

mum mama mommy

Overcomers for Christ
BEAUTIFUL

May 201

unconditional love

creative UNSELFISH

LOVE U LOVE U LOVE U

BELIEVES

life patient GENTLE

compassionate

NURTURING

strength DEVOTED

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

November 2016



So ... What Does God Have To Do With It? EVERYTHING (Psalm 91)

By Rodger Whisman

As a veteran of the Vietnam War I had found the war was as confusing as life had become. I began to wonder where 'God' was in all of this chaos. But then again, 'He' was able to be everywhere at any given time. In **Jeremiah 23:23-24**, the Lord says, **"Am I only a God nearby, and not a God far away? Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? Do not I fill heaven and earth?"** Then in the New Testament, **Acts 17:26-28**, we read this, **"From one man He made all the nations, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and He marked out their appointed times in history and the boundaries of their land. God did this so they would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is NOT far from any one of us. For in Him we live and move and have our being ... We ARE His offspring."** If that was not enough to absorb I came to realize 'He' heard every heartfelt prayer from every person at any location at the same time. Let's look at **Job 11:7-9**, **"Can you fathom the mysteries of God? Can you probe the limits of the Almighty? They are higher than the heavens above - what can you do? They are deeper than the depths below - what can you do? Their measure is longer than the earth and wider than the sea."** And then, **Isaiah 59:1**, **"Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save, nor His ear too dull to hear."**

This article is a share from my heart. So as a veteran I am not stealing glory nor trying to offend a veteran that has faced hardships and life changing challenges. Neither is this article set to offend any ministries or Christian brothers and sisters active in their election. **Second Peter 1:10**, tells us this, **"Therefore, my brothers and sisters, make every effort to confirm your calling and election. For if you do these things, you will never stumble ..."**

What I have become aware of is the similarity of the trials, challenges and lifestyle of serving Uncle Sam and in the service of God, through Christ, are in fact comparably the same. **Second Timothy 2:3-4** says this, **"Join with me in suffering, like a good soldier of Christ Jesus. NO ONE serving as a soldier gets entangled in civilian affairs, but rather tries to please his commanding officer." "In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom EVERYTHING exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation PERFECT through what He suffered." (Hebrews 2:10)**

And yes, ALL of **Psalm 91**, **"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, 'He IS my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.' Surely He will save you from the fowlers snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that stalks at midday. A thousand my fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, BUT it will NOT come near you. You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked."**

"If you say, 'The LORD is my refuge,' and you make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent. For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent." Notice the significance or theme of this **Psalm** is 'God's Protection' for those whom have made the decision to call on Him to be the Lord of their lives.

I believe that the author of this **Psalm** is sharing his own personal experiences with us as he has walked with the LORD our God. Then, immediately, after his testimony the LORD speaks up and affirms what the author has spoken ... with His promises. Listen. **"Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I WILL rescue him; I WILL protect him, for he acknowledges My name. He will call on Me, and I WILL answer him; I WILL be with him in trouble, I WILL deliver him and honor him. With long life I WILL satisfy him and show him My salvation."** Six times in three verses God promises 'I WILL' protect you.

War is war. It need not be defined within itself. Men and women go to war, that is a given fact. We ALL go to 'defend' what we believe in and to protect the American people and government (**Psalm 91**) **Protection**. There IS a war for the eternal soul and the Kingdom of God and they are the same. Read this. **"For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are NOT the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to DEMOLISH strongholds. We DEMOLISH arguments and every pretension that sets itself up AGAINST the KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, and we take CAPTIVE every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And WE WILL BE READY to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete."** (2 Corinthians 10:3-6)

So whether your battle is spiritual or physical there IS what we call 'the art of war'. In that we MUST most certainly know our enemies capabilities. Scripture just showed us that we actually mature in the knowledge of doing battle. Many of us who have been through such things can contest; in war, or yet battle there are always mental, emotional and physical wounds. This trial or challenge is the hardest of your service life. In fact it (military) could very well take your life. This is why the military trains you to defend your life. Believe me, this takes time to grow and mature in. Therefore, MUCH is at

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

stake so you listen and learn well. **Proverbs 24:6** tells us, **"Surely you need guidance to wage war, and victory is won through many advisors."** It is the same in God's service. The difference being, eternal souls are at stake instead of just our own life. Again, learn to lean on **Psalm 91** with all your heart! **"This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor."** (**Romans 13:6-7**) **"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into His Kingdom and glory."** (**1 Thessalonians 2:11-12**) **"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of His calling, and that by His power He may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith."** (**2 Thessalonians 1:11**) And lastly, **First Peter 2:17-18**, **"Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to EVERYONE, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor."** In agreement with ALL these Scriptures and especially this last verse I also want to honor all those that 'serve' God in their election of ministry.

Whether you push a pencil for Uncle Sam or have pushed the front line in the military, you **ARE** doing your duty. Whether you are a secretary or a pastor of a church, you **ARE** doing your duty. Whether you are preparing equipment or in logistics in hostile areas, you **ARE** doing your duty. Whether you clean the church or a deacon or evangelist, you **ARE** doing your duty.

Paul, in **Ephesians 1:18-21**, says this, **"I pray that the eyes of your heart be enlightened in order that you may know to which He HAS CALLED YOU, the riches of His glorious inheritance in His holy people, and His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the SAME as the mighty strength He exerted when He raised Christ from the dead AND seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, FAR ABOVE ALL RULE AND AUTHORITY, power and dominion, and EVERY NAME that is invoked, NOT ONLY IN THE PRESENT AGE BUT ALSO IN THE ONE TO COME. And God placed ALL THINGS under His feet and appointed Him to be HEAD over EVERYTHING for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."** Now, not only knowing but better than that, understanding what Paul has just stated let's turn over to see how Peter then encourages in the same way. **"Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around LIKE (or as) a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. RESIST him, STANDING FIRM IN THE FAITH, because you know that the FAMILY of believers throughout the whole world is undergoing the SAME kind of suffering. AND the God of ALL grace, who CALLED YOU to His eternal glory IN CHRIST, after you have suffered a little while, WILL HIMSELF restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast."** (**1 Peter 5:8-10**) You **ARE** called to your purpose or election. So be encouraged that God needs you to **BE YOU** in that purpose you were called to! He has **NOT** called you to be like someone else!

Whomever, or whichever, calls you in to service there IS an induction. Whether it be military or the Lord, neither should be taken lightly. Let's consider what Paul says in **Romans 8:28-30**, **"And we know that IN ALL THINGS God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose. For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, so that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those He predestined, He also called, those He called, He also justified; those He justified He also glorified."** While I am on this topic, myself and all the ~~Overcomers~~ **Overcomers for Christ** on this end want ALL of you there, that have served this great Country, to know we honor and so appreciate your induction to serve!

Another consideration that is spoken on was once called 'battle fatigue', is now called P.T.S.D. Regardless which name it's called they both create a stress disorder. This disorder can create health issues or even worse cause you to relive your past trauma over and over the rest of your life. I've got to say that the military has begun to do much more and better things for our 'Service men and women' in these areas.

In service to God, through Christ our Lord and Savior, we all most certainly run into similar issues. I have watched and seen as pastors, evangelists, laymen, and those in the ministry of helps and encouragement bend under the stress and chaos of caring for souls and defending the ministry of Christ. And same as the military we ALL must press forward with the life we have IN CHRIST, though pressed out of measure. Sons and daughters of Christ may even get hurt deeply, emotionally in a way that never seems to go away that's why Paul encourages us with these words in **2 Corinthians 1:8-10**, **"We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about the troubles we experienced in the province of ASIA. We were under great pressure, FAR BEYOND our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. BUT this happened that WE MIGHT NOT rely on ourselves BUT ON GOD, who raises the dead. He HAS delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He WILL DELIVER US AGAIN. On Him we have set our hope that He WILL continue to deliver us ..."** And remember, we can and should ALWAYS stand on and lean against His promised **PROTECTION** in **Psalm 91**.

... continued on page 9

Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

Prayer Requests

I love Jesus and the Word of God; I read His Word daily and pray all day long. What I pray for most is my mama (mother), she is 80 years old and lives alone in Lake Havasu, AZ. She has many medical issues along with a fractured back they can't fix, a hip problem, two torn rotator cuffs and her reproductive organs are falling out. She is on a lot of pain meds and I worry about her all the time. She is a fighter, she is my hero. The thought that I might never see her again breaks my heart each day. I do get to talk to her on the phone a couple of times a week, which is the highlight for both of us. She is so alone. She doesn't deserve this due to my poor choices. I should be there, but that is not possible right now. I ask God every day to just give me one more day with my mama in her home, holding her hand and caring for all her needs, that's all I want. God's will be done. So, please help us. Can you also pray for us both? Pray for my mother's healing and to lighten her load, bring joy to her heart, and make her whole again. I can't do this without her. We have a special bond no one can ever understand. Sometimes it feels like I can't breathe without her. I need more time with her to make more memories. She's so alone, her letters are so sad. She misses me so much as I do her. Also pray that I win my appeal and get a lesser sentence so my mama and me can be together. Just pray for us, please? I know God is working on me. Yes I have let Him into my heart, but somedays it's all just too overwhelming and I need help from God. Reading and praying to God is what gets me through each day. I also cry a lot for my mama and myself. Sometimes when I cry out to God, the tears just come ... **J.M.**

Overcomers for Christ family, I got the birthday card and I thought I would drop you a line and thank you. I do want to ask y'all to pray for my friend's sister, Beatrice. A pencil eraser sized tumor has developed in her brain and there is a 65% blockage in her throat. Please pray for her complete healing. Her brother has a blockage in his heart, so please pray for him also. We need as much prayer as possible. I am asking everybody to pray for them with us, as prayer is our most powerful weapon against satan. God bless this ministry and y'all are always in my prayers to our Heavenly Father. My mom is still struggling with the loss of her second husband. She was married 45 years I think. I will keep you informed on when Yahweh heals and blesses Beatrice and her brother, as well as my mom. Thank you for remembering my birthday. God Bless you in His service ... **R.B.**

Can you please pray for prison reform? Thank you ... your friend in Christ ... **S.T.**

I need your ministry to pray for my son, my family and me. I need a lot of prayers. I need to read about God so much. I will keep asking God for blessings to be with your ministry ... **K.M.**

Praise Reports

If it's God's will I'll be out of here in 5-8 months, and I can't wait, I am a bit fearful of how it will be for me once I'm a free man at my age of 55. The mental health specialist here told me that AHCCCS will pay for my halfway house, so you see the Lord has been working miracles in my life. My sister came to visit me last week, first time since I've been locked up, wow!! We had a wonderful visit. I suffer from depression and I have been on anti-depression medications and I'm praying that our Lord will come into my life and help me to defeat it. Amen!! I once got so down that I tried to end it by taking my own life, but today I love life and I thank God each and every day for life, Amen!!! ... **A.A.**

Hebrews 6:10 KJV says, "**For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**" I just want to tell everyone who signed the birthday card you sent to me, that I love and appreciate all of you from the bottom of my heart. I know God is doing great things out there in your ministry and He is blessing it also. Praise God! I just want to encourage all of you to keep up the good work for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, we can't make it without Him! Praise God! I want to share a little bit of what God is doing, and has done on my run in the last month or so. I have seen with my own eyes, how God has changed a man just right across from me, not just a 90 degree turn but a 180 degree turn! Praise God! Changed into a brand new creature, the old life style he used to live is gone! Praise God! He told me "Bro, I want to get married to a woman and have children someday, Lord willing." God delivered this man and made him whole, **Matthew 19:26** says, "**With God all things are possible,**" and God is still working in this man's life. Praise God ... **E.C.**

I just came in from church, so Christmas falls on Sunday this year (2016). Well, the chaplain is bringing in a portable baptismal and long story short, Christmas Day I'll be getting baptized. I won't lie I was tearing up at the news. I can only say, it is done, I was baptized today, praise God! I've been waiting for 11 plus years for the opportunity I now feel complete in my faith. We were a little concerned about basic physics and water displacement but all went well. So, it's official Christmas Day 2016, Bigfoot was cleaned of all sins ... **Foot**

Overcomers for Christ, hello brothers and sisters. I hope all is well at the O+C family. I'm just writing this to inform you guys of my change of address. The Lord has blessed me. He has moved me to a yard with minimal to no politics, and most importantly, great church services. We have Bible study five days a week and church three times a week. Praise God! Thank You Jesus! Your brother in Christ ... **M.O.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Trials Serve a Purpose

By G.B.B.

Greetings and blessings to all of you! And most of all thank you all for your love cards that truly lift my soul so much. Life can be filled with sorrow and disappointment in the fact that Jesus assured us of this, *"In this world you will have trouble"* (John 16:33). No one is immune. In overcoming disappointments, it is important to keep them in perspective. Even though we cannot eliminate suffering or disappointment this side of heaven it can become less formidable when viewed from a different vantage point. The first thing to keep in mind is that no amount of suffering or disappointment we experience in this life can ever undo what God has done for us in Christ. Apart from scripture, it is very difficult to have a proper perspective on suffering and disappointment and these things will rarely make sense to those unacquainted with God's Word. Neither psychology nor philosophy can offer a sufficient explanation for it. No social science can work restoration on the soul, only God can do this ... *Psalm 23:3* ... **"He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."** The truth is our trials and disappointments though we may not like them, do serve a purpose. It is through trials that we learn patience and humility - endurance and trust - virtues that strengthen us and develop godly character. Also, it is during the difficult times that we learn to rely on God and experience firsthand the absolute trustworthiness of His Word. We also learn the truth of what Paul taught, **"God's power is at its strongest when we are at our weakest"** (2 Corinthians 12:9). As A.W. Tozer observed, "If the truth were known that the saints of God in every age were only effective after they had been wounded.

It is important that our perspective include eternity. Our time on earth is an incalculable small fraction of our eternal journey. Consider the Apostle Paul and the persecution he was subjected to while spreading the gospel. Although his litany of suffering seems unbearable by any measure, he amazingly referred to his hardships as light and momentary troubles. This is because he focused on the eternal glory that far outweighed any earthly disappointments he experienced (2 Corinthians 4:17; Romans 8:18). We can do this, he said, when we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but rather on what is unseen, our heavenly home (2 Corinthians 4:18). It is faith that allows us to see the unseen that is why faith is such an indispensable element of the Christian life. Scripture teaches that we live by faith (2 Corinthians 5:7) and that without faith is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). We know that as followers of Christ we will experience disappointment and endure trials where our faith is indeed put to the test. And the Apostle James tells us we should consider it pure joy when we face these trials, as this is how our faith strengthens and we mature as Christians (James 1:2-4).

Now even though disappointments plague us until our final heartbeat we can minimize them by understanding and applying the principal of sowing and reaping found throughout the Bible. He who sows righteousness reaps a reward (Proverbs 11:18), whereas he who sows wickedness reaps trouble (Proverbs 22:8). When we faithfully live in accordance with God's perfect Word we forgo bringing unnecessary trouble and disappointments into our lives in the first place. As the psalmist declared, **"How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to Your Word"** (Psalm 119:9). It also helps to remember the absolute sovereignty of God. Everything occurs either by His prescription or permission, or in perfect accordance with His sovereign purposes and unfathomable ways (Romans 11:33).

Prayer is the ultimate acknowledgement of God's sovereignty. In the midst of our trial and disappointment, prayer gives us strength. It did for Moses (Exodus 12:11; Numbers 14, 13, 20 and 6), and David (Psalm 55:16-17) and Daniel (Daniel 6:10; 9:20-23). Before our Savior took on the sins of the world, He spent his final night in prayer (Matthew 27:36-44; John 17). Now He invites the weary and burdened to come to Him and He will give us rest (Matthew 11:28). Being a child of God means, we are never alone in our trials (Hebrews 13:5). God gives us the strength and grace we need to endure any circumstance and to overcome any disappointment (Philippians 4:13; Psalm 68:35). His peace will guard our hearts when we look to Him (Philippians 4:6-7). As Maurice Roberts stated "The degree of a Christian's peace of mind depends upon his spiritual ability to interpose the thought of God between himself and anxiety." If we keep our mind on God, nothing can steal our peace.

Since you all have become a part of my life things have gotten so alive with God in every day. Peace, Love and Joy. Thank you for the lovely card and for all your love and care for me and for keeping in touch with me. Please keep in touch. You all have helped this old soul out truly so much. You have given me something to fight for!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Become God's Business Partner by Tithing

By C.L.

Dear Overcomers, there has been a lot of confusion here as far as my tithes being processed and sent to you properly, so I'm trying this time in a regular envelope instead of a card. Tithing is important to me because it is important to God. It's sort of how we become business partners with God. We provide a small seed fertilized with faith and He does the rest. I believe it is like an eternal 401k plan. **Philippians 4:17, "So I trust this seed will abound in your faithful care by the power of God, to spread the gospel of grace."**

Thank You

By P.M.

I've written you for many years, and always you gave a reply. You have given me a lot of your time, I am blessed to have people like you all these years. On March 2, 2017, I will be leaving this prison after 17 years of being here. I go home a very different person. I do thank you for all your support spiritually. Many times over my stay here I've mentioned your ministry to others here, thank you for your help and all your staff's help and their support. I'll keep in touch once I'm out, pray they clear my home so I can move back home.

Address this to Cash\$... This was a long haul, one minute it is March of 2000 then next it's March of 2017. Thank you, brother Cash\$. Yesterday I went out for a funeral at a chapel in Phoenix, it was surreal to see him after not seeing him since 2005. My oldest brother went to be with the Lord, cancer has taken him earlier than a person should go. Cash\$, boy is it different out there. I'm spiritually stronger than ever. I have noticed that there is so much to be thankful for. Let me share something, it is important to make good friends, because life can be short. As I sat here the other day writing my brother's eulogy, the one thing that I kept with me, because it is the Lord that helps me say things. I mentioned to the friends and family that with God there is no measure of what we can do through Him.

Address this to Monty ... Your wishes for my birthday were heart felt. The other day I sat in a chapel alone with my brother and two corrections officers at hand. I could have used that hug as I sat there with my brother in that chapel in Phoenix. At the end of the month, I will be released. I thank you for your love and concern. I still have a big transition period once out of this place. The support this ministry has given me has been just mind blowing. I've been thinking about writing, and out of nowhere I heard from you. I am thankful for all your input to my spiritual journey. Thank you with brotherly love, I am blessed.

Address this to Deborah ... Well, after the nice picture you drew out on the card, I will have a great birthday. Do pray for me, things only get done through prayers, work and faith. Thank you Deborah.

Address this to all of you ... There's one important thing I take home with me, all of you and your joy, your excitement to do what's best. Prison can change a person and I'm blessed that I've changed for the best. I take the help of those who care enough to have a ministry. When you are led to do what is in your heart, the Lord will do His will. I remembered something from yesterday. After some time had passed, seeing my brother, I paid my respects. The officers almost sat down again. I checked the flowers on the casket, turned and asked them "Let's go," they looked for a minute because there was still time. I had realized just how short life is. I'm ready for my new life.

Invest Your Time Wisely

By M.S.

I have almost 1 ½ years remaining on my 4 ½ year sentence. I have a small job as a wall washer and am saving money for clothes when I'm released. Currently, I'm enrolled in two different Bible correspondence courses, and I read the Word daily. I just recently applied for a new job, I hope and pray I get it, regardless the Holy Spirit guides me to people who need things, comfort, hygiene, etc. and that works out great. I've had an amazing journey so far.

There are approximately 1,200 people on this yard and it seems like I know half of them. All on good terms, white, black, Hispanic – it's all the same. I try to be kind to everyone the same. I love people. I've read almost 100 biblical based books so far. I'm amazed at what I'm learning. It's amazing to be a child of God.

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

2 Chronicles 14:1-18:34

Obedience to God leads to peace with God and others. Just as God has promised centuries earlier, that same is for us. Obedience may not always bring peace with our enemies, but it will bring peace with God and complete peace in His future kingdom. Obeying God is the first step on the path to peace. **(14:1-6)**

Asa wisely welcomed people who had a close relationship with God, and he listened to their messages. Azariah gave the armies an important warning and encouraged them to stay close to God. Keep in contact with people who are filled with God's Spirit, and you will learn God's counsel. Spend regular time in discussion and prayer with those who can help explain and apply God's message. **(15:1-2)**

It does us no good to seek God's advice if we ignore it when it is given. Real love for God is shown, not by merely asking for direction, but by following that direction once it is given. **(18:3-8)**

If you are ridiculed for being honest, remember that this can be a sign that you are indeed doing what is right in God's eyes. **Matthew 5:10, 12; Romans 8:17, 35-39 (18:5-16)**

No matter how greatly you have sinned, you can still call upon God. **(18:31)**

Romans 9:1-24

God's Word in the form of beautiful covenant promises came to Abraham. Covenant people, the true children of Abraham, are not just his biological descendents, they are all those who trust in God and what Jesus has done for them. **(9:6)**

God freely chooses to save whomever He wills. The doctrine of election teaches that it is God's sovereign choice to save us by His goodness and mercy, not by our own merits. **(9:11)**

Psalms 18:37-19:14

David's great power had become legendary. God gave him victory in every battle. The **Book of 2 Samuel** records victories over the Jebusites **(5:6-10)**, the Philistines **(5:17-25; 8:1)**, Hadadezer of Rehob **(8:3-4)**, the Arameans **(8:5; 6:10)**, the Edomites **(8:13-14)**, and the Ammonites **(12:26-31)**. The king of Tyre sent supplies and workmen to help David build his palace **(5:11)**. But David did not attribute his victories to himself. He fully realized that the purpose of his position was to bless God's people **(1 Chronicles 14:2)**. **(18:43-45)**

As you begin each day, determine that God's love will guide what you say and how you think. **(19:14)**

Proverbs 19:27-20:1

Children who refuse to listen to instruction will move out of the path of gaining knowledge. It is important for our children to gain knowledge for they are our future and at some point will replace us. So we need to pass on God's laws to them for the future of Christianity. **(19:27)**

This Proverb is pretty much self-explanatory, if you let alcohol into your life, it will only lead to problems. **(20:1)**



"Foot" Notes

Hello everyone, this time around I would like to share that on Christmas Day there were 26 of us who took advantage of the opportunity and were baptized on this unit. It was a beautiful sight to behold. All the men taking this step to move forward in the faith. I have been waiting for this opportunity and can honestly say that I now feel complete in my faith and can continue my journey with even more contentment, joy and purpose. If the opportunity should present itself on other units, I encourage you all to take advantage of it because these opportunities don't happen all the time, Amen!!

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

So ... What Does God Have To Do With It? EVERYTHING (Psalm 91) continued ...

Another subject in war/battle is the issue of being taken or P.O.W. which means, prisoner of war or someone taken out of service by the enemy. They take you where you do not desire to be and keep you longer than you ever want to stay! Paul himself spoke often on this subject. In fact most of the Epistles he wrote speak of his incarceration, confinement and being deep within prison chambers. The enemy of our soul most certainly attempts to detain us from the service we have in Christ. At ALL cost we must press forward with as much as lies in us! God WILL make a way out! Paul tells us, in **Ephesians 4:8**, "**When He ascended on high, He took many captives and gave gifts to His people.**" And again in **2 Timothy 2:25-26**, "...and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will." Then, in **Revelation 13:10**, John records this, "**He that leadeth into captivity shall go into captivity: he that killeth with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.**"

So keep this in mind; at times you WILL struggle. At times you WILL suffer out of hurt. At times you WILL be pressed out of measure. At times you WILL feel like throwing in the towel, the sink and all the items there around you. But PLEASE be encouraged that these issues are NOT rare by any means. I will give you all a small list of scriptural helps and encouragement to look up and study for yourselves.

1) Be sure of your election/calling ... **Ephesians 4:4, Philippians 3:14, and Hebrews 3:1-8**

2) Rest and relax in the Holy Spirit, be refreshed and or restored ... **Acts 3:19, Joel 2:25, Psalm 51: 12, and Jeremiah 30:17**

3) Pray more, prayer is not what you do. But instead it defines who you are in God ... **Jude v.20, 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:8**

4) Ask other Christians to pray over you ... **James 5:13-15**

5) Encourage yourself in the Lord. David was a warrior/man of war and was in much conflict, issues and a few separations from God's will. Yet God loved him much ... **Colossians 3:16, Ephesians 5:19**

Please, from me directly, be very encouraged and remember these two possibilities. 1) Your test can very well become your testimony. 2) Your mess can very easily become your message to others. It is easier for a Veteran to reach out to a Veteran and bring help, hope and understanding. Remember this as well, wherever or whatever your test has become or whatever the mess in your life is right now, after the Lord has helped, redeemed, and restored you in that issue, you can and will be of help to others in the same mess or tests. For some of you this may very well be your purpose in Christ.

I'll begin to wrap this message up by saying to those sons and daughters of the Most High, to the Veterans who have returned from duty and are facing new tests and challenges and to all the new souls reading this; All of life is assuredly an adventure. We ALL have an opportunity to live one life on this planet as it is today. **Hebrews 9:27** tells us, "**And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment ...**" This indicates to us that we have choice to make if you have NOT done so. That choice has EVERYTHING to do with your eternal life. **Deuteronomy 30:19-20a** Moses records this, "**This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. NOW choose life that you AND your children may live and that you may love the LORD your God, listen to His voice, and hold fast to Him. For the LORD is your life ...**"

A soldier is out for victory, defeat is NOT even on his/her mind. As a Christian be a good soldier IN CHRIST with the same state of mind Paul encourages Timothy with in **2 Timothy 2:3-5**. For those in ministry, souls and discipleship should always be our main focus. The battle, that war for a soul means EVERYTHING to God! He gave up what 'He' loved most in His creation for the Sacrifice of YOUR soul. And **YES, HE LOVES YOU THAT MUCH!**

Christ Jesus made a choice and raised both His hands, opened His arms and gave it ALL for YOU! In the military when a man or a woman puts their life on the line for others it is one of the greatest honors in military service. ALL gave my friends, but some gave ALL! **AND WE DO HONOR THEM!** Christ gave it ALL for ALL mankind so that we could be victorious and have eternal life in the Kingdom of heaven, the Kingdom of our LORD.

So, in all I've attempted to share here and to the best of my ability I ask you as you too will be asked, "**What Does God Have To Do With It?**" My answer **ALWAYS** and yours should be as well, "**EVERYTHING!!**" God bless you all.

Overcomer's Testimonies

The Lord has been blessing me since I got out. I went and met and became a member of *Overcomers for Christ* at Living Word Bible Church. I now go to the *Overcomers for Christ* meetings and they are all a blessing. I feel the love.

I went and got a free bike from St. Vincent de Paul. I went to work at Erickson's construction but before I went to work, I went to Walmart to get bike lights to be safe and legal. I had \$10, I prayed to God for help, prosperity for what I planned and needed for the day. I went in Walmart at 4:30 a.m. I made it their without incident. I gave my backpack to security then I go to the bike area to find lights. I see the only one I can afford, it is out of stock. A guy is next to me, I think it is undercover security, but I say, "Okay Lord, I'm not doing anything wrong."

So, I ask the guy, "Do you think if I asked a worker they could find this light." He said, "No, I come in here all the time and they never have that, why what do you need?"

Me: "I need bike lights but I only have \$10."

Guy in Walmart: "Well, how about one of these?"

Me: "I have \$10 and they are \$15 and \$18."

Guy in Walmart: "Pick one you like, I'll help you get it."

Me: "Why would you do that."

Guy in Walmart: "God led me to follow you because I saw you give your backpack to security, and I know you need help for getting a job and you're a felon. I'm a Mormon from a prison ministry and I have guys that need work. Do you know where they might find it?"

Me: "Yeah, I have 8-10 places."

Guy in Walmart: "See how God works," as his eyes teared up.

Me: "Give me your number and I'll give you all the job contacts I have so your guys can find work."

Guy in Walmart: "We are blessing each other, meet me at the cash register, I have a few things to get and we'll get your lights."

He gets there and I give him my \$10, he gives me \$5 back and says, "You'll probably need this." I say, "Okay." Then he leaves. I go out and open the lights and discover it doesn't come with batteries. I had just enough to buy batteries!

I fixed the lights and rode 14 miles to Erickson's. I got the job and set-up a carpool with the new boss. The next day, I ride 5 miles to the pickup point. I work 8 hours, hit my finger once and get yelled at twice and at the end of the day my boss says, "You did good." He made fun of the boots I had because they were not what I needed for the work I was doing. The next day, he asks me. "What size boot you wear?" I say, "Eleven, why?"

He doesn't answer and three hours later he texts me these exact words, "I got you a pair of shoes for work. You're going to need a good pair of shoes, I see that you have the drive to do this job, stick with me and I'll get you to the top of your game, that's a promise. I believe that you have it in you, the shoes are a gift from me to you. I know you have a hard journey getting on your feet so let this help you. As long as you show me that you want to better yourself I will do what I can to make it better for you. I believe in all my guys, every single guy that's on my crew right now is a good person, if you need I'll bring them to you tomorrow."

I text, "Thank you, I'll do my best and I like the guys on the crew, thank you again, see you at 5:15 Monday." He texts, "Yep 5:15 and I know you'll do your best, give me your address and I'll bring them in 30 minutes." He shows up and gives them to me with a pep talk. They are \$60 shoes!

I feel so blessed. God is so wonderful, I testify if you seek the kingdom first and God will take care of you. It is so easy with God having your back. I praise you all who read this. This is all true what God does for those He loves even when you don't always make the right choices, He still loves and helps you. Trust in Him my brothers and sisters. God is merciful, giving, kind and blows your mind if you let Him. You all keep your head up and follow God and trust in Him even if you don't feel like it or see no evidence. Give Him time, He's setting things in order, He's the Great Multi-tasker, trust me, He will dial you all in just look to Him. Praise and glory to my God and Savior Jesus and my Guide, the Holy Spirit. Power and sovereignty is in His hands and so are all of you, God bless you all ... Amen!!! - **Richard H.**

Quote Worthy

**"The heart of a mother is a deep abyss at the bottom of which you will always find forgiveness."
Honoré de Balzac (1799 - 1850) - a French novelist and playwright**

A Prayer for Protection

Contributed by Teri Barnes

Lord God, thank You for all the positive influences in my life today. Thank You for everyone who has ever prayed for me and for anyone who will ever pray for me in the future. Thanks especially for the people of strong faith that You have placed in my path and the positive impact they have had on my character.

Insulate me from experiences that could compromise my full potential. Keep me tuned in to the conforming power of my environment and consistent exposures. Move me away from distractions, diversions and temptations. Keep my thoughts instead on what is true, pure, excellent and worthy of praise. I know that nothing guards my heart more than being in Your will.

Protect me, Father, from any person or relationship that would slowly prod me down the wrong path. Cause me to become hypersensitive to the people in my life and the sometimes subtle influence they are having on my spiritual, emotional, mental and physical habits. Bring wise, genuine friends into my life, and dissolve any ties with those who may weaken my relationship with You. In Jesus' name, AMEN.

What Others Are Saying...

"How goes the 'Good Fight' of faith in Christ Jesus? I just wanted to say hello and thank you for your faithfulness in sending your edifying newsletters. I do appreciate the time and effort you all put into sharing with us the peace, grace and love of Christ. Only the power of Christ is sufficient for these times in here." - **D.C.**

"You all have made this the best year I have had since I have been in here by far! Thank you for all the prayers. May God bless you all this coming year and beyond." - **A.H.**

"This is a great time for me to let all of you know of the warmth and comfort that is felt from your newsletters each month. They give me hope and help me through my troubled time here. The Lord is with those who keep in faith. Thank you for the spiritual uplift that you give." - **A.C.**

"The newsletter is fabulous every month, but August 2016 was over the top for me. Maybe the picture on the front cover or the explanation?? Both were so powerful. Normally I give the newsletters to others, but I'm keeping this one. In fact, I have it propped up on my bookshelf so I can always see the front picture. Thanks for all of your work." - **L. A.**

Easter Crossword Puzzle Answer



Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, and mail this newsletter. None of this would be possible without the faithful support of many people who believe in this ministry. The vision of this ministry is to offer hope, love, and encouragement to those who are incarcerated. You are investing in spreading the Word of God to lost souls, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

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

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

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

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

Conviction of Life

By K.N.

**I let myself down without a doubt.
Drinking and drugging like a water spout.
I couldn't see where my life was going.
But my pain and fear were steadily growing.**

**I got to the point I didn't care.
All of my money went up in the air.
There's many a day I thought I would die.
Living my life, lie after lie.**

**To be an addict there is no fun.
Being chased by a drug, always on the run.
There's no place to go when the devil's your ride.
When you're with those friends and getting high.**

**You'll awake one day, those friends will be gone.
But the devil's hooks will still hang on.
I've learned some things being in jail.
Looking at my life from this little cell.**

**What the devil gives, he always takes back.
But thank God, we have Jesus He takes up our slack.
I called on Him, He set me free.
He gave me Salvation, promised eternity.**

**He told me, "Every promise I will keep.
If you follow Me, your path won't be too steep."
He cleansed my soul from all unclean.
He gave me love I've never seen.**

**If you are out there, just call Jesus' name.
Because there is no future without Him.**

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

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

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

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

(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com