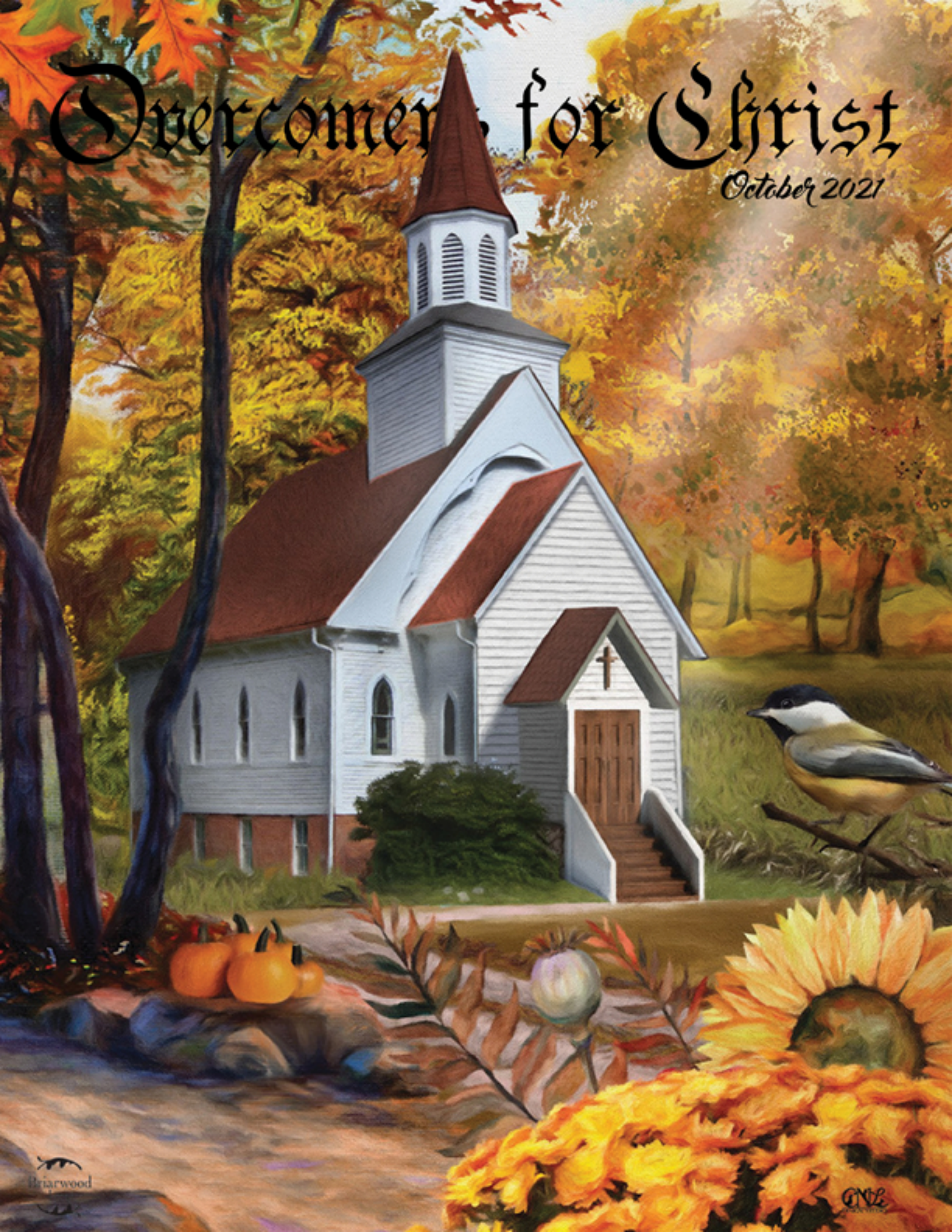


Overcomers for Christ

October 2021



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

September 2020



Nothing Apart From Him

By C.S.

The year 2020 should have been a wake-up call for people to get their priorities straight and in order. This last year has challenged our pride and self reliance so that we might realize that we are not in charge and do **Nothing Apart From Him**. And yet our capability to compromise is one of the greatest dangers in the church today.

Through ungodly relationships and the impact of the Media, we're being influenced, by people who celebrate things that used to be hidden, like homosexuality and gay marriages. Our current society tells us to put self first, take what we want, protect 'our' rights and promote 'our' own interests above others.

We all have beliefs that define who we believe we are and determine our lifestyle and choices. We may like to think that these are a private matter, but in reality, they are constantly on display for all to see. That's because we live them out each day with our words and our actions. Since beliefs have a powerful influence, we should examine what ours are saying about us. Are they leading us to a righteous life in accordance with God's will, or are they so weak that our life is dominated by old fleshly nature?

God has gone to great lengths to put His truth into written form and protect it down through the ages so that we 'might' spend eternity with Him. It is foolish to ignore His Words. Instead, most people are prisoners to things like **jealousy** (you have greater rights than I do!), **greed** (I deserve more!) and **bitterness** (My rights have been violated!) In lieu of focusing on what is due to them, people should follow Christ's command here in **Matthew 5:44**, *"But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."*

We should be more concerned about showing God's love to those who wrong us than insisting on privileges we assume are rightfully ours. Perhaps some of you reading this may be thinking, "You don't know how I've been mistreated!" Indeed I don't. But I do know how Jesus reacted to terrible abuse. He was betrayed by His friends, persecuted by His own people, condemned by His peers and crucified for "OUR" sins. Yet while hanging there on the Cross in sheer agony, the only thing that came from His heart and out of His mouth was, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."* (**Luke 23:34**)

Before assuming that Jesus' capacity for forgiveness and love is out of reach for us as mere human beings, we need to remember that His Spirit lives in true believers. Listen here to **Romans 8:11**, *"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you."* And then Paul in **Galatians 4:6**, *"And because you are sons (and daughters), God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, Abba, Father!"*

We can choose to give away the worldly rights and instead allow God's love to work in us and through us. Doesn't **Luke 6:29** tell us to turn the other cheek and give up more than is asked of us? When we choose to do this we are expressing a love that far outweighs exerting 'our' rights. We can't lose when we choose to show others the boundless care of the Lord. Instead, we gain His blessing, and what's more important, someone could be saved because of your example of obedience.

I truly believe that who we truly are on the inside will at some point be revealed outwardly by our words and actions. **Luke 6:45** (NKJV) Jesus tells us this very thing, *"A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."* All of us make mistakes in what we say and in fact James teaches this about the tongue in **James 3:1-2**, *"My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body."* When Scripture speaks here about a perfect man, the only One ever to be perfect was Jesus Christ.

To the degree in which we walk closely with the Lord, the more evident our speech will become that we are following Him. Jesus expresses this idea in the form of a metaphor, in **Luke 6:43-45**, *"For a good tree does not bear bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. For every tree is known by its own fruit. For men do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather grapes from a bramble bush. A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks."* It's important to recognize how these verses just overlapped from the above paragraph. Jesus is classifying good Christians as 'good trees', and through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit working in and through us, will produce His good fruit. Men and women without Christ cannot generate His kind of fruit on their own. That's because even mankind's most virtuous deeds originate from the flesh and therefore are unclean to God. As God reveals here in **Isaiah 64:6** He shows us, *"But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away."*

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

So, just because we may be 'good trees' doesn't mean that good words will automatically come forth from our mouths. We need the Holy Spirit to help us use language that is edifying, gracious, wholesome and true. We MUST consider this: WE do not support the root, but the root supports us, AMEN! Life doesn't always meet our expectations and we all experience what we could call 'storms' in our lives. Storms can come in various forms such as financial, emotional, physical and even spiritual events. And some of those times these events are a direct result of our own foolish choices. And through God's law of sowing and reaping, many times these events are a harvest of what we ourselves have sown. This was certainly the case for me.

If you've ever been in the presence of someone experiencing a storm, you have witnessed that not everyone responds the same way. When we respond in a healthy way we generally emerge stronger. Yet many others are broken by the same challenges. Storms can disrupt our normal routine in such a way that we may even stop to consider what the Lord is desiring to do in our lives.

In 2010, a corrective storm came into my life which got my attention, my imprisonment. Sometimes the consequences of our sin and rebellion are so painful and troublesome that we come to the end of ourselves and regain our senses to turn back to God in humble obedience. At least this is the way that it happened with me. I am going on my 11th year of incarceration. In this process I've often asked myself, "If I had the power to change my circumstances, would I?" Since no one has a life without problems, most of us in my current situation would immediately say, "YES!" However, the reality is that we must learn to live with some of our difficult circumstances. Only God has the power to our circumstances, but it's us that create them.

Take the Apostle Paul for instance. Paul had a desire to go to Rome to preach the Gospel but didn't anticipate the route God would use to bring him there. It all began with false accusations in Jerusalem, an appeal to Caesar, a rough sea voyage and shipwreck and eventually time spent in a Roman prison. This was probably not what Paul had envisioned, but as he sat chained to a Roman guard he wrote the following words to the church in Philippi, **"But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel."** (Philippians 1:12) The very circumstances that may have seemed like an unfair misfortune became the avenue for fruitful service. So even though my actions created a 'shipwreck' or detour in my life God can take it all and turn it around to use it for His glory. The Holy Spirit is always attempting, in a still small voice, even when we are in our worldly ways, to turn us around and head us back on His divine path for our lives. I now know this.

Today, I understand that the conditions around and in front of us will fluctuate, but I'm a true believer that when we belong to Christ, He WILL use every situation to accomplish His will in and through us. And to be honest, I encounter, just like everyone else, that challenges my obedience to the Lord. And, there are times when it's hard for me to keep it all together. I realize that I am not perfect, but I've also learned through the years to be sensitive to the Spirit's conviction and am quick to return to the Lord with a repentant heart. Today, I am actually grateful for the correction and praise God. Not only for revealing my weaknesses, but also for drawing me back to Him through obedience.

Brothers and sisters, even believers cannot produce these qualities in and of themselves. Trying harder to be godly will never work because it turns into 'our' works instead of the finished work of Christ Jesus. Character transformation only truly occurs when we truly submit to God. This means giving Him COMPLETE control of every area of our lives. It's only then that the Holy Spirit is free to produce fruit that remains even in the deepest, darkest storms. Remember everyone, the devil is not afraid of anyone when their Bible is covered in dust!

Christian Comedy

It's hard to explain puns to kleptomaniacs because they always take things literally.

Quote Worthy

"Anger breeds remorse in the heart, discord in the home, bitterness in the community, and confusion in the state."

- Billy Graham (1918 – 2018) an American evangelist, a prominent evangelical Christian figure, and an ordained Southern Baptist minister who became well known internationally in the late 1940s. One of his biographers has placed him "among the most influential Christian leaders" of the 20th century.

What Others Are Saying...

"Hello brothers and sisters in Christ. Thank you for your continued prayers and encouragement. I look forward to your letters every month. Michelle, I was so discouraged before I received your letter. But then your mail came and it brought sunshine to a very rainy day. I will continue to use Scripture to give me hope for my life. I've also been encouraging my cellie with these same Scriptures." - H.J.

"Overcomers for Christ, I'm writing to let you know that I am interested in your monthly booklet that you send to people on the inside. I love to read, that's my hobby. The more I read about Jesus the more I learn about the Bible. I too would like to be saved by Jesus Christ." - K.G.

"I will be 'getting out' soon and I wish to continue receiving the newsletter. It has been uplifting, humbling, funny, in your face etc. I'm enclosing my new address as I look forward to continuing to grow through the newsletter. God bless all of you there at the D&S as well as the Living Word Bible Church." - D.C.

"D&S, thank you so much for all the cards you continue to send me. You have no idea how much better it feels to know that I am not alone. I love that there are brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus out there thinking of and praying for me and my family. Your kind words mean the world to me. Our Father in heaven is healing me completely, one day at a time." - V.I.

"Thank you all for the lovely newsletters. The testimonies and the prayers are great. When I'm done with the newsletters I leave them in the day rooms so someone can take them to their cell. I was surprised to see my cartoon artwork published in the newsletter. What a birthday present! I literally received the newsletter on my birthday! What a blessing it was. I am so grateful." - A.J.

"Duck, what a pleasant surprise! Thank you for responding to my letter. I'm both ecstatic, and honored to have heard back from you. The card I received was beautiful and lifted my spirit. It came along with my newsletter and I was shocked. It did take me several times to read the card to grasp your words. I'd be honored for you to use my testimony! I'd never thought that one day my pain could be used for something greater. I firmly believe that I was led by His Spirit to write to you all. I truly do thank you for responding to me, and your words of encouragement." - P.M.

"May God bless all of you for all that you do for us prisoners. Each newsletter brings joy to my heart and peace within this prison cell! **Psalm 133:1** says, **"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."** Overcomers for Christ, I thank you for all of your smiling faces." - J.A.

"I just wanted to write to thank you all for the monthly newsletters. It's always good to see you all in the pictures. The lessons are always excellent and current with life today. I've been in DOC for 10 years this March and I have received a monthly D&S newsletter each one of those months. You all are true servants of the Lord. It's really encouraging to know that real people, really and truly live and breathe the Word of God." - P.B.

"To all the guys and ladies there at D&S, thank you for my birthday card. With all of the problems I'm having this year it was cool to get the card from you all. Things by far are getting better." - R.D.

"I just want to say, I don't think or believe it wise for any of us to be caught dead without Jesus! I used to my own planning of things and stuff, but now that I'm 'ALL-IN' I'm on His plan, not mine! In His plan I am told to be a fisher of men. I also want to thank all of you there at the Overcomers for Christ for all of the cards and newsletters. I have nothing but the warmest of thoughts for all of you there. I pray a special prayer of thanksgiving for all of us during these darkest of the worlds days." - S.M.

"Thank you all for all the love, support and encouragement you give us through your correspondence and newsletters. It really means a bunch to me and you wouldn't believe how comforting the newsletters are in this dark place. May God continue to bless you all." - M.S.

"God is moving in the places of those who call upon the Mighty name of Jesus! I feel real honored that I receive the newsletter from the Overcomers for Christ. I love each of you and I pay attention to the pictures you put in the newsletter. Because of my drug use in the past I distanced myself from my family. I have respect for the walk they are true in and don't like them to see me all messed up. However, now that I am sober and found you all as my extended family, it's so cool to feel a part of something just as I am. Thank you for the warmth you send and for your insides." - J.L.

"To the family of Overcomers for Christ. I want to thank you all for the 14 years that you have been by my side. Each month you send me the newsletters of inspiration. Throughout the years you have never given up on me. This is my very first letter to you. I'm not much of a writer and still have 7 years to go. It was this last card you sent that touched me and compelled me to finally write and let you know the work you do for the Lord is so wonderful and glorious. I try everyday to learn to read my Bible. I'm still so much a baby in the Word, but I don't give up." - C.S.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Trusting God, Letting Go of the Wheel

By S.B.

When I gave my life over to Christ, for the 'I don't know how many times now', the one difference this time was that I said, "God please take the wheel." In this I am saying to God, "I give You my whole heart this time, please come be Lord of my life. Take the wheel and direct my life, because I am unable to lead myself."

It has become obvious that when I do attempt to lead my own life I tend to lead it towards destruction. Today, due to a true conversion I realize there was a LOT of sin in my old life. Now, I know that I need a Savior and with Jesus taking the wheel and being Lord, He's the One that leads me in His righteousness and everlasting life. I am learning that I could never be righteous in God's sight, without Jesus as Lord of my life. There is NO right amount of things that I think I can do, but Jesus' righteousness that allows me to stand before God. Paul tells us in **Romans 3:10**, "**No one is righteous— not even one.**" Now listen to what I found in the Amplified Version of **Romans 3:10**, "**None is righteous, just and truthful and upright and conscientious, no, not one.**" But NOW, with Jesus as our righteousness, we can "**therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**" (**Hebrews 4:16**)

When you are in a car or on a motorcycle you generally want to be the one driving, right? When someone else is in control of 'that' vehicle you are trusting that they will operate the vehicle safely and will get you to where you are going. Even at that, there are some of us that do some backseat driving because we're not in control. Like many others, trust for me has always been a big thing. Many times I have felt that when I have trusted people I've been burned or let down. Here's a couple of definitions of the word **trust**; *place confidence or depend; to commit or place in ones care or keeping. And, firm belief in the reliability, truth, ability, or strength of someone or something.* I've realized by relinquishing the wheel of my life, means that I MUST TRUST GOD! I'll be the first to admit that having my foot on the pedal and letting go of the wheel is scary. Jesus tells us this, in **Mark 8:35**, "**For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the Gospel will save it.**"

Jesus is simply asking us to give up the wheel and trust Him. He is NOT going to wreck us, but we wreck all of the time when we hang on to the wheel. When I asked Jesus into my life, as Lord and Savior, I gave the wheel over to let God drive. But because of my 'flesh' trust issues I sometimes still try to grab the wheel back. Through God's Word, His love and His promises He keeps assuring me that I CAN trust Him. This is what **Habakkuk 2:4** says, "**Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.**" God also tells us, in **Hebrews 10:23**, "**Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise.**" Then here in **Exodus 3:17**, the promise He made to the Israelites He also promises to us, "**I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt. I will lead you to a land flowing with milk and honey.**" It's important for us to note that Egypt is a representation of the sin in our lives, today. It's all relevant.

Letting go and letting God takes trust! But God has shown me time and time again to where undoubtedly I know, He REALLY is here for me. **Psalm 9:10** tells us, "**Those who know Your name trust in You, for You, O Lord, do not abandon those who search for You.**" This word even applies to someone like me who walked away from God and was a satanist for 16 years. God still did not abandon me. Since I've come back to God He's been showing Himself to me more and more and it's great being in His presence! The darkness I was living in before Christ was overwhelming.

FOOT and myself have started a Bible study in the morning, before daylight. It's great to spend time with FOOT, as I only seem to relate or feel comfortable around certain people. I realize that just because I'm a Christian now doesn't mean that things are always going to be perfect. But one thing for sure, I KNOW that Jesus is real and is here for me. You know, I was thinking about the stories and the people in the Bible and thought, I'm going to meet these people one day. That's pretty cool! So, I want to learn their stories and what took place as best I can. Maybe it's because I'm older now, but today I have a better understanding of what I'm reading. It's exciting to read and learn in depth what the Bible has to say to me, and for me.

I don't know what God's purpose or plan is for me yet, but I know He has one. I've been told many times in the past, by Christians at church and others that I've encountered, that God is going to use me in big ways. I'm pretty sure it won't be for my writing skills though ;) I've often wondered if those people tell everyone that OR was God telling me that through them? Either way, I'm pretty sure it's NOT satan telling me to help spread the Word. I feel I need to learn more first, but

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

then I feel I hear you telling me, "You have your testimony and that's powerful! When people see and hear of your true conversion, that's what makes a greater impact to them than just quoting a bunch of Bible verses." I know that as I get more of the Word rooted inside of my heart THAT'S what will help me fight off the principalities of this world. We both know that they are plentiful, and in many forms, but cannot stand up to the Word of God!

I'm so grateful for FOOT, you and the Overcomers for Christ in my life. I want to, and I know that I need to, continue to be around like-minded people, real people who are down for the real stuff! It fills me inside to know that I am now a Christian and know that I have joined the body of Christ and the Overcomers for Christ family! And as you have stated, "We are family now." I so appreciate your encouragement and want to be an encouragement as it states here in **Hebrews 10:23-25**, "**Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise. Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.**"

Thank You Jesus for never letting go of me. Today, as I've let go of the wheel, I trust that You will continue to help me let go of the distrust issues I've picked up from man. I WILL continue to trust You as the Divine God and Lord of my life.

Tithe/Giving By J.L.

I love God so much, and to learn even more I'm taking courses through American Bible Academy. Today's lesson was on 'giving'. I'd like to share some of it with the Overcomers for Christ family. In **Romans 8:28** (KJV) we read, "**And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose.**" Now let's look at it in the Amplified Version, "**And we know [with great confidence] that God [who is deeply concerned about us] causes all things to work together [as a plan] for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His plan and purpose.**" One of the examples of this is the tithe that I've enclosed. In today's lesson I learned about the three types of tithes commanded under the Mosaic Law. This also reminded me of the study you had a while back in the newsletter about tithing. God gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai, where He made the tithe the primary principle of giving for the children of Israel. He not only commanded one tithe but seemingly two and even three.

God gave the command to give a tenth of all the increase of the land each year. This consisted of the grain that grew on the land, the fruit from the trees and vines. And this included a tithe of the herds and the flocks. They had a specific time, also a counter would take every tenth sheep or goat or cow and turn it aside. The first tenth was to go for the support of the Levites. This was their inheritance since they never received a land inheritance when they settled in Canaan. The second tithe was to be used for a sacred meal, to be eaten as an act of worship wherever God instructed. If the Israelite lived too far away from the appointed place for the sacred meal, and couldn't carry the particular sacrifice/tithe with him he could convert it into money and then purchase the necessary food for 'that' tithe in Jerusalem. And the third tithe was, at the end of every three years they brought to the storehouse of the towns - produce for the Levite's, the fatherless, the widow's and the poor. This tithe was so that they all could come eat and be satisfied. Through this tithe it was a time for the Lord to bless the works of their hands. So, to me, I see these current times with the same type of importance on God's scale.

Man's relationship to his money and his god becomes clear in the light of these two basic principles. God's ownership of all things and man's stewardship of the things God has given to him. The truth and reality, yes reality, is we own nothing! I'm also learning that many Christians conceive of their money as belonging to them exclusively, and if they so choose, they MAY give God some. However, the reverse is the truth. It all belongs to God and He permits man to use part of it for himself. This has helped me to understand and change my own personal perspective and attitude about God's money. Today, I see that 10% helps the church and it's costs. It helps the people come together in thanks and honor to God through a meal - togetherness as a body. And it helps the needy and the lost.

For those of you that may not have a Bible, let me share **Luke 12:22-32** with you. Remember this is Jesus speaking. "**Then He said to His disciples, 'Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Consider the ravens,**

continued on page 11...

Foot's Bible Study

Jeremiah 33:1-36:32

The people of Israel had a hard time keeping their promises to God. In the Temple, they would solemnly promise to obey God, but back in their homes and at work they wouldn't do it. God expressed His great displeasure. If you want to please God, make sure you keep your promises. God wants promises kept, not just piously made. **(34:15-16)**

Today many people try to put God's Word aside or say that it contains errors and therefore cannot be trusted. People may reject God's Word, but they cannot destroy it. God's Word will stand forever. **(36:10-32)**

1 Timothy 4:1-5:25

Christ is the Savior for all, but His salvation becomes effective only for those who trust Him. **(4:10)**

Timothy was a young man. It would have been easy for older Christians to look down on him because of his youth. He has to earn the respect of his elders by setting an example in his speech, life, love, faith and purity. Regardless of your age, God can use you. Whether you are young or old, don't think of your age as a handicap. Live so others can see Christ in you. **(4:12)**

Almost everybody has relatives, family of some kind. Family relationships are so important in God's eyes. Paul says that a person who neglects his or her family responsibilities has denied the faith. Are you doing your part to meet the needs of those included in your family circle? **(5:8)**

Psalms 89:1-37

In the courts of heaven, a host of angels praise the Lord. This scene is one of majesty and grandeur to show that God is beyond compare. His power and purity place him high above nature and angels. See **Deuteronomy 33:2, Luke 2:13** and **Hebrews 12:22** for more about angels. **(89:5)**

All that God promises, He fulfills. He will not take back even one word of what He says. God can also be trusted to save us as He promised He would. Read **Hebrews 6:13-18**. God is completely reliable. **(89:34-37)**

Proverbs 25:23-27

You're better off living alone than with a contentious mate who will cause you conflict at every corner. **(25:24)**

To compromise with the wicked, means setting aside your standards of right and wrong. No one is helped by someone who compromises with the wicked. **(25:26)**

Dwelling on the honors you deserve can only be harmful. It can make you bitter, discouraged, or angry. And it will not bring you the rewards that you think should be yours. Pining for what you should have received may make you miss the satisfaction of knowing you did your best. **(25:27)**

“Foot” Notes

Hey ya'll!!! Just checkin' up on ya'll with some thoughts this time around I'm thinking about our behavior, myself included. As men and women of faith, it's painfully evident that for the most part we're all "amazing" Christians when we all show up to church, Bible studies or "Christian functions". Which is expected but the thing is in my opinion we need to show up as the Christian that we are at work, school, Circle K, Walmart, zoo, or doctor, because being an example of faith around others who do not know Jesus is exactly how we're going to fulfill the mission of moving the Kingdom forward. Basically quit slippin' 180 degrees out when you step out of church. Going back to what or how you were instead of what you proclaim to be.

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

Brokenhearted? The Lord Is Close

By Rick Warren

"The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." - Psalm 34:18 (NIV)

We've all had our hearts broken in some way, maybe by disappointment, fear, shame, rejection, or ridicule. I say to you, as your friend, I'm sorry. I really am. I care about the hurt you have gone through, and God cares about it too. He hurts with you.

What was God doing when you were weeping? He was weeping too. In fact, it is in your pain that God is closest to you, whether or not you realize it.

The Bible says in ***Psalm 34:18, "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit"*** (NIV). How does he do that? He saves you by giving you a heart transplant. It's His specialty, in fact.

It's as if God says, "For the heart that's guilty, I'll give you a heart that's forgiven. For the heart that's resentful, I'll give you a heart that's full of peace. For the heart that's anxious, I'll give you a heart that's confident. For the heart that's lonely, I'll give you a heart full of love. The heart that has been bitter and angry? I'll give you a heart that is forgiving, loving, and generous instead. Let me do a heart transplant in you. I will set you free."

Why do you need freedom? Because, without Christ, you're enslaved. You're a slave to the expectations of other people. You're a slave to past memories. You're a slave to future fears. You're a slave to current pressure. You're a slave to the opinions of society, and on and on and on.

But all you have to do is open your heart to Jesus Christ and give Him all of it. Like David in ***Psalm 119:32***, you can say to God, ***"I run in the path of your commands, for you have broadened my understanding."*** (NIV).

Your heart may have been broken, but it doesn't have to stay that way. Decide today to stop limiting God! He wants to do so much with your life—more than you can even imagine. Open your heart to God, and let him transplant your heart for his own.

Talk It Over

When have you felt closest to God? What were the circumstances surrounding those times?

Have there been times when you haven't felt God's presence, even when you know he's there? Why do you think that happened?

In what ways have you been limiting God? What has been the effect?

Update

By Robert Hall

To all the **Overcomers for Christ** everywhere, well, I'm home. I got an early release and life sure is a bit different now. The world has changed.

Okay, so I am at New Freedom. This place is beyond amazing! The staff here are so pro active. The food here is amazing. The beds, the rooms, I could go on and on. A buddy I was down with told me about this place a year or so before my unexpected early release. He put me in contact with Denise McDonald and then I started to get the New Freedom newsletters. I did their Peer Mentor Modules over this time.

Denise always kept in touch and hand wrote every letter to me. I did not realize that her husband, Joe McDonald, was one of the founding members. Joe and I are old friends, we used to do taco Tuesday, big book studies at his house. Turns out Denise and I have been in the Army, both in Germany and in the same place at the same time. Opposite ends of the building, different units. So the connection with these people here and this place, just adds up.

God is amazing! He set out my course and I followed His lead. If you are eligible for any Senate Bill or need a good safe place to go "Welcome Home" to G.C.H.H/ New Freedom. I'm on a good course and a good journey. When my Jennifer comes home, it will all be complete. God bless all of my brothers and sisters still doing time. God has a plan for you, just listen for His voice to lead you. In Jesus name!

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53					54	55	56		57		58			
59					60			61			62	63	64	65
66					67						68			
69					70						71			

ACROSS

- 1 Blessed are the ___
5 Metric linear unit
10 Joke
13 Opposed
14 Book by Homer
15 Opinion sampler
16 College head
17 After that
18 Nimbus
19 Obtained
21 Khaki (2 wds.)
23 Take to court
26 Be sick
28 Solidarity
29 Communication device
32 Eye infection
33 One of Columbus' ships
34 Rationale
36 Sky light
37 Authoritative list of scripture
38 Word meaning father
42 For God so loved the ___
43 Window part
44 Adam's son
46 Young
49 Stamp
51 Miles per hour
52 Cook with oil
53 Pertaining to dorm rules
57 Change hue

- 59 Tides
60 Last letter of Greek alphabet
62 River sediment
66 He built the ark
67 Intended
68 Fresh
69 Put on
70 Empower
71 Do ___ others

DOWN

- 1 Sore
2 Compass point
3 Airport abbr.
4 ___ James Version
5 Snapple's competitor
6 Samuel's mentor
7 Dye
8 Biblical word for You idiot!
9 Adam and Eve's garden
10 Soccer position
11 Dispense
12 Give ___ to God
15 Bogus
20 Rowing device
22 Severs
23 Transgressions
24 Piece
25 Bunsen burner
27 Rounded part
30 Hearing part

- 31 Brave
32 Transgression
35 City destroyed by fire
37 Cheat
38 Tree
39 Punch
40 Smudge
41 Member of an alliance
42 Clean off
44 Gift consecrated to God
45 Mennonite
47 Make current
48 Scriptural your
49 Use money
50 Not allowed
54 Very large book
55 Last word of a prayer
56 Heavy metal
58 Twin brother of Jacob
61 African antelope
63 No room for them in the ___
64 Permit
65 Duo

for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do the least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will He clothe you, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you. Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.™ As believers we can see here, we're encouraged not to worry. Instead, we see here in **verse 31** we are encouraged, "But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you." This is the opposite of the world's philosophy, which tells us to rely on ourselves or other people for our security.

Knowing all that we have already belongs to Him, let's be willing to give back to the Father of whatever He has given us. So I guess if there would be any question here it would be, Are you willing to believe God, seek His kingdom and rest in, "The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:17)?

Reveal
By H.A.M.

Shine glory shine, Spirit of the Lord
Reveal in us Your power, as we come in one accord
Help us to be open faced, reflections of Your love
Forgetting what's been left behind, looking now above

Rebirth us into Your vessels of mercy
Radiate Your brightness in all that we do
Make our actions a mirror of Your goodness
Lord Jesus our armor, we live for You
Strong tower our hearts into knockout perfection
Enlighten our minds to reason like You
Bridle our tongues with holy conversion
Strengthen us for the slim path that's true

Bring down the walls of demonic elations
Open closed ears for Your Holy Word
Talent us bold for Your sanctification
Enlighten lost eyes, let them not be blurred
Reflect Your grace in our every action
Help us to love the unlovable too
Channel through us, waves of forgiveness
Magnify to all our love for You

Let not our anger have domination
Lord bend that stiff necked 'I'
Burden our flesh to yield to Your Spirit
Embolden our speech, let us not be shy
Flower our souls with hilarious giving
Open closed doors, set the captives free
Uproot the barriers that feed segregation
Pour out Your Spirit so all may see!



Crossword Answer:

M	E	E	K		M	E	T	R	E		G	A	G
A	N	T	I		I	L	I	A	D		P	O	L
D	E	A	N		S	I	N	C	E		H	A	L
				G	O	T	T	A	N	C	O	L	O
A	U	E		A	I	L				U	N	I	T
I	N	T	E	R	C	O	M		S	T	Y	E	
N	I	N	A		B	A	S	I	S				
S	T	A	R		C	A	N	O	N		A	B	B
					W	O	R	L	D		S	I	L
					C	A	I	N		Y	O	U	T
S	T	O	M	P					M	P	H		F
P	A	R	I	E	T	A	L		D	Y	E		
E	B	B	S		O	M	E	G	A		S	I	L
N	O	A	H		M	E	A	N	T		A	N	E
D	O	N			E	N	D	U	E		U	N	T

ATTENTION

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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!

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

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



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Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

EDITORIAL Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church
Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church
www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com