

# Overcomers for Christ

*June 2021*

Happy  
Father's  
Day

# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

May 2020



## Meant to Grow

By M.D.

**"... But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—" (Ephesians 4:15)**

God expects us to grow and continue to grow. Our Heavenly Father's goal for us is to mature and develop the character of Jesus Christ. Sadly, many Christians grow older yet never grow up. Listen here how Paul addresses being stuck in spiritual infancy, **"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?" (1 Corinthians 3:1-3)** And now the author of **Hebrews 5:12** says this, **"For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food."**

Spiritual growth is not automatic. We must be committed to growth, wanting to grow AND persistent to growing! Discipleship; do you know what that is? One who is a student of Jesus and helps to spread His message. The process of becoming Christ-like. Jesus calls - and we respond. Let's read **Matthew 9:9** together, **"As Jesus passed on from there, He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax office. And He said to him, 'Follow Me.' So he arose and followed Him."** When the first disciples followed Jesus they didn't know all that they were being called to. But they willingly responded to Jesus' call. That's how growth starts; willingly answer the call of Christ. Our commitments are what shape our life. No matter what they might be! Commitments either develop us or destroy us, either way they will define you! We cannot afford to be afraid to be committed to God, and just drift through life. In and out of prison, being half hearted.

For growth it takes both God and us. Christ likeness being the result of depending on and making a decision with the Holy Spirit. Change in thoughts and actions shows our growth. We must let go of old habits, routines, friends and even family if necessary. The Holy Spirit doesn't get it wrong and will help us with these decisions. Listen again to Paul, here in **Philippians 2:12-13**, **"Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure."** We are able to work out our Salvation because we already possess it! God has given us a new life, now it is up to us to develop it! **"With Fear and trembling"** means to take our spiritual growth seriously! If not, then you do not understand the eternal consequences of your actions! Do you realize that behind everything we do, there is a thought? Every action shows a belief. God tells us, in **Proverbs 23:7**, **"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."**

When we try ourselves, without God, that's willpower. And in willpower we always have that force pushing back and eventually we tire out. Willpower doesn't deal with the root of the problem, it simply tries to impose its will. There's the difference. God doesn't impose His will, He deals with the root of the problems. Here in **Romans 12:2-3** we see, **"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith."** I believe that growth starts in the mind. The way you think determines how you feel, how you act, what you do dwell on and determines the outcome of any situation. Here in **Ephesians 4:23** Paul tells us, **"and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind ..."**

To be Christ-like we must develop the mind of Christ. In the New Testament this change of mind is called 'repentance'. And in the Greek 'repentance' literally means - to change your mind. When we repent, what are we doing? We take on Christ's outlook and perspective. **Philippians 2:5** shows us, **"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus ..."** Paul tells us to have the same attitude as Christ. Immaturity was NOT in Christ and shouldn't be in us! **"Brethren, do not be children in understanding; however, in malice be babes, but in understanding be mature." (1 Corinthians 14:20)** A sure sign of maturity is thinking of others. Check out what Paul says as you all read **1 Corinthians 13**. Maturity thinks of others! Some people think that spiritual maturity is measured by our Biblical knowledge, but that's not the whole measurement. Conduct, character and our deeds must go with what we confess. Our beliefs must be backed up with Christ-like behavior! Christianity is no religion, but a relationship and a lifestyle with Jesus!

I'll close with these Scriptures. **"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual." (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)** And **"We then who are strong ought to bear with the scruples of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification. For even Christ did not please Himself; but as it is written, 'The reproaches of those who reproached You fell on Me.'" (Romans 15:1-3)**

## Pain of Discipline vs Pain of Regret

By J.M.

I want to thank you for the card I received. I was brought to tears by both the gesture and the contents. And before I get to the content in which I wish to share, I would like to back up a bit so you all can see, as I share, how God is using the **Overcomers for Christ** and others to work in my life.

I reached my 18 month mark until my release back in December. Being a RSS here for the last 15 months, I have learned that there is no such thing as over preparation. Especially when it comes to the rest of my life. See, when released, I will have almost 16 years of being locked up. Most guys don't start preparation until they are 6 months to the gate. As I've said, I decided I would start at 18 months.

Now, since December I have been diligent about daily time spent in the Word and my time with God. I believe that the **Pain of Discipline** to be always less than the **Pain of Regret**. It's the best part of my day to center myself before the chaos or complacency hits. I find it truly interesting how either one can do great amounts of damage. I listen to the 'Daily Audio Bible' podcast on my tablet and read along. I have been faithful to this since the first of the year. I also started tithing 10% of everything I make or comes in every month. Seeing how reading the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter is like going to church for me every month I send my tithe to you.

The first week of February I started actively looking for a program and a place to go. I had some prerequisites; 6 month minimum, 12 step and Christian based, somewhere I could ease back into society. I didn't want to go to a place that would put me in debt as soon as I got there. As I started looking around that day I found a friend who was going to Alongside Ministries via a place called, New Freedom. That night another friend brought over a newsletter from GCHH/New Freedom. I had heard of this organization from my RSS supervisor while inquiring about future RSS employment. Then I noticed that Alongside and New Freedom were under the same umbrella of GCHH. Then after reading the 2 newsletters my friend showed me I realized, most of the individuals running this place were once ex-cons like me! Immediately I thought of you and Tracy Kovach and the inspiration the both of you have had on my current path and journey.

I prayed on it and sent in the application for membership there at GCHH. Then the morning of February 27th, a Saturday, I was reading the February issue of the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter. As I started to read this passage under 'What Others Are Saying' I thought, "This sounds familiar." Well of course it did, because it was me. I never write to get published, so I was overwhelmed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. Then on March 2nd I received a card from you postmarked February 27th! It lifted me up when you told me that Tracy Kovach works at GCHH/New Freedom. All of this was like a huge neon sign calling to me. I always thought that one day, if I could get a job at ADOCRR it would be full circle for me. 'Whatever Our Hearts Need, the Lord Knows' was the caption on the card you had sent me.

God is moving in my life and I am able to finally be clear headed and sober enough to feel and acknowledge it!

## FUN FACTS

The twenty-seven known moons of Uranus are named after characters from the works of William Shakespeare and Alexander Pope.

## Quote Worthy

*"I will permit no man to narrow and degrade my soul by making me hate him."*

- Booker T. Washington (1856 – 1915) - an American educator, author, orator, and adviser to several presidents of the United States. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the dominant leader in the African American community and of the contemporary black elite. Washington was from the last generation of black American leaders born into slavery and became the leading voice of the former slaves and their descendants.

**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

Brother 'Duck' here ... All prayer requests are special to us here and this one is from a near and dear close friend of mine, **W.R.** We all know that the Word of God tells us, *"Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord.* (And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up.) *If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."* (James 5:14-16 brackets mine) Perhaps there's a brother out there near W.R. that can anoint him with oil but either way I know that there are MANY of you brothers and sister out there that believe in God's Word as His promise and that's exactly why I'm personally sharing this with you all. Scripture here doesn't say that there needs to be thousands of people praying to MAKE God heal. No! That's foolish! It says, *"The prayer of (A) righteous person is powerful and effective."* You all know that ALL OF YOU ARE the Overcomers for Christ church, right where you are! And over these past 14 years we've seen God do many great and amazing things through, the power of His Word. All we are asked to do, by God, is to pray His will. "What is His will," you ask? It's so simple! To make it easy for all mankind, God wrote His will down on the pages of His Word, the Bible. Now listen to the simple way John tells how we are going to get our prayers answered. **"This is the CONFIDENCE we have in approaching God: that IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL (His Word); 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) Do you believe this? I know you do, that's why I'm bringing this to the elders of the Overcomers for Christ church! **W.R.** sent this to us so we could pray for these specific things.

I'm going to walk you through this real quick so you'll know what's happening to lift in your prayer. You know that I had two back surgeries five years ago. They fused my L-2-3-4 and 5 together. Now, everything has come loose, screws, etc. I have three herniated disks, another one bulging, severe spinal spondylosis and other things going on that I can't even pronounce. I'm in so much pain brother that I can't even walk sometimes. My blood pressure is 190 over 110. Also, as you know, I have a diseased aorta, thinning of the walls, with plaque and cysts in the same area. The cysts showed up about six months ago when they did a cat scan and MRI on my back. I seen a surgeon in December but he's reluctant to do surgery on my back due to my age and the aorta issues. He's ordered a more updated scan on the aorta due to it getting worse. I'm fighting with medical right now to see the surgeon again. I want to talk to him about burning the nerves in my back in hopes of eliminating enough pain that I can then live with it. You know my sister died of the very same issues.

It seems like a never ending battle brother. But I know the battle belongs to the Lord so I'm not worrying about it. Even when the Hebrew people went into the Promised Land God told them, 'I'm giving this land to you and I will deliver you. But, you will have to fight for it!' Regardless of everything I've explained here, I'm still standing on God's Word, His promises to heal me. I KNOW He will because He is faithful to His Word brother ... **W.R.**

I would like to ask you all to pray for me, as I am in the final stages of preparing my first Federal Habeas. I believe that the Lord has guided my thoughts and words, and He has a plan whether this filing is successful or not. He is still in control; I am doing what I feel He has directed me to do. I am standing firm on His promises ... **R.A.**

I need prayer and His guidance. In four months I'm getting out of prison after eight years. I'm praying and believing that as God lights my path and directs my footsteps, that I follow Him and praise Him even in the not so good of times. And here is the area I'm conflicted in. I've been watching the Freedom Channel here in prison. They say that upon your release you should not return to a toxic relationship. My girlfriend says she loves me and has been with me for over 13 years. I know she drinks a lot but none of us are perfect and all fall short of the glory of God. I know this relationship is not good for the success of my re entry but I don't know what to say to her. I want to follow Him with all my mind, heart and soul now and forever! Please pray for this matter ... **S.M.**

I know that God does hear and answer prayer. So, if you would, please lift me in your prayers. There's no real rehabilitation in prison. Rehabilitation, or change is a person's choice. Change happens from the inside out. I'm ready for a full commitment and change in my life. Lord, I'm ready for Your help. I'm ready to have the good future You have planned for my life while I live for You ... **M.C.**

I've got a prayer request to ask you all to pray for. I'd like it if everyone would lift my little brother up. That he too would get on his knees and ask God to forgive him and help him with the drug problem he is having. He is my youngest brother and the only brother that I have left. I've lost all my brothers to drugs or alcohol. Again, please lift this request to the Lord ... **A.M.**

My desire and dream as I pray is to have a church in East Los Angeles called the Great American Church. A church where Mexican Americans love God, people and America! A foothold in California where ex convicts can run for office. My other prayer and desire is to one day be the next conservative Mayor of Los Angeles in a long time. I have big dreams and believe that God has placed these things in my heart so I really need prayer for His wisdom, understanding and to remain humble through this process ... **A.J.**

# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### A Little Bible Talk

By B.A.

I was just reading in the *Book of John* and came across something that stirred my spirit. Actually, the whole subject of *John 10* is, Salvation and listening and following Christ as our Shepherd. But what struck my spirit was *John 10:16*, "And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd." This jumped right out at me and as I looked in another one of my Bibles I noticed another reference note to *Isaiah 56:8* so I jumped over there and read that too. "The Lord God, who gathers the outcasts of Israel, says, 'Yet I will gather to him Others besides those who are gathered to him.'"

Okay, so I get out the *Strong's Concordance* and started searching meanings of the words *fold* and *outcast*. Then I went back and reread *John 10:16* and *Isaiah 56:8* and it all comes together to me like this; Even though I was what I was and doing what I was doing, The Lord still came and got me. Praise God! Whether I was raised in the church or raised in the muck of the world, I'm an **outcast** ... an **other**. He still came and found me.

Our Salvation is one in the same because Jesus did all of the work. He makes us clean as His hands wrap around us that accept Him. Then He brings us into heaven only through Christ Jesus. He is our Salvation! Praise God, right!? These verses really brings things into a better perspective. So listen closely my fellow *Overcomers for Christ*, it doesn't matter where you and I have been or what you and I have done, when we received Christ as our Savior we ALL are put on the same road with the same destination. Keep listening and following Christ.

### Warning, Keep Looking Up

By H.A.M.

I send this, as always, with sincere gratitude. The pictures, art work and spiritual guidance are such a blessing. A drip of Holy Spirit led ink can make a million think. The interaction you all provide to those of us behind these walls, truly shows godly compassion.

The Lord's return is undoubtedly going to come a lot sooner than expected. Warning against those possibly afflicted with the Laodicea slumbering spirit, is no small task. Listen to what Jesus had to say to the Laodicea church in *Revelation 3:15-16*, "I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of My mouth!" As we continue just a little further down in Scripture, after Jesus' firm but loving direction, you will see and feel His outstretched arms as He says, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. Those who are victorious will sit with Me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with My Father on His throne. Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what He is saying to the churches (people)." (*Revelation 3:20-22*) The measure of the outward must always be the measure of the inward.

*Hebrews 10:23* states, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful." Then *Hebrews 11:1-3* further expounds on this said faith, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. 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." In other words, trust is faith in action, but obedience is faith love in action.

I'd like to share with you all this little acronym of FAITH.

F - Forsaking  
A - All  
I - In  
T - Trusting  
H - Him

The following is an exemplar of phenomenal selflessness, "Lord, bend this proud and stiff-necked I, help me to bow the head and die; Beholding Him on Calvary who bowed His head for me." Now, consider the words of Jesus here in *Matthew 5:40-46*, "And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to

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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

*go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you. You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that?"* Now let's consider the Apostle Paul's words in **Philippians 4:13**, **"I can do all this through Him who gives me strength."**

Let me leave you all with this, from John Bunyan (1628-1688), author of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, offered these insights regarding prayer, *"In prayer it is better to have a heart without words than words without heart. Pray often, for prayer is a shield to the soul, a sacrifice to God and a scourge for satan. Prayer will make a man cease from sin, or sin will entice a man to cease from prayer. In all your prayers forget not to thank the Lord for His mercies. The spirit of prayer is more precious than treasures of gold and silver. The truths that I know best I have learned on my knees. I never know a thing well, till it is burned into my heart by prayer. To pray rightly, you must make God your hope stay, and all."*

### Love, Forgiveness and Mercy

By J.A.

Grace, mercy and peace to all the saints and brothers and sisters in Christ. I have a word that I'd like to share about love, forgiveness and mercy from the Daily Bread and Sparkling Gems Devotionals. In **Luke 23:34** Jesus said, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* Here, in **Luke 23** we get a front row seat to the execution scene of Jesus who died a criminal's death on the Cross for our sins and these following words of Jesus could be heard, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* Though the hate filled initiative of the religious leaders resulted in the crucifixion of Jesus, the very One who championed love, forgiveness and mercy, even in agony and suffering, Jesus' love, forgiveness and mercy continued to triumph.

Once God forgives our sins **Hebrews 8:10** (KJV) affirms, **"For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more."** The same Scripture in the NIV states, **"And I will forgive their wickedness, and I will never again remember their sins."** The word "forgive" is a beautiful word. In the Greek it is *aphiem*; which means to set free, to let go, to release, to discharge, or to liberate completely. It was used in reference to canceling a debt or releasing someone from an obligation of a contract, a commitment or a wrong he has committed. In essence the word "forgive", in the Greek, is the picture of totally freeing and releasing someone; to be merciful to others.

So right now, I pray: *"Dear heavenly Father, I thank You that You do forgive us of our sins, trespasses and debts as we forgive and liberate completely and set free all those sin, trespass or are debtors against us. And bless all those who curse us and revile us as we do good to all those who hate us. I pray for all those who persecute and spitefully use us. Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing. And Father, I personally let go of all the anger, hatred, bitterness, unforgiveness, strife, envy, selfish ambition and jealousies. I also pray dear heavenly Father, that You fill our hearts with Your love, Your peace and Your joy which passes all our understanding to guard our hearts and minds, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen! and Amen!"*

To all the brothers and sisters in the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry and family, let the peace of Christ and God rule in our hearts, since as members of one body we were called to peace. Peacemakers sow seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness. Peace and goodwill to all of you in Jesus name. Remember, blessed are the merciful for the will receive mercy. May the Lord richly bless all of you. Rejoice in the Lord. pray without ceasing and in everything give thanks and glory to God our Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NOW it is time to wake out of sleep and cast off all the works of darkness like filthy rags and put on the armor of light to pursue righteous living. The coming of the Lord is more near than ever before, so keep watch and pray always. When we see all these signs coming to pass know that we are nearing the door. I believe these are the beginning of birth pains. Therefore, be patient brothers and sisters as we all await the Lord's return. We must be patient and be of good courage. Remember this, **"Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way will save them from death and cover over a multitude of sins."** (**James 5:20**) Keep hoping and believing because God is faithful and He will do that which He has promised.

## **Jeremiah 23:28-25:38**

We may assume we are blessed when life goes well and cursed when it does not. But trouble is a blessing when it makes us stronger, and prosperity is a curse of it entices us away from God. If you are facing trouble, ask God to help you grow stronger for Him. If things are going your way, ask God to help you use your prosperity for Him. **(24:2-10)**

Imagine preaching the same message for 23 years and continually being rejected. Jeremiah faced this, but because he had committed his life to God, he continued to proclaim the message, turn from the evil road you are traveling and from the evil things you are doing." Regardless of people's responses, Jeremiah did not give up. God never stops loving us, even when we reject Him. We can thank God that He won't give up on us, and like Jeremiah, we can commit ourselves to never forsaking Him. No matter how people respond when you tell them about God, remain faithful to God's high call and continue to witness for Him. **(25:2-6)**

## **2 Thessalonians 2:1-17**

God worked through Paul and his companions to tell the Good News so that people could share in Christ's glory. It may seem strange that God works through us, fallible, unfaithful, untrustworthy, human creatures. But He has given us the fantastic privilege of accomplishing His great mission ... telling the world how to find Salvation. **(2:14)**

## **Psalms 84:1-12**

God does not promise to give us everything we think is good. But He will not withhold what is permanently good. He will give us the means to walk along His paths, but we must do the walking. When we obey Him, He will not hold anything back that will help us serve Him. **(84:11)**

## **Proverbs 25:15**

Being patient and soft spoken can get you much farther in life than you might think. **(25:15)**

## **"Foot" Notes**



It's funny how lately God will inspire me on something when it's time for the newsletter. He will never fail us if we just listen.

Well family, I would like to share with you that we all have a purpose of the Lord's design and when we truly pay attention He will reveal it to you and then reveal it again when it slips your mind. And you will have a purpose no matter where you are.

Many of you know I'm doing all day in here ... well that is until God wants me somewhere else. My purpose here has shown itself to be doing what I can to mentor and give knowledge to these men who have release dates and are serious about not wanting to come back. I do my best to convince them that this lifestyle is a dead end road, that basically if one decides to continue this lifestyle they will end up either doing life or be done with life. This has become second nature to me and that's all God's doing. God has given me the drive to continue my efforts and yes I've had failures but the success stories outweigh the failures. The one tool I have is that at this point I've got seven guys who are free, sober, and successful that email me on a regular basis which gives me ammo to show others who want the same.

I know that God will reveal your purpose as well, just keep in the Word and continue to trust in God.

Love to you all short and tall ... Vaya Con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!!



## What Others Are Saying...

"I'm writing you back to let you know that I did get your card and I'm going to hang it up here on my wall. I do appreciate you all for being there for me and building my spirit up. Yes, when we do stay in prayer, talking with God on a daily basis, He strengthens us and brings joy into our lives. Like you said, the more quality time we spend with God the more our soul rises up to align with what is already in our born again spirit." - **M.C.**

"Hey 'ole man! First of all you know there's no disrespect in that opening. I'm simply responding to the way you closed your last mail to me, "Ole Duck". Yes, I too will always return you a letter. I don't keep people I care about waiting for a response. I make sure they are a priority in my life and especially when God is telling me to." - **C.A.**

"Thank you for the newsletters that you all have been sending me. I like to read the responses and the prayer requests that the other brothers and sisters send in. I really enjoyed the story about your brother Mark and his grandson, Sky, believing in the miracles of God." - **A.M.**

"I pray, ***"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."*** (Numbers 6:24-26) God bless you. I thank you, your wife and the staff there for all the cards and newsletters that you send to me. It means so much to have someone thinking about you and cares for you while doing time locked behind these walls. I am continuing to stand firm in the Lord and I am growing in the knowledge, wisdom and strength of the Lord." - **J.B.**

"I'm writing to thank all of you there at the **Overcomers for Christ**. I've been down 14 years and 8 months and you all have been there for me most of that time. You've been there for me through the good, the bad, the relapses ... all of it! Over the years you have continued to send me birthday cards and words of hope and encouragement every step of the way. Once I get my bike put together and up and running I would love to come pay you all a visit, and thank you in person." - **J.V.**

"**Overcomers for Christ** family! I want to apologize for my lack of communication. This will be my first actual letter to you all there. I've been meaning to write for some time now but just haven't gotten around to it. I just received your latest newsletter. It was great and always brings me joy each and every time. I know that each and every article in it is prayed over and that God has provided an anointing for it. This ministry is a huge blessing to many, including me. God is faithful and His Word never returns to Him void. He is daily increasing my territory and I am grateful for that. God is such a Good Father to us!" - **J.B.**

"I want to say thank you for the birthday letter and also thank the others there who wrote something kind. It made me really happy when I received it and it was a really big encouragement to know that God's people care about others. It's so comforting to know that God loves us like no other." - **E.C.**

"I'm writing to let you all know that I've changed facilities AND I'm going home soon! Thank you guys for being here for me. You all have continued to be faithful in holidays, birthdays and with your newsletters. It all made me so much more comfortable and helped me through my time." - **A.T.**

"**Overcomers for Christ**! I would like to be put on your mailing list. My celly gets it and I really enjoy reading the testimonies of the other brothers and sisters in Christ. It brings joy to my heart and helps me to focus on God's Word. God bless your ministry, God IS GREAT!" - **S.L.**

"Brother Wade, thank you for your thoughts and your prayers. My respects and regards to all the Overcomers. I'm still here trying to make sense of things. I'll continue to take it one day at a time as God continues to guide and protect me each day." - **V.I.**

"I really put my mind to how you responded to my questions about what I see as contradictions in the Bible. I believe you set me straight. I don't need to worry about the things I don't understand. What's important is that I continue to know that God's Word is truth and as long as I'm in service to Him, helping others as Jesus taught, all is good. I will take your encouragement and get some resource materials from Andrew Wommack and focus more on the teachings and righteousness of Jesus. I'll stop focusing my thoughts with so much confusing theology." - **P.B.**

# Overcomers Testimonies

## Never Forgotten, God Cares About Me

By P.M.

Dear Overcomers for Christ, I am currently incarcerated at A.D.O.C in one of the female prisons. I am currently housed in a medium custody yard and this is my first time writing you, but this is a long time coming. I've been receiving your newsletters, even when I have failed to send a change of address! It has been three years now, maybe longer, but your newsletters have always reached me, especially when times were tough within these walls. Here's a little of my testimony.

I am 34 years old now serving a 40 year flat sentence, with a lifetime probation tail. I was convicted on two second degree charges and one charge of child abuse.

For some reason, for awhile now, I've been wanting to not only write to all of you to thank you for the newsletters, but to share my testimony, too. I've read so many times where 'Duck' would write on something I needed to read. Your newsletter has comforted me many times, and at first I'd be stunned because the OCS cares about me, about individuals like myself that society has deemed 'criminals' and thrown into the depths of a broken system. I truly do appreciate each and every one of you there at the Overcomers for Christ. I honestly do feel like family. None of you know me, but faithfully you make sure I do receive my newsletter. I've cried, I've had prayers answered, questions answered, and all thanks to you all! I can honestly say that I've come closer to God through your newsletter. You guys do not realize how much impact you have made in my life thus far, especially knowing the circumstances of why I'm in prison.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck in the worst way imaginable. So forgiving myself, and really coming to terms of what transpired were the hardest, especially when I was mad at God! Your newsletter came at a time where I was not sure what I wanted, even if it meant living.

Back in 2012 I had a psychotic episode, where I took the lives of my only two children, but my three attempts in taking my own life, I still survived, so I was charged for their passing. These next things I write are NOT excuses but merely the facts that led up to that tragic event. I was 24 years old, struggling with mental illness, in an abusive relationship and had earnestly been seeking help. Living in Tucson there were limited resources, especially for a mom with kids and no support. I even sought help from a behavioral health place there in Tucson, where I told them, shortly before this psychotic episode, "I'm hearing and seeing things, I feel like I'm going crazy, something is not right, I need help!" Instead of help I was told I should be put on a rehabilitation plan so I could work on being a better mom, and that I needed to remove the negativity from my life.

My daughter was 4, and my son was 17 months old. I had post-partum depression with anxiety, manic depressive, chronic PTSD, and struggling with a lot more at home, in which the counselor knew. The judge and prosecutors disregarded these facts and instead depicted me as a heartless monster. Being this was my first time ever being in trouble little did I know the public defenders appointed to me would be of no help, even more so being such a high-profile case. At that point, I believed in a thing called 'justice', but it had to take eight painful and hard years for me to realize my Father God did not cause this, nor could He have stopped this, BUT He will make beauty out of my ashes.

Your newsletters were my bit of love and grace. Little by little I started seeing God, going to Him and pouring out my heart to Him. This place (prison) has shown me no mercy, but God does! Not perfect, not completely healed, but gradually He has been restoring my life as painful and heartbreaking as it's been. Again, this is no sob story, no sweet nothings but just my absolute honesty in what took place in my life.

I still struggle with mental illness, among neurological conditions, but my Father is healing me piece by piece. My case is far from over given I'm fighting for a fair sentence given the complexity of my case, but I'm doing this myself. I do ask that you all continue to pray for me, my family, my health and that I am able to find someone who would represent me to fight for what is right. So that I can finally receive treatment here within these walls. Unfortunately there are no resources, programs or classes here to help.

Please continue to pray for these prisons, those of us locked up in them as well as the officers and the staff ... they all are human, too! Thank you for allowing me to share my testimony. God is not done with me yet.

# Fathers Day Word Search

Find the hidden words.

S S D S S R L G Z T X K R L B  
 T E F L W E A L H I I A G N A  
 R K U O E T X O A S P H U G S  
 O O N O E H U U S B T R A E H  
 P J N T T G D E V O T E D G V  
 S T Y O H U S L S U M O N M G  
 F V C T H A W E R O Z O O N W  
 V I F E G L I E H Q R L I F H  
 D U S I P R T C E T O R P L O  
 L A F H O S F N S V A J G A L  
 E T D M I U E A E C G U I I I  
 S I E D J N Z R T R W N V C D  
 A M T L Y Z G O I H A E I E A  
 F A M I L Y B R A V E P N P Y  
 N E R D L I H C Q B B R G S O

BBQ	FATHER	HOLIDAY	LAUGHTER	SPECIAL
BRAVE	FISHING	HOME	LOVE	SPORTS
CARING	FOOTBALL	HONOR	MEMORIES	STRONG
CHILDREN	FUNNY	HUGS	NURTURE	SWEET
DADDY	GIFTS	JOKES	PARENT	THOUGHTFUL
DEVOTED	GIVING	JUNE	PROTECT	TIE
FAMILY	HEART	KISSES	RESPECT	TOOLS

**ATTENTION      ATTENTION      Editor's Note      ATTENTION      ATTENTION**

Hello everyone! We have been working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. The request was finally approved! This is **FREE** of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, **FREE!**

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!



## 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



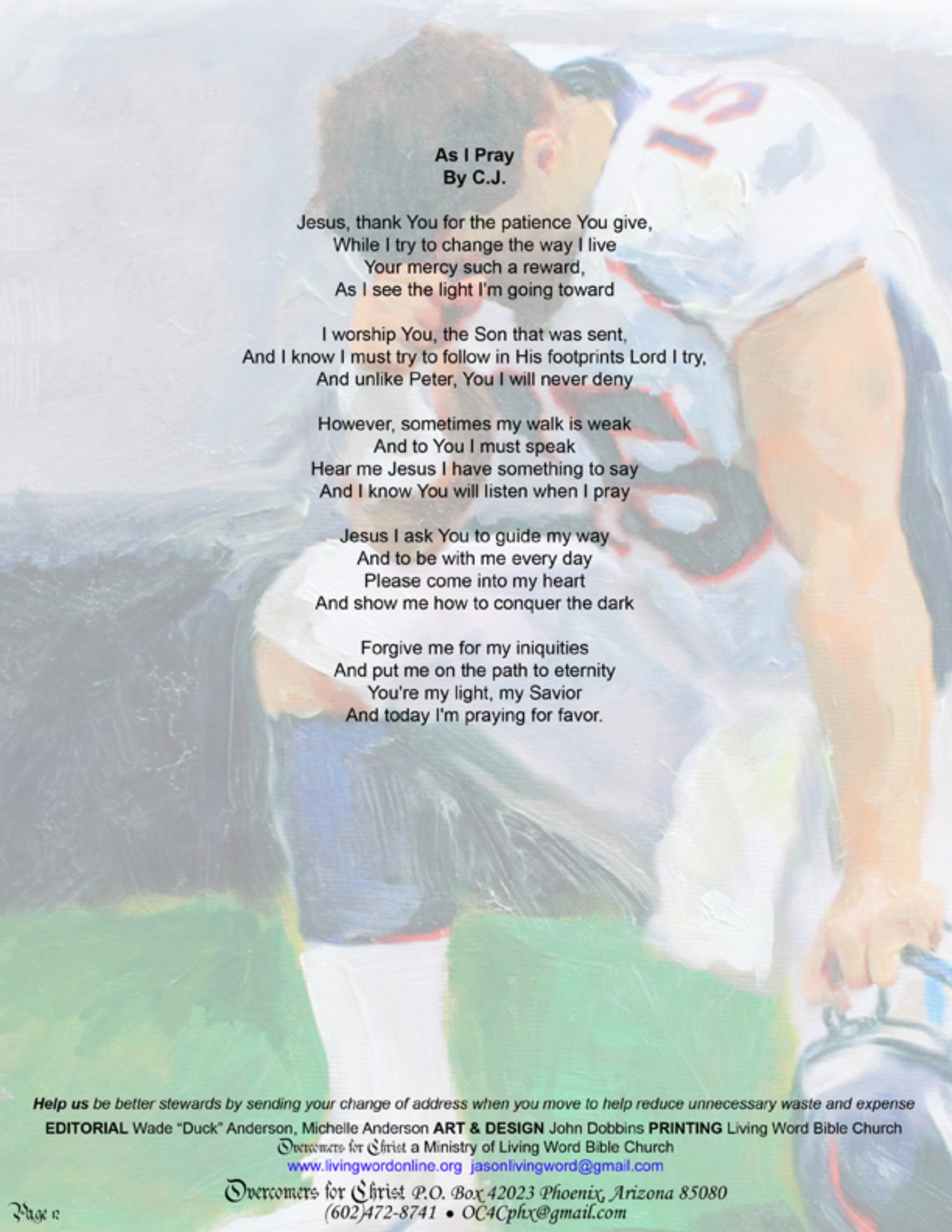
## Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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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*(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com*



**As I Pray**  
**By C.J.**

Jesus, thank You for the patience You give,  
While I try to change the way I live  
Your mercy such a reward,  
As I see the light I'm going toward

I worship You, the Son that was sent,  
And I know I must try to follow in His footprints Lord I try,  
And unlike Peter, You I will never deny

However, sometimes my walk is weak  
And to You I must speak  
Hear me Jesus I have something to say  
And I know You will listen when I pray

Jesus I ask You to guide my way  
And to be with me every day  
Please come into my heart  
And show me how to conquer the dark

Forgive me for my iniquities  
And put me on the path to eternity  
You're my light, my Savior  
And today I'm praying for favor.

*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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