthy and whole? The answers to these questions are all found in the Bible, His Holy Word. For any Christian who does not study and meditate on God's Word consistently, spending intimate and personal time with God in His Word, they do not "know" God.

Do you know God and His Son? **John 1:1** tells us, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* Put this together with **John 1:14**, *"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* Who walked and dwelt with man 2000 years ago? Jesus! Jesus is the Word and Jesus is God! Stop thinking Jesus was just a mere man sent here by God to die for our sins. Jesus is God, in a body, and He sacrificed His body for everyone. God laid aside His deity, He took on flesh and blood and lived among us. Take a few minutes and just meditate on how He suffered on the cross for you. He allowed the humiliation, the beating, and the death of the cross to happen. **John 10:17-18**, *"Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."* Stop and think about this, Jesus could have at any moment stopped all that He was submitted too. He could have told His Father, "Look at what they are doing to Me, they have stripped Me naked, beat and whipped Me, hung Me on a cross. Man, who You have created hate You, they refuse to hear the truth ... they don't deserve Your love for them. Let them suffer, let them live out their miserable existence, and let them all go to Hell for eternity." He could have stopped all of it in an instant. But He didn't. Oh, how He loves us! Because of His great love for you, for me, even for the worst of us ... He saw it through until it was finished. Let this revelation of God's love take root in your heart.

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Jesus is the Word of God, and His Word is recorded for us in the Bible, and the way to know God is by reading, studying, and meditating in the Word. It is necessary if you are to know God. There can be no intimate relationship with God without making the Word part of your life every single day. I started with a daily Bible reading plan, this made me set aside time each morning to read the Bible and by doing this I was able to establish a consistent and normal time every day to spend with God. I wake up every morning and I have grown to love this time of morning as it is just me and God. You need to start somewhere with knowing God, and for me this is how I was able to start. Andrew Wommack Ministries offers a brochure with a daily plan that you can write the ministry and request. You will find their address later in this newsletter. As you read each day you check off your progress, so it keeps you on track to complete your goal in one year. Don't make it a routine or tradition, make it something you do because you want to draw close to God, ask His Holy Spirit to give you revelations of His Word. As I was nearing finishing my reading the first year, I felt an excitement building on the inside to be able to seek God's Holy Spirit for direction of what to go back and read. When I was able to do this, His Holy Spirit began to pour out revelation to me about knowing Him. I discovered what eternal life is, and it comes from knowing Him.

Most Christians just cherry-pick Scriptures out of the Bible, but by reading verse by verse, you will come to understand the Scripture in the context that it is written. When you only read one or two Scriptures at a time, it may not make sense, or you think it means something it really is not saying. An example is **John 12:32**, *"And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."* Jesus is talking about when He is lifted up on the cross. There are two things I want to point out to you here. First, the word "peoples" was inserted by the translators of the King James Bible, you can tell because it was italicized. When King James commissioned the scholars to translate the Greek into English, he was very clear they were NOT to insert their opinions or personal beliefs without properly being able to explain themselves. The translator's solution was to italicize words they inserted to make the text easier to understand. Sometimes they were correct, but other times they missed it. So anytime you see an italicized word in the KJV translation, you know that word did not appear in the original Greek texts. If we take the word "peoples" out of Verse 32, it reads, "I will draw all to Myself." The second thing I want to show you is you need to read more than just a single Scripture; this allows one to read the Scriptures in the context that the Scriptures were written. What is the context of what Jesus is actually talking about, "He will draw all to Him"? What is the 'all'? **Verse 31** holds the answer for us, but if you only hear a sermon about **verse 32**, it's generally taught that Jesus will draw all peoples to Him. Not true, otherwise all of man-kind would be coming to Him. Let's read **Verse 31**, *"Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all to Myself."*

The "all" in **Verse 32** is judgment of this world – Jesus will draw all the judgment of the world to Him. This is confirmed throughout the New Testament Scriptures, notably in **Galatians 3:13**, *"Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us."* God's judgment of the world was placed on Jesus, and those who believe and receive the truth that Jesus died for their sins will not receive the judgment reserved for those who do not receive Christ. And we now know that God is not judging me or you or anyone else who has asked Him into their hearts for their sins. When people say that God is judging the United States or other countries when natural disasters strike, you have the assurance of God's Word that this is wrong. **Second Peter 3:7** reads, *"But the heavens and the earth are now preserved by the same Word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men."* God has reserved final judgment of the world for the day of judgment. This even applies to when someone gets cancer or some other sickness, God is not judging anyone or any country, yet. As you study and meditate in God's Word, you will know God and then you will know that God is a good God, and He doesn't put sickness on us or do bad things to us.

What does all this have to do in regard to the title, *The Origin of Eternal Life*? Why did God choose to redeem us so we could have eternal life? The answer is in **Ephesians 1:4-6**, *"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved."* God's plan of Salvation for us was conceived and borne out of His great love for us. He raised us out of our dead, sinful life and He made us alive with Jesus because He loved us from the beginning. His motivation is because He loves us. It is as simple as this – so let's not complicate it with some theological gobblegook that bores us to death. All of my Christian life (50+ years) I've heard how much God loves me and how we are to love everyone. I heard it so often and I had no real revelation of God's love myself, the phrase "God loves you" was just a cliché that I heard. The majority of Christians hear how God loves them, but it means very little to them.

I remember going out with an evangelistic team on the streets one time, and a young bible college student would tell everyone we walked by "Jesus loves you; Jesus loves you." She would say it constantly as people walked by us. I'll ask for forgiveness right now from God, but it was flat out annoying, and it felt weird. She was demonstrating to people that Christians are really fruity and nutty. This type of behavior not only turned me off as a Christian, and it never caused one person to stop and talk with her. Her type of evangelism was dead, and it produced nothing. I wonder what she would have said if someone stopped and asked her what she actually meant? Because if someone asked me what it meant, I

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

This is 'Duck' and I have a prayer request/praise report. Last month, one of our founding members of the Overcomers for Christ, 'Foot', fell out as he suffered a heart attack and apparently died twice. I was made aware of this by a couple of different people. It was difficult to get any solid information at the time of printing the last newsletter, but we kept him in our prayers, as did many others that were there that day the event transpired on the yard. Even though 'Foot' is ALREADY back on the yard, I'm asking you all to keep our brother 'Lazarus' in your prayers. So that you all can also witness and declare the goodness of our God right along with your prayers, I'm including his message to me as he returned to the yard.

"I GOT BACK HERE LAST NIGHT. THE CROWD OF INMATES AT THE GATE TO GREET ME WAS TRULY HUMBLING. I FOUND OUT MORE DETAILS AS TO MY LIFE BEING RESTORED. I WAS DEAD TWICE BUT ONE OFFICER REFUSED TO GIVE UP ON ME. I DID GET TO PERSONALLY THANK ALL THE MEDICAL, AND UNIT STAFF TODAY. SO QUADRUPLE BI-PASS WAS WHAT WENT DOWN. I FEEL AS IF I WAS IN A GOOD LONG FIGHT. JUST REALLY SORE IN THE TORSO. THE ONLY THING THAT IS PAINFUL IS WHEN I COUGH OR SNEEZE DUE TO THE FRACTURED RIBS FROM THE CHEST COMPRESSIONS. I WENT BACK TO WORK TODAY, WHICH WAS A LITTLE TIRING. WEDNESDAY I'LL GO BACK TO MY AUTO CLASS. I'VE ONLY MISSED A QUIZ, AND TWO TESTS WHICH I CAN MAKE UP BEFORE THE SEMESTER IS OVER AND KEEP ON TRACK FOR THAT THIRD ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE. ONE THING IS I GET TIRED PRETTY EASY RIGHT NOW AND THEY'RE STARTING ME ON A CARDIAC DIET TOMORROW. IT'S ALL GOOD. I KNOW RECUPERATION WILL TAKE TIME. IT SEEMS QUITE OBVIOUS GOD STILL HAS WORK FOR ME HERE ON THIS EARTH BROTHER!! I LOVE YOU GUYS, VAYA CON DIOS BIGFOOT "OR IS IT LAZARUS NOW? LOL!"

PRAISE REPORTS

My daughter's journey is on fire. I'll try to paraphrase the latest stuff. She was going full steam ahead and was going to sue her boss for discrimination amongst other things. When I first read this my thought was that her boss could just fold up shop putting, I think about a half dozen people out of work. But I held my tongue and just waited to see what she would do. She dug into the Word and stopped the avenue of litigation, realizing that her purpose for the suit was just to prove a point. Instead, she changed tactics and just started holding her tongue and being nice to her boss. Quick background, she is in charge of digital media marketing for a company in Cottonwood. Her boss was on her trying to say that she was the reason for the lack of sales. Fast forward to the other day, her boss was pressing her to post something but wouldn't tell her exactly what colors, so she made the decision to cover a pair of Vans sneakers she had in her office with glitter and post that. Long story short, within 24 hours her glittery shoes had close to 849,000 views and was still growing. Total mic drop moment for her and she knows this is God putting an exclamation point on His child's skill set. I can only imagine if only ten percent of those views turned into glitter sales what a deal that would be or even if she takes it further and starts glittering up designs on people's Vans sneakers for them at a fair wage. Anyhow, I searched Scripture in **1 Kings 5:3**, **"You know how my father David could not build a house for the name of the Lord his God because of the wars which were fought against him on every side, until the Lord put his foes under the soles of his feet."** Maybe God's feet were in a pair of custom glitter covered Vans!!! My daughter and I have been emailing back and forth daily sharing Scriptures. I'm truly a blessed man ... **Foot**

Reading your last card reminded me of Chapter 1 of the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians. I rendered Wade as Paul and me and all of the brethren as "beloved brothers by God". The Holy Spirit urges me to place myself into Scripture. So, I do. God and I have a very intimate and formidable relationship when I do this. And yes, even when I'm not actually reading our Father's Word. I literally interpret all of God's Word as "His letters to me". And I am very cautious and guarded about what I am doing when I do this. I firmly believe and declare that we all should do this purposefully. He is our Father, He wrote these letters to us all. Pappa doesn't mind as long as we behave ourselves. Keep ourselves in check, so to speak. The Creator of everything, everywhere has written good, good, good letters to us all. I figure it's a good way to approach the Bible by the power of the Blood and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And believing Jesus Christ is the Son of God. **PRAISE GOD ... J.S.**

I too have been blessed with the gift of getting through to others and maintaining discipleship to them through the loving grace of God. There's nothing greater than the feeling of knowing that God is using me to be a part of the Great Commission, and people coming to Salvation by giving their life to God through accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Praise God! ... **J.H.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Stay Focused

By S.M.

Let me start with **2 Timothy 2:3-4**, *"Like a single-minded soldier, we should respond to the orders of our commanding officer, the Lord Jesus, with unquestioning obedience."* And remember this, *"Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage."* (**Matthew 5:13** Message)

Matthew 4:19 reads, *"Come, follow Me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people."* As fisherman, we are called to 'catch' people with the Good News of Christ, and be ambassadors, *"So we are Christ's ambassadors; God is making His appeal through us. We speak for Christ when we plead, 'Come back to God!'"* (**2 Corinthians 5:20**)

In **Matthew 5:14-16** we see, *"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father."* As light, we point the way to reconciliation with God, and we reflect God's character, for He is the Light. And as workers our work is to rightly divide, or correctly handle, God's Word so as to avoid shame to the Master. **Second Timothy 2:20-21** shows us, *"But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work."*

I'll finish with **Ephesians 5:14-15**, *"Therefore He says: 'Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.' See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise."*

I encourage you all to not just read these words, but also give them thought and time to germinate in your spirit. In my life I've found the best way for someone to understand the Bible is through viewing our own walk with Christ. God bless you all.

God is Love and Love Never Fails

By J.S.

Dear friends and beloved Overcomers family! Let me begin with **Ephesians 4:17-19**, *"This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness."*

Salvation from such futility comes from the indwelling Spirit of Christ, in us and all other believers. Let's read **Romans 8:10-11,26-27**, together, *"But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of His Spirit who lives in you ... In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."* Wherever we go and whatever we do, Father Himself will be with us. AMEN?!

Let's all pray this together; *"Father God, You are bigger than the universe, yet closer than a breath. Thank You for being so interested in us and attending to our every petition and prayer, always in all ways. With everlasting love, Your child."*

Sanctification is the process in which God Himself develops the NEW life of the believers, and gradually brings it to perfection. Now read **Romans 6:11**, *"In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus."* And **Philippians 1:6**, *"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."*

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Romans 1:17 tells us, **"The just shall live by faith."** From faith to faith means 'faith' is at the beginning of the Salvation process, it is the goal as well. When we first choose to experience faith in Jesus Christ is when we are saved from the penalty of sin. This is where we are also declared and made righteous. Don't get this righteousness confused with self-righteousness. After this God will continually save us from the power and effects of sin, so we can be blessed with the experience of living righteously so we can declare, **"For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."** (Romans 1:16)

We serve a supernatural, all-powerful God that always says, "Yes and Amen". And He also just happens to be our Heavenly Father and our point of origin. That's for real and true! To me, a Christian is someone who, in this life on earth, is always on the road following Jesus Christ in all ways. A person seeking to be Christ-like. Oswald Chambers stated, "Eternal life is not only a gift FROM God, but also THE gift of God." God is our 'Father's' title. 'Father' is His position in our lives. 'Jehovah' is our Fathers personal name He gave Himself so we could know Him completely. Our Father is the ONLY true living God." We all are protected 100%, Loved 100% and our Father has really and truly got this under control. So, be safe, be confident, and do like our 'Poppa' does ... LOVE THOSE AROUND YOU!

The Favor of God

By M.D.

Not sure if I've told you about using my testimony and pictures of myself in the hospital while I was still in a coma, to encourage these men around me to make changes in their lives so that these things do not happen to them. This gives me a purpose and gives them something tangible as to the power of Christ. This has been my goal since coming back to prison.

So basically, what has happened is I've convinced the counselor to hire me to be his clerk/porter/peer facilitator. This means that I do a self-help support group where I basically lead a group of men four times a week in a discussion on various topics such as positive thinking, recovery, release plans etc. This has happened, and with the counselor in attendance, it's been going great. I feel like not only have I attained my goal, but the Lord has blessed me with favor even in the eyes of the staff here. I feel extremely grateful to the Lord these days. He's also blessed me with the stimulus money, which in turn has allowed me to be a blessing to my sons with some of this money for their needs.

I'm also on my 5th course out of the 12 I need to complete in order to receive my AA degree in Biblical studies. My goal is to complete that this year, and the BA next year give or take a few months. The Lord is moving in my life! *"To him whom much is given, much is required."* (Luke 12:48)

I've also gotten a new roommate. He's a good kid, 25 years old who just got here with a 45-year sentence. He doesn't get high, doesn't smoke, and doesn't even swear. That in itself is a blessing! I see this as another divine appointment, to share the Gospel with him. I'm learning so much about God's character through all of this, to discern His voice and rebuild my trust in Him. I thank the Lord for being my Shepherd and helping me to recognize His voice, so it is the only voice that I follow.

Inspired by the King James Version

By R.S.

I was looking again at the mail you sent me, and it inspired me to write to you and share a few things with the OC4C family. I have just recently set aside my NIV Bible and I've been studying out of this KJV Bible. It is unbelievable how much more I get from this King James Version. I'm so excited and glad to have recently found this KJV Bible. It seems this KJV is more spiritual for me. I seem to get so much more lifted up. I can even understand it better and I absolutely love it!

Right now, I see no reason to ever own or read another translation again in my life. It's almost like I opened a vault and found access to a different level of understanding. It's as though I look at heaven from a completely new angle. I do realize that it is probably because the NIV was the only translation I had ever studied from. But lordy, lordy I am blessed all over again! I feel like King Solomon when I open the KJV, it is direct to my spirit, and I drink it down like holy water.

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Foot's Bible Study

Ezekiel 29:1-30:26

The Nile was Egypt's pride and joy, a life-giving river cutting through the middle of the desert. Rather than thanking God, however, Egypt declared, "The Nile River is mine, I made it." We do the same when we say, "This house is mine, I built it," or "I have brought myself to the place where I am today," or "I have built this church or business, or reputation from the ground up." These statements reveal our pride.

Sometimes we take for granted what God has given us thinking we have made it ourselves. Of course, we have put forth a lot of hard effort, but God supplies the resources, gave us the abilities, and provided us with the opportunities to make it happen. Instead of proclaiming our own greatness as the Egyptians did, we should proclaim God's greatness and give Him the credit. (29:9-10)

Hebrews 11:32-12:13

Having a steadfast faith in God does not guarantee a happy carefree life. On the contrary, our faith almost guarantees us some sort of abuse from the world. While we are on this earth, we may never see the purpose of our suffering. But we know that God will keep His promises to us. Do you believe that God will keep His promises to you? (11:32-40)

Psalms 112:1-10

Generosity can cure two problems that having money can create. The rich person may abuse others in the desire to accumulate wealth. Generosity will eliminate that abuse.

Also, the fear of losing money can be a snare. Generosity shows that we have placed our trust in God, not in our money, for justice and security. (112:5)

Proverbs 27:17

There is a mental sharpness that comes from being around good people and a meeting of minds can help people see their ideas with new clarity, refine them, and shape them into brilliant insights. This requires partners who can challenge each other and stimulate thought – people who focus on the idea without involving their egos in the discussion, people who know how to attack the thought and not the thinker. Two friends who bring their ideas together can help each other become sharper. (27:17)

“Foot” Notes

News! Hot off the press!

Hey everybody! I know I'm not alone when I mention that after so many years of walking in faith, I've questioned whether I was actually serving God's purpose or just spinning my wheels ... Well, on April 5th, I dropped dead on the yard. I was gone for fifteen minutes but thanks to the relentless efforts CO II G. and RN K I was brought back twice and I'm alive today. I was flown to Tucson for quadruple bypass surgery.

I got back to the yard on April 23rd and from the backseat of the transport I saw through the fence no less than twenty men waiting to greet me. Once I was back on the yard, I began hearing the stories of men who were praying over me, tears streaming down their faces as I laid on the yard. Also, there were men of all beliefs all over the yard who had been praying for me. There was my answer, God has been using me all along to further His will. I guess we should be careful when asking God if He truly is using us because you may not like the way in which He chooses to answer your request ... LOL!! But thankfully, I'm recovering well, and I am truly blessed by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, to be given this second chance to continue my walk with Him and continue to move His will forward. I know this much ... I will no longer question whether God is using me as I don't know that I could survive another response, LOL!!

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

would have just stared at that person for half a minute and tried to think what does that mean, and then stumbled over my words and given them **John 3:16**. I realized I didn't have a revelation of God's Love for me. I too would have blown that moment to share the love of God with someone. I needed a revelation of God's love for myself, and this can only come through a renewed intimate personal relationship with God my Father and His Son, Christ Jesus. It is through this relationship I have finally come to know the love of Christ by experiencing His love personally for myself. After I presented my teaching on love to the leadership at church, I have continued to learn more about His love, this is all I have been seeking through the Scriptures for the past year.

I came to the realization that I have never truly understood God's love because I never made an attempt to learn about His love. My bad, it is and forever will be my responsibility to know every aspect of God. I cannot sit idle on my sofa watching TV and expect God to move in my life and bless me – neither can you! As I have sought to know God, I like to say that I tripped over His love. It's like love is a wire that stretches across your journey to know Him, and you cannot avoid tripping over it. In **1 John 4:7-8** we see, ***"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."*** Do you see it, if you don't love like God, you don't know Him. It is imperative in your Christian walk to seek to know God every day, you eventually will discover His love for you and you in return will love as He loves. Do not mistake human emotional love for the God-kind of love. The topic of His love is so expansive, you have an eternity to grow and develop in His love. For now, though, I don't have an eternity to finish writing this so you will have to rely on God's Holy Spirit to reveal more to you.

God's love works in us according to His power that you allow to work inside of you. His plan of Salvation was borne out of His love for man-kind and His plan includes the promise of eternal life. Consider for a moment that eternal life includes all of His exceedingly great and precious promises referenced in 2nd Peter. Do you know divine health is a great and precious promise? It's in **Proverbs 4:20-23**; ***"Give attention to my words; incline your ears to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life."***

It is our responsibility to know what our inheritance of promises are. Instead of getting caught up in the what the world offers us and letting those things distract us, we need to put our focus on God and commit ourselves to God. This is not just receiving Jesus as your Savior; you have to make Jesus your life and pursue His life through faith in God. In **John 17:3**, Jesus tells us what eternal life is, ***"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."*** If we pursue to know God with all of our heart and to believe Him, we will experience His life in us. Peace of mind, health in our bodies, prosperity in our finances, joy beyond anything we can experience in the world. Jesus said, in **John 8:31**, ***"If you abide in My Word, you are My disciples indeed."*** A disciple is a follower and a student of the teachings of Jesus. Think back to your days of youth when you were in school. If you just sat in class, but never did your homework and studied outside of class, would you be able to pass the tests? Did you learn anything? It is the same with God, you have a part and role to play out, and you will find that God rewards those who diligently seek to know Him. **Hebrews 11:6** tells us, ***"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and He is a re-warder of those who diligently seek Him."*** There are conditions to these promises. First, you have to have faith in God, you believe what His Word says. Next, you believe Jesus is God, and the final condition is you seek Him with all your heart.

We'll stop right here, for this month, but will continue with this message next month. In the meantime, surrender yourselves to God's Holy Spirit, submit to His teachings and you WILL grow closer to God because you are starting to 'know' Him intimately. ALWAYS remember, Jesus died to exhibit to you the immense love God has for you.

Quote Worthy

"Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June."

- Al Bernstein (1950-) an American sportscaster, writer, stage performer, recording artist, and speaker.

What Others Are Saying...

"Hello, I am a believer in Christ Jesus. Someone in here has shared your **Overcomers for Christ** newsletters with me, and I am very interested in receiving them for myself. Would you please add me to your monthly mailing list? Thank you very much." - **M.C.**

"Thank you so much for writing back to me. I have to be honest; I was shocked to get a personal response back. I can't even begin to tell you how many churches, pastors, Bible theologians and ministries I have written over the years and almost never get a personal response back. God bless you for having enough humility to reach out to me." - **M.R.**

"**Overcomers for Christ** family, thank you for all the love and fellowship over the years. God has used you all, and today I am fully surrendered." - **R.H.**

"My **Overcomers for Christ** family! What a blessing it is to receive love from you. Your newsletters are my personal love letters. Let me explain ... you know from what the good Word says, "**God is love**" (1 **John 4:8,16**). The work you all do, to send us inmates these wonderful newsletters is done simply for the love of Christ! I can honestly say your newsletters are such a blessing. Not to just me, but to so many others who are in Christ, my Christian brothers, and sisters. Thank you for the hard work you all put in for us to even receive these wonderful newsletters." - **C.T.**

"To all the **DEAC** family, greetings in the name of our precious Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Another Christmas has just passed us but should always remind us that had it not been for the birth of baby Jesus we would all be left without hope for an eternal life in His kingdom. He alone took on Himself all of 'our' sins so that 'we' would not perish. He is and will always be there for us in our time of trials and doubts about the future." - **I.S.**

"To the entire **Overcomers for Christ** church family! I want to thank you all for the Christmas card and wishing me many blessings for this new year. I do want to apologize for the late response but please know that you all are in my heart and prayers. Thank you for always reaching out to me." - **B.O.**

Selective Memory: Focus on the Good Times

By Rick Warren

"I thank God for the help you gave me." (Philippians 1:5 NCV)

Paul wrote the book of **Philippians** to the church that he started in Philippi, where a woman named Lydia opened up her home and, along with others, welcomed Paul to the city. The Philippian church even helped fund Paul's missionary journeys. In **Philippians 1:5**, Paul says, "*I thank God for the help you gave me.*"

The thing is, Paul didn't have a good time in Philippi. In fact, it was one of his roughest churches to get started. When Paul went to this city to start a church, he was beaten, whipped, humiliated, falsely arrested, thrown into prison, and survived an earthquake. Then he was politely asked by the city leaders to leave town.

Yet Paul told the believers, "*Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.*" (**Philippians 1:3 NLT**)

What is Paul doing there? He is choosing selective memory. Philippi was not a happy place for Paul, and he endured a lot of persecution and suffering during his time in that city. But he chose not to dwell on painful memories. Instead, he expressed his gratitude for the good things that had been done for him and through him.

The longer you know someone, the more likely you are to take that person for granted, look for faults, and remember the bad things instead of the good things.

Are you still clinging to some painful memories with some people in your life? You've never let them off the hook, and you can't enjoy those relationships because you're still holding on to the past.

You need to understand that memories are a choice. I heard a story one time about two friends who were talking. One of them asked the other, "Don't you remember that time when your husband did this?" Her friend replied, "I distinctly remember forgetting that."

Your memories are a choice. If you want to hold on to your painful memories, go right ahead. But you're not going to be happy! Paul had a lot of reasons to focus on painful memories of Philippi. Instead, he chose to be grateful for the people in his life and the work God was doing in and through them. When you do the same, God will bless your relationships far

continued on page 11 ...

Inspired by the King James Version By R.S.

God has been so good to me lately. I do have some obstacles from the evil one, but I am really used to them by now. One way he tries to get to me bad, is working through others who are not protected by the Blood of Jesus. The enemy uses them to mess up my plans. It's upsetting how we believers are taken advantage of by the rest of the world. Sometimes this hurts and cuts deeply, but I do get through it. It saddens me to watch how the enemy works in other people's lives. I'm grateful that one area God has really blessed me in is the understanding of His Word.

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Just when we think God is the GREATEST He comes along and says, "You think that's something, watch this." His Word is truly my way of life. I even carry this Bible with me when I sleep. So many times, in my past, I can now see God was there taking away my fears, addictions and even my then dumb self. God carried me through the storms of all that, and into a new day. Praise Jesus!

Selective Memory: Focus on the Good Times By Rick Warren

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Talk About It

Why is it sometimes easier to hold on to painful memories than replace them with good ones?

How does focusing on good memories change your expectations for the future?

FUN FACTS

June 8th - In 1789, James Madison, then a member of the House of Representatives, proposed the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Congress.

June 8th - In 1982, President Ronald Reagan became the first U.S. president to address a joint session of the British Parliament.

June 26th - In 1977, graphic designer, Milton Glaser, charged the New York state tourism board \$0 for designing the "I (heart) New York" logo.

June 29th - In 1974, Isabel Peron was sworn in as Argentina's president, becoming the Western Hemisphere's first female head of government.

June 29th - In 1995, the space shuttle Atlantis docked with the Russian Mir station in orbit for the first time.

June 29th - In 2007, Apple Inc. released the first iPhone.

Christian Comedy

Why does the stadium get hot after the game?

Because all the fans leave.

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
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

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

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Let Go ... Let Go ... Let Go
By C.Z. - Contributed by K.G.

Oh, how easy it is to say
To ... "Just let go ... let God"
But quite another story
In the pathway that we trod.

But there is a mighty lesson
If we'd look ahead and see
That God in all His goodness
Just willed the storm to be.

For by the storm we're strengthened
To bend but not break
And to just keep on believing
That a 'new us' He'll create.

For God ... the Mighty Potter ...
Can quickly turn around
Transforming clay to beauty
Without a tell-tale sound.

How, you may wonder,
Can a miracle unfold
The secret is to let go
Then your clay will turn to gold.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding." – Proverbs 3:5

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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