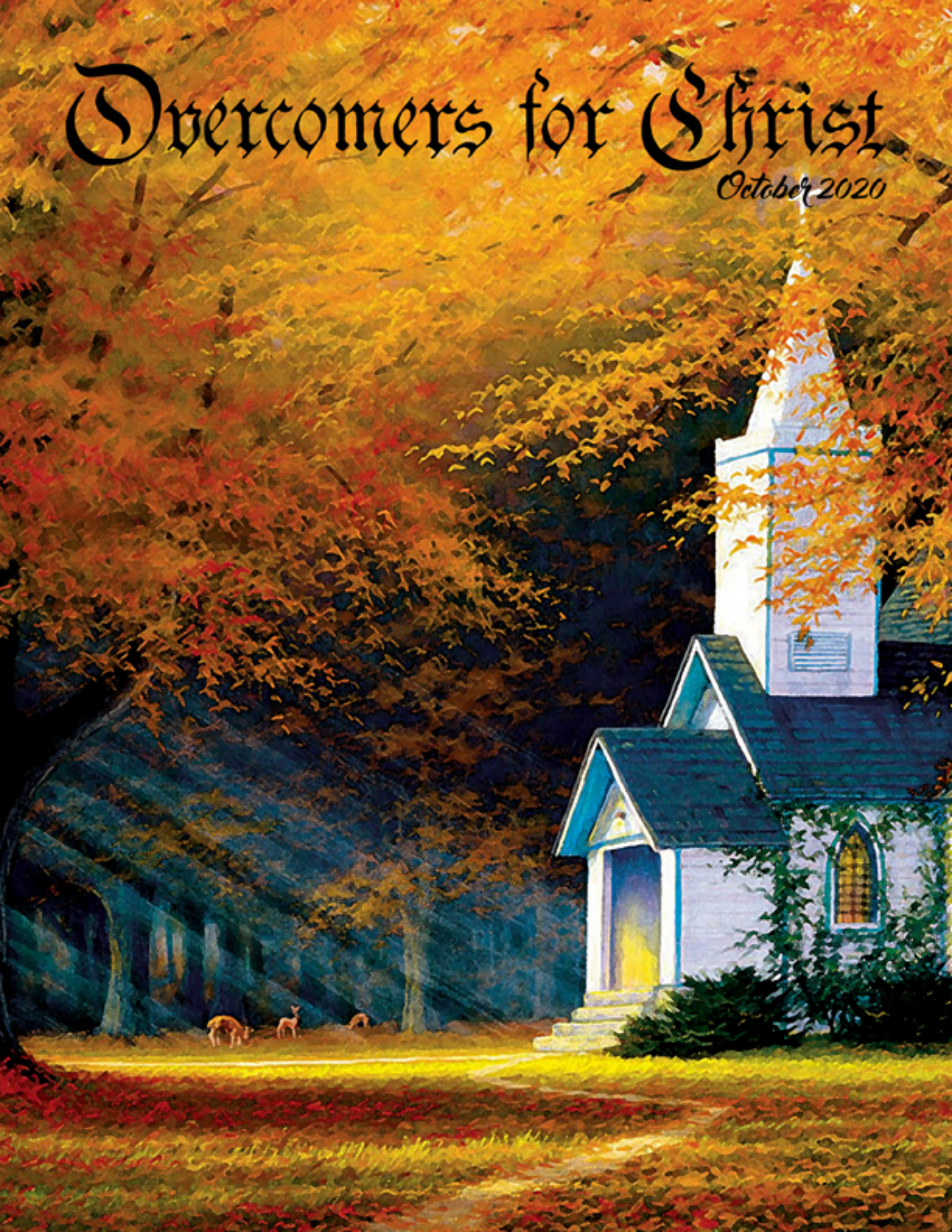


Overcomers for Christ

October 2020



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

November 2019



Your Calling - Part 1

By Vern Deadmond

I want to ask you a question, do you know what God has called you to do in this life? Be honest with your answer, because most Christians really don't know what God has called them to do. I remember when I was young, when I heard any message about being called, in my imagination I thought the speaker was talking about being a pastor. I was like, no way, not me, not in this lifetime. And as the years went by, some speakers would clarify that everyone is called, but not necessarily to full time ministry in the five-fold (pastor, teacher, evangelist, prophet, or apostle), and I was to discover what my calling was. Well, it took me a long time to discover what the one single, common calling is for every born-again Christian. The moment we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, everyone is called to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. In **Matthew 28:18-20**, Jesus was speaking to His eleven remaining disciples and said, *"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* (NKJV) Take note here, Jesus told his disciples to go make more disciples, He didn't say go save everyone you can, making converts so we can populate Heaven when they die.

When we receive Jesus into our hearts, we are expected to become a disciple of Jesus. Pastors, teachers, evangelists, prophets, and apostles were called to be disciples before they were called into ministry. We are called to be disciples first, and then we can go make other disciples. The original disciples of Jesus spent over three years with Him before Jesus released them to go make more disciples. If you are not a disciple, then how are you going to disciple someone else? This is why the original twelve disciples spent three years with Jesus, they were going to Bible school.

Before you go any further in reading, I ask you not just to read what I have to say, but open your heart, think about what I have written, and give it consideration in your life. Don't just read this and go on to the next thing you do. My prayer for you is that God, by the Holy Spirit, will speak to your heart and fan the flame inside of you and you will have a greater desire for the things of God, in Jesus' name - Amen.

I was raised in church, born-again and filled with the baptism of the Holy Spirit at a young age, but it wasn't until I was in my early 50's that I heard an emphasis placed on discipleship. I realized I had been living my own life waiting for the return of Jesus, and not living for Jesus. I went to church all those years, hearing the importance of taking the gospel to the world so the world will be saved. I agree completely that souls need to be saved, but it is not to stop there. Once we believe and receive Jesus, we are called to be one of His disciples. When I set my heart to be a disciple of Jesus, I discovered what eternal life is. I learned my concept of eternal life was lacking full revelation, as is with most Christians today they do not have a proper understanding of **John 3:16**, where Jesus says, *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."*

One of the first, great revelations I received from the Word of God as a disciple was that eternal life is knowing God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. (**John 17:3**) We can have eternal life here at this moment in our life, we do not have to die to have eternal life. Let me say, it is a terrible waste to not enjoy the eternal life God has given each one of us NOW. He paid a tremendous price for it, and, **"We are not to ignore or neglect this so great a salvation."** (**Hebrews 2:3**)

So many of the churches today emphasis converting the sinner leaving out discipleship. There is scriptural context that converts need to be made disciples in the **Book of Acts**. One particular instance is when Barnabas was sent to Antioch (a city in present day Turkey) by the church in Jerusalem, because there were a great number of people who turned and believed the Lord, they were converted. After he arrived, he encouraged the converts to continue with the Lord, and there were many more that were added to the Kingdom of Heaven. Let's pick up in **Acts 11:25**, **"Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Paul. And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch."** We see Barnabas and Paul spent a year discipling the believers and they were called Christians. So, is it reasonable to say if you are going to take Christ's name, you should set your heart to be a disciple?

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines disciple as a learner; a scholar; one who receives or professes to receive instruction from another. A follower; an adherent to the doctrines of Jesus. Hence the constant attendants of Christ were called His disciples; and hence all Christians are called His disciples, as they profess to learn and receive His doctrines and precepts. In our society today, we have really wandered from this definition.

The Vines Dictionary states that a real disciple of Christ is one who believes in the truth of the Christian religion, and studies to follow the example and obey the precepts of Christ; a believer in Christ is characterized by real respect and honor to God. You can do a search on the internet for a definition of Christian, and you will find results ranging from a person who has received Christian baptism to someone who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus Christ. But as we see in the scriptures, a Christian is defined as a disciple.

In **Isaiah 29:13**, **"The Lord said, 'In as much as these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me.'**" This was written to the Jewish people 2,700 years ago, but it could just as well be written today to the church, to those Christians that go to church service each week, but never open a Bible except in service. I attended a Bible College for two years, and I was amazed to see people attending and not bring a Bible. I got to know one man at the beginning and he didn't even own a Bible. Why would you come to a Bible College and not bring a Bible??? What didn't amaze me though, was those same people never finished the school. How serious are you in regards to your Christian walk? Ask yourself, do you fit the scriptural definition of a Christian? Be honest with your answer and determine to make adjustments in your life where it is necessary.

There are many numerous opportunities available to all believers to learn and study. The most obvious is church of course, and there is television, the internet, evangelical meetings, home Bible studies, etc. But within your heart is where it all starts, **Romans 10:9** says, **"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."** If you don't believe this in your heart, it is for naught. Our heart is where it all happens, not just in our minds. **Proverbs 16:9** tells us, **"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."** What you choose to believe and what you set your heart towards will exert and exercise tremendous influence on your life, which allows God in turn to mold and shape you. Your heart must cooperate with God's plan for your life, if not Jesus is speaking the same words to us that He spoke to Paul when He said it is hard for you to kick against the pricks.

When your heart is set on the path God has for you, watch and see how good God's life is for you. This is why it is so important to say in your heart, I am going to be a disciple, to be taught and to learn from Jesus Himself. Commit to this, and determine nothing will get in your way. Make a list of those things that interfere in your life with this decision. Secular television? Video games? The wrong kind of friends? Drugs? Porn? Alcohol? Money? Anything that takes your thoughts away from Jesus, those things that you give greater priority to, God should be on this list. These things in the eyes of God are idols and you need to cast them aside. Make being a disciple of Jesus Christ a priority and part of your identity, it's who you are!

As I proceed with defining a disciple of Jesus, bear in mind these are not steps of how to proceed, nor is this an all-inclusive list of what a disciple looks like. I am trying to show you the characteristics of a disciple of Christ, the One we are to look like. I love how my pastor puts it, "But pastor, I want steps. Okay, Step #1: Look at Jesus. Step #2: Keep looking at Jesus. Step #3: Keep on looking at Jesus." It doesn't get any simpler than that. The teachings of Jesus are directed towards everyone, because He intended for us all to be disciples - not just a select few. The points I make here are not in any specific order, except you start in your heart, and commit to being a disciple, to learn of Him through His Holy Spirit.

Scripture can be used to define what and who a disciple is, starting with **Luke 6:40**, **"A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher."** So as disciples, you are to be the same as Jesus, and if you never study to know Him, how can you be like Him? When you become like Him, you will love like Him. You will love like Him, because you will have received the revelation of how much He loves you. The original twelve disciples spent over three years with Jesus, traveling with Him, and being taught by Him. Now, you have His same teachings recorded in the Bible and this is essential to start to learn from Him. Next you need the person of the Holy Spirit, for Jesus says in **John 14:26**, **"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."** You need the combination of the Word of God and the Holy Spirit to be a disciple of Jesus, for it is God's Holy Spirit that reveals the mysteries written in His Word. Without the Holy Spirit to teach you understanding, the words of the Bible are only religious philosophy and theology.

This is shown by Paul in **Romans 10:2** where he said of the Jewish people, **"For I bear witness, that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge."** The Jews did not have the Holy Spirit and they believed the Law was the way to God and salvation, they could not understand God's grace. God's Holy Spirit is who provides revelation and knowledge. Without revelation from His Holy Spirit, I would never have understood His grace and love. Once I truly understood God's grace and what it provided for me, my relationship with God changed completely and forever. With every revelation from God's Holy Spirit, you will have an excitement and joy for God inside of you and it turns you toward a greater desire for Him. You need the Holy Spirit to reveal the deep things of God to you so that you will know the things that have freely been given to you by God. God's Holy Spirit is essential to the disciple, and this is shown in **1 Corinthians 2:9-12**, **"... Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God."**

These scriptures answered a question that I have been pondering for some time. Jesus had taught several parables one day, and then the disciples came to Him once they were alone and asked Him why He spoke to the people in parables. In

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

I want to thank you and all of the prayer warriors that continue to lift these prayers up to the Lord. I have a special prayer request for my wife, Brenda and brother, Will. Please pray for deliverance from their drug addictions, for continued strength and healing. Pray for the crazy things going on in the world right now. Stand with me and let's come against this COVID-19 thing. Pray protection for all of the first responders, hospital doctors and nurses around the world. Pray for all of those suffering and their loved ones during this COVID thing. I know there's a lot of power in corporate prayer through all of our prayer warriors ... **S.M.**

Let's agree in prayer. God, we need a cure, a vaccine, for this virus and soon. And God we know that You can cause all things to come together for those that love You. So I'm asking You to work through Your love and miracles to bring this nation together again. Help us all to love each other in a way that we would see an end to the racism, more people coming to You and laws passed against police brutality ... **S.L.**

All of my prayers go out to everyone there during these perilous times. Please continue to pray for me, that God would one day free me from this physical prison ... **J.C.**

A lot is in the works and happening here on my end. I'm in the process of applying for compassionate release due to the ongoing COVID madness. They just released an individual here in my unit who has been in for many years with a life sentence! If you all would please keep me in your thoughts and prayers in that regard I would greatly appreciate it ... **C.P.**

Pray that God, the Almighty God, continue to help me stay on the straight and narrow path. Also, that He puts His stamp of approval on my release date. I need a good mentor right about now to. Pray about it and let me know what you come up with ... **J.E.**

I am asking for your prayers in the restoration of my marriage. It is well past time and I pray the Father unites us ... **R.G.**

Thank you so much for the newsletters and the spiritual growth we all get from them. I have a very important hearing coming up that I need pray for. Also pray for all of the people on ventilators and for the people of authority. Pray that they will have supernatural favor, compassion, mercy and goodwill for me and the other Christians in these California prisons ... **M.L.**

I'm 66 years old. My lungs are shot out and it will take an act of God to get me out of prison alive. They say my earliest release date is in 2039. BUT, I've been working on my last chance appeal. I just mailed it to the California Supreme Court last week, 38 pages of "Please Mr. Wizard". Please pray **Proverbs 21:1** with me over my Writ of Habeas Corpus. **"The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; He directs it like a watercourse wherever He pleases."** ... **J.C.**

Praise Reports

I would personally like to thank our Lord and each of you all for helping me along in my journey of 'life' over these past 4 -5 years of my incarceration. Now, I would like for each of you, and our family in Christ, to know that if you are reading these words, then I made my first parole on a 50 year aggravated sentence after serving 25 calendar years! Hallelujah!! Praise Jesus!! I would like for you to print this in the monthly newsletter soon, to bring hope not only to Texas offenders but also to all my other brothers and sisters out there within the prison system. You all are not alone or forgotten by me and especially not our Father in heaven ... **T.T.**

I am totally blessed by God! I'll share a small praise report with you. It has to do with fighting the Social Security Administration for six years over my disability back pay that was owed to me prior to my incarceration. I prayed over the last letter that I sent them in January 2020, then I put it in the mail. When I didn't get a response to that letter, I began to lose faith that God even existed or heard my prayers. Then on April of this year, I received a letter from Social Security stating that someone who had never reviewed my case, looked into it and granted me my back pay! God does exist and He does hear and answer our prayers, in His own time. Praise God! I believe He seen that I was losing faith and showed me that no matter what the circumstances, He is a just and loving God who cares for His children ... **W.D.**

First off I'd like to say 'God Bless' for what you're doing and also 'Thank You'. I got your address from my bunkie. I'm currently an inmate in Perryville. I got to read a newsletter from you guys and I absolutely loved it. I too would like to hear from you people. I've always believed in God but not fully understood everything. I gave my life over to Jesus Christ in January of this year and started reading my Bible every day. Of course I'm still learning but today, I love God's Word and everything about Him. I'm also going to write to get the Bible studies through Andrew Wommack ministries. ... **K.B.**

I'm writing first to say thank you. Your newsletter has brought me inspiration and encouragement each and every month since I began receiving it. I first read it from cover to cover and then pass it on to a sister who would hopefully appreciate it as much as I did. The second thing I want to share is ... Praise God, I will be released this June so I won't be here to receive the newsletter any longer!! Hopefully I will be able to serve with you all out there. But I'm looking forward to serving the Lord wherever He might lead me ... **M.S.**

I pray you and your family have a joyous day filled with love. Even in here I have many things to be thankful for. The biggest things I'm thankful for is the sacrifice of Jesus and the presence of the Holy Spirit in my heart. I'm also thankful for the **Overcomers** for **Christ** as well ... **J.C.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

It's a Spiritual Problem

By W.R.

I had the prison reform organization 'START' contact me recently and wanted me to give them some input into the penal system, so I wrote them back with 8 pages of 'The Evolution of the Prison' system. I took them from the 1960's to the present day. Then they asked me if it was okay for them to put this information on line and share it with some reporters. I also shared some of my poetry with them. Anyways, after writing them it triggered a lot of memories which led me to write another poem "The Beast", which I'm including after this article.

They were talking to me about the drug problem in this country, as one of the problems which is true. I told them that when I was using drugs everything was controlled by the Irish-Italian gangsters and they kept it contained to the inner city black neighborhoods. But now 'The Beast' has broken from its cage and everyone wants to 'Reform' it and put it back in its cage! It, as you all know, has found its way into the suburbs and upper middle class - every social and class of people have now been affected by the drug problem in this country today, in one form or another.

But truth be told, It's not a drug problem or a social problem ... **It's a Spiritual Problem!** That dear brothers and sisters is the root of mankind's problems. It's NOT just a drug problem. Until people grab hold of the Anchor, Jesus, that holds all things steady and come to the Cross they're NEVER going to be totally free! As children of the Light, all we can do is to be that beacon of light for them, helping guide them and covering them in prayer until they too come to the end of themselves and their senses. The only issue there is, they have to have the desire to do so.

Some of us have already experienced for ourselves and know better than most, the lies that satan uses when it comes to drug addiction AND everything that comes along with that lifestyle. Many people have said a lot of things in our lifetimes about 'who' they thought they were in their sight. But here's one thing I know for certain they probably would not have thought to say about MANY, MANY of us today, "Someday they too will be drug free and serving God!"

The Beast

*Dead men walking across a sea of bones, trying to find their way back home
And The Beast bellows out in rage, from the confines of its cage
With skulls aligned upon its altar, its victims chained and led to their slaughter
And I heard The Beast roar as it rattled its cage, devouring its victims in its rage*

*Dead men walking through a sea of bones, as The Beast watches from its throne
With its eyes ablaze as if in delight, devouring its victims throughout the night
Their bodies hanging like trophies from the bars, their minds twisted and their bodies scarred
And The Beast lives on yet another day, devouring its victims in its rage!*

This is how I see the prison system; as an altar in which the lepers, untouchables and the undesirables of society are sacrificed upon. Mentally, emotionally and physically they are turned into emotional cripples. To be a prisoner of one's own mind is worse than any prison made up of concrete and steel. I've had friends of mine cross that line and never come back.

Pray Believing

By R.V.

My prayers and blessings to ALL the Overcomers for Christ family. I pray, believing everybody is well. You ALL have been in my prayers. We've been in lock down and I have been doing a LOT of praying for all the people we are losing. I can't even imagine what their families are going through. I think about my family a lot and sometimes it really depresses me. But I'm NOT going to let the devil destroy me ... so I just read my Bible to help me keep up my faith, and stay strong. I know the devil is NOT going to make me weak because I AM strong in Jesus. I KNOW I already have the key to heaven so I leave all the worry and depression in God's hands.

I've also been praying for all of the Veterans. And I want to thank everyone in the Overcomers for Christ family that has fought for this great Country. I pray for all the soldiers that gave up their lives for us all, "May they all rest in peace". When I pray I

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From the Inside

pray these precious promises from, **"Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand."** (Isaiah 41:10)

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek His will in all you do, and He will show you which path to take." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"If you look for Me wholeheartedly, you will find Me. I will be found by you," says the LORD. 'I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and will bring you home again to your own land.'" (Jeremiah 29:13-14)

"Listen! The LORD's arm is not too weak to save you, nor is His ear too deaf to hear you call." (Isaiah 59:1)

"But if you remain in Me and My words remain in you, you may ask for anything you want, and it will be granted!" (John 15:7)

"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)

"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which have been given to us in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

In His Service

By M.D.

Let me begin with **Romans 12:1**, **"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."** In this appeal the Apostle Paul urges us to have our lives measure up to our beliefs. He says that we are to dedicate everything about ourselves to God - not just our possessions, money, time, energy and efforts, but also our bodies, heads, hands, tongues and yes even our minds, emotions and attitudes. Paul shows us here that the doctrine of justification by faith will not allow laxity or laziness in life or conduct. We are to dedicate everything about ourselves as a "living sacrifice" holy, devoted, consecrated and pleasing to Him. This is our rational, logical intelligent act of worship.

We are saved to serve!! The Christian life must be lived in its relation to God, self and others. Often we get the impression that to totally serve God and worship Him means to involve our body and spirit, but there is more! Here Paul says that we are to serve and worship Him with our minds and emotions also. Invite God to think and speak through you. You can even serve God with your face by smiling and being friendly to other people. Allow God to use ALL of you. The more of yourself you release to Him the more you will be fulfilled and experience His peace and joy. It may surprise you to find out that up to this point we have not had to do a thing but believe in Christ and yield ourselves to Him to use as He wills.

Now - we are to serve, and our Christian service may be in any of several places: In church - (**Romans 12:3-8**) In government - (**Romans 13:1-14**) In disputed things - (**Romans 14 -15:3**) The whole world - (**Romans 15:4-13**). Until we have been saved by His grace and transformed by His love, we can do little for God. (Read the whole Chapter of **1 Corinthians 13**) But when we present ourselves to Christ and become filled with His love, we can find a lot to do. Especially in this den of iniquity we find ourselves in. Christ wants a "living sacrifice" NOT a dead one (**Romans 12:1**).

Many will die in Christ, few will live for Him. Many of you might rather be burned at the stake than face ridicule from the homies or people you know. One definition of a modern Christian is: "A person who will die for the church he or she will not attend." How many of us say nothing when Christ's name is brought up or used in vain?! Wherever you see a need, if you can take care of it - DO IT!

Share an encouraging word, always intercede in prayer for those in need. Anything you can do to help your fellow man - DO IT! That is a "living sacrifice". Jesus gives us an example to follow of a "living sacrifice" in the **John 13:1-17**. It's when He washes the disciples feet. I encourage you all to read it for yourselves. Overcomers, let others see Jesus in you my friends, they may never see Jesus except for what they see in us. Live for Him! Then and only then will you be ready to die for Him.

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Isaiah 62:7-66:24

Sin makes us unclean so that we cannot approach God (**Romans 3:23**) any more than a beggar in filthy rags could dine at a king's table. Our best efforts are still infected with sin. Our only hope, therefore, is faith in Jesus Christ who can cleanse us and bring us into God's presence. Read **Romans 3. (64:6)**

God will always preserve a faithful remnant of His people. No matter how bad the world is, there are always a few who remain loyal to Him. Jesus made this point in **Matthew 13:36-43. (65:8-9)**

These key verses summarize Isaiah's message. He contrasted humble persons, who have a profound reverence for God's messages and their application to life with those who choose their own ways. The sacrifices of the arrogant were only external compliance. In their hearts they were murderers, perverts, and idolaters. God shows mercy to the humble, but He curses the proud and self-sufficient. See **Luke 1:51-53**. Our society urges us to be assertive and to affirm ourselves. Don't let your freedom and right to choose lead you away from God's pathway to eternal life. **(66:2-3)**

Philippians 2:19-4:23

The Bible is our safeguard both morally and theologically. When we read it individually and publicly in church, it alerts us to corrections we need to make in our thoughts, attitudes and actions. **(3:1)**

After Paul considered everything he had accomplished in his life, he said that it was all worthless when compared with the greatness of knowing Christ. This is a profound statement about values. A person's relationship with Christ is more important than anything else. To know Christ should be our ultimate goal. Consider your values. Do you place anything above your relationship with Christ? If your priorities are wrong. How will you reorder them? **(3:8)**

How do we stay true to the Lord? This refers to what Paul has just taught in **Philippians 3:20-21**. The way to stay true is to keep our eyes on Christ, to remember that this world is not our home, and to focus on the fact that Christ will bring everything under His control. **(4:1)**

When we give to those in need, it not only benefits the receiver but it benefits us as well. It was not the Philippian gift but their spirit of love and devotion that Paul appreciated the most. **(4:17)**

Psalms 73:1-74:23

Don't let your life's goals be so unreal that you awaken too late and miss the reality of God's truth. Happiness and hope can be a reality, but only when they are based on God. We should get as close to Him as we can in order to be realistic about life. **(73:20)**

God's anger against Israel had grown hot during the many years of their sin and idolatry. His patience endured for generations, but at last it was set aside for judgment. If you fall into sin but quickly seek God's forgiveness, His mercy may come quickly and His anger may leave quickly. If you persist in sinning against Him, don't be surprised when His patience runs out. **(74:1-2)**

Proverbs 24:21-22

Never knowing where the punishment from the Lord will end, we should keep a healthy fear of the Lord and not get involved in the behaviors of evil people. **(24:21-22)**

“Foot” Notes



Hey ya'll, as a race of humanity we are going through difficult times or even uncharted territory. That being said, we are people of God and as followers of God's Word we are told that in the end we all will be well.

So my thinking is that, right now, since all is not well, we cannot be near the end. Keeping in the Word, stay strong in your faith in God. Keep safe.

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

Matthew 13:11 Jesus replied, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given." About a year ago I had been reading this scripture, and the Holy Spirit stopped me and asked who is Jesus talking to? I responded, He is talking to His disciples. The light bulb went on above my head, and I realized Jesus is speaking to all His disciples, not just the twelve disciples. (Side note here - this is why it's important not just to read the Bible, but to be listening and talking with the Holy Spirit as you read the Bible, He will reveal these mysteries.) Jesus said it has been given to all His disciples to know the mysteries of God. At that moment, I received this revelation that those who are called to be disciples (that's every born-again believer, you and me) have something inside of them to be able to understand the things of God. What is that something? Remember earlier, I stated we are all called to be disciples the moment we receive Jesus.

So when you received Jesus, it was given to you to be able to understand the Bible as you read it. But if you never read the Bible, how will you ever comprehend or understand the Word of God? You have within you something that allows you to know, understand, and receive revelation as you read the Bible. Many times I have listened to people use the excuse that they don't read the Bible because they don't understand it. Well first, if they are not born-again, of course they will not understand the Scriptures because it has not been given to them to understand them. This is confirmed in **1 Corinthians 2:14**, "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, nor can he know them, because they are spiritual," not understanding the Bible, they are saying something that just is not true. They only need to ask God to give them understanding. **Matthew 7:7-8** says, "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." There, I have just removed your excuse for not reading and studying the Bible. Before you begin to read the Bible (each day), pray to the Father and ask Him to give you understanding and revelation by His Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus. Amen. But you say, I don't have His Holy Spirit in me. I call BS, that's Bologna Sandwich for your carnal thinking people. **1 Corinthians 3:16** says, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" So every born-again believer has God's Holy Spirit inside of them. And if when you read the Bible and you don't understand something, you only need to ask God through His Holy Spirit to help your understanding. So back to my question I was asking God, what is the "it" given to me, a disciple, so that I know and understand His mysteries? "It" is His Holy Spirit.

To be a disciple of Jesus, you must be "self-less", denying yourself as you pursue and follow after Him as it says in **Matthew 16:24**, "Then Jesus said to His disciples, If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me." You must be willing to say no to your 'self', for you were bought for a great price and then made free. And with the freedom, you are not to abuse the power you now have in Christ. Look at Jesus always, and His grace teaches you to deny any ungodliness. Your 'self' is so consumed with your self, you think and say, "What about me?" 'Self' is what causes you to think everything you have is because you work so hard, you have because you have earned it, and you have because you made it happen. 'Self' keeps you from seeking after God. Why is this? Because 'self' will exalt its feelings and desires above anything and everything, above what God desires for you. You believe you won't have unless you make it happen. 'Self' causes you to focus on you always, and not on God.

Think about how you came to Christ, how you received Him - you confessed and admitted to God that your goodness and righteousness falls way short of meeting His requirement and you need Jesus. You don't need more of 'you'. My mom's second husband refused the free gift of salvation in the last month of his life. He laid on his bed dying of lung cancer, and proclaimed he was going to Heaven because he was not a bad man, 'his' goodness was all he needed to not go to hell. The last moments of his life, terror gripped him, his appearance when death took him shook my mom to her core. She never forgot the look on his face as he passed away. I wonder what he saw as he died? It wasn't Jesus, if he saw Jesus he would have had peace at his death, not terror. But his 'self' kept him from receiving Jesus even when he knew he would not live much longer, he believed in 'his' ability not in Christ's. When you deny your 'self', you admit you can do nothing of your 'self', it is all Jesus inside of you.

In **John 5:19**, Jesus explained "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." Jesus humbled His 'self' to do only what He saw God the Father do, and you, as a humble disciple, should do what you see Jesus do. This is because you are like Him, you are a "little Christ", which is what the term Christian means. When you are humble, you say to Jesus, "I need you, I can do nothing without you, I know you have my back." But selfish pride says, "Jesus, I got this, it's all good, I have it covered." God is not opposing the humble, He is for you. It is only when you let your 'self' get in the way that you feel like He is not helping you. That is because you are telling Him I don't need Your help, I can take care of it. **James 4:6** tells us, "God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble." As long as you think you have any situation handled in your strength, God's hands are tied by your pride. But those who call out to God and ask Him for assistance with the attitude, "I can't do this Lord, help me," God rushes in with His grace. As long as you say in your mind, "I can do this," you are at odds with God.

Paul tells us in **Romans 8:7**, **"The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be."** When you make any situation about you, you are thinking carnally, you might as well be nicknamed 'meat-head'. When your thinking is all about you, how you have been wronged or your focus and attention is how do you get more for your 'self', your mind is in opposition to God. Change your thinking. Instead of thinking about what 'you' have to do to make it through your day, start thanking God for teaching you, for giving you wisdom, and providing for you. And don't seek God for what He will give you, but seek God for the relationship and fellowship you will have with Him. A true disciple of Jesus Christ is humble and thinks only of how he can serve God. He will lay aside any offense or wrong that has been inflicted upon him or her.

No wrong ever done to us is greater than the wrong that man has done to God. What do I mean by this? Jesus was betrayed by man and He was beaten to the point that He was unrecognizable. He was spit on, stripped naked, nailed to a cross, and put on display until He said it is finished and He gave up His spirit. At any time He could have called out to God the Father, and said, "Father, man doesn't deserve what I am doing for him. Look what they have done to Me. Send Your angels and take Me down, and rain fire and brimstone down upon them. Kill them all, and let them receive the judgment worthy of their sin, for they do not deserve Your mercy and grace." But we all know that is not what Jesus said, instead He said, as is recorded in **Luke 23:34**, **"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."** Jesus, instead of allowing 'self' to be elevated for the wrongs done to Him, choose to deny Himself and forgive man-kind for all the wrongs we have done to Him. I've associated with people that would have thrown a punch for far less worse done to them. As a whole, man-kind has no excuse for retribution or revenge, there is no wrong that has been done to us than that which is greater than what we have done to Him. A real and true disciple lay's down those wrongs which have been inflicted on them, they deny 'self' the right to make a wrong right. And a disciple does not allow themselves to be deceived by man-kind, and pick up someone else's offense or wrong that was never done to them.

Jesus warns 'us', in **Matthew 24:4**, that at the end of the age to, **"Take heed that no one deceives you."** I say 'us', because He was answering a direct question from His disciples. Don't let the media confuse and deceive you at this time, let the Word of God be your compass. The Word of God is the real truth, anything else put forth is false and a counterfeit. All of 'us' disciples who are grounded in God's Word will not be deceived.

Overcomer's Testimonies

Delivered By M.S.

My cell mate, M.D., introduced me to *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter and ministry and suggested I write to you and share my testimony in hopes to help a Christian brother or sister in Christ.

I'm doing a life sentence here in Arizona. I'm from Queens, New York and have now been locked up for 18 years. Several months ago I overdosed on heroin. When I came to I found myself on the floor with a bunch of CO's and nurses. They had given me a shot to revive me. It was not time for me to die.

I know that God saved me that day. February of 2019 was the last time that I used. Since then, me and my cell mate have been doing Bible studies and going to church services. I really am blessed that God put me on a path to do His will, not mine. I now do the things I didn't do, by helping and spreading the Word to others who are lost, just like me.

I want Christian brothers and sisters who are still struggling with addiction or anything they struggle with to know; God is there for you, just call on Him and ask Him with all your heart to help you. You have to want Him in your life. I am so grateful since I've been saved and I thank God for delivering me from that horrible addiction.

Quote Worthy

"Don't bother much about your feelings. When they are humble, loving, brave, give thanks for them; when they are conceited, selfish, cowardly, ask to have them altered. In neither case are they you, but only a thing that happens to you.

What matters is your intentions and your behavior."

- C. S. Lewis (1898 – 1963) - a British writer and lay theologian

What Others Are Saying...

"I want all of you there to know, we all love the **DS+S** family. The newsletter touches us all and we are grateful to LWBC for this ministry!" - **M.D.**

"Hello, I'm a believer in Christ. A friend of mine let me read one of your newsletters and I can't stop myself from reading it. I can see God moving. I would like to be on your mailing list so I can my own and share them with other people to. Keep fighting the good fight. May God bless you all." - **C.T.**

"**Overcomers for Christ**, I am so enjoying all your kind words, Praise Reports and What Others Are Saying. Just a full course meal for the soul. Duck, Michelle and the whole **DS+S** team, may God continue to use you all as vessels for the Word! Thank you for the birthday cards. Remember to taste the living waters." - **J.P.**

"Thank you for the card and blessings. Thanks Wade, Michelle and all the brothers and sisters at OC4C for all that you have done and continue to do for all of us. As far as that back issue of the newsletter I was inquiring about, I know you can't make any promises and that's okay. Just the fact that I know you are looking is more of a blessing than actually getting it. Don't know if that makes sense but that's how I feel. Stay healthy and safe." - **A.V.**

"Thank you so much for the beautiful card and encouraging words. May God continue to bless you, your family, friends and everyone your ministry touches, exceedingly and abundantly beyond anything we could ask or think ... in the mighty name of Jesus, Yes and Amen!" - **J.C.**

"My friends at **DS+S**, I'm always grateful for all of you. For the last eight years I have always received a monthly newsletter, birthday card and Christmas card. No matter if I get moved or I'm in CDU, your ministry still finds me and sends a good message or card showing you truly care. I hope to get out in a year or two and meet back up with you all. You know that I was member and usher at LWBC and intend on rejoining the church upon my release." - **P.B.**

"**Overcomers for Christ**, may the Lord I serve bless you all night and day. I get your blessed newsletter and I love all the articles in it. You all are truly a blessing and have made a big difference in my life. I now have joy and happiness and I thank you for taking the time out of your lives to write to all of us." - **A.R.**

ATTENTION

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Editor's Note

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

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

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296

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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Audience of Stars
By P.W.

A tender breeze touches the night arousing memories of Eden,
In the arms of its pristine moon like an infant pressed in its mother's bosom.

Suddenly, serenity takes its deepest breath before beckoning, to believe in a better thereafter
One where the sorrow tastes a little sweeter than saline, but evenings yearn to be seduced by the
stars

Where wishes soar upon the wings of brand new prayers, now heard and hushed like children in
church

And all these shadows fall from grace to gather in pools of midnight,

Where evening has passed away in the presence of a million stars shimmering in silent lament
So this handful of sacred moments speak of a cosmic opulence, that is yours for the taking

If only melody reigns supreme to serve as a stairway to the abode of angels,
And its brilliant audience of stars.

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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