

Overcomers for Christ

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Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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A Life Seeking God

By Vern Deadmond - GEM Ministry

The last time I wrote for this newsletter, I referenced Daniel and his prayer life. His prayer life was a result of his commitment to serving God and this commitment to God was the foundation to victory in life. As I considered Daniel, I considered why did God save him from the lions, why did God use him to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream, and how did Daniel prosper over 70 years serving at least 4 pagan kings. As I read the Book of Daniel, I started to see what type of person Daniel was, he was a man totally sold out to God. He stayed true to God living a sanctified life and serving Him throughout his entire life. He never failed in his reliance on God. Why was this, why did he not throw up his hands and surrender to his circumstances? Are you at a point in your life where you may be saying in your heart, this faith journey with God is not working? Do you ask what is the point of serving God because you don't see the promises of God in your life? Let me encourage you to stay with God. Daniel through all sorts of adversity stayed true to God in a culture that worshiped other gods and he prospered and was successful.

Daniel was taken to Babylon in the year 605 BC, after the first siege of Jerusalem by King Nebuchadnezzar to serve him. He was to be trained and educated for three years, and all of the best that Babylon had to offer for food and drink was available to him. As I studied Daniel, I wondered about what Babylon represents, and I remembered the scripture in **Revelation 17:5**, John saw a woman with a name written on her forehead and that name was **"Mystery, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth."** I began to study Babylon and found out that Babylon is actually where the Tower of Babel was being built. In the Hebrew language, Babel and Babylon are the same word, babel. Babel was where man in pride, wanted to be God-like without God. We read in **Genesis 11:4**, **"And they said, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose top is in the heavens; let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered abroad the face of the whole earth."** There was no mention of God in this endeavor. If you really study this event out in the Scriptures, this was only around 100-300 years after the Flood of Noah, and the people constructing the Tower of Babel were not absent from the knowledge of God. These were the grandchildren of Noah and the story of the flood and how God had saved their grandfather, fathers and mothers from death and destruction were well known to them. They wanted to be remembered in stories like Noah and their fathers, but they were going to do it without God, they were going to do this great accomplishment in their intellect and strength. The seed of pride was planted in them.

Pride starts with "self", I will do, I am great, nothing can stop me. The result of pride causes you to exalt yourself above God, causing you to think you can live without God's influence and assistance. The sin of pride takes us where we don't want to go. What do I mean? Pride leads to all other sin. Let me show you in the scriptures. **Isaiah 14:13-14**, **"For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."** These scriptures are describing what happened to Lucifer. In pride Lucifer rebelled against God, leading him to not just deceive man, but he caused man to reject God. God has pronounced judgment on Lucifer for what he has done, and God's wrath will be brought down on Lucifer for this, very soon. Man is God's greatest creation, we were created in His likeness, we are His children; this is why God loves us so much. And Lucifer, because of pride, used man to attempt to accomplish his goal and desire. In so doing, he caused the fall of mankind and nearly destroyed God's children. And look at the judgment that has been declared over the devil, eternal damnation in hell. This is why God hates pride so much, it leads to destruction. The sin of pride will take you where you don't want to go, leading to every abominable sin. Pride makes you think only about yourself and satisfying the lusts of your flesh. Flesh is in the sense of anything you desire for yourself: food, drink, money, drugs, pornography, success, sex, etc. What would you do to satisfy the cravings of your body? Some would go as far as committing murder to get what they want. What have you done in the past, who have you hurt in pride? Have you asked God to forgive you? The sin of pride leads to all sorts of abominations and depravity.

Let's go back to the description of Babylon, what does the phrase "mother of harlots" refer too? In **Proverbs 7**, we read a description of a harlot and how she seduces a young man.

Proverbs 7:6-18 – **"For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, and saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding, passing along the street near her corner; and he took the path to her house in the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night. And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot and a crafty heart. She was loud and rebellious; her feet would not stay at home. At times she was outside, at times in the open square, lurking at every corner. So she caught him and kissed him; I have peace offerings with me; today I have paid my vows. So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you. I have spread my bed with tapestry, colored coverings of Egyptian linen. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love."**

In this account, the woman is tempting the young man. She knows what this young man wants. The literal representation

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of this account is obvious, but there is also a deeper spiritual representation portrayed. This young man represents all of mankind, male and female. It does not matter what gender you are; we all have desires and if we give in to those desires, it leads to our destruction. The harlot represents every temptation that attempts to veer us from our focus on God. Temptations will seduce us and lead us down the path to sin. Reread Proverbs 7 before you go any further and read it with the understanding that the scriptures are describing how temptation works. It is always there waiting to trip us up, seducing us, and leading us off of the straight and narrow path that God has called us to. Temptation draws us into sin with the promise of satisfying our desires, but this satisfaction is only temporary. A life living for God produces life eternal. As we read **Proverbs 8:25-27**, we are warned to avoid temptation because the eventual outcome of those who fall for temptation's promises will be damnation. **"Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths; for she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men. Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death."** We only need to look at history from the past 30-40 years. The world is so quick to show us the faults of some of the most prominent Christian leaders. Many have fallen from sexual sin and greed of money. Once their sin was exposed, they lost their influence in the Christian life that followed them and their teachings, hurting those Christian's in the fallout and causing many of them to stop serving God. I want to emphasize that the faults of these leaders are not an excuse to walk away from God. We are responsible for ourselves, and if we get offended over someone else's sin, you are holding that person in greater esteem than Jesus. People are just people, there is not one of us that has not sinned, and unfortunately not one of us is perfect. We must show forgiveness and move on with our own walk and relationship with God.

So going back to **Revelation 17:5**, **"Babylon is the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth."** Babylon was decadent, characterized by or reflecting a state of moral or cultural decline, and whatever man wanted to do to satisfy his desires was available to him. After the flood, Babylon was where man settled and started to build civilization again. Satan went to work right away in his efforts to draw man away from God, deceiving man again with pride. Deceiving us with the same lie that caused Adam and Eve to sin in the garden, "We don't need God, we can make our own way in this world without Him," man can learn about good and evil without God. Babylon became a demon cesspool. When God scattered the people across the earth, man took the knowledge and acts of sin with him. Temptations followed and plagued man all over this world. Consider the name "Babylon", in the Chaldean language, its name means "the gate of the gods." Anything we pursue with greater emphasis and priority than God, becomes a god to us. Money, sex, job, material things, etc., Babylon represents anything we make a god, anything we seek to find satisfaction in and exalt above the one and true God. This is why Babylon **"is the mother of harlots and of the abominations of the earth."** And God is going to deal with this in the end.

Now consider Daniel, who was around the age of 15 when he was taken to Babylon and we read in **Daniel 1:5**, **"And the king appointed for them a daily provision of the king's delicacies and of the wine which he drank."** This would be like taking a 15-year-old boy to Las Vegas, turning him loose to do anything he wants and having no accountability. He can go to the casinos, to the topless bars, to the shows, the whore houses, and do whatever he desires. No one is going to put restrictions on him. This is what Daniel was offered, he was offered to partake in everything Babylon represented. Let's read **Daniel 1:8**, **"But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies."** You see, Daniel not only made a conscious decision to not sin, but he made this decision in his inner being, in his heart, that he was not going to act on the temptations that would entice him, he was not going to participate in sin, he was going to serve God. Because of that decision not to corrupt his purity, **"God brought him into the favor and goodwill of the chief of the eunuchs."** (**Daniel 1:9**) This choice, to maintain a pure heart before God and to be steadfast in this decision resulted in God's favor in his life. God's favor remained on Daniel throughout his life, Daniel never wavered from this choice. Unlike many of the characters that we read about through the Old Testament scriptures, Daniel never gave in to pride and let his success elevate himself in his thinking that he accomplished all of this success in his strength. There is no recorded account of Daniel sinning against God. As we continue to look at Daniel's life, God rewarded Daniel for him continually pursuing a pure life. In **Daniel 1:17**, **"God gave him knowledge and skill in all literature and wisdom; and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams."** God gave Daniel the knowledge, Daniel cooperated with God's purpose for him. He didn't accomplish this through his own abilities and personal strength, God blessed Daniel. The scriptures are very clear that Daniel's status and promotions in life were a result of what God did for him. We read in **Daniel 1:20**, **"And in all matters of wisdom and understanding about which the king examined him, he found him ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers who were in all his realm. Thus Daniel continued until the first year of King Cyrus."** The promotion and position of Daniel in each of the kings' administrations that he served was a result of Daniel using the knowledge and wisdom God gave him. **Daniel 2:14**, **"Then with counsel and wisdom Daniel answered Arioch, the captain of the king's guard."** God gave Daniel knowledge and wisdom, which then resulted in Daniel being promoted in the king's government. Without knowledge and wisdom from God, Daniel would have failed early in his life and most likely would have been killed through the manipulations and trickery of those who hated him. Understand and know this, God will do the same for anyone (including you) who will serve God like Daniel

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

Prayer Requests

Keep me in your prayers, also could you pray for my ex, she just had her knee replaced. Also pray for my three M's – Marinda, Mariah, Marisa, and Amy – God bless everyone ... **C.P**

Prayer for a move to a new yard, praying that I'll get myself into a positive place similar to what I am doing here working with the counselor and what not. My dad is up there in Show Low. I am hoping I will be able to see him and my stepmother once a year or so. My youngest son Kaiden will be 18 this year and I am hoping I'll be able to get him on my list as an approved visitor, so whenever the opportunity arises, I will be able to hug my son. I have been praying for the lines of communication to open up with my sons and I would appreciate your joining me in praying for this! Keep me in your prayers as you remain in His Service. With the love of Christ ... **M.D.**

My stepmom, Kathy, still struggles with grief from losing her only biological child, Justin, 5 years ago, and I just wish I could leave California and go be with her soon. Of course, I am due to be released soon and forced to return to San Diego on parole with no family, no job, and homeless. It is a precarious situation which always has me going back to jail/prison. It's my hope to find a good church there, one that will accept me and my shameful past and be willing to help me get my life right, so I can discharge parole and return to my family in Texas. I am asking God to lead me with His voice, opening my ears and heart so I can submit to Him and not the demons of addiction and homelessness. Thank you so much for all your prayers and support ... **E.D.**

I am praying for you and your family, so I will keep in contact with you. I am doing good; God is good all the time. I am doing the best I can in my life. God is good. I keep praying all the time, you know that is good for me. God was in the heavens and came down to earth as a man. He was conceived in a miraculous way. But he was born of a woman in the same way we were. He did this so that we could form a personal relationship with Him and know Him as both God and man and better understand Him as Father. Jesus went through childhood and adolescence, learned a trade and when His time came, He began the ministry that He had come to do, revealing Himself to all of us as God and Savior. I got your letter, it made my day, so that was cool to me – my life is in God's hands reading the Bible and praying it makes me a good person that I need to be in my life, so that is good. I love reading my Bible, it makes me do good in my life, you know that the way to go is Jesus for He can change me to be a good person. I don't have to do the bad anymore in my old life, so keep praying for me that I will keep up the good work that Jesus wants me to do in my life. So, I keep reading my Bible to learn from the Bible so I can do what the Bible is teaching me to do. Jesus is all that I have even in my family too, Jesus comes first in my life. What will I do if I don't have Jesus? That is why I read my Bible and pray, so keep me and my family in prayer and I will keep you all in prayer too. God Bless you ... **G.F.**

My mom is going to check out your church for me, she is 91 years old, and you could say my best friend. I think she is looking for a new blessing (church). Most people say they are Christians, but when they find out that I have been here or my mom has me for a son, they treat us differently, not the same as equals, but as less than them and I am not one to lie about me or my past. I want to be me and not treated as less than a human. I am starting to feel that I will not have that problem at Living Word and Overcomers and that God has been calling me there for a lot of years. I am thankful for you keeping me in your prayers ... **S.F.**

Praise Reports

Amen ... looks like I found the mission God had planned for me. People at Rincon are starving for the Good News. I have already lost track of how many people who have prayed the sinner's prayer. Crazy how I am locked up. Yet I have never felt so free in my entire life. I don't really even care about getting out. The Harvest is deep where I am at. God's plans sure are better than mine. Jeremiah 29:11 – "I know the plans that I have for you. This is the Lord's declaration. Plans for your welfare, not disaster. To give you a future and a hope." So, while I am being a servant, our Father is working on my appeal, Amen! Sorry to say, I feel like I am on my way to Heaven. I am at the bowling alley with the bumper guards up. God is Good all the time. Victory in Jesus! Read the Bible front to back 6 times, Amen! And it just gets better and better ... **C.P.**

Jesus is the best thing that's ever happened to me. He's my best friend ... **D.J.**

My mother's cancer seems to be clearing up and she is doing well, praise Jesus! My stepdad is so strong and takes great care of her, I'm very grateful ... **E.D.**

I have been fighting this case for four years and it is getting close to being assigned to a panel for review. I pray that means I will have a court date soon. Praise God no matter what happens all the time ... **S.F.**

Praise God! I would like to thank you for the newsletters every month, they help me and encourage me. Praise God! This is the last month, no more masks! We've also been able to start back up our Bible studies and our church services are now in the visitation room ... **R.S.**

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From the Inside

Prayer 101

By H.M.

There are examples of intercessory prayer that Jesus has given us through His Word, we need to scrutinize with undivided attention. Take for example how in **John 17:20**, Jesus' prayer included all of us who would believe, *"I am praying not only for these disciples but also for all who will ever believe in Me through their message."* All of **John 17** is an example of true righteousness. It's interesting how **verse 9**, *"My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given Me, because they belong to You,"* expressively addresses those whom the Father has drawn. In **John 6:44** NKJV states, *"No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him. And I will raise him up at the last day."* Our prayers need to be focused

Key versus such as **verse 15**, *"... keep them from the evil one"* and **verse 26**, *"I have revealed you to them, and I will continue to do so. Then your love for Me will be in them, and I will be in them."* In **verse 26**, divine love is expounded in part, what should be called the disciple's prayer. **Mathew 6:9-13**, *"Pray like this: Our Father in heaven, may Your name be kept holy. May Your Kingdom come soon. May Your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us today the food we need, and forgive us our sins, as we have forgiven those who sin against us. And don't let us yield to temptation, but rescue us from the evil one."*

The example by the Apostle Paul in his writing to the Philippians is a mirror of Godly compassion. **Philippians 1:3-4** NKJV states, *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making requests for you all with joy."* This was while he was in prison in Rome. Additionally see his letters to the Colossians. In **Colossians 1:3-4**, *"We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people."* In **Colossians 4:12**, *"Epaphras, a member of your own fellowship and a servant of Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. He always prays earnestly for you, asking God to make you strong and perfect, fully confident that you are following the whole will of God."*

In **Isaiah 1:5**, *"Why do you continue to invite punishment? Must you rebel forever? Your head is injured, and your heart is sick."* God explains to His people that He would not hear their prayers because their hands were full of blood – why? Widows and orphans were exploited. Moreover, everyone including their courts were corrupt, accepting bribes. The entire first chapter of Isaiah is meant to give us insight of the attributing qualities of our righteous God. God's not deaf but He does have requirements. In **Isaiah 1:16-19**, *"Wash yourselves and be clean! Get your sins out of My sight. Give up your evil ways. Learn to do good. Seek justice. Help the oppressed. Defend the cause of orphans. Fight for the rights of widows. 'Come now, let's settle this,' says the Lord. 'Though your sins are like scarlet, I will make them as white as snow. Though they are red like crimson, I will make them as white as wool. If you will only obey Me, you will have plenty to eat.'" By the way, whenever you see God use the word "if" it's always addressing a crucial point. Our focus and prayers should be like David's, *"Teach me your way, O Lord; I will walk in your truth unite my heart to fear your name. I will praise you Lord my God with my whole heart and I will glorify Your Name forevermore"* (**Psalms 86:11-12**). It's paradoxical how many believers belittle the strength and authority of God's Word in prayer. Quoting scripture brings unparalleled results. In **Hebrews 4:12** NKJV, that's emphasized as *"For the Word of God is living and powerful."**

In **Isaiah 55:11** NKJV we're told *"... it shall accomplish what I (God) please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* God's Word encompasses all situations. In **Isaiah 53:4-6**, *"Yet it was our weaknesses He carried; it was our sorrows that weighed Him down. And we thought His troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for His own sins! But 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. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the sins of us all."* And in **1 Peter 2:24**, *"He personally carried our sins in His body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed. Once you were like sheep who wandered away. But now you have turned to your Shepherd, the Guardian of your souls."*

For instance, if I were praying for bleeding I would quote **Ezekiel 16:6** which in the NKJV says, *"And when I passed by*

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From the Inside

you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, LIVE!" – emphasis by God. We pray in Jesus' name because He makes concessions on our behalf and is able to save to the uttermost, in **Hebrews 7:25**, **"Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through Him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf."** Today after church, I was astonished by the remarks made by an individual who is in the chapel's music ministry. Paraphrasing he said, "I don't believe in all that healing stuff." Needless to say, as soon as those power opposing words came out of his mouth, I quoted **Hebrews 11:1 NKJV** which states, **"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."**

I could have said never measure God's unlimited power by your limited expectations, but he'll learn eventually. God's Word tells us in **John 14:17**, **"That the spirit of truth is in all true believers."** He is power!

That's why in **John 14:12 NKJV** Jesus said, **"Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also, because I go to the Father."**

Consider doubt of God's promises as being earthy idolatry. Idolatry is a sin even Christians must guard against. You may find that offensive but consider that an idol in our life can take many forms. An idol is something we put ahead of God. We need to be ever watchful. We can put ourselves and thoughts ahead of God. We can choose our own pleasure or ease of indulgence, rather than denying ourselves to serve the Lord.

In closing, always remember that busyness does not equal spirituality. And if you're too busy to pray, you're too busy! In **Galatians 6:9**, **"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."**

Change is Needed

By G.H.

What a great God we serve! What a wonderful family at O&S! Our Father works in and through us in His perfect time. Coronavirus lock downs have allowed me extended time to study, read and write.

I am discouraged. Arizona appears to be intent on human warehousing and degradation. Fear controls society and prevents legislative relief. The Prison Industrial complex extracts billions of dollars each year at the expense of human suffering. I have a firsthand view. University of Penn State Scholar Marie Gottschalk chronicles the futility of change for economic or justice reasons and suggests that change will be impossible until we begin recognizing and talking about the evil and immorality epidemic – not of the men and women we imprison, but of the evil and immorality of the people who create and maintain such extreme injustice. As long as we continue dehumanizing and demonizing people who commit crimes, any attempt at reform will be obliterated by fear. Only love – Agape – will overcome such fear and empower us with the grace and courage to stand against the political powers.

Consider Paul's admonitions, **"We do not wrestle against flesh and blood"** – that is we do not wrestle against the things people do, and certainly not the people who do them, for we are commanded to love all people. It is not the ones we label as criminals or cops who oppose each other. For we wrestle against principalities, powers, and the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

America's criminal wars – including the waning "war on drugs" and the escalating "war on sex offenders" are civil wars. We allow and participate with the principalities, powers, and rulers of the darkness of this age, the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Putting Brothers and sisters against each other in an escalating civil war.

We prefer judgement over mercy, condemnation over compassion, revenge and retribution over reconciliation and restoration. These conflicts may be expected of those who remain in the natural state of unbelief; they do not have the indwelling Spirit of God. But when those who claim to be disciples of Christ, who have experienced the loving mercy and forgiveness of their own sins, also participate, or even remain silent in such madness, something is seriously wrong. I often wonder why a country (US) with only 5 percent of the world's population imprisons over 25 percent of the world's prisoners? Why

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Ezekiel 2:1-18

We can only imagine what it was like for Ezekiel to experience this vision. Certainly, there was much he did not understand, but Ezekiel knew that each part had significance because it came from God. When God saw Ezekiel's open and obedient attitude, He filled him with His Spirit and gave him power for the job ahead. God doesn't expect us to understand everything about Him, but to be willing and obedient servants, faithful to what we know is true and right. (2:2) God's truth does not depend on how people respond. God will not judge us for how well others respond to our faith but for how faithful we have been. God always gives us the strength to accomplish what He asks us to do. (2:3-5)

Hebrews 3:1-19

Because Christ lives in us as believers, we can remain courageous and hopeful to the end. We are not saved by being steadfast and firm in our faith, but our courage and hope do reveal that our faith is real. Without enduring faithfulness, we would easily be blown away by the winds of temptation, false teaching, or persecution. (3:6)

Our hearts turn away from the Living God when we stubbornly refuse to believe Him. If we persist in our unbelief, God will eventually leave us alone in our sin. But God can give us new hearts, new desires, and new spirits. See **Ezekiel 36:22-27**, **"Therefore, give the people of Israel this message from the Sovereign Lord: I am bringing you back, but not because you deserve it. I am doing it to protect My Holy Name, on which you brought shame while you were scattered among the nations ... And when I reveal My holiness through you before their very eyes, says the Sovereign Lord, then the nations will know that I am the Lord. For I will gather you up from all the nations and bring you home again to your land. 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."** To prevent having an unbelieving heart, stay in fellowship with other believers, talk daily about our mutual faith, be aware of the deceitfulness of sin, it attracts but also destroys. Encourage each other with love and concern. (3:12)

"For if we are faithful to the end, trusting God just as firmly as when we first believed, we will share in all that belongs to Christ." (3:14)

Psalms 105:1-15

If God seems far away, persist in your search for Him. God rewards those who sincerely look for Him. See **Hebrews 11:6**, **"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him."** Jesus promised, **"Everyone who seeks, finds."** (Matthew 7:7) The psalmist suggested a valuable way to find God. Become familiar with the way He has helped His people in the past. The Bible records the history of God's people. In searching its pages, we will discover a loving God who is waiting for us to come to Him. (105:4-5)

Proverbs 27:4-6

Who would prefer a friend's words to an enemy's kisses? A friend who has your best interest at heart may have to give you critical advice at times, but you know it's for your own good. Any enemy by contrast may whisper sweet words and happily send you on your way to ruin. We tend to hear what we want to hear, even if an enemy is the only one who will say it. A friend's advice, no matter how painful, is much better. (27:6)

"Foot" Notes



Hey Y'all! So, like many of you my situation allows for plenty of contemplation. I've come to the conclusion that the longer you walk this path put before us by Jesus Christ the easier it is for you to travel through "this world" without getting any of the "world" stuck on you. God has given me such an inner peace that nothing can get in anymore. No matter what the day may throw at me it's all good. I've gotten really good at not getting wound up over stuff I have no control over.

Quick example, you're in line in the chow hall and for whatever reason there's a line stoppage. How many people totally

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did.

The story of Daniel is included in the Bible to encourage and teach us how to live for God. It is a testimony of what God will do for anyone who makes the commitment in their heart to love and serve Jesus with all of their spirit, soul, and body.

I showed you in **Daniel 1:9**, **"God brought Daniel into favor and goodwill."** A definition of grace is God's favor, but His favor is only part of God's grace. God's grace is His divine influence in one's life. Daniel is a great example of how he allowed God's influence to direct and maneuver him into a position of success. As a result of being patient, and allowing God's influence to work in his life, Daniel was able to **"distinguish himself above the governors and satraps, because he had an excellent spirit in him."** (**Daniel 6:3**) Daniel stood above everyone else, he excelled at his job. Place God first in your life, do things His way and let Him put His work in you and position you in life. If you would make God your first priority and purpose in your heart to not sin, the result would be God's favor on your life. This is promised to us in **Hebrews 11:6**, **"For he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."** You do have a responsibility to pursue God with all of your heart if you want to see God's favor, His divine influence working in your life.

I encourage you to test God's promises, commit in your heart to not defile and corrupt your mind and body with sin. Each morning as you wake up out of sleep, speak these words to God, "Father, I purpose in my heart to not defile myself in words, deeds, and thoughts." And then be quick to say no to temptations and refuse to participate in the evil that surrounds you. God will be quick to honor your commitment. Then you too can observe as God brings you into favor with those who have a position of supervision or authority over you. Watch Him bring you into favor with those you have friendship with. When you see this happen, be sure to thank God for His favor on your life.

In the last few months, I have seen God's favor in my life like I have never seen before. I attribute it to this principle and promise that I discovered in the life of Daniel. In my job, my employer came to me and said he would immediately start giving me a percentage of his sales. I am his assistant, and therefore not in commission sales, he pays me a salary. But because God brought me into favor and goodwill with my employer, I was given about a 25% pay increase without adding responsibilities or duties. God is faithful to me, and He will be just as faithful to you. Test him in this.

Are you willing to **"purpose in your heart"** today not to defile yourself with sin? To seek and serve God with your whole heart? If you are, be sure to write to **Overcomers for Christ** and share how God brought you into favor with people around you, it may get published in future newsletters and be a testimony to others reading it that God's promises are real.

FUN FACTS

August 3rd – In 1492, Christopher Columbus, seeking a sea route to the Far East, departed Palos de la Frontera, Spain.

August 3rd – In 1861, the final installment of Charles Dickens' serialized novel Great Expectations was published in Dickens' weekly periodical All the Year Round.

August 3rd – In 1914, Germany declared war on France.

August 3rd – In 1958, the U.S. nuclear-powered submarine Nautilus became the first vessel to cross the North Pole underwater.

August 3rd – In 1972, the U.S. Senate ratified the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, an arms control treaty between the United States and the Soviet Union on the limitation of the anti-ballistic missile (ABM) systems used in defending areas against ballistic missile-delivered nuclear weapons.

August 7th – In 2007, Barry Bonds of the San Francisco Giants hit his 756th career home run, surpassing the record set by Hank Aaron.

August 31st – In 1888, the body of the first victim of London serial killer Jack the Ripper was found.

August 31st – In 1935, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Neutrality Act. In response to rising tensions in the world, Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1935 to prevent the United States from becoming embroiled in future wars.

August 31st – In 1954, Hurricane Carol made landfall over Long Island and Connecticut and soon became one of the most destructive hurricanes to hit New England.

August 31st – In 1997, Diana, Princess of Wales, was killed in a car accident in Paris.

College Opportunity

By M.D.

My O&S family, I have some very exciting information to share with all of you.

For those of us incarcerated, many of us are doing various Bible studies through a variety of ministries and I have found a way to take the next step in our studies to advance to Bible College Level. Christ's Evangelical Foundation offers a full free Bible College Level education by extension in fundamental New Testament Christianity! Their purpose is to train teachers, preachers, and church workers the world over in order to plant new congregations faithful to Christ and the divinely given pattern of faith, service and worship found in the New Testament.

CEF offers an equivalent 4-year college/university level biblical education to anyone who qualifies for scholarship. Upon receiving your inquiry to the foundation, you will be given an overall exam to see if they feel you are ready to advance to a college level education. This is for serious students only!

This is not a brief little study where you receive a certificate upon completion. This is your opportunity to receive a real diploma upon completion. They offer two-degree programs. An associate degree in biblical studies (12 courses) and a bachelor's degree (11 additional courses). They emphasize biblical studies, where all human needs are answered.

This free Bible college is available to English speaking non-citizens living outside the US. All active-duty US military personnel and their spouses and all men and women currently incarcerated in federal and State prisons. They present this site in order to offer a means for such persons to avoid both obstacles, yet still be able to fulfill the dream and answer the call.

I have been studying with CEF for a year now and have grown and matured not only in the knowledge of God's Word, but in the application of the Word to my life. What I have found most inspiring about studying with CEF is how all my questions have been answered by what God says in His Word and not by the opinion of various ministries or their staff. Here I found the all-volunteer staff to be extremely helpful. Let me be clear, this is for serious students of the Bible. This is not for simple curiosity. Much is required through the degree process, but I assure you, the reward for me has been immense, for my relationship with Christ and the ability to share the Gospel within my sphere of influence. Nothing is more rewarding than to see our brothers and sisters in Christ growing and maturing in the truth of God's Word. I felt compelled to share this information with my O&S family. Serious inquiries need to write to CEF requesting an enrollment application to their degree program.

Mailing address: Christ Evangelical Foundation
PO Box 724
St. Robert, MO 65584

Email: office@cefcollge.com

Glory to God in the Highest Heaven and on earth. Peace to those on whom His favor rests.

Christian Comedy

A guy goes into a lawyer's office and asks the lawyer, "Excuse me, how much do you charge?"

The lawyer responds, "I charge \$1,000 to answer three questions."

The guy replies, "That's a bit expensive, isn't it?"

The lawyer answers, "Yes. What's your third question?"

does the US have the highest per capita incarceration rate in the world? Why is Arizona in the top 5 in incarceration and among the bottom 5 in education? Are we the most evil people in the world or the most unforgiving and judgmental?

My first book addresses many of these issues and challenges Christians to break their silence. My second book, Lord willing, will examine the overall ineffectiveness of "prison ministries" and cast a vision for change. Existing ministries reach less than 10 percent of prisoners. They focus primarily on making converts, but often neglect making disciples. Although they often have firsthand knowledge or observation on injustice in prison, they do little or nothing to advocate for change. They seem to support the status quo, why?

As I have been contemplating the things above, I received a card from Michelle wishing me a Happy Easter, but also with a personal note of encouragement. Then, I received a card from Marie, imploring me to "never give up", and then a card from Wade arrived. I am overwhelmed with joy! Three cards from ☺☺☺ in one week!

This reminds me of something I wrote a few weeks ago "The longer I live, the more I recognize that nothing is wasted. Every experience, relationship, decision, success, or failure – especially the failures are woven together to reveal a divine purpose." Tragically, I think we are often so immersed and driven to use these things for our own purpose that we fail to recognize or to enjoy the perceivable contentment of the divine purpose. We create our own complexity through all of our manipulations and self-serving decisions that we miss the divine simplicity.

Your cards, prayers, and concern for me (and all of my brothers and sisters) are a bright and enduring light in the midst of darkness. You are a blessing and encouragement to me as I serve among my brothers. Thank you for your prayers as I serve.

Foot Notes

... continued from page 8

short out getting mad and loud allowing that situation to affect their day? I look at it like this, yes, I've got a few minutes to wait but hey, I won't have a problem finding someplace to sit because all those guys will be gone when the line gets fired back up.

It's all perspective as to how you look at stuff. I gained that perspective through the grace of none other than Jesus Christ. It's a true blessing when you can go through your day and no environmental disruption can mess with your inner peace. Thank You Jesus for the calming peace you have instilled in me and also the perspective to see things in a less stressful light. Lord, I pray that all of Your children can gain this type of perspective by following Your guidance, Amen!

Quote Worthy

"This morning, the sun endures past dawn. I realize that it is August, the summer's last stand."

Sara Baume – an Irish novelist.

Living Word Bible Church Locations

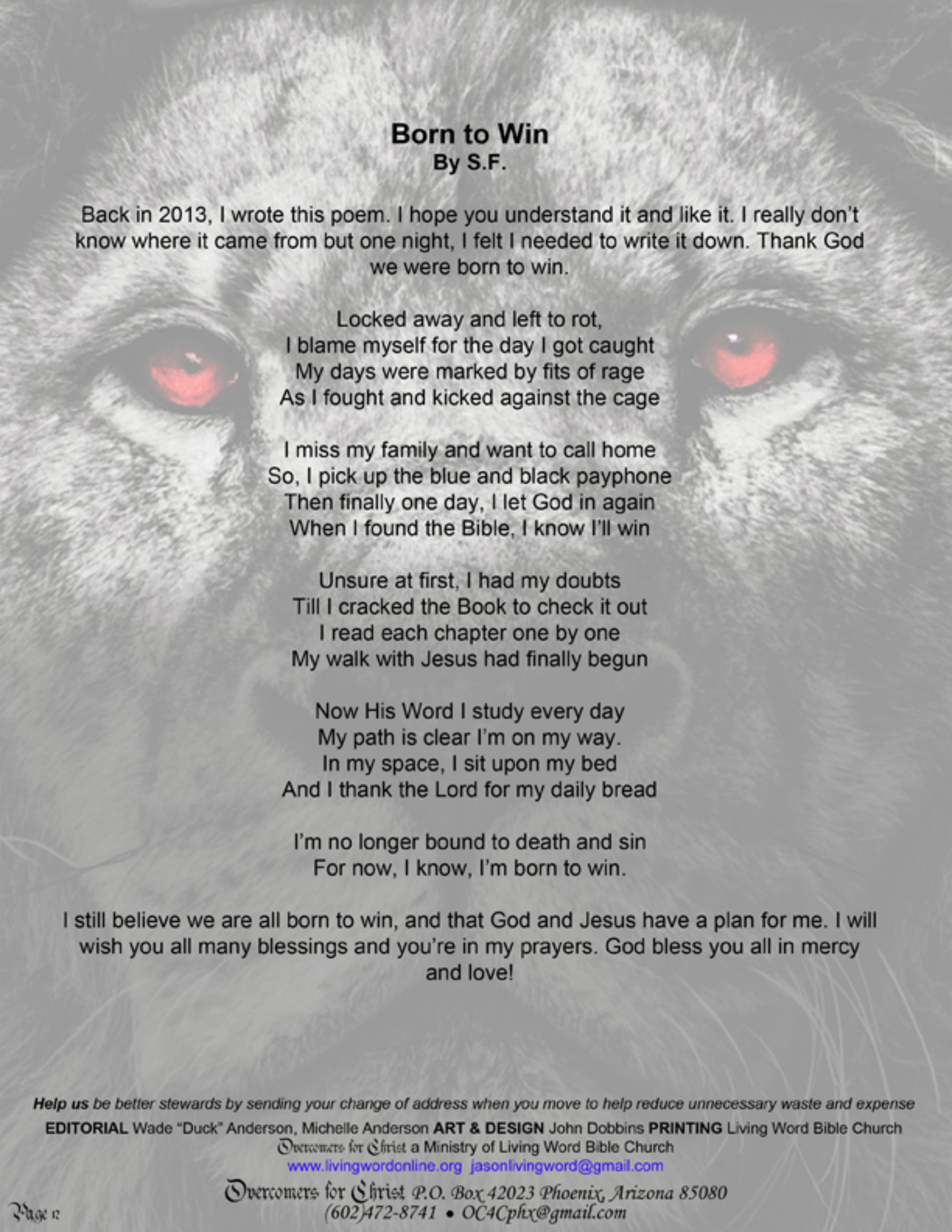
Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 **Ahwatukee** - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 **Gilbert** - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296

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.



Born to Win

By S.F.

Back in 2013, I wrote this poem. I hope you understand it and like it. I really don't know where it came from but one night, I felt I needed to write it down. Thank God we were born to win.

Locked away and left to rot,
I blame myself for the day I got caught
My days were marked by fits of rage
As I fought and kicked against the cage

I miss my family and want to call home
So, I pick up the blue and black payphone
Then finally one day, I let God in again
When I found the Bible, I know I'll win

Unsure at first, I had my doubts
Till I cracked the Book to check it out
I read each chapter one by one
My walk with Jesus had finally begun

Now His Word I study every day
My path is clear I'm on my way.
In my space, I sit upon my bed
And I thank the Lord for my daily bread

I'm no longer bound to death and sin
For now, I know, I'm born to win.

I still believe we are all born to win, and that God and Jesus have a plan for me. I will wish you all many blessings and you're in my prayers. God bless you all in mercy and love!

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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