

Overseers for Christ

May 2020



*"Strength
&
Dignity..."*

Proverbs 31:25-38

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

June 2019



Don't Allow Fear to Drive You

By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: "Gracious and Almighty Heavenly Father we thank You that Your Word clearly tells us that NO ONE or anything can ever snatch us from Your hand. We thank You that Your promises are our protection against the wiles of the enemy. And I thank You Lord that Your Holy Spirit, our Comforter, Who is not only in each of Your children but that He goes before us guiding and directing our every step. Jesus You ARE the Prince of peace and I thank You that only Your peace that surpasses all of our understanding flows over us as we live and have our being in You! Flood the hearts and minds of every eye that reads these words that You, Sir, have directed me to write upon these pages. It's in Jesus' name that we do believe and therefore receive all that You have prepared for each and every one of us! Amen! Amen! Amen!"

Hello everyone! Isn't it so amazing to be walking with the Lord? The answer to that is a firm, YES! By the time you all read this it will have been just over thirteen years since I surrendered, submitted and began to serve the Lord as He gave us the vision/mission, "Send hope, love and encouragement." After hearing this in my spirit, as I've written here or in letters many times before, I went to God with, "What does this mean, 'Send hope, love and encouragement?'" The only people that I have in my life are murderers, thieves, convicts, drug addicts and harlots." As one might imagine it was hard for me to get my 'mind' in line with what this meant, to and for me. But through earnest prayer and seeking to 'know' Him and what, "Send hope, love and encouragement" meant I ran upon these words written in **James 1:5, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you."**

I want to note that the very first assignment I received, without realizing it at the time, was that I began to write letters to Michelle's brother who was in prison in California. God had made such a drastic change inside of me and I wanted to tell anyone and everyone. I knew David and I had struggled with some of the same issues in our lives and I was hoping to encourage him not to give up, God would help him just like He was helping me. One thing we both had an issue with was that we 'thought' we always had to have people around us. Even though we both had great families at home that loved us, we both came to 'believe' that we needed those 'other' people.

Many times the letters I wrote were six to eight pages, both sides. Sometimes David would share those letters with other people and encourage them to write me. As they did I always wrote them back. Within a short time I was now writing five to six different people in California and close to a dozen others in Arizona. One night as I was answering mail Holy Spirit whispered to me, "You'll never be lonely again." It took a few more weeks of writing before I began to get the revelation of what had been whispered to me. At that point, I realized that I had been tricked by the enemy, and for so many years, with a false sense of loneliness! Writing mail I never had a desire to 'go find people' to hang out with. ALL OF YOU FILLED THAT SELFISH DESIRE! This is exactly why the *Overcomers for Christ* has been and will continue to be a 'mail mentoring/discipleship correspondence and newsletter ministry'.

Like I've said, ALL of this was brand new to me. Always being completely transparent with all of you, there were times I felt this was so weird. I'm not saying I never talked to myself before this but now I was asking questions out loud and for some reason it felt like I was getting somewhat of an answer from within me. It was when I came directly to God with His Word, **"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you"**, asking for His wisdom and direction, in just a few short weeks I had a glimpse, a vision.

It all started in a kitchen, with a hand full of us meeting together to encourage and strengthen each other as we headed into each next week. We agreed we would meet every Sunday at 2:00 pm so that we could still get to the regular churches we may be attending. At that point people were hearing what was going on and were coming just to see, "Is this true? 'These people' have found Jesus and are having 'church'?" Over the next couple of months it out grew a kitchen, taking over a living room it soon grew until there were forty five convicts, murderers, thieves, harlots and drug addicts all gathered in a backyard giving our testimonies and learning together about Jesus! This then became what is on page 2 of the newsletter, the Glory Meeting. And over those first few months, as God was beginning to show us what all of this meant I was quickly reminded of the following verse in **James 1:6, "But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind."**

Like all of us, when we first believed, we seemed to have childlike faith. Which to me means, "You said it Lord, and even though I may not totally understand it, I believe what You are saying is true." Think about this for just a second. When each and every one of us came to the Lord not many of us had barely any understanding of what Salvation truly meant. Sure there may be some of you, like myself, that had a religious upbringing, and boy howdy was that hard to shake! Those of us with that upbringing would openly admit, it was that wrong reflection of God, through their teachings that helped repel us from Him. And please believe me, these next things I'm about to share have absolutely no judgment or animosity in them. But for myself, these were my very own family members. My uncle was the pastor, my aunt did the praise and worship along with my grandma. Oh, and my aunt was also the youth or Sunday school teacher. These were 'people' I'd grown up with and closely knitted too so I believed what they were attempting to teach me, "BECAUSE THEY

SAID SO!" Today, I'm positive and truly believe that what we were being taught was what 'they' believed at that time. We all know firsthand that you can believe in the wrong things and yet still believe. AMEN!?

In our little church there were fifteen and sometimes upwards of thirty other people that attended, but for the most part we were all family. Every time the church doors were open or there was something to do 'for' the church all of us kids were there. I remember many, many times that my grandma would gather us all together to go and pass out these tracts throughout the city. Some of you know what I'm talking about. These were little flyer type things that had a message about, "Repent and be saved! Jesus loves you and He died for your sins! Turn from your evil ways and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior or you will die and go to Hell!" with the Scripture **John 3:16** on it and a prayer attempting to lead someone to Salvation. All of these statements are truth but with law and so, not the whole truth or with much love. Now notice the exclamation points at the end of each statement above. As kids we didn't truly understand the religious tone these tracts were delivering to those that may be reading them. We grew up 'in it' and it was 'normal' speech for us. Perhaps this is why some people called us, "Holy Rollers". Oh, and every time we shared this with grandma she always encouraged us with, "It's okay honey, just remember, we'd rather roll into heaven than slide into hell."

I want to stop and reflect just a minute on my grandma, Selma. She truly loved Jesus more than anything in this world. It wasn't her that we experienced religiosity from, she was the perfect picture of Jesus that each one of us seen each and every day. Our grandma was a physical picture of God's love and grace to EVERYONE she encountered. She was a true evangelist! Through her loving, kind and sweet spirit she probably led more people to Jesus in that little city than anyone else I know. We ALL loved going to grandma and grandpa's house because being around them always took our minds off of the sometimes terrible situations going on in our own lives, only thirty feet away, at our houses. Now let me paint you all a picture of 'our' family living arrangements.

My grandparents owned a piece of property, which as kids we believed was acres and acres, about a mile outside city limits. That made us country kids, not city kids. Nearly everything we did consisted of running the fields, picking wild berries, climbing trees and getting nearly everywhere by following the railroad tracks. We hunted, fished and adventured everywhere we went! (Just being reminded of these memories has just flooded my eyes with tears.) On this piece of property my grandpa, Frank, made a way for our three families to live there. My aunt, uncle and their three kids lived in a trailer house on one side. Then, when my mom and dad separated, and 'our' family unit as we knew it was ripped apart, in violence, in the middle of the night, we had no place to go except to grandma and grandpa's house. So, my mom loaded us in the car and drove us five boys to their home forty miles away, unannounced.

Back to that childlike faith. Believing in my heart that God would give me wisdom (**James 1:5**) when I was asking of Him, with the right motives, I connected that kind of faith and followed **James 1:6**, "**But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.**" I believed what I had read and didn't doubt it. Remember where I just said I truly believed 'they' were teaching us what they understood? Well, it was sort of crazy but now as I was reading the Bible I began to see things 'they' had taught us about but now I was getting it all in a much different light, Holy Spirit was bringing greater revelation through His grace.

Remember that this whole life change in me began in April of 2007 and by September of 2007 we printed the very first newsletter. Let's go now to the vision God had showed me. Some of you out there remember that the very first newsletter was one simple 8 x 10 page double sided. As I held the very first one in my hand, the Holy Spirit whispered to me, "When this is two pages, both sides, the **Overcomers for Christ 'From the Inside'** will always be the center two pages." When you turn to the center pages of each of the newsletters you will see a picture under laying the words. That was the exact thing God showed me that day holding that single page, prison bars with hands reaching forth. It was with that glimpse that I began to understand the beginning of what He was leading us to do. Notice I said a glimpse. This was the second piece of the assignment that was revealed to me.

The living arrangements on that little piece of property is where I was first shaped and influenced for what I'm doing today. So let's stay right here a few more minutes. Right after we arrived, grandpa got busy making a way for the six of us to live there as well. Grandpa was a carpenter and had built the home they lived in and eventually built himself a two car garage which also included a small workplace inside. Making a way for us he sacrificed his garage and workplace to begin accommodating our needs. Of course, that wouldn't be enough room so he added yet another structure to the back of that that would then become a bedroom area for us five boys. If you're keeping track that now adds up to five adults and eight grandkids with dwellings only thirty feet apart from each other. In that setting, of course, our cousins became the first friends we had. Which remains to this day, a great thing! When all this took place I was ten years old. My parents eventually did get divorced and I saw my dad very little until I was an adult.

This was no rabbit trail. I'm simply sharing some encouragement that it's not how we start but how we finish. It doesn't matter what has gone on in your past. The only way that the past can define you is if 'you' allow it to! With God's help you can pick yourselves back up, allow God to erase your past, stop listening to the liar, and have God help you write a differ-

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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

Things are okay with me, some good and bad and ugly. The bad is there is a lot of scrambling and disorganization in our ministry. The chaplain is difficult to deal with and he's not approachable. Our ministry leader is too busy with other things, worship seems to be the last thing he wants to do. Pray for them both, especially because we can all see the problem but we're not sure how to lovingly comfort him about it. The ugly is that my mom and I have been discussing that I could come and live with her just to get on my feet after prison. But now my brother, who also lives with my mom, is starting static and stressing my mom out. I guess if it was just me moving in that it might be okay but I'm expecting to reunite with my wife. I haven't seen my wife in five years, we've been married 30 years, Praise God!! But my brother is telling my mom that we can't move in, only I can ... maybe. Geez, it's a mess. Please pray that God will open a door so I can talk with my brother. We are not very close and I think he blames my wife for a lot of my hardships in life. I am going to send him a letter. Pray that his ears and heart be opened. He is not a believer. The Lord has really been hitting me with **Isaiah 43:18-19** this year, especially **verse 19**, "... **that He is going to do something new.**" Trust He is making a highway out of this desert. I need prayer for guidance as reports are coming to me from Pima county that life could be easier out there for someone like me. Tucson is way more progressive and rehabilitative in their desire to reintegrate SO's back into society. The difficulty is that I will be further away from my mom, wife, kids and grandkids ... sigh!! **Isaiah 45:3**, "**It was in my bad times that I've seen God shine the brightest.**" ... **B.M.**

Dear brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ**, I pray and hope that this letter finds all you brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ** in the best of health and upmost highest of spirits in our heavenly God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am requesting prayer for my sister, Brenda, she is really sick; please pray that she be healed in the name of Jesus Christ. Thank you all ... God bless you all ... **L.Z.**

I love you all and I miss you so much, I hope and pray that you all are alright and okay. Be good, stay safe, you are loved. I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers, I want to pray for you all and could you pray for me also. You are good people and may the Lord bless you all and be good to you. Like He has been good to me ... **P.R.**

"And to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with the fullness of God." - Ephesians 3:19. God's grace (love) is good, although I'm in prison there are no new charges. Praise God! I'll be finished with this in December. Looking forward to seeing you. Hello to you all at **OS+S** and thanks for the birthday card and newsletters.

Keep me in prayer for a bus ticket to Florida, where my daughter resides. She's a Christian and is full of God's Spirit. You all are in my prayers ... **R.N.**

Praise Reports

Hello everyone. In my last letter to you all, I brought you up to date on the things concerning my health and asked for prayer. Then I noticed that you printed my prayer request in the January newsletter. Now I would like to thank everyone everywhere in the body who prayed for me and to let everyone know what God has done as a result of all the prayers. I was sent again to the same hospital for an update check -up. On the first visit there my P.S.A. numbers were over 10 when 4 or less is where they should have been. On this visit the numbers were 4.2. Praise the Lord! I told the doctor right then that God had healed me. How do I know? Well, there was no medication or treatment given to me between each visit. All I needed was His touch and He touched me! He is there to help us all. All we need to do is pray His Word, have faith believing that when we pray we WILL receive what He has already purchased with His Blood for us! Also after his inspection the doctor told me there is nothing wrong with my prostate beyond the normal growth of a 73 year old man. In his words "You do not need any treatment." Praise the Lord ... **J.M.**

I would like to share a praise report with the **Overcomers for Christ** family. On October 9th, with the power and the strength of the Lord, I quit smoking cigarettes! Now I'm working on taming the tongue, which I've found is a much harder and slower process. I wish it was as easy as taking off a dirty shirt and putting on a clean one, but it is NOT!! I just want to give God all of the praise and honor for working so mightily in my life these past few months of 2019 ... **C.M.**

I'm writing to let you know that they have moved me, and give you my new address so that I can continue getting the monthly newsletter. I prayed asking God to let me be moved from where I was and He has already come through! This new location is a program yard and no real jobs. But I'm leaving it in my heavenly Father's hands. I'm guessing He has moved me here for a certain reason. I'm already looking forward to meeting all of you there in 2021. Give all my love and respects to everyone there. You all have been more of a family to me over these last nine years than my real family has, and I thank you all for that ... **L.T.**

Just a quick drive by to let you know ... I finally got out to a yard! It's been since 1999, that's a long time. But all in our Lord's time, I'm so blessed. I have to chill though because I've eaten so much over these last three weeks it's unreal. I got out here just two days before our Lord's birthday! Hallelujah ... **E.G.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God Is Always Faithful

By G.H.

Reading the latest newsletter prompted me to write. While I have often been driven to be successful, God calls me (us) to be faithful. At various times for thirteen years I have claimed various 'promises' to appease my own selfish desires. Yet when my will differs from God's will all of the 'promises' are mere words. When I humble myself, and I am still learning to do this, and submit to His will, my faithfulness brings uncommon and unseen success, even if the 'success' that comes was never what I desired. God is always faithful even when I am not, but when I align my faithfulness - even as a meager attempt - with His faithfulness grace abounds.

My recent clemency petition was denied. I was disappointed, but not surprised, and most certainly not discouraged. I have 5 1/2 years remaining to serve here, much shorter than many of my brothers. I began thinking where I was 5 1/2 years ago? I was a student in a sex offender education treatment program and had just completed a Bachelor's degree. Today, I have served as a facilitator tutor in that program, completed a Master's and Doctorate's degree and my first book, *Silence in the Face of Injustice* will be published and distributed nationwide in just a few months. Five and a half years ago, none of these things were on my mind; in fact if anyone would have suggested what would happen I would have thought they were crazy or high. I marvel at what God may do in my remaining time. I strive each day to be faithful, trusting in and serving Him, giving **"All glory to God who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen."** (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Prayer is Powerful

By R.E.

It was so nice hearing from you again, and I really love how you hold your dad and memories of him so close to your heart. Thank you for sharing those with me as my sister continues to advance in her Alzheimer's disease. We continue to talk on the phone, not every day like we once did, but close to it, I do cherish every moment. She's in an assisted living facility, but her daughter and grandkids who are all grown take good care of her and being she retired from the military, they also assist with her needs. She continues to say, "I'm waiting for you to get out, for we can live together." I go to my parole board hearing August 29, 2019 after 22 years in here, and I am ready to be found suitable for parole. Two weeks ago, I was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and yesterday I went out for what is called a nuclear full body scan. They inject radiation in your blood to get these images of your entire bone structure, to determine if the cancer has spread elsewhere, especially into your bone. That's how they also determine the stage of the cancer.

I have a lot of support both in prison and outside prison and I've really needed it, because after all these years in prison and right before I'm to be released hopefully. For a while, my feelings were all over the place and I had to immediately give it to God, because this was much bigger than me. And I needed to take hold of what His Word says **"Nothing formed against me shall prosper."** I draw my strength from that, because I do understand what God's purpose for my life is, and it hasn't been completed yet, from His point of view. So, I know this cancer will not beat me. Regardless of what stage it comes back from the radiologists findings, I ask that you and the whole Overcomers for Christ family keep me in your prayers. I've been with you guys since 2015 and I thank all of you for how you allow the Holy Spirit to guide your lives. I'll keep you informed on how me and my sister are doing, as well as the outcome of my parole board hearing. Keep me in prayer about that as well, because prayer is so powerful. You are in my prayers daily.

Don't Be Afraid

By E.J.

Brothers and sisters of Overcomers for Christ, I have the intention of going back to court soon, and getting out, if God is willing. Please, pray for me. I'm hoping, through repentance that He would be willing. Do not boast about tomorrow. Instead, you ought to say, **"If the Lord wills, we will do this, or that."** (James 4:13-17) I want to tell you about how special every one of you are, each one of you are like angels, but you are more special. You are heirs to creation, if you know the limitlessness to that, then you know what that means.

"Peace be still." – Jesus. **Stop fighting, resist the devil and he will flee from you."** (James 4:7)

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Don't be afraid. The more explanatory you are in your affairs, the more prayer can be focused on that topic, and inspired. For whoever seeks to save their life will lose it and whoever loses their life for God's sake shall find it. (**Matthew 16:25**) We're constantly reminded that we've got things to work on, as a part of growth in our righteous walk. Confess all your sins, because anything you try to hide from, you'll always be running from.

Power In Prayer

By R.C.

I'm new in this walk of faith but I must say that God has already blessed me with a great cellie. This guy was even a fellow friend that I worked with and he knows my family. I've really found the power of prayer! I prayed before I went to court and should have gotten 5 years and only got 2 1/2 years. I was carrying a hunting knife over 6 inches. I was homeless and thought that I could carry it, but I learned I was wrong. Praise Jesus! This is my first time being with someone on a yard that I know. It's all that I prayed for while coming here and didn't even know that he was in the same van with me.

I love telling everyone about the **Power In Prayer** and God's love for everyone. I never knew that we ALL fall short of God's glory and that it's never too late to ask for His forgiveness. To everyone out there that reads the *Overcomers for Christ*, "Trust God and ask for forgiveness and give your life to Christ! He is our Lord and Savior and He paid the full price for EVERY SINGLE ONE OF US! So please, accept Him into your lives today! My hope is that my little story will help those who have not yet asked for God's love and turn to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior if you haven't already done so. Just stop right now, ask Jesus to come into your life and I promise that you will begin to see His love from this second forward! He will accept you in spite of everything you may think you have done! He loves you!"

The Curse Of My Captivity - Imagine That!

By C.S.

From the beginning of my imprisonment God has given me the hunger to read the Bible. I remember starting in Genesis and reading to the very end of Revelation. Then when I repeated the process over and over, each time the Holy Spirit would teach me more about Israel's story. The more I learned the more that I realized, although their imprisonment happened thousands of years ago, their experience was exactly like ours today. Examples of what I am experiencing in my own imprisonment are found throughout Scripture. Let's first look at **Deuteronomy 28:64-67**, "**Then the LORD will scatter you among all nations, from one end of the earth to the other. There you will worship other gods-gods of wood and stone, which neither you nor your ancestors have known. Among those nations you will find no repose, no resting place for the sole of your foot. There the LORD will give you an anxious mind, eyes weary with longing, and a despairing heart. You will live in constant suspense, filled with dread both night and day, never sure of your life. In the morning you will say, 'If only it were evening!' and in the evening, 'If only it were morning!'-because of the terror that will fill your hearts and the sights that your eyes will see.**" These particular Scriptures I call "**The Curse Of My Captivity**" because this seems to perfectly describe what I am going through since being incarcerated.

You know, thinking back on my life on the streets, I can remember one thing after another going wrong. I lost my wife, my kids, my house, car and jobs. Then all of my drug deals started to go south. I got to the point where I felt like I was 'cursed'. **Imagine That!** All those apparent 'bad luck' circumstances were not just random coincidences. I did not pay attention to those red flags until it was too late. Back then I was so sick in sin it feels like God prescribed, based on my actions the best remedy possible at the time, prison. Now, He has my Attention! And again, based on my own actions I believe now that God used this plan to help change me. Coming here has opened my eyes to change, that I could have a personal relationship with God. This experience has also shown me that over time I was on my way to experiencing things I would never dream could happen to me. Before I could begin in my journey towards my true purpose I had to be taken off of the streets, so that I could be separated from the temptations that led me into sin. Since being here in prison I've already served ten of my fifteen to life sentence, and today I seek God in an intense way. His desire for me is to be transformed into a new creation, recognize and repent of that old lifestyle and turn completely to Him while surrendering to His will for my new life. A great work takes a long time to complete. While it may appear slow, God's work in me is relentless, certain and positive. And if I had one thing to say to my family, whom I haven't had any communication with for the past ten years, I would tell them, "I didn't change in order to receive God's approval. I changed because I responded to God's love."

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Isaiah 43:1-44:28

Believers today share the same responsibilities as of those of Isaiah's time, to be witnesses for God. Can others know who God is by your actions and words? They should see God reflected by how you live your life. (43:10-11)

How often have we been tempted to remind others of their own transgressions? Yet as God forgives us, He also forgives them or I like to say, "Cuts them loose." We need to do likewise when we forgive a sin, we need to cut it loose. Don't we all drag around enough junk? Why continue to add to what we're trying to get rid of? (43:25)

God tells us to serve our Creator and not idols. Instead of serving something we made. We should serve the One who has freed us all for no idol has ever created nobody. (44:21)

If you're not sure about what you may be being taught, then it may be against God's Word. Your teachers advice should never oppose God's Word. (44:25-26)

Ephesians 3:8-21

Paul even stated that he was the last deserving Christian and without God's help he would never have been able to do God's work. Just make yourself available to God no matter what the role may be and you'll see what a difference God can make. (3:8)

God's family includes all who believe ... past, present and future. We are all family because we have the same Father. He is the Father of all creation. If we separate ourselves from God and try to make it alone we cut ourselves away from God's power. (3:14-15)

Psalms 68:1-35


Psalms 68 should hold a special place in the hearts of us on the inside for in it we read that God. "Sets prisoners free and gives us joy." (68:6)

Only through God is there hope for the forgotten people, As forgotten people (orphans, widows, prisoners, other lonely people), we can join David in his praise and find joy from loving and glorifying God. (68:3-6)

As a people, God sees us free and destroys our enemies, His salvation gives us freedom of sin and death. How much better we can be as a people who love God and fear the repercussions of sin. (68:19-21)

Proverbs 24:11-12

God will judge all of us, seeing what we have done, so don't try to avoid responsibilities by claiming we didn't know about it. (24:12)

 **"Foot" Notes**

Hello Overcomers, this time around I feel the need to humble myself as I share one of my recent flaws with you. As I speak or should say write on being judgmental and how it always comes back to bite you in the you know what. It seems that when we become too comfortable it's all too easy to drop the ball. Case in point, awhile back I made a judgment call on a person as to his giving the impression that it was a Hurculean effort for him to be where he was to do the Lord's work and this sat wrong with me so I made a judgment to cease to be around him.

Just recently, I found out he is terminally ill and has been for awhile. God really put me in my place on that judgment call. I now feel about 1/2" tall for that move. I have spoken to this person since hearing of his situation, I am moved by the Spirit to take it a step further and give this person an apology even though he knows nothing of my own misaligned judgment I had made on him.

Ya' know it's funny, but I feel I need to apologize not for his sake but for mine. I guess what I'm saying is we all need to do our best to refrain or abstain from making judgment on other folks.

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

ent ending, through following Jesus!

God doesn't, at least for me, show us the whole picture of what He wants for us to do OR where exactly we will end up. BUT, over these thirteen years He has progressively shown me more direction as I mature for that next assignment. My encouragement to us all is that we not become frustrated with what 'we' think, 'we' know or be too anxious and try to run ahead of God. If you find yourself turning towards God and motioning for Him to "Catch up" your positioning is all wrong. That's exactly why He only gives 'me' glimpses. So, that I don't make a mess out of what He has already planned for 'me'. When we're truly listening and following the Holy Spirit's direction we will always walk right in to the next phase of His plan. Amen?! Can you receive that? Let's get to the title of this message.

When you read **Deuteronomy 6:13**, "**You shall fear the LORD your God and serve Him, and shall take oaths in His name**" what stands out to you the most? If you grew up in the midst of religious teachings or you began to read the Bible from the **Book of Genesis**, the first thing that might glare at you would be that we should be 'afraid' of God. But the Hebrew meaning here of **fear** instead is defined as revere, be in reverence of God. Now, as you look at **Isaiah 41:10**, "**Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand**" what stands out to you the most? The very first thing that I see is **Fear not**, and then comes some most powerful and awesome promises, "**For I am with you, don't be dismayed (discouraged), for I AM your GOD. I WILL strengthen you, YES, I WILL help you, I WILL uphold you with My righteous right hand.**" HALLELUJAH! Every place where God says, "**I will**", that's His promise!

Look here at these two Scriptures that confirm that statement. First in **Numbers 23:19 (NKJV)**, "**God is not a man, that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?**" Now from **Hebrews 6:17-18 (NIV)**, "**God also bound Himself with an oath, so that those who received the promise could be perfectly sure that He would never change His mind. So God has given both His promise and His oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to Him for refuge can have great confidence as we hold to the hope that lies before us.**" So, it looks to me like if we have fled to God for refuge, through the finished work of Christ Jesus, we should have great confidence, NOT FEAR, as we now place our hope not in ourselves but in Jesus, right?

Open your Bibles with me and let's read together about the POWER and Sovereignty of our Creator. **Isaiah 40:13-15 (NLT)**, "**Who is able to advise the Spirit of the LORD? Who knows enough to give Him advice or teach Him? Has the LORD ever needed anyone's advice? Does He need instruction about what is good? Did someone teach Him what is right or show Him the path of justice? No, for all the nations of the world are but a drop in the bucket. They are nothing more than dust on the scales. He picks up the whole earth as though it were a grain of sand.**"

Now look down a few Scriptures to **Isaiah 40:28-31**. Ready? Let's read. "**Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of His understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired, and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who TRUST in the LORD WILL find new strength. They WILL soar high on wings like eagles. They WILL run and not grow weary. They WILL walk and not faint.**" Notice here again what WILL happen in us and for us when we TRUST in God and His promises.

Maybe you're wondering what all of this is about? Many of you may already be picking up what the Word of God has been laying down. A couple of months ago a 'virus' scare began to surface all around the world, beginning in China and quickly spreading in all of Europe. THEN it crept its way into the United States as tourists around the world were being made to quarantine on ships and in the countries they had been visiting. The media grabbed a hold of this and began to instill FEAR in the lives of the people! I'm in no way saying that there is not a 'virus' that they have no solution to, yet. I will NOT refer to it as they do by giving it a name, because my Bible says, "**As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"**(**Romans 14:11**) Again in **Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV)**, "**No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, And their righteousness is from Me,' Says the LORD.**" Do you see that? God didn't say there would be NO weapons formed against us. He said that they would not prosper against us! Why? Because that is our heritage as servants of the Lord! He also said that our righteousness is NOT in ourselves BUT from Him. Look here now at **2 Corinthians 5:21**, "**God made Him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.**" Again, it is NEVER because of the things that we may think we do or have done that make us in right standing with God. We are only righteous because of Jesus' finished work on the Cross!

Isaiah 64:6 tells us, "**All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.**" And **Romans 3:10** reveals, "**There is no one**

righteous, not even one ... "None of us knew absolutely anything about righteousness, except for being self-righteous, until we believed by faith and then received Jesus as our Lord and Savior! He's the One who has made us right in God's sight! Can I tell you the sad thing about all of this? Some people STILL do NOT understand the value that has been placed in us as the righteousness of God! This is where that child-like faith comes back into the story.

Not a single one of us, on our own, had the faith to believe for Salvation. It was the Spirit of God resonating in each of us that ignited with the little faith we did have that caused us to believe about and for our Salvation. Just think about it, in order to get saved we had to first believe with our hearts, that God sent His Holy Spirit to rest upon a virgin girl causing her to conceive and give birth to a Son that would be called Christ, the Messiah, the Son of God. Okay then, I believe that most of you reading this have believed this and also believe that you are saved, right?

For some reason or another, many people from that point turn from the trusting and believing in God to a performance mentality. All of a sudden something drastic like this 'virus' happens and we go to God begging and pleading for His protection. Maybe you start to feel some symptoms of a cold and you lift your thoughts or fears to God, believing it to be prayer. And as the days go on, because the symptoms didn't instantly go away, you might begin to think that God didn't hear you. At that point the devil will come in, as he hears your wavering in doubt, and sends you into a performance mentality by whispering in your ear, "You haven't been praying hard enough or you haven't read your Bible enough for God to heal you!" Don't misunderstand me, but always going to God with the problem never catches Him off guard. What He really wants is for us to know His Word enough that we come to Him reminding Him of the promises that He has ALREADY given us. That's something He can and will work with.

This in no way means to be in denial of things going on in our bodies. Instead, I've learned to find God's promise in His Word concerning that issue and go to Him with that, the Solution. Because of the authority that I know I have in Christ, today I'm more in prayer with thanksgiving and gratefulness than I am asking Him to fix this or that. But of course I always ask for His direction and Holy Spirit's guidance as I begin each and every day. And I am NOT saying that I know how to pray better than someone else. All I'm saying is that in changing the way that I approach God, it has lightened the load that I was carrying and brought a whole different result in my time with Him. The way that I approach prayer now is like this, *"Heavenly Father, I thank You that Your Word is truth and You are faithful to Your promises. I'm thankful and grateful knowing that in Christ Jesus I am made righteous in Your sight. I thank You Lord that I have no need to be concerned about the cares of the world because I know that You, Sir, hold all things together for those of us that love You. Thank You Lord for keeping watch over my family, over this ministry and over every aspect of my life so that I am able to keep my focus on the very things You have set before us to accomplish. I thank You for the Blood of Jesus and for the love that You share with me so that I might learn how to love others in the same way. In Jesus name I believe and therefore I expect to receive ALL the blessings that You have already given me. AMEN!"*

Let me please encourage all of you to not get disgruntled with the system, D.O.C., and the new way that they are doing things. Instead, be a little more submissive to the authorities as they, I believe, are working in all of yours and the staff's best interest. I know they have stopped visits from family and even stopped the incoming visitors like myself and church services so that it lessens the outside interaction from 'us' in order to keep all of you more safe. But the very same things are being set in motion out here on the streets. Michelle and I have agreed to stay separated from our children and grandchildren right now but not out of fear, it's out of consideration of others. Just because someone doesn't show any signs of this 'virus' doesn't mean that they may not be carrying it. We trust God to stir our spirit's with discernment and wisdom as we walk safely through every bit of this! In this time, Michelle and I are spending more time reading and studying God's Word. We are having Bible studies together and encouraging others to do the same. This is exactly what I'm asking all of you there to do wherever you are. Be a light to those who may have little or no hope. Share with them why 'YOU' have the peace that you do. Don't look down on your fellow Christian brothers and sisters if they feel weak. Hold their arms up and help them through these tough times. As Christians we are laborers and have the opportunity to go into the fields and bring forth a great harvest for the Kingdom of God! AMEN!?

Even out here most church services have been asked to not congregate, at first it was no more than 50 people and a minimum of six feet apart. Living Word will not close our doors at the church but not because we are bucking against the Governor but for the simple fact of, what kind of a message would that send to a hurting world if they came to the church in desperation and instead they found us all locked up tight and in a sense, hiding? I honestly do NOT believe any of this is a rise against the church itself. People are asked to follow these same guidelines for everything out here. Everywhere you go the restaurants are mostly closed except for the drive thru or take-out, and only so many people at a time are allowed in most store at a time.

What this in essence has begun to do is cause the leadership everywhere in the church body to brainstorm and think outside the box to gather ideas of how to still meet together, stay within the Governor's and President's guidelines and still function as the church. With that I will share the way that Living Word has approached this whole social distancing.

We now have Drive-In church! Yes, Drive-In church! They built a large stage about four feet off the ground for the praise and worship and the Pastors to bring the message. Up on the side of the church they have a huge 20 foot screen, just like at the old Drive-In movies so that people throughout the whole place can still see everything that is going on. A team of ushers direct the flow of traffic into the huge parking lot. Each vehicle is positioned far enough away from each other and most everyone stays in their vehicle. But if you choose to sit on your vehicle you can, just respect other people's space in your area. We simply tune the radio to 98.1 and hear the whole service. After the Saturday services, people stay over and we show a great family movie. People that don't usually come to church just happen to be driving by, see the big screen, turn in and get the Word of God AND a movie to boot! Even the media has dropped in and have written great reviews for the past couple of weeks.

I'll close with these two Scriptures. **"Anxious fear brings depression, but a life-giving word of encouragement can do wonders to restore joy to the heart."** (Proverbs 12:25) AND **"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to You, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."** (Psalms 19:14) Remember this, we love you all deeply and you are always in our hearts and our prayer time. Look to the Word for His promises and don't bow to everything the world may be declaring! JESUS IS MY FINAL ANSWER!

Inside Perspective of Coronavirus

By J.L.

Editor's Note: *As I was finishing this month's article we received a piece of mail that I immediately felt needed to be run with it. I thought it important as it's a view from 'that' side of the wire.*

What an honor to be able to freely write you this letter, especially in these 'trying' times that are happening in the world! We could easily focus on the Coronavirus and get all off track with fear, doubt, depression, addictions and even sitting in the pinta (prison) we can worry. All of those behaviors and choices are basically saying, "God, I know You're good ... but ..." But guess what? ALL through the Bible God promises as He reaches out, "Never are you alone, turn to Me, cast all your cares on Me." Let me encourage you all, He's the One able to allow all of us to endure whatever comes our way, God forbid - even this virus. I pray as the church/family of Christ we ALL come together in Jesus Christ's strength, and rebuke this crap! When 'we' seek His promises, believe in and pray His promises we ALL will come through this stronger than we were going in to it.

Quote Worthy

"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure."

Collin Powell - An American politician and retired four-star general in the United States Army.

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Florence - Florence High School 1000 S. Main St. Florence, AZ 85132

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the Overcomers for Christ ministry:

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

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

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Little One
By P.R.

I miss you and I love you
I hope you are being good and staying safe

God bless you and Jesus loves you!
So do I!

I love you all
Please keep me in your prayers and thoughts
And I'll do the same

I love you all
And I will always have you in my heart

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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