

Overcomers for Christ

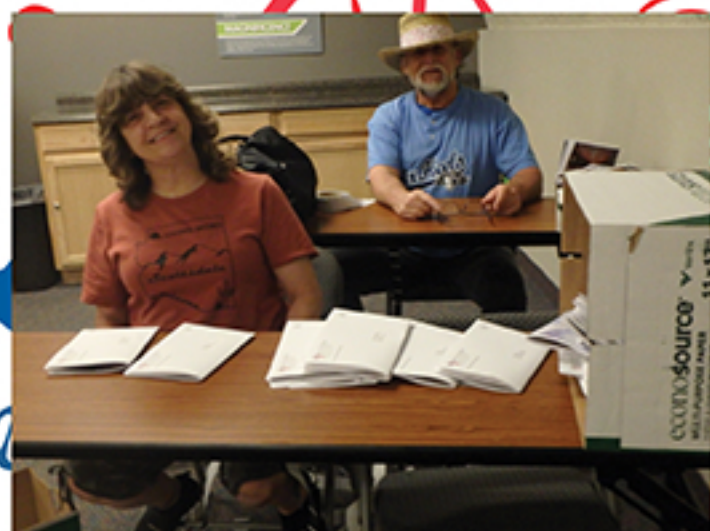
July 2023

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

November / December 2022



The Origin of Eternal Life – Part 2

By Vern Deadmond - GLOW Evangelistic Ministry

Are you ready? Let's continue to move forward with this message of God's love for us all.

We are commanded (ordered, charged, required to obey) to love each other as God loves us. Listen here to **John 5:12**, *"This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* Immature Christians struggle with just being able to love those closest to them – family. **STOP** – do a self-test on yourself right now and be completely honest with yourselves. Do you have family or someone who once was close to you that you struggle with loving and forgiving them as God does? If so, humble yourself before God and admit it. Pray and ask Him for help to love and forgive, release your forgiveness by speaking it out. Start to put the seed of God's Word into your heart by studying the topic of God's love. Maybe you haven't forgiven them, but you don't know what that person has done. Brothers and sisters in Christ, it doesn't matter, grow up and take your thumb out of your mouth. Our immaturity stems from not truly knowing God and His love for ourselves. When you know God and His Word, you know that you have the love of God in your heart to be able to love everyone who has ever hurt you. **Romans 5:5** states, *"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."* To know God's love for yourself is part of really knowing God, having a true intimate relationship with God and being a REAL mature Christian (a little Christ). Really knowing God is just not a one-time deal, it's a process of growing and maturing, discovering who God is every single day.

My purpose for writing this is to encourage and help you to find God's love for yourself. In **1 John 4:19** we see, *"We love Him because He first loved us."* Here you are told that you love God, but in reality, you are not thinking too hard about this statement because you don't have an emotional feeling toward God, do you? The God-kind of love is not an emotional feeling, but it is in you. Consider the following Scripture, **Genesis 1:26**, *"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'"* You were created in His likeness and His image; it says it right there in Scripture. I think some of you are already getting it, praise God. Let's add one more Scripture to this, **1 John 4:16**, *"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."* There it is, you were created in His image, in His likeness, you are love! If God is love, and you were created in His likeness – you are love also. Don't deny it, surrender to His love that He placed in you.

Even when you were a sinner, He never stopped loving you, His greatest creation. He never stopped loving mankind, even when Adam and Eve sinned against Him. Christians all over the world have been taught that God was angry with Adam and Eve. After Adam and Eve sinned, Love came looking for them in the Garden. It was Adam and Eve who hid themselves from God. God's act of forcing Adam and Eve from the Garden, was an act of love. Their bodies were susceptible to all of the effects of sin and corruption now, and if they had eaten of the Tree of Life in their fallen state, then they would have lived forever in misery. It was God's mercy and love that caused Him to force them to leave the Garden. Can you see God's love and mercy in this? Forcing Adam and Eve out of the Garden was His love towards man. If you believe God doesn't love you or that He can't love you because of your disobedience and sin you have committed in your life, then you don't know God's true nature – love, for God is love. As you study and meditate in God's Word, you are abiding in Him. I want to encourage each and every one reading this to make it a priority to read **The First Epistle of John**. Out of the twelve disciples, John had the best handle on God's love, so much so that he referred to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved. Throughout **1st John**, the love of God is revealed to us, and John emphasizes how we are to love others as God loves us. There may be some reading this that will say, "I tried God, but...". Forget the excuses and move your big fat "but" out of the way. Let's put the blame where it belongs, on the devil and your lack of responsibility of making Jesus the "one thing" in your life. This is where most Christians fail in their walk with God – they make Jesus secondary. They only seek Him when they are in trouble. And then they scramble and cry out, "Where are You God?" You must become a true disciple of Jesus, where you set aside and dedicate more than Sunday mornings to be with Him. You must be in right relationship with God the Father and Jesus the Son, and then your spirit will commune and fellowship with God. Read your Bible, become a doer of His word – and then your spirit man will be strong and vigorous, your faith will be made strong. And you will begin to love as God loves us.

Read with me, **John 13:34-35**, *"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."* When you commit to being a true disciple of Jesus Christ (a student, a learner) in your heart, not just in word, you embark on a journey to really know God. In my journey to know God, I have discovered God's love for myself, and for others. Let me be transparent with you all, there is a homeless old guy that comes into the office I work in, two to three times a week. He stinks (it's horrible sometimes), he has never worked a day in his life, he lives according to his rules. I had no love for this man, nothing but disdain. But as I have learned about God's love, God has turned my disdain into love for this man. Now I greet him with a "Hi Fred, are you doing, okay? What's new with you?" What changed my heart towards him? The Word of God, and my willingness to submit and surrender to God. When I surrendered to His love, **2 Corinthians 5:14**, *"For the love of Christ compels us ..."* caused this Scripture to become a reality in my life. His love working inside of

me compelled me to change my thoughts and my actions towards Freddie to words and actions that reflect God's love that is inside of me. And it was so easy once I surrendered to God and choose to extend God's love to Freddie.

To "know" God, you have to love as He does. **First John 4:8** states, **"He who does not love does not know God, for God is love."** And in **1 John 4:16**, **"...God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."** Loving each other as God loves us is what disciples of Christ do, and this is what the real church of God looks like. As I have studied and meditated on God's love, I have settled in my heart, you cannot separate the love of God from knowing God. The two go together just as in a marriage relationship. In a marriage, the more you know your spouse, the more your love grows and develops for each other. If you are still trying to resolve how you are to love as God loves, the Amplified Bible says it best, in **1st Corinthians 13:5**, **"(God's Love in us) ... takes no account of the evil done to us – pays no attention to a suffered wrong."** Gauge your Christian love walk according to this Scripture. Do you overlook when someone hurts you and pass it off, or do you go straight to a friend and complain what that person did to you? Do you have to have the final word in an argument? Jesus is asking you to let it go, forget it – move on. God's kind of love forgets all wrongs and all perceived wrongs.

If you're unwilling to forgive those that have hurt you or those you perceived have wronged you, your prayers will be hindered. How does our refusal to forgive hinder your prayers? What an awesome question. First of all, you are unwilling – you have the ability and capacity in your heart to forgive, it's just that you refuse to do it. Let me show you something in the Word. **Genesis 1:26** reads, **"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness.'" Next let's bring in 1 John 4:16, "... God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him."** So, you have been created and made in God's image and likeness, and God is love – you can't deny it, you are love also. In case that just went over your head, and you weren't paying attention – you are the same as God in terms of love. You have the ability to forgive and to love the worst, you only need to surrender to God, accept His Word as absolute truth, and learn of Him, "know" Him.

Moving on, in **1 John 3:18-19**, **"My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before Him."** As we forgive and love those who have hurt us, or who we believe have hurt us, begin to let God's love work in you and help you to forgive whoever. You have that assurance in your heart that you are keeping Jesus's commandment to love, and your heart will not speak to you for not acting on what you know to be the right thing to do. Let's continue with **1 John 3:20-21**, **"For if our heart does not condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God."** Do you see it, brothers and sisters? Your heart condemns you, not God. God is not the one pointing a finger at you for not keeping His commandment. When you are not loving as God would have you to, the condemnation comes from yourself. You need to act and conduct yourself in a way that your heart is not condemning you for what you refuse to do and what you know is wrong. You have to let your spirit take the lead in how you live. When your heart does not condemn you, then you have confidence toward Him and confidence that He hears your prayers.

Let's keep reading in **1 John 3:22**, **"And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight."** I hope you understand what I am saying – your heart knows when you are not doing right. This is why your prayers are hindered when you won't forgive and love the people around you. Now let's jump ahead to **1 John 5:14-15**, **"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, 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 the petitions that we have asked of Him."** Do you see it? Your unwillingness and refusal to forgive anyone will cause "your" heart to condemn yourself, not God. When your heart condemns you, then you won't have the confidence that God even hears you. So don't hesitate any longer – forgive who you have too at this moment, at this instant – so you can be assured, and confident God hears you and you will be able to receive from Him.

My brothers and sisters that are reading this, remember God's words are life and health to us. The Word of God is given to us so we can really "know" Him and have eternal life oozing from us. This life of God that raised Jesus from death is in each and every born-again believer. It has the potential to produce abundant fruit in your life. What is fruit? Fruit is that which is visible to those around us. When fruit is produced, the world can see the fruit. They cannot see what is on the inside of us, but they can see the end result of that life inside of us producing health, prosperity, love, joy, peace, gentleness, self-control, etc. Then you will live the most amazing and awesome life available to you. Jesus gives us the example of Him being the vine or the plant, and we are a branch of the plant. Jesus states, in **John 15:5-6**, **"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered."**

When we are not connected or abiding in Jesus, we are not producing good fruit in ourselves because we are dying on the inside, thirsting for the living water that nourishes us and gives life. In **John 14:6**, Jesus proclaims, **"I am the way, the**

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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

Please pray for my family, my grandmother is 96 and her current caretaker, her daughter, no longer has the energy to care for her. She and her daughter live together, and both own this home together. I pray that they are able to resolve this issue in a way that restores their relationship, so it is no longer mother and caretaker, but can become mother and daughter, again. Also, I pray that my grandmother is treated with dignity and respect during this time ... **M.A.**

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.**

I'm asking that the **Overcomers for Christ** prayer warriors lift me in your prayer time with the Father. This is why I'm asking for all of your prayers. I have been challenged with the battle of Leukemia and am going to start a serious regiment of Chemo and Chemo pills. Recently they put in a (port) heart cath. This will make it A LOT smoother for me and my veins in the long run ... at least I don't have to do the radiation thing! I am thankful for the LOVE of Christ, and His ability to heal those who have His grace within! In **2 Kings 20:1-26**, the Lord recognizes King Hezekiah's love and heals him with a 15-year gift after being told he was to die. Even though it took a sign of reversing time by 15 minutes to prove the Lord's promise, which the Lord did carry out, the king was healed and lived another 15 years. This is the promise I'm standing on for my own healing. And again, I'm asking for your prayers and agreement with me on God's Word ... **G.P.**

PRAISE REPORTS

I received your card, thank you very much, that was a blessing from the Lord up above. I hope that you guys and the Lord keep in touch with me until I get out. I won't never give up on life or Jesus, He will always be with me. Whenever you guys respond to me, I feel blessed. God bless you all ... **K.G.**

I pray your day is filled with great blessings! I'm doing better, still waiting to go to the heart clinic. But the best news is the fire under Nicole's feet. God is truly moving in her life. What I love is I now spend time responding to her with like minded Scripture. What has really touched me is how God has used Nicole to get me deeper in the Word again. Just this morning, I spent a couple hours researching "plans" and how one should play their cards close to the vest as to keep satan from interfering ... **Foot**

I am currently incarcerated at Red Rock, and I've been working on my spiritual growth and getting closer to God. I'm currently taking Bible study course lessons through the mail with Crossroads Ministries. You personally baptized me a couple of years ago, where I've been cleansed of my sins spiritually and mentally. After this, I also received my baptism certificate from you, through Living Word Bible Church. I've also completed multiple classes such as substance abuse, victims' impact, and anger management. I don't personally feel that I have done enough to be forgiven for the previous lifestyle I chose to live. That's exactly why I'm forever grateful for the grace of God, and the price Jesus paid to free me from that old life. With that, when I'm released, I'd like to give back to the community as I start the process of reform, not only for myself but for those who are also in need of help. I know this is what God has placed in my new heart. So, I guess I'm saying, if you can use another messenger to spread the love of Jesus, I'd love to be that person ... **M.D.**

Beloved family! "I am well, I am blessed and highly favored." I'll explain. I have been working six days a week at Hickman's Egg Farm. The days are fast paced, steady, physical, and fly by very fast. I've made sure to stay diligent in studying and remaining in God's Word. Every day, without fail, and all throughout the day, Father and I converse and walk side by side. I could not do any of this if it weren't for His presence. Thank You Jesus, my sins are forgiven, the debt has been paid for my eternity when Jesus declared, "It is finished!", and resurrected from the grave three days later. Father knows exactly what to do, where to do it, and when to do it in my life! His timing, as always, in all ways, is PERFECT. Rest assured, I'm well and in our Father's bosom without fail ... **J.J.**



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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

A Confession and Prayer

By G.H.

A year ago, I thought my life was settled. I had a good job, a comfortable place to live, and a network of good and faithful friends. I had the next few years all planned out, a release from prison, sufficient resources, exciting opportunities, education, and possibilities. I had a comfortable relationship with God, thanked Him, praised Him, and acknowledged His unfailing mercy and love. But I had been deceived. I had begun trusting not in God but in myself, my abilities, and my plans. And then chaos, confusion and COVID hit.

In March of 2020 I was suddenly uprooted from my comfortable life, my secure job, and my network of friends. I was moved to a new unit, a unit where I knew almost no one, where few suitable jobs existed, and for the first time in 10 years I had a bunkie. I went from being known and respected by most of my fellow prisoners and staff, to being relatively unknown and just another number.

Since then, I've spent the last year treading water, actually slowly sinking into a morass of self-pity and aimless wandering. Of course, in addition to the change of physical circumstances, COVID invaded and infected most of the prison population. The department, as with other government organizations, reacted slowly and poorly. Social distancing was impossible given that 48 men live in a space designed for half of that. So once the virus was introduced, most likely through the staff, it spread quickly throughout the prison population. Fortunately, while almost everyone developed symptoms, a few became seriously ill and I only know of one fatality. This is not to minimize the seriousness of the pandemic, but to recognize that at the end of the day most men, including myself, recovered. The pandemic however, forced us from an open yard, where socialization was easy, into a modified lockdown, with limited time outside, loss of programming and open library, and very limited time to make phone calls, and no in person visits.

Throughout the year I soldiered on, determined to make the best of a bad situation. But within a few weeks, plans were announced to move over 200 prisoners to a private prison. As of this writing, I've been selected as one of those to relocate. I prefer to remain here, but every week as movements were announced I found myself obsessing and worrying about something over which I have absolutely no control. On one hand I argue with myself that it's unlikely I'll go. Most of the 'elderly' and chronic care prisoners will remain here. But on the other hand, I still worry obsessively. Why???

I've lived on five different yards. I've never chosen any of them. One of the realities of prison is you go where you're told to go. Is God leading? Do I trust Him? Therein lies the challenge. I can endlessly quote Scripture, and say the words with my mouth, but without embracing them in my heart. Is such duplicity hypocrisy? Am I an actor or a true follower of Jesus? I find it easy to accuse others, inside and out, of hypocrisy, but without recognizing it in myself. It's time for that to end.

My prayer is that I will develop a heart of gratitude and more importantly, of willing obedience to go wherever and whenever He leads. To recognize that for the past 15 years God had faithfully led me through this wilderness. He has blessed me beyond measure, He's been faithful even through my doubts and faithlessness and gently disciplined me in my stubbornness and disobedience.

Whether I remain here or am moved elsewhere, He is with me. He IS my Shepherd; I shall not want. And, He will always provide green pastures and still waters!

God Hears and Answers My Prayers

By D.P.

I have so much to say, I don't know where to start. First, I thank you for the card, your story truly inspires me.

So many things have been happening to me, I am blessed to no end. I completed my first two lessons from WBS and can't wait to see the grade. I've been praying all through the day, every day and reading the Bible. I really wish my mother and brother were here to see the way the Lord is working in my life and walk, this walk God's way. I know they can see all I'm doing, but being here would afford me the joy of seeing the joy in them. I want to share this little story with everyone.

Awhile back I was moved to another block. A certain C/O that seems to hate inmates and Christians walks by my door, slams it and cusses at me. So, I ask him why he slammed my door. He keys my door and confronts me by cussing and

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

trying to intimidate me. I slipped up and my response was to cuss back at him. Long story short, we all know that never gets us anywhere positive. That's when he wrote me up for abusive language, a class one which usually means hole time.

My hearing was set for a couple of weeks away, so I started praying for a positive outcome. Low and behold, at the hearing I don't go to the hole. However, I did get a 30-day cell restriction and a 60-day loss of job. I was praying to not go to the hole, when in hindsight I should also have been praying for my job. The cell restriction gave me even more time to praise God, read the Bible and to be loyal to my Lord and Savior. In the meantime, I fasted and prayed to be moved away from that officer. I also prayed for his eyes to be opened to the goodness of God and his heart to have some humanity. Then, just a few days later, I was moved to a very good block where I could be all that I can. This is just one example of God working in my life.

Everything that I am doing to become a better person I pray for, and things are happening. My life has changed so much, my heart is open, and swagger is now with God. The people that knew the old me are asking, "Who is this new guy?" When I hear this, it somehow makes me even stronger. I love God so much. My life is so different in such a short time. I'm so thankful for Mike, Linda, and you all there at the **Overcomers for Christ** for sowing God's Word into my life.

Sometimes I catch myself saying that I don't have any family, but that is so wrong. Mike and Linda are my family, and all of the **Overcomers for Christ** are my family. I now know I have to get better at not saying that, as my family is larger than life! You all are a mountain in my coming to Christ.

Think on These Facts

By J.S.

Think on these facts:

Listen here to *Psalm 145:10-13*, "**All Your works praise You, Lord; Your faithful people extol You. They tell of the glory of Your kingdom and speak of Your might, so that all people may know of Your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of Your kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations. The Lord is trustworthy in all He promises and faithful in all He does.**" Let's also look at *Psalm 11:2-4*, "**Great are the works of the Lord; they are pondered by all who delight in them. Glorious and majestic are His deeds, and His righteousness endures forever. He has caused His wonders to be remembered; the Lord is gracious and compassionate.**" All that God has made bears the marks of His wonder.

Psalm 34:15-19 tells us, "**The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and His ears are attentive to their cry; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth. The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit. The righteous person may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all.**" Our Father does care.

Psalm 34:22 assures us, "**The Lord will rescue his servants; no one who takes refuge in Him will be condemned.**" Our Father does save!

In the midst of a world of gods, that are NOT good at all, there does exist- in reality ... our Father, the One true living God. He is altogether good, good, good! *Psalm 34:8* says, "**Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in Him.**" Beloved, these are psalms/songs that we can still sing 'OUT LOUD' to our Father. I call Him Poppa and I can assure you that you need not have a perfect singing voice, rhythm or etc. Our Father loves spending time with His loved ones, us. He loves sharing all that He has made with all of us. Now I want to encourage you all to meditate on these 'things' that the Holy Spirit has brought to my mind recently.

Acknowledge the Lord as our Creator, and the fact that He loves sharing everything with His people. And keep in mind the obvious reality that He did not make the 'following' and 'everything else' just for Himself. He made all these things for all of us, while saying "IN-TO-YOU-SEE" which is also known as intimacy. God is ever saying quietly, yet visibly and so loudly, "I love you this much, and I desire that 'we', you and I, experience intimacy together again.

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Foot's Bible Study

Ezekiel 31:1-32:32

This message was given in 587 B.C. Ezekiel compared Egypt to Assyria, calling Assyria a great cedar tree. The Egyptians were to look at the fall of the mighty nation of Assyria (whose demise they had seen), as an example of what would happen to them. Just like Assyria, Egypt took pride in its strength and beauty, this would be its downfall. She would crash like a mighty tree and be sent to the place of the dead. There is no permanence apart from God, even for a great society with magnificent culture and military power. (31:1)

In these verses, Ezekiel conducts a guided tour of the grave, the region of the afterlife. In the grave, all of God's enemies are condemned in judgment, many of them experience the fate they so quickly imposed on others. Though Babylon is not mentioned, Ezekiel readers would have concluded that if all the other nations would be judged for their rebellion against God, Babylon would be judged as well. These words would comfort the captives.

Hebrews 12:14-29

Sin always blocks our vision of God, so if we want to see God, we must remove sin and obey Him. **Psalm 24:3-4**, "Who may climb the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place? Only those whose hands and hearts are pure, who do not worship idols and never tell lies." Holiness is coupled with living in peace. A right relationship with God leads to right relationship with fellow believers. Although we will not always feel loving toward all other believers, we must pursue peace as we become more Christ-like. (12:14)

Psalms 113:1-114:8

In God's eyes, a person's value has no relationship to his or her wealth or position on the social ladder. Many people who have excelled in God's work began in poverty or humble beginnings. God supersedes the social orders of this world often choosing his future leaders and ambassadors from among social outcasts. Do you treat the unwanted in society as though they have value? Demonstrate by your actions that all people are valuable and useful in God's eyes. (113:5-9)

When God gave the law at Mount Sinai, the mountain trembled in God's presence. Even with our great technology, the seas, rivers, and mountains still present us with formidable challenges. But to God, who controls nature, they are as nothing. When observing the power of an ocean wave or the majesty of a mountain peak, think of God's greatness and glory which are far more awesome than the natural wonders you can see. To tremble at God's presence means to recognize God's complete power and authority and our frailty by comparison. (114:7)

Proverbs 27:18-20

With all the problems and concerns a leader has, it can be easy to overlook the very people who most deserve attention – faithful employees or volunteers (those who tend the fig trees). The people who stand behind you, who work hard and help you get the job done, deserve to share in your success. Be sure that in all your planning, organizing, and working, you don't forget the people who are helping you the most. (27:18)

“Foot” Notes

Hey everybody, may you all be taking in the full measure of your blessings, Amen!! So, lately, I've had this attraction to the word 'All'. In reading the Word, you'll find the word 'All' heavily peppered throughout its entirety. Webster's will tell you that when speaking of 'All', when it comes to stuff, means everything. When speaking of people, it's defined as 'everybody', which is the thought I'm chasing.

Most of us have thought at times or maybe still do that we are too much of a mess for God to want us, or we've done way more bad than good with our lives for God to want us. And of course, our 'worldly thinking' like that is completely wrong. Just look at who Jesus chose to roll with Him. These cats (some of them) were all that. Look at Paul, he was a killer of Christians before his encounter with Jesus yet apart from Jesus, Himself, no one else shaped Christianity's history like Paul did. If you take a look, the church (that's ALL of us) runs the gamut of humanity – killers, thieves, drug addicts, hookers, dancers, construction workers, soccer moms, CEO's, senators, presidents, and royalty. Look at **Titus 2:11**, "For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to ALL people." To sum it up, God's joy, peace, love, and grace is available for us ALL. Quit looking down and start looking up.

Vaya con Dios ... Love to ya'll short and tall ... Don't rider faster than your angels can fly!!!

*truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.*⁴⁰ Just so we are completely clear here, Jesus is the only way to God the Father in Heaven – you can't get there through your acts of goodness and prayer, as is taught through Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Sikhism, or Judaism – there is only one gate and that is Jesus. God has given us two choices to pick from in this world, life, or death. Let's read **Deuteronomy 30:19-20** together, ***"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before 'you' life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers."*** You are given two choices, and God is asking which one do you want? But just so you can't say you didn't know which one to choose, He tells us to choose life – to choose Jesus. You can't stand before Him and look Him in the eye and use the excuse, "But I didn't know."

You have been given a place of honor alongside of Jesus, you are a son or daughter of God's and entitled to all the love He has shown toward His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Regardless of what you have done in your past, what sins you believe you have committed, He has provided a way for you to be free from all shame and He has redeemed you from eternal judgment in hell. As I have searched the Scriptures to "know" God's love, I am absolutely overwhelmed by the magnitude of His love. I am convinced of this one thing, there is new and fresh revelation of God's love to be discovered every single day in His Word and I will never be bored with seeking to "know" Him.

Not long ago, my pastor said the best way to receive revelation from God is through "home cooking." He went on to elaborate, you have to spend time alone with God, meditating and studying His Word for yourself, in the confines of your home with no distractions. You can go to church and hear your pastor preach and teach a revelation he received, but you will forget it the moment you leave church because you have no real relationship with God. When you spend time alone with God, and He gives you revelation it goes into your heart, and you won't forget it.

I cannot stress enough, how 'you' have to develop your own personal relationship with God. You don't develop this without getting alone with God and it has to be more than 5 minutes. If you never spend quality time alone with Him, you will never experience His loving intimacy. I encourage you, seek to know God through the Scriptures, meditate, and study for yourself and let God's Holy Spirit speak to your heart, and journal what He tells you. By writing down those things His Holy Spirit talks to you about, you can go back to them again and again. You cannot have a relationship with God apart from His Word. The intimacy and closeness you experience with Him will engulf you again and again. Do some home cooking instead of going to McDonald's for fast food. I'm not saying forego church, you need church so you can come together with your like-minded brothers and sisters while fellowshiping together with them. But this is no substitute for intimate, relation building, pillow talk with the Father. As **Hebrews 10:24-25** states, ***"And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."***

As you purpose in your heart to seek God and to "know" Him, pray **Ephesians 3:17-19** over yourself (not just once) and make it personal: ***"Father, I pray out of the glorious richness of Your resources You will enable me to know the strength of Your Holy Spirit's reinforcement – that Jesus Christ actually lives in my heart by faith. And I pray, setting my heart in love, I may be able to know, to understand, to comprehend, and to experience how wide, how deep, how long, and how high is Your love – to know for myself Your love that is so far beyond my ability to comprehend that I may be filled with all Your fullness. Amen"***

Reframing

By Steve Arterburn

Have you ever had one of those days where nothing was going your way, and you just felt like God was against you? I know it's an over-inflated ego thing to think that way. But that's partly why I wrote my book, Reframe Your Life. In that book I try to outline how you can change the way you view your life.

Have you ever sat in the doctor's office waiting for the doctor, and he's running late. You become irritated at the doctor and his lack of consideration for other people's schedules. But instead of getting irritated, have you ever thought to use that time to think through more carefully what issues you want to discuss with the doctor, or to stop and think about your day, your week, or the things you want to do and people you want to call, or stop and use the quiet moment to spend some time praying for your friends and family.

That's just a small example of reframing your thinking. Reframing will keep you from asking the "why" questions in life and just accept those things that don't have answers and move on. Yes, there's still pain to work through, but it helps to realize

that everything in life hasn't been targeted at you. God is not your abuser. He is not your past. He is not all the bad and hurtful things that have happened to you. He is a loving God who wants the very best for you and who went to great lengths to let you know how valuable you are. So valuable that He allowed His Son to go to the cross for you.

Learn to reframe your thinking and you'll see life differently than you ever have.

What Others Are Saying...

"Dear beloved D&C family, thank you for your encouragement. It's an inexplicable joy whenever a message sent appears in your newsletters. Many times, the process of preparing them, I'm so overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, that tears are inevitable. Naturally being in prison, I do my best to hide them. Nevertheless, sure they are seen regardless of my futile efforts." – H.M.

"I want to say thank you for all of the wonderful publications that I receive under my door. It has been a blessing, especially when I go through hard days. The cards are nice too. Again, I thank you for everything and may God Almighty bless you all from His throne." – A.J.

"Hello, my family in Christ. Please know that every time I hear from you, it's truly a blessing. Plus, your cards always put a smile on my face, and lift my spirits. May our hearts prepare for Him, our lives reflect His presence, and our future radiate His love. May the Lord shine His light on all of you there and bring pure joy to your lives. May God bless you and everyone under your household, your family and all. I really enjoyed last month's newsletter; you shared such a great message. Every time I read one of your messages, I always get a lot out of them. It's almost as though I can feel your words, coming to life right into my heart. God has definitely put a calling on your life, that's without question. Thank you for being faithful to that calling. I can't thank everyone at the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ enough, you all are a true blessing." – T.A.

"God bless you all for your tireless service to those of us behind bars. You all bring light into a dark place. I look forward to hearing from you each month, and processing the word you present. May you all have a fantastic Holiday Season, and may this New Year bring you all peace and prosperity." – R.A.

FUN FACTS

July 17th – In 2005, Tiger Woods won the British Open, becoming only the second golfer (after Jack Nicklaus) to win each major championship more than once.

July 24th – In 1911, American historian Hiram Bingham rediscovered the ancient Incan city of Machi Picchu in Peru, which had been largely forgotten by those outside the immediate area.

July 27th – In 1789, the U.S. Congress established the United States' Department of Foreign Affairs, later renamed the Department of State.

July 27th – In 1953, a Korean War armistice was signed after three years of fighting.

July 27th – In 1974, the House of Representatives voted to recommend the first article of impeachment against U.S. President Nixon.

July 27th – In 1996, a bomb exploded at the Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, killing one person.

Quote Worthy

"I hope to see America among the foremost nations of justice and liberality."

- George Washington (1732-1799) an American military officer, statesman, and Founding Father who served as the first president of the United States from 1789 to 1797.

Think on These Facts By J.S.

...continued from page 7

Thinking about the stars and letting the starlight enter your eyes keep in mind how many billions of years it took for that 'pin-prick of light' to reach your eyes. Our Father thought of this very moment 'for you' billions of years ago. The Word of God is far superior to what we consider miracles. Then consider, if you will, the megazillion other stars that 'Poppa' hung in the skies and how their ageless sparkle of light will reach your eyesight as well. And all we have to do is look and watch. Father loves to share the 'beautiful' with all of us. Even that starlight sparkle that you may have just seen, and committed to memory, is proof that He thought enough about you to send you such a wonderful invitation to experience intimacy with Him.

Beloved family, keep reading and searching and you WILL find, because you haven't seen nothing yet!

Christian Comedy

For several years, the young magician insisted on a trap-door trick in every show he did.

He was just going through a stage.



ATTENTION

ATTENTION

Editor's Note

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Hello everyone! We have been working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. The request was finally approved! This is **FREE** of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, **FREE!**

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!



Living Word Bible Church Locations

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



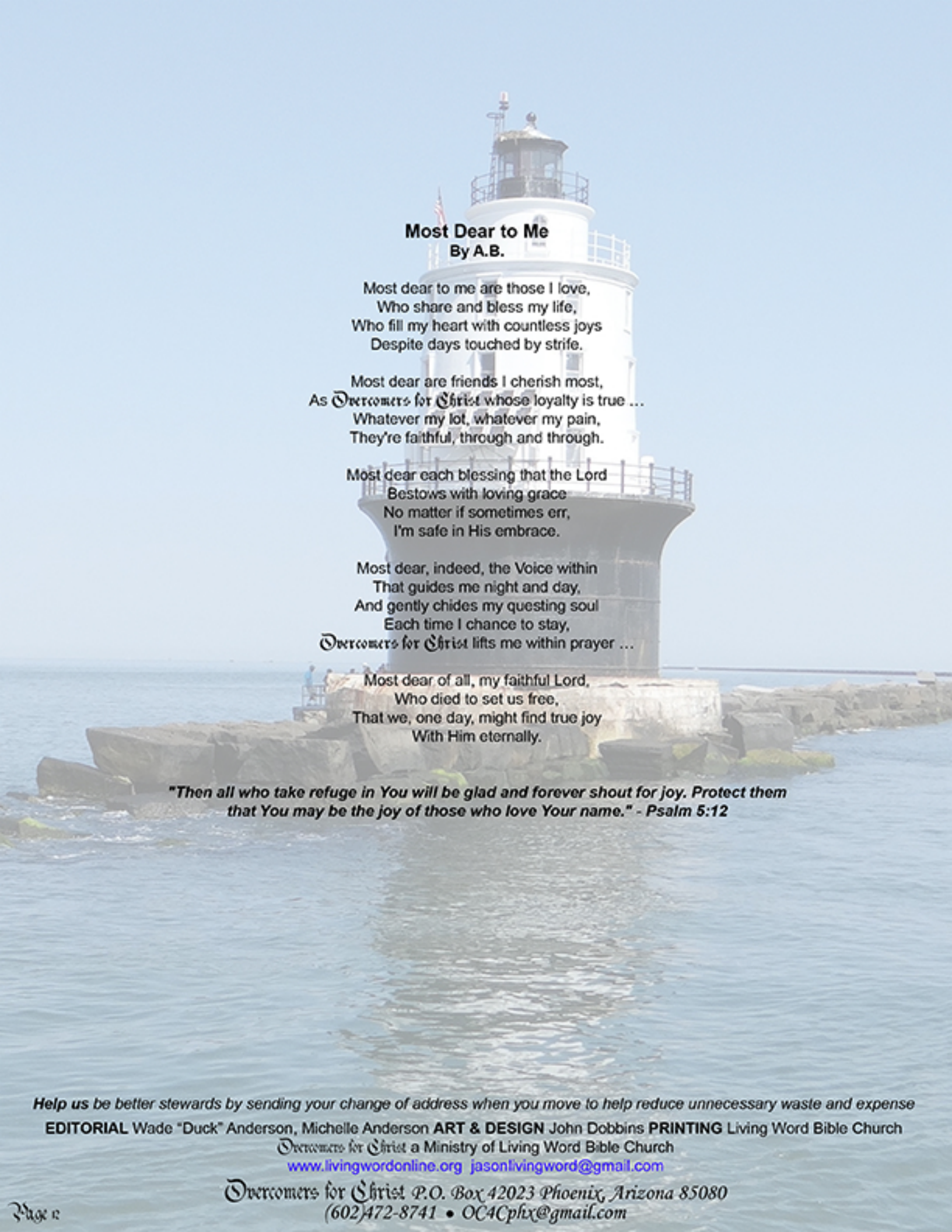
Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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.

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
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A lighthouse with a white upper section and a dark lower section, situated on a rocky pier extending into the ocean. The sky is clear and blue.

Most Dear to Me
By A.B.

Most dear to me are those I love,
Who share and bless my life,
Who fill my heart with countless joys
Despite days touched by strife.

Most dear are friends I cherish most,
As ~~Overcomers for Christ~~ whose loyalty is true ...
Whatever my lot, whatever my pain,
They're faithful, through and through.

Most dear each blessing that the Lord
Bestows with loving grace
No matter if sometimes err,
I'm safe in His embrace.

Most dear, indeed, the Voice within
That guides me night and day,
And gently chides my questing soul
Each time I chance to stay,
~~Overcomers for Christ~~ lifts me within prayer ...

Most dear of all, my faithful Lord,
Who died to set us free,
That we, one day, might find true joy
With Him eternally.

***"Then all who take refuge in You will be glad and forever shout for joy. Protect them
that You may be the joy of those who love Your name." - Psalm 5:12***

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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