

# Overcomers for Christ

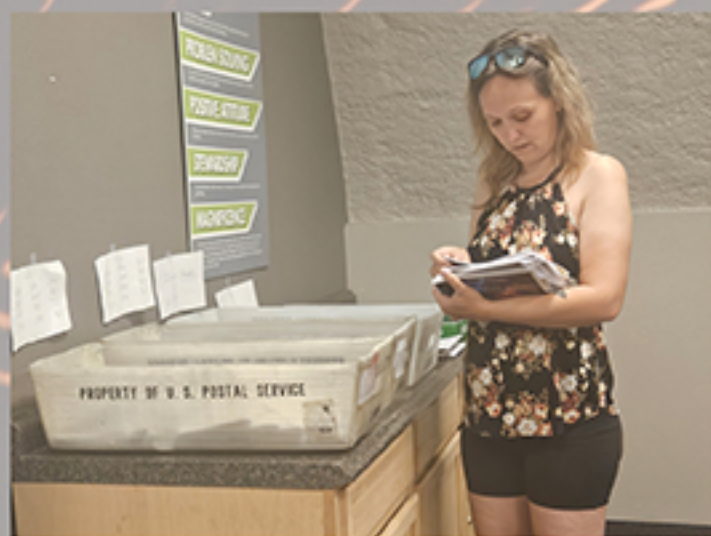
*August 2024*





# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

## April 2024





## Vision/Imagination - Part 6

By Wade Anderson

Last month, as I was coming to a close, I had been sharing some of our experiences of how Michelle and I began trusting God with our finances through tithing. Brothers and sisters, I don't care who you are or what argument you might have against tithing, there is **ABSOLUTELY NO WAY YOU COULD EVER PRESENT YOUR CASE WELL ENOUGH TO CAUSE US TO STOP TITHING!** Oh yah, we are not begging you for your money in any of these messages. For 17 years God has been faithful to supply **ALL** of our needs for this newsletter ministry. And yes, we are forever grateful for the many of you that heard God and are already a huge part of His provision.

Let's pray: *"Father, I thank You for all that You are doing in the lives of Your children, us, once considered the worst of the worst. I thank You that You are no respecter of persons, You love all of us equally. Lord, I know that Your voice is beginning to be heard easier and easier as these messages, You've given me to share, help us all fine tune our 'listener' to only follow Your voice. It's in Jesus name we pray and believe! Amen! And Amen!"*

Somewhere in this same time frame, I read this in **Matthew 13:20-23**, *"The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful. But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown."*<sup>27</sup>

I believed God was showing me that His Word had found the good soil of our hearts, that we received His Word and were understanding it. And from that point forward, we've allowed God's Word to continue to penetrate the deep soil of our hearts. For the glory of God, we pray that our lives are a reflection of God's goodness. Sometimes a thirty, sometimes sixty and other times even one hundred times what has been sown! Today, **NO ONE** will ever be able to talk us out of tithing! I've watched God bless every area of our lives, and even our children and grandchildren's lives. I'm simply giving glory to God; He is faithful, and you too can trust Him in these and all matters!

Back in 2007, after that motorcycle accident, I parked my motorcycle inside the shop, locked the doors and put myself in time-out. Not fully understanding who this new guy was, I did, however, know who that old guy was. Having glimpses of what I believed were God showing me things, I decided I wanted to make sure I didn't allow anything worldly to steer me off that course. In a sense, I put my nose in the corner of the Bible and didn't touch that motorcycle for 6 ½ years. I did realize that it is never the machine that controls the adventures, it's the idiot holding the handlebars that leads the way! I knew I was the culprit in the way I had led my life, and that old guy always seemed to return to the same old vomit. So, I, not God, put myself in time-out. God not once told me that I could not ride my motorcycle. In fact, He even encouraged me to letter the poem *A Promise Is a Promise* on the right-side gas tank in white paint. What was He doing here? I believe He was assuring me that I would ride again, but with a different meaning and purpose. With this new life inside of me and was now seeing with spiritual vision some of the things God had in store, I wanted to make sure the vision was clear, and I was headed in that direction.

In **Isaiah 26:3** it says, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."* The Hebrew word translated 'mind' here is that same Hebrew word 'yester'. The imagination, which is part of the mind, is the spiritual womb where we conceive. Just like a woman can't have a natural birth without natural conception, we can't have a spiritual birth without spiritual conception. What I'm saying is this, I saw some of the vision and could imagine some of it coming to pass, but in order to have that full mental picture of God's promises, I placed myself in time-out until I could conceive God's words to me in my imagination.

Remember, vision is the mental image formed in the imagination. Whatever we imagine, what we see ourselves doing, or see ourselves being – is usually what we live out. Imagination comes before manifestation. Many of us have experienced the negative side of this through the lives we used to live. And just in case you may not realize it or not I'm going to go ahead and just tell everyone, **ALL** of the wickedness and sin we did in the world, was first conceived in our imaginations. In other words, we never went anywhere with our bodies that we hadn't already been in our imagination. **ALL** of the worldly things we did we had already entertained, in our minds, before we ever left the house.

The same goes with spiritual things. If we can't imagine ourselves 'doing' what God has called us to do or experiencing His promises, we'll not see those things come to pass with our physical eyes. I put myself in time-out to better see His plans and purpose for my new life, until I began to see them on the outside.

It's pretty sad, but most Christians, living in today's lifestyle very rarely get the concept that I've been talking about in this message. Most people in general are too busy. Keep in mind, busyness does not always equate to productivity. And productivity doesn't always reveal God's vision for our lives. Business generally doesn't bring much peace either. God reminds us, in **Psalms 46:10**, *"Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted*



*in the earth.*" God encourages us to **NOT** be so busy and just be still sometimes. When we're all caught up in the business of life, attempting to accomplish too many things in a day, it generally overpowers the voice of God while He's speaking and leading us. When we get done with 'our' agenda for the day or even the week, we sometimes wonder why we didn't hear from God.

I experienced this at the beginning of my walk. I knew that God had given me certain things to do and accomplish, so I ran the soles of my Jesus cleats every day. Throughout my studies, I ran across Scripture talking about God's rest or entering God's rest and wondered what that might look like. I used to think that in all of my business I would eventually enter into this rest the Bible spoke about. That's when I read **Hebrews 4:10-11**, "**For all who have entered into God's rest have rested from their labors, just as God did after creating the world. So let us do our best to enter that rest. But if we disobey God, as the people of Israel did, we will fall.**" All of a sudden, this Scripture made so much sense. If God rested after He created **EVERYTHING**, and I wanted to be in obedience to His command, then I too needed to rest from the business of my days. I began to get a different perspective/vision of entering God's rest. I believe the Spirit of God was telling me, "To enter My rest and find My peace, you will have to trust Me and My abilities to get you where I desire for you to be, and when I desire you to be there. Do you trust Me?"

Here's where Holy Spirit showed me a picture of something that resembled a pie plate. That plate was divided into different sections, some larger sections than the others and some not filled in yet. Each piece was labeled with its purpose. As my eyes were led around the plate, I recognized that I was already doing some of things on that plate, because I also understood that God had put them on that plate. Probably half of the things on that plate I could read well. As I continued around the plate, I started to see smaller slivers or pieces, but I couldn't recognize what they represented. With 2/3 of the plate full I wondered what all of this meant. So, I asked God, "What are You showing me?" I heard in my spirit, "*I will never put so much on your plate that you will not be able to accomplish it. If I have given you the vision, you can rest assured that I too will provide the provision for that vision. All of your business, the things you've added to this plate, is why you don't understand 'My' rest.*"

Today, when I begin to feel overwhelmed with the number of things 'I' feel 'I' must accomplish I take a step back, look at that plate closely, and nearly every time I can easily see that 'my' business is what's stealing my peace and slowing the flow. It's when I take those things off the plate, or simply rearrange them to fit God's agenda, that I begin to feel peace. And guess what? Rearranging things always leaves plenty of room on that plate for God to add more of His plan!

This whole concept of imagination shouldn't be foreign territory for us, as Christians. Faith is the leading factor in this new imagination process. **Hebrews 11:1-3**, tell us, "**Now faith IS the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen ... By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the Word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.**" We stake our eternity on the promise that, "*God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*" (**John 3:16**) Then **Hebrews 11:6** tells us, "**And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**" Do you truly believe that God even exists? If you wonder about that then that's also why you have a hard time understanding "**He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.**" You don't truly believe God is who He says He is **AND** you don't earnestly seek Him! God doesn't reward laziness!

As far-fetched as it may seem to the world to believe, we put our faith in Scripture written thousands of years ago, that a young virgin Jewish girl was impregnated by God's Holy Spirit in order to fulfill this prophecy, "**And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins ... 'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'**" (**Matthew 1:21,23**) And then we believe, by faith, that this one Man, a Man we've never physically met, paid the price for 'our' sins over 2,000 years ago. We weren't even born yet! How could 'our' sins be forgiven **BEFORE** we even committed them? Let me just say this, we'd all better hope, in faith, that this is true because Jesus only died once for all mankind (**1 Peter 3:18, Romans 6:10**). To the natural mind this is just crazy. But something supernatural took place inside of us the moment we first believed. That little bit of faith we mustered together in all of this was activated by the faith of Jesus through God's Holy Spirit.

Paul tells us in **Romans 12:3**, "**For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.**" Notice first that Paul said 'God hath' (meaning that it's already been done) dealt to every man the measure of faith, not a measure of faith. There's a huge difference there. Let's paint a picture here. If I were serving soup for a long line of people and I used a ladle for one person, a soup spoon for another, a tablespoon for another and a teaspoon for another those would clearly be different measures. But, if I used the same ladle to serve every person, then that would be the measure of soup. Wouldn't you all agree?

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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)**

## PRAISE REPORTS

Dear Wade, Linda, and all my other friends at **OC4C**, I just reread Linda's letter. Thank you for answering and mentioning my Mother's Day card. It was very informative. Thanks for your prayers. Then I received my first email from all of you. I just reread your email as well. Thanks for finally adding me to the email family. I knew that you were sending and receiving emails because Foot said something about it a while ago. Speaking of him, he mentioned P.G. who is on his way out and how God answered his prayer about a church. Praise the LORD that God answered his prayer when Foot had his heart attack. God isn't finished with him. I really enjoy his contribution to the newsletter. God isn't finished with you and me either. I will be 80 in June. Also, I think that I gave you the news about the cancer. Praise the LORD! It's gone and the rest of my health issues are under control. Love in Christ. - **B.A.**

Scotty M. and his wife were both baptized last week **THANK YOU JESUS!** My heart is even fuller now knowing that more of my "Family" will be able to follow me home. I've got my eye on a couple hundred acres of prime ranch land on the south side of Heaven where my "Family" can all gather and enjoy God's company in eternity. - **Foot**

Some Praise Report!! My Legal status, my Appeal was submitted to the court of appeals yesterday. So now that clock is ... tic ... tic ... ticking! And now some hope is stirring inside me. - **R.W.**

Well lately at our church the brothers have been talking about helping and being there for each other. Since then, it has stuck in my mind, and I couldn't figure out why. Then Sunday morning, standing in the breakfast line GOD decided to have a chat with me. He told me that I was complaining too much about large groups and thinking that I do better with one or two people at a time. He informed me that I should keep my eyes and ears open when I am on the yard or out playing sport's. To check on my brother's and talk, pray or listen for my opportunity to witness to them, so that's what I am going to do from now on! - **M.G.**

Let me bring you up to date with my current situation. In April of 2023 I was moved from one yard to another, pending prison disciplinary. While being detained there, the Arizona Board of Executive Clemency held a Parole Board Hearing for me while I was being held in a maximum-security cage. This situation gave a negative appearance to the Parole Board. That was when the Parole Board stated, "Due to Mr. D.E.'s recent disciplinary it is clear that he could not comply with the rules of parole. We are denying his release for recent disciplinary." I hadn't had any disciplinary's. Their decision came from seeing me in that maximum security cage while I was being moved from one location to the other. Then, a month later, I get this response from the Board, "After reviewing this case, it has been determined that this matter should be dismissed. The penalties have been vacated. Contact your currently assigned Programs Officer if you have any questions regarding the reclassification issues that may have resulted from the original 'guilty' finding." Praise God! That disciplinary has been dismissed and expunged from my prison record. The Parole Board's decision was based upon a substantial error. Therefore, a **REHEARING** should be held within 30 days. - **D.E.**

I had a visit this past weekend with my family, my girlfriend, her sister and my God daughter. It was a blessing. We are going through a healing process, and even though it hurts it is much needed to move forward. My girlfriend wanted some closure on my past actions. We have been together for at least 22 years. So, to move forward she asked, and I answered, and by the grace of our Father He is healing her heart and she has come to forgive me to move forward. - **P.G.**

Hey brother! I just got my **OC4C** newsletter and was prompted to read it right away, which normally I wait a little while till I get my shower and settled in after work, but the feeling was strong. So, I started reading, and by the middle of the testimony by M.R. (which at this point I still didn't know who that was). Then bam, he mentions Joey, this Christian brother who helped him. I was in tears. It made my heart swell that I could be used by God to impact M.R. in such a way for Christ just by loving him. Our lives really are living epistles, that can give Him all the glory! I am proud of how he is letting the Holy Spirit lead his life, and thank you Duck for doing the same and helping us grow and mature in Christ to impact the world around us no matter where we are. - **J.T.**



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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Who You Are in Christ

By M.D.

This is a collection of Scriptures to remind you of who you are in Christ and that He has a purpose for your life! As you read through all of these Scriptures in the order I've written them, meditate on what you read and allow God's word to permeate your heart.

***"Then God said, 'Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.' So God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created them; male and female He created them."*** (Genesis 1:26-27)

***"I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that very well."*** (Psalm 139:14)

***"In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestined according to the purpose of Him who works all things according to the counsel of His will, that we who first trusted in Christ should be to the praise of His glory."*** (Ephesians 1:11-12)

***"But now, thus says the Lord, who created you, O Jacob, And He who formed you, O Israel: 'Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by your name; You are Mine.'"*** (Isaiah 43:1)

***"But now, O Lord, You are our Father; We are the clay, and You our potter; And all we are the work of Your hand."*** (Isaiah 64:8)

***"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."*** (Romans 12:1-2)

***"Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee."*** (2 Corinthians 5:5)

***"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*** (2 Corinthians 5:17)

***"Many are the plans in the mind of man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand!"*** (Proverbs 19:21)

***"'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek me with all your heart.'"*** (Jeremiah 29:11-13)

***"I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love."*** (Ephesians 4:1-2)

***"For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."*** (Romans 12:3-8)

***"But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through***



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

**faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:4-10)**

**“In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit.” (Ephesians 1:13)**

**“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” (1 Peter 2:9)**

**“Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.” (Colossians 3:12)**

**“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” (Colossians 3:23-24)**

**“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in My name, He may give it to you.” (John 15:16)**

**“But for this purpose I have raised you up, to show you my power, so that My name may be proclaimed in all the earth.” (Exodus 9:16)**

**“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 5:14-16)**

**“For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:7)**

**“See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:1-2)**

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)**

**“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him.” (Romans 8:14-17)**

**“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.” (Romans 8:28)**

**“The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the plans of his heart to all generations.” (Psalm 33:11)**

**“Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.” (Psalm 51:12)**

And finally, I close with one last Scripture to remind you that God’s power is at work within you right now, and he’s NOT done yet!

**“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)**



# Foot's Bible Study

## Hosea 1:1-3:5

The time will come when unfaithfulness will be impossible. God will bind us to himself in His perfect righteousness, justice, love, compassion, and faithfulness. God was promising a fresh new beginning, not just a temporary rewriting of a tired old agreement. (2:19-20) **Jeremiah 31:31-40** - *"The day is coming," says the Lord, "When I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. This covenant will not be like the one I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand and brought them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant, though I loved them as a husband loves his wife," says the Lord. "But this is the new covenant I will make with the people of Israel after those days," says the Lord. "I will put My instructions deep within them, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be My people ... For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know Me already," says the Lord. "And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins" ... This is what the Lord says: "Just as the heavens cannot be measured and the foundations of the earth cannot be explored, so I will not consider casting them away for the evil they have done. I have spoken!" "The day is coming," says the Lord, "When all Jerusalem will be rebuilt for Me ... And the entire area will be holy to the Lord. The city will never again be captured or destroyed."*

## 1 John 3:1-24

The Christian life is a process of becoming more and more like Christ ... **Romans 8:29** - *"For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters."* This process will not be complete until we see Christ face to face but knowing that it is our ultimate destiny should motivate us to purify ourselves ... Read **1 Corinthians 13:12** ... **Philippians 3:21** - *"He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like His own, using the same power with which He will bring everything under His control."* To keep pure means to keep morally straight, free from the corruption of sin. God also purifies us, but there is action we must take to remain morally fit ... Read **1 Timothy 5:22** ... **James 4:8** - *"Come close to God, and God will come close to you. Wash your hands, you sinners; purify your hearts, for your loyalty is divided between God and the world" ...* Read **1 Peter 1:22**. (3:2-3)

## Psalms 124:1-8

Do you ever feel trapped by overwhelming odds? With God, there is always a way out because He is the Creator of all that exists. No problem is beyond His ability to solve, no circumstance is too difficult for Him. We can turn to the Creator for help in our time of need, for He is on our side. God will provide a way out; we need only trust Him and look for it. David compared this to a bird escaping a hunter's trap. (124:7-8)

## Proverbs 29:5-8

Evil people become trapped by sin, but those who trust in the Lord can escape sin and shout with joy. (29:8)

## “Foot” Notes

Hey family! How many of us have been told at one time or another to “Watch your mouth”? I’d be willing to bet ... everybody has.

One of my own biggest struggles has been getting rid of my cussing. When your cussing is second nature you don’t even realize how much you actually cuss. **James 3:5** tells us, *“The tongue is a small thing. But what enormous damage it can do.”* If we’re not controlling what comes out of our mouths are we truly “All In” with Jesus? I found a quick prayer in **Psalms 141:3** *“Take control of what I say, O Lord, and keep my lips sealed.”* Knowing the power of our tongue it would be wise to ask God to guard what we say so that what we do speak brings honor to His name (study notes, LASB/NLT).

I know that folks have cuss jars out there adding money every time they cuss in an effort to stop. Well, I’m contemplating something similar that would cost me a soup every time I cuss, which would be tough beings I, for the most part, live off of state pay. But maybe that’s what it would take for me to clean up my mouth. Also, whatever soups get collected would be given to someone in here who has nothing. So, in a way I’m glorifying God through my own self-inflicted punishment so to speak. In closing there’s watching what we hear as well. I’ll save that for another time.

Love to y’all short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don’t ride faster than your angels can fly!



In essence this is exactly what Paul was saying. God didn't give some Christians a large measure of faith and others just a tiny bit of faith. We are **ALL** given the measure of Christ's faith. Paul shows us, in **Galatians 2:20**, **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."** But even though we've all been given the same measure of faith, it is possible for some of us to only use a small portion of what God has given us. Regardless of whether we use it or not, in its fullness, it's still there. Upon Salvation we **ALL** receive the Holy Spirit to come live inside of us and He brings along with Him this fruit, **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."** (Galatians 5:22-23)

It doesn't say that these are 'fruits' that mature over time. It says it's, **"the fruit of the Spirit"**, and I believe that's in His fullness. When we receive the Holy Spirit we don't, same as faith, just receive a small portion. **NO!** From the **MOMENT** we receive Jesus we are wall to wall 100% Holy Ghost! Here's where I believe most believers lack, **"That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus."** (Philemon 1:6) The issue isn't that some have more faith than others. The issue is that some of us don't know how to use our faith. And that's from the lack of renewing our minds. Renew our minds with what? God's Word. His Word tells us who we are in Christ.

Many Christians truly don't know who they are **IN CHRIST JESUS!** Let me encourage you to read through **Romans, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Galatians** and **Colossians**. Every time you come across the phrases, in Christ, in Him, in Whom, with Christ or through Christ underline them. In context with these phrases are the promises of God, your new identity! When we gave our life to Jesus along with that commitment, we were given a new identity card. We are no longer who the world says we are, we are who God says we are! If you are still looking for your identity by the world's standards, Paul says this, in **Galatians 1:10**, **"Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ."** Let me ask you this, "Do you see yourself as a servant of Christ? Do you even have a clue to the benefits this new identity card has purchased? You **NOW**, right this very second, hold an eternal life membership with Him because He is **NOW** in you, and you are **NOW** in Him! Just putting some of your new identity together in a sentence makes it look like this. "In Christ you are the head and not the tail, In Christ you are more than a conqueror, we are His workmanship, created In Christ Jesus for good works, there is no condemnation for those who are In Christ Jesus, In Christ I can do all things, and overcome all things." Are you starting to see that your new identity, **IN CHRIST**, is **EVERYTHING** the enemy has **NO** control over?

Jesus won that battle! **Colossians 2:13-15** breaks it all down like this, **"When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; He has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."** When you open your mouth and begin to speak the Word of God all the forces of darkness flee, because you are **NOW** in Christ! **AMEN!?**

Setting here, I was just reminded of another 'awake' vision I had. Some of you may even remember that I wrote about this one time in the newsletter. As this experience wells up inside of me, I'm flooded with emotions all over again.

I'd been in the middle of the second battle I had with ulcerative colitis, where all of my strength had been sapped out of me. At that point I was drawing all of my strength from the Lord. On that day, as I woke up, I went to sit at the kitchen table. I put some worship music on low to be playing in the background. After prayer and an invitation for the Holy Spirit to show me what it was that God desired for me to know, it seemed like all of my attention was drawn to focus on the love of God. The first Scripture that came to mind was one that we all read, and most know by memory, but do we truly understand the magnitude of what is going on in Jesus' declaration here? **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."** (John 3:16)

Even as powerful as this Scripture is, almost instantly I felt like there was more to keep this in context. I quickly recognized that Jesus was speaking to a Pharisee, a member of the Jewish council also known as the Sanhedrin, named Nicodemus. Remember, the Pharisee's were the ones that Jesus and John the Baptist often criticized for being 'Brood's of vipers', 'Hypocrites' and 'Whitewashed tombs'. Because Jesus often undermined their authority and challenged their views, many of them were jealous of Jesus. But Nicodemus was different than most of the others. Scripture says that Nicodemus came to Jesus under the cover of darkness. I believe he did this because there was something inside of him that was 'searching' and he believed that Jesus had the answers.

Many of us came to Jesus in the same manner, we are drawn for some reason or another, to see if this Jesus is *fiction* or *nonfiction*. Fiction refers to literature created from someone's imagination. Things like mysteries, science fiction, and yes, even romance. Nonfiction is literature based on facts. Where some of us may have had a little of Jesus in our Sunday



school classes as a youth, many others had even less understanding than that. Some of us, like Nicodemus, come not wanting to let go of what we 'think' we have and those that we have surrounded ourselves with, the world. It's the ones that come with a surrendered heart and an open mind that gain revelation into a relationship with Jesus. It's only when we gain this understanding that Jesus IS real and He loves us deeply, that we begin to stand up for Him with a boldness. Like Nicodemus, we each have to examine Jesus for ourselves, no one else's experience can feed us like our own experience with Him!

Jesus began to impart the revelation of being born again to Nicodemus, when He said, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."* Nicodemus said to him, *'How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?'* Jesus answered, *"Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'" (John 3:3-7)* Can you imagine how confusing this must have been for Nicodemus? It's no different for most of us either. We have something inside of us drawing us to 'know' but it's not until we let go with our mental capacity and open ourselves to the spiritual realm that Jesus is then able to untangle our misconceptions and share with us His truth. I believe this is what Jesus is saying here to all of us, when we each stand in this certain spot, here, in **John 3:12-13**, *"I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except He who descended from heaven, the Son of Man."* And that fast, Jesus took him from not understanding earthly things to affirming to him that, yes, in fact He was the Messiah, the One he was in search of.

It was when I read these next two verses, *"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life" (John 3:14-15)* that I began to have this open vision. Remember, I was wide awake, sitting at the kitchen table reading this encounter Nicodemus just had with Jesus and all of a sudden, I was surrounded with a peace. I found myself on what seemed to be a familiar pathway, but I didn't know exactly where I was. The further I walked I began to put together the surrounding scene. I began to recognize that there were huge mounds of stones and rocks, and then as my eyes began to gravitate to it, I seen there was a large wooden beam standing in the middle of those rocks. With tears forming in my eyes, I began to realize I must be at the foot of the Cross. Hesitant to look up, but I had no control, my eyes began to move slowly upwards. I soon seen His feet, nailed there to the Cross, and my eyes began to tear up even more. The further up I looked the more my heart seemed to beat faster and faster. Even though it all felt very peaceful on the road to get to this point, I quickly realized that this was a place I'd NEVER truly been before. Looking further, upwards I began to see, I'm sure with my spiritual eyes, the beating and whipping that Jesus had endured. It was all that I could do to continue upwards, but I'm sure my strength to do so was coming from the One that was hanging there in front of me. Now, on my knees, in full surrender, at the foot of the Cross, and tears flooding over my body, I seen the image, I had no focus on the face, turn His head down towards me and say, "I did all of this just for you. I love you this much."

As soon as He said this, I realized that even though I had probably 'said' many times that I had been to the foot of the Cross I'd NEVER truly experienced the realness that I had just encountered. Jesus did all of this just for me!? As I found myself, once again at the kitchen table, I was so humbled and overtaken with emotion that all I could do was sob with gratitude and thankfulness. Then these Scriptures flooded my heart. *"The Lord appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued My faithfulness to you."* (Jeremiah 31:3) Then, *"But God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."* (Romans 5:8) Next was, *"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends."* (John 15:13) And the last Scripture that came over me was, *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ ..."* (Jude 1 20-21)

From that moment forward, in that battle with the UC, I realized Jesus had already won the war. He didn't just hang there on that Cross for my Salvation. No! *Isaiah 53:5* tells me, *"He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed."* Right then I could feel my faith welling up inside of me. Because He loved me enough to endure ALL of these things, I knew that my healing was also purchased at the same time that my Salvation was. Almost immediately I began to see myself completely healed, healthy and whole. Because I knew Jesus didn't die for just some of my healing, I began to allow my imagination to be fixed on my complete restoration! I now had the image, and I was going to walk it through until I seen the full manifestation! Sometimes we see our healing come instantly, while other times, like in my case, the healing was purchased, I know that I was healed, so now I continued to build my faith as I walked forward in it. Instead of waiting to be able to physically 'see' our healing, we MUST walk by faith and not sight. Before I seen all of this, I did believe God had already healed me. But I see now, from all of the pain and physical things I was experiencing, Jesus took my eyes off of those physical things and brought my focus back to faith in Him!! What an experience!!

Let's take a break right here. This should give all of us plenty to reflect on as we begin to search His Word for the specific



promises that we are believing for pertaining to our individual needs. Remember, putting God in remembrance of the things He has promised us is not arrogance or being egotistical. He told us in His Word we should do this! I'm really looking forward to hearing what God is speaking to some of you through these messages. We'll meet again here next month.

## WORD OF THE MONTH

### Panegyric

Pronunciation – pan-i-jir-ik

Noun – a lofty oration or writing in praise of a person or thing; eulogy; formal or elaborate praise.

“... he marked ... the Marquis de Lafayette's birthday with a **panegyric** to the great statesman and France's broader influence on America.” – Joe Smydo, Daily Telegram (Adrian, Michigan), May 25, 2017

*Did You Know ...* On certain fixed dates throughout the year, the ancient Greeks would come together for religious meetings. Such gatherings could range from hometown affairs to great national assemblies, but large or small, the meeting was called a *panegyris*. That name comes from *pan*, meaning “all”, and *agryis*, meaning “assembly”. At those assemblies, speakers provided the main entertainment, and they delivered glowing orations extolling the praises of present civic leaders and reliving the past glories of Greek cities. To the Greeks, those laudatory speeches were *panegyrikos*, which means “of or for a *panegyris*.” Latin speakers ultimately transformed *panegyrikos* into the noun *panegyri-cus*, and English speakers adapted that Latin term to for **panegyric**.

## FUN FACTS

August 17th – In 1585, European colonists disembarked at Roanoke Island in North Carolina.

August 17th – In 1863, Union forces began shelling Fort Sumter in South Carolina.

August 17th – In 1959, a magnitude-7.3 earthquake struck near Hebgen Lake in Montana, causing a landslide that later formed Earthquake Lake.

August 17th – In 1998, U.S. President Bill Clinton testified before a grand jury and later apologized on national television for having a “wrong” relationship with White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.

August 21st – In 2007, digital scans of Mona Lisa revealed that Leonardo da Vinci had originally given his subject eyebrows and more prominent eyelashes, which had faded over time or had been lost to restoration efforts.

August 28th – In 1845, the first issue of Scientific American was published on this day.

## Christian Comedy

Restaurant reviews for the new diner on the moon claim the food is okay, but there's no atmosphere.



### 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 ~~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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**Intervention**  
**By F.P.**

***"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13***

Have you ever considered how your actions make others feel  
Do you even know the difference between the fake and the real  
Have you ever thought, what you say might cause someone pain  
Does it bother you to know you have caused many tears to rain

How can you stand there and look me in the eye  
When every word you speak is always a lie  
Is it my fault that you continue to treat me this way  
Can I be responsible for the sick games that you play

Where did I go wrong, what can I do  
What will it take to get through to you  
Should I bring up your kids, and the fact you're never around  
Can the father they are missing ever be found

What do I tell them when they ask where you have been  
Does your son have to learn how to be a man from other men  
Would you want your daughter to be with a guy like you  
You wouldn't want her to be treated like that, you know it's true

So what's the next step, where do we go from here.  
How do I change that man I'm staring at in the mirror?

***"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations." (Ezekiel 36:25-27)***

*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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