

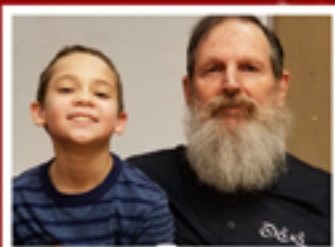
Overcomers for Christ

December 2019



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

January 2019



Scripture Gives Life

By Christopher Brady

Editor's note: It's sort of crazy that we are just running this article but on the other hand it is appropriate. You see, Chris Brady was released from prison several months ago. We had been in contact with Chris two different times of his incarceration and I also seen him in the county jail for almost one year. When he was released from prison he called me from the airport to touch base that he was going home to the 405, Oklahoma City. He had most of the day to wait at the airport OR I could go get him and finally spend some 'out' time with him. I went and picked him up so we could fellowship for a few hours. A few hours later Chris and I met with my wife where we ate a great Mexican dinner and fellowshiped even more before I took him back to catch his flight home. Even though we did talk on the phone several times after his arrival to Oklahoma, little did I know that we would not see each other again. Sometime in mid July Chris past away of congestive heart failure. One thing I do know for sure was that Chris loved the Lord and I will get to see him again, in heaven. I also know for sure that Chris did go 'home' but the one where his mother and father met him at the gate to welcome him into his eternal home, heaven. Chris always said that the truth to happiness in 'this' world was to love the Lord Jesus. Now, Chris has better understanding of that truth than we do.

I know the Lord's doing what He needs to. So, just to touch base, all is well, just dancin around in this season, getting to minister from hole to hole. I came all the way out here to Yuma, went on the yard, spoke to Bob for a couple of minutes. I spoke to him about you, thanked him for his continued faithful service in the Lord and he said he would let you know that I stopped in, and then I left. We won't go into that, all I'll say is ...

Proverb 28:28 - "When the wicked rise, men hide themselves; But when they perish, the righteous increase."

Proverb 29:2 - "When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, But when a wicked man rules, people groan."

Proverb 29:4 - "By justice a king gives a country stability, but those who are greedy for bribes tear it down."

Proverb 29:6 - "Evildoers are snared by their own sin, but the righteous shout for joy and are glad."

Proverb 29:12 - "If a ruler listens to lies, all his officials become wicked."

Proverb 29:16 - "When the wicked thrive, so does sin, but the righteous will see their downfall."

Well, as you see it's been an awesome challenge where I have to really exercise wisdom in these trying times and staying focused on the journey the Lord has called me to.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27 - "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize."

So, how are you my dear friends? I'm praying all is well, and matter of fact ...

Ezekiel 47:1-12 - "The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in-a river that no one could cross. He asked me, "Son of man, do you see this?" Then he led me back to the bank of the river. When I arrived there, I saw a great number of trees on each side of the river. He said to me, "This water flows toward the eastern region and goes down into the Arabah, where it enters the Dead Sea. When it empties into the sea, the salty water there becomes fresh. Swarms of living creatures will live wherever the river flows. There will be large numbers of fish, because this water flows there and makes the salt water fresh; so where the river flows everything will live. Fishermen will stand along the shore; from En Gedi to En Eglaim there will be places for spreading nets. The fish will be of many kinds-like the fish of the Mediterranean Sea. But the swamps and marshes will not become fresh; they will be left for salt. Fruit trees of all kinds will grow on both banks of the river. Their leaves will not wither, nor will their fruit fail. Every month they will bear fruit, because the water from the sanctuary flows to them. Their fruit will serve for food and their leaves for healing."

James 5:13-15 - "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

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Psalm 37:23 - "The Lord makes firm the steps of the one who delights in him."

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3 - "We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

Psalm 69:29 - "But as for me, afflicted and in pain, may your salvation, God, protect me."

Psalm 69:32 - "The poor will see and be glad, you who seek God, may your hearts live!"

Well, I've been going through some things and writing them down as the Lord leads me. Please use whatever the Lord moves you to use. The Lord touched me the other day, had me looking back over a very dark path of my past. Something came to mind as the Lord was giving me the lesson. I've had to deal with numerous consequences for my past behavior, and many were very difficult and painful. As the Lord changes our life, our outlooks, our goals, attitudes, vision, perception and many other things, He gives us hope and understanding so we can share with others. This is what He gave me concerning the issue.

Remember, you can go your own way and choose your own path, God gave us a free will, but you can't choose your consequences. There will always be a cause and an effect to that cause, you can't change that, it's a spiritual law with natural consequence. Whether good or bad, it comes with the equation. The sooner we understand this the sooner God will give us the power to repent and then He will help us change our character flaws and incorrect beliefs.

2 Corinthians 5:17 - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!"

Colossians 2:8-10 - "See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority."

Colossians 1:28-29 - "He is the one we proclaim, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone fully mature in Christ. To this end I strenuously contend with all the energy Christ so powerfully works in me."

This next message that came to me touched me deeply, so I come boldly to share it with you and the family of God. I hope it gives clarity to the calling of our lives as Biblical Christians in these last days. There are many challenges that are calling for our attention, but as we stay planted and rooted in the truth, we walk in understanding, discerning which ways to go, people to involve ourselves with, information that we entertain and attitudes to carry with so much information out there calling for our allegiance. We have to be guarded and committed to God's truth, being led by the Holy Spirit to move through this life efficiently and effectively with purpose, to fulfill the work of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Hebrews 10:10 - "And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Hebrews 10:22 - "Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water."

Christian conversion is not an external rearrangement of certain actions, but a radical transformation of the heart, which inevitably results in an equally radical transformation of the life. We as a society must pursue the truth with a dogged determination. Too often people have an openness to all kinds of people, all kinds of lifestyles and all kinds of ideologies. The only enemy is the people who are not open to everything. This is not openness that examines its beliefs in pursuit of truth and good, but openness that finds its virtue in saying "yes" to everything – anything goes.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 - "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men nor thieves nor the greedy nor drunkards nor slanderers nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

Christian openness comes from his search for truth and absolutes, not on "anything goes." Secular humanist openness exists because he manufactures truth and has no absolutes. We as Christians can and do know much, but if we don't use that knowledge to pursue holiness and to glorify God, then we become poor stewards of that knowledge because of our

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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

I have been going through a lot, I have heard nothing from my family, my girl or my kid's mother, letting me know that everything is alright. I am currently doing 8.5 years and I feel like I am doing this time alone. I pray every day to God to get me through these hard times. I try so hard not to give up on life. I just wish I would get some mail or a visit from my family or my kids or even a chance to be able to make some phone calls. To be able to talk to my kids that would make my time a little easier. I had gotten a letter one day from my little brother that is locked up. I wrote him back because it's been like 10 years since I heard anything from him. I just pray to God that everything is okay with him. I know I was going through a hard time in the jail. I just am asking if you guys could please pray for my brother, my family, my girl, my kids, and for me, and all of my brothers and sisters that are locked up and their families around the world ... **J.C.**

I hope you and all at **Overcomers for Christ** find yourselves in the very best health, physically, mentally, and spiritually. Thank you so much for your grateful and wonderful prayers you do for me and my daughter. I really appreciate that very much. You're in my prayers as well and **OC** family members, too. Can you please pray for me the following prayer request ... I'd like you to pray for my father, my sister, and my brother that someday they come back into my life and forgive me for the crazy life that I once lived. Prayers for my daughter, asthma. Also, for my mother that God may watch over them and protect them at all times. And for me, spiritual guidance and growth, and for this anxiety to surely and slowly go away. Also, keep my cellmate in prayer also, for his sobriety and to keep doing his self-help programs to achieve and accomplish on receiving his certificates for the board. And pray for his mom and family, too. God bless you always ... **S.L.**

I will submit to you and your volunteers my prayer request. I have asked God repeatedly for things which should reasonably be within His purview to little or no avail. Your handwritten letter, however, precipitates the notion that God could be answering my prayer. My challenges are legion but the most troublesome one is the absence of fellowship with the body of Christ. Why this has been such a persistent source of frustration is inscrutable to me inasmuch as God's Word instructs believers to remember those in prison, "... **as if you were together with them in prison.**" (**Hebrews 13:3**) I have been deeply disappointed by the apparent indifference of Christendom to my appeals for some measure of amicability. In **Psalms 88**, there is a particularly poignant and relevant portrait of suffering which appears to be strikingly similar to my own experience. In my effort to avoid superfluity; I hope to convey my gratitude for your letter along with my appeal to you and your team to intercede for me in prayer for God's inimitable mercy. Thank you for your time and efforts ... **P.W.**

Praise Reports

Praise God!! All honor, all praise, all glory and all thanks be unto our Father God!! In Jesus' name!!! Hallelujah!! Praise God, Praise God!! Ask anything in Jesus' name, and Father gives it, Amen!! Amen!! Whew hoo! Praying breath is never ever spent in vain. **Luke 1:13 - "But the angel said to him: 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John.'"** **Luke 1:20 - "And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their appointed time."** **Luke 2:10 - "But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.'"** **Luke 5:10 - "And so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon's partners. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people:'"** **Luke 12:4 - "I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more."** **Luke 12:7 - "Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows."** **Luke 12:32 - "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom."** Zacharias came to prove that praying breath is never spent in vain. **Luke 2:13-14 - "Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.'"** Much prayer should be ours before the die is cast. God did not stamp an expiration date on the bottoms of our brother's feet, and the insurmountable odds. My heart, mind and soul are literally vibrating with my spirit!! I feel like I drank some Holy hooch!! It's like spiritual giddiness!! I have never felt this good. Thank You, Father ... our point of origin ... **J.S.**

I would first like to say what a great job you all are doing and may Jesus continue to bless us all on our journey here on earth! Amen!! I'm writing to let you guys know that I changed prison locations. After almost 20 years being a validated STG member, I finally found the courage and strength to overcome the obstacles that stood in my way to realize that God has a plan for someone like myself. Your monthly scriptures and stories have really had an impact on me and I can feel the Lord working in me daily. I read my Bible and feel inspired from the wisdom and knowledge ... **E.O.**

I must give a short testimony. I found out I qualify to get the final year knocked off my sentence by completing a drug treatment program the federal system offers. So, I started in August and in nine months I will go home, finally!! Thank God!! My family is excited as am I. I ask for your prayers that I successfully complete the course ... **A.K.**

I was taken up to county for a year for new charges and that went very well, no extra DOC time! Amen ... **S.P.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Best Years of My Life

By W.R.

I pray that all the brothers and sisters at O&C have a nice Christmas and that the New Year will bring you joy and happiness with the peace of our Lord Jesus resting upon your hearts and households. This will be my 48th Christmas in prison, but the good news is that the last 20 of those years have been the best of my life, despite my circumstances. As a Christian, Christmas has a special meaning to and for me. Christ coming into this world to redeem me, dying so that I could live is the greatest gift that I or anyone could ever receive, and that is what I will be dwelling upon and giving God thanks for over the holiday. I wish I was back in Ohio right now, where they have snow. I miss those Ohio winters. May the Lord continue to bless you and the ministry. You are all doing a wonderful job and it goes without saying that, you're helping a lot of people.

God's Solution

By M.M.

I've got four young men that live next to me, that are getting into the Word, and have of course plenty of questions. What I like to do, and has been placed on my heart is observe people and the spiritual battles that they and I am going through, here in prison. With this letter I'm going to attach what I see, so far as to what the problem is and the solution "God's solution" to it. As you're reading this at an O&C meeting maybe you can share this with the group or maybe in a newsletter ... As iron sharpens iron!!

Let us pray, "Father we come before You humbly and in thanksgiving. We honor and give You all glory for all things and we are just so grateful for all that You have done for us. The things we ask for are to bring Praise to You! Thank You for continuing to mold our hearts and minds into the men we are meant to be. We Love You Father!! In the name of Christ Jesus, we pray. Amen!!"

It seems as if people are getting more and more impatient with other people, circumstances and life itself. They get upset when they don't get what they want, they throw fits, gossip and will even pray for our Lord to present them with their "wants", no, I'm not talking about needs, I'm talking about the "my way or the highway", the "me" factor, the I, I, I and plain out, cut and dry self-centeredness, in which is a character of the flesh!!

We are to "walk in the Spirit", and understand that we are in a battle against our flesh and with our Lord's great wisdom, staying focused on God. We will have a greater understanding of the overcoming power of Christ that is within us and will be molded into the men and women we ought to be. Since when has an outburst of wrath and filthy language because someone cut in line, or was making too much noise before 10 a.m., or cut you off while you were driving, or asks you for money, just make you angry and become Christ like? It doesn't!!

It's more about molding you, because situations that come up in life won't always make you happy. But you can find joy in all situations! Joy is different from happiness; happiness is usually determined by outward circumstances. If things are going well, we're happy, if they are not, we're unhappy. Joy on the other hand is a quality, a sense of delight and well-being that does not depend on outward circumstances because it is rooted in the nature of God!!

Like in my situation when I got caught, was I happy that I was locked up with 15 felonies and probably 15 to 20 years in prison in my future? No, I wasn't! But you know what, and the truth is, I was so very joyful and took comfort that my run of drugs and crime was over and I joyfully accepted my destiny in whatever amount of my (our) Lord wanted me to do. You see, we can be joyful even in the midst of trouble, difficulties or turmoil because joy comes from our Lord, and walking in the Spirit! Joy is a fruit of the Spirit, so no matter what our circumstances are, let's be in more control in what is being shown towards those around us. I know it may be all over the place, but I was led to share this short message with you!!

Galatians 5:22-26 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

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From the Inside

An Atheist's View of Life vs A Christian's View of Life Contributed by M.R.

An Atheist's view of life ...

I will live my life according to these beliefs
God does not exist
It's just foolish to think
that there is an all-knowing God with a cosmic plan

That an all-powerful God brings purpose to the pain and suffering in the world
It's a comforting thought however
Is only wishful thinking
People can do as they please without eternal consequences

The idea that
I am deserving of hell
Because of sin
Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power

The more you have, the happier you will be
Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose
In a world with no God
There is freedom to be who I want to be

But with God
Everything is fine
It is ridiculous to think
I am lost and in need of saving

If you read the Atheist View from the bottom up, you get ... The Christian's view of life ...

I am lost and in need of saving
It is ridiculous to think
Everything is fine

But with God
There is freedom to be who I want to be
In a world with no God
Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose

The more you have the happier you will be
Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power
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Isaiah 28:14-33:9

The farmer uses special tools to plant and harvest tender herbs, so he will not destroy them. He takes into account how fragile they are. In the same way God takes all our individual circumstances and weaknesses into account. He deals with each of us separately. We should follow His example when we deal with others. Different people require different treatment. Be sensitive to the needs of those around you and the special treatment they may need. **(28:23-29)**

The world described here, under Christ's new rule will be far different from the one we live in today. There will be no more violence or gloom. This new world will be characterized by joy, understanding, justice and praise to God. **(29:17-24)**

God expects a lot from us, and many times following Him can be painful, but He always acts out of His love for us. Next time you go through a difficult time, try to appreciate the experience and grow from it, learning what God wants to teach you, God may be showing you His love by patiently walking with you through adversity. **(30:20)**

When we have problems, it is good to seek help, but we must never bypass God or His previous directions to us. **(31:1)**

Broken promises shatter trust and destroy relationships. Determine to keep your promises. At the same time, ask for forgiveness for past promises you have broken. Treat others with the same fairness that you demand for yourself. **(33:1)**

Galatians 3:23-5:13

Faith in Christ makes all believers one in Christ. We need to make sure that we humans don't impose distinctions that Christ has removed. Because all believers are His heirs. No one is more privileged than or superior to anyone else. **(3:28)**

Paul distinguishes between freedom to sin and freedom to serve. Freedom or license to sin is no freedom at all because it enslaves you to satan, others or your own sinful nature. Christians by contrast, should not be slaves to sin, because they are free to do right and to glorify God through loving service to others. **(5:13)**

Psalms 62:1-63:11


Wealth, honor, power or prestige add nothing to our value in God's eyes; only the faithful work we do for Him has eternal value.

Hiding from his enemies in the barren wilderness of Judah, David was intensely lonely. He longed for a friend he could trust to ease his loneliness. No wonder he cried out, **"O God, my soul thirsts for You ... in this parched and weary land."** If you are lonely or thirsty for something lasting in your life, remember David's prayer. God alone can satisfy our deepest longings. **(63:1-5)**

Proverbs 23:19-22

The drunkard and the glutton have no self-control, and this fact plagues them. Hebrew culture gave a prominent place to eating and drinking, but it had little tolerance for drunkenness and gluttony. **(23:19-21)**

Basically this **Proverb** tells us to listen to and respect our fathers and mothers. **(23:22)**

 **"Foot" Notes**

Hello Overcomers, you know as we get older we begin to become complacent and start to believe we have seen everything or that nothing would surprise you. Well, you can never forget to factor in the persistence of the liar, you only need to watch a newscast to see he is at work. Case in point, I just saw a tease on the news for an upcoming story on a later broadcast about people now smoking scorpions to get high. What is going on these days that people are going to such extremes to lose themselves from whatever their reality may be. It's truly sad. I can only say thank God for God in our lives and available for anyone and anytime.

Love to ya'll, short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!!

lack of understanding. In return, we hinder not only ourselves but also others in our direct sphere of influence. We must be what our Lord has created us for, to love others with His absolute Agape Love.

The Biblical Christian is persuaded that the Bible, though often filled with mystery, reveals a personal God who has unchanging absolute principals and precepts. Biblical Christians find no fault in old teachings having modern application. The lack of high tech adherence to the scriptures is a source of strength, not embarrassment.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."

Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart."

John 1:1-5 - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Psalm 19:7-11 - "The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the Lord are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward."

Purity of heart demands Biblical integrity, both in belief and behavior. As we grow in grace the pure in heart increasingly recognize the authority, integrity, infallibility and perfection of scripture. Acknowledge it as having been God breathed.

1 Peter 3:10 - "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech."

Psalm 34:12-16 - "Whoever of you loves life and desires to see many good days, keep your tongue from evil and your lips from telling lies. Turn from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it. The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry; but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name from the earth."

Proverbs 30:5 - "Every word of God is flawless; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him."

The true Christian walk is not a lifeless performance, but a living experience. He worships, prays, gives, serves and witnesses for Christ, and seeks to live in obedience to God's Word, not because these things are expected of him, but because he has no wish to do otherwise. (**Job 36:1-21**) Amen! As I woke up this morning just sitting here having some coffee, praying for you. I just started reminiscing how very grateful I am and hopeful and anchored on the firm foundation of the blood of Jesus, I wanted to just jump for joy, in my heart I truly am. So, after I was done praying and reminiscing I just started going back over **Galatians 3**.

Paul starts off, in **Galatians 3:1 - "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified."** They were being swayed by their past law and Paul warns them twice, right off. **Galatians 3:2 - "I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by believing what you heard?"**

Paul gently, but with firmness of truth states, we received the Holy Spirit by belief in the message about Christ, not the law. Then Paul shows that righteousness by God comes by FAITH, not by works, and shows that it began a long time before the New Testament, but through the work of Christ. **Galatians 3:6-7 - "So also Abraham 'believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.' Understand, then, that those who have faith are children of Abraham."**

Then the Lord reaffirms that He has rescued us from the curse, and blessed the Gentiles. **Galatians 3:13-14 - "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.' He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. The Law and the Promise."**

Genesis 15:6 - "Abram believed the Lord, and He credited it to him as righteousness."

2 Timothy 4:7-8 - "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day-and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing."

Overcomer's Testimonies

I've been through a lot in my life but none of it compares to what Jesus went through on the Cross for me.

I started using drugs at a very young age and I first went to prison as a juvenile. When I got out of prison my relationship with my parents would never be the same. Over the next couple of years I am in and out of jail and still using drugs. Then September 2002 comes around and my parents tell me that they don't want anything to do with me anymore. That absolutely crushed me. I may have been a drug addict but I'm still human and need love.

Now my life becomes a total mess as I still continue to use drugs. Of course I had warrants out for my arrest and one day there was an explosion at a friend's house. As a result of the explosion he received a hole in his cheek and the skin on one of his hands was completely peeled back. He knew I had warrants and he wanted me to leave because he knew I was going to get locked up if I stayed. I told him that he was my friend and I didn't care what happened to me I couldn't leave him like that. Sure enough, when the cops came I was arrested and went away for awhile.

After I was released the same friend that was there in the explosion came and asked if I wanted to move to Arizona so that he could go to UTI. We moved out here and over the next 14 years I've been out of prison only a couple of times.

In January of 2018, I tried to take my own life by eating 3.5 grams of meth. I flat lined and was in a coma for 3 days in the county hospital. Due to that my heart now stops multiple times a day. I was suppose to receive a pacemaker on January 8, 2018 but I couldn't because I was running a high temperature. They rescheduled the surgery for 2 days later.

There were a couple of nurses attempting to get an I.V., in me when this sweet little lady, they called her 'Wink', walked in and swears she can do it. She failed the first attempt but as she continued she asked me why I needed a pacemaker anyways? I proceeded to tell her that I had tried to kill myself. That's when she told me that she had lost her daughter to drug abuse and continued on by telling me that God had a plan for my life and that was the reason that I didn't die. She then gets the I.V. in me and says, "That's it." As she finishes she winks at me. Then one of the nurses turned to me and said, "Today is her last day. She is retiring today and we are having a party for her." Now I'm crying and know that there is something going on.

On February 2018, in the middle of the night, I wake up back on the yard crying my eyes out. As soon as I said, "Jesus please!" I hear, "Be still My child." I've got to tell you all that this whole experience tripped me out because I was raised as a pagan. Why was I crying out for a God that I didn't even know?

A couple of weeks go by and I haven't talked to anyone about what had happened. Then this guy 'Rich' shows up and we went to walk the yard. We were talking about various things when all of a sudden he starts talking about God and how he had just given his life to Christ. That's when I broke and started telling him about everything that I had recently been through. I even told him about the night I woke up crying "Jesus please". That's when he told me that God is calling me into fellowship with His Son Jesus Christ. He went on to say, "You need to give your life to Jesus". So I did!

'Rich' provided me with a Bible and that's when I came across these very important verses to me. *"If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters-yes, even their own life-such a person cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple."* (Luke 14:26-27)

So like I have said earlier, I have not talked to anyone in my family for over 16 years and this whole time God has had a plan for my life. I've been separated for a reason and all of these things have happened so it would be easier for me to focus on what is important. And that is Jesus! Jesus tells us, in **John 15: 18-19**, *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."* When I first came across these verses it made so much sense why I had such a hard time out on the street. I NOW know and understand that I have a purpose and that is, TO FURTHER GOD'S KINGDOM!

In **Ezekiel 36:26** God tells us, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."* I know now that my heart was not right for God. I believe that my old self died and my 'Pacemaker' is my new heart AND He put a new Spirit in me and I AM A NEW CREATION! (2 **Corinthians 5:17**)

I get out of prison here in a few weeks and I believe that I am going to a discipleship program and being very active in a church. I want to thank you all there at the Overcomers for Christ for your ministry. May God receive all of the praise and glory and I pray that His grace and peace rest on all of you there, through Christ Jesus! - D.F.

What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you for the beautiful card. Christmas time is so special, it's how I know of baby Jesus as a young boy. What a terrific story of love, survival and salvation. I'm so thankful to have all of you in my life. I heard someone say, "Who prays for me?" My answer to that is the **Overcomers for Christ** family prays for us, no doubt. Some days are better than others, but faith, hope, patience, and caring to know the love of God continues the journey of betterment and quality of life if chosen. You guys are great." - **A.T.**

"May our God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you receive this letter. It was such an awesome surprise to receive your Christmas card, it brought so much joy to my spirit and I can't thank you enough. Christ Jesus is powerful, loving and living among us and we celebrate His birthday free and redeemed. As I write this, my heart is extremely grateful to be a part and accepted as an **Overcomers for Christ** family member. You, brothers and sisters, are truly awesome and I want to say keep up the great work. I send my love to all the **Overcomers for Christ** family and I can't wait to meet everyone in due time. To be able to write my family who can relate brings closure and peace to my everyday walk. Please feel free to continue writing back. I look forward to your kind and heartwarming words." - **A.A.**

"I hope and pray you all are having a Happy New Year. Mine is awesome, praise God!! Thank you all for making sure that I get my monthly newsletter. I'm always anxiously awaiting for it to come in the mail. When I get it, I grab it, then open it to look at the cover then I open the first page to see the smiles of all the angels involved in making the newsletter. A few of you have written me directly and sometimes I wish I could match the name with the face." - **A.R.**

"I received the card you recently sent me and wanted to say thank you. It really meant a lot to me to find out that my testimony was relatable to someone else. Thank you for the encouragement on following God's will. One thing I have learned in this walk is that our Father will reveal His plan for us when He knows we can handle it. It might not be when we want to know it, but that to me is what makes it perfect. The Holy Spirit guides us through it, the whole way through it. I will keep you and everyone involved with **Overcomers for Christ** in my prayers. I hope God continues to bless you all in what you do. I hope to continue corresponding with you or anyone else from your ministry. May God continue to do a great work in you as He is in me. God Bless you!" - **T.L.**

Hello!!! I love reading your **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter. I gave my life to Jesus ... Thanks to all of you guys. I borrow the **Overcomers for Christ** newsletter, but I would really like my own, so I can share it with all of my brothers in Christ here in prison. It really makes me happy when I read the Good News. - **R.V.**

Quote Worthy

"Living life with a consistent spiritual walk deeply influences those we love most."

- Vonette Bright (1926 - 2015) an American author, speaker, and the co-founder of Cru - Campus Crusade for Christ.

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
Florence - Florence High School 1000 S. Main St. Florence, AZ 85132

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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*Perfect Me Not
By R.W.*

*I am Your heir Lord, I know You hear Lord,
Of a troubled man trapped in fear Lord, fear of failing Your precious mission Lord,
Which I have seen through many signs and visions Lord,
Perfect me not, steer Your heir Lord,*

*Take my fear Lord, open my heart and mind to the likes of Yours Lord,
My way of living was useless for many years Lord,
Until You sat me down one more time, oh dear Lord,
The tears I have yet to cry will be tears of joy before I die Lord,*

*All these scars and tattoos are visible to the seeing eye, but all You see is through Your love,
What's been hidden inside will flourish through unlimited lives Lord,
But let me not forget, perfect me not Lord, all grace to You and Your will be done Lord,
Situations bring me in the mist to whom I used to be Lord,*

*That's why let me not release the grip of Your hand Lord,
With footprints along the sand heal this broken man Lord,
And most of all protect me against satan who was my biggest fan Lord.*

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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