

# Overcomers for Christ

April 2022



His  
LOVE

ST. JOHN  
FOR GOD SO  
THAT HE GAVE  
SON, THAT WHO  
HIM SHALL NOT  
EVERLASTING

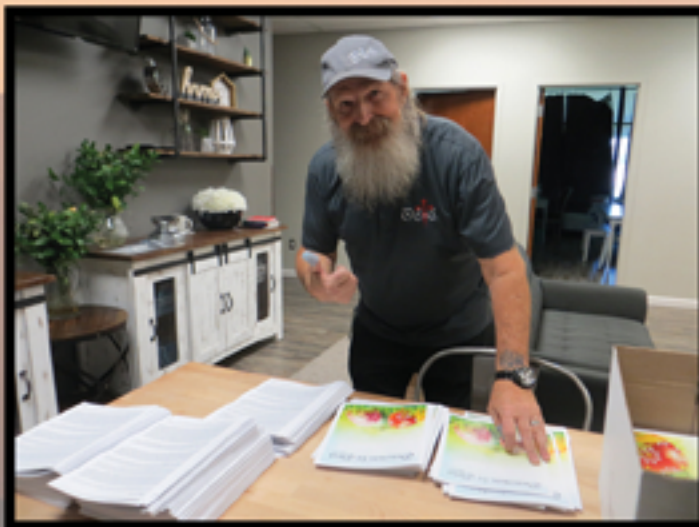
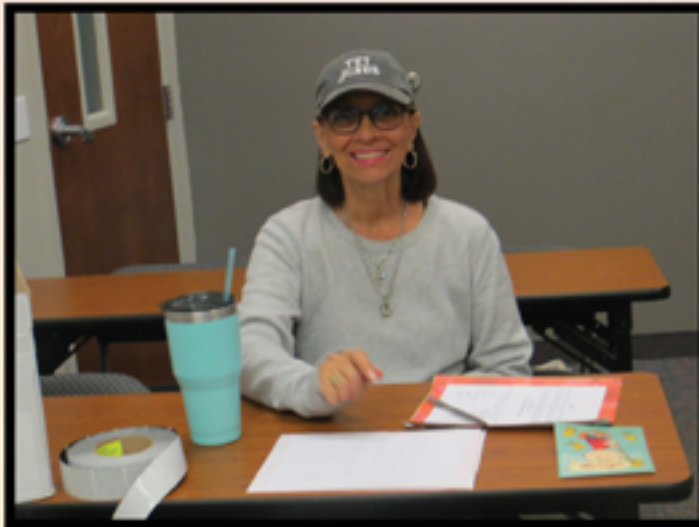
3:16  
LOVED THE WORLD  
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN  
SHALL BELIEVE IN  
PERISH BUT HAVE  
LIFE.

By Paul Connor  
4 April 2021



# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

*March 2021*





## Simple Prayer Life

By Vern Deadmond

I have been wanting to write on the subject of prayer for some time now. A couple of months ago, I had composed an article on prayer, but as I was finishing it, I had an uneasy and unsatisfied feeling about it. I felt it wasn't inspired by the Holy Spirit at all, so I never submitted it for the newsletter. The things I write for the newsletter are borne out of revelation from God's Holy Spirit during my personal study time and fellowship with God and I want to share with all of you what God shares with me. If the words I share are not inspired by God's Holy Spirit, they are dead words and I know they will not encourage you. Last week as I was reading my Bible, there was a particular scripture that jumped out at me, **"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth..." (Ephesians 6:14)**

God's Holy Spirit began to speak to me as I read this. Over the years, I have heard many teachings on "putting on the armor of God." The teachings focused on the symbolisms of the armor, what each part related to. But as I listened to God's Holy Spirit, I got more excited. The Scriptures that followed all related to our relationship with God through His Word. You must understand that without the Word of God in your life, there is no relationship with God. Consider and meditate for yourself on these Scriptures starting in **verse 14** and ending with **verse 18**. As you meditate on these, think about what the words mean. **"Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..." (Ephesians 6:14-18)**

Paul is concluding his letter to the Church at Ephesus here, and you are being told to take a stand against your enemy and his manipulations, **"To be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might" (Ephesians 6:10)**. Who is your enemy and who is not? It is the devil, not those that he works through. Take a stand against the devil with the power of God. Paul is saying you need to have the truth of God's Word firmly established in yourself, know that you are righteous regardless of what your mind thinks, you have to prepare to stand, you need to be built up in faith, you need to protect and renew your thoughts to align with God, and pray with all types of prayer with the Word of God. Paul describes the Word of God as a sword, and when you are praying, speak God's Word into the situation, exercising your authority as a born-again believer.

Again, your relationship with God must include the Word of God, Jesus Christ His Son. His Word has to get down in your heart, this is where it will be nourished and from there the Word will be able to produce results (fruit) in your life. Your weapons available to you as you stand against the devil are awesome, but remember they are spiritual weapons. Listen to Paul, here in **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**, **"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled."**

Wielding the Word of God in your prayers will cut the devil off at his knees, it will hack his arms off, render him ineffective against you. How do you imagine the devil? Is he some red skinned large demon with horns protruding from his head with an evil appearance, holding a pitchfork? This is an image created by man. There is not one scripture in God's Word that describes the appearance of the devil in this manner. When you know God's Word, you will have the proper image of who the devil is, and you have authority over him to rebuke and resist him. First of all, the devil is a spirit, he does not have a body of his own. This is why he has to find a body that will give him permission to operate in. I'm not talking possession; I'm referring to people submitting to the devil and allowing him to use them. The devil comes at us through people. When this happens, instead of adding fuel to a verbal confrontation with people, take authority over the situation in prayer. Jesus told us, **"And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."** (Matthew 6:19)

As a born-again believer, you have been given the authority in the spirit realm, you only need to speak with your authority over the devil, as **James 4:7** says, and **"Submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you."**

As the Word of God becomes a part of your relationship with God, you will find your old way of thinking changes once the truth of God's Word becomes entrenched and established in your heart. The truth of God's Word never changes, and it baffles me when Christians consider God's truths as political issues. A politician is constantly compromising his or her beliefs to achieve their agenda. Christians ought not be compromising God's truth. For years, the world has compromised the truth in regard to abortion, racism and, homosexuality. In these last days before Jesus returns, we see where the Church has compromised so much with the world that even many Christians have been deceived and support these lies. As a Christian, the truth should determine where you stand on these topics. Settle in your heart, **"The entirety of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."** (Psalms 119:160) God has not



changed His truth from the beginning, and His truth is absolute. It is critical for you as a Christian, to have God's truth established in you as you make prayer an intricate part of your relationship with God. Paul describes the Word of God as the sword of the Spirit, and you are to incorporate the Word of God in your prayers.

One person I have read about that exemplifies how prayer works in your relationship with God is George Mueller. He lived in England during the 1800's and is known most notably for the orphanage he started and operated. During his lifetime, he cared for more than 10,000 orphans and in his own words, this was accomplished "simply by prayer and faith." The means for establishing and running the orphanage was done by taking every need to God in prayer. He would take in the orphans, give them a Christian upbringing, and educate them, at a time in England when the workhouses depended on orphans for labor. He was criticized heavily for depriving these workhouses of much needed labor. He was asked in an interview, "What is the secret to your service to God?" His response was:

"There was a day, a day that I utterly died, died to George Muller, his opinions, preferences, tastes and will ... died to the world, its approval and censure ... died to the approval or blame even of my brethren and friends...and since then I have studied to show myself approved only to God. A servant of God has but one Master. The primary business I must attend to every day is to fellowship with the Lord. The first concern is not how much I might serve the Lord, but how my inner man might be nourished. Faith does not operate in the realm of the possible. There is no glory for God in that which is humanly possible. Faith begins where man's power ends."

This is why he was able to accomplish what he did, he put his relationship and fellowship with God first in his life. He stopped caring about what others would say or might say about him. The focus of his life was God. In his book, *Release the Power of Prayer*, he has some great points and I will share a few here with you:

- A life of prayer and meditation will render a vessel ready for the Master's use.
- Take God by His Word and rely on it, trust on it.
- Give yourself earnestly to prayer with respect to the thing you are asking and seeking God for.
- Stay determined in faith, look to God, listen to His voice as He encourages you to remain steadfast and not waiver.
- You are called to have simple confidence of faith in Jesus Christ.
- Your prayer life is to consist of persistently beseeching the Lord to send you the means that are necessary for those things you require.
- God delights in being earnestly asked and He takes pleasure in the continuance of prayer.
- Persevere with prayer in faith.
- Difficulties are overcome with prayer and faith.
- Pray boldly for the things you need.
- If you do not put pressure on God's Word through prayer – asking God to fulfill His promises for your life; then you will never see His power manifested this way.
- You can have a good life through an intimate personal relationship with God, but you can have a great life by placing demands on God through prayer and faith.

Let's consider Daniel, who was a man of prayer. Some of you may only know the story of Daniel in the lion's den. What a great miracle, God closed up the mouths of the lions all night long, so Daniel was not supper for them. If you read the account in the Bible, you see that Daniel was a man of prayer. In **Daniel 6:10**, we read, **"And in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days."** From this one Scripture, you see that Daniel was a man of prayer. It was his habit since the early days of coming to Babylon that he would set aside time to pray and fellowship with God. He went to his home, got alone with God and would spend time with Him regardless of what anyone thought or said about him. If Daniel lived today, I'm sure his friends would accuse him of being a fanatic, a zealot, and an extremist about Jesus. Have you ever considered, not only did his relationship with God save his life, but throughout Daniel's life in Babylon he had favor with the rulers of Babylon? First with Nebuchadnezzar, then with Darius, and finally with Cyrus. God will bring you into favor and goodwill with people of position.

Prayer is more than just petitioning God for those things you have need of, it is fellowshiping and talking with Him. All part of developing your intimate and personal relationship with Him, getting to know Him. And as you know Him more and more, you find yourself living the eternal life that Jesus has promised you here in **John 17:3**, **"And this is eternal life, that you may know Him, the only true God, and Jesus Christ who He has sent."** God saving Daniel from the lions was a result of his relationship with God. Because he knew God, and he believed God; God protected Daniel and kept him from death. God will do the same for you, if you have set your heart to seek Him, to live for Him, to know Him and to believe Him. The responsibility to grow in this relationship is on each of us. And as you see from Daniel's example, his relationship with God included time spent in prayer.

*continued on page 9 ...*



## What Others Are Saying...

"I'm doing great! Still sober with another day under my belt. I can barely wait to get my next newsletter. I look forward to them every month. Thank you all for staying in touch with me, you have no idea how much of a difference it makes in my sobriety and my walk with Jesus. Just knowing that someone cares about us means a lot to me and many others. You and the *Overcomers for Christ* family are special to all of us." – **I.V.**

"I'm reading a book called *Spiritual Disciplines of a Christian* by Donald Whitney. It is changing the way I read, study, and meditate on God's Word. I've found that reading the Word is just not enough for me anymore. There is so much more in the Word when we really dig. It's always been there for the taking. Anyways, God is good and a relationship with Jesus is awesome!" – **B.A.**

"I'm writing to let you all know of my cell change, so I won't miss any of the newsletters. I would also like it if you would please add this new person. I've included his information as well. I know your words and the *Overcomers for Christ* family's words of wisdom, guided by our Lord and Savior, would be greatly appreciated by him as they always are to me." – **B.S.**

"I received the newsletter yesterday and it was encouraging as usual. The Holy Spirit put it on my heart to tithe to your ministry, since you are the local ministry that has fed us for so long. The work that *Overcomers for Christ* continues to do has been a tremendous blessing. You all are near to my heart. I know there are so many people behind the scenes that don't get credit, but God sees and is crediting their account." – **M.H.**

"It's such a blessing to receive your newsletters. Getting a word from my Christian brothers and sisters is so meaningful, especially when I'm dealing with something or simply need a word of encouragement. The newsletters are so important to me. Let me explain; I read my Bible every day, but truthfully there is a lot of it I don't understand. Through your newsletters I gain understanding through the messages shared there. Reading them helps my walk and spiritual growth. Seeing the pictures of you all on the inside page is such a wonderful image of how God wants to use all of us, even the young ones." – **C.T.**

"I'd like to take this time to thank you for the beautiful card and the insightful, inspirational words written in it. The *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter is highly needed in this place for all those who are lost, and a continued inspiration for those of us who walk according to His will. Be assured, I will always include you and all of the *Overcomers for Christ* staff in my daily prayers." – **I.S.**

"Thank you so much for your card and letter, you have no idea how much it means to us in here to have the love and support of our brothers and sisters out there in the free world. Again, thank you to all of you there for your love and support to all of us who are incarcerated." – **I.V.**

"Hello to you and all of the helpers there with you. I know it's been a while since I have written, and I felt guilty for losing touch. I still receive the newsletters, which I love to reward and pass it along to others that may want to read it." – **S.L.**

"I got your card today and wanted to write you back. It was nice getting real mail for once. It was the first real mail I'd gotten in a long time. I've heard a lot about all of you there and always seen other dudes get *Overcomers for Christ* stuff. Thank you for adding me to the mailing list, and for writing to me." – **J.M.**

"I'm in receipt of your card correspondence and I greatly appreciate your kind words. I thank you for not being too busy to share the Good Lord's Word with me. Your card, and words uplifted my spirit exactly when I was in need of a hand up. You and the *Overcomers for Christ* family will always be in my prayers." – **B.S.**

"May the peace of God engulf you and His presence be ever present in your life! Thank you for your kind and encouraging words, encouragement is nourishment!" – **J.H.**

"Thank you for the card. It is a great encouragement to me. It was a confirming word to me as well on things I have recently trusted God with. The Holy Spirit is building up an army of believing men and women from behind these walls." – **J.T.**

"Thanks for meeting my mom at Living Word, helping her meet the pastors and showing her around the church there. This is even more confirmation that even when we don't see God working, it doesn't mean that He's not. I'm so grateful that at this moment He is touching hearts, opening doors, creating opportunities, and making ways to bless my life." – **B.V.**

"Thank you so much for the newsletter I received for October, one nicely decorated, and I love how you place photos of you all in service mode – even the young ones helping out. That's described to me as, **BEAUTIFUL ... sincere love!** I appreciate this love very much because some people actually have come to depend on the monthly love there, filled with a 'dead on' sermon that allows us to ponder and relate, in order to let the Scriptures and words sink in, able to grasp our heart strings which then we are able to become more of a doer than just to listen or read. This stuff is a part of our transformations!!" – **J.L.**



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Christ is Risen ... Alleluia!

By E.G.

To all my brothers and sisters at *Overcomers for Christ*, wishing you all the best Easter Sunday.

Through Him was life and this life was the Light of the human race. The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it. See *John 1:4-5*.

Wishing you all peace and joy at Easter and always! May the Spirit of the Risen Christ live within you now and always.

### The Right Perspective

By J.H.

God is great, His goodness is unmeasurable, and His peace does pass all understanding! I get butterflies thinking about what Paul said in *Philippians 1:21*, "**For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**" When I finally got the right perspective, by the Blood of Christ, everyday became amazing, everyday became a battlefield trying to figure out how I can convince these cats around me that the ONLY truth on the planet is found in the Blood of Christ!

These doors are going to open soon and when I get out, I'm going to do all that 'I' can do to come back! NOT dressed in orange, but like all of you do. Prisonerskey.org is going to be my vehicle, the key equals the Blood of Christ. It's the Blood of Christ that will unlock everything that enslaves us or makes us a prisoner. It's when we commit all the way 100%, while we're inside, that makes it easier to follow through with those changes when we hit the streets! I've found for myself that being a captive audience has been a good thing.

With that I want to tell all of you there at the *Overcomers for Christ* to keep up the good work. You guys are planting lots of seeds. Some of it may be falling on shallow ground, some fall on land surrounded by weeds, but some fall on good soil. So, keep on planting, family!

### Morning Pages of December 31, 2021

By J.L.

Over and over in different environments, on programs on television, and even pastors have said, "The next chapters of life are yet to be written." Thankfully we all have a story and it's interesting how our stories aren't over until we enter eternal life, then the book gets bigger, the paper more expensive and precious to be used for our heavenly pages – our newness, for reals!

I, however, am here believing God speaks to us personally as He did to all the Bible characters – individually inspiring, directing, discipling, teaching, loving all the way through – even in the stages of discipline where it's easier to see only the pain or the struggles versus stopping to see our part in the situation and asking God an important question, "What may I learn in the trial, divorce, death of a loved one, imprisonment, loss of employment, death of a child, homelessness and so on?" ALWAYS there's a lesson and an outcome, however, as *Philippians 4:13* says, a very common/known verse expressed, "**I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**" Paul didn't say some things or half of the things – but rather, ALL! ALL is such a powerful word for only three letters, yet LOVE is the same, four letters.

In this time of our lives, 2021 and one day away from 2022, I see the importance to place myself in God's story because we all have a role, a place in what some have called 'The Good Book', Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth ... "BIBLE".

So, I understand that in this Book, which is most definitely the oldest, wisest, truest Book – I can read examples of folks who paved roads, experienced journeys on long roads of dirt and sun, lacked material things like water, vehicles, and technology. Yet they made it through in either Jesus' strength or they did suffer by using their own strength.

Through my life I do realize that God created me, and on this path of life thus far I've been able to see how free will works. In all situations I have a choice to do either A, B, C, or D and yet all that really amounts to anything is A) God's way, His will, His command, His leading AND it's all found either within us but always in the Bible.

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



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

Several times I've met folks who will say, "Oh, I love God. I pray all of the time, me and God are cool." Yet, never do I see a Bible being picked up. I don't say this at all as a hypocrite, even though we really are all flawed and do sin until we enter eternal life. Yet, God speaks directly to us in His Word.

My prayer is that we all get into His Word more. And if the Bible is new to you, I suggest you start someplace like the Book of John or a Gospel that introduces you to Jesus' best. It's time for all of us to be deeper in the Word, more now than ever! We also have a direct line to God where we can pray to be opened up, to ask for better understanding, wisdom, and knowledge to 'get' what we are reading.

As we go, we can begin to see John in us, the one the apostles called Jesus' favorite. Or Paul who has the gift to have been used to teach others, yet he was a man who previously was a Jesus basher. Paul became one that others would pay attention to in order to grow and establish a close relationship with Jesus. Or maybe little David, who sleighed Goliath. Possibly we might need God's strength on the yard in a situation where we feel defeated or alone. Just because we turn to Christ doesn't mean automatic bliss and clearing of old habits or lifestyle. However, sticking with the Word and accepting that God loves you, AS YOU ARE, as His precious son or daughter, that he made you in His image – Awesome, Mighty, Strong, and Powerful! Have confidence in God to grow and as we do, we begin to trust Him more through His Son, Jesus, reigns within us.

Also, there are folks like Solomon we can learn from. Where pride, self-confidence, and wrong choices creep in, and that excites the devil a lot. Enticing things and wrongly used power (sin) separates us more and more from God's will. Then we turn away from God as Solomon did with lots of deceitful women. Lust of the flesh turned him to lowercase gods. Solomon started out so smooth and like his father David, a man after God's heart. Even Peter is similar, he denied Jesus three times. How could he? Well, we all have over and over. All of this life lesson stuff is found in the Bible. God never leaves us or forsakes us, that's for sure or our eyes wouldn't even be reading this now. It's us that moves from Him.

Let's read, together, here in *Isaiah 43:1-4*, "***But now, O Jacob, listen to the Lord who created you. O Israel, the one who formed you says, 'Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I gave Egypt as a ransom for your freedom; I gave Ethiopia and Seba in your place. Others were given in exchange for you. I traded their lives for yours because you are precious to Me. You are honored, and I love you.'***"

WOW! How cool is that!? As we experience our own name placed in a certain Bible story, let's realize that WHEN we go through difficulty, oppression, loss, death of self, hard times with others on the yard, etc., because we will, God is with us!

### **Crying Out**

By C.Z.

I am currently incarcerated in the Arizona department of corrections and have been in a state of confinement for a quarter century. This time of confinement has taken its toll on my mind, body, and spirit.

I write this short letter not with the intention to find physical freedom, but emotion and spiritual freedom. The test of a man's resolve is truly demonstrated when he's at the precipice of self-destruction. Unsure of how to carry on or even if there is a need to carry on.

I look not for pity or smooth words of encouragement; I look only for truth now. I hope that a divine interaction would wash over this dark path that I have trekked, lonely and abandoned for far too many years.

I now crawl with my last nit of strength to the church of God, in hope that the people inside, the people of God – the people of truth might cast a bit of light of warmth on a soul nearly frozen.

Thank you for taking the time to read the thoughts of shackled hands and if it be in the will of God, I ask that moments of the congregation's time be donated to a wayward son - a small amount of moral support is all I need.



## **Jeremiah 51:1-58**

It is foolish to trust in man made images rather than in God. It is easy to think that the things we see and touch will bring us more security than God. But things rust, rot and decay. God is eternal. Why put your trust in something that will disappear within a few years? (51:17-19)

The people were paralyzed with guilt over their past. The Babylonian armies had desecrated the temple, and the people were ashamed to return to Jerusalem. But God told them to return to the city because He would destroy Babylon for its sins. (51:51)

In this last of Jeremiah's messages, we find again the twin themes of God's sovereignty and His judgment. Babylon had been allowed to oppress the people of Israel, but Babylon itself would be judged. Although God brings good out of evil, He does not allow evil to remain unpunished. The wicked may succeed for a while but resist the temptation to follow them or you may share in their judgement. (51:60-64)

## **Titus 2:1-3:15**

Paul has written a letter promoting right teaching and doing what is good for all to learn. (2:3)

Women who were new Christians were to learn how to have harmony in the home by watching older women who have been Christians for some time. If you are of an age or in a position where people look up to you, make sure that your example is motivating younger believers to live in a way that honors God. (2:3-5)

If you want someone to act a certain way, be sure that you live that way yourself. Then you will earn the right to be heard, and your life will reinforce what you teach. (2:7-8)

Paul summarized what Christ does for us. We move from a life full of sin to one where we are led by God's Holy Spirit. All of our sins, not merely some, are washed away. Washing refers to the water baptism, which is a sign of Salvation. In becoming a Christian, the believer acknowledges Christ as Lord and recognizes Christ's saving work. We gain eternal life with all its treasures. We have a new life through the Holy Spirit, and He continually renews our hearts. None of this occurs because we earned or deserve it, it's all God's gift. (3:3-8)

## **Psalms 99:1-9**

Everyone should praise God's great and awesome name because His name symbolizes His nature, His personage, and His reputation. But the name of God is often used so carelessly in conversation that we have lost sight of its holiness. How easy it is to treat God lightly in everyday life. If you claim Him as your Father, live worthy for the family name, respect God's name and Give Him praise by both your words and your life. (99:3)

For believers, God's holiness gives comfort because, as we worship Him, we are lifted from the mire of sin. As we believe in Him, we are made holy. (99:5)

## **Proverbs 26:17-27**

Most of **Proverbs** to me should be common sense, this is not always the case. The parable of "Yanking a Dog's Ears" equates to getting bit. Likewise getting into the middle of an argument is a good way for the problem to become you. It's best to mind your own business but if you have to get involved wait until cooler heads prevail. (26:17)

## **“Foot” Notes**



Hello everybody inside and out!! If I was to ask you what are the three most powerful words you know? I would hazard a guess, off the cuff, that the response would be overwhelmingly, "I love you." Which isn't bad. But since it's Easter possibly some of the sharper marbles would have guessed, "HE HAS RISEN!" Bingo! That's a winner!!

Take a moment to think what if the words, "HE HAS RISEN!" had never been spoken, where would we all be? I would say there are probably more than a few that would no longer be alive, myself included. So, I'm thinking we should take a moment and reflect on what a powerful thing God has done for us by giving us His Son and through Him. The fact that "HE HAS RISEN" allows us to rest easy knowing that by turning our lives over to Him, we shall have the opportunity to rise as well. Happy Easter everybody!!

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



I want to go back to Paul's instruction to us in **Ephesians 6:18** where he tells us to **"Pray always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit."** The term **"all prayer"** means all types of prayer, and this includes praying in tongues. I may have lost some of you right there. You may not believe in that, or you have not been introduced to praying in tongues before. The ability to pray in tongues is a supernatural gift from God. Let me remind you what **Psalms 119:160** says, **"The entirety of Your Word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."** If you are someone who does not believe in tongues, or you believe this gift from God has passed away, how do you reconcile this with **Psalms 119:160**? God's Word is the standard for judging your beliefs and thoughts. If what you believe or think does not align with the truth of God's Word, then you are the one who is wrong.

The Gifts of the Spirit have not ceased, they are available to each and every one of us through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. You receive these gifts by receiving them. **James 1:5-8** states, **"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways."** All you have to do is ask God and believe Him for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, receive it just as you would receive a Christmas gift from family or friends. The Baptism of the Spirit is the next best gift God has given you besides Salvation. It is the most powerful gift you have, and you need it to be able to live a victorious life now. The gift of the Holy Spirit was promised to us by Jesus in **Luke 24:49**, **"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."** Jesus is speaking of God's Holy Spirit here, and with the gift of the Holy Spirit, we receive power. Consider when Jesus told His disciples, in **Matthew 28:19-20**, they were to **"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."** Take note though, Jesus told His disciples they were not to leave Jerusalem to fulfill their purpose until they had received God's Holy Spirit. Because without the Holy Spirit, they would be lacking the power to accomplish His will. You are not able to accomplish your purpose and fulfill the will of God in your life without the Holy Spirit's power. His awesome gift to you gives you access to God's mighty power. Today, if you have never received this gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, will you ask God for it? You don't have to wait to have someone pray with you, you can pray to God right where you are and ask Him. If you do this, He is faithful and just and He will answer your prayer. You receive the gift of the Holy Spirit the same way you received the gift of salvation, you receive it by believing. Begin to pray in tongues, this is a prayer that cannot be messed up because it is coming out of your born-again, recreated spirit that is perfect before God.

You might be asking the question: how do I pray? Jesus gave us instructions that have been recorded in the Gospel of Luke. **Luke 11:2-4**, **"When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."**

Without going into a great amount of detail here, Jesus is telling you to pray to the Father only, no one else. You don't pray to dead people or other spirits. Always honor and revere His name – Jesus. It is the name of Jesus, when used, that opens the kingdom of Heaven to you. Pray in faith for those things promised in His Word to be manifested from His kingdom into your life. His will is shown in His Word, so pray those things shown in His Word to be accomplished in your life. Just as the Hebrew people were provided for every day in the wilderness after leaving Egypt, you are to pray that God provides for you every day also. As you pray, be humble and not in pride, remember it is God's righteousness not your righteousness. But most importantly, forgive everyone who has done wrong against you – if you do not, this unforgiveness will hinder your prayers. And His final comment to you is to not entertain thoughts of sin, keep your mind and heart on those things that are good and lovely.

If you are unsure of what things to pray for, start with praying scriptures as David did. **Psalms 119:41**, **"Father, let Your mercies come also to me, O Lord. And give me Your salvation as You have promised to me ... In Jesus name, Amen."** is a great scripture that you can pray every day over yourself. If you pray this, do you know what you are praying? Asking for God's mercy is asking Him not to give you what you deserve. Asking for His Salvation is asking for His grace in your life – those things you don't deserve: healing, health, prosperity, joy, peace, etc... believe this prayer will come to pass in your life and speak it continually in your fellowship with God. I finish my prayer and fellowship with God with the **Psalms 37:5**, **"Father, I commit my way to You O Lord, I trust also in You and I know You shall bring my petitions to pass."**

There are two things you need every day in your relationship with God, to know Him and to pray and fellowship with Him. When you know Him through His Word, you have confidence that He hears your prayers and supplications. And when you know that He hears you, then you know and have the confidence that when He hears you, He will answer you. I will conclude with this final instruction and encouragement. You have a responsibility to do if you want to see the power of



God manifested in your life continually. You can't just sit back after you receive Jesus into your life and expect God to show up every time you have a crisis without fostering your relationship with Him. He never leaves you, but you were created for fellowship with Him. He loves you so much, but He will not force Himself on you. Become a fanatic for Him, pursue His love – for some of you it may feel like you're throwing yourself off a cliff (not literally please). If your friends in the world call you a freak, count it all joy, because the only thing that matters is that Jesus loves you! Pursue Him with all of your heart, pursue to know Him – you can have no relationship with Him apart from His Word.

## **A Lesson from Jonah That We Can All Learn**

**Steve Arterburn**

***"But Jonah ran away from the Lord." - Jonah 1:3***

I'm sure you're familiar with the story of Jonah and the whale (big fish!). The Book of Jonah in the Old Testament is a short book with just four chapters. If you have ten or fifteen minutes, stop, and read it through. It's a great story with a lot of lessons for us.

The thing that stood out to me about this story was that Jonah was bold enough, after hearing exactly from God what he was supposed to do, to intentionally do just the opposite. He got up and went in the opposite direction to get away from the Lord.

That stood out at first because I thought to myself, "What a fool! Who would do such a thing?" Then I realized that is what I've done time and time again in my own life. Haven't you?

Look back at the choices you've made to try to do things your way. Think about the nights you've laid awake with a knot in your stomach, full of fear and anxiety about things that most likely weren't going to happen anyway. Think about the times you've chosen to numb yourself with food, alcohol, drugs, sex, shopping, or something else that wasn't really the answer you were looking for or needed. When you "sobered up" you felt a little emptier than the day before.

What Jonah needed to do; what you and I need to do, is to humble ourselves and surrender our wills to God. It's a daily task that will grow a little easier the more you do it. Start today. Don't go through what Jonah went through. Learn from him.

## **FUN FACTS**

Apr 13th - In 1870, the Metropolitan Museum of Art was founded in New York City.

Apr 13th – In 1941, the Soviet Union and Japan signed a five-year non-aggression pact.

Apr 13th – In 1964, Sidney Poitier became the first African American to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *Lilies of the Field*.

Apr 13th – In 1970, an oxygen tank exploded on Apollo 13, crippling the spacecraft, which was on its way to the moon.

Apr 13th – In 2005, Eric Rudolph pleaded guilty to four bombings between 1996 and 1998, including a blast at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Apr 27th – In 1521, explorer Ferdinand Magellan was killed in the Philippines.

Apr 27th – In 1865, the steamboat *Sultana* exploded in the Mississippi River near Memphis, Tennessee, killing some 1,700 passengers.

Apr 27th – In 2006, construction began on the Freedom Tower (later renamed One World Trade Center) at the World Trade Center site in New York City.

Apr 27th – In 2014, John XXIII and John Paul II became the first popes to be canonized as saints since 1954.

*Quote Worthy*

**"We need to join the war Jesus waged against fear and it's twin sister, worry."**

- Linda Evans Shepherd - has not only survived life's toughest wringers; she helps audiences find joy no matter their difficulties. She is a national leader and a best-selling prayer author of almost 40 books.

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



## God's Promise to Abraham Trivia

The story of Abraham is found in Genesis 16-19.

1. Abraham was named Abram before God changed his name. True or False
2. How old was Abraham when God appeared to him?
3. God told Abraham to ...
  - a. build an Ark
  - b. become Jesus' disciple
  - c. obey Him
  - d. make a movie called The Ten Commandments
4. When Abraham saw God, he ...
  - a. told God he was afraid
  - b. bowed down, touching his face to the ground
  - c. built an altar
  - d. asked Him for a son
5. God wanted to make a covenant with Abraham. What is a covenant?
6. God promised Abraham he would have many descendants. True or False
7. A descendant is ...
  - a. a member of a future generation
  - b. an ancestor
  - c. a person walking down a staircase
  - d. an airplane going down in the sky
8. God also promised Abraham ...
  - a. great riches
  - b. a chariot and seven swift horses
  - c. a coat of many colors
  - d. the land of Canaan

Answers: 1. True 2. 99 3. C 4. B 5. A covenant is a solemn promise. 6. True 7. A 8. d

## Christian Comedy

"But why?", the man exclaimed to the vet when she insisted, she had to put his dog down.

"Because he's heavy," the vet explained.

### 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.

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



## Soldiers of the Cross By W.R.

You may go unnoticed, in this life, but God is watching from heaven  
with delight.

He saw you reach out to the lepers, the prisoners of today, and  
answer their letters without delay.

And God saw you yesterday, out in the street, feeding the homeless  
and comforting the weak.

And it didn't go unnoticed when you were on your knees,  
Praying for others, for God to fulfill their needs.

And you may think that no one sees, but God is watching, and I  
know He is pleased.

He saw you comforting a widow, late at night as He watched from  
heaven in delight.

Your kindness may go unnoticed, by the world it seems  
But God is watching, and I know He sees, the work that you are  
doing, out in the street,

For the poor and the downtrodden, and the rich and the elite.

And I know that God is smiling, as if to say,  
Well done, good and faithful servant, for what you did today!

*I was moved to write this after receiving your card. To honor, and in  
some small way acknowledge your work and devotion to the Lord.*

*God bless you all at OCS&S. (Romans 13:7)*

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

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

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

[www.livingwordonline.org](http://www.livingwordonline.org) [jasonlivingword@gmail.com](mailto:jasonlivingword@gmail.com)

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

(602)472-8741 • [OC4Cphx@gmail.com](mailto:OC4Cphx@gmail.com)