

Overcomers for Christ

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HOLY
BIBLE



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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Self-centeredness/Pride - Part 2

By Wade Anderson

Have you ever noticed that self-centered or prideful people are easily offended? They easily find ways of getting upset over the simplest and silliest things. In a flash they're totally consumed with self and often times on a fast track towards depression, discouragement or defeat. I'll be totally transparent; there were more than a few times in my life when I would be in at least one of those three states of mind. When someone hurts us, generally the first thing that happens is our flesh wants to magnify the pain and turn all the focus on 'self'. I can see today that I had set certain expectations either on people or circumstances and as soon as I detected it was about to get sideways I'd begin to manipulate the situation by throwing things and yelling. Truthfully, I had a way bigger attitude than I ever was in stature. I couldn't see it then but, if I would have taken a step back and been a bit more objective asking myself, "How much of this did I create?" or "Why have I allowed this situation to happen AGAIN?" as I was sliding into one of those personal crises I could have saved myself a lot of jagged teeth, pain and grief. With fewer of those emotional reactions/decisions I'm beginning to see today that if I ask myself some of these questions, as my feathers are getting ruffled, the crisis's have gotten less and less.

Paul tells us, in **Romans 6:6-8** (Amplified), "**We know that our old (un-renewed) self was nailed to the cross with Him in order that (our) body (which is the instrument) of sin might be made ineffective and inactive for evil, that we might no longer be slaves to sin. For when a man dies, he is freed (loosed, delivered) from (the power of) sin (among men). Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.**" **Second Timothy 2:11** tells us the very same thing, "**If we have died with Him, we shall also live with Him.**" So what is Paul saying? In the very second that we have received Jesus as our personal Lord and Savior we have died to that old sin nature. At that point we ALREADY HAVE a NEW righteous nature that is of incorruptible Seed. Listen here to what **1 Peter 1:23** (KJV) says, "**Being born again, NOT of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.**" You do remember that John told us in **John 1:1**, "**In the beginning was the Word (Jesus), and the Word (Jesus) was with God, and the Word (Jesus) was God**" don't you? So this means that our new righteous nature has come through the incorruptible Seed of Jesus, God's Word. I bet many of you are saying to yourselves right now, "I clearly see what it says! So why then am I having such a hard time reflecting this in my own walk?" What many of us fail to understand is this. We HAVE a brand new spirit!! BUT that new spirit still lives in the same ole body, is use to listening to the same ole mind, will and emotions along with our natural senses like sight, taste, smell and touch that have told us what to do and how to react for so many years. We have traveled our lives to this point listening to the old sin nature. So what does the Bible say we are to do to overcome these things? Paul tells us in **Romans 12:2** (NLT), "**Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you in to a new person by CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.**" We have a very important part in this new adventure we are on with Jesus. We have to read the Word of God in order to uproot the old "sin nature" thoughts. I am NOT saying this in a legalistic way "YOU HAVE TO!" in order to have God love you. NO! But I am saying "YOU HAVE TOO!" if we ever expect to be transformed to "**know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is.**"

So then, with Christ now living in us, why are we hurt so easily when someone says or does something to us? Why do we have so many issues in our relationships? Let's see what **Proverbs 13:11** (Amplified) tells us, "**By pride and insolence comes only contention, but with the well-advised is skillful and godly wisdom.**" When I looked up the word insolence/insolent in the dictionary I found; a quality of being rudely disrespectful. Then I looked up contention; a struggle, debate, controversy, an opinion maintained in discussion. Look back at that Scripture again. Notice there is a 'but' in the middle, with a different outcome on both sides. The Word doesn't leave us much room to sidestep OUR responsibility. The 'but' indicates WE have a choice.

Forgiveness or un-forgiveness carries a deep root of pride in them as well. When someone hurts us regardless if it's mentally or physically it is not wrong that we would not want to put ourselves in that situation again. It's sad, but most of the time when we leave these situations we carry all of the mental baggage right along with us. Then we continue to rehash it over and over and over with anyone who will listen until it consumes our every thought. Those thoughts and conversations like, "I can't believe what they have done to me! After all that I have done for them and they treat me like this!" It doesn't take long with thoughts like these rolling through our heads, like a bad movie, and before we are even fully aware it reaches our hearts and turns to poison. I've heard it said many times that refusing to forgive is like drinking poison and expecting the other person to die. In **Matthew 18:21** Peter asked Jesus, "**Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?**" In the very next verse, **Matthew 18:22**, Jesus answered, "**I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven times.**" When we refuse to let go of the hurts and resentments choosing not to forgive we could very quickly begin to harbor vengeance or revenge for that person. By now many of us know that nothing good ever comes out of these kinds of emotions. Regardless of what we think we know there will still be times we fall into these traps. Listen to these foundational Scriptures by Jesus on this very topic in **Matthew 6:14-15**, which once again come with a choice, "**For if you forgive other people when they sin against you,**

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your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do NOT forgive others their sins, your Father will NOT forgive your sins."

If that's not enough drop down a few paragraphs to **Matthew 7:1-2** where Jesus is teaching about judging others. *"Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For the same way you judge others, you WILL be judged, and the measure you use, it will be measured to you."* I can hear someone already. "What does that have to do with me? I'm not judging them I'm just calling it the way that it is!" Oh really? It sounds to me like Jesus is saying, 'Why are you looking at this person like that? All you are doing is counting, harboring and keeping track of all the things you think they have done to 'you'. Obviously you have forgotten the many times that you have done similar things to numerous other people. Not that I'm keeping track but if you choose to keep track I guess it's only right that I measure you with the same yard stick you are measuring them with, right? And I'm not saying that what they have done is right either. But I don't want you to carry this heavy load. All I am asking you to do is let other peoples wrongs be between them and Me NOT between you and them.' (My paraphrase)

Brothers and sisters we have got to understand that we will NEVER get out of those deep ruts while carrying such heavy loads. Let me use this analogy in hopes of painting a clearer picture. I'm pretty sure that most of us have been on some old country back roads before where the tire tracks have, over the years, caused deep ruts in the ground. When the road is dry it's really not that hard to maneuver the vehicle. But, with just a little bit of rain and no matter how hard we try it becomes a real chore to stay up on the high ground let alone keep moving forward. Those old country back roads are a metaphor for our lives. Even though we are now walking with Jesus there are still 'ruts' of un-forgiveness and various other things that the enemy will continue to try and use against us. In essence it's like he is pouring water on those old thoughts/ruts trying to get us to slide right back into our old ways again. The more we refuse to be tricked by his lies and instead reach up allowing the Son to shine on our paths and in just a short time we will be back up on the high ground moving right along. "How are we going to accomplish this", you ask?

"Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words and slander, as well as all malicious behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you ... Live a life filled with love for others, following the example of Christ, who loved you and gave Himself as a sacrifice to take away your sins." (Ephesians 4:31-32, 5:2) I don't see where there is any room for self-centeredness or pride in those Scriptures. Our example of 'how to' walk this life's journey was Jesus. And if He has told us we should and can walk the same way, well, He would never tell us we could do something if He had not already done it to show us the way. In fact Jesus said in **John 14:6a**, *"I am the way, and the truth and the life."* In other words, follow My example. In **Luke 23:34** Jesus was placed on the Cross and as He was being crucified He looked towards the heavens to His Father and said, *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."* You may be saying, "Well that was Jesus. I'm an ordinary man or woman and it is harder for me." I believe that God knew some people would reason like this and have doubt so He put an example in the Bible besides Himself for us to read about. So if that is what you believe let's take a look over to **Acts 7:51** and you can read where Stephen had just tore in to the Sanhedrin telling them, ***"You stiff necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors."*** Oh boy, they didn't like that! In fact they drug Stephen out of the city and began to stone him (**Acts 7:57**). As this was happening, Stephen, an ordinary human being like all of us, prayed, ***"Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."*** And as he fell to his knees he cried out, ***"Lord, do not hold this sin against them."*** (**Acts 7:59, 60**) Evidently Stephen, an ordinary human being like every one of us, followed Jesus' example. So obviously we can follow not only Jesus' example but Stephens as well and choose to forgive.

Probably everyone of us have been in 'Aisle 2' at the store when 'all of a sudden' we've heard a loud commotion going on in 'Aisle 9'. Actually that 'all of a sudden' just doesn't happen 'all of a sudden' or 'out of the blue' or 'left field'. These situations occur because these kids have not been taught that self-centeredness or acting out is NOT acceptable. These are learned behaviors. Meaning, by not intentionally teaching or training our children the right way we have slacked in our responsibilities as parents and instead we have still taught them. But what we have taught them is how to manipulate and escalate the situation until, he or she get their way. **Proverbs 22:6** (KJV) tells us, ***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*** In **Proverbs 13:24** (NIV), ***"Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline"*** leaves no room for 'well maybe'. The Scriptures clearly tell us that if we don't want our children to follow the ways of the world we are responsible to discipline them. The Bible does NOT tell us to beat them in our anger but to discipline them in/with love. God doesn't beat us nor is He angry with us when we fail to listen and be obedient. Jesus Himself tells us, in **Matthew 7:11** (NIV), ***"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask Him."***

I can honestly tell you that my mom not only agreed with but engaged in biblical parenting. Having five boys I know she tolerated a lot but one thing she would not put up with was for us "to make her look like a fool in public"! Being a single

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

Prayer Requests

I have a short prayer request. I am asking everybody at the D&S Living Word Bible Church AND the entire body of believers that are reading this to please add our Chaplin's wife to your prayers. She has been struggling with some health issues for awhile now. I guess we should include the Chaplin too as he is really being tested through the struggles of his wife ... **Foot**

Please keep me on your prayer list. I've been battling the devil with a couple mental disorders ... **S.L.**

Hello again, I just wanted to write to say hello and God Bless you guys over at Overcomers. Well, I'm 12 weeks to the gate and I am more than ready to leave this place behind me. I've got a good family out there and I am gonna be going to Calvary Tucson Church when I get out. I'm still struggling with sin a little, like lust and other things, I'm trying though. I pray, read the Word and just ask the Lord to please forgive me every night. I'm just afraid I'm gonna go back to my old ways when I get out, which I don't want to do. I am wondering if you guys at the church can pray for me? Pray I won't give up and that I'll continue my walk with Jesus Christ and stay focused when released in October. I've got a good support system and will always believe Jesus will help me through. I'm just so scared to be honest. I don't wanna go back to drugs or that street life. Please pray for me. I know you guys at Overcomers for Christ listen, so I decided to share that with you. Thank you and God Bless you all. Also, pray I'll make it out of here safe, I tend to have a paranoid problem ... Thanks for listening ... **A.C.**

I hope my letter finds all of you at Overcomers for Christ in high spirits and in the best of health as it leaves me. I finally signed up for my college classes. I am majoring in psychology. I want to be some kind of substance counselor for kids who are in need of help. I've seen a lot of abused kids physically, mentally and emotionally. I've been there myself, so I know what they are going through. I believe this is my passion, to help these kids. I believe children should grow up to be happy, healthy and have a right to at least the basic education they need in order to grow up to be respectful, honest and successful women and men of society. I really want this, so I am asking for all of you to have me in your prayers. I am also still waiting for my reduction, so I can go home to my family. I also ask for Overcomers for Christ to have all of us inmates in your prayers to give us strength to get through our sentences. To also look after our families wellbeing. Please lift my children and their father in your prayers. I am asking my Father to keep all negative thoughts out of their minds and to stay away from acquaintances who might be bad influences to them ... **M.V.**

Please pray for my mother Ilse, she's almost 90 years old and having a lot of health issues ... **W.R.**

Praise Reports

God is good all the time. As an inmate, I've sometimes found it hard to connect or even re-connect with some other Christians out in the free world. I thank God each and every day for my time in prison. I met Him in here and learned of His plans for me as a member of His family. I am not ashamed. This is a big university and I am working to be put on the dean's list, Amen!! My gift is to share and help others by all means ... **A.A.**

First I thank Him for the blessing He has given me and gives me every day. Then I tell Him to help me deal with whatever issues I have and I ask Him to correct me in the areas that He thinks I need adjusting. I've been doing very well and I am very content with myself, thanks to our Father God. I especially thank Him for the support and love I get from all my close friends here who mean very much to me and will always have a special place in my heart. I do want to let you know that I am doing well and if God is with me, who is against me? ... **M.V.**

Hello my family of Overcomers! I was so happy to hear from you since I have been released. I wasn't sure if you would get my 'outside' address. Maybe I still worry about the little things, I should have known God would take care of it. Anyways you cannot imagine how happy I was to get your letter here on the streets. I'm forever grateful that while I was incarcerated I was able to see my family AND help God take care of the ones 'inside'... I accomplished what I had to do. The beauty of God's Spirit fills my heart with peace and just when I think I can't go on, a divine spark of love ignites and rekindles the flame of faith deep within me through outstretched arms of caring friends, friends who are used of God to help bring restoration into my life ... **M.G.**

Hello Overcomers for Christ, in spite of my mom's passing in March of 2015 and it taking a big piece of me being here in prison, God is still blessing me. Being here in prison has taught me the love of God, patience and not to sell or do drugs anymore. God has been in my life in and out of these walls. I know He loves me and I love God! As my birthday has just rolled around it was good to spend it with God and the godly ladies here with me. And this is one of the biggest blessings of all ... I have 4 1/2 months left here before I go home to my family! When I came to prison I thought they didn't love me but they've since said, "We know you can do this with God's help ... and ours" ... **R.E.**

Overcomers for Christ family, First I want to thank you for writing. I do appreciate the nice comments and help you offered along the lines of advise. Yeah, I did let the lawsuit go and I just placed it all in the Lord's hands to take care of. Thank you all for caring about me, it feels good to know that someone cares! Also thank you for the prayers as they helped lift that ugly depression that was upon me. It has all passed and I feel way better now. With the depression gone I feel alive and back to life, YES! ... **M.A.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Advance the Kingdom of God

By A.L.

As we all know we're all surrounded by wicked people, who hate and reject Jesus whether we are 'inside' or 'outside' these prison walls. For me, 'on the inside', most of the time it feels like I'm rolling solo because I don't worship what has been created but instead, the Creator and His Son, Jesus.

I believe there is going to be a great revival EVERYWHERE and today I believe I seen the beginning of it.

So, I've been praying for some more Christian friends and today God moved on behalf of His Word concerning those prayers. As I was speaking to one individual and telling him my testimony another guy came up and said, "This is what I have been looking for." So, I preached to them about being doers of the Word and that it is TIME for us Christians to rise up in strength and begin making a difference to where the world would be talking about the 'evidence' of Jesus and the move of God. I spoke to them about how we must receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, how to conduct ourselves and begin to speak to our adversities with His power and the authority we have already been given to move mountains.

This was the first time I'd ever preached, but more importantly it was the first time I had two people believe the Word of God and receive Salvation through the words I'd spoken. As I spoke with the power of the Holy Spirit, and the authority of God (the Word), it was kind of scary, but I know it was right. At first it was mind boggling getting the correct words together. But then I felt that conviction in my heart, it was full assurance that this is my calling. It is now my duty as a Christian soldier to advance the Kingdom of God by preaching Jesus!

It was great! The one kid's eyes were lighting up and he was like, "I've been wanting this for years!" I could see he was on fire for Jesus. The other guy was just agreeing with me and saying, "Yes, Yes, Yes!" It was AWESOME! I could feel the presence of God as I allowed the Holy Spirit to speak through me. Then I told them about the ministry that God has called me to, it is called Soldiers of Christ. They quickly wanted to partake and become Christian soldiers. That's when we got together in the middle of the rec yard and confessed that Jesus is Lord, and they gave their hearts to Jesus. This was so real! I could hear heaven applauding and I could feel God smiling down on me saying, "Well done My son, well done."

Change is Uncomfortable, but Necessary

By M.G.

I'm sure you heard about the disturbance in Kingman, last year. As a result of that many hundreds were moved around the state. As it turns out, I was one of those people. I had been sitting in the hole for over three weeks while an investigation goes on, along with many, many others.

Leaving a place you have lived for years is always difficult and uncertain. However, I received a card from you that said, "Know that God is watching over you and that with each new beginning comes a fresh start ... rest assured." That was powerful to me. I felt as if God spoke those words through you to me and it had a very big impact.

I didn't know where I was going ... All I do know is I want God to continue to work through me. I want Him to use me and my experiences to bring people to Him. God has used this prison sentence to bring me so much closer to Him, I am just more and more amazed each and every day. You have no idea how powerful the words on that card were and how much it eased my spirit to read them.

I'm reminded that seasons change and pages turn and God will continue to move us forward. It is our discomfort that makes the changing of seasons difficult.

God has only spoken to me (that I have heard) one time, prior to this card. He told me, "Love is coming," and He manifested that promise in my wife-to-be. She relocated to Arizona to be closer to me. God brought her here safely and gave her a safe place to start rebuilding and has provided her with employment.

I can't wait to see what He does with this new promise of a fresh start that has been spoken to me/over me in this card you have sent ... Praise God!!! I am a member of Overcomers and I look forward to all we will be able to accomplish for God in the future. God bless you and thank you!!

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Keep it Simple

By M.G.

Many times as we seek to help others, we sometimes overwhelm them with complications or instructions. Did you know that Jesus has ALREADY unlocked the prison doors of guilt that you may feel are still holding you captive today?! It doesn't matter who you were or what you've done. God says, **"At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of Salvation, I helped you. Indeed, the 'right time' is NOW. Today is the day of Salvation."** (2 Corinthians 6:2)

There is NOTHING we can do to save ourselves, we need to keep things simple and trust the power of the Holy Spirit to work in our lives. God has nothing but good plans for ALL of us since the beginning of time. If we allow Him to work in our lives, that plan, His plan, will come about both in and through our lives. No matter how badly we think we have sinned, God CAN still turn things around so that they work out according to His will. Our part is to entrust our lives to Him and seek to follow His will as He reveals His plan to us. No matter what we have done in the past the past is the past. Regardless, God still chooses to love us all the while continually working His restoration within each of us.

When our life is unmanageable and we feel as if we have lost all direction why is it that we often blame God or feel that somehow He is making things worse for us. Those kinds of thoughts come from our enemy, satan. (John 10:10) Instead we have to always remember that our God is a GOOD GOD and He has nothing but wonderful things planned for our lives, things even more wonderful than we could ever hope or imagine. We'll begin to see these things manifest in our lives once we have turned our life AND will over to God. THEN He can and will build a new life for and with us that is beyond our wildest dreams.

It's the people who refuse to turn their COMPLETE life over to the care of God that cannot fully understand God's truth or His plan. This is why recovery begins not with understanding, but with a decision to follow God. Prior to that decision, God's ways may seem like madness. It's only WHEN we face the fact that our life is insane can we open ourselves to God and His good plan for us.

I have learned that part of my maturity is realizing that following my own desires leads me down a dead end street. We remain 'infants' as long as we try to do things our own way. This implies that maturity occurs only AFTER we begin to follow God's will for our life. It's since I have used the time I have, to simply sit, read the Word and do Bible studies that I have begun to learn even more. Now, I can go out while knowing God IS by my side to help me through whatever I may endure. I'm not planning any more, I'm just following Him. Today I know I have a job to go to and a home to go to and I say, "AMEN TO THAT!"

A Prayer for All Men and Women

By B.P.

Just felt I had to share this with ALL our brothers and sisters of the Overcomers for Christ family. But first, I want to thank you all there for the birthday card and wishes. It means the world to me to be loved and blessed by all of you in my life. God IS GOOD and the devil won't steal what God has already reclaimed for me as His son.

1 Timothy 2:1-7, "Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence for this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for ALL men, to be testified in due time, for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle. I am speaking the truth IN CHRIST and not lying - a teacher of the Gentiles IN FAITH and truth."

Acts 8:34-38, "The eunuch (an Ethiopian man) asked Phillip, 'Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?' Then Phillip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the Good News about Jesus. As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of being baptized?' Phillip said, 'If you believe with all your heart, You may.' The eunuch answered, 'I believe that Jesus Christ IS the Son of God.' And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Phillip and the eunuch went down into the water and Phillip baptized him."

1 Chronicles 4:5-6:81

Jabez prayed specifically to be protected from trouble and pain. We live in a fallen world filled with sin, and it is important to ask God to keep us safe from the unavoidable evil that comes our way. But we must also avoid evil motives, desires, and actions that begin with us. Therefore, not only must we seek God's protection from evil, but we must also ask God to guard our thoughts and actions. We can begin to utilize His protection by filling our mind with positive thoughts and attitudes. (4:10)

Rueben's sin of incest was recorded for all future generations to read. The purpose of this was not to smear Reuben's name, but to show that painful memories aren't the only results of sin. The real consequences of sin are ruined lives. As the oldest son, Reuben, was the rightful heir to both a double portion of his father's estate and the leadership of Abraham's descendants, who had grown into a large tribe. But his sin stripped away his right and privileges and destroyed his family. Before you give in to temptation, take a close look at the disastrous consequences sin may provide in your life and the life of others. (5:1) If you try to measure up to society's standards for fame and success, you may neglect your true purpose to please and obey God. In the end, God alone examines our hearts and determines our final standing. (5:24-25)

We should not try to obey God selectively, choosing the commands we will obey and those we will ignore. God's word has authority over every aspect of our lives, not just selected areas. (6:49)

Acts 25:1-26:32

Paul was in prison, but that didn't stop him from making the most of his situation. Military officers and prominent city leaders met in the auditorium with Agrippa to hear his case. Paul saw this new audience as yet another opportunity to present the Good News. Rather than complain about your present situation, look for ways to use every opportunity to serve God and share Him with others. Your problems may be opportunities in disguise. (25:23)

Paul was risking his life for a message that was offensive to the Jews and unbelievable to the Gentiles, Jesus received the same response to His message. (Mark 3:21, John 10:20) To a worldly, materialistic mind, it seems insane to risk so much to gain what seems to be so little. But as you follow Christ, you soon discover that one's most prized possessions cannot compare to even the smallest eternal reward. (26:24)

Psalms 5:1-6:10

The secret to a close relationship with God is to pray to Him earnestly each morning. In the morning, our minds are freer from problems, and then we can commit the whole day to God. Regular communication helps any friendship and is certainly necessary for a strong relationship with God. We need to communicate with Him daily. Do you have a regular time to pray and read God's Word? (5:1-3)

God in His kindness forgives us instead of giving us what we deserve. (6:6)

Proverbs 18:19-21

This Proverb lets us know that it's much harder to win back the friendship of someone you have offended than to capture a city. This goes back to us needing to pay attention to what we say and do. Friends, especially good friends are pretty hard to come by so let's not treat them as if they were disposable. (18:19)

Stomach ... mouth, inner satisfaction comes from true and good speech. Death and life ... the words people say wield great power. (James 3:2) (18:20-21)

“Foot” Notes

Hey Y'all. Just doing some studding and ran into some food for thought. One way in which God and satan are similar is, they both need to have a vessel through which they can flow through. For God, the church, and the body of Christ is that vessel. Christ is revealed through the church.

The same holds true for satan. He must have a vessel if he is to manifest himself and do his work. The flesh is that vessel. This being said, whenever you recognize a spirit of 'selfishness' operating in the realm of Christianity, you can know and believe that satan has in fact gotten himself a foothold (no pun intended). For you see that God's life can only be poured out FOR others. There is No selfishness! God's way is the surrender of 'self'. Hence no selfish goals or desires. In following God's will you will be given what you need which eliminates the 'selfish' desires. Ponder on that for a bit. Love to y'all short and tall. Vaya con Dios And don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

parent my mom took all five of us boys with her when she went 'Friday night' food shopping. Our youngest brother was in training as the other four of us yoked up to push shopping carts. If you close your eyes for a moment I'm sure you can picture this 'caravan of four shopping carts, five young boys and a mom strolling through the Kroger's store on a crowded Friday night'. I can guarantee you that the picture you are seeing is NOT the same picture as the one in 'Aisle 9'. Every time we went food shopping my mom would pull into the parking lot, shut off the car and begin to explain to us the RULES we were going to follow while we were in the store. Up to that point we all might have just been bouncing off the ceiling (there weren't seat belts then) of the car. But as soon as the car was shut off we ALL sat at attention as mom said, "Listen to me, when we get in this store I don't want any of you to ask for anything or take anything off the shelves. And IF you decide to act up I'm going to pinch a hunk out of the underneath of your arm. And IF I have to do that you BETTER NOT EVEN MAKE A SOUND!" Like I said above, our Friday night caravan excursions tallied up four heaping carts pushed the whole time by us four older boys, single file and could sometimes last as long as 2 hour ... and generally without incident. We knew that if there was something any of us wanted at the store it was discussed prior to us getting there. We already knew the drill and there were NEVER any questions about 'why' or 'why not' we couldn't have something. I can assure you all that there was NEVER an 'Aisle 9' incident from Frances Anderson's Brats!

Many of the younger people today may read this and say, "That's child abuse!" Believe me it was not child abuse. We were simply taught to respect our parents AND any other grownups in our lives. We didn't talk back to our elders, roll our eyes if we didn't like something and always answered 'yes sir/mam' or 'no sir/mam'. In fact I'm pretty sure that rolling your eyes was never even a 'thing' or invented (for guys anyhow) until the 1980's. If any of our friends' moms or dads seen us acting up somewhere and mom wasn't around they'd step in and give us a verbal tune up. And that was okay. We tried not to get caught in too many of those situations because that was still "making her look like a fool in public" and we'd get what we had coming if she found out. Once again none of this was a cowering type of fear, it was respect. We knew that when mom said something she meant it. I'm in no way saying that our mother was a bad mom. No! Mom was a woman of her word and 'both sides of the but' we learned to respect her word as truth. It was not a dictatorship, we did have a choice. When we, as parents allow an 'Aisle 9' tantrum to become full blown we have just reinforced that child's behavior. He/she has just learned that 'self' can get anything if 'self' is willing to act out/up. This as well has something to say about my mom's character or self-centeredness. A self-centered parent will give in to the child in 'Aisle 9' rolling in the floor and screaming, "I WANT THIS or THAT!" Today I thank my mother for that selfless discipline.

Our flesh, even at the expense of others, considers self-preservation as a virtue worthy of respect. The word 'virtue' means; a quality that we hold to be of great value. In other words, this is someone that thinks of him/her 'self' before or above anyone else. However, this is not the case in God's kingdom. From a military standpoint the beachhead is the most important ground to have and keep hold of in a battle. I'm sure you all have seen plenty of war movies. The Country that has possession of the beachhead has already dug themselves in the ground, built defensive walls and is armed with heavy artillery. They are prepared to defend and hold on to their Country at any and all cost. So what does this have to do with the message? As God's redeemed children, 'self' opens the door and provides an inviting beachhead for the devil's invasion plans. In fact it's his most preferred landing zone! When we become consumed with 'me, me, me, I, I, I, mine, mine, mine' the devil sees that we have singled our own selves out causing us to quickly become a target in his sights. This is why it is so important that we work daily to derail the 'selfishness' in our lives! Why? Because if we fail to do so we are setting ourselves up for some intense spiritual warfare without even being aware of our enemy. It is equally important that we don't separate ourselves from the flock of believers, our church family. **First Peter 5:8** warns us of these enemy attacks. **"Be careful! Watch out for attacks from the devil, your great enemy. He prowls around LIKE a roaring lion, looking for some victim to devour."** First notice it does NOT say that the devil IS a roaring lion. NO! It says he ACTS like one. Secondly notice that the devil is looking for a 'victim'. Isn't that what 'self-centered' people usually think, 'I'm the victim'? Peter goes on to assure us to, **"Take a firm stand against him (devil), and be STRONG IN YOUR FAITH. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering."** (Peter 5:9) So YES, there is such a thing as spiritual warfare and we ARE in a war zone where we do have a real enemy.

In **Ephesians 6:10-18**, Paul not only explains the type of battle we are in, but also our enemies. **"Finally, be strong with the Lord's power. Put on ALL God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm AGAINST ALL STRATEGIES AND TRICKS of the devil."** Why? **"For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against the evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against those mighty powers of darkness who rule this world, and against wicked spirit's in the heavenly realm."** (Ephesians 6:10-12) Paul has just shown us the opposition we are up against. We all know it is a lot easier to fight an enemy/opponent that we can see, something or someone we can get our hands on. But this is NOT the case here. This is NEVER a battle we'll ever win under the power of self! And PLEASE believe me as I tell you all, "This is NOT a one-time event of surrendering self. NO! It's an on ongoing process throughout our lifetime." When we first recognize 'self' trying to slip back into our lives we MUST immediately rectify the situation through repentance, giving it the boot from our lives! If we continue to walk arm and arm with 'self' it's only a short path

until we fall into a pool of pride, one of self's best friends.

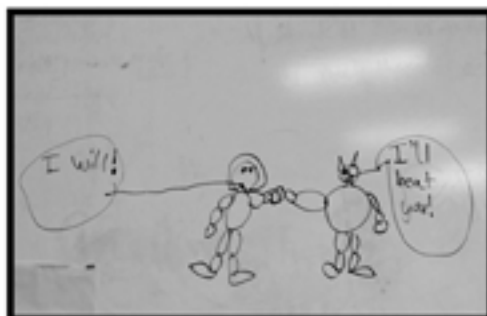
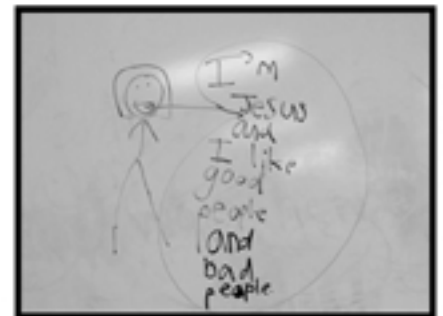
Now that Paul has unveiled our enemy he now pulls back the tarp to reveal the arsenal of weapons God has provided for this warfare. Notice that God has provided the weapons. We, by faith, have to pick them up and use them. **"Use every piece of God's armor to resist the enemy in the time of evil, so that after the battle YOU WILL still be STANDING FIRM. STAND YOUR GROUND, putting on the sturdy belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News, so that you will be fully prepared. In EVERY battle you WILL NEED FAITH as your shield to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by satan. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."** (Ephesians 6:13-17) You might think and even believe, 'that's a pretty powerful arsenal'. And you're right, it is. But listen as Paul gives us the greatest power of it all, **"PRAY AT ALL TIMES and on every occasion IN THE POWER of the HOLY SPIRIT."** (Ephesians 6:18a) Paul has just informed us of yet another weapon. By praying in the Spirit, which is the heavenly language available to us that our enemy CANNOT understand nor block, we are able to unleash POWER. Jesus told us, in **John 4:24, "God is Spirit, and His worshippers must worship IN the Spirit and in truth."** In **Genesis 1:26** God said, **"Let US make mankind in OUR image, in OUR likeness ..."** This doesn't mean that we are gods but that we were created in His spirit likeness. That's why we are able to communicate with God where NOTHING else He created is able to do so. Surrendering and allowing the Holy Spirit to speak eliminates 'self' and connects us in a more powerful way. In **Ephesians 6:18b** Paul calls us to be selfless as he continues with, **"Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for ALL Christians EVERYWHERE."** In the military everyone looks out for each other and you are in God's army!

Family, we serve an all knowing, all powerful God that is NEVER caught off guard by ANYTHING that comes our way! He anticipated EVERYTHING we would ever need or go through in our lives AND He provided the Way, the Truth and the Life (**John 14:6**) necessary for us to get through it in victory. Remember, these are defensive weapons. We must use them! We are Not fighting to get something; we are defending what we already have! NO war is won sitting on your butt! And for all of you who have chosen to accept this mission you ARE Overcomers in Christ, through Christ and for Christ!! So leave 'self' behind and go share the Good News (NOT RELIGION) with those around you, teaching them, guiding them and discipling them to follow God!

Jesus vs. the Devil

By Anthony Dobbins

This cartoon is written by an 8 year old boy. Thank you to Living World Bible Church children's ministry who are teaching our children about Jesus in such a way that they remember it and share it with others.



Overcomer's Testimonies

A Call to Action

Hello brothers and sisters. I hope and pray that every one of you is blessed in life, and filled with God's grace. I sure feel as I am so I have faith you all are as well. I have so much I want to say here today so I will try to edit my daily notes and get to the point.

I gave my life to Christ for the first time in February of 2011. Shortly after in that same year, I fell victim to a heroin addiction, ended up back in jail by 2012 and soon found myself back on a prison yard. At this point, I now have 3 years left to serve on that 8 year sentence. Since I've returned to prison I have learned that prison is not what it once was. There is no unity amongst the convicts, everyone is out for themselves and the broken judicial system is failing our youth and society.

I'd already done 9 1/2 years before I was last released and came back with this 8 piece. I was only out less than 2 years. In that short amount of time from prison, this whole place had changed for the worse. When I look around me here today all I see are young faces from 18 to 25 years old. And 95% of these young men and women coming in to prison are addicted to heroin, meth or other illicit narcotics (mostly heroin). There is such an epidemic of drug use amongst the youth out there and it's leading them to jails, prisons and even death. When I look at all of this I see it as a spiritual holocaust. I believe there is a way to help extinguish a lot of this. It's time not just for the Christians, but also for the people who have battled and beat these same demons themselves to reach out and help lift some of these youngsters up. If we look around it's not hard to see that a whole younger generation of youth is being lost to drug abuse and crimes connected to drugs resulting in prison. As this continues where does that leave the future of our nation? We can all begin to come together, from right behind these walls and fences, RIGHT NOW, because tomorrow is too late, so let's help make a difference! We CANNOT allow the deceptive serpent (satan) to continue to trick our youth any longer.

I rededicated my life to God in February 2016, and since then I have been feeling a strong calling from our Lord to help keep these youth off drugs, off the streets and out of prison. These youth are our future doctors, lawyers, presidents and world leaders. God has also been putting great ideas in my head and heart to help these youth once I'm out. Until then I'll get to work in here, right where I'm at and I challenge all of you other men and women on these prison yards to join me!

Take action and pull some of these youngsters up! Let's join together and do some good work for the Lord.

It's not hard to see that the Lord has saved my own life on more than one occasion. If I/we can keep one youngster off of drugs or out of prison, then all the struggles I've been through make it all worth it. Let's stand together, united in Christ and take this dragon down! The angel Michael did it and so can we!

Much love to ALL the Overcomers and continue to spread the Gospel, The Good News, Christ Jesus! - W.N.

Quote Worthy

"Although God causes all things to work together for (the) good for His children, He still holds us accountable for our behavior."

- Kay Arthur is an international Bible teacher, four-time ECPA Christian Book Award winning author, and co-CEO of Precept Ministries International

Ministry Tithes & Offerings ... 2 Ways to Give

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

There are **two** ways to give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

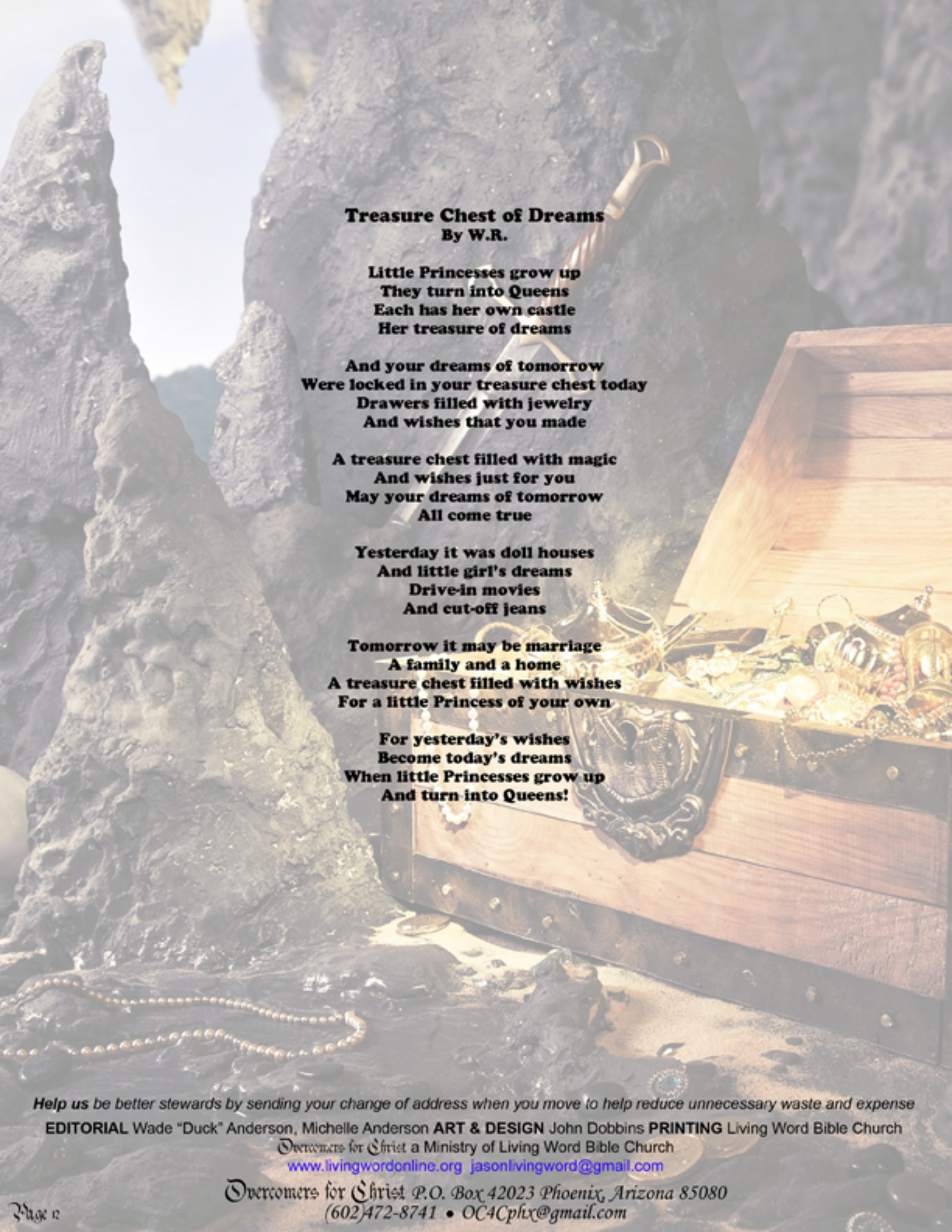
By **CHECK** or **MONEY ORDER** - Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put **"For Overcomers for Christ"**. Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

By **ONLINE** at <http://livingwordonline.com> - click in the **"Give"** icon - If you are new online giver, then click on **"Create Account"** and then follow the account set-up. If you are existing online giver, then select **"Give Now"**. Once you are logged into the website, then click on **"Give Now"**, and under the **"Give To"** drop-down select **"05 Outreach"**, then from the drop-down to the right select **"Overcomers for Christ | Prison Ministry"**

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

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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Treasure Chest of Dreams

By W.R.

**Little Princesses grow up
They turn into Queens
Each has her own castle
Her treasure of dreams**

**And your dreams of tomorrow
Were locked in your treasure chest today
Drawers filled with jewelry
And wishes that you made**

**A treasure chest filled with magic
And wishes just for you
May your dreams of tomorrow
All come true**

**Yesterday it was doll houses
And little girl's dreams
Drive-in movies
And cut-off jeans**

**Tomorrow it may be marriage
A family and a home
A treasure chest filled with wishes
For a little Princess of your own**

**For yesterday's wishes
Become today's dreams
When little Princesses grow up
And turn into Queens!**

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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