

Overcomers for Christ

November 2017

*And give thanks for
everything to God the Father in the
name of our
Lord Jesus Christ.*

Ephesians 5:20

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2017



Whom is this 'God' that I Should Serve Him? And What is His Name that I May Inquire of 'Him'?

Part 1

By Rodger Whisman

In **Job 21:15** we read these very questions, **"What is the Almighty, that we should serve Him? And what profit should we have, if we pray unto Him?"** Listen to **Psalms 91:14**, as the Lord replies, **"Because he hath set his love upon Me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known My name."**

I had been raised in a family of multiple Christian denominations. Therefore by faith, a Protestant. Being a young child I knew only; "Jesus loves me, yes I know." At the age of 12, I was catapulted into a direct spiritual confrontation in a vision (eyes opened or closed hindered nothing). From that point on my life became more than interesting at times. I knew of many spiritual things and beings. I knew of a God. As I matured I realized I knew much but in actuality, I knew nothing as far as actual knowing, other than a more clear understanding of good and evil.

Hebrews 5:14 tells us, **"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."** Let's read **Verse 13-14** together, from the NKJV, **"For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."**

The catapult into a wake-up call was far past due because years of trying to be a Christian, a good person and a person of integrity was instead a maze of learning by failures. Each dream and each vision made the attempts to match my ID of what a man of God should be ... heart breaking.

Less than a year ago, I walked out a door and into an empty parking lot in my pajamas carrying a dead cell phone. Yes, I learned a lot while in incarceration. The things I saw and heard were heart wrenching. There are times when life and circumstances move so quickly that it was a real jolt when the pause of all that transpired and reality set in.

Needing to stay on point, at this time I had lost my marriage, my home, my stuff, my Harley Davidson, all of my ID's AND yes, even my billfold had mysteriously vanished away from what was my home. The only things I possessed was brought to me by a family friend; a few boxes that consisted of the actual clothing I would have for daily wear.

Even my location as I knew it was altered immediately. I was lost and I felt as though I knew nothing! I was now attempting to live in a world I knew very little about. I suppose to many of you this sounds somewhat familiar as well as, "What does God have to do with this and what is 'His' name that I may inquire of 'Him'?"

On top of all this dilemma, I had no tangible proof that I even existed. I was about to set off on a journey, an adventure in one big fact ... that there is a vast difference in, I knew of and I do know now with facts and proofs. When you actually know God He can help in any situation AND He WILL help. Yes, you may serve out your error all the way to payment in full, but that becomes minor to what you have become to know and obtain IN Him. In **Romans 8:38-39**, Paul hands us these truths, **"For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."** Then over in **1 Corinthians 13:12**, Paul adds this, **"For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known."**

I began a prayer that was to be unceasing for months. It was in these prayers that I began to know God and that by 'Names'. The first thing that I received from God was an ID, a name, my name. In **Philippians 4:6**, Paul relays this, **"Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."** And then in **1 Thessalonians 5:17**, he says, **"Pray without ceasing."**

By the power of the Holy Spirit I was led to pray: "I AM Rodger, I AM 69 years old, I AM a son of God!" Then I was given 'I AM' as a revelation and in that 'God' was allowing me to better understand me by using 'His name' as a prefix as He explained to me, 'With Him' I had access to 'His' blessings, to reach further than Rodger was able, to reach higher than Rodger was able, to reach deeper than Rodger was able and to reach into the promises that 'He' had given me that were unobtainable before. This is exactly what Jesus was explaining to us in **John 15:5**, **"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."** Simply stated, I am a man. 'God' IS 'God' and He Himself said, **"I AM WHO I AM."** (**Exodus 3:14** NIV)

From there I began to inquire of 'God' as 'Elohim': The Almighty God that gives life is 'Elohim': The Creator in the beginning. God 'El' created ALL. The Holy Spirit was showing me the attributes of 'Whom God Was'. No more mere words but 'God's Words' in the nature of 'Whom He IS' in active explanations.

Then came, 'Immanuel', God the overcomer that poured Himself out for us and His creation.

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Next came 'El-Shaddai', the all sufficient 'One'.

Then 'El-Elyon/Adonai', the 'Most High God' and that I was redeemed by 'His' greatness.

And the last word/Name I was given at that time was, 'El-Roi', the omnipresent 'God' that sees all.

All of this came back to back by the Holy Spirit while I was in prayer and study time. I simply went to God because I needed an 'ID' and to know whom I was and Whom 'He' really is.

After being brain-spun on all of this information and thinking, "Why me?" I then, by the Holy Spirit, gently received these words to re-explain for the 3rd time what I had received. This is what I was given, "Rodger there are things in life AND in the 'Father' that 'you' cannot reach up into nor can 'you' obtain that was given to you before birth. The 'I AM' must be in you and work through you. Then you, through Christ, can reach up into that which was too far, to high for you alone. ONLY through Christ can you obtain those things appointed to you AND for you."

God first gave this to me but, I know that when He gives these things to me He also wants me to share them with all of my brothers and sisters in the 'Lord'. There are no set words or phrases that were given to me. Just an acknowledgement of whom I was and Whom 'God IS'. In all this the Holy Spirit did NOT belittle me, judge me, condemn me or make me feel like a useless unwanted person. Instead, I for the first time felt reasoned with and respected. I was NOT told, "IF I DID NOT" do as said I would be a continued religious mess.

There was so much more given to me in the latter month of my displacement. The one area I felt the deepest touch and touched the most was sharing God's attributes with others/all of you, 'His' nature of whom He IS.

This piece I'm sharing does not have an ending, at least here. So to keep it short I'll exclude what later transpired. I also want to say that IF I had put Scripture with all that I learned and grew in it would literally be a share 10 times larger. I did have access to plenty of Bible and study time but most of this came by the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance. 'God' met with me according to my needs. AND at this time in my life what I needed was to know Him far greater, in a personal relationship, so that He could touch my life and my heart exactly where it was needed most.

Thankful Pilgrims By Stephen Arterburn

On September 6th, 1620, seventy men and women and thirty-two children climbed aboard the Mayflower headed for the New World. Some of the people were looking for religious freedom, others in search of wealth. The ship was crowded. There was little room to sleep or eat. There were no bathrooms and little privacy. Soon the treacherous ocean tossed the ship about, forcing the people to remain inside the foul smelling quarters. Many suffered from seasickness. For two long months, the people endured these conditions. Until November 9th, when they spotted land.

Now the voyagers faced new challenges ... Hard land ... Wild animals ... A harsh winter ... And little to no medical supplies. More than half the adults became sick and died. What were they to do? They considered returning to England. Then God brought a miracle to them ... an English speaking Native American named Squanto.

Squanto is a remarkable man of history. Kidnapped by Englishmen, Squanto was taken to England and taught English for three years. Many years later he was returned to his people only to be once again kidnapped by British seamen. This time he was taken to a Spanish slave port. He was purchased by Spanish monks. They took him to their home, fed him, and told him he was free. He learned that it was their love for Jesus that prompted them to purchase him and set him free. These Christian brothers taught him the Christian faith and soon Squanto came to love and trust Jesus Christ, too.

In time, he returned once more to his native village in the New World. But this time he found only desolation. His friend Samoset, another English speaking Native American, told him that a sickness from the white man had in one year wiped out Squanto's entire village. Six months later more white men arrived ... the pilgrims. Squanto hid and watched them, these people looked different to him than the men who had once taken him from his native land.

Eventually he visited the pilgrims with his friend Samoset, and decided he wanted to stay and live with them. He could have easily harbored bitterness over the lost years he spent kidnapped and enslaved. He could have watched the pilgrims die; after all, wasn't it their kind who were responsible for the extinction of his entire village? But Squanto did not choose to hate or abandon these people. Instead, he showed them where they could find fish. He taught them where and how to plant. And he had the joy of celebrating the first Thanksgiving with them. The feast lasted for three days. The pilgrims gave thanks to God for their Native American friends, especially Squanto. Squanto gave thanks for his new family. And they all gave thanks for the One who rescued them ... Jesus Christ.

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

Thank you for consistently sending me the newsletters. I love them. I anxiously look forward to receiving them. I still display the encouraging card you sent me ... it was and still is appreciated. I'd like to ask you to pray for me. I had my conversion in January 2016. But it feels as if I've been slowly backsliding, although I spend my days gaining knowledge of the truth and in prayer throughout the day. I feel overwhelmed by life, by the Babylon that is the world today in prison and outside. I find myself feeling grieved by all of the sin in everybody's life, including my own. I would like to see revival and a spirit of striving to live righteously, not a callousness to sin because of His abundant grace. I have prayed for discernment, but with that comes the struggle to not be judgmental. I loved Wade Anderson's testimony in March's newsletter of how God works through prayer to unite people to do His will that gives me hope ... **D.R.**

I could use some prayers to hear from our Aunt Tina that has liver cancer, I haven't heard from our Grandma and our brother yet. So, hopefully I will hear from them soon with good news about our Aunt Tina and how they all are ... from your Christian brother in our Lord Jesus Christ ... **D.G.**

Hello, just wanted to drop a few lines to say thank you for putting me back on the mailing list and to give you my new address, and to ask for prayers from everyone in the ministry, as I'm getting ready for a battle of my life. As you already know, I've been battling cancer since 2009. I have had two surgeries, two rounds of chemo and two rounds of radiation. And now it's back again worse than ever. My oncologist on the streets said I was terminal but my new doctor seems to think he can save me. I am getting ready to start 16 weeks of chemo, then surgery to remove most of my colon, my appendix and a chunk of my liver. Then 16 weeks of radiation, so I'm looking at 34 weeks of hell. I'm scared to death, but at the same time I'm okay because my faith is strong. I'm putting all my trust in our Father, I trust that if it is His will then so be it, He knows what is best for me. So, if I could get everyone at Overcomers to please keep me in their prayers as I start this battle. I will write every chance I can to keep you and everyone updated on my fight to beat this cancer ... **H.M.**

I pray I end up with a job or provided with the stuff I need, such as money to buy hygiene and some food. It's hard because we are not provided with the right amount of portions, not only that, but we are not provided the opportunity to assist ourselves with a job or some type of way to earn money. I hope you can understand what I am saying and the struggle I'm going through. I know all I can continue to do is keep asking God to help me and leave it in His hands. Hopefully, soon He will come to meet my prayers and help me... **M.A.**

Praise Reports

Greetings to the **DS&C** family, outside. Understand what I am about to say and please stay with me. I don't celebrate birthdays, but I must thank you due to the genuine heart-based care you all share - thanks again. This isn't about the why's or the why not's. It is to share how special that 'card' is to me. You took the time and went to my jacket online and obviously do it for everyone in the 'Family' of which I am honored to be a member. Although I don't celebrate them I am alright with those that do. What is so touching is that you all care. Yes, I was a little set-back when I read it. 'That feeling' quickly faded when I realized what you are about at the **DS&C**!! I fully agree He, Jesus, loves us all!! It's beyond measure to see humans of such comparison ... In His love ... **D.G.**

I want to share a praise report ... my brother Cory, the one person that I am forever in debt to for never giving up on me. When he became my celly in 2010 he said he wouldn't stop until he brought me to the Lord. I was stubborn, but he never gave up. He helped me and saved my life in 2012 when I finally opened my heart and asked Jesus Christ into my life, and for that I am eternally grateful. God Bless, your brother in Christ ... **H.M.**

It is my every wish and prayer that this missive finds you in the very best of health and most of all great spirits. I'm blessed! God is sooo good!!! I made my very first parole on a 36 year aggravated sentence. With love in Christ Jesus ... **T.H.**

God is so very good! Most of the men on condemned row with me have been moved to lower custody. This was part of my litigation to bring church services, baptism, and communion to the souls on the row. Praise God for His Grace! Do lift us up, as satan's always trying to tear apart the good. Keep shining Christ's light ... **P.B.**

I've been moved since February and been doing really good with how life is while I am in the Department of Corrections. I've been following the path the Lord has chosen for me and I love it. It is getting close to release time just as long as I stay on track. I've been attending this fellowship program called God Behind Bars and it's the best thing ever. When I get out you guys will be seeing me attend church with all of you and I would like to help out with others who have been in my situation ... **V.P.**

To all of you **Overcomers** for **Christ**, thank you so much for the birthday wishes. When I received the letter, it put a smile on my face. Well, it seems when my days are down like I have nobody I remember this verse, **Joshua 1:9, "This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."** When I pray for mail I always get mail from Him through His people like you or from other Christian pen-pals. I just wanted to say thank you and thank You, Jesus ... **L.C.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Prisons are Fearful, Lonely and Violent Places ... PUT YOUR TRUST IN GOD ... God is a God of New Beginnings
By C.S.

I hope that when you receive this letter that it finds you and everyone at OCS in good spirits and in good health. Thank you for taking the time to write and send me the wonderful newsletters. Prisons are fearful, lonely, and violent places. In my first five months that I've been here, they moved me three times because I had nothing but bad cellies who wanted to bully me and steal from me. I'm 55 years old and can't fight like I used to. These were the worst five months I've ever had and I've been down seven years. You can't trust nobody in here. They are always trying to test you so they can find your weakness, then they prey on it.

It's prison so you'll find a lot of manipulators and takers. There are more bad than good in here, but you have no choice but to adjust and adapt to it. They produce false personalities and hide behind them. They act as if they don't need anyone but they do. They pretend that they are not hurt but they are. The heart knows its own bitterness. If they would all just simply put their trust in God, He will help you go through your temptations and trials that you may face daily. God knows your heart, your intentions, and motives. So you must let Him take you through things. God's work in me is relentless so that my mess becomes my message. The Bible doesn't say if trouble will come, but when trouble comes. No one has lived his or her life without some kind of adversity.

God Himself has said, "I will not in any way fail you nor give you up, nor leave you without support." While I was going through those five months the Spirit led me to read **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**, *"Even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud. Three different times I begged the Lord to take it away. Each time He said, 'My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.' So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."* After reading that it encouraged me to bear up my trials patiently. No matter what is happening to me, and even in the worst of circumstances, it is me who decides what becomes of me mentally and spiritually. You have possibilities whenever you develop the desire to take away from your life the thing that is defeating it. That's why I believe while you are in prison you must apply yourself. Get into self-help groups, recovery programs, school, but the main thing is fellowship or just reading the Word.

Because of my background and my circumstances, it may have influenced who I am. But I am responsible for who I become. Because I can do anything through Christ who strengthens me.

Here are a few things I have learned while in prison:

- 1) I have learned that you can do something in an instant that will give you heartache for life.
- 2) I have learned that it is not what you have in life, but who you have in your life that counts.
- 3) I have learned that no matter how bad your heart is broken, the world doesn't stop for your grief.
- 4) I have learned that you cannot make someone love you. All you can do is be someone who can be loved.

Coming to prison was the only way the Lord could get my attention. God is a God of new beginnings, Amen!! May God bless you all at OCS. The meaning of life is unconditional love.

Almighty's Kids
By R.W.

A special thank you for your words of encouragement about the states stand on my clemency request. The enemy has been hard at work attacking me but even more so my mom and others who've been praying and believing for my early release. Like the predator he is, he uses those down times to launch any attack he can. Thank you for your words and uplifting Scriptures. If I may, I ask for prayer for my mom and those discouraged by the Boards' decision. As for me, I'm still one of the Almighty's kids and I'm waiting and expecting my miracle! What the enemy meant to push me away just made me seek God that much more. Thanks again for all of the love and support.

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Answer ... Fully Surrender to God
By T.D.

Overcomers for Christ, I got your card you sent me last night, and I just wanted to thank you for that, from the bottom of my heart. I'm glad my "Jesus shines" through my letter, humbly. Only through Christ am I able to change my life and do anything! I'm glad you understood me and didn't judge. Your kind words meant a lot to me.

You hit the nail right on the head when you told me "old habits and behaviors are always hard to stop and change." So, every day I can reject destructive habits and experience new life in Jesus! Amen! **Romans 12:2, "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."** Like the newsletter said to look at **Ephesians 6:18, "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 good and the bad.

The only way I was able to stop and change fully was to surrender fully to His will and drown in the Word and other religious material. Like the Good Lord says, we are new once we've been born again! I've got this little saying my Grandma sent me hanging on my wall. It says, "Dear past ... thank you for your lessons. Dear future ... I'm ready. Dear God ... thank You for another chance."

The Christian life is the life of Jesus in me, by the Holy Spirit. Christianity is not me striving to live like Jesus as a "thank You" for saving me, Christianity is Christ taking up residency in me by the Holy Spirit and living His resurrection life through me. A lot of people, myself included have misunderstood that. Now that I see the light and the truth, I can walk down that narrow path of righteousness.

It's hard at times, just like it is for everyone. It's our testing times, not how you handle the good times but the bad and hard ones. God never puts anything in front of us; we can't handle through "His" grace and "His" strength! I can't do it solo! Point blank, Period! Plus I've been doing things the hard way my whole life, so it comes easier now. I've been practicing this hard walk and testing with Jesus since birth. Amen! And all Glory to God.

We are so blessed to have a personal relationship with Jesus. I've been talking with Him through His Word lately and it's such a trip sometimes. I'm getting excited and carried away, but I just feel Him in me now. I'm glad He put it into people's hearts to have you guys in my life and all of the O&C family. So, thank you again for your loving and kind words. I'll be praying for everyone. Keep doing God's work!

You are Perfect in God's Sight
By C.L.

I pray this finds you mighty in the knowledge of your position in Christ. He is our righteousness, it is by His obedience alone God is just in proclaiming us perfect in His sight forever. **Romans 5:19** says, **"Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous."** **Hebrews 10:14** says, **"For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy."**

Since the Cross and even in the garden, satan's only weapon has been to deceive us into believing something stands between us and God. First, knowledge and then the law which is just the same, good or evil. Thinking about our sin is to have an evil conscience. God's Word says the very thought of evil is sin. That includes the one you may have just committed. Don't play into satan's hand by paying any mind to what you've done or will do in the flesh. Especially, don't try to remind God (Who has no knowledge of our sins) through confession. It only serves to link your relationship with Him to your obedience. That is legalism and error and does not honor Jesus' finished work.

Our sins are not remembered because that day at the Cross. God remembered everyone of them and punished every sin in the body of another. Not one sin was forgiven, ALL of them were punished and WE ARE FORGIVEN. God's only commandment is to believe in Him Whom He sent and love one another. The only sin left to be punished is unbelief, the same reason Israel couldn't enter in. Unbelief is disobedience. Literally, the same Greek word for both.

Strength and might to you in the Spirit of Grace.

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2 Chronicles 33:14-34:33

In Josiah's day, boys were considered men by age 12. By 16, Josiah understood the responsibility of his office. Even at this young age, he showed greater wisdom than many of the older kings who came before him because he had decided to seek the Lord God and His wisdom. Don't let your asking hinder you from serving God. (34:3)

It is human nature to treat sin lightly - to make excuses, blame somebody else, or minimize the harm done. Not so with Josiah. He was so appalled at the peoples neglect of the law that he tore his clothing to express his grief. True understanding of our grief should lead to sorrow to help us turn away from sin. (2 Corinthians 7:10) Are you always excusing your sin, blaming others, and pretending that it's not that bad? God does not take sin lightly, and He wants us to respond with true remorse as Josiah did. (34:19)

Romans 15:23-16:27

Too often we view prayer as a time for comfort, reflection, or making our requests known to God. But here Paul urges believers to join in his struggle by means of prayer. Prayer is also a weapon in all believer's armor as we intercede for others who join in the fight against satan. Do your prayers reflect that urgency? (15:30)

Paul's personal greetings went to Romans and Greeks, Jews and Gentiles, men and women, prisoners and prominent citizens. The church base was broad, crossing cultural, social, and economic lives. From this list, we learn that the Christian community was mobile. Though Paul had not yet been to Rome, he had met these people in other places on his journey. (16:5)

As Jerusalem was the center of Jewish life, Rome was the world's political, religious, social, and economic center. There the major governmental decisions were made, and from there the Good News spread to the ends of the earth. The church in Rome was a cosmopolitan mixture of Jews, Gentiles, slaves, free people, men, woman, Roman citizens, and world travelers. Therefore, it has potential for both great influence and great conflict. Paul had not yet been to Rome to meet all the Christians there, and of course, he has not yet met us. We, too, live in a cosmopolitan setting with the entire world open to us. We also have the potential for both widespread influence and wrenching conflict. Listen carefully to Paul's teaching about unity, service, and love so you may apply them. (16:25-27)

Psalms 26:1-12

Should we stay away from unbelievers? No, although there are some places Christians should avoid, Jesus demonstrated that we must go among unbelievers to help them. But there's a difference between being with unbelievers and being one of them. Trying to be one of them harms our witness for God. Ask yourself about the people you enjoy. If I am with them often, will I become less obedient to God in outlook or action? If the answer is yes, carefully monitor how you spend your time with these people and what effect it has on you. (26:4-5)

Proverbs 20:19

Hanging around with someone who is constantly gossiping, talking about other people all the time is not good for you. It is too easy for you to get sucked in to that type of behavior. We don't like it when people talk about us, so why be around people who do nothing but talk about other people? (20:19)



"Foot" Notes

Hey ya'll! Just want to share some thoughts on tithing. I started to tithe over 1 1/2 years ago as regularly as possible and with my state pay that's really not a lot to give. Well, I've had two situations in the last three months, where I could have used a little financial help with shoes or being able to take part in a fundraiser. Well, both of those times money showed up on my books from people who really had no clue as to a particular need or want. It was a total surprise and blessing on my part. I can only say this, before I began tithing this type of stuff never happened and I'm spending about 20 years of time here.

So, I'm a total believer in tithing and trusting in God to send help when you need it. I believe that it's not the size of the tithe, but the obedience of the tithe that shows our trust and commitment to God. Believe me I know the value of even a couple dollars in here, but ya' just gotta make it happen cap'n. Love to ya'll short and tall. Vaya on Dios!!! Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

Thanksgiving Scriptures Word Search

Find the **BOLD CAPITALIZED** words

A	E	F	R	H	P	H	I	M	L	G	H	O	N	O	R	M	F	L	E	T	C	H
K	N	A	H	T	I	R	J	F	V	O	I	C	E	S	K	N	L	O	V	E	Y	M
B	H	T	T	O	E	E	A	A	P	S	X	T	V	A	B	Z	V	R	R	M	Q	U
F	C	H	W	T	L	J	U	I	C	S	W	H	I	D	Y	W	T	D	N	P	U	S
G	R	E	A	T	P	O	R	T	S	A	I	I	G	E	A	Z	O	S	X	L	W	I
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G	N	D	D	S	R	F	C	J	M	O	S	L	A	B	M	Y	C	L	I	A	A	D
J	E	O	Z	D	O	F	A	I	T	H	F	U	L	E	G	Y	L	H	C	I	R	A
L	G	P	V	A	F	B	G	N	I	V	I	G	S	K	N	A	H	T	H	D	G	P

"The **TRUMPETERS** and singers performed together in unison to praise and give thanks to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, **CYMBALS**, and other instruments, they raised their **VOICES** and **PRAISED** the Lord with these words: "He is good! His **FAITHFUL** love endures **FOREVER!**" At that moment a thick cloud filled the **TEMPLE** of the Lord." - **2 Chronicles 5:13**

"All of this is for your benefit. And as God's **GRACE** reaches more and more people, there will be great **THANKSGIVING**, and God will receive more and more **GLORY.**" - **2 Corinthians 4:15**

"From them will come **SONGS** of thanksgiving and the **SOUND** of **REJOICING**. I will add to their numbers, and they will not be decreased; I will bring them **HONOR**, and they will not be disdained." - **Jeremiah 30:19**

"You will be enriched in every **WAY** so that you can be **GENEROUS** on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to **GOD.**" - **2 Corinthians 9:11**

"I will give thanks to you, **LORD**, with all my **HEART**; I will tell of all your wonderful **DEEDS.**" - **Psalms 9:1**

"Let the message of Christ **DWELL** among you **RICHLY** as you **TEACH** and admonish one another with all **WISDOM** through **PSALMS, HYMNS**, and songs from the **SPIRIT**, singing to God with **GRATITUDE** in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the **FATHER** through him." - **Colossians 3:16-17**

"Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing **LOVE** and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he **SATISFIES** the **THIRSTY** and fills the **HUNGRY** with **GOOD** things." - **Psalms 107:8-9**

"Let us come before **HIM** with thanksgiving and **EXTOL** him with **MUSIC** and song. For the Lord is the **GREAT** God, the great **KING** above all gods." - **Psalms 95:2-3**

"I always **THANK** my God for you because of his grace **GIVEN** you in **CHRIST** Jesus. For in him you have been **ENRICHED** in every way with all kinds of speech and with all **KNOWLEDGE.**" - **1 Corinthians 4-5**

"For this **REASON**, ever since I heard about your **FAITH** in the Lord **JESUS** and your love for all God's **PEOPLE**, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my **PRAYERS.**" - **Ephesians 1:15-16**

"For everything God **CREATED** is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving, because it is **CONSECRATED** by the **WORD** of God and prayer." - **1 Timothy 4:4-5**

Overcomers Testimonies

Hello and God bless. I want to thank you for the nice card that you sent me, and I will hold onto hope with all my heart. I also want to thank you for the message that you wrote within the card. For some reason when you brothers and sisters write me within a card I feel as if you consider me as family and friend all at the same time, and that you actually care about me, and I haven't felt that way for a very long time. I feel in my heart that I am a part of a wonderful people who want me to be a better person, and that no matter my past acts; I am not judged by them. I don't know why I feel this way, but with all of my heart I don't want to disappoint you brothers and sisters or fail you all either.

Now with that in mind, upon my release I am wondering how would I go about becoming a member of the church as a whole? What are the requirements, etc.? Do you understand what I mean or am asking? Because I want the joy and happiness that you all, as a whole, have within your lives and hearts. All my life I have always, basically in a sense been unhappy unless I was either doing crimes in order to get money or drugs. I always found myself in the same place, jail or prison. Now I want to change all that. In my heart, I know that in order to change I need help and a different way of living. Alone or by my choices I can't reach where I want to be, so I need help and my heart is telling me that Overcomers for Christ may be my salvation.

I would appreciate whatever you, as a whole can do for me within this request. I am willing to also do whatever I need to do in order to reach my becoming anew. When I am released from prison I don't have anywhere to go other than back to the streets and crime, and I don't want that. So, I pray that you all may be able to help me in that area if possible. Please let me know after this is brought to the church as a whole, and it is thought about. Really, I have time before my release because my release ain't until sometime in 2020 or 2021.

Please send my request for prayers to the brothers and sisters of the Overcomers for Christ family. - **J.M.**

What Others Are Saying...

"I want to thank you for the wonderful newsletters you send. They are inspiring and give me hope in a place like this. When I read other stories I realize I'm not alone. I was a lost person who was in a depression and I am slowly coming out. Your newsletters help me become closer to God." - **A.A.**

"Brothers and sisters in the O+C family, I've been in going on 5 years now and God's grace has brought me safe this far. I pray this message finds you all in good health and in the highest of spirits. I myself am very grateful to have come across your newsletter in this facility. I love them! WOW!! What God is doing with His message through you is a huge blessing. Thank you for allowing Him to use you to touch my heart and soul with His Word." - **R.V.**

"Thank you for all the birthday well wishes. It really makes a difference to know someone out there cares. Even though we've never met I feel like a part of the 'Family'. Overcomers for Christ has always treated me with love and respect even though society looks at me with loathsome eyes." - **R.W.**

"Hello O+C, Just writing to thank you all for the great Birthday greeting I received on your card. It was very heartwarming and special for me and getting your newsletters is a wonderful gift each month that I so look forward to! There are not enough words to describe my hearts joy when I am handed this mail or come back to my cell to find it waiting for me - as for the inspiration it imparts is likened unto fellowship to me. Please continue your mighty works because God is blessing all those receiving and reading the O+C newsletters! For all we do, do ALL for the glory of the One who made us!" - **C.B.**

"Hello O+C ... Off the top I would like to thank all of the O+C family for the birthday card I received. You all are the only ones who really thought about me. I turned 35 years old, though I feel like I'm 45 years old. I'm guessing I feel that old because I've been lying on these hard bunks all these years. I'm so ready for change! While God is working on the inside of my life I decided to work a little on the outside, and I cut all of my hair off. I have also taken Mr. Cash's advice and things have gotten better for me. Tell him I thank him for the positive input and writing back to me" - **E.B.**

"Dear Overcomers for Christ, first off, I would like to thank you all for everything you all do. I receive your monthly newsletter and I really enjoy reading all the stories and poems. I also like the art and the photos on the front page. I also write poems and draw but right now, I can't find the motivation. I like the photos because it lets me know there are still people out there being happy. All in all, thanks." - **A.O.**

Angels Watch Over Us By Anthony Dobbins

This is a drawing by our 9 year old grandson.

"See, I am sending an angel before you to protect you on your journey and lead you safely to the place I have prepared for you." – Exodus 23:20



"For He will order His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone." – Psalm 91:11-12

Quote Worthy

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings."

- William Arthur Ward - (1921-1994)- one of America's most quoted writers of inspirational maxims.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

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

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray 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. 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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Stranger
By Floyd Parker

Philippians 4:13 - "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."

I look at this man
He looks familiar to me
He recognizes me too
That's obvious to see

It seems like forever
We continue to stare
I know that I know
This man from somewhere

The longer I sit here
Racking my brain
I realize that this man
Must think I'm insane

So I try to go about
What I was doing before
But I can't help but to look back
In that mirror once more.

"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" - 2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT

A coin never changes in value, but the One holding the coin determines what it is worth.

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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