

Overcomers for Christ

October 2019



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

November 2018



The Way We Believe = The Way We Live

By Wade Anderson

Let's Pray: "Gracious and Almighty Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your most precious promised Holy Spirit that comes to each of us with a specific message from You. And when He comes, help us to have ears to hear and a heart that responds with obedience. As You have given me this message to send, I pray believing that the hearts that You have prepared ready WILL receive from it ALL that You intended for it to accomplish. I thank You Sir for touching my heart to sit here and listen to Your guidance. ALL the praise, honor and glory are to You and You alone. In Jesus name, AMEM! AMEN! and AMEN!"

As we begin I believe that this message will, in many ways, tie in with September's message. **Proverbs 23:7, "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he"** will be the foundational verse that we use to begin this message. And as always it's necessary that I tell you, this message has and is one that Holy Spirit has spoken to my own heart, first. These things that I usually write here about are corrections and re-directions that I moved through and then I'm led to share them with you. In that I will always start with what has been shown to me about my own belief system. Ready? Here we go ...

I was just sitting out back by the pool reading a book when Holy Spirit began to speak to me. I put the book down on my lap and began to glance and take a mental inventory of the 'things' I have accumulated over the years. Then all of a sudden Holy Spirit took me back to 6-7 years ago. This is what He showed me. I'd been collecting Harley Davidson parts and pieces since I was 14 years old. Early in to this 'accumulation process' I went to A LOT of swap meets. I thought I knew the parts I desired, by simply looking at them, that would fix or upgrade my motorcycle. And come to find out I didn't know what I thought I knew. Buying a lot of the wrong things led to an accumulation that kept growing. At first I bought some wrong things but then learning the differences I kept collecting. There are a few of you there that have been here and seen the MASS of STUFF I had back in the day. Some of you may be saying, "What's wrong with that?" Nothing really, it's just that it got away from me, fast. I honestly wasn't collecting to have more than anyone else but I can also say, "I DID have such a love for that machine that 'it' was my driving force, to find and gather as much as I could to fix other machines." Most people knew that if they needed a part I probably had it here in my 'heap'. The collection ran from Knuckle Head stuff to Twin cam. And believe me I knew the importance to those even small tiny parts! Why? Because I sat and dumped out pails of parts on the floor, studying ALL different kinds of service manuals, parts manuals and "What fits What" books. I desired to KNOW why every little part was in that motor and what its function was.

Now listen to some of the reasoning about 'things' that I lived by and then you'll be able picture what I'm sitting here looking at. Everywhere that I went I was always on the hunt, scoping out what was laying around. Maybe I shouldn't say it like this but in a sense, I was taking a mental awareness of your inventory. If I had an interest in something I would ask, "What are you going to do with that?" The general answer was, "Oh, I gave that to so and so awhile ago and they still haven't come to get it yet." At first it was real subtle, but after 30 years this next response came back to haunt me. My general response was, "If you give it to me you'll NEVER give it away again. I'll take it with me right now." And believe me, I hauled things out strapped to me AND my motorcycle many times. This small piece of real-estate soon became known as 'The Getting Place'. And that's why I'm still looking at some of that 'stuff'.

My heart was for the machine, and sad to say now, not the owner. Why? Well, I knew that the machine couldn't tear itself up and it couldn't fix itself, it's just a machine. When someone would come to my shop with a bike and I seen that it was being ridden hard and NEVER maintained my heart connection was to get the person out of the way and fix the machine. Generally it wasn't anything too big and for sure they didn't even realize what they were doing to that machine at that point. Most people don't take something for repairs until it is broken and doesn't work or run. How many of you there have had the check engine light come on in your vehicle and as long as it continues to run you kept driving it? Or, here's one, you put a piece of tape over the light so you aren't reminded THERE'S SOMETHING NOT RIGHT? I know I'm talking to someone right now.

Most people were grateful that I fixed whatever it was because they really did love their bike but knew nothing about maintaining it. Those times also gave me the opportunity to teach them something about the maintenance of that machine. There have been a few times when someone would want to build their bike from the ground up here. And going into it I always told them, "If you really want to do this first take this manual and go read it then we will start from there." There were many that started their projects here but many never finished them. But there's one person that I want to use as my example. He took the manual and said he read it but every time he came to work on his bike his pager never stopped going off (Yes this was a LONG time ago). He had to stop and run off for, well, you all know the drill. After about the third time of this happening, I met him at the door and told him, "GET YOUR STUFF AND GET OUT OF HERE! You don't have the heart to learn! You're too busy catering to who knows what to learn and love this machine! Either throw that pager outside and sit down and learn or pay me and just BEAT IT! I'll call you when it's done!" Don't you all look at me like that! I never said, and there's not too many that will say, I was nice guy, back then! And every time that I look in the mirror, today, I'm still reminded of who I USED to be, and how hard I gritted my teeth in anger still shows. So the next thing I guess I

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need to do is get a new grill, huh!!!

We'll call this guy 'Danny'. When I raised the bar in the tone and anger that I did he looked directly at me and said, "Okay Duck, I DO want to know what you are willing to teach me about my motorcycle." He took all that 'stuff' holding him back out to his vehicle, came back in and we began. And let me tell you I could see 'Danny' anywhere and when his motorcycle had a problem he never had to call me. In fact I have seen him several times alongside the road with a pocket full of tools and his motorcycle sometimes laying on its side and him elbow deep in it fixing the issue at hand. Why? Because he was willing to change some of his habits to learn something different.

Why do I tell you all of this? Because, as long as people know you can and will fix whatever it is for them the more they will rely on you to do that! This goes for everything in their lives. I had to get 'Danny's' thinking changed so that he would desire to know his machine inside and out. You know the old saying, "Give a man a fish and you'll have to feed him again and again. But give him a fishing pole, teach him how to fish and he can then feed himself." And to this day 'Danny' still works on and fixes his own motorcycles. That was my whole reasoning for 'hard knocks' learning, then. Some of you see where this is going so I'll let the cat out of the bag to the rest of you.

That orange and white manual is the one that I used to use to maintain that 'other' vessel, Harley Davidson's. In fact that manual, in that world, is thought of and even referred to as, 'the bible'. I've pretty much closed my shop down for doing repairs or building anything with or for anyone. When my life changed people thought that it was just a phase and I would return. After awhile the closer ones came and said, "We believe you are finished with the whole dope scene. But we never thought you would stop working on motorcycles." Other people have asked me, "Why did you stop? Don't you like to work on motorcycles anymore?" YES! I love working on the machine but H/D's are no longer my big 'G' god. I have changed my beliefs and what drives me and that has led to a different set of priorities. I have NOW changed manuals and God has placed a much greater vessel in my heart to help, His most precious creation, the human vessel. Like I said earlier, I can't fix your issues in life, and I'm not attempting too, but I do know the place you can get those answers, the Holy Bible. From the experience of fixing and repairing those machines I've now learnt that most of those same principles apply as principles in our everyday lives. Just like that machine needs maintenance, so do our own human souls require maintenance. And there's only one Manual, the Holy Bible, that can help us fix and repair our lives, to help us learn, operate and grow into what God has intended for each of us. The Bible is more than just a historical book. It's the greatest Manual ever written concerning mankind. ANY problem or issue that we may be having in our lives, the Bible has the answers to show us the things that may be blocking our earthly view, the things we're tripping over and keeping us from rolling up the road again. And just like tape over the check engine light, you can read the Bible, and not do what it suggests, and still get the same results.

This principle is really simpler than many of us will receive. But, in order to change the things in our life we first have to change the way we think about life in general. I believe, now, that some of the core reasons I collected so much stuff was twofold. Number one was that I did love the machine and loved having the right parts to fix the majority of bikes and machinery. I loved everything mechanical. And the second thing I had to get rid of was a 'poverty mentality'. I've told you all many times but I'll say it again. My mother worked two and sometimes three jobs to keep five boys in school clothes and necessities. We didn't always get what we wanted but we did get what we needed. And when I did get something I wanted I did my best to take care of that thing. So, later in life when I seen things laying around that I knew still had a value I tried to 'gather' it until I found a good home for it. I didn't sell a lot of that stuff as much as I did get it to the right places, the machines I so loved.

Earlier I mentioned Holy Spirit taking me back 6-7 years. This is why. It was then, as I walking around the same pool, seeing rows and rows of motorcycles and 'stuff' sitting everywhere that I began to change my mind set. "What do I need with all of this stuff?", I asked myself, "If I'm going to work on anything for my kids or grandkids I'm NOT going to dig through this stuff for a part. I'll just go buy a new one." So, it was then that I began the process of getting rid of things. I'm NOT telling you it was easy at all. In fact after the first two or three truck loads left I began to have SOME separation anxiety. Okay, more than SOME! This was an accumulation of thirty plus years. REAL collectors came to buy things, and paid REAL money to get what I had collected for so long. And in that, I knew it all wasn't just 'a mockery of my life.' I wanted our backyard to reflect something much different. I wanted to be able to use the pool without looking at all that stuff. So I painted a different picture in my mind of what I wanted and it started there, I started changing my belief system. I told myself, "You don't NEED all this STUFF!" And I'm not telling you that God put His foot on my neck and said, "It's either Me or this stuff!" NO! There's nothing wrong with having things. God blesses obedience. In fact, after I begun the process of liquidating things God knew the desires of my heart and He led me to the exact motorcycle I had in my heart. It is a 2003, 100 year Anniversary Edition, Road King Classic, second owner, with 35,000 miles on it! I still have several motorcycles of my own AND parts stashed for my sons-in-grace and my grandsons. As ambassadors for Christ He wants our life to reflect His goodness and blessings, not a poverty mentality.

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THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

I wanted to write to you all and give you a big thank you for sending me your newsletters! It's been so nice and always gives me something to look forward to. I'm getting out in 26 days, it's been very long, the last four years. I ask that you please pray for me, I have so much on my plate ahead of me, and a lot of family reunification I'm looking forward to. Pray that God helps me to select the right decisions. Also, please pray for my kid's father who was arrested today and is most likely returning to prison. I hope God uses this time to change him the way He has changed me! Thank you again and God bless you all ... **J.W.**

Thank you, I continue to enjoy your newsletters. All is well on my end, thank you Jesus! Please keep my mother, wife and kids in your prayers. Mom has a lot on her plate, being the rock of the family. Always the one there for us, her kids and her younger brothers and sisters that she raised from 13 years old when her mother passed away, now home with the Lord ... **E.G.**

Keep me in your prayers, please I really need it. I need to stay focused. I really appreciate you and all the brothers and sisters that send us all the magazines each month. This is my last month being here, I'll go directly to Church on the Street - Dream Center. I can't do it alone, I need the Lord more than ever. I see people come back all the time. So, I'll be there fresh out of prison and on parole for fifteen months. I'm scared and nervous as you can see in my writing. I need Jesus so I can be able to do His work that He wants me to do. A big thank you to you all at the church ... **M.G.**

I'm hanging in there, sorry it has been so long since my last letter. Still serving my Lord and Savior faithfully. I pray for you and all my brothers and sisters from *Overcomers for Christ* on a daily basis. My direct appeal is in the Supreme Court as we speak. So, keep me in your prayers as I know you do. I love and miss all of you. You're the only family I hear from. I always get a letter from Heavenly Father every day. It keeps my faith strong and my heart focused. Always keep on keeping on ... **C.P.**

I want to say thank you all for sending me the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter. It really means a lot to me. I don't get letters from no one. I was at Red Rock, but things happened over there, it is my first time in prison. I was doing well at Red Rock, going to church and school. I feel really bad, the devil got me that day, and I fell short. I hope that God understands. I pray nothing gets in the middle of my release. I just want to go home to my children. Their mother is not doing anything for my girls. They are in CPS. My children have been in there since I've been here. I would like it if you all could pray for me and my girls that I make it to my children ... **N.R.**

Praise Reports

They gave me ten years in prison. I am OK - I do have a need for a large print Study Bible, God will provide, right? Please send my love to my brethren, and tell them where I reside, under God's wings; now. I know we are all valiant men of God. My sentence had me a wee-bit sad/disgruntled. But, for a while now our Father has been showing me His love and magnificence by showing me His power and grace. I am indigent, but check this out; right now I am wearing brand new shoes from medical, and I am being treated VERY VERY well by the medical here and at the hospital!! The chapel here is awesome!! And that's putting it lightly. Praise God ... **J.S.**

I am writing you so you know what happened to me. I was sentenced to a year in prison due to a lack of restitution payments from a theft charge in 2011. I did not want you to be concerned or think I took my volunteer work lightly. I should be released in November and would like to continue my work there. I go to church twice a week and attend two Bible studies weekly. Starting next month, I will be teaching one of the weekly Bible studies. I believe God has a purpose for me in His church. I will make the best of my time here knowing that God has a purpose for this in my life. God is still showing me that He is with me. Last Wednesday, He prompted me to look for a Joel Osteen book. After inquiring with the chaplain, he asked me to go to the chapel on Friday morning so we could look for one. When I arrived, we went through the entire library and could not find one. He told me he would keep his eyes open for me and if they found one, they would let me know. I was disappointed and went back to my dorm. I was tired so I laid down and took a nap. When I woke up there was a brand new book on the desk next to me, it's *Your Time* by Joel Osteen. I was excited to have it. I looked inside the front cover and it said, "Donated by Living Word Bible Church - *Overcomers for Christ*". I was so happy, I kept telling everyone, "That's my church!!" I went back to the chapel and asked the chaplain, "Where did you find this book?" He said it was delivered to him just an hour after we met and he brought it to me right away! I know God put that all together for me. Praise God and thank you, Living Word Bible Church. Share the Good News ... **B.C.**

Just a quick note to say hi and thank you guys for everything you do for me. It is greatly appreciated. So, how are things going for you? Good I hope. As for me, I am doing okay, just taking one day at a time and preparing for my upcoming release. I am so happy; I will finally be a free man, after 24 years flat, it's about time. Praise God ... **M.R.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Correspondence Ministries

By P.W.

Hello to you and thank you so much for taking the time to write. Receiving your card was thoroughly uplifting and had the effect of mitigating the despondency that is the bone of my existence. I was feeling disagreeably gloomy today and being able to write back while enjoying music is profoundly more positive than staring at the walls. I relish the opportunity to correspond with civilians inasmuch as I identify more with those 'outside' these walls.

I would argue that it is especially challenging to be totally immersed in a crowd of miscreants who do not conduct themselves in accordance with Biblical principles. **Ephesians 5:4-7** admonishes us, **"Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them."** And then in **Ephesians 4:29** tells us, **"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen."** Prison is rife with obscenity, foolish talk, unwholesome talk, and coarse joking. It is an onslaught of these things and it discourages me seemingly without refrain.

Instead now, I will focus on the encouragement that your letter brings. Forgive my complaining; I readily concede that it doesn't help but I think being able to talk about challenges can be cathartic to a certain extent. In **Philippians 4:8** Paul tells us, **"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."** It is noble that your ministry endeavors to encourage those of us who's misfortune it is to be languishing in America's dungeons. The word languish means; to exist or to continue in miserable or disheartening conditions.

Hebrews 13:3 is a verse which explicitly admonishes believers to remember us BUT I continue to be neglected by Christendom much. Let's read that together, **"Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering."** This is why I maintain that 'Correspondence Ministries' are so important. Given my own considerable and persistent needs for fellowship, I imagine that your weight to encourage so many is substantial.

I can share that the challenges of my plight appear insurmountable when taken with the unfortunate circumstances of being abandoned by almost everyone in polite society. It remains a daunting prospect given there are many more than a hundred thousand hours ahead of us. I have written to churches, Christian pen-pal ministries, friends and family yet mail call is a disappointing time of day for me, most decidedly so. What is rather troubling is that it would appear that most Bible-believing churches and ministries cannot be bothered to respond to desperate appeals for fellowship such as the Overcomers for Christ does.

I apologize for the apparent vitriol but eleven years in prison with no one to reach out to has disabused me of my belief in the good will of God's people. I have sent upwards of a thousand letters entreating God's people for a modicum of cordial regard to no avail. That was until I heard from the Overcomers for Christ. So where do I go from here? I will prayerfully try to have a more productive outlook in hopes that my negativity does NOT dissuade your ministry from responding to my mail.

I can tell you that I have attended the Christian services offered here on this yard and one of the inmates shared his testimony which your volunteers published in your newsletter. He was elated and read it to those of us in attendance, revealing the transformative power of the Spirit. I mention this to applaud your ministry which heartens those of us struggling behind the razor wire.

This might be an appropriate place to present you with my own personal request ... I would really love to have a pen pal, someone with whom to correspond as often as possible. I imagine this is not a unique request but it remains of crucial importance to me, as you have read. It does not escape my consideration that your ministry is already terrifically inundated with letters waiting to be written to so I will understand if you can only write periodically. But perhaps your prayer team could beseech the Lord on my behalf. I have been frustrated in my attempts to find a friend beyond the walls on my own.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Walk in God's Grace and Not Human Judgment

By C.B.

I know well after reading your last two newsletters, the Lord is awesome, what a mighty Lord we serve. He is a mighty, healing, merciful, graceful Father that cares about every area of our lives. How awesome to hear your personal experience of His loving touch and personal healing hand in your life. Things are well, about 6 months left, moving forward, doing well with my relationship with the Lord, and finding more and more time to not only love on others, but to reach out socially, personally and to learn to love others with unconditional love. Wow, allowing others to be who they are and be where they're at in their lives, without being judgmental and preaching a 5-point sermon because I want others to be where I'm at; it is such a peaceful place of rest for me.

My studies are real well, of course studying the Word and trusting the Lord. Also studying one of Andrew Wommack's books *Believers Authority* and *What You Didn't Learn in Church*. Great reads, also John Bevere *Enemy Access Denied* (*slam the devil's door with one simple decision*). Please continue to pray for the saints here, to continue steadfast in His love, mercy and grace! So, I'm staying really busy submitting to God's will, and walking in the authority of God's will for my life ...

Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

2 Timothy 2:15 - "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

Walking in this authority in a balanced way and putting in practice **Proverbs 3:5-6 - "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."** is a wonderful journey, with awesome challenges, with hills and valleys that are both necessary and crucial for our Lord's will to be accomplished.

Ephesians 2:10 - "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

I am in the best place in my whole life in my faith. Growing each day and allowing others to grow at God's pace and the Holy Spirit's speed, instead of me trying to control them for what and where I think they should be. The Lord is giving me so much provision and I'm very grateful and thankful. I continue to see His hand and guidance, even when I am struggling or doing exceptional. I'm working with others well and working with some close friends in my business real well, making brownies, doing very well enjoying my time. May the Lord bless you and keep you, and may the Lord strengthen you each day in His unshakeable everlasting strength, hope and love. Love and total honor to the King.

I See Beauty Everywhere

By C.S.

Dear **DSIC** family, grace and peace to all of you in the name of our beautiful Savior, Jesus Christ. I pray that everyone there is in good spirits and in good health. I am writing to let you know that I moved to a different cell and would like to continue receiving your newsletters. Your letters also fill me with joy when I receive them because I feel loved, knowing that someone out there cares about me.

For the past eight years, all my family has rejected me, not by words, but by silence. Since I've been in prison, I am out of sight and out of mind to them. I've learned to accept it and put all my trust in God. How important it is to keep faith in the forefront of our everyday lives! It is not enough to declare our faith in God; we must own it and live it. How many times do we allow fear to block us from receiving the abundance God has reserved for us? Fear over relationships not working out as we want them to, fear over finances, anxiety is a powerful tool of the enemy, who wants to keep us off balance and one step short of the joy that is in His promises. It is our responsibility to understand that all is as it should be, even when we do not see the purpose of our challenges.

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Isaiah 19:1-21:17

God asked Isaiah to do something that seemed shameful and illogical. At times, God may ask you to do things we don't understand. We must obey God in complete faith, for He will never ask us to do something wrong. **(20:2)**

Galatians 1:1-2:16

God's plan all along was to save us by Jesus' death. We have been rescued from this present evil world - a world ruled by Satan and full of cruelty, tragedy, temptation and deception. Being rescued from this evil world doesn't mean that we are taken out of it but that we are no longer enslaved to it. You were saved to live for God. Does your life reflect your gratitude for being rescued? Have you transferred your loyalty from this world to Christ? **(1:3-5)**

The essence of Paul's message to both Jews and Gentiles was that God's salvation is offered to all people regardless of race, sex, nationality, wealth, social standing, education level, or anything else. Anyone can be forgiven by trusting in Christ. **(See Romans 10:8-13) (2:2)**

It's easy to rate people in the basis of their official status and to be intimidated by powerful people. But Paul was not intimidated by those "great leaders" because all believers are equal in Christ. We should show respect for our spiritual leaders, but our ultimate allegiance must be to Christ. We are to serve Him with our whole being. God doesn't rate us according to our status, He looks at the attitude of our hearts **(1 Samuel 16:7) (2:6)**

Psalms 59:1-17

David was hunted by those whose love had turned to jealousy. And this was driving them to try to murder him. Trusted friend, and even his son, had turned against him. What changeable love! But David knew that God's love for him was changeless. His unfailing love continues forever. **(Psalm 100:5)** God's mercy to all who trust Him is just as permanent as His mercy to David. When the love of others fails or disappoints us, we can rest in God's enduring love. **(59:10)**

Proverbs 23:12-14

The people most likely to gain knowledge are those who are willing to listen. It is a sign of strength, not weakness, to pay attention to what others have to say. People who are quick to listen continue to learn and grow throughout their lives. If we refuse to become set in our ways, we can always expand the limits of our knowledge. **(23:12)**

The stern tone of discipline here is offset by the affection expressed in **verse 13**. However, many parents are reluctant to discipline their children at all. Some fear that they will forfeit their relationship, their children will resent them, or they will stifle their children's development. But correction won't kill children. And it may prevent them from foolish moves that will. **(23:13-14)**

“Foot” Notes

I thought I'd share with ya'll, the other day I was in line for chow and for whatever reason the line came to a stand still. So, my first thought was, "Well, we shouldn't have any trouble finding somewhere to sit since the chow hall was emptying out quicker than the seats were being taken." At about this time, a guy that was two people behind me said, "Sure picked the wrong time to come to chow, were stuck here."

Almost instantly, I had a God moment opening my eyes to the fact that as a Christian walking in faith our perceptions of situations can be vastly opposite of those with little or no faith. This made me smile because 12-13 years ago, I would have been that guy behind me griping about the situation. Thank God for His Spirit that allows us to see any situation with a positive slant.

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

As I said earlier, many of us won't confront the issue (check engine light) at hand because we are afraid of the unfamiliar, change. Let me ask you all this question, "How many of you are still hanging on to the 'what has been done to me' mentality?" Things like, "Well, it's because of the way that I was mistreated and abused that I'm like I am!" Or, "We grew up on the other side of the tracks, we were poor." Or, "My dad was an alcoholic." And here's the one the devil is working the hardest on in MOST of you right now. "Look at everything that you've messed up. Now that you have a DOC number, you're a convicted felon and no one will want to give you a job or housing when you're released. You'll end up right back where you are!" Well guess what? STOP LISTENING TO THOSE LIES! I too have been in every one of those spots and I climbed out of ALL of it by listening to what God had to say about me! Who God says I am in Christ!! What He said He wants me to be and what He wants me to accomplish! I changed from what the world and opposition tried to tell me and dug deeper in the Word of God for my worth and direction. AND YOU CAN DO IT TOO! By getting rid of the victim mentality and accepting responsibility for YOUR own actions YOU too can pick yourselves up and finish strong. Just because we might have been dealt what we see as a bad 'hand of cards' doesn't mean that we can't throw that hand back in and get a whole new hand, right!? Isn't that exactly what Paul tells us in **2 Corinthians 5:16-17**? **"So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** Paul just told us that the old has GONE and the new is here! So why do we continue to hold on to the 'stuff' that always drags us down???

Look at this for a second. **"For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God."** (Romans 8:6-8) Operating in any of those old mind sets and belief systems, hanging on to resentments and unforgiveness, is fatal to the growth of our souls! Why do I say this? Remember that our souls are made up of our minds, wills and emotions. We have a brand new Spirit and He knows the truth and is always working to get our souls in line with the Spirit. Isn't that exactly what these Scriptures just told us? Living in the old mentality is being carnally minded, right? In a sense you believe that your circumstances are bigger than your God. And I'm not saying these things to be mean. However, the Word makes it very clear that our experiences, our surroundings, and everything about us is basically a result of the way that we think. Let's look at **Proverbs 23:7** again, **"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."** So if you are still thinking and believing it's always someone else's fault that you are where you are, then that's what you are receiving in your life. Scripture says it plain as day, right there, in **Romans 8:6**, that to be carnally minded leads to death, BUT someone who operates in and follows the Spirit's guidance leads to what? "Life and Peace!" Scripture does not say that God is hard to please but it does say that when we live carnally minded, **"the flesh cannot please God."**

Let's move on. I love how Paul continues on to let us know that when we are in CHRIST that doesn't apply to us UNLESS we choose to live and operate back 'there' again. Listen. **"But you ARE NOT in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 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."** (Romans 8:9-11) You may not like what was just said here but it's not me, it's the Word of God right there in bold letters.

You all know that I love plants and flowers, I love to garden. If you came over and looked in my yard/garden you wouldn't wonder what kind of seeds I had planted. You could look and see that those are roses, bougainvilleas, marigolds, irises and yellow bells. I probably couldn't convince you that, "Those were not the seeds I planted. Someone must have planted them when I wasn't looking." You might say, "Well, obviously you did plant them or you allowed someone else to plant in your garden." As sure as this is truth in the natural realm, it's also true in the spiritual realm. What am I saying? Whatever is growing in the garden of your life is exactly the seed that you have either planted yourself OR you've allowed someone else to plant there in your heart. Again, before we'll ever be able to see change, we have to STOP blaming everybody else for what is wrong in our lives. If you really want all that God has planned for your life you've got to quit making excuses, step up to the plate with YOUR bat in your hands and claim what is already yours! Sure the first few times you step up to the plate the pitches might seem intimidating. And if all you want is to be in the game, then keep blaming others for the issues in your life. But if you really want to score you have to keep picking yourself back up (**Proverbs 24:16**) and see yourself no longer as a victim. If you don't swing you'll NEVER connect with the ball, right? **"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."** (1 Peter 5:8) Look closely, it does NOT say that the devil IS a roaring lion. It says he's just trying to intimidate you into believing that he has power over you. AND if you believe the intimidation THEN he could devour you! Your words are your seed and the things you continue to say and believe WILL come up in the garden of your life. Please believe this! And if you need to work on your words then by all means learn to stop and think about what you're about to plant because you will sow them into the spiritual realm.

Let's look at **Romans 8:28-39**, then you tell me if you see any place for us to be wallowing like a sow, in the mud of past behaviors and treatment that we have already been made right with God about. **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."**


"What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us all-how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died-more than that, who was raised to life-is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" We ARE more than conquerors! WE ARE OVERCOMERS!!

Look now at **2 Peter 1:2**, **"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord."** What I see here is a principle of God's that states our thought life DOES produce a harvest in the natural realm. There's probably not one of us that doesn't want more grace and peace to be multiplied to us (**2 Corinthians 12:9**), especially when we're facing tough times. But Scripture just showed us that grace and peace will be multiplied to us THROUGH the KNOWLEDGE of God. Peace in our lives isn't the absence of circumstances, problems or challenges. We need to find our way, through the knowledge of God, to His kind of peace that IS obtainable EVEN in the middle of the storms of life. AMEN!? His kind of peace will begin to change our circumstances from the inside out. To those of you that may be saying, "I really want that kind of peace", listen what it says here in **1 Peter 1:23**, **"having been born again, not of corruptible Seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever."** Being born again you already have the incorruptible seed of God, His Holy Spirit, living on the inside of you. Now look at what **Galatians 5:22-23** says about the fruit that's inside of you through Holy Spirit, **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, PEACE, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."** When someone says to me I need more peace and joy in my life my response is, "No, that's not true. You already have enough peace inside of you. All you need is to reach a little deeper inside your born again Spirit and get it." What we all should be doing is talking to Holy Spirit, inviting Him to help us reach deeper as we read His Word for the knowledge of God and stop looking to people or things to give us our peace or joy ... Just saying!

"By His divine power, God has (past tense) given us EVERYTHING we need for living a godly life. We have (now) received ALL of this by coming to KNOW Him, the One who called us to Himself by means of His marvelous glory and excellence." (**2 Peter 1:3**) This says, these things occur through the knowledge that we have of God (**2 Peter 1:2**). Like I stated in an earlier paragraph, "This is more simple that many will receive." Again, I'm not trying to be mean but I do want to kick over a few golden calves. God doesn't want us to come to Him groveling in the dirt, acting like we're not sure that we're worthy or not, sobbing and slobbering thinking that's what moves Him to do things in our lives. NO! What He wants is for us to find the things that He has promised us (the knowledge of God) and come to Him with that. Paul assures us, from God's Word, **"And this same God who takes care of me will supply all your needs from His glorious riches, which HAVE BEEN (past tense) given to us in Christ Jesus."** (**Philippians 4:19**) And with that I'll close for now. I encourage everyone to invite Holy Spirit to help you make the changes He knows is necessary for now as He shares the truths and knowledge of God while you read His Word. Talk to you all soon and HAVE A WONDERFUL DAY!

To my Beloved Brother, A Knight of Faith

By J.L.S.

Overcomers for Christ family ... It's with a heavy heart that I relay, to all who knew him, that our dearly beloved friend and brother in the Lord Jesus Christ, Jeff Blasor, has left our physical presence here on earth to go be in the presence of our Lord. Please be assured that Jeff was a true warrior for the kingdom of heaven and according to the Word of God, Jeff is in heaven. I would love it if you would please run this little piece in the  newsletter in Jeff's remembrance.

This figure is a man who lived in faith, who had given over the meaning of his life to his Creator, and who lived centered on the energies of his Creator and Father in heaven. He accepted whatever happened in this visible dimension without complaint. He lived this life as a duty, and faced his death without a qualm or complaint. No pettiness was so petty that it threatened his meanings; no task was too frightening to be beyond his courage. Jeff was fully in this world on its terms, and beyond the world in his trust of our Almighty God. Jeff, we will see you again when we come home.

I Proclaim: "Let it be known to ALL peoples of every nation and every creed; that the One true Living God, the Father of Jesus Christ, who IS God in heaven; IS loyal in His Love and Mercy and He does come to bring His people home with Him."

It is up to us to trust that He will not abandon nor forsake us. This is how I know that my journey is in His hands, because He has given me the strength to know that all will work according to His purpose. I am filled with wonder when I see the beauty of the skies and the mountains that surround us here at prison. But there was a time I was blind to all that beauty. I've had a lot of years in a prison cell, to search deep within myself, and there I began to see, but it had nothing to do with vision. It had everything to do with faith. I began to see God in everything, in the beauty of nature, in my mother's eyes (picture) and even in my own heart. Some of my greatest blessing came out of my worst problems because I was able to avoid bitterness and see the goodness of God already at work in me. Amen!

Jesus has lifted me up and carried rejection, to a joy that no one can take away from me, His unconditional love and me through broken dreams, bitter experiences. May God bless you all at OCS!

Consumed by Lust

By Steve Arterburn

Radio personality Paul Harvey once told of how an Eskimo kills a wolf. The Eskimo coats his knife with animal blood and lets it freeze. Another layer of blood is added, then another, until the blade is completely concealed. The hunter then fixes his knife in the ground with the blade up. A wolf follows the scent, finds the source, and begins licking. Aroused by the taste, it licks the blood-covered blade progressively faster and harder.

Amidst the wolf's frenzy, it doesn't notice the eventual sting of the exposed blade on its own tongue, nor that it's now consuming its own warm blood. The wolf simply craves more, until it falls dead in the snow.

It's a grisly story, but a poignant illustration of how we too stand in danger of being consumed by our own lusts.

"My will was perverse and lust had grown from it; and when I gave in to lust, habit was born; and when I did not resist the habit it became a necessity. These were the links which together formed what I have called my chain, and it held me fast in the duress of servitude." - St. Augustine (354-430) - a Roman African, early Christian theologian and Neoplatonic philosopher from Numidia whose writings influenced the development of the Western Church and Western philosophy, and indirectly all of Western Christianity.

Quote Worthy

"Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off your goal."

- Henry Ford (1863 - 1947) - an American industrialist and a business magnate, the founder of the Ford Motor Company, and the sponsor of the development of the assembly line technique of mass production.

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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.

Heaven Bound

By R.S.

*Locked away and left to rot,
I blamed the world for the time I got
Mad at life, I'd curse, Then cry;
How could you God? Why, oh why?*

*My days were marked by fits of rage,
As I fought and kicked against my cage,
My nights were marred by fitful dreams
As I plotted future vengeful schemes,*

*Then, finally one day I let God in,
I read the Bible to rid me of sin.
Unsure at first, I had my doubts,
'Til I cracked the Book to check it out,*

*I read each chapter one by one,
My walk with Jesus had begun.
He took my hand and lifted me,
From the fires of hell He set me free,*

*In my cell I sit on my bed,
And thank my Lord for my daily bread.
He has always been there with me, He leads me through it all,
And I know when my life starts to go wrong, Jesus is the One to
call.*

*God gave His greatest Gift of all, as everyone should see,
He gave His only begotten Son, who died to make us free.*

*Beaten and battered on a cross,
Giving back what we had lost,
If you'd like this gift for free,
Take up your cross and die for Me.*

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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