

Overcomers for Christ

January 2019



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ February 2018



"Flirty gathers his North Pole cronies to sit with him as he admires the Christmas card that Foot made for Ultra Tony."



Vision/Purpose By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: "Father, we know that Your Word is truth and You Sir are faithful to Your Word. We believe that You created each and every one of us with and for Your divine purpose. Lord, as You guide this message help me to write only what You have directed me to. Father I believe that this year, 2019, will be one of great spiritual growth as we ALL press into our relationship with You. Help each of us to seek You and not the world for our purpose in Your great plan. Holy Spirit I submit myself to You. I invite You to rise up on the inside of me and be the Teacher in everything written on these pages. And we thank You God for Your great plan and purpose. In Jesus name. AMEN! And AMEN!"

Before we get started I want to pray a prayer over all of you that Paul prayed over the church in Ephesus. **"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."** (Ephesians 3:14-19)

Well, Christmas is still in the house here but soon to be over. That puts us all once again at the start of a new year. I don't know about all of you but for me, I don't want to go into this new year while only doing the same things I did last year. Don't take that the wrong way. Sure we are going to stay in the relationship with God, reading and studying His truths and growing closer to Him. That part doesn't change. But what I'm talking about is ... "What else do You have for me God? What else have You prepared for me to accomplish in this next year? I want to accomplish what You have purposed me for Lord." These are the things that I'm asking His direction in for myself and this ministry. God has a purpose and a vision for each and every one of us to accomplish while we're here. Paul says in **Ephesians 3:12, "In Him and through faith in Him we may approach God with freedom and confidence."** Then in **Matthew 7:7-8** Jesus tells us, **"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened."** The only things that keep us from fulfilling His purpose is our not asking His direction, our lack of desire to seek His purpose, His will, and listening to the devil's lies. Just floundering through life hoping to be used by God is NOT asking, seeking and knocking.

In context God was speaking to the Israelites here when He said, **"Hear Me, My people and I WILL warn you - if you would only listen to Me, Israel! I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. Open wide your mouth and I WILL fill it."** (Psalm 81:8,10) So now let me ask you all this, "How many of you know that God has brought you out of an Egypt of drug addiction, alcoholism, porn, and the list goes on and on?" Okay then, this is Him still speaking to us to hear Him and listen and when we do His promise is that He WILL fill our mouths with direction and purpose. If we're truly serious about our relationship with God and His direction we'll hunger and thirst for direction and the places He has already mapped out for each and every one of us. In fact, Jesus in the Beatitudes said this, **"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."** (Matthew 5:6) The words "they will be filled" indicates His promise. In **Matthew 6:33** Jesus Himself, again is encouraging us to, **"Seek you first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, AND all these things WILL be given to you as well."** There again is His promise for us when we seek, it **"will be given to you"**. I love the way the Message translation shares **1 Peter 2:2-3, "You've had a taste of God. Now, like infants at the breast, drink deep of God's pure kindness. Then you'll grow up mature and whole in God."** I keep bringing this up because it's so important for us to know the things that God has already promised us in His Word. So here again, look at the word **"you'll"**. That word is a combination of these two words, 'you - will'. Peter here is assuring us of another one of God's promises. That when we drink of His pure milk (Word) **"you WILL grow up mature and whole in God."** Hallelujah!!

Looking back over these nearly 12 years of walking and doing my best to listen for God I could have NEVER imagined the life and experiences that I have with Him today. All that we accomplish on this journey/adventure with Jesus lies in our obedience to listen and follow His Spirit's direction and ALL we do is for His glory. Again, let's listen to Paul in **Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."** And finding His direction for my life, and yours, it ALL begins by making the conscious decision to ask Jesus to be the Lord of our life. Without a doubt it has been the very best decision I have ever made! But truth be told ... we don't make that decision on our own. It's Holy Spirit that comes to each and every one of us imparting revelation of this TRUTH inside of us. What we're hearing and feeling begins to shed some light, for some reason, and even make some sort of sense to us. And when we respond, at that point, I like to think that this is possibly our first act of obedience to hear and obey God's direction and purpose for our lives. Up unto that point we are going through life doing things in our own power and might and many times wondering, "Is this all there is to my life?" It's when and ONLY when we hear this invita-

tion and receive Jesus, the One Holy Spirit is speaking to our innermost parts about, that we can/do begin to walk in this newness with purpose.

So many times, when we make this decision, if we don't see an immediate change we start to listen to the liar and think, "Nothing is happening! I'm still doing the same things I've always done! I thought that I was going to be a new changed person." DON'T THINK THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE THAT'S EVER FELT THAT WAY. The truth is, the change that has already taken place is on the inside of us, we are given a new Spirit. Along with the new Spirit comes a purpose. **"Now the One who has fashioned us for this very purpose is God, who has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come." (2 Corinthians 5:5)**

The liar wants you to get discouraged and quit before you see what God is doing in you and the direction He has for you. Your enemy, the thief, does NOT want you to get hold of the purpose that God has already set for you to accomplish. Jesus Himself tells us, in **John 10:10** (Message), **"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."** The Apostle Paul dealt with these very same issues himself. Listen, **"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do-this I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it." (Romans 7:15-20)** Folks we too still have a sin nature that doesn't want to come into line with our new born again spirits. But keep coming it gets better!

I remember the first time I read this. I thought, "This Paul guy isn't going to take any responsibility for his actions." But later on I seen the truth in what he was saying. Paul knew that there was a difference between what he occasionally still did and the newness that already took place inside of him. In fact, as we continue down to **Romans 7:24** he even states, **"What a wretched man I am!"** I don't believe that he was discouraged. Instead I see he was encouraging us. Paul wasn't throwing in the towel and quitting because he still did or said some of the things he used to before Jesus! NO! Then as we continue it seems that he is asking, **"Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?"** Even though this was a question it was NOT one of confusion. We see this by Paul's next statement, **"Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!"** Notice that there wasn't a question mark after his next statement. Paul knew the issue was his soul not his spirit and he made it very clear with the exclamation point. Paul had the revelation that he was in Christ and Christ was now living on the inside of him. He also recognized that he still had a lot of things to work on but he didn't have to try to do it on his own. He now had God's Holy Spirit to help him. This should be a revelation for each of us as well. We DON'T have to and we CAN'T do this on our own anyways! We ALL attempted it on our own and NOT one of us achieved that mark. That's why Jesus became our Savior!

Even David, a man who God said was a man after His own heart (**Acts 13:22**), had times of struggling. David had issues just like we do today but he had a revelation that there was a difference between his spirit and his soul. Clearly I can envision David tipping his face downward and speaking inside of himself to tell his soul what was in his spirit, the real him. Listen. **"Praise the LORD, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, my soul, and forget not all His benefits-who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed." (Psalm 103:1-6)** Do you feel oppression or depression sometimes? I believe this is great advice for each and every one of us as well. Sometimes we need to 'self talk' and get our souls to line up with what's already in our born again spirits. That's exactly what David was doing.

It's my own personal experience that the more I receive and understand of God's love for me the more I'm compelled to walk away from more and more of the things that I too used to be involved in and even said. This is exactly what Paul went on to say in **2 Corinthians 5:14**, **"For Christ's love compels us, ..."** Directly after this we see by the exclamation point that Paul is still speaking to us with confidence, and in a sense saying 'it's settled!' **"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"** He continues on assuring us that, **"All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." (2 Corinthians 5:17-19a)** Did you just see that? God is NOT the one that keeps bringing up your past or your today failures. Scripture says right there that He is **"NOT counting people's sins against them"** because we are NOW in Christ! Hallelujah! That's good news right there! I know that I'm repeating myself but I believe this needs to be understood ... Christ's love compels us and will propel us and the enemy doesn't want us to accomplish what God has for us to do so he comes at us with discouragement that "There isn't any real change. You're still doing the same things." But keep coming because it does get better!

Let's get back to purpose. Believe me when I tell you that there have been countless opportunities for me to get discour

aged over the years and question, for a minute, if I was on the right path. Straight up, I am no different from any of you that are reading this. I've never questioned my following Jesus but sometimes when it has gotten rough I've went to God about the direction. I've come to realize that those are healthy times because I'm not just running off and doing something that I could possibly achieve on my own. This doesn't mean that we stop at every bump in the road and be freaked out. As long as we're following God His Spirit inside of us will help us correct our direction. So with this being said I guess it's time to ask the question, "How many of you are convinced without a shadow of a doubt that you are following His will and purpose for your lives?" Then keep coming it's already better!

Leaving the world I was so stuck in and giving my heart and life to Jesus was a completely new experience. I was having what I first thought were weird feelings and literal directions. I wasn't hearing an audible voice but it seemed as though I was hearing something inside of me and that was sort of freaky. As weird as it seemed I was ALL in. Several different times a few of us would pray as we were in the car asking God to direct us to where He could use us for that day. We already had plans to do certain things but it never failed that we would end up somewhere and walk right in to what we had asked God to do with us. Even though we all were believing God to do this, when we prayed, it really had us in "WOW" when it did. The people we ran into were just as amazed as we were that God had directed us their way, in perfect timing. Those times were such great faith boosters and actually taught me early on that God IS ALWAYS directing our path. We just have to listen and obey even if it does seem weird or crazy. I wasn't sure where all of these 'events' were leading me but for sure I wanted to go! Somehow I always knew there was a purpose in where I was going and it excited me to leave the house then ... and it still does. It seemed at first like I had stumbled and landed in such a great place, like being in a bubble, but I soon realized that this was His plan for my life. I've since learned that when I immerse myself in spending quality time with God, on the way, He always gives me even more direction. Not always crystal clear but it is direction.

Even though I just said that it 'seemed like' I had stumbled and landed in 'this part' of my purpose, I now know that finding His purpose doesn't happen like that. And here's the news flash, 'It isn't going to happen like that for you either.' We have to consciously submit our whole selves to Him and seek His guidance. There was a song I heard when I first felt that God was directing me to do this newsletter. It was by Tim McGraw and these are some of the lyrics, "How bad do you really want it? Are you eating, sleeping and dreaming with that one thought on your mind?" Those very words drove me and even became like a mandate to me. I knew for sure that I didn't want to return to the life I just left so I did exactly that, I kept the thoughts of failure and returning to the old life out of my head by pressing in to know more about God's love for me. I even had a good friend ask me one time, "Is that all you ever talk about these days? Don't you ever let up for a minute?" With a big smile I politely answered him, "Yes we can talk about anything and everything you want. But for me, every one of those conversations always leads me right back to Jesus. He has changed my life and I want other people to know Him too."

Often times failure comes when we get to a certain spot, where everything is going so great AND THEN we seem to sabotage ourselves. We set ourselves up and think to ourselves, "Every other time when things were this great the bottom always falls out. So I guess this is it, again." DON'T DO THAT! STOP seeing yourself failing! So, instead begin to look OVER those past experiences and instead look for the promises that God has ALREADY given and placed in His Word for you. It's the devil that plays back all of the failures NOT God! Remember, He said that He will remember your sins NO MORE?!

God has given us an imagination to dream and see things differently than the way the world sees things. The problem that most of us have had is that we've been derailed by the thoughts or inadequacies that someone else has had in and of their own lives. 'They', sometimes being derailed by someone else in their lives, now pass on to us what they have been led to believe 'they' couldn't do or achieve. 'We' a lot of times as kids or even adults go to someone and share with them our dreams or ambitions and quickly they tell us, "Stop day dreaming. You'll never be able to do that. Come back down to reality." So after awhile 'their' reality bleeds into ours and guess what? We sabotage the dreams that we had by instead of listening to God, we listen to 'their' lack of completions in their own lives. I always encourage our grown children and our growing grandchildren that they can accomplish what they can dream for. Let me share with you all a little something that took place here at grandma and grandpa's house this morning. (Remember, it's still before Christmas here as I'm writing this.)

Several years ago, John and Courtney decided to get this little elf guy from 'Elf on the Shelf' to come play a part in the kids imaginations and Christmas experience. When this guy came they named him 'Flirty'. Flirty has special powers that allow him to travel from the North Pole to their house every year at Christmas. And let me tell you all, this is a very mischievous, getting in to everything little character. He comes at the beginning of the season and stays until Christmas is over AND NO ONE can touch him while he is here. At night he gets in to whatever he wishes while we are all sleeping and in whatever situation we find him in each morning we HAVE TO leave him right there in his sometimes messy adventure.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Spiritual Jumping Jacks

By B.L.

Hello my Overcomers for Christ family! Greetings and salutations to you all. Well, I just want to thank God for 'spiritual jumping jacks'! I say this because I was really feeling like I was in the dumps as well as under a ton of rock, very depressed. I don't even want to speak about what was going through my mind, to do so would be repeating the enemies lies! NO THANKS! But our Father always knows what we need and right when we need it.

I was hiding from reality and maybe even God's truth when the 'outer door' of my double door suite popped open and in walked brother Wade to get me out of my rack for some 'spiritual jumping jacks'. In these special 'times' we speak of a lot of different things and both sides of our conversations always point to or lead back to Jesus! We spoke about his recent motorcycle trip to Colorado, some mutual friends and we always speak about the things we are both 'going through' concerning life itself. We always can encourage each other to NOT camp out but keep 'going through' the rough times. Twice he told me that he loved me. In my life that doesn't happen a lot unless it's my mom or sister. So when another person says 'those words' instant walls of speculation pop up ... usually. Not the case this time. Instead, I felt brother Wade's sincerity as well as the love of our Lord Jesus through him.

It was that day that the fog of the deceiver's lies lifted. That quickly I felt 100% better and focused on Jesus never mind the wind and the waves! I've done 17, closer to 18 years and am now facing 13 more years. But look what Jesus is doing in me today! He is changing me from the inside out, molding me into who He has always planned for me to be. And I'm glad for all of it!

I've lost everything worldly but I've gained so much more, in Him. I also know and believe that through faith and trust in Him He WILL restore to me all, worthwhile, that has been lost. The two things that I miss the most and am standing in faith that He WILL restore is my wife and my daughter, Charlotte. I miss them immensely and I'm sad that I have hurt them both the ways that I have. My prayer of faith is that one day they both would forgive me. If I truly trust God and believe that He IS the God of restoration, I can't worry about that. But instead I MUST continue to move forward in the Father's will for my life.

Well, just wanted to stop by and leave you with these words, "I thank God, our glorious Father, for 'Spiritual Jumping Jacks!'"

His Great Love

By C.B.

Hi there, and thank you for the Christmas card that you sent to me in December. It's always nice to get mail in here, especially at Christmas time. I also have been receiving the Overcomers for Christ newsletters each month in the mail. I read every word of it, and it really helps me to stay positive in such a negative environment as this. I thank you and God for helping my battery to stay charged up every day and for my positive charged attitude, staying positive here.

It's hard at times, but I always manage to go around, or stay clear of it most of the time. I stay in the Word by reading my daily devotionals and the Bible every morning to start my day. I've been reading in *Isaiah* these last few weeks and *Isaiah 42:6-7* stood out to me. It says, "***I the Lord have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles, to open eyes that are blind, to free captives from prison and to release from the dungeon those who sit in darkness.***"

That says to me that Jesus hears our cries. He sees us all and He is working out His plan. At great detriment to Himself, Jesus came into the darkness of this world, He saw us down in our fears, our pain, our sin and our despair. He cracked the sky with His light and great love and said, "I am here with you in the middle of this mess; and even better, if you just hold on to Me, I will save you." Knowing that we are not alone, that we are caught up in His love and light, and that He came to save us. That is life altering, hope-filled, we will never be the same again kind of news that we can celebrate with great joy at Christmas and all year round! Amen!

God is good, all the time! Thank you so much for the Christmas card and newsletters that you guys at Overcomers for Christ have sent to me. I am truly blessed by them. Much love, peace and prosperity to you all.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

TIME-OUT

By R.V.

My family in Christ ... first off, I would like to extend my Christian love to you and 'our' family. Words cannot express as to what I'm feeling right now due to you all's most welcomed card. The words written within it confirm that the love of Christ in you all will see me explode and explore the Christ in me, to the world. I pray what I'm saying makes sense because me being a vessel of His Word, there's NOTHING that will hinder this passion for the Lord that I've become attached to through these years.

The time that I was away from my loved ones was something I had to deal with and without the Lord, there was no way that I could have done that by myself. But, being put away was the best thing, next to Christ, that has ever happened to me. Just when I thought that I'd lost it all, at the time was NOT the case. My life was a mess. I was living in such darkness that all I could see was a mess. But God seen it ALL as an opportunity for my growth. He, through these years, has molded my heart and drawn me to Him. The mess He saw was a beautiful one. My life was without a doubt, a mess, but through my eyes there was NOTHING beautiful about it.

I discovered that God wasn't nearly as concerned with where we've come from as He is with where we're going. And today, at this moment, being behind these walls, soon to be released, tells me that I'm headed in the right direction. PRAISE GOD! What's so beautiful, today, is that my mother told me how proud she was of me. That brought me to sobbing. Never once did I expect to hear my mom say something like that. Who I was before was ugly and no mother would have wanted to claim I was their son. Can you imagine how I felt? I praise our Father for this TIME-OUT, which made me who I am today.

This (Hold Fast) card you sent me touched me in a joyful way and I really highly appreciate the time you take to give me your attention, in the busy world that you live in. Soon we will meet and honestly, I can't wait!

Knock, Knock ... Who's Calling You

U.L.

First, I would like to thank you all at the Overcomers for Christ and ask God to continue to bless all of you. Next I'd like to let you all know that I am making my pledge to the Overcomers for Christ when I get out in 4 years and 10 months. I'm taking this time here at Red Rock to get myself rooted and grounded deeper in the Lord. By the way, the church services here are on fire for Jesus and I'm blessed to be here at this time. Thank you for your prayers and I do appreciate you all. I'm thankful for this time to reflect and focus on becoming a doer of the Word of God instead of just a listener. And thirdly I'd like to submit this little article for you to run in the newsletter in hopes of getting some ones attention.

So the devil called three of his demons and said to them, "The one that answers this question right, I'll make him a general on earth to create all kinds of havoc."

So he asks the first one, "What would you tell man so that he wouldn't serve God?" He answered, "I'd tell them that there is no God."

"Wrong," the devil said, "Man already knows deep down in his heart that God does exist."

Then he moves on to the second demon and asked the same question. This one answers, "I'd tell them that there is no hell."

"Good one," the devil says, "Man wants to believe that he can live his life recklessly and never face judgment."

Finally he asks the third demon the same question. This one pauses for a minute then answers, "I'd tell them that there is plenty of time!" The devil's response was, "Go! You'll bring them in by the millions."

See, man wants to believe that there is plenty of time to do this or that tomorrow. But folks, there is NO promised time. Today is the day of salvation! Listen to what Elijah had to say to the people, in **1 Kings 18:21**, "**How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal is God, follow him.**" It's time my brothers and sisters to chose who you will serve.

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And be assured, every new day brings an entirely new adventure. Even though he has these 'powers' he also has boundaries, he can't be outside of the house. And everywhere that Anthony, the creator of 'Ultra Tony' goes, 'Flirty' ends up traveling along sometime through the night to be where Anthony is. ;) ;) So the wink, wink here means that the four of us adults are a part of 'Flirty's' adventures. We transport him, secretly, from one place to the other. When he's at their house it's John and Courtney's responsibility to dream up a peccaries situation for Anthony to find 'Flirty' in in the mornings. AND when He's at our house, yes you guessed it, it's up to Michelle and me!

Since this all began several years ago and the boys, obviously, have gotten a little older. With this I thought for sure that ole 'Flirty' would probably be done with all of his charades and wouldn't be visiting again. Then last night Anthony came over to stay the next few days with us before Christmas Eve. This morning after Anthony and I got up he slowly began to search for where he might find 'Flirty'. From one room to the other he checked looking to see what kind of mischief he had gotten into. A lot of times when 'Flirty' comes over to our house he likes to get into 'my' stuff and spread it out all over the place. He does that to try and get under my skin because he knows that I am NOT allowed to touch him or he will lose his magical powers. Anyways, when Anthony couldn't find him I began to share some of my ideas where he might be. I mentioned, "You know 'Flirty' is getting a little old these days. Maybe he didn't have the energy this year. How old is he in 'elf' years anyways?" He responded, "Seventy-five in our years." Then I said, "Did you check out front in the yard to see if he's been messing with my Christmas lawn decorations?" Quickly he answered, "No, he's not out there because he can't be out of the house and he knows it." Knowing that he 'was allowed' to be in my car but not the front yard I said, "You know sometimes he gets in my car and messes with stuff." Anthony excitedly said, "GO CHECK!" I went out there but I didn't see him. Then I suggested, "Did you check in the refrigerator or the freezer? You know he's from the North Pole. He might miss that weather. Check there." He ran over and slung open the refrigerator but he wasn't there. Then he grabbed the freezer drawer and pulled it open ... not there either.

Seeing Anthony with that much excitement made me realize even more how important it is that we ALL keep our imaginations alive. Then I thought to myself, "Did we miss our mark? No one told me that 'Flirty' was here before I went to bed last night. Did Michelle go to sleep and forget to get back up and place 'Flirty' out someplace?" Then a sort of panic set in as I hurried down the hallway to wake Michelle to see "Do 'we' have 'Flirty'?" When she answered, "No" I've got to be honest, some of the wind left my sail. A little hesitant to ask I said, "Is 'Flirty' still coming this year?" She answered, "Yes, John just forgot about it last night when he brought Anthony so I've just got to go and meet them to pick him up. And when I return I'll place him somewhere where Anthony hasn't looked." At that point I had a deep sigh of relief and responded, "Good ... Anthony (and me) were getting a little anxious."

When Michelle was on her way back she called me and asked if earlier I had checked for 'Flirty' through the entire car. When I told her, "Not in the back floor board" she asked me to leave my car doors open. Anthony and her had already made plans to go out for the day with some other family and they already planned to take my car. They gathered their things and off they went. It was only a couple of seconds later and there was this BANG! BANG! BANG! on the front door. It was Michelle and she said "Anthony" and before she could say anything else I looked out at the car. There stood Anthony with the back car door wide open and his hand pointing in the car. As he looked at me, just beaming with joy, and said, "Huh, I guess you didn't look good enough. Come here, there's 'Flirty' right there on your back floor board with a mask on and a Christmas card in his hand. I told you he was here somewhere!" Seeing Anthony's faith and excitement put a tear of pure joy in my eye and made my heart swell with love.

Now I'll get back to where 'I guess I was slightly zealous'. I know today that I was that way then and now because of the love that I was/am experiencing. Like water, I could have taken the route of least resistance. But I'd already been that route and experienced those results for far too long. The new spirit inside of me didn't want to just float along like a dead fish going down stream. I knew very little about this new direction in my life but I believed in the One I was following. Again, I am no different from any one reading this. As always I'm being transparent when I tell you that it was a slight fear of returning to the old man that compelled and propelled me to want to 'know' more about His love for me. From there I can and will honestly say the old man still tries to buck against me when I'm stepping out to do something new that God has placed in front of me. Instead of listening to that I reflect on all that God has already done in and with this new me, and I take that next step. And guess what? When those thoughts rise up today I quickly realize 'this' must be something big that God is leading me to do or there wouldn't be this much opposition, so I press in. At each new step I take the uneasiness leaves and the confidence in Him draws me forward.

Being so zealous, at first, I began to realize that I was sometimes running ahead of God. I wasn't spiritually ready for some of the things I was headed out on, and yes I messed some things and relationships up, but nothing that He has not been able to restore. Even today I still get excited when I hear 'another part' of what He wants for this ministry as I start to take off towards that certain thing. But with that excitement I'm also learning to not take such big steps until I'm sure I'm walking with Him instead of ahead of Him. Maybe that's why He prefers to show us only a glimpse of the plan and not the

whole picture. You think? I hope that you noticed that I said 'another part' of what He wants for this ministry.

If we get ahead of God and put things 'we' want to do on our plate that plate can fill up pretty fast. Then before we know it we will get discouraged trying to keep up. But when 'He' places something on our plate there is always enough time and energy to accomplish those things. If I get to where I start feeling overwhelmed with 'stuff' I'm learning to stop for a second and examine whether I'm the one putting extra things on that plate. Remember, the devil is perfectly at ease with us being busy and doing 'good things'. Why? Because he knows that while we are doing those 'good things' we usually won't hear when the 'God things' come our way. My suggestion is this ... listen closely. Make sure it's His voice you're hearing and THEN move. I'm sure there's not one of us that doesn't want to accomplish great things for God, and we can when we follow and not lead.

In spite of what some of the church thinks God does not control everything we do. He didn't design and create us to be robots. We don't give our life to Him and then He sends us on our way to figure it all out. His purpose and will for each of us is to be in relationship with Him. In order to have a relationship with my wife or anyone for that matter there has to be some conversations and getting to know each other. Early on in my life, come to find out, I truly didn't know how to have real 'love' relationships. Sure I really cared for people and even said "I love you" and I believe I meant it. But since I've come to allow God to teach me how to love I'm reminded how little I knew about the word 'love'. I believe we throw the word 'love' around way too often. At least I did. Things like I 'love' that motorcycle, I 'love' this watch, I 'love' my dogs, I sure 'love' these burritos, potato chips and on and on. The word 'love' became just a word that seemed like it fit everywhere with no true meaning of 'LOVE'. Michelle and I have been together for 26 years and married for close to 25 years now and yes I've been telling her that I 'love' her and I've truly meant it all of this time. And believe me, we're continually working on our relationship and growing closer today than ever. But honestly, it's been since we each have started our own personal relationships with God that we're learning even more of how to 'love' each other. It's only through God teaching each of us how He 'loves' us that's causing us to experience an even deeper level of 'love' together than either of us had known to be possible.

I remember a few times early on in my walk I believed that I had to be down on my knees crying and belly aching and begging God to do things. (Thank God He loves us even in our ignorance.) One of those times in particular we were a little over 1 year into what I knew God had directed us to do, this newsletter. At that time there were a few people that were contributing and helping but even at that point the financial needs were growing almost beyond our means. As I began seeking His direction, in the midst of all that I just mentioned above, it was as though I could see God shrugging His shoulders with both hands in the air saying to me, "What do you want Me to do? I've already given the provision. Go speak to the church." All of a sudden I felt like a spoiled little kid thinking that all of the 'crying and belly aching' was going to make Him do something for me. So I wiped my face and dried the tears and went to where He had told me.

From that time forward I've stopped with all of the nonsense and seek to find His promise for that situation because I've learnt that His promised Word is what moves Him. I've come to realize that He is the One that has set me out on this specific vision and purpose and He will always steer me in the right direction, with the provision to achieve it. I don't have to spend a lot of time trying to figure out how it's all going to work. God gave the vision and He has anointed us to do this particular 'part' He has set before us. I'm completely confident, our plate is not full and that there WILL BE many more 'parts' to come as long as we stay the course He has mapped out.

For now, let me close with this. Not all of us are called to be some big TV evangelist, a pastor of some large church, a missionary overseas or even write a newsletter like we do. Some of us are called to be great spiritual parents to the children that God has entrusted to us. Others are called to be great entrepreneurs that are Kingdom minded. Which means that they bring forth the seed into the 'storehouse' to support the vision/mission that God has called the church too. And that is to preach the Gospel, the Good News that Jesus loves you, to the whole world.

When we get our eyes off of what the world tries to tell us that we can and can't do and get His vision connected with our faith in what He says THEN we'll be able to see ourselves the way that God sees us. And THEN we can begin accomplishing the things that God has set before us to accomplish. Maybe you have had dreams or visions of what you believed you were to accomplish and someone along the way has discouraged that. Let me encourage you today, "Don't lay that aside! It's NEVER too late to pick those hopes, dreams and visions back up and see them through to completion. Seek God's direction in ALL things, follow His lead and you too can accomplish ALL that God has for you!! AMEM?"

Overcomers Testimonies

Dear friends ... I received a wonderful card from you all yesterday welcoming me into the family. I have to tell you, I've been a bit down and it really lifted my spirits. Awhile ago we had a major riot here and there was major destruction to every part of this prison. We are still locked down and have to be escorted everywhere we go. This prison has been my home for the last 16 years. But I've been in prison for over 28 years now. I must confess that it was so hard to see my 'home' being destroyed and our lives being turned upside down.

We basically have no programs right now and they just started church services this past week. Even with all of this I've been able to go to work the past two weeks. I spend my days on the computer writing new programs for when we do get started again. I just finished a Spanish self-study for the yard. It's a beginners course and today I started the intermediate course. I will be doing an Italian class and I'm working on an American History series too. I've gotten a lot of interest. I find work such joy. I pray to the Lord every night and He gives me the strength and courage to endure. Without Him I don't know where I would be or if I would even be alive.

After I gave my life to the Lord I quit drinking and doing drugs, back on May 5th, 1995. The Lord took those evils from me and I have NEVER craved them once. He also gave me my mind back. I used to be so mixed up and confused but He took that away. Since then I've been able to complete 80 programs here, as well as 20 college courses AND I've maintained a 4.0 GPA, all here in prison. I am so thankful to have Jesus in my life.

I am not a young man, 57 years old, and I have seen so much over the years in here. I try so hard to counsel the younger guys, to steer them away from drugs, alcohol, gambling and gangs. I try to use the teachings of Jesus to do so. I don't always succeed but I've planted a seed.

I'm waiting to go in front of the parole board soon and I am hopeful to be released by the summer. I look forward to meeting all of you at the church services. I also wanted to thank you again for the wonderful newsletters I receive from you all.

What Others Are Saying...

"Great to hear about the progress of all the 'Overcomers' and I'm grateful to each and every one of you who take the time to get together there at Living Word Bible Church to write us brothers and sisters that are incarcerated. You're so right, there IS much power in the words written to us in here, encouragement that could only be directed by our Father in heaven. Other than all of you, my only connection to society is through this little 13" TV and it's how I attend church, worship, etc. All that being said, I know in my heart that the Lord loves me #1, and still after ALL this has a perfect plan for me and my life so that I might join you and the Overcomers for Christ family in the Great Commission. There has to be AT LEAST one soul in here that the Lord will assign me to help. I'm so grateful to you for your encouragement, advice and sharing of how God has helped you through your own life's situations. I truly am forever grateful. May God continue to bless you all!!" - **M.D.**

"I hope your road trip with 'ULTRA TONY', my new favorite Super Hero, went well. I prayed for you all and your trip. I am still trying to get on my feet AND still praying and studying God's Word every day." - **M.G.**

"Hello to your staff and to all the Overcomers for Christ family! May Jesus uplift you all with His Spirit and love, that He keeps you all safe throughout all of your years. Excuse me a moment; did I forget to mention His strength to keep doing the Lord's good work passing the Living Word to lost souls. I found one of your newsletters and read it, and it blessed me greatly. Overcomers for Christ is a blessing I'm sure for God's church and for the ones that don't know Jesus. Can you please put me on the mailing list to receive the Overcomers for Christ newsletters every month? Thank you and God bless you all." - **P.H.**

"Thanks for your cards. I know you all are very busy these days and I have to let you know that you're doing a wonderful job of getting the word out. Thank you very much for your encouragement and hope through these hard times. For everyone else fell off but Overcomers for Christ newsletter brought me hope and peace within. May God bless your holidays with good times." - **T.M.**

"Thank you for the thoughtful faith card. I appreciate your prayers and blessings along with the card. I hope you all the best and my prayers are with you all, too." - **M.A.**

"I thank you so very much for the love and prayers that you give to us that are locked up. When I get your newsletter it helps me with renewing of my mind and lets me know there are still people that care about us in here. I thank you so much for all you do. *Psalm 133:1* really hits home when I think of you all ... **'How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!'**" - **T.W.**

Neglect, Exercise and Things Under Pressure

By Cory Chilson

Good morning my brothers and sisters. I just been sitting here with some free time on my hands and realized that it has been forever since I've written my 'Corner'. Yes, Holy Spirit conviction. Well, I pray my words find you all well as we round the corner, no pun intended, to the New Year and put to rest the old year. Which has brought this 'Corner' having three things in the title. Let's get started ...

Looking back at this past year I try to reflect on, "What did I 'Neglect' to do" not only for God but for my family as well? I can come up with several; and these things help me to look forward into the New Year knowing that even though we do our best we can never neglect God or our families. It's very critical but if we remain faithful God tells us in **Job 14:5, "A person's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed."** God already knows that we cannot exceed His expectations.

Next is 'Exercise' ... I'm not only talking about physical exercise, but we need to continue to work our minds in the Word of God, daily, just like a pro football player works on his skills. Exercise has good results over time. This leads me to **Psalm 90:12, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."** WOW! Looking to the Father for wisdom - we can exercise our minds in God's Word.

And the third point is ... 'Things under pressure' create beautiful things. **Ephesians 5:15-16** tells us, **"Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil."** Look, I've been absent from writing for the newsletter for a bit and yes, life has gotten in the way. The Word says that's what happens. **Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more."** See, when I came home from prison in 2014 God started to restore EVERYTHING from a ten, YES 10 year divorce to a fantastic career in HVAC, an entire family restoration, a new home for all of us and all the other things my heart desired.

Because I delighted myself in Him, believe you me it required much. Much faith, much serving His children, much work and much learning day by day how to be a man again. And I'm not talking about the type of man that I was walking the prison yard. I'm talking about the man that I am today, a man full of transparency. A man that remains humble and ready to please God at ALL COST. These are just some of the things that we need to understand. Even though we are under pressure we ARE being beautifully created. Stay plugged in to Him! Look, God knows your hearts desires so delight yourselves IN Him and allow Him to bless you.

I love you all and pray you had a great Christmas. And as always my family and I pray that your New Year is blessed beyond measure. Much love, honor and respect.

P.S. Ask yourself, when do 'I' need to adjust my requirements of all that God has given 'me'? And then, don't Neglect. Exercise regularly and remember 'Under Pressure You are Beautiful'!

Quote Worthy

"Repentance removes old sins and wrong attitudes, and it opens the way for the Holy Spirit to restore our spiritual health."

Shirley Dobson - a nationally recognized for her leadership skills and her many contributions to women's affairs, Christian organizations, and the institution of the family.


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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Life's Road
By W.R.

**When you travel life's road
And it seems all up hill
Then look to faith
For your strength and will**

**And if the burden becomes too heavy
And you stumble along the road
Then look to faith
To lighten your load**

**And if you should see my brother
Stumbling along one day
Then reach out your hand
And show him the way!**

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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