

Overcomers for Christ

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DAVID EDWARDS

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ



8-3-2014



8-9-2014



8-17-2014



8-24-2014



God Hears and Answers Prayer - Part One

By Wade Anderson

Hello everybody! And Praise God! Looking back at all that has transpired over these past 14 months I see it's time for me to step forward from out of the shadows to say and ring in with, "Happy and Blessed 2015." Although it has been several months since I sat here and personally wrote something for the newsletter I've continually been typing and Scripture referencing for all of your contributions to the newsletter. WOW! What an amazing testimony from W.R. over these past few months of the power of God to change our lives when we surrender and submit to His plan! AMEN!

As we begin, I want to make note that within some of the Scriptures that will be used I have chose all CAPITAL letters on certain words, except LORD, to draw our attention to the importance or value of that certain word in context. I will add that 'LORD' all capitalized contains volumes of messages in and of itself.

I want you all to know that we couldn't do what we do without all of you and your contributions to this ministry. The people that are on the 'outside' do NOT make up the whole church. Let me explain. Just like any church the Overcomers for Christ ministry family is made up of ALL of you 'incarcerated everywhere' and us here 'on the outside'. The church is a body with many members. This is not only how we feel but what we know to be true and now allow me to give you Scripture for this. We find in **Romans 12:4-5**, **"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so IN CHRIST we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."** There is not one of us that is any better than or more qualified than the other. I will agree that God has anointed some of us for different gifts BUT we ALL (I pray) serve the same Almighty God and therefore we share the same Holy Spirit inside of us. Here's Scripture reference for that statement. **First Corinthians 12:4-6**, **"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in ALL of them and in EVERYONE it is the same God at work."** I encourage you to continue reading on in **1 Corinthians 12:7-31**. Let me continue sharing with you the words of the Apostle Paul in **1 Corinthians 1:26-29** (NLT), **"Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that FEW of you were wise in the world's eyes, or powerful, or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God DELIBERATELY chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things DESPISED by the world, things COUNTED AS NOTHING at all, and USED THEM to bring to nothing what the world considers important,"** and this is why **"... so that NO one can ever boast in the presence of God."** I'm sure you have heard this said before but I know it needs to be said again, **"God does not call the qualified, He qualifies those He has called!"** Go with me to **Romans 8:30** (NCV), **"God planned for them to be like His Son; and those He planned to be like His Son, He also called; and those He called, He also made right with Him; and those He made right, He also glorified."**

We appreciate all the contents (seed) that you send us (sow) for the newsletter but even more importantly, to God and us, it is your faithfulness to prayer that has and does continue to bless us ALL. We have placed both the prayer request and praise reports columns together intentionally for this reason. At the top of that page is the Scripture **Philippians 4:6** while **Verse 7** goes on to say, **"If you do this, you WILL experience God's peace ..."** According to **Mark 11:22** when we pray we must first **"Have faith in God"** and through prayer lay our requests at His feet. In **Mark 11:23** Jesus goes on to say, **"Truly I tell you, if ANYONE says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,'"** here comes another key to answered prayer **"... and does not DOUBT in their heart but BELIEVES that what they SAY will happen, IT WILL BE DONE for them."** **First John 5:14-15** starts off by saying, **"This is the confidence we have in approaching God ..."** What does that statement mean? Well, let's look at **1 John 5:13**, **"... to you who believe in the name of the Son of God ..."** and the rest of **1 John 5:14**, **"... that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."** So what these verses are saying is that faith in God, believing in the name of Jesus without doubt activates the power of God in our lives. The power of God IS already in us and available for us when? When we have faith in God, believe in the name of Jesus and don't doubt the first two things. We've seen above, in **Mark 11:23** that prayer IS for ANYONE that does not DOUBT and BELIEVES in their hearts. Now listen to **1 John 5:15**, **"And IF we know that He hears us - WHATEVER we ask - we KNOW that we HAVE what we asked of Him."** Do you sit around wondering whether God heard your prayers? If so, perhaps this is a good time to ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart for doubt, disbelief and I'll add resentment as well. I can almost hear you asking, "What is God's will?" Well, let me say this, "It is no big secret! The will of God is written down for us in the Bible." One of the best ways for all of us to know God's will is to read it for ourselves. If we want to know whether it is God's will concerning anything I recommend inquiring of God. Read your Bibles and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand. The Bible IS still relative to and for our everyday lives.

I bet you think I lost my train of thought, huh? I didn't. All of the Scriptures above are the reason we have intentionally placed the two columns side by side. There should be NO reason, unless we have doubt or unbelief in our hearts, that we wouldn't receive answers to our prayers. We shouldn't have to see it to believe that the results are on their way, RIGHT? Isn't that what **Hebrews 11:1** says, **"NOW faith is the confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."** Notice that I capitalized all the letters in NOW. Why? Because it clearly shows me that faith is in the NOW!

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The instant we make our requests known to God, not waiting until we see it, our answer IS on its way if we do not doubt. I like to say it like this, "When you pray believe that you have received, when you pray. Then, begin thanking God for the answer THEN (when you pray) not waiting until you see it before you thank Him for the answer." Wouldn't you agree that that is what faith and confidence in God are? Faith in God IS the HOPE and the ASSURANCE that we WILL see the answer manifest, SOMETIME! I would like to encourage someone, right NOW, **"That you are only one prayer away from your miracle! NOW Praise God for that word!"** So, when we pray we should be confident in God that our answer (praise report) is on its way. When you have sent a prayer request DON'T forget to send us the praise report to the answered prayer. When we receive even a piece of the answer it builds our faith. Sharing answered prayer with others not only glorifies God but it as well encourages others with hope and shares the LOVE of God with them. Let's ALL begin Praising God and Thanking Him for His faithfulness to answer prayer! AMEN!? That's really not a question. YES! AMEN!

Let me share this as well. Some of us may have already realized this but for those of you who haven't, "It would be wise and rewarding if you were to begin thanking God for not answering your prayers the way you thought they should be answered. If I dare say, our little pea brains cannot comprehend, all at once, the fullness of His plan for our lives!" Maybe I should have asked before I threw you all under the bus with me, huh? But then again, had I not just said that maybe you wouldn't even have thought that I had just thrown us all under the bus together. Oops! Ha! Ha! Even though we are praying in the NOW God knows the future and knows that the answer we are hoping for, in some cases, would only cause us further issues or hardships down the road. He knows what we are ready to receive and as He prepares our hearts He prepares the paths ahead of us. That does NOT mean that whatever happens is always God's will for our lives. We have a major part in moving the hand of God in our lives! That statement may have just messed up some religious clothing. I hope you didn't think I was going to let you off the hook that easy? NO! That would make me accountable for simply tickling your ear and not telling you the whole truth. God does not only care for us now/today but He also knows the future He has planned for us. Listen here in **Jeremiah 29:11-14** (NIV) to what is recorded about His plans for us, **"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."** In the King James Bible we read it, **"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."** I want to share the Hebrew meaning of the word peace so you might see why the translation from peace to prosper was used. The Hebrew word for peace is found, in the *New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, to be 7965, shalown, shaw-lome; or shalom from another word 7999. Listen closely; *safe, well, happy, friendly, health, prosperity, peace, favour, great health, (perfect, such as to be at) peace or peaceable, peaceably, prosperous, rest, safety, all is well and wholly.* Now, I will relate to you how our pastors explain this to us at Living Word Bible Church, "NOTHING MISSING, NOTHING BROKEN."

If we were to stop right there that would be amazing in itself but He goes on. **"Then you will call on Me and come and PRAY to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity."** (**Jeremiah 29:13-14**) Brothers and sisters these *I will's* are powerful promises not might's or maybe's! In context this is being told to the Jewish people that had been exiled to Babylon. But! I know and believe in my heart that these are God's promise's to ALL of us that were exiled from Him, by living our lives in a worldly way separate from His plan for us. Weren't we also being held in captivity, slaves to sin? YES! Sin separates us from God. Isaiah records in **Isaiah 59:2**, **"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear."** When we read that without reading the verse before this it may seem there is no hope. BUT! Let's read **Isaiah 59:1** together, **"Surely the arm of the LORD is NOT too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear."** WOW! Can you see how important it is to read the Scripture's before and after to understand the context? It is our repentance, turning from our former ways of thinking and living, that causes His ear to hear us and His arm to reach down and not only save us from our past, present and our future sins but as well to give us the kind of peace and prosperity defined in the above Hebrew word **shalom**.

Here's something I know will encourage you. Notice in **Isaiah 59:2** where it says, **"... so that He will not hear."** When we have made the decision to receive Jesus as Lord He WILL hear you! Listen to what the LORD told Joshua in **Joshua 1:5**, **"No one will be able to stand against you ALL the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I WILL be with you; I WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU."** And for those of you who may be saying, "Well, that's in the Old Testament," let me show that when God said never He meant never. Here the Holy Spirit has inspired the writer in **Hebrews 13:5-6** to again encourage us, **"... because God has said, 'Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.' So we say with confidence, 'The Lord IS my helper; I will NOT be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me?'"** This should as well show us that God DID have a plan even before the foundations of the earth were established. The Plan was, is and will always be Christ Jesus! Hallelujah!

If I were to ask, "How many of you believe that Jesus came to this earth to fulfill His Father's Plan?" Many of you would agree. Hopefully you do not limit His plan to Salvation and a promised life eternal with Him in heaven?! In your times of need do you wonder, "Is healing a part of that same PLAN? Does God really want to heal people today? Will He heal

... continued on page 9

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

Prayer Requests

I'm in desperate need of prayer! Let me share ... CPS took my two children from my mother not because she neglects or abuses them but because they were fighting with each other. My son has ADHD amongst other issues and wouldn't listen to my mother so they think my mother can't handle them. They also say her mental health is a concern. My mother has raised these two kids since birth because of my drug addiction. She is a wonderful mother. They do act up and are a little hyper but to take them away is so unfair. And now I find out that my 12 year old girl is cutting herself. She is so depressed over all of this and I don't know what to do to help her. My son thinks it's his fault that he had to leave my mother. I am worried about my mother because two years ago her husband died, I'm in prison and now my kids are taken away. She is very sad and depressed. I've seen this beautiful woman age so much in two years. Please, I'm asking everyone to pray for my mother. I'm asking God to give her the strength to get through all of this, to bring her some joy in her life and not to give up on life. God help her to come to You when she needs comfort and is depressed. Guide her God with the exact things she needs to do to get the kids home safe. Also pray that my children are safe and bring them home so they can live in peace and happiness. Lord, help my mom with her faith in You so she will know she is NEVER alone when she believes in Jesus Christ ... **N.W.**

I received your card and it was good to hear from you again. This is my prayer request to all the Family of Overcomers for Christ prayer warriors out there ... I'm not feeling well so please bear with me. I have been having problems with my back for the past several years now and I finally got an x-ray four weeks ago. It shows that I have lesions and a bad infection in my 4th and 5th vertebrae down. My feet are going numb, can't sleep and can't walk I'm in so much pain. Four weeks ago two doctors told me I needed to have an MRI and put in the hospital ASAP. I've had appointments but they keep messing up the paper work. Please pray for me, I'm trusting in the Lord to heal me. Pray for my healing and that God will give me the grace to deal with this pain. My God told me that He is the God that will heal me of ALL my diseases. My God says that He will raise me up from my sick bed to declare His good works. He goes on to say, "I WILL live and not die!" I believe His report not the labs or these doctors ... **W.R.**

I am currently incarcerated. I was sentenced to 5 1/2 years and by the grace of God I have 2 1/2 years left. I am scared of getting out and I need some inspiration at this point. Also, I have a prayer request. The father of my children was murdered in April 2014 and his mom is taking it very hard. Could you please lift her and my children up to the Lord? He recently got out of prison too and this is the reason that I am scared. I greatly appreciate your time and prayers ... **S.P.**

Praise Reports

The enemy tries to deceive us and throw us under a bus of pain and that's why we must stand on and believe what God says in His Word not what our body may be saying, not the doctor, or MRI reports, but we stand on God's report and what He says in His Word. I'm hurting now - 24/7 - but I just thank Jesus for going to that whipping post and having His flesh torn open so I could be healed. I sing Him praises of thanksgiving when I am hurting. I don't feel like doing it but I do it! We're in a war with an enemy who is determined to destroy us. In **Daniel 7:25**, it says, "... he shall wear out the saints ..." If he can use pain to try and do that he will. But I am no stranger to pain and all the enemy has really done in my case is make me angry and even more determined to fight even harder for I know that the battle belongs to the Lord. For not by my strength or might can I do anything but God tells me that in Christ Jesus I can do all things. I've read the Bible from cover to cover and I can't find anything in it that says God has lost a battle yet!!! That devil must be retarded or something for he still hasn't gotten the message of the Cross ... that he's already been defeated. When I engage him in warfare I am quick to remind him of that. The doctor who told me I had an infection made a mistake; I have a spinal disease called stenosis. I'm still waiting for the medical board to approve me to see a specialist, so keep that in your prayers. I was praying early in the morning and just weeping, thanking God for being so good to me, so merciful. I ask Him all the time, "Why would you love someone like me? Die for someone like me? Who am I that You'd reveal yourself to me in visions?" And I tell Him, "I did everything not to deserve any mercy, all I had coming was death and Your judgment." And sometimes I tell Him, "I want to know this God who stepped out of heaven, and clothed Himself in flesh and died such a horrible death for someone like me!" It is mind blowing when you think about it ... **W.R.**

God is almighty, He is everything. My prayers are with you all. I must say all your prayers and the prayers of my brothers and sisters at OVC are heard because God has set me free and let me tell you I see His mighty hand at work and that's amazing. He tells me, "No worries, I got this." The freedom within is everything, but there's more. I'm in college and almost done with my second certificate with a 4.0 grade average. Wait there's more, He provides for my needs, takes care of my kids, my mother and provides a way for me to see them. I'm the first to say that I do not deserve all of this, but in God's eyes ... I do. So, let the praise report be God is real, He's alive, He's merciful and I know that because I have brothers and sisters who love and pray for me God has heard those prayers ... Thank You ... **J.E.**

My sister finally got in contact with me; she lives in Washington, Vancouver. She looked for me on the computer. I prayed for her to be able to get in contact with me, and there it is another miracle from God ... Amen!! ... **M.G.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

When God Whispers Your Name
Contributed by D.G. - Written by Max Lucado

EACH DAY ...

It's quiet. It's early. My coffee is hot. The sky is still black. The world is still asleep. The day is coming.

In a few moments the day will ARRIVE. It will roar down the track with the rising of the sun. The stillness of the dawn will be exchanged for the noise of the day. The calm of solitude will be replaced by the pounding pace of the human race. The refuge of the early morning will be invaded by the decisions to be made and deadlines to be met.

For the next 12 hours I will be exposed to the day's demands. It is NOW that I make a choice. Because of Calvary I am free to choose. And so ... I choose.

I CHOOSE LOVE

NO occasion justifies hatred; NO injustice warrants bitterness. I choose love. Today I will love God and what God loves.

I CHOOSE JOY

I will invite my God to be the God of circumstance. I will refuse the temptation to be cynical ... the tool of the lazy thinker. I will refuse to see people as anything less than human beings, created by God. I will refuse to see any problem as anything less than an opportunity to see God.

I CHOOSE PEACE

I will live forgiven. I will forgive so that I may live.

I CHOOSE PATIENCE

I will overlook the inconveniences of the world. Instead of cursing the one who takes my place I will invite him to do so. Rather than complain the wait is too long I will thank God for the moment to pray. Instead of clenching my fists at new assignments I will face them with joy and courage.

I CHOOSE KINDNESS

I will be kind to the poor, for they are alone. I will be kind to the rich, for they are afraid. I will be kind to the unkind for such is how God has treated me.

I CHOOSE GOODNESS

I will go without a dollar before I take a dishonest one. I will be overlooked before I boast. I will confess before I accuse. I choose goodness.

I CHOOSE FAITHFULNESS

Today I will keep my promises. My debtors will not regret their trust. My associates will not question my word. My wife will not question my love and my children will never fear that their father will not come home.

I CHOOSE GENTLENESS

Nothing is won by force so I choose to be gentle. If I raise my voice may it only be in praise. If I clench my fist, may it only be in prayer. If I make a demand, may it only be of me.

I CHOOSE SELF-CONTROL

I am a spiritual being ... After this body is dead, my spirit will soar. I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal. I choose self-control. I will be drunk only by joy. I will be impassioned only by my faith. I will be influenced ONLY by God. I will be taught only by Christ. I choose self-control.

LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GOODNESS, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL ...
(Galatians 5:22-23)

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

To these I commit my day. If I succeed, I will give thanks. If I fail, I will seek grace. And then when the day is done I will place my head down on my pillow and rest.

My Response to My Daughter's Question

By K.K.

A little about me ... I'm short to the gate and continue to prepare for the future. I have an 8 year old little girl, who has the most beautiful soul. God truly knew what He was doing when He sent me such a blessing. I received a letter from her. She says, "Daddy, me and you are loved by God, we share His Spirit and all our souls are connected. He loves us, and me and you both love Him. Please check 'Yes' or 'No', if you agree?" Of course I checked yes, but I only have one envelope to use right now.

So, I think how can I really answer her precious question? Sending her a letter that can be a response will give her joy and confirmation to her Daddy's unconditional love. But I'm sending a letter to you and breaking down my little girl's efforts to share a message of truth, belief, and love transforms into its pure purpose. A simple action of answering her question to me by showing her my answer is 'Yes' instead of checking a box shows not only I agree but I also believe.

God wants more than just a simple verbal response to His love but a show of your total commitment in your very life. My daughter deserves just as much respect as our Father and that I'm willing to show. God willing I can check this confirmation of my love off in the eyes of my angel. We all know that through the eyes of angels God is watching.

Misery Loves Company

By D.O

I have included one of my poems, it's promise is how when we are in our flesh we have a tendency to give life's little nuances such a large presence, they almost begin to take the shape of living, breathing beings. I hope you enjoy it.

Complacency was the enemy
That rode in on a horse named Misery,
To see about Sorrow, who hated to be alone.

But upon this very day
Sorrow was too busy to play,
For she was planning a party for Pity
Whom was another year grown.

Sorrow called her Best Friends, Pain and Strife-
Been best friends for all their lives.

There were hellos and salutations
As Pain and Strife politely accepted Pity's party invitation,
So upon Pain's pony named Aches back they jumped to go.

However, heading in the direction of town,
Aches stopped without slowing down
And said, "To continue, we must lighten the load."

So Strife mounted her donkey named, Toil.
Nary a finer steed could be more royal,
As Aches and Pains, and Toil and Strife
Continued to Sorrow's abode.

And to Ache's and Toils very surprise,
That upon the face of Misery is where shock had showed.
And as our partygoer's sifted like the sand inside,
To our three Four Legged Friend's timely they did bide,
Having more fun than the Grey Sky Hiding the Sun
Should have ever allowed.

As Pity's party came to an end
Aches, Toils and Misery's fun seemed to begin,
As good-byes and au revoirs and adieus were passed
around.

And as Complacency rode away,
Aches and Toil heard him say,
"Misery Loved Your Company," aloud.

2 Samuel 17:1-19:10

Hushai an advisor who was secretly still working for King David used flattery to convince Absalom (David's son who was trying to kill David) and Absalom's own vanity becomes his trap. Hushai predicted great glory for Absalom if he personally led the entire army against David. "Pride goes before destruction" (**Proverbs 16:18**) is an appropriate comment on Absalom's ambitions. (**17:11**)

Those about to do evil do not take the time to consider what they are about to do. They don't care whether or not it is right or lawful. Don't rush into action without thinking. Consider whether what you are about to do is right or wrong. (**18:12-14**)

Following the moral principles given in God's Word will help you avoid being saved by the popular opinions of the crowd. (**19:8-10**)

John 19:23-20:31

Even while dying on the Cross, Jesus was concerned about His family. He instructed John to care for Mary, Jesus' mother. Our families are precious gifts from God, and we should value and care for them under all circumstances. Neither Christian work nor key responsibilities in any job or position excuse us from caring for our families. What can you do today to show your love for your family? (**19:25-27**) Jesus, the Lamb of God, was the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world. (**1 Corinthians 5:7**) (**19:36-37**) Are you a secret believer? Do you hide your faith from your friends and fellow workers? This is an appropriate time to step out of hiding and let others know Who you follow. (**19:38-42**)

To do God's work, we need the guidance and the power of the Holy Spirit. We must avoid trying to do His work in our own strength. (**20:22**) Have you ever wished you could actually see Jesus, touch Him, and hear His words? Are there times you want to sit down with Him and get His advice? Thomas wanted Jesus' physical presence. But God's plan is wiser. He has not limited Himself to one physical body. He wants to be present with you at all times. Even now He is with you in the form of the Holy Spirit. You can talk to Him, and you can find His words to you in the pages of the Bible. He can be as real to you as He was to Thomas. (**20:24-29**)

Psalms 119:129-176

Here the psalmist is crying out for the Lord yet also glorifying the Lord by acknowledging that our Lord is righteous, His decisions are fair and His justice is eternal.

One of God's characteristics is truthfulness. He embodies perfect truth, therefore His word cannot lie. It is true and dependable for guidance and help. (See **John 17:14-17**) The Bible is completely true and trustworthy. (**119:160**) Modern society longs for peace of mind. Here is clear cut instruction on how to attain this ... if we love God and obey His laws, then we will have great peace. Trust in God, Who alone stands above the pressures of daily life and gives us full assurance. (**119:165**)

Proverbs 16:12-15

The King, our Lord, loves those who speak honestly. Sometimes it can be hurtful to some when we're honest but honesty is what the Lord expects from us, so there are times when we need to be compassionate with our honesty if we know it will hurt someone. To keep the King (Jesus) happy it would do us good to obey His Word and trust in Him, this would appease His anger, and when God's anger is appeased He smiles and life abounds, His favor will refresh us.

“Foot” Notes

Hello again! Well, I know that for many of us who've been in for any length of time that the word 'failure' has crossed our minds. Now the liar would love for us to get totally consumed by this word and have us give up. Well, I for one am NOT buying into that junk! There were many people in the Bible that failed but that being said, they trusted in the Lord. So, in doing the simple math; if we turn our lives over and trust in the Lord we will be even better equipped to overcome failure in our lives. Que No? So, let's use our failures as an opportunity for God to guide us, our failures as an opportunity to grow, to continue to move forward from who we are as sinners. Failure is a big reason for us to trust in God and trust that we failed for a reason, a learning experience to better know God. I could have written a lot of coinciding Scriptures but I've chosen to just leave you with two. **Psalm 37:23-24 NKJ**, **“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord, and He delights in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down.”** Know what I'm saying? We go through what we do for reasons known only to God, but He's there to strengthen us and go through it all with us. Love to you all short and tall, and don't ride faster than your angels can fly. VAYA CON DIOS

me?" The answer to those questions are, "YES!" Jesus came to not only redeem us from the curse of the law but also to offer us and show us God's true heart. God's heart/plan was that we might receive Salvation and much, much more. All these promises have been offered and made available to those who believe in His Plan, Jesus. Here's a simple analogy. If someone sent you a gift and you didn't know what you did to deserve it, would you leave it sit there until you 'thought' you deserved it? Wouldn't the suspense alone probably push you to tear it open to see what was inside? Well then, why would we settle on a belief that Salvation is the only promise Jesus came to bring us?! What I am here to tell you is, "Salvation is the beginning to our eyes being opened to the promises or plan that God has made available for each of us. God sent us His greatest Gift! Jesus COMPLETED His mission and left us with our mission and if I can say (a built in GPS) His Gift to us, the promised Holy Spirit. And we are so fortunate, today, that we also have God's plan written down for us, we do not have to guess! When we open and read the Bible, the promised Gift of the Holy Spirit will bring to life the very words on the pages, that we would receive those words causing them to become truth in our hearts."

The promise of a much better covenant through Jesus Christ is for here on earth, RIGHT NOW! We ARE NOT going to need or even desire the things we do here on earth when we receive our new bodies and begin to live our NEW lives in the presence of God! AMEN! The things we need to do to activate all these wonderful promises (for here) falls in our laps. Simply put, BELIEVE in Jesus and then RECIEVE all that He has to offer! That's it! I came to the conclusion early on in my walk that I would choose to believe what the written Word of God had to say regarding my life's **adventure** with Him and allow the Holy Spirit to help make the crooked places straight while continuing to show me a new course direction. It is kind of like that determined gal they have shoved in those GPS boxes (Holy Spirit). No matter how far we drive past the turn 'she' had planned to take us, after a few minutes 'she' will pipe up and say "RE-routing, proceed 100 feet then turn left, in 1/4 mile turn left again, in 500 feet turn right and proceed on the predestined route." Believe me, I have argued with that gal, raised my voice at her and have sometimes driven in circles attempting to follow her directions and later than sooner I was re-directed and on the right road again.

In the above paragraph I have bolded the word **adventure**. Stop for a second and consider this. Being on a journey one might be focused on the destination, what route they might take, how long it's going to take, and even if they may have missed a turn. When we embark on an adventure it begins to be all about looking forward to every twist in the road, every hill, every valley, what's behind this door, every sunrise and every sunset! So if you are one that thinks you don't deserve such awesome and amazing things on this adventure, well then PRAISE GOD! That's one hurdle you're overcoming (self-righteousness) and you're on the right path because none of us deserve God's blessings and promises and we most definitely cannot earn them. Let me add right here that it is not our 'works' or 'good deeds' that entitle/activate these promises. NO! God has already paid the high price with the life of His Son Jesus and by our faith, in His plan, His plan is activated in our lives! AMEN! In **Matthew 6:33** (AMP) Jesus assures us that when we, *"... seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides."* WOW! As I quickly glanced at **Matthew 6:34**, I believe the Holy Spirit has shown me a revelation that MUST be included to truly embark on our adventure. In **Matthew 6:34** (AMP) Jesus is still speaking loudly (to me) about our/my adventure, *"So DO NOT worry or be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will have worries and anxieties of its own. Sufficient for each day is its own trouble."* Does anyone else see and receive that revelation the way I just did? Okay, you can put your hands down that was a rhetorical question. That is unless those lifted hands are Praising Jesus for the revelation then by all means, PRAISE JESUS!!!

There are so many promises I could talk to you all about and we've already been talking about one of them ... answered prayer. Not only do I personally experience so many of God's blessings and promises in my everyday life but as well Michelle, all of my family and yes you, the Overcomers for Christ ministry family. I could go on for days sharing with you the blessings that you all are and do receive right where you are. But I want to narrow this message down to the one specific promise that has been taking place in my life for a little over a year now. And that promise is healing. In **Isaiah 53:5** we read, *"But He WAS pierced for our transgressions, He WAS crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us PEACE WAS upon Him, and by His wounds we ARE healed."* This one Scripture is loaded with so many promises that have been (past tense/already) purchased and made available to us through Jesus' life, burial, pain, suffering and Resurrection. I believe that sometimes we have read Scripture over and over so many times and in a sense have become insensitive to the value of even small, seemingly simple words. Again, the all capital letters are the emphasis that I've put on these certain words to better help us see into the Scripture. This single verse is so multi-faceted and inner twined that in order to get to the exact place we're headed I'm going to laser in on *"... and by His wounds we Are healed."* First, I want to mention that this was a prophecy from God to Isaiah for this side of (after) the Cross. Meaning that all these things mentioned in this verse are made available to both the Jewish people and NOW the Gentile's (you and I). Next, it's important that I mention this IS referring to our physical healing. Why? Because, remember, these events that happened to Jesus were leading up to the Cross for this side of (after) the Cross which means that IF we have received Jesus as our Lord and Savior we HAVE completely new spirits, IN CHRIST, (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) that do NOT need healing!

I will end part 1 of this message right here. Expect to see part 2 next month and then we will continue with the continuation of the Grace Message by C.L. the following month. That is unless the Holy Spirit breaks in and leads with something else. We love and appreciate you all!!

Overcomer's Testimonies

This is the new me writing you this time. I just wanted to say thank you for your newsletter. It brings me great joy! It's the only mail that I get; also, you were the only person who remembered my birthday, "Thanks". I've been locked down going on 29 years with only 20 months left to go. I used to be a "big" shot caller, running yards, running amuk. I'm tattooed from head to toe and I look mad, even when I'm happy. I've got to say, up until three months ago, I was mad! I woke up mad and tired day in and day out. I was king of the three-acre world I lived in, master of nothing. I've come to understand that I was running on empty for a long time. I may have forgotten God, but He sure didn't forget me because He knew my final destination and the road I had to take to get there. Heck, He was driving the whole time, I know now.

So here's how things worked out to the Glory of the Lord and the utter joy of myself. I was tired of myself, my life, my utterly lost and lonely life. Jesus put it on my heart to say "I quit, I submit to You Lord, please come into my life!" POW ... watch out what you pray for and don't forget about the part where the Lord is a Lamb and a Lion! He just might roar, and roar He did. He lit a fire in me that roars too! I'm now the chaplain's clerk!!! I'm never without my Sword (the Word) and I've learned the difference between reading the Word and studying the Word and how important arming myself with the Word is, to become the fruit of the Lord and to be what God has always intended for me. I know now even someone like me can be a light for the Lord. It feels so good to be a person of value now, my whole life was changed because you sent your newsletters without fail, always trying to remind me how God's love was just right there, waiting on me to let Him in again.

As I was writing to you, the clerk came to my bunk with a paper that said I was accepted to Rio Salado College. GOD IS SO COOL; it BLOWS MY MIND, PRAISE THE LORD! I've finally been accepted ... POW ... Amen and Amen!!! Through you and all that you do, you've made it possible for me to know my true Father. It is a debt that I hope to repay to you one day. I feel like a child on Christmas right about now. Love ya like Jesus does and I hope the light that is over the Overcomers for Christ never fades. - **A.H.**

What Others Are Saying...

"I received a birthday card from Wade and several ladies at OCS ... the amazing thing is it (envelope) was addressed to me here with the general address of the yard I'm on now. I had not even had the chance to notify you guys of my new change of address and POW!! Here it is. The Lord sure does move in mysterious ways! Yee Haw, Praise the Lord! Thank you for the birthday card ... I love you each and everyone at the OCS." - **A.M.**

"I am happy to report that I am out of super max and have a change of address. I do not want to miss the next issue of the OCS. It's my lifeline to what's really real in my life. It keeps me grounded in the Lord's promises and blessings. The Overcomers for Christ is my blessing from the Lord" - **A.M.**

"Thank you so much for the newsletters. I especially liked the cover on the April issue." - **R.W.**

"First I want to let you know that I have moved twice since I was in Phoenix. I'm enclosing my new address. I have enjoyed your newsletters for about five to six years now. But just recently I have extremely enjoyed them! I need them and I know it. Thank you as well for all that you do. I know, or I believe, that you all do a lot more than I have thought. Your newsletters, cards and prayers, I extremely appreciate" - **D.M.**

"OCS family, I am blessed! Your newsletter came at a critical time in my life. Thank you for all of your support throughout these two years of my incarceration. I do a lot of relating to the so many stories coming from the testimonies of the many inmates. The newsletters have inspired me greatly" - **E.B.**

"It's been a minute since I last wrote. For some reason I pulled this pen and pad out and began to write. Must be the Holy Spirit! AMEN! I have received your birthday greeting which very much lifted my spirit. It's the first one this year. I so wanted to write to let the OCS family know how much it means to me that you all took the time to print, sign and let me know I am being thought of during my B-day. Thank you all, and may your birthdays, holidays and anniversaries be blessed with love and happiness" - **J.T.**

"I have included a recent address change ... Thank you for the wonderful August newsletter. It was very encouraging for me to read and it is so true. May the peace of our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, be with your ministry always! God bless you all and I look forward to the September issue" - **M.O.**

God Can Handle It

By Steve Arterburn

"I will lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth." Psalm 121:1-2 NKJV

It's a promise that is made over and over again in the Bible: Whatever *"it"* is, God can handle it.

Life isn't always easy. Far from it! Sometimes, life can be very, very difficult, indeed. But even when the storm clouds form overhead, even during our most stressful moments, we're protected by a loving Heavenly Father.

When we're worried, God can reassure us; when we're sad, God can comfort us. When our hearts are broken, God is not just near; He is here. So we must lift our thoughts and prayers to Him. When we do, He will answer our prayers. Why? Because He is our Shepherd, and He has promised to protect us now and forever.

"God is God whether we recognize it or not. Nothing about that can change, except us." - Lisa Whelchel

"Either we are adrift in chaos or we are individuals, created, loved, upheld and placed purposefully, exactly where we are. Can you believe that? Can you trust God for that?" - Elisabeth Elliot

"God is in control, and therefore in everything I can give thanks, not because of the situation, but because of the One Who directs and rules over it." - Kay Arthur

"The choice for me is to either look at all things I have lost or the things I have. To live in fear or to live in hope. Hope comes from knowing I have a sovereign, loving God Who is in every event in my life." - Lisa Beamer

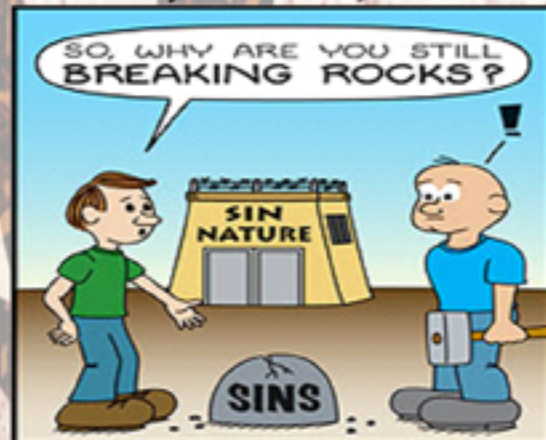
TODAY'S PRAYER

Heavenly Father, You never leave or forsake me. You are always with me, protecting me and encouraging me. Whatever this day may bring, I thank You for Your love and Your strength. Let me lean upon You, Father, this day and forever. Amen

STAY FREE



A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. Galatians 5:13 NIV

Quote Worthy

"We are not creatures of circumstance; we are creators of circumstance."

- Benjamin Disraeli (1804-1881) a British Conservative politician, writer and aristocrat who twice served as Prime Minister.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the Word of God. **"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows."** - Galatians 6:7

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the **Overcomers for Christ** ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put 'For Overcomers for Christ'. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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God's Loving Hands
Contributed by E.R. - Author Unknown

**I can't wait until my freedom can shine
This day will come in a matter of time
Seconds tick as minutes pass
I will erase memories of my haunting past.**

**Hours that drag slowly turn into days
But I am battering myself in many ways
Months go by that add up to years
Time has dried up all of my tears.**

**I ask the Lord to cleanse my heart
To prepare my life for a brand new start
I'm determined to succeed, I have no doubts
Because my heavenly Father will help me out.**

**I will make wise choices to achieve my goals
I will try my best with my heart and soul
If my heart could speak it would likely say
I will never fail you or go astray.**

**My life will be happy, plain, and quite simple
Because I was blessed when I needed a miracle
God's promise will prevail and His love will prosper
God is my Savior and there will be no other.**

**Day by day blessings unfold
Stay faithful to God is what I was told
I know in my heart what I must do
To have eternal life I must follow His rules.**

**I pray the Lord my soul to take
And please forgive all my mistakes
I was once weak, but now I stand
Since I was touched by God's loving hands.**

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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