

Overcomers for Christ

June 2020



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

July 2019



More Than a Sermon

By R.A.

So where do I start? I guess I'll start when I left Oregon on the run, and the county sheriff's were on a manhunt for me because of the commercial burglaries I'd committed. There was a \$15,000 reward on my head and the police had just kicked in the door of my motel. When I came back to my room I seen that all of my burglary tools were lined up neat and in rows on my bed. I looked over and the drawer to my vanity was opened and all of my empty coke bindles, empty plastic meth bags, along with my spoon and several needles were also in neat rows on a white towel on top of the vanity. Yes, the police had me and they had taken pictures of my criminal paraphernalia. Just then my neighbor ran into the room and said, "The cops are looking for you. They just left." It didn't take a brain surgeon to see that I was about to get pinched!

I grabbed my get away bag and took off out the door. I was no sooner half way down the alley when the cops hit my motel. I wanted to run but I knew that if I did I would draw attention to myself so I casually walked down the street and hopped on the metro bus. I was headed towards the outskirts of Portland, with every fiber of my being screaming RUN! But instead I casually, once again, made my way out to the highway and began hitchhiking. I walked all night long and then realized, I would be running my whole life.

What I was running from was a ten year prison term. See, I had two criminal groups going on in separate areas and the state police had figured out that I was the ring leader of both of them. When these men were arrested and given five years each in the state prison, my friend's mom said to me, "Turn yourself in, all you will do is ten years at the most." As I continued to walk the freeway, her words from a few weeks earlier echoed in my mind. I was at war with myself. I never give up or surrender. Outlaws don't turn themselves in, outlaws run! At that moment I looked up and seen a huge mushroom cloud and thought "Great, now it's going to rain." And right then a Volkswagen pulled over and gave me a ride. As soon as I jumped in the car I thanked them for the ride and said, "It looks like it's about to rain." They answered, "No, Mount St. Helen just erupted." I think that was around May of 1980. What I am sure of is that Mount St. Helen blew her top the day I was running from that ten year term.

I started doing meth and cocaine when I was 14 years old. I was young is all I know, and at this point I'm now on the run. I made it to where my mom lived and like a true outlaw mother she had an idea. She told me, "Don't worry. Your real name is R.D., send away for your birth certificate and get an ID in your real name." So I did. I even went so far as to get a GED and a driver's license. In 1982, I left there where I was living and went to Utah where I was able to get a job at a wrecking yard pulling parts off of cars. One night I got drunk and drove a man out to Eureka so he could get his cloths from his ex-girlfriend. But when we got there she pulled a gun out and started shooting at us. We jumped in the car to take off but when we backed up we ran up over the edge of a hill and got stuck. I started to walk down the street to see if I could find some help when I ran up on a two ton dump truck. I decided to get inside and when I did I discovered the keys in the ignition, so I took off with it. The truck only went a short distance when the transmission went out. I got out and started walking, again. Soon I found an unlocked car at a farm house, I got in it and found that the keys were in it as well. So, I stole that vehicle too and ended up getting pulled over and taken to jail for, you guessed it, auto theft. It seems the car that I had stolen belonged to a Utah County Judge's wife. Ironically, when I went to court I stood before that very judge, and he told me, "No long haired hippie from Washington is going to get off that easy!" He planned on giving me five years in a Utah prison.

So, as I sat in the county jail there in Utah I turned to the Lord Jesus Christ and prayed every day. I promised the Lord that if He got me out of this mess I would stop all my sin, stealing, fornication, dealing drugs, drinking, smoking, cussing etc. It's funny how quick we are to realize our sin, and that we need to stop our sin, when we are in a situation where only the Lord can save us. In jail, I would read the Bible every day and pray for the Lord to get me out of that five year prison term. I didn't really understand everything that I was reading but I kept believing that God could get me out. Then the day came that I was to go to court and be sentenced. As I set there an elderly lady came in and spoke to the bailiff, and he pointed at me. She then turned to look at the judge, said something to him and went into a little room behind the judge's seat. Then the judge went in, and then the bailiff and the county attorney. My lawyer looked at me and said, "I'd better go and find out what's up" and he left. About 10 minutes later the elderly lady walked out of the courtroom crying, and then my lawyer came out shaking his head and saying, "It's a miracle, you're getting out of jail today."

Now remember, I'm on the run from a ten year prison term in Oregon. When I asked my lawyer what he meant he said, "That elderly lady that just ran out of here crying is the owner of the car that you stole. She asked me if you had any family anywhere and I told her yes, you had a sister in California. Then she turned to her husband, the judge and said, "You'd better let that boy go, today, to go be with his family or else!" On that day, I knew and believed the God of the Bible was true and real, and that He got me out of jail. There was no doubt in my mind, and even my lawyer said, "God performed a miracle in your life today." I was released that day with time served with the 30 days I was there in the jail. And probation that would be transferred to California. Unfortunately, I got out of jail, got drunk and started smoking again. Two of my main promises to God were already broken.

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I wasn't supposed to leave Utah until they could transfer my probation but because it was the Thanksgiving holiday they allowed me to leave for two weeks. So I called my sister in California and she bought me a bus ticket to Phoenix where I would change buses to get to California. Along with the bus ticket my sister sent me some cash so that I could get some food and smokes. But instead I bought booze and weed, and that fast I broke a third promise to God of not doing drugs. After I got on the bus I met a girl and we started partying and eventually making out. The bus made a stop in a little town in Arizona for an hour, so we walked up the street to a high school. I broke into the basement there where we were all alone. We smoked some pot and fornicated. Once we got back on the bus and it took off I realized I'd dropped my weed in the basement of that high school. So now I'd broken promise number four, that I would not fornicate any more. Basically I'd failed the Lord even though He had gotten me out of jail and proven to me that He was real. I didn't keep up my end of the deal.

Believe me, I'm going somewhere with this ...

Once I got to California, I figured I would just take the bus back the same way so I could get the weed I'd lost in the high school, but when I did the bus went a different way. It went up through Las Vegas and into Utah. Once back in Utah probation transferred me back to California, but it took a week. When I was finally done and could leave Utah my sister didn't have the money for a bus ticket. So I got a ride with a truck driver. I told him about that small town in Arizona, and the high school down the street. When I asked him if he was going that way and would he stop there, he said, "Yes, it's on my way." But when we stopped at the that store/gas station/bus stop in that small town in Arizona, there was no high school to be seen. The store was the same, but there was an empty lot where the high school should have been. At that point and time, I was scared and thought that some evil curse was now on my life because of all my broken promises to God.

I would get off of drugs and stay clean only by going to church and attending A.A. meetings but I never would fully surrender and give Jesus my whole heart and life. So needless to say, I would always go back to using drugs, dealing and sex addiction. Then I ran from California to Lake Tahoe, and then to Las Vegas. From Vegas back to Los Angeles and then over to Prescott, Arizona. In Prescott, I got clean again and started a roofing company. I did okay for about six years, but because I would not fully surrender to Jesus Christ, again I started using drugs and dealing. From 2006 to 2008, I had two arrests for transportation of dangerous drugs for sale, meth. In 2008, I was looking at 20 years flat. On my second count the sentence was ten year mitigated; fifteen years presumptive; and twenty years max.

At that point the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Robert, you deserve 20 years in prison. You have been a meth dealer since you were 14 years old. But, if you will take the 10 year term, I will save you and show you mercy." That's when I surrendered to the Lord for the first time ever in my life. Did you just see that the Lord said 10 years? God is not mocked, whatever a man sows, that he will also reap! The 10 year sentence I deserved from Oregon finally caught up with me. I must now pay the piper.

In prison, I followed the Lord fully. He told me, "Give up everything. No T.V., no card games, worldly music etc. Spend all of your time in the Word of God and prayer." So I got the Bible on CD. I've listened to the Bible over 130 times. Still today, I study the Bible, listen only to the Bible and Christian music ... and a lot of prayer to pass my time. In 2012, I started a Bible study in Yuma, six days a week. There were between 20 and 30 men each night that would come and hear me preach. I was also training other men to preach. Early 2013, I got reclassified to come to this other prison. So, I turned that Bible study over to the faithful men that came each night there. On the night before I was to leave that yard, I was about to go to sleep, when the Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Ninety Days."

So I marked my calendar, July 2013. And I waited with anticipation for the day to come. When that day came, it was the first day I had the opportunity to go outside the prison to work as a trustee. Of all jobs, my job was in St. Johns. Four days a week we would go to St. Johns to the Annex building and court house to clean the bathrooms, vacuum, take out the trash and fix the broken things there. At that point, I thought the fulfillment of the 90 days meant that I would be partly free, working outside the prison. Excited about that I quickly forgot about the word God gave me, like I said, I figured it was fulfilled.

Here it comes ...

About three or four weeks went by and one day I'm in the basement of the Annex building doing some cleaning and my boss said, "Go to the truck and get me a screwdriver." So I went out the backdoor of the basement, and all of a sudden it felt as though I had been there before. Then I thought that I'd seen this place in a dream, because I see things in my dreams that come true. So I got the screwdriver and I took it to my boss. When we were finished my boss asked me to wait for him in the truck. As I'm sitting in the truck, I'm looking at the front of the Annex building and I notice that up above it says 'High School'. Then I looked down the street and low and behold there was the store and the gas station where my bus had made a one hour stop all those years ago. This building was the exact place where I had sinned with that girl, and broke my promise to the Lord.

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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

Thank you for the card and words. I pray all is well with everyone. We have been locked down because of the coronavirus. We could use your prayers, three guards have tested positive, but like the Word says, "Be not alarmed." No prisoners have gotten sick, yet. It has gotten real crazy in here a lot of men are scared and asking for prayer. Praise God, thank you Jesus some of them have come to Jesus ... **J.C.**

Hello out there, please pray for our country. Pray for our leaders, there's a lot of fear out there. Please be safe wherever you are all at. Please pray for me, too. I'm battling with the old spirit of lust and pride. I need your prayers, keep giving everyone hope behind those prison walls ... **H.J.**

As we go through this covid-19 pandemic, it is my pray that the entire body of Christ pray ... **J.M.**

Thank you for the card and the newsletter. Y'all taking the time to write back and forth with me is so awesome. I hope that one day I get to hang out and maybe even get in the wind with some of y'all. Two of the things I look forward to the most after I finish up my eight years are getting into a church with folks I fit in with and love God and going for a ride. I have a couple specific prayer request that I would like to share with you. My mother has been in the hospital a lot over the last year, COPD and other breathing issues. We lost my oldest brother in November 2018 and mom took it real hard. I believe it has taken an actual physical toll on her. I pray for her to find peace and health in God. The second thing is this fire season is coming up fast and I pray that we have a safe, solid season. Being on a wildland fire crew is a blessing and I pray that my walk serves as a witness for Christ to everybody I work with. I believe that God will use our past and our present for His glory. So, I say, "Here I am Lord, you can use me." I want to be available you know. I hope y'all keep doing what you do ... God bless y'all... **B.A.**

I haven't spoken to or heard from any of my family in this time, although I've tried to write them all, and I will continue to, and trusting in the Lord's plan for me. It's no secret I've had a rough time of these last three years. However, I'm expecting change and a new season to begin soon! Praise God! Please keep me in prayer concerning communication with my family, especially my sons, and for God's favor on reducing "in custody level". I thank you in advance, knowing you'll fulfill my request for prayer ... **M.D.**

Lord, we collectively stand together and pray for the Coronavirus to die and our economy to rebound in a supernatural way ... **M.A.**

Praise Reports

So, long time no talk. To say that I have been busy here in prison would be an understatement. You will be happy to hear though that I have been doing what you had suggested to me while I was in the county jail. I was made the worship leader of our yard, faith based church, shortly after my arrival here. In the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter, I saw that my song "Singing to My Lord" was published. That really made me feel good knowing that you all thought it was good enough to print. I long to watch as people go around in circles trying to find a way to escape through drug use. Everyone on the yard knows that I do NOT support that lifestyle and show me respect by keeping it away from me.

Whenever someone wishes to give sober living a try I'm blessed to be able to help them. Many have warned me that I am going to get burnt, but yet I refuse to NOT try and bring some light to this dark place. In one of our first letters, I spoke about feeling very abandoned by not only my family and friends but the world also. I am happy to report though that I am in no way feeling the same. Instead, I have been blessed to have found my way into a truly close and genuine relationship with my Lord Jesus Christ. And currently I am working my way through the *Maximized Manhood* book and finding it to be very helpful and making a true impact on my way of thinking. The relationship between me and my family has gotten so much better that it is nothing short of a miracle. After over ten years of not speaking with my brother he has said that he is willing to communicate with me AND work on our relationship ... **D.K.J.**

Hello there family. I don't know how to fill out this money order and as I could put the wrong information, I'll leave it up to you. Even upon my release I still remember to tithe. Since I've been out the Lord has heard my cries in the wilderness and He has blessed me very much. I almost gave up down here but the Lord has placed the right people in my path. He has not forsaken me. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. This tithe is to help you further spread the Message behind those prison walls. ... **H.J.**

As I confront the anxiety of getting out soon I'm finding great comfort by resting in God's Word, especially in *Colossians 3:3*. Here's a quote in conjunction with that verse. "We do not stand in the world bearing witness to Christ. We stand in Christ bearing witness to the world." I am complete and fully effective in Him where He is my strength, my shield and my song. Most definitely He is my Song ... **B.M.**

In 1999, I ran away from my calling and ended here in prison, my disobedience caused me to be chastised by my Heavenly Father and I am glad about it. The Bible says despise not the chastisement of the Lord, Praise His Name ... **J.M.**

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From the Inside

Bowl Of Cherries

By P.O.

I'm sure you all have heard the saying 'Life's a Bowl of Cherries - But I got all the pits'. Now look at that phrase and think how God must feel when you say that. Well, I'm here to tell you that "God does not make any trash!" No one's life is perfect except God's. So being an un-perfect human being I'm going to let God take control concerning that saying I'm going to reach out to all the world, the downtrodden, the brokenhearted, the abused sexually, mentally, as well as physically, the poor, the sickened, the lonely and drug addicted that I hope this word reaches. This also goes for all those who think or believe that saying!

The reason I quoted "God doesn't make any trash" is because I'm referring to all the above mentioned people all over the world. In Japan, way up in the mountains, they have these beautiful cherry trees. Not one tree is the same, just as us human beings God created, are all different in skin colors, beliefs, religions, jobs, etc. Those cherry trees bloom a flower one time each year and not two of the flowers are the same either. When these trees bear fruit people from all around the world eat from them and they throw the pit's in the trash, on the ground and everywhere.



Think about this for a second. You may say that your life is a bowl of pits. Have you ever thought of taking one of those pits, loving it, praying over it and trusting in God to raise up out of that pit that someone let go of to witness the most beautiful outcome, a cherry tree, from prayer and faith? The pitfalls, hard times, trials, tribulations, hurts, pains, sicknesses, heartbreaks, addiction battles, loss of loved one are all 'pits'. The best thing we can do with those pits is to bury them, have faith, pray and trust in our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus, the Son of God who died on the Cross for all of our sins and those pits.

No matter what pit falls into your path in this life, plant it! Pray over it with true unbiased love and faith in Christ Jesus. I can and will tell you all, from my own experiences, God will turn those pits into a blessing every single time. A beautiful blessing of His love and mercy for what you're going through. You see, just as those beautiful cherry trees, God doesn't make trash. The seeds/pits of those cherry trees continue to produce more and more beautiful cherry trees. And in life, if we continue to rely on God, in faith and love He will continue to bring beauty into our lives out of the pits we come across through the experiences in each of our lives.

I'm not at all saying that we as human beings will never have problems arise. They're just trials and tribulations. BUT! When we devote all of our trust, faith, hope and love in the One true God, our Lord and Savior, we WILL see the beauty come out of those trials and tribulations (pits). So the next time you feel that life's a bowl of pits and you feel like giving up - remember the beauty of God's cherry trees and have faith. Keep praying and believing and as God answers you too will see all of the beauty. Giving all the praise and glory to God!

"PRAYER"

By H.A.M.

To the beloved  family, all of you there are such a blessing, and are greatly appreciated. I hope the message enclosed, entitled "PRAYER", blesses all who read it. May the Shalom of heaven be poured out abundantly on Living Word Bible Church and of course the entire  staff.

There's vehement comparatives between the days spoken in *Isaiah 59:1-15* and our present day. You go ahead and read those Scriptures for yourselves. Then in *Isaiah 59:16*, "He saw that there was no man, And wondered that there was no intercessor; Therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; And His own righteousness, it sustained Him." Then in *Isaiah 63:5*, again God, "I looked, but there was no one to help, and I wondered That there was no one to uphold; Therefore My own arm brought salvation for Me; And My own fury, it sustained Me." His awe at their, and unfortunately, still our delinquency continues.

If you wonder how effective fervent prayer moves God, just read prayerfully the words of God here in *Ezekiel 22:21-31*, "Again the word of the LORD came to me: "Son of man, say to the land, 'You are a land that has not been cleansed or rained on in the day of wrath.' There is a conspiracy of her princes within her like a roaring lion

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From the Inside

tearing its prey; they devour people, take treasures and precious things and make many widows within her. Her priests do violence to my law and profane my holy things; they do not distinguish between the holy and the common; they teach that there is no difference between the unclean and the clean; and they shut their eyes to the keeping of my Sabbaths, so that I am profaned among them. Her officials within her are like wolves tearing their prey; they shed blood and kill people to make unjust gain. Her prophets whitewash these deeds for them by false visions and lying divinations. They say, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says' - when the LORD has not spoken. The people of the land practice extortion and commit robbery; they oppress the poor and needy and mistreat the foreigner, denying them justice. I looked for someone among them who would build up the wall and stand before me in the gap on behalf of the land so I would not have to destroy it, but I found no one. So I will pour out my wrath on them and consume them with my fiery anger, bringing down on their own heads all they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD." Yet through Moses' intercessions their nation was saved over and over. In **Psalm 106:23** God's Word states, *"So He said He would destroy them - had not Moses, His chosen one, stood in the breach before Him to keep His wrath from destroying them."*

We are so blessed to have overcome instructions such as found here in **Hebrews 4:16**, *"Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."* How powerful prayer is! Prayer can bring God's angel's rushing to back our faith phenomenally! (Also read **2 Kings 6:15-17** and **Daniel 10:13**) Angel's eagerly await deployment. *"Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?"* (**Hebrews 1:14**)

It's true, satan's hold on lives can be shattered. How? **Ephesians 6:18** states, *"praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints"* The word 'perseverance', in the *Merriam Webster's Dictionary* is explained; (as in an undertaking) in spite of difficulties. To God a miracle is just another one of His works. That's why Jesus called His miracles as 'works'. Look here at **John 9:4**, *"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."* Now in **John 10:25,32,37-38** *"Jesus answered them, "I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me ... Many good works I have shown you from My Father. For which of those works do you stone Me? ... If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."*

God doesn't always guarantee a miracle, but He is always listening for His will to prevail for His glory. Even Christ's disciples were perplexed when unprepared as Jesus explained here in **Matthew 17:21**, *"However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting."* God's power through prayer will move prevailingly stubborn mountains. Mountains symbolize various difficulties, problems, illnesses and hindrances as seen above in **Matthew 17:21**.

We all will have to face mountains. But God does not intend for us to be stopped by them. We as Christian Overcomers are to accept them as challenges. That is to turn them in to mole hills or to authoritatively pray them into obliteration. I have found that one of the most moving fervent prayers recorded in the Bible is in **Daniel 9:3-19**. I encourage you all to read and meditate on these Scriptures. Promise and prayer go together. That's how God has ordained prayer to accomplish His purposes. The Sword of the Spirit, found in **Ephesians 6:17**, can bring the most rebellious through prayer and testimony unto salvation.

I'd like to close with suggesting the following prayer: *"Lord, here are my hands; I consecrate them to You. May they never touch anything that would dishonor You. May they never go where You would not be seen. Lord, here are my eyes; may they never look upon anything that would grieve the Holy Spirit. May my ears never listen to anything dishonoring to Your name. May my mouth never be opened to speak a word that I would not want You to hear. May my mind never retain a thought nor an imagination that would dim the sense of Your presence. In Jesus Holy name, AMEN!"*

Isaiah 45:1-46:13

Remember that our lives have all kinds of experiences both light and dark, which are needed for us to grow spiritually. Since God is ruler over both light and dark, when God's time comes, we thank God for those using our prosperity for Him. Also, when bad times come ask what we can gain from them so we can become better servants for God. **(45:7)**

God's promises are out in the open for any and all to see so we never have to doubt God or be uncertain when we trust in our God of truth and righteousness. **(45:18-19)**

God created us and cares for us, His love is never ending, He will continue to care for us our whole lives and beyond. **(46:1-14)**

God is unique in His control for the future. His constant intention is to follow through with His plans. When we have the desire to pursue safety, joy, and peace apart from God we need to remember our commitment to God. **(46:8-11)**

God not only offers us hope for the future, but He also deals with what needs we have now. We have no need to wait for His salvation for it's available right now. **(48:13)**

Ephesians 4:1-32

God has picked us to be Jesus' representatives here on earth and it is Paul who gave us the challenge to live lives that deserve the calling that was freely given to us. This encompasses us to be humble, patient, peaceful, gentle, and understanding. Remember people are watching and you would want them to be able to see Jesus Christ in you. **(4:1-2)**

God has given the church a huge responsibility of making disciples in every nation. If we had to do this alone it would be impossible. It is in our nature to overestimate what we can accomplish alone and underestimate all that is possible as a group. As the body of Christ, we'll get more done together than we could possibly dream of doing all on our own. **(4:12-13)**

God has forgiven us, not because we have forgiven others but only because of His great mercy for us. The more we begin to know and understand His mercy the more we will want to be like Him. **(4:32)**

Psalms 69:1-36

When we become devastated by tragedy or death we do not need to dive into despair and heartache because we have a God we can turn to and trust and we ask Him to help us. Through God our tears cried will not have been in vain. **(69:3)**

Our only true source of happiness is God. We can obtain everlasting joy, just by seeking Him. If you truly seek God and live as He tells you **(Matthew 6:33-34)**, true joy will be quick to follow. **(69:32)**

Proverbs 24:13-14

These verses are a reoccurring theme in Proverbs. We should all strive for wisdom, for wisdom is what helps us become better people. **(24:13-14)**

“Foot” Notes

Hey brothers and sisters, we've all been around those who claim that, "I'm going to do this or change that as soon as I get out." So, thinking on that, I want you all to know that God can change all that right now and there's no better time to work on yourself than right now, when you've got unlimited time to do so. My life may look the same from outward appearance, but my last thirteen years of trusting in God has added beyond belief to my quality of life regardless of my environment. Don't put off God's ability to change your life until you "get out".

God has given me a family that is closer than I can believe, I've got fristers (friend-sisters) of mercy who not only show me love but will also tell me when I'm being an idiot. They are always there for me for whatever reason. God will put people in your life as well just let Him in.

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

As soon as I realized where I was, the Lord spoke to my heart again and said, "Today Robert, you have kept your promises to Me, and know that I am in control of your life. I am the One who has led you by the hand. I am the One who has brought you here. I am God Almighty, the Lord Jesus Christ." You see, out of all the prisons in Arizona, God brought me here. Out of all the town jobs that exist here, He placed me at Apache County in St. Johns. I believe that God did this to show me that I am in His perfect will. And in spite of the fact that He knew I would sin over and over and over again when He got me out of jail back in Utah, He still took care of me by showing me His love, grace and mercy. Every place that I chose to go in my self-will, the Lord was actually leading me so that He could save me in order to use me to further His Kingdom.

One of our greatest obstacles in our walk with the Lord is our inability to trust Him. Do we really trust the Lord Jesus Christ? If we do, then our faith and trust is seen in our obedience. TODAY, I am closer to the Lord than I have ever been, and I am seeking Him to change me by putting His desires, purposes and will deep within my heart. So much so, that it is all that I ever want.

Note ... When all of this took place in regards to stealing the judges wife's car in the fall of 1982. This prison where I'm at was not even in existence back then. They built this prison in 1994 just so the Lord could bring me here to show me His infinite love, power, grace and mercy.

I'll close with **Acts 17:26-28** (KJV), "**And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.**"

Note ... The Editor is including **Acts 17:26-28** (NKJV), "**And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'**"

Overcomer's Testimonies

I've had a couple up close and personal visits from Jesus, by way of 'Oppa', my Grandpa. Recently while under (doctor induced) thirteen and one half hours I seen Oppa sitting on a park bench with the cane that I gave him at a park under a Magnolia tree. So peacefully sitting with him, I could feel Jesus all around us. Oppa spoke to me and said he was waiting for me, that Jesus allowed him to come visit with me. We talked for what seemed like days. I was in no pain at all. Oppa told me it's not my turn yet! Jesus has things He wants me to do, before He brings me home. When he was done he said he loves me and said I had to go now, I didn't want to. Oppa said they'd be waking me up soon, go. And just then I awoke to the doctors all looking at me.

They took me by wheel chair into a room full of monitors, and began showing me images from five months ago and then ones from just hours ago. That's when they told me that the cancer had spread rapidly in five months and my heart was dying on the left side. I listened and then I started to question why God answered me. - **P.O.**

Brain Teasers

1. A woman shoots her husband. Then she holds him under water for over 5 minutes. Finally, she hangs him. But 5 minutes later they both go out together and enjoy a wonderful dinner together. How can this be?
2. This is an unusual paragraph. I'm curious as to just how quickly you can find out what is so unusual about it. It looks so ordinary and plain that you would think nothing was wrong with it. In fact, nothing is wrong with it! It is highly unusual though. Study it and think about it, but you still may not find anything odd. But if you work at it a bit, you might find out. Try to do so without any coaching!

Answers:
1. The woman was a photographer. She shot a picture of her husband, developed it, and hung it up to dry.
2. The letter 'e', which is the most common letter used in the English language, does not appear even once in the paragraph.

What Others Are Saying...

"I wanted to let you know how much your newsletter and ministry has blessed me and others that I share your material with. I first learned about your ministry after attending a Prison Fellowship weekend seminar. I really look forward to hearing about the many testimonials that are featured in each piece of literature. It's awesome to know about other inmates who are dealing with similar struggles while incarcerated. I also want to share how much I enjoy seeing pictures of you and the joy you have in reaching out to us. Thank you so much. May God richly bless you all for your faithful service. Lastly, the artwork featured in each issue is quite inspirational. Many times, I will save the cover art, because it really touches me and lifts me up. Keep up the beautiful artwork. It's glorifying to God. It is wonderful to have something lovely to look at." - **K.P.**

"My brother and friend in Christ, I pray this letter finds you feeling and doing good and as always ... Blessed from above! How is my brother? Thank you for the Christmas card! And I want to thank you for printing my writing in the **OS&S** newsletter. It's amazing how much just that lifted me. I've kind of been down, a lot of unfortunate things going on with family over this past year. Nothing to worry about though my friend. I am under four years now and time is going by swiftly. And even before I know it those gates will once again open up for me to press forward on the righteous path that our Lord has for me! I love the **OS&S** family!" - **M.M.**

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate your monthly newsletters. This is my 30th Christmas in prison. It's not always easy to be upbeat and positive, but I try. Your newsletters are so uplifting, especially the photos. When I look at all the smiling faces, it does my heart good to know that all of you are there for us. I just want to thank you all again. You do bring joy to my heart every month. God bless you all." - **G.K.**

"Thanks to all of you again for everything. I certainly appreciate your hand of fellowship and thankful for you reaching out to me a couple of years ago. You and the **OS&S** team are certainly fulfilling Christ's mandate in **Matthew 25** by ministering to the body that is incarcerated - I know that Jesus is well pleased with you all. May our God and King richly bless you and deepen your capacity for ministry, that you be overwhelmed by His relentless love every day. Your brother in Christ." - **B.M.**

"Wade and all the brothers and sisters in Jesus there at the **Overcomers for Christ**, when I found this Scripture, **2 Corinthians 3:3**, "**You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.**" I thought of you and all those there that God has called to help you. Love you brother." - **M.G.**

"Dear **Overcomers for Christ** family, may this letter bring joy to your spirit as it leaves my hands. I love receiving your encouraging packet filled with smiles and scripture that help me start my day. The Holy Spirit has led me to write you guys, expressing to all that are involved "Thank you for bringing a smile to my face." I am smiling right now as I see God's beautiful children writing and caring for us behind these gates. I would love to share the love and hope of Jesus together through letters. May our God of hope fill our hearts with joy and peace in believing that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit. (**Romans 15:13**) I am looking forward to hearing from you and getting to know you all!! God is great even when life isn't." - **A.A.**

"Dear **Overcomers for Christ**, thank you so much for the birthday card. I had just returned from Celebrate Recovery and the card was waiting. Every year it's always there. You guys are thoughtful, loving, caring and kind people. My prayers, you are in them. God is wonderful, and once I stepped back and moved out of my own way, I'm able to see His grace, mercy and love. Thanks again." - **A.T.**

"**Overcomers for Christ** family! Thank you all for your tireless and steadfast dedication to the ministering of all of us in prison. Thank God first and foremost for the blessings He has bestowed upon us all throughout this year past. Our Father is an Awesome Mighty Father, isn't He?!" - **J.S.**

"Dear brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ**, I pray and hope that this letter finds all you brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ** in the best of health and upmost highest of spirits. Thank you for updating my mailing address and also for putting my sister on your mailing list so that she gets your **Overcomers for Christ** newsletters. Thank you also very much for sending me my beautiful greeting card and these encouraging words from our God and Savior Jesus Christ. That greeting card put a smile on my face. Please know that I pray for you all, plus I also pray for all the brothers and sisters who need prayer that are behind these walls, because prayer works from God and passes right through these walls. There's power in prayer. Thank you God and Jesus Christ. God bless all you brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ**. Thank you for doing the Lord service." - **L.Z.**

Happily Incompatible

By Steve Arterburn

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland." - Isaiah 43:19

When asked to reveal his secret for staying married for well over half a century, Billy Graham gave a simple, yet somewhat paradoxical answer: "Ruth and I are happily incompatible."

That's a great answer to questions everyone inevitably asks themselves at some point during marriage, "How can I stay married to this person?" And, "Did I marry the wrong person?"

But that, "Did I marry the wrong person?" question is a dangerous one. Why?

Because it's framed completely wrong. And wrongly framed questions twist the issue and therefore elicit wrong answers. Furthermore, the question is based upon a serious misunderstanding of marriage itself. And misunderstandings create a fertile field for myths, myths that have the potential to damage your marriage.

When you married (or when you marry) you made a commitment to do certain things, like love, honor and cherish. There weren't any "out" clauses in case the person wasn't the right person for you.

Learn to be happily incompatible.

Quote Worthy

"It is not flesh and blood but the heart which makes us fathers and sons."

- Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller (1759 -) a German poet, philosopher, physician, historian and playwright

ATTENTION

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Editor's Note

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Hello everyone! Over this past year, we have been working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. The request was finally approved! This is **FREE** of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, **FREE!**

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!

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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Rejected Stone

By J.H.

Rejected stone, used to roll alone
The streets had me feeling like; home alone

Through His creation, His love is shown,
His love's for sure, planted in living water
Scriptures feed my spirit I grow,
On hills I stand, through His love I glow
Illuminating paths for those lost below,

Peace and forgiveness was expensive,
I was once a foe
Drowning in sin, covered from head to toe
Blood dripped not sweat,
If it's Your will I'll go!

My Faith

By G.B.B.

Because my faith in Christ is strong, my life is filled with hope
When problems arise and threaten me, He gives me strength

I don't lose heart when things go wrong, for Christ will always make it right
I know He always understands, and protects me in my plight

He sees all and truly cares, He knows my every need
If I keep faith and hope in Him, I know He'll intercede

He calms my troubled spirit, He smooth's my wrinkled brow
He fills my heart with peace and joy, His love is over all

I won't lose heart or be depressed, Christ's love is constant and true
He'll help me find success, in everything I do.

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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