

# Overcomers for Christ

November 2020

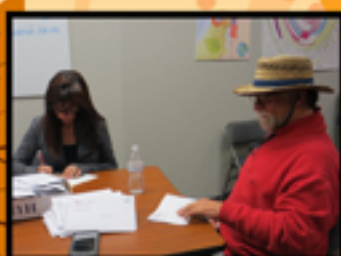
*I will give thanks to you, Lord,  
with all my heart;  
I will tell of all your wonderful deeds.*

*Psalms 9:1*





# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ December 2019





## Your Calling - Part 2

By Vern Deadmond

The **Book of Proverbs** was written by King Solomon, a king of Israel known throughout the known world at the time for his great wisdom. An awesome Proverb relating to the Word of God is found in **Proverbs 22:17-21**, **"Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge; for it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; let them all be fixed upon your lips, so that your trust may be in the Lord; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, that I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may answer words of truth to those who send to you?"** A serious disciple of Jesus will put God's Word inside of him, this is the good treasure of our hearts. And from this treasure, His disciples, 'us', will be able to teach and share with others, making disciples of those he shares with. Going back to **Matthew 28:19**, **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations ..."** If we are not ourselves disciples, how can we make others disciples? It is our responsibility not to just lead someone to Jesus, but also encourage the new believer to become a disciple themselves, and be willing to disciple this person or connect them with someone willing to disciple. Do not just abandon that person to themselves, and leave it to them to figure out their salvation. If that person who just got saved, does nothing beyond receiving Jesus, how is that going to change their life now? Remember, eternal life is NOW, in this life, not just for going to Heaven.

I believe the most important characteristic of a disciple is found in **Matthew 10:1**, **"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of disease."** Again, I repeat, as you read the Bible, don't just read it to read it. Have your ears open to hear what God's Holy Spirit is revealing to you. You might miss a key. The Word says, **"When He had called His twelve disciples to Him ..."** do you see and hear it? When Jesus called you to be a disciple, He gave you power over unclean spirits, power to cast them out, and power to heal all kinds and sorts of diseases.

Have you ever exercised the power given to you? This reminds me of a cartoon that was popular when I was in my late teens, He-Man. When He-Man would pull out his sword, he would make the announcement, "I have the power!" Imagine right now, and picture yourself, taking your sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, holding it up to Heaven, and proclaiming to the devil, "I have the power!" Now take this power that you, as a disciple have been given and go out and stand against the devil. You have been given power over him. His power is not greater than the power given to you. And he actually has no power anymore, Jesus saw to that. **Colossians 2:15** says, **"Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it."** The devil has been disarmed for good, he has no power. You have all the power. You can go on the offensive in the battle and win every single time. You have all the advantage and all the power - the devil has nothing. The only thing he can come at you with is deception.

A good friend and I were having a Bible Study just a few evenings ago of me writing this, and he read out of **2 Chronicles 32**. The first thing I would like to say here is never discount someone's youth when fellowshiping about God. This friend is in his mid-twenties, and has so much revelation and insight to the scriptures, I have learned many things from him. It's not someone's age that makes you spiritually mature, it's how you live out your life, how you desire and pursue God that makes one spiritually mature. So back to our story in **2 Chronicles**. There was a king of Syria, named Sennacherib, and he came to Judah and encamped against the fortified cities, thinking he would win them over to him. The king of Judah at that time was Hezekiah, and he loved the Lord. This is a great story that shows that the devil has no power, he comes in with words only. And on the flip side, how God is on our side, and has the real strength and power. King Sennacherib began his siege of Jerusalem in **2 Chronicles 32:11-12, 15-18** speaking to all the people, he said, **"Does not Hezekiah persuade you to give yourselves over to die by famine and by thirst, saying, 'The Lord our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria?' Has not the same Hezekiah taken away His high places and His altars, and commanded Judah and Jerusalem, saying, 'You shall worship one altar and burn incense on it?' ... therefore, do not let Hezekiah deceive you or persuade you like this, and do not believe him: for no god or any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people from my hand or the hand of my fathers. How much less will your God deliver you from my hand? Furthermore, his servants spoke against the Lord God and against His servant Hezekiah. He also wrote letters to revile the Lord God of Israel, and to speak against Him ... saying 'As the gods of the nations of other lands have not delivered their people from my hand, so the God of Hezekiah will not deliver His people from my hand.' ... they called out in a loud voice to the people of Jerusalem to frighten them and trouble them ..."**

Is not this just like the devil and his demons, he comes to you speaking lies and deception, trying to get you to doubt all of God's promises, to doubt all of God's Word? But look at what happens next, we pick up in **2 Chronicles 32:20-21**, **"Now because of this King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah prayed and cried out to heaven. Then the Lord sent an angel who cut down every mighty man of valor, leader, and captain in the camp of the king of Assyria. So he returned and shamefaced to his own land. And when he had gone into the temple of his god, some of his own children struck him down with the sword there."** This is exactly what God did when He sent one Man. Jesus came and

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080

(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com

He completely disarmed the devil's army, the devil was utterly confused and at a loss, and then Jesus went into hell and stripped the devil of his power. The devil is the same today as he was before Adam sinned. If you remember, he had no power before man sinned, he had to deceive Eve into rejecting God first. As a disciple of Jesus, you learn and understand revelations from the Word of God, just as in the example I just showed. Each new revelation you receive will strengthen you and give you boldness as you go out and walk in His power, delivering people of demons and healing all diseases.

One of the greatest joys that you, a disciple, will experience is knowing God the Father and Jesus His Son. As you seek and pursue to know Him, you will experience Him in the most private of ways. I'm not getting weird here, and neither are you too. Be careful that you don't seek after these experiences with God only to satisfy the flesh. The flesh likes to be in the presence of God, where there is peace you can't explain and joy that is unspeakable. Don't seek and pursue for the feeling you get in the presence of God (goose bumps), but draw near to Him for the fellowship and relationship. This takes effort on your part, it is in your relationship with Jesus that you will always receive from God. So much of my life I attended evangelistic meetings and many of the people come with the hope of receiving something in their life from God in the meeting. They don't realize they only need to turn to Jesus to receive, but this takes effort on their part.

Let's consider the story of the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem. The sick would go to the pool each day, hoping an angel of Heaven would touch the waters. When this would happen, the first person to get into the pool would be healed. This is just like so many Christians that go to evangelistic meetings when they hear someone is in town that operates in the gifts of healing, they go hoping that God will touch them and heal them, and many of them leave feeling disappointed. Now, don't interpret what I am saying incorrectly. We should go to meetings and services, but not out of need. Go because you want to receive the Word of God, to learn and to gain understanding. I love to see the miraculous happen at these meetings, but that is not my motivation for going. All the people who attend hoping for a touch or healing from God are just like all those who went to the Pool of Bethesda, and when Jesus walked in there was only one person who actually noticed Him. Jesus asked the man if he wanted to be healed, and then after fellowshipping with the man, Jesus commanded him to rise up and walk. The man was instantly healed. Where is your focus? On talking and fellowshipping with Jesus, or are you focused on seeing a movement of the water, thinking God won't do anything for you until you see some sign or miracle? Whatever you need from God is available to you through knowing and experiencing God the Father through relationship - this is what it means to be a disciple. If you're sitting at the edge of the pool waiting to see God do something, you just might miss Jesus when He walks into the room.

As you draw close to God in your fellowship and relationship with Him, He draws near to you and you will experience His love for you. I find it hard to find words to properly describe what the experience is like, these moments are between you and the Father God. When you find yourself engulfed in His love, there is nothing in this world that compares to it, and all you have to do is draw near to Him. As **James 4:8** says, **"Draw near to God and He will draw near to you."** He is always near, He is only waiting for you take a step towards Him, and as you do, He steps towards you. But it's not like He has to step towards you, it's more like He is right beside you and when you make the motion towards Him, all He does is turn His face towards you, He is that close to you. He is not on the other side of a great chasm that separates you from Him, He is always close by, for as it says in **Hebrews 13:5**, **"For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you."** You have this promise, no matter how distant in your thoughts and mind you drift from Him, or what sin you are in, He promised to never leave you. He is right there always.

I grew up thinking because God hates sin, that when I was in sin that He would leave me because He could not be in the presence of sin. But as I have shown you in scripture, that is not correct. Let me make this more specific, if you think you can walk through a door into a room and close the door behind you to fornicate or commit adultery, God does not stop on the other side of the door as you close it. He follows you into that room, and sees you in your deprivation. If you go into a house to get high on drugs, He follows you in. Whatever it is that you do that is considered sin, He is right there with you calling you His brother or sister still. Listen to **Matthew 12:49-50**, **"And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, Here are My mother and My brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."**

When you accepted and believed that Jesus died for you, you did the will of the Father. And you continue to be in His will because you believe on Him. **John 6:40**, **"And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life ..."** God is a merciful God and I believe that as bad as you screw up at times, you don't lose our salvation. Instead, you must choose to give up your salvation. You received salvation by believing and confessing Jesus is Lord. You lose it by doing the opposite, unbelieving and rejecting Jesus with your tongue. As long as you continue to believe in Him, your spirit is sealed by God's Holy Spirit. It is God's will that you don't go to hell. In **Matthew 18:14** we read, **"Even so it is not the will of your Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish."** I am not saying or advocating you can just go about your life sinning because you still believe in Jesus. You are not to abuse the freedom and power you have been given. **First Peter 2:15-16** says, **"For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men - as free, yet not using liberty as a**

*continued on page 9 ...*



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

## Prayer Requests

Thank you for the card last month. Not many people take time these days to write as much as you did. Your spirituality and faith was just what I needed that day. I want to lift the San Quentin State Prison up in prayer. The Coronavirus has stricken hard within these walls taking even myself to an outside hospital. With over 1,400 cases, there has been only one death which is good odds from what I hear. Please pray for the medical staff, the C/Os and any fellow inmates as we are all in this pandemic together. We are equal in God's eyes. He is our Great Healer whom we can lean on, trust in, and give thanks to. He is the Living Water ... **G.P.**

Please keep this in prayer. Early on in my walk, I believe God put it on my heart that I was going to speak for Him. Not as a preacher or a teacher of the Word, but in an inspirational/encouragement way. For years, I've had many moments where I stare at the ceiling and have visions of it all playing out. Not only that, but a big part of these visions I've had, required something that I now possess through this time I'm now serving. I should have had it many times before but didn't. So even that was more confirmation to me ... **J.S.**

Please keep me in your prayers, as I go to have an ultrasound done on my liver. They want to make sure that I'm okay and how much damage I had done to myself, in the past, over the years of drugs and alcohol. Those things had been my demons in the past. Even though I've left all of that behind me, they say that I may be in the beginning stages of Hep-C. I thank God that He is, through prayer, the cure for all those things! Please, would the entire **DS&S** family, stand in the gap and join me in prayer as I have been fasting, praying and continue to believe for reconciliation with my wife and family ... **R.G.**

Please keep me in your prayers and thoughts as I work at staying sober, one day at a time. Please pray for my mother and stepdad, that God would keep them healthy and strong. Also, pray for the well being of my brothers ... **I.V.**

Please pray that the Lord will release me on behalf of my mother Patricia and my aunt Linda. They are both in their 70's and need me home ASAP. As of this current writing, I am exactly 100 days away from my first parole hearing. I'm 25 years in on a 50 year aggravated sentence. Recently, I have messed up badly and it has cost me dearly as it regards freedom/parole. But over the past year God has restored what was taken from me, and I ask from Him and His Holy Spirit to intercede with all of your prayers on behalf of me and my family ... **T.T.**

## Praise Reports

My mom and my kids are doing great. The kids are doing really well in school. My daughter will graduate the 8th grade this year, but she's doing advanced 10th grade work. Praise God for that! My mom has done really well with both of my kids. And praise God I have 6 years clean, since the day of my arrest. I've been on this minimum yard now for 4 years and on the fire crew for 3 years. On the right path for sure ... **J.E.**

Would you join me in prayer. I want to thank God for blessing me with this great Christian woman He has sent to write me. I pray that He would also continue to bless her as well ... **A.Z.**

As God lives, this is my praise report. God has granted my appeal brothers and sisters! My appeal is now in the judge's hands and I will be hearing about it in the next year or so; according to my appeal attorney. I asked for relief from this 10 year sentence, in Jesus' name! And we all know what Papa does when we ask in Jesus' name ... **J.S.**

First and foremost, I'd like to thank God and all of you for the special opportunity to receive the newsletters! I'm a new believer and my faith continues to grow stronger and stronger each day. I know God has a plan for my life. I'm 37 years old, and most of that I have been in prison. But now, by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ I'll be out next year and I want to share my testimony with others of how God has transformed me from a life of crime, a gang member to a man of God ... **F.L.**

I have been keeping myself busy and it is paying off for me. I just received my second educational override to remain at this facility. I earned an AA degree in Social & Behavioral Sciences AND another in Sociology. I'm working on another couple for 2020 and my family will be able to be at my graduation this time! I've earned a complete calendar year off my sentence through positive programming which allows me to qualify for a Youth Offender Parole Hearing in 2026. I'm projected to reduce one more calendar year off of that and my EPRD within this next year. When it rains it pours and the blessings just keep coming brothers and sisters. I'm nervous, but believe in my heart in His time I will be going home. My duty is to make the necessary changes so I am ready to be released and become a good citizen. These past eight years have been the most fruitful of my life. Today, I believe in rehabilitation, I'm eight years sober and life is great. Put on the mind of Christ brothers and sisters and believe! He has restored me and given me a hope I never knew. I pray for peace, patience, faith and safety for all of the **DS&S** family. Utilize your time and the opportunities available. Continue to grow and change how you view this unfortunate blessing of incarceration. ... **M.S.**



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### I Will Not Walk Away This Time

By S.B.

You know when you were here to visit, we talked a little about my past as a satanist. I sometimes think that the world doesn't really realize just how real this stuff is. Even in everyday life, in regards to TV, radio and social media, there is the presence of satan in all of these things subtly messing with and influencing people. I see it all the time. I never really saw those things until my eyes were opened to it. It's crazy how satan and principalities move through people without them even realizing it. Now I see those things daily.

In my past, I was an instrument in facilitating chaos on a daily basis. I had refused many of his assignments when I was serving him and that really ticked him off. In it all I never worked with a group or church or temple because having others around would dilute my progress. Why do I say that? Because most people were just in it for the reasons of scaring other people as well as other stupid stuff. I was in it to get the real deal, and I did! But thanks be to God that he has healed me of that blindness! Since then, because I was in it so deep, satan continues to mess with me. I've had demons sent to me through other people, to tease me. I've simply laughed at them and sent them on their way. How? Through the authority I've been given in the name of Jesus Christ! The liar has fired the spirits of doubt, shame, pride, anger and fear to try and sway me or put his wedge between God and me. Even though that sucks, it's not going to shake my faith in Jesus!!

The liar, satan, should have never let me see what he's shown me, because I'm going to take every little thing and turn in to God's glory. I was a slave to satan not a son. But God's promises are real! In **Exodus 3:17** God promises, **"I have promised to rescue you from your oppression in Egypt."** My Egypt was satan and it was him who was oppressing me. But God's promise to be there for His people is real. I was God's before I ever walked away and started serving satan. Living in that darkness is pretty easy when you're in the world and not receiving God's Spirit's direction. Now I am walking in spirit and truth as it says here in **Ephesians 4:22-24**, **"Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life, which is corrupted by lust and deception. Instead, let the Spirit renew your thoughts and attitudes. Put on your new nature, created to be like God—truly righteous and holy."**

This is why I was telling you that I want to get the word TRUTH rooted into my heart. Standing on God's Word, the truth, is the most powerful weapon against satan. After God formed the heavens and the earth it states, in **Genesis 1:3, 6, 9, 11, 14, 20, 24** and **26**, **"Then God said."** God's words are the most powerful words, PERIOD! Standing on the truth and relying on the truth, God's Word, THEN I can be more than a conqueror. I have found, in **Ephesians 4:25-32**, how I am able to walk in truth. **"So stop telling lies. Let us tell our neighbors the truth, for we are all parts of the same body. And don't sin by letting anger control you. Don't let the sun go down while you are still angry, for anger gives a foothold to the devil. If you are a thief, quit stealing. Instead, use your hands for good hard work, and then give generously to others in need. Don't use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them. And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, He has identified you as His own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."**

So, I will pick up me cross everyday and throw off my old sinful nature, and walk with the Lord. In the beginning of my letter I told you I was struggling the last few days. The things I was struggling with are my thoughts and old ways. But I made a promise to Jesus, "I will NOT walk away this time!" He IS the truth! I know that He truly loves me, and you and all His sheep! Every time I think about Jesus taking me out of that darkness, I get super emotional, because I KNOW HE IS REAL! Here's another cool thing, I will get to hang with Him as His son in heaven and not have to battle this world no more. But, until that day comes, because I am that all in kind of dude, I will battle as God's warrior right here on this earth until He comes to receive me. I found this in **Revelation 3:8-9**, **"I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed My Word and did not deny Me. Look, I will force those who belong to Satan's synagogue—those liars who say they are Jews but are not—to come and bow down at your feet. They will acknowledge that you are the ones I love."** I thank God so much, that by the Blood and the name of Jesus I TOO AM SAVED, and an Overcomer for Christ! Thank You Jesus for never giving up on me!



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Unqualified Friendship

By C.S.

Because of my ungodly sin, I felt I was not worthy of God's love. Even through my repentance and confession, guilt and shame had been a steady companion for me; until I opened the **Book of Matthew**. Of all the passages I could point to that describe the Lord's devotion, "**While He was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest Him.'** Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed Him. Jesus replied, 'Do what you came for, friend.' Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested Him." (Matthew 26:47-50), these are the ones I think best showcase the 'unqualified friendship' Jesus offers His followers. Even when they become disobedient.

It was the night before His crucifixion and Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, when Judas Iscariot approached Him with a band of men. The betrayer stepped forward and kissed the Lord. And what was Jesus' response? According to Matthews account, the Lord called the man 'friend'. (Matthew 26:50) I think that Judas must have expected Jesus to establish His kingdom on earth and drive the Romans out of Israel. Surely that could calm a storm at sea could easily remove an oppressive government! But Judas' interest in Jesus was more personal and political than spiritual. In fact, **John 12:6** records, "**He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.**" One of Jesus' own disciples stole from the money bag. Today the man's name is the same with those who betray others for personal gain.

In spite of Judas' greed, blind ambition and betrayal, Jesus never exposed him or stopped loving him. In fact He still used the word 'friend' to address this disciple. What I learned from reading **Matthew 26**, is that Jesus is also my intimate 'friend'. The Lord does not place conditions on His love or reject people who fail to meet certain standards. He simply cares for us as we are. I learned that we cannot earn Jesus Christ's love and friendship. He takes the initiative, reaches out and draws us into fellowship, those who are willing. None of us are worthy, but we are privileged to live in His love anyway. **Proverbs 18:24** shows us, "**One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**" In the Lord, we find a friend who sticks closer than a brother. Amen!

### Coming Home

By B.M.

Brother Cash and the Overcomers team, I'm really thankful for people like yourselves who minister to us. Things are good for me. Our piano player got rolled up earlier and transported to Florence to finish his final couple of months prior to his release ... so that means I'm next! Like I said in my last piece of mail, I'm excited and nervous at the same time. I know our God wants us to trust Him and not freak out. To quote Erwin McManus, Pastor of Mosaic Church, "My future is on the other side of my failures" or "He uses my failures to build my future." WOW! Thank You Jesus! My wife and kids are really excited and my mom says she can't wait to feed me some real food.

I've really learned a lot in prison. I've learned patience from waiting in line for hours to see medical and then having to wait years for them to take action. I've learned to block out distractions so I can get to the throne of grace. Dealing with belligerent and verbal cops has taught me self-control. I've learned kindness from seeing guys in here who actually belong in a psych hospital, or dealing with blind inmates as they anxiously try to get their needs met. Yeah, this place has taught me humility. I'm grateful to be able to leave someday when I talk to much younger man with essentially a life sentence. When I find out he has young children makes me want to get out and be a good husband, an interested father and a kind grandparent. This time spent wearing orange has helped me so much. I wouldn't trade anything for what it has done to my heart. My inner man is complex and so much stronger than it has ever been before. Thank You Jesus!

I read a book recently called *Leaving Buddha*, it was about an account of a Tibetan Buddhist Monk who became curious about Jesus and ended up giving his life to the Lord. I know, for myself, that Buddhism offered me nothing but emptiness, but to hear all of the Pagan bondage that is wrapped up in "eastern" (actual) Buddhism, I was astounded. This was a quick read, but it blew me away, especially when it came to Jesus coming to the man in a dream - he couldn't make out His face, and wondered about His deformed hands. He saw the wounds of Christ, but didn't understand what he saw ... but to me it was like "WHOA!"

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



## Jeremiah 1:1-4:18

God knew you, as He knew Jeremiah, long before you were born or even conceived. He thought about you and planned for you. When you feel discouraged or inadequate, remember that God has always thought of you as valuable and that He has a purpose in mind for you. **(1:5)**

If we desire something so much that we will do anything to get it, it is a sign that we are addicted to it and out of tune with God. **(2:23-27)**

Forgetting can be dangerous, whether it is intentional or an oversight. Israel forgot God by focusing its affections on the allurements of the world. The more we focus on the pleasures of the world, the easier it becomes to forget God's care, history, His dependability, His guidance and most of all, God Himself. What pleases you most? Have you been forgetting God lately? **(2:31-32)**

To live without faith is hopeless, to express sorrow without change is hypocritical. Being sorry for sin is not enough. Repentance demands a change of mind and heart that results in changed behavior. **(3:11-13)**

## Colossians 1:1-17

God's Word is not just for our information, it is for our transformation! Becoming a Christian means beginning a whole new relationship with God, not just turning over a new leaf or determining to do right. New believers have a changed purpose, direction, attitude, and behavior. They are no longer seeking to serve themselves, but they are bearing fruit for God. How is the Good News reaching others through your life? **(1:6)**

## Psalms 75:1-76:12

The cup of wine represents God's judgment that is coming against the wicked. God will pour out His fury on His enemies, and they will be forced to drink it. Drinking the cup of God's judgment is a picture used frequently in Scripture - *Isaiah 51:17, 22; Jeremiah 25:15, 49:12; Habakkuk 2:16; Revelation 14:10, 16:19, 18:6.*

It gives the impression of taking a dose of one's own medicine to drink it down. 'To the dregs' means to be punished completely. **(75:8)**

How can wrath bring praise to God? Hostility to God and His people gives God the opportunity to do great deeds. For example, the pharaoh of Egypt refused to free the Hebrew slaves (*Exodus 5:1-2*) and thus allowed God to work mighty miracles for His people (*Exodus 11:9*). God turns the tables on evildoers and brings glory to Himself from the foolishness of those who deny Him or revolt against Him. God's wrath expressed in judgment brings praise from those who have been delivered. **(76:10)**

## Proverbs 24:21-22

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

## “Foot” Notes



Hey family! I know this has been a tough year for a lot of us with everything going on, giving us plenty of ammo for complaining and not being thankful.

Even through our toughest trials there's a reason to be thankful. I think of these times as if God caused humanity to just stop and pause with the outcome being families reconnecting, folks reprioritizing what's most important in their lives, thank God for what they do have.

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



**cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.**" So if you want to go about living in sin after you have received Jesus Christ, my question for you is 'how do you reconcile your sin with the Word of God?' This scripture makes it plain, you don't have the freedom to sin, therefore stop saying God's grace covers your sin and you can do whatever you want, you are deceived if you adhere to that.

Look here at **Hebrews 3:12, "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called 'Today', lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin."** If you continue to sin, this is a warning to you that you run the risk of departing from God because your heart will become hardened to Him. What a scary thought, you are the one who separates yourself from God as your heart is hardened towards Him because you allow sin to continue and sin deceives you leading you away from the truth and into error. So surround yourself with like-minded disciples of Jesus who will hold you accountable to your commitment of being a true disciple. You want close friends who are close to Jesus. Avoid close relationships that exclude Jesus from those friendships.

I am not saying you are not to have unbelieving friends, I am saying not to allow the friends who are unbelievers to influence decisions in your life. Don't allow unbelievers to cause you to do things that go against God. You are still to love the unbelievers, you just don't let them influence you. An example would be friends at work invite you to go out to the bar on Friday after work for a beer. On the surface you might think that's not so bad is it? But where does that lead too? Many things can happen. In my work, I sell kitchens, and I was out at a particular customers home just a week ago. He is married, but while he is doing the renovation on the this house, he and his wife are living in another house they own about an hour away. On the weekends he stays at the house he is renovating without his wife. He was telling me how he had gone to the bar the weekend before to have some beers, and he found himself in conversation with another woman. This woman started hitting on him, fortunately he made the choice to be faithful to his wife and he went home without her. You say, good for him, but I say, if he had never gone to the bar, he would never had been in the situation to make the choice. So again, be careful who and which friends you allow to influence you.

If you are disciple of Jesus, you will receive revelation of how to love others as Jesus loved us. **John 13:34-35, "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."** In these scriptures, Jesus was speaking to His disciples. All people should be able to recognize you as a disciple of Jesus because of the love you have for other disciples or Christians. But sadly, there are so many Christians today that cannot come together in the unity of Christ because of differences within the body of the Church as a whole. Throughout the history of the Church, there has been disunity, so much so that some were willing to kill other Christians for not believing as they did. You may not be burning people at the stake for their beliefs of not agreeing with yours, but if some who would be considered as leaders in today's Church could get away with it, I believe they would. They come out in all forms of social media tearing down others and what they believe, or pastors will speak against others for what they believe. You see some actually make it their ministry to speak against every minister that they don't agree with. If a ministry is in error according to the Word of God, especially in regards to salvation, it needs to be corrected. But much of the criticism relates to doctrinal beliefs or personal beliefs, not Christ, thus causing division among the body of Christ. When division is being preached, love is not. A true disciple spends his or her time being taught by Jesus, not using their time to find out what so and so says, and why they believe it is wrong. When you are studying and learning from Jesus, God's Holy Spirit will teach you how to love each other.

I will leave you with **Matthew 21:6, "So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them."** Consider what I have written to you, and as a disciple do as Jesus has commanded you to do. He has commanded you to become a disciple so that you can reproduce yourself in others, making more disciples, and loving each other as He loved us. Being a disciple is what really benefits you in this life. Knowing God through experiencing Him and gaining wisdom through understanding that comes by God's Holy Spirit is what opens up the Kingdom of Heaven to us. Look at **2 Peter 1:2-4, "Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."** This is why it is so important for each of us to know God personally, to have fellowship and relationship with Him; His provision for everything given to us is through knowing Him. The only way you can know Him like this is through discipleship. Set your heart on this, so your heart will exert influence in your life and you can begin to live life eternally here and now.



## The Blessing of Brokenness

By Steve Arterburn

"I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite." - Isaiah 57:15

Brokenness is actually a blessing, but too often we're so caught up with wanting to feel better we miss God's best for us. If you're struggling ... if you feel as if your faith is gone ... don't miss the blessing that comes with brokenness ... Here's a story that illustrates what I mean.

There was a young priest who was about to lift the communion cup and bless the cup. It was made of choice crystal. Just when he lifted up the cup, it slipped out of his hand and smashed in pieces onto the floor. He looked up at the senior priest thinking that he would be ridiculed. Instead the senior priest said, "I never knew there were so many beautiful pieces to reflect the light until the cup was broken. How marvelous and beautiful are all the pieces when the light shines on them!"

Like the cup, our broken lives can accentuate the beauty of the light shining through them. For that light is the Lord. What we fear is to be broken or be seen as broken; but as this story illustrates, it is in our brokenness that the light of Christ dazzles drawing attention to His beauty, and making our lives beautiful as a result.

In the book, *Wild at Heart*, John Eldredge writes, "But you can't do this at a distance; you can't ask Christ to come into your wound while you remain far from it. You have to go there with Him." It's okay to be broken; it is our brokenness that we can bring to the Lord and experience His touch and healing, and bring hope to our broken hearts.

### What Others Are Saying...

"Overcomers for Christ, for the past few months I have been getting your newsletters passed down to me by a friend of mine. We are no longer on the same yard so I'm hoping you could help me out by sending them to me personally? I would really appreciate it. I was also wondering, if I have questions on the Bible could I write you all? I could really use the help, I have a bunch of questions." - **F.M.**

"God is good, good, good! Thank you all for the cards with encouraging words as well as the newsletters. It's really nice to see all of your smiling faces while toiling away at God's chores for you. Thank you for your steadfast diligence in the newsletters and your correspondence with us inmates. I'm sure I can speak for us all ... Thank you, God has blessed us 'all' through ya'll." - **J.S.**

"In these times, I feel real blessed and I don't allow depression to get a hold of me anymore. I always pray for all of you 'inside and outside' for helping me find my way and 'save myself from me'. Thanks for the newsletters, I enjoy them. I learn a lot from them and they help me keep from falling. Also, thank you for the cards you send and please know that you ALL are never forgotten in my prayers. God bless you all for what you do. I would still be lost or doing something I was not designed too had I not found the OCS ministry. That's why I thank you all." - **R.V.**

"Thought I would send you all a card, as you do for so many others! Just to let you know you are appreciated. My prayers go out to all of you there and your loved ones as well as all the brothers and sisters incarcerated and their families through this horrible pandemic. God and faith will bring us through this and any other situation as well. The greater part of the world's population still needs to repent and receive God! As you know I was scheduled to be released but they pushed it back 8 more days due to the virus. (He's home now) I thank you all for making me a part of your family there and thank you for all of your prayers." - **A.O.**

"I was writing to tell you how happy it made me when I received your card. I am doing well and my family is doing well. My mom has been writing me back to back so that feels good to know that she loves me. I'm still doing what I do for/with God. I don't like being locked up because I know it hurts my family and that hurts me. I will keep my faith and I will make it home." - **L.F.**

"Please keep doing what you do for us on the inside, it is a life line for so many!!! Always smile, It makes the enemy so, so mad!" - **R.G.**

### *Quote Worthy*


"Life is pretty much like a cafeteria line. It offers us many choices, both good and bad. The Christian must have a spiritual radar that detects the difference not only between bad and good but also among good, better, and best."

- Dennis Swanberg - Served the local church in pastoral ministry for 23 years. Then, in 1995 Dennis took a leap of faith when he stepped down as church pastor and stepped up to the microphone on stages and platforms all across America and the World. "The Swan" soon became "AMERICA'S MINISTER OF ENCOURAGEMENT", a job he takes seriously as he continues to speak to about 150 organizations, faith-based groups and corporations every year.


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(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com


## Lover of Our Souls

By B.T.

Happy Thanksgiving! Jesus loves you and so do I. Thanks to Wade, his family and the family there at the  who care so much for us brothers and sisters and the lost souls. I'm thankful for all of you, that you use your time to reach out to us who were once lost, abandoned, forgotten, unloved, hurting, suffering and hated castaways. You all are willing to show us there are people out there who really care about us inmates.

All of you are willing to share the Good News of the Lover of our souls with all of us. You share the Creator of the universe, Who is full of tender mercy and loving kindness. Many of us had never heard and didn't know God or what He had to offer us. We were so blind.

Thanks to the  for Christ family 'out there' and your love for us inmates. You all continue to reach out to those of us with pains, hurts, problems and the negative things happening in our lives. You've come to show us and to help us find our way from all of those things. Thanks to you all for showing us our way through our hardships.

We all were looking for something or someone to comfort us and care for us when drugs and violence didn't work. What we really needed was peace, love and hope from our ugly lifestyles. A place free from worries, fear and habits. That's when Wade and the  family came in to our lives to lead us and guide us to the Lover of our souls, Jesus.

I'm sure I speak for many others when I say, "We are thankful and love you all so much for all of your help and care. There isn't enough words to show you our love."




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### Living Word Bible Church Locations

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

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### Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the  ministry:

By **check** or **money order** – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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



**"Imagine"**  
**By R.G.**

Can you imagine a day without night,  
No blind man or cripples anywhere in sight?  
No robbing or killing, not even a fight.  
No prostitutes or drug dealers to roam the streets at night.

No starving children or diseases to fight,  
No one called Black, Hispanic or White  
For that must be what heaven is like.

So remember this poem at bed time each night,  
And say your prayers before turning out the light,  
Preparing your soul for such a life.

This is an image of Imagine Peace Tower it is a memorial to John Lennon located on Viðey Island in Kollafjörður Bay near Reykjavík, Iceland named after his song *Imagine*.

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

**EDITORIAL** Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

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[www.livingwordonline.org](http://www.livingwordonline.org) [jasonlivingword@gmail.com](mailto:jasonlivingword@gmail.com)

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