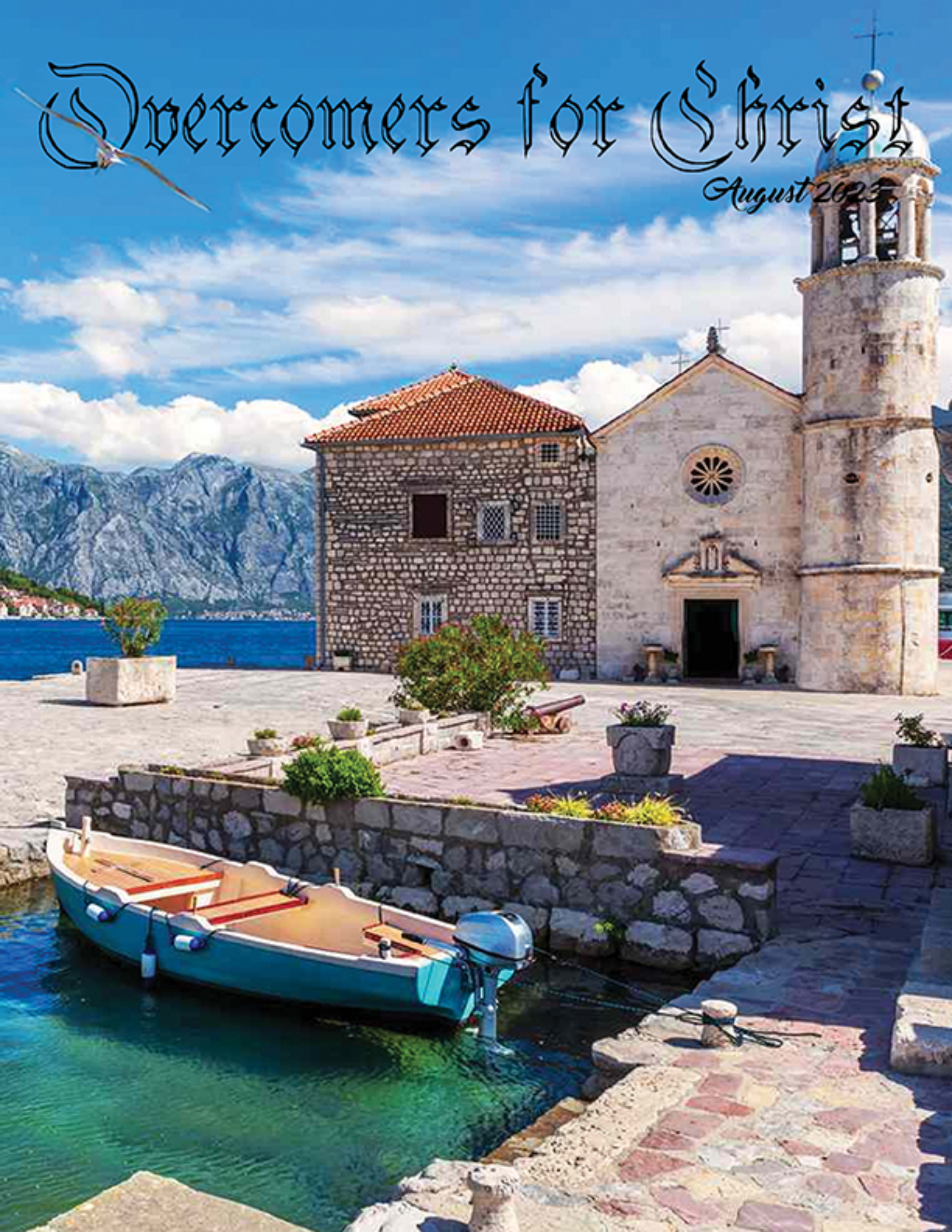


Overcomers for Christ

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Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ January / February 2023



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The Origin of Eternal Life – Part 3

By Vern Deadmond - GLOW Evangelistic Ministry

Let me pray over all of you as I continue with this final part of this message. *"Heavenly Father, I thank You for what You are doing in the lives of Your children as they read and meditate on the things You have shown me. I thank You Lord for making Your love not only known to us all, but felt inside as we continue to learn and grow in You. In Jesus' name we pray and believe. AMEN and AMEN!"*

When you pray God's Word, you can be assured that you are praying God's will for your life, and you can be confident knowing it is God's will for you to fully understand His love for you. When you experience (and you will) His love, you will be filled with His fullness. This word "fullness" translated from the Greek implies being filled complete. It is God's love that completes us in Him. Let this become your identity, who you are in Jesus – you are not broken anymore or missing anything in life because you are loved by God. If you think otherwise, it's because you have not renewed your mind to the things of God through His Word. God's Word is the absolute truth, it is a supernatural seed that when planted in your heart, it will grow and produce good fruit in your life. Just like a seed that is planted in the ground, it will grow up into a mature plant and produce fruit. But the best part of the Seed of God (His Word) is that it is incorruptible, unlike natural seed. God's Seed never rots or disappears, it is waiting for you to water it.

The most known Scripture regarding how much God loves us is **John 3:16**, *"For God so loved the world ..."* Let's backup and make this personal to you, replace "the world" with "me" and say outloud, *"For God so loved 'me' that He gave His only begotten Son, that if 'I' believe in Him 'I' should not perish but have everlasting life."* Meditate on this for a moment, God gave Jesus to die for you so you not only don't go to hell, but so you could have an awesome and great life right now at this moment, every single day. Do you not know what He endured so that you could have the precious gift of eternal life? First, He was spit upon. If someone spit on you, what would be your reaction? I bet the least you would do would be to lash out in anger and call those people some choice words that should not even be in your vocabulary. And then He was blindfolded, and they proceeded to beat Him. He wasn't able to anticipate the punches as He was beat.

Under Roman rule the Jewish authorities were unable to sentence Jesus to death, so the High Priest sent Him to Pilate to be judged. There, Jesus was stripped and flogged with a whip that was designed to tear the flesh down to the bones. When the Romans finished the scourging, His physical form was marred so much He was unrecognizable, skin and flesh hanging from exposed bones. Then He had to suffer the slow death of the cross. The weight of His naked body hanging on two nails driven into His hands, and in order to breath He would have to push His body up with His legs that had a nail driven through them to hold them on the cross. He would hold Himself up with His legs until He had no more strength to hold Himself, and then sag back down. And then at the point of suffocation, He would find the strength to push Himself back up. For six hours, Jesus endured this torment and humiliation, and then He spoke these words recorded in **John 19:30**, *"It is finished!" And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit."*

These were religious folks demanding this to be done to Jesus, they had no justification for what they were doing, His trial was a complete sham. They were offended at the truth, and they were envious of Him because they were offended with the truth. There are Christians today that are no different, if Jesus walked into many of our church buildings today, He would not be recognized for who He is. They would accuse Him of spewing hate speech in this woke society that hates God's Word. If He started a ministry there would be verbal attacks against Him on the internet or on social media proclaiming Him a false teacher or worse. This is happening today; many churches don't even believe the truths that Jesus taught. There are attempts to re-write the Bible, so it is "woke" and they remove references to the sins that are destroying people.

Let me ask you all this. Do you believe it's love to teach that it's okay to continue to live a lifestyle of homosexuality? **First Corinthians 6:9** states, *"Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God."* Some churches no longer teach against these things because they want the sinners to believe they are loved in their churches. But is this God's love to not say anything to these people living in sin and not revealing to them if they were to die tomorrow in their sin, they are going to hell? The consequences of their sins have ramifications in their time on earth. If you marry a person of the opposite sex, and you only have sexual relations with that person your entire life – there is no possibility of contracting diseases that will cut your life short. Or if you did have sexual relations with the same sex and your sin is found out by your spouse, what usually follows those actions is a divorce. The hurt and heartache suffered can shorten one's life through depression. But it not only affects the person who committed the sin, but the kids and the spouse are all hurt as well.

Pastors will speak condemnation from the pulpit against those they deem heretics, even though the so-called heretics speak the truth of God's Word. I encourage you to be a fruit inspector before you reject someone because what they

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teach may not align with what you have been taught or believe. If there is abundant fruit being produced, then don't reject someone's ministry immediately. Jesus' death on the cross shows how much Jesus loves you. **Romans 5:8** says, **"But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."**

Jesus is God the Son, who came in a body. At any time during the time of His arrest until His death, which was approximately twelve hours, He could have said to God the Father, "Look at what they are doing, they don't deserve the gift of Salvation." How do I know this? It's recorded in **Matthew 26:53**, at the moment of His arrest, *"... Do you think that I cannot now pray to My Father, and He will provide Me with more than twelve legions of angels?"* Twelve legions are actually 72,000 angels operating under the authority of God to do the bidding of Jesus. Jesus could have stopped the torture, the humiliation, and the persecution at any moment, but He didn't. His love for us is shown in His death as He came full of grace and truth. In love, He gave us the ultimate gift of grace – Salvation. This is how much He loves us, how much He loves you. He saw the death of the cross all the way to the end, to its finale so you could receive eternal life.

Now look at **Hebrews 2:1-3**, **"Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation."** The writer of Hebrews is telling you that in order to live a victorious life now you cannot neglect the gift that God provided for you in love. You have to do what God encourages you to do in His Word. What does this look like? You become a fanatic for Jesus, He becomes #1 in your life. You don't allow anything to interfere with your relationship with Him. I'm not saying to go get weird and all, but you don't let the world distract or pull you away from God. Why would you neglect the greatest gift that God gave you? The most awesome thing about the gift of Salvation is not that you get to go to Heaven when you die, but that you can live the best life available to you in this present age. Even in your current situation, you can find joy and peace in and through Jesus.

This life is inside each and every believer, the same life that was in Jesus is in you. Here in **1 John 5:11-13** we see, **"And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."**

This life in Jesus produces everything that we will ever need to fulfill our purpose here on this earth. Consider the great miracles we read about through the Scriptures, these miracles produced life, whether it was raising people from the dead, healing all kinds of sickness and disease, feeding thousands of people, and producing finances – these miracles were accomplished through the life in Jesus, and we have the same life in us. The eternal life inside of every believer will produce whatever we need now – healing, finances, any need you require. Eternal life covers all you will ever need or require. This revelation of eternal life was the one single most turning point in my life that completely changed me. **Please, take a moment and really pay attention to what I write next.**

I have been a Christian most of my life, raised in church since I was 5. Except I never had a close and intimate relationship with God. I would struggle with my life not seeing those things promised to me in the Scriptures. I would listen to pastors and evangelists encourage me to live a holy and righteous life, to tithe and give, and to believe in faith for those things in the Bible. I struggled through the majority of my life in finances and attacks against my health. Even though I've never had serious health issues, every allergy season I knew what would happen and there would be that miserable cold virus that would come along two to three times a year. This all changed for me when I came to Bible College and I started to sit under the Word of God five days a week for four hours each day. I began to develop a passion and desire for God. And then one day as I sat down to read the Bible, I asked God what I should read. His Holy Spirit directed me to the book of **2nd Peter**. I didn't get too far before revelation hit me. **Second Peter 1:2** reads, **"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord ..."** I could feel an excitement build inside of me as this Word started to settle in my heart. And then a question began to form in my head, "Can I have more grace and peace in my life by knowing God?" So, I read it again, and then continued to **Verse 3**, **"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."**

Oh my gosh! For so many years, I thought I just didn't believe hard enough and I didn't live holy enough in order to see God's promises manifest themselves. In an instant, I saw this revelation that it's "knowing" God through a personal and intimate relationship that I receive all of His great and precious promises. Faith is a by-product of "knowing" God. I don't attain His promises by being a giant in faith, I just have to "know" Him. **Romans 10:17** tells us, **"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God."** For so much of my life I was taught that I had to increase my faith and

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

Prayer is transformative. Prayer challenges us, not all at once but gradually, and quietly. In prayer God works sometimes undetected, secretly, under the cover of silence and in our depths. Prayer is not always peaceful and lovely. Yet prayer is an essential part of the process of being made whole, where oftentimes our personal demons and resistance arise. They come to God within, like beggars wanting to be healed. Our responsibility is to welcome them to the table of our heart. We pray to praise and thank God, to ask God for what He and the world needs, to seek forgiveness and healing. Yet one of the primary purposes of prayer, not always mentioned in church, is to marinate and bask in God. Prayer gradually changes our face into the face of God, our presence into the presence of God's love. And prayer is a courageous act of trust. Above all, trust in the slow works of God. Give our Lord the benefit of believing that His hand is leading you and accept the feeling of yourself in suspense and incomplete ... **S.M.**

May the Lord bless us all, our endeavors and this great Country right now. We, as a nation, are supposed to be the living presence of God's to His people and we ARE REALLY struggling at this! My prayer for us all is to have the mindset of Christ, and for His mindset to be upon the politicians across the board so that they will work more together than apart from one another ... **L.S.**

I pray for your ministry, the **Overcomers for Christ**, often. Giving hope to the men and women that are incarcerated is a huge need, and I appreciate all that you did for us at Red Rock as well as what you all do with the newsletter ministry ... **J.J.**

I wanted to thank you all for the birthday wishes. It was the only one that I got, and it meant a lot. I'll be out of here, and into the New Freedom Project real soon. I'm looking forward to meeting you and all of the brothers and sisters there with you, in person. Stay strong, and keep the faith ... **R.F.**

Please put my name on the prayer list in the newsletter. Everyone please keep my name in your prayers, for me to regain my freedom again ... **T.F.**

To all of you there, I want you and all the great people there with you to know that the **Overcomers for Christ** family are in my prayers ... **M.G.**

May the church of America be bold and courageous, to be the pillar of truth. We all should pray for newly elected leaders; that they humble themselves before God Almighty and seek His wisdom ... **A.J.**

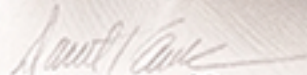
All of you there will always be in my prayers and dear to my heart ... **H.M.**

PRAISE REPORTS

Be encouraged!! Wherever God sends us He is always with us! "Thank You, dear Father, in Your Son's holy name, Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior." During Covid, they gave us tablets. Listening to some people, they seem to believe we're in the times of great tribulation. I don't believe this is true. But I will agree that we are starting to see some worldwide signals that it's time for the world to get right with God. I don't truly believe you and I will be here for the great tribulation, but we already know what's going to happen from reading our Bibles. We already know, and believe, that Jesus has beat the devil when He went to the Cross! Hallelujah! Thank You Jesus ... **H.O.**

Just turning 65, I still feel strong and vibrant most of the time. However, I do recognize my limitations. I do understand my body must be somewhat restricted for safety, and the longer endurance of life. As a member and part of the Son of Man, I know the God of Israel has better harmonies for me to dwell with, minus the trappings of sin and darkness. We are either entertaining angels or demons, with our essence of life, and the activities we're performing. While shifting shadowing cross our pathways, they can easily turn glory into obsessions. This is why it's important for us all, as I am doing now, to carefully discern the crossroads that lay before us all ... **T.C.**

How are you all doing? I have some exciting news to share with you all. I got married to my best friend, Tony! It was an amazing experience and once I get home, we'll renew our vows and get baptized together. God is working hard and making changes in my life every day. I couldn't imagine having these experiences with anyone else but Him! God is so good! I'm believe that God will continue to bless mine and Tony's relationship as friends, as well as our marriage, because He is our Rock and our Center ... **T.M.**



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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Value of Trials

By M.D.

"Consider it all joy, my brothers, whenever you fall into various trials, knowing that the proving of your faith works endurance. And let endurance have its perfect work in order that you may be perfect and enhanced, wanting in nothing." (James 1:2-4)

These words of the Spirit, through James, just about say it all concerning the value of trials and temptations. They are blessings to the children of God. They may not seem so when we are hurting, but we who be **Overcomers for Christ**/spirit builders, would do well to adopt the same philosophy of 'body builders' and their adage, "No pain, no gain". Indeed, on the one hand, *"All disciples seem not joyful at present, but sorrowful; later, on the other hand, it gives back the peaceable fruit of righteousness to the ones who have been developed through it." (Hebrews 12:11)* Therefore we are reminded, in *1 Peter 1:6-7*, *"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

It is human when suffering to grieve, even to be inclined to despondency, by the pain or trial or temptation or persecution. Yet we may find courage, not only in the knowledge that these things like bodily exercise *"We know that the law is good if one uses it properly." (1 Timothy 1:8)* are given to us to strengthen us, but also in the knowledge that when we, *"Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings." (1 Peter 5:9)* Believe this, satan is cosmopolitan, he shares his misery with everyone.

As those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we must remind ourselves what *James 1:12* tells us, *"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* Furthermore, *1 Corinthians 10:13* assures us, *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."* For, *"then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."* (*2 Peter 2:9*)

Because of these things, the saint may face trials and temptations with confidence, crying in joy with these words from Paul, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, 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."* (*Romans 8:35-39*)

I'll finish with this, *"Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come." (1 Timothy 4:7-8 NLT)*

Reflecting with Thanksgiving

By G.H.

During Covid, he had been on a modified lockdown – one hour of rec each day and only with your building. Consequently, our 'outside' time and number of people with whom we could associate with had been reduced by nearly 80%. With COVID restrictions, disciplinary sanctions, and a new department director who had mandated new security restrictions had taken away many of our privileges, and my arrival on a new yard during this time, it was in many ways one of the most difficult and challenging years of my time here. YET GOD IS GOOD.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Reflecting on a journal entry from many years ago, I wrote, "In the midst of every adversity is an opportunity however, sometimes opportunity knocks by kicking in the door, creating chaos before laughing and running out the door and peering in through the window to see my response. My response is my choice, and in every adversity lies opportunities for mercy, for grace, and for an abundance of joy and thanksgiving if you know where to look and are willing to listen."

As I look around and carefully listen, I recognize there is much for which to be thankful. Here's my partial list:

1. A Father that loves me beyond my understanding or comprehension especially when I fall.
2. A growing and deepening intimacy with Jesus whom I desire to follow – even though I'm better at wandering than following.
3. The constant presence of the Holy Spirit who's with me and in me. As I'm learning to listen, I find peace and rest in the midst of the prison walls and chaos.
4. Friends – family – dear friends such as all of you are better friends than I've ever known. A few have endured with me for many years, a few have reentered my life, and a few are relatively new. Nevertheless, if it's true that one's wealth is measured by the quality of friendships, I'm very wealthy. Thanks to you all.
5. Many people struggle to read or comprehend what they read. Many also struggle to write well. For many of us, years of unhealthy and criminal thinking has poisoned and polluted our minds and impaired our ability to reason. I'm ever thankful that by and through God's amazing grace, and the blessings of a quality education before prison, I've been able to read and comprehend, write clearly (usually). And my mind and thoughts are being renewed by the presence of God's Spirit.

I could well go on, however, I wanted to share these few things with you all as part of my Thanksgiving offering. Be blessed and stay safe.

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.

Foot's Bible Study

Ezekiel 33:1-34:31

The exiles were discouraged by their past sins. This is an important turning point in this Book, elsewhere in Ezekiel the people had refused to face their sins. Here, they felt heavy guilt for rebelling against God for so many years. Therefore, God assured them of forgiveness if they repented. God wants everyone to turn to Him, He looks at what we are and will become, not what we have been. God gives you the opportunity to turn to Him if you will. Sincerely, follow God, and ask Him to forgive you when you fail. (33:10-16)

God promises to take over as shepherd of His scattered flocks. When our leaders fail us, we must not despair, but remember that God is in control and that He promises to return and care for His flock. Thus, we know that we can turn to God for help. He is still in control and can transform any tragic situation into good for His kingdom. In *Genesis 50:20*, it states, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people." Also, in *Romans 8:28*, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." (34:11-16)

Hebrews 13:1-25

Though human leaders have much to offer, we must keep our eyes on Christ, our ultimate leader. Unlike any human leaders, He will never change. Christ has been and will be the same forever. In a changing world, we can trust our unchanging Lord. (13:8)

Psalms 115:1-18

"The Lord remembers us." Says the psalm writer. What a fantastic truth! There are many times when we feel isolated, alone, and abandoned, even by God. In reality, He sees, understands, and thinks about us. When depressed by problems or struggling with self-worth be encouraged that God keeps you in His thoughts. If He thinks about you, surely help is nearby. (115:12)

Proverbs 27:21-22

Praise tests a person, just as high temperature tests metal. How does praise affect you? Do you work to get it? Do you work harder after you've gotten it? Your attitude towards praise tells us a lot about your character. People of high integrity are not swayed by praise. They are attuned to their inner convictions, and they do what they should whether or not they are praised for it. (27:21)

"Foot" Notes



Hey Everyone!

Sitting here reigned in on recovery mode after heart surgery allows for plenty of contemplation, soooooo ... contemplate I shall. lol!

As believers we are all aware that in the end, we will all face judgement with our maker to atone for our transgressions. One thing I've figured is that even the non-believers will also have to atone for their transgressions as well. God does not care what you may identify as believer, non-believer, etc., we all will face judgement in the end. One more thing I'll share is ... I refuse to get caught up in what anyone else has done, is doing, or going to do. Everyone answers for their own sins. I've got enough of my own without getting caught up in what anyone else is up to. This perspective definitely helps to smooth out my own walk, opening the door for more peace in my own life.

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

believe harder. As I read this Scripture now, I understand that faith is achieved by "knowing" God through His Word. The more I "know" God through His Word, the more the promises started to manifest in my life like fruit on a tree. And now combine this with *Galatians 5:6*, "... Faith working through love." Love has to be present in order for faith to work, and how do you ensure you have God's love working in your life? By "knowing" God. Remember *1 John 4:8*, "**He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.**"

From the moment I received this revelation of "knowing God", my goal has been to seek God consistently, to "know" Him. So, guess what? The past six years have been the most blessed time of my whole life. I'm willing to bet that 99.9% of everyone who reads this has no idea who I am. I am not a full-time minister, but I am 100% sold out for God. I work a full-time job as a kitchen designer, and I spend my mornings before going to work seeking to "know" Him as much as I can. And then throughout the day, my thoughts are towards Him, and I will find myself quietly praying in tongues while working. I don't think of myself as some religious fruit, flake, or nut. I don't walk around in a flowing robe. My co-workers don't see me as a nut case, but they all know I love Jesus. There are 9 people who I work with, and I am one of two in the office that never was sick with covid. At one point during the covid pandemic, I came down sick. Out of courtesy to everyone in the office, I went and got tested, and then went home waiting for the results. I didn't go home and lay in bed worrying about whether or not I had covid. Instead, I took authority over the sickness in my body, commanded it to leave in the name of Jesus and spent my time in the Bible. I was only out of the office for two days before I received the results back that I was negative and whatever virus I had had was gone, I was healed.

When I walked back into the office everyone was amazed, they were thinking of taking bets that I had covid. One of these guys, three weeks earlier, got into a heated debate with me. He asked me if I was worried about getting covid? I shared with him the truth of God's Word that no sickness or disease could come near me. He was visibly angry at me and accused me of thinking just because I was a Christian that I'm immune to covid. I tried to help him understand that I have God's promise in His Word that no sickness or disease will come near me and covid is not stronger than God. What he failed to understand is that because of God's love for me, I have the legal right to stand on His promises. The unbelieving mind (and I'll say the un-renewed Christian mind) does not know or comprehend the ways of God, and you cannot convince them otherwise. When I returned to the office, I didn't say to him, "See I told you so." I just let my life be a witness to him. That was almost two years ago, and at that time I resolved to never allow any sickness or disease to ever put me down for one day. The moment I feel any symptoms of sickness, I am speaking against it and commanding my body to receive the life that is in me. From henceforth, I have not had any sickness symptoms hanging around long enough to make me miserable and sick, I cannot think of a day that I have been sick. I respond quickly to things that are not right in my body, not giving sickness an opportunity to take a foothold. You have the same promises available to you as I do – you only have to know them, believe them, and start putting your authority into operation. The starting point is to really, I mean really "know" God and His Son. When you really "know" God, you "know" your authority. It's when you speak to your situation and to the devil with authority, you have won.

In *Romans 13:8* we read, "**Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.**" Under the Old Testament covenant of the law, if you screwed up even one law, you failed in all of it. But as you see from the new commandment, Jesus asks us to love as He loved. When we love each other as we should, we have fulfilled the entire law. You owe man nothing except to love each other as God loves us all. Regardless of how someone has treated you, maybe good, maybe bad – we have a love debt to that person. We owe this person a payment of love. You can't lash out in anger in response to someone who has mistreated you. Maybe you're walking across the yard, and you find yourself crossing paths with someone who you have problems with. This person may say something to you, and your carnal mind wants to blurt out vulgar obscenities at them. What you owe that person is a response of love and kindness, and say, "Hey buddy, have a blessed day!" As you sow God's love into that person, the seed of His love will begin to change his heart. Maybe you will get to share more of how God loves him, and you may lead him to Jesus. You might say, "Never! That person will never change!" Who are you to make that judgment? That is for God to judge, not you. You may be sowing the first seeds of love into that person's heart, and we know God's Word does not return to Him void. The seed of God is incorruptible, and eventually that seed of love will take root.

I encouraged you earlier to read the entirety of the "*First Epistle of John*", at some point. The theme of the letter is about fellowshiping with and "knowing" God, because when we "know" God we discover His love. You can't help finding yourself immersed in God's love when you make Him your Lord and when you truly begin to "know" Him. Our God is a good God and His love is shown over and over in the Scriptures. He doesn't do bad things to us, the devil does. If your life is a disaster and a mess, it is because you have failed to pursue to "know" God the Father and Jesus His Son.

Brothers and Sisters, the Word of God is true and if you pursue to "know" God through the Scriptures, your life will transform to the best life you have ever had – this has God's guarantee. Look here at *2 Corinthians 5:14*, "**For the love of Christ compels us ...**". His love working in you will urge and motivate you in your heart to do what is right, to serve Him, to please Him, and to do His will. God wants you to live a life complete in Him, a state of being in which you want nothing,

a life of perfection – Eternal Life. He gives you eternal life because He loves you. Have you ever wondered why you are loved by God? As you “know God”, the answer is simple – because God is love and you are His child. How do you know that you have been saved? Do you want a deep theological discussion or a simple response? I like simple, **1 John 3:14**, **“We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.”** Because you love your fellow Christians, you know that you are saved. Along with this, when you commit a life to “knowing” God, you become a disciple of Jesus. As a disciple you will also develop God’s love inside of you towards your Christian brothers and sisters. Let’s read **John 13:35**, **“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”** And the world will see that you love one another, they will not be able to deny it.

I could go on and on, but I need to bring this to a conclusion. I leave you with Paul’s words in **Philippians 3:12-14**, **“Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”** You cannot cease to pursue perfection in God’s love, there is no limit to it. You will never grow weary, tired, or bored of seeking and pursuing God through His Word. His Holy Spirit assures you that when you experience Him you will want more and more of Him. I’ll leave you all with **Daniel 11:32**, **“... The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.”** You will naturally do great and awesome things in the Name of Jesus when you “know” Him, just don’t let it go to your head, always remain His faithful and humble servant.

FUN FACTS

August 10th – In 1821, Missouri was admitted as the twenty-fourth U.S. state.

August 10th – In 1949, U.S. President Harry Truman signed the National Security Act, which was established a consolidated Department of Defense.

August 10th – In 1977, postal employee David Berkowitz of Yonkers, New York, was arrested for the “Son of Sam” killings that left six dead.

August 10th – In 2006, British authorities arrested twenty-four people suspected of plotting attacks on airplanes with liquid bombs smuggled in shampoo and water bottles.

August 16th – In 1953, an eighteen-year-old Elvis Presley paid a private recording studio \$4 to record “My Happiness” and “That’s When Your Heartache Begins” on a two-sided record as a belated birthday gift to his mother.

August 24th – In 1814, British forces invaded Washington, D.C., and set fire to the White House.

August 24th – In 1949, U.S. President Harry Truman formally announced that the North Atlantic Treaty was in effect.

August 24th – In 1981, Mark David Chapman was sentenced in New York for the murder of John Lennon.

August 24th – In 2006, the International Astronomical Union announced a new definition for “planet”, which reclassified Pluto as a “dwarf planet”.


Christian Comedy

The shovel was a groundbreaking invention.

Quote Worthy

“Forgiveness is the economy of the heart . . . forgiveness saves the expense of anger, the cost of hatred, the waste of spirits.”

- Hannah More (1745 – 1833) an English religious writer, philanthropist, poet and playwright in the circle of Johnson, Reynolds and Garrick, who wrote on moral and religious subjects. Born in Bristol, she taught at a school her father founded there and began writing plays.



Intervention

By F.P.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13

Have you ever considered how your actions make others feel
Do you even know the difference between the fake and the real
Have you ever thought, what you say might cause someone pain
Does it bother you to know you have caused many tears to rain

How can you stand there and look me in the eye
When every word you speak is always a lie
Is it my fault that you continue to treat me this way
Can I be responsible for the sick games that you play

Where did I go wrong, what can I do
What will it take to get through to you
Should I bring up your kids, and the fact you're never around
Can the father they are missing ever be found

What do I tell them when they ask where you have been
Does your son have to learn how to be a man from other men
Would you want your daughter to be with a guy like you
You wouldn't want her to be treated like that, you know it's true

So what's the next step, where do we go from here.
How do I change that man I'm staring at in the mirror?

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new Spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put My Spirit in you so that you will follow My decrees and be careful to obey My regulations." - Ezekiel 36:25-27

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