

Overcomers for Christ

March 2019



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

April 2018



The Beginning of a Great Journey - Part 1

By Vern Deadmond

I was raised in a Christian home, and my dad was zealous for God. He would share Jesus with whoever he had the opportunity to. He would always tell people after they received Jesus, to serve God with all of their heart, otherwise Christianity is no fun at all. This has always stuck with me from the first time I heard him say it, and that was about 30 years ago. You will be like the knot in a rope used in a tug-of-war game, pulled in different directions. It is no fun at all, so if you are going to continue your life living in the world and not commit all to Jesus, you will miss out on the joy and peace that is produced from an intimate personal relationship with God. You should not even participate in the tug-of-war, disconnect yourself from the rope or else you will end up in the mud pit, face down. There is an awesome life for us now, but only if you commit your heart to serving God completely.

“...whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.” (John 3:15-17)

Eternal life is not just going to Heaven when we die and leave this earth, it is for this present time and life. Jesus gives us the definition of eternal life in **John 17:3**, ***“And this is life eternal, that you might know God, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.”*** We have the opportunity to know God now if we choose to act on this opportunity. When I finally understood what eternal life is, I told God I wanted to know Him. I embarked on studying the Word of God to know Him, and what I discovered was that it will take more than this life time to know Him. As you begin to know God, you discover His great and precious promises, and those promises are limitless. But it requires diligence on your part to seek after God with your whole heart.

One day I started to read the book of **2 Peter**. As I read **2 Peter 1:2**, the Word of God came alive in me. God spoke to me and told me this was how Moses lived to be 120 years old, Moses had spent the last 40 years of his life getting to know God. ***“Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as His divine power has given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that has called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge...” (2 Peter 1:2-5)***

As I meditated and thought on these scriptures, I heard God say to me, “If you really want to know Me, study Moses and learn from this example given to us.” I learned Moses lived God’s eternal life here on earth. In **Deuteronomy 33:7**, the writer tells us that ***“Moses was 120 years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated.”*** And in **Deuteronomy 33:10** it says, ***“And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face...”*** Moses was not a perfect person, as we know he was the first to break the all of the Ten Commandments in one single moment. Think about that for a minute, and then continue to read on once you figure it out... Here is a hint for those reading this that haven’t figured this out: **Exodus 32:19...*“and Moses anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and broke them beneath the mount.”***

There is only one perfect and that is Jesus, but as we see Moses lived an eternal life while he was living here. As I reflected on Moses, God spoke to me and revealed this is the same eternal life He wants for us all. We can live to 120 years, with perfect eye sight, and be as healthy and strong when we were 20 years old. Are you willing to sacrifice what you believe to be important in this world, and commit to knowing God and Jesus, develop an intimate relationship with the Father? The rewards far exceed anything this world can offer. One of these rewards is divine health, a great and precious promise from our Father. Can you believe and have faith that God wants you well, not sick or ill? I have believed this for many years, and I strive for health in my life every day. Just this past week, I had the opportunity to receive a cold into my body, my wife has been suffering from a terrible cold. I have stood on the Word all week long, refusing to receive any sickness or disease. It wasn’t until after 6 days or so, I began to feel symptoms of a cold. I confessed the Word of God regarding healing and health over myself, and I rebuked any and all cold virus’s in my body, I commanded the cold bacteria to die in Jesus’s name. About an hour later, I realized the cold symptoms were no longer present, and it is now the next morning and I feel perfectly fine and healthy in my body. I thank and praise God for His promises being true. This promise of health is available to all of us, you just have to believe it, and ask God to manifest this promise in your life.

In Peter’s writing, he is emphasizing the importance to know God. His grace and peace are multiplied in our lives as we grow in knowledge of Him and He has given to us all things through the knowledge of Him. It was through knowing and fellowshiping with God that Moses lived in divine health, had perfect eye sight, and was able to climb mountains being 120 years old. But as you see in **verse 5 of 2 Peter 1**, we are to ***“give all diligence”*** to our Christian walk. The responsibility falls onto us to either truly know God or choose to not really know God. The churches are full of people who have

never given any diligence to knowing God. Many of these people become very frustrated in their life because they never see God operate in their lives, they beg and plead in their misery, waiting for God to do something in their life. Eventually they allow the frustration to overtake their lives, they quit going to church and may even give up on God, blaming God for their problems. If they would begin to apply some diligence, take responsibility and begin to know God, and to stick with it; it would be the beginning of a great and awesome journey. This journey is progressive, a journey that will continue through this life and into Heaven.

As I read the Bible and studied the scriptures relating to Moses, I started in the **Book of Exodus**. I realized we are very much the same and similar to Moses and the Israelites, so this study of Moses encompasses the Israelites also. If we submit ourselves to what God reveals to us in the scriptures, we can learn from the mistakes of the Israelites and not circle around the same mountain for 40 years, going nowhere. Let's begin following the Israelites in their journey as they leave Egypt and proceed towards the promised land. As I said, we (Christians) are virtually the same as the Israelites. Whether we want to admit it or not, you and I have made the same stupid mistakes as they did. The similarities or parallelism between the nation of Israel and God's Church are revealed in the scriptures. We are people just like the Israelites were people, and our inadequacies and faults are no different than theirs, but we can learn from their mistakes, if we will submit to God's Word and believe it. **"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope."** (Romans 15:4)

The Israelites were in bondage to Egypt, where Egypt is a type of the world, we Christians were in bondage to the world before we received our salvation. The Israelites left behind the enslavement to the Egyptians as free men with the riches and treasures of the Egyptian kingdom. When we receive salvation, we are no longer in bondage to sin and we have access to the riches of the Kingdom of God for we are now children of God. **"Wherefore thou are no more a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."** (Galatians 4:7)

I'd like to draw your attention to when the Israelites crossed through the Red Sea, this was an incredible demonstration of God's awesome miraculous power to deliver His people. It is representative of the greatest miracle known as salvation, the Holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ, we are now members of His Church. I am speaking of the baptism into Jesus Christ, not water baptism. Water baptism is a demonstration of our confession that we are now born again, we believe God and His Son. It represents our spirit being made alive, the birth of our spirit, Jesus immerses us into His body (the Church). Man's sin, our sin nature has been washed away, just as the Red Sea closed over the army of the Pharaoh and washed it away - we are standing on the other side now, the power of sin over our lives is dead. **"Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore."** (Exodus 14:30)

We don't have to concern ourselves now with that old sin nature for it is dead in us, just as the Israelites did not have to fear Pharaoh and his army any longer. Imagine the magnitude of the miracle that occurred at the Red Sea, how much greater is the miracle that occurs inside of us. Our spirit has been made alive, raised from the dead along with Christ Jesus. **"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."** (1 Corinthians 12:13) **"Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace you are saved; and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."** (Ephesians 2:5-6)

The Holy Spirit can now take up residence inside of us, for we are the tabernacle of God. Growing up as a child, I remember being told that it's Jesus living inside of me. Once you have a thorough understanding of the scriptures, you will understand that it is the Holy Spirit that is living inside of us, not Jesus. Jesus is seated at the right hand of God, Jesus has a physical body, and this physical body can only be in one place at one time. That is why Jesus told His disciples it is expedient for Him to go away so the Holy Spirit could come. The Holy Spirit is not confined to one single physical body, He is residing in every born-again believer's body. **"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."** (Acts 2:38) **"Know you not that you are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?"** (1 Corinthians 3:16)

To be truly saved there are but two requirements: we must repent, that is change our mind, change the way we think AND we must believe. It starts in your mind, not with your outward appearance. You make the decision to change your mind and how you think. It's not good deeds, good works, or living sin free that saves us. In our mind, we need to make an adjustment in our thinking and attitude. This will in turn make the outward change that becomes the light unto the world. The second part of our salvation is you must believe Jesus, believe He died for all your sins (past, present, and future), and He is raised from the grave. **"The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent and believe the gospel."** (Mark 1:15)

Permit me to jump ahead in our journey with the Israelites forty years to the end of their journey, but which is also another

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THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

Prayer Requests

I want to ask you all if you could get in agreement with me in prayer. I haven't heard from my family since I've been here. I know the enemy is not happy that I have rededicated my life to Christ and he's putting up a fight. Can you pray for my sisters, Grace, Adriana, Dora and my sons, Angel, Ulises, Alexandra and Anna Lesse. Pray that I hear from them soon because I know the enemy's tricks. But together, in love and prayer, I also know that our little problems are NOT bigger than our God ... **U.S.**

Please keep me in your prayers and keep my family in your prayers. My mom came to see me and she is 82 years old. Please pray that her health and my family's health stay great, so I can get out and be with them again. I have been praying with thanks and with faith. I thank Jesus for my family's continued good health. With thanksgiving, that's how we work our faith ... **R.L.**

Now at the home front, I can use some prayer. My sister who is only 46 just had a brain attack. She couldn't walk or talk well. The other morning, she was rushed to the hospital and found her brain was bleeding. They stopped that but found out she had an aneurysm. She had surgery, I'm told that doctors say she'll be okay and got to the hospital on time. Plus, we know the Main Doctor (God) of all has His hands on her. She's been saved, she's just been on the wrong path a minute now and on top of that she wasn't taking her blood pressure medication. She tends to get depressed a lot and self-medicate to block all feelings. My nephew has been locked up like nine years of a 22 year sentence. Since he was 16, she ain't been allowed to visit all them years. I ain't seen him since he was five years old. My uncle was in the hospital for issues with drugs. The hospital gave him something to come down and ended up being too much, he was in a coma for three days. My mom is the rock of the family, she's very tired and stressed, please pray for her. I just talked to my sister, my uncle, and my mom at the hospital with family. My sister was a little down and crying, she's a little shook up being she could die if the aneurysm burst. She'll be good, God is good. Amen!! I pray your health is good, as well, for your loved ones ... **E.G.**

Please pray for complete healing and deliverance in my entire body. Also, for protection for my life and that the Lord will stop the host of witchcraft, enemies from spreading shameful lies on me. Taking my pictures when they see me all through my living room and bedroom windows to destroy me. Please pray for me that the Lord will destroy all of the pictures that the enemies took and takes from me now. Please pray for my grandsons and for their protection from abuse and that the Lord will return them back home to me. They were taken away from me by lies, injustice, and deceit. Please pray for my grandsons, for their protection because they are in jail, please pray for their salvation ... **I.A.**

Praise Reports

I only get 5 envelopes a month. My ex-wife helped me out a bit. I did get a fan, some shoes, shorts and an alarm clock but now we've stopped talking again. I have been filing legal paperwork and I have filed an appeal on my case. As you already know I've put everything in my Father's hands. This one thing I know regardless, I'm on my way to heaven shouting victory! I might be locked up now but my spirit is free! The Living Water Project sent me a new study Bible and I use it every day. I'm also faithful to the Daily Bread and I read the whole Bible last year. I've NEVER felt so close to my Lord and Savior. It's amazing how God NEVER gives up on us and even in that, He has NO second class sheep. I've finally figured out that the opposite of obedience is disobedience and God will use ordinary people like us. Hum! ... **C.P.**

I wanted to send you all this praise report. As of last Saturday, I received notice from my college that I am now a seminary graduate! My BA in Biblical studies took 2.5 years for the paid portion of my schooling. Anyone who has a chunk of time ahead of them and some financial support can do this too. I just want to thank God for allowing me to qualify for this blessing. I don't have grand plans really - like I don't necessarily need to be a pastor of a church or whatever, but I am surrendered to whatever God wants to do with me. I figure that is the safest place to be. Deep down I'd love to be able to officiate weddings or funerals, especially for other ex felons who might have problems being accepted in the "church", at least getting ordained would assure them that someone is on their side. Like a gift of mercy. Oh, and my youngest son who is 19, his girlfriend is expecting. So, I'll be a grandpa again, and they found out it is going to be a boy and she is due in March. My other grandchild is a girl, Aubri, she is 5 today. I'm hoping they all are healthy. My son is saved, not sure about the girlfriend ...

B.M.

May the blessings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ be upon the team of *Overcomers for Christ* ministries. May God above shower down blessings on you all, may we decrease, so God can increase in our lives, Amen. God is awesome, let us praise His name. I'm very thankful for the newsletters, they are very encouraging in our times of need here in prison. We have a strong movement of the Lord, He is moving mightily in the inmates, as well as, the staff and the guards. It was God's appointed time for me here. I'm in leadership classes, as well as, studying the Bible I feel different I know God's working in my life, I can see His hands moving in my life. Thanks and praise be to God above, Amen ... **U.S.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God Notices the Work that is Done by His Servants

By W.R.

It was good to hear from you and I pray that when this reaches you that it finds you with the peace of our Lord Jesus resting upon your heart and household. I can understand where you are coming from in regards to God using your confinement for ten years to bring you to the Cross. I tell people all the time that thank God that I came to prison when I did, for if I would have stayed on the streets, I know I'd be dead now and in hell for all eternity, with no hope of salvation.

I've been in prison now since January 1971 (47 years) straight, and I'm going to die in here, and that is just the reality of my situation. But when I compare eternity with whatever amount of time that I may spend in prison, 47 years or even 100 years, it ain't nothing compared to eternity in hell! If Jesus was to walk through hell today and tell everyone that He was going to give them a second chance, under the condition that when they returned to earth they would have to spend the rest of their lives in prison, hell would be empty come morning.

I hope that you will be able to reach people and bring them to the Cross! All we can do is plant and water the seeds, for only God can make them grow. You said your life and your ministry are very humble, but in God's eyes it is pleasing to Him and if you just bring one soul into His Kingdom, that one soul is more precious, more valuable than all the treasures and riches of this world.

When I see guys like you, like me coming to the Cross and serving God it encourages me and it humbles me, knowing that God would use thieves, drug addicts, prostitutes, and killers, out of all the people in the world. To serve Him and to bring others into His Kingdom boggles my mind and it does, as I said humble me.

In the world's eyes we may not be of much value, we may never be on TV or have a large ministry and we will probably go through life unnoticed and unrewarded, and that's OK. But there will come a time when we will stand before God and then and only then will we fully understand our true worth and how our prayers, our ministering to others helped to change the lives of those whose lives we touched in our walk here on this earth.

We may not live long enough to see the fruit of our labor and that's ok too. But we will see it in heaven. It has not gone unnoticed by God! May God continue to bless and watch over you. Please keep me and my family in your prayers.

Leave the Past in the Past

By C.S.

After I had truly accepted the Father's forgiveness, He began to show me the importance of forgiving myself, so that my past would stay in my past, so I could move forward and be unburdened of guilt, shame, regret, remorse and embarrassment that I have been carrying for so long. What saddens me is that for 8 years my journey has been a lonely one. Nobody in my family, even my children all have abandoned me. They turned their backs on me and looked the other way. When they locked me up, I was out of sight, out of mind.

Even when my mother passed away last year, they couldn't even show me a little compassion to write me, my counselor had to tell me, that was in November 2017. There is nothing worse than dealing with the death of a loved one alone. For the most part, I was feeling worthless because my family despises me, and thinks I am not capable of change. I feel that when we hold un-forgiveness towards someone, it causes a root of bitterness in us, a stronghold for the enemy.

A "seed" of un-forgiveness planted in a "ground of hurt" gives us a "harvest of pain". Throughout the Bible, time after time we find God using some of the most unlikely people to accomplish His will to advance His kingdom; some were murderers, adulterers, even thieves. Regardless of what my family thinks, God has changed me so miraculously inside and out. His work in me is relentless. Why have I chosen to be this embarrassingly direct and transparent with you? Because the Lord wants me to use my example, my story and my testimony to bring others to Him. To confess one's faults is not an easy thing to do, in fact it is one of the hardest lessons to learn. It requires the grace of humility as well as that of sorrow and true repentance.

Thank God, I have a God who hasn't given up on me! May God Bless all of you who are truly Kingdom Builders.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Things that Bring Us Together

By A.R.

God Bless! I pray this letter finds everyone in good health and spirits. Special thanks for sending me such heart felt words. Yes, you are right, it truly brought us all together that day on 9/11. After that happened it was beautiful to see how we all can really unite as people in a time when we were really angry. There were flags everywhere, on windows, cars, on t-shirts, and even crime went down to almost nothing for quite some time. I haven't been to the 9/11 Memorial yet but when I do see it, I know I will cry hard.

I don't hold it against myself that my mom passed while in jail, but it does hurt that I didn't get to say good-bye. You're right, I will see her again in heaven, and hopefully this won't happen anytime soon. I still run a Bible Study here and it's getting bigger and bigger. I have a passion to make known the Good News about Christ. I am devoted with tireless service, fired by a spirit that loves the Lord supremely. My purpose is to obey the message of the Bible, the Gospel and by repenting and believing on the Lord, embracing all who are lost.

We are taking the initiative to make this facility a better place through Christ. Our impelling desire is to help these inmates spiritually so that they might be further established in the faith and grow through the ministry of the Word. Thank you and Praise God for your support and love. God bless the family of Overcomers for Christ.

Getting Encouragement from Each Other

By L.M.

I pray this letter finds everyone at Overcomers for Christ and their families blessed! Also, I want to say that I have been receiving your newsletters for years and I am always blessed and inspired, seriously. I do read everything from cover to cover. When I received the April 2018 newsletter, on page 5, paragraph 6 from A.H, I felt a nudge in my spirit to pray for A.H's prayer request.

God is awesome! I also want to add that Overcomers for Christ has really gotten me through some difficult times in my many, many, many years of incarceration (i.e. your newsletters). For example, the article written by Amanda Wolfe - contributed by Cheryl Smith *Why Aren't My prayers Being Answered?* Wow and wow! I could literally write ten pages front and back on how that article touched my heart, my soul, my spirit and way, way, way deep in my being, seriously!

I went through some changes on March 8, 2018 and ended up in SDV for approximately 40 days with absolutely nothing! And, I mean nothing, just the clothes on my back - watching the "Wall - Tons". Then I got maxed out ... then I got mail, and yes, it was from you at Overcomers for Christ. That article spoke volumes to me and just real quick, you would think I personally discovered fire and the wheel on the same day.

Amanda wrote, "People are instead praying **FOR** answers, rather than praying **THE** answers, and it's praying **THE** answers that brings those promises to fruition through our prayers." Then at the very end of the article Amanda wrote, "God has called us not to pray **FOR** answers, but rather to pray **THE** answer He has 'already' given 'us' in His Word." Amen and Amen!

Obstacles versus Christ

By H.M.

The "but" wall ... **Jeremiah 12:5, "If racing against mere men makes you tired, how will you race against horses? If you stumble and fall on open ground, what will you do in the thickets near the Jordan?"**

The "why" wall ... **Ephesians 6:12, "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."**

The "how" ladder ... **Philippians 4:13, "For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength."**

The reason ... There's more grace in God than there's sin in you!

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

Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14

By describing these circumstances that aren't fair or don't make sense, Solomon is saying that wealth alone can't bring justice. Solomon continues to build to his conclusions that everything we have (from wisdom to rides) is nothing without God. But when God uses what little we have, it becomes all we could ever want or need. (10:5-7)

No matter what the mysteries and apparent contradictions of life are, we must work toward the single purpose of knowing God. (12:13-14)

2 Corinthians 7:8-8:15

Sorrow for our sins can result in changed behavior. Many people are sorry only for the effects of their sins, for being caught ... sorrow without repentance. (7:10)

During his third missionary journey, Paul has collected money for the impoverished believers in Jerusalem. The churches in Macedonia, Philippi, Thessalonica, and Berea, had given money even though they were poor, and they had sacrificially given more than Paul expected. Although they were poor themselves, they wanted to help. The amount we give is not as important as why and how we give. God does not want us to give grudgingly. Instead, He wants us to give as these churches did - out of dedication to Christ, love for fellow believers, the joy of helping those in need. As well as, the fact that it was simply the good and right thing to do. How well does your giving measure up to the standards set by the Macedonian churches? (8:2-5)

Psalms 48:1-49:20

In times of great joy or after God has brought us through some great trial, we ought to inspect our defenses to make sure that the foundations - faith in God, knowledge of His Word, and fellowship and prayers of the body of believers - remain strong (Ephesians 2:20-22) then we should praise God for His protection. (48:12-13)

There is no way for a person to buy eternal life with God. God alone can redeem a soul. Don't count on wealth and physical comforts to keep you happy because you will never have enough wealth to keep from dying. (49:7-8, 15)

Proverbs 22:17-21

"Incline your ear" these introductory words call the reader to pay attention and to prepare to learn about and worship God. The advice emphasizes strongly that a person's trust must be in the Lord. (22:17-19)

These verses simply state that thirty sayings are filled with advice and knowledge, so that we may know the truth and be able to tell others. (22:20-21)



"Foot" Notes

Hey brothers and sisters, this is your contributor not so much at large. Ha! Of course I've got some thoughts to share with ya'll. So how many of us, many times in our lives, have got our you know whats (butts) into situations where the first thing we do is get mad at God? Yep, me too. This usually is the product of decisions we've made without God. Of course we end up paying for it every time. (Talk about a waked learning curve. Ha!) We all have gotten caught up in our own, you know what, and tend to no longer trust in God. Well friends, we need to continue to trust in God because He will see us through it. All too often we forget that God knows where our breaking point is, so why do we start freaking out before we actually get to that point? Answer ... Because we're not trusting completely in God.

Psalm 34:19 tells us, **"Many are the afflictions of the righteous, But the LORD delivers him out of THEM ALL."** When we need God's help, God helps us. God is always ready to help. As long as we're right with God we'll be at peace no matter what we're facing. Remember **2 Corinthians 12:10**, **"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong."**

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

beginning. They are about to cross over the Jordan River and enter the promised land. There are still battles to fight, the inhabitants of the land need to be evicted, so let's pick up where we find the Israelites on the east side of the Jordan River, about to enter the promised land. For forty years, the Israelites wandered in the wilderness outside of the promised land, and it was all because of their unbelief. It is the same for us, we will be unable to walk in victory, enter into His peace and rest, in all that God has promised and given us for as long as we doubt and refuse to believe Him. ***"For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; while it is said, today if you will hear His voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation. For some, when they had heard, did provoke; howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses. But with whom was he grieved forty years? Was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness? And to whom swore he that they should not enter into His rest, but to them that believed not? So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."*** (Hebrews 3:14-19)

From these scriptures we can determine that there are still battles that we need to fight to obtain everything God promises to us, we have to fight for our inheritance, refuse to not believe. The battles we fight are dealt with in our heart, between our soul and spirit. It is about what we believe in our heart, that determines our success. We can do it from a position of rest and peace, knowing that God goes before us and fights the battle for us. ***"...Be strong and of a good courage: for you must go unto the land which the Lord has sworn unto your fathers to give you; and you will inherit it. And the Lord, He goes before you; He will be with you; He will not fail you, neither forsake you: fear not, neither be discouraged."*** (Deuteronomy 31:7-8)

Unbelief caused an entire generation to not be able to enter into the promise land, the same can be said for Christians. If we choose to not believe God, His promises and our inheritance never come to fruition in our lives. Besides those that could not enter into the promised land due to their unbelief, there were some after forty years that chose not to enter into the promised land. We find their story in **Numbers Chapter 32**. The tribes of Gad, Rueben, and half of the tribe of Manasseh asked Moses if they could remain on the east side of the Jordan River. They took their eyes off of the promised land, and opted to not push forward. God permitted them to live outside of the promised land, but they still had to help and fight the battles with the rest of the tribes of Israel as they fought to conquer the promised land. Again, this is representative of God's Church, there are born again Christians that make the choice to not enter into God's promises for their lives, they live outside of everything God has given us, our inheritance. But the sad fact is, these Christians still have to fight the same battles as those Christians that push forward and enter into God's promises. The differences being they do it from a position of no rest, no peace. They end up trying to fight their battles in their own strength, and the end result being they don't reap the benefits of God's promises, others reap those benefits from their struggles and battles. I don't know about you, but why would you not want to fight from a position of rest and peace, and then enjoy all of what God has to offer you?

What Others Are Saying...

"To **Overcomers for Christ**, I am writing you this letter to say thank you for your magazine. I just got it today, I would like to say thank you, I like it a lot ... prayer requests and newsletter. I see I am not the only one whose doing a lot of time. I am 61 years old, I am doing 38 years to life, I don't think I will make it out this time because of my age. I have been doing time all my life ... I put myself in this place. I have God in my heart every day, I made peace with my God and ask God to watch over me." - **R.D.**

"I pray all is well with the family of **Overcomers for Christ**. I want to say thank you for the card and words of encouragement. The newsletters mean so much to me. A lot of people here read them, if they want to, and then they give them back to me. I'm going to send some home so my children can keep them and read them also. It's nice to know that people out there in the real world still care about people on the inside of prison. God will take care of me and my family." - **S.T.**

"I want to thank you for taking the time to send me a Christmas card. Yes, it really put a big smile on my face. I just wanted to write you and let you know how nice it was to receive your Christmas card. I got it up on my wall, so I can see it." - **R.L.**

"I just wanted to send you a thank you note. I was one of the guys in chapel when you stopped by. Not one of the band guys, but I hangout in there while they practice. But anyway, I want to say thank you for talking, praying and sharing God's Word with us. I really enjoyed it." - **M.N.**

"Thank you for your birthday blessings. God is good and your words really made my day. Please keep me in your hearts, thoughts and prayers." - **J.H.**

Answers for February 2019 - Bible Trivia

1.c 2.d 3.d 4.d 5.a 6.c 7.a 8.a 9.b

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cpfx@gmail.com

Overcomer's Testimonies

Hello everyone. I'd like to share my testimony with all of you. **"And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."** (Revelation 12:11) I'm praying that my story can be heard throughout the world. God has moved mountains in my life, broken down walls, and destroyed the obstacles that had been in my way.

On November 6, 2015, I was released from prison on parole. I was paroling to a Christian based substance abuse treatment center. BUT my only goal was to find my old drug buddies, and continue down that dark destructive path.

I went to the program, but came up with excuses to leave so I could get away long enough to get high and run the streets. For three days I had run the streets when things started to look bad for me physically. I had gotten a blister on my foot that got infected, and I couldn't walk on it. My foot began to swell up and change colors. I had job duties to do at my halfway house I couldn't do because of my foot. I decided to get it checked out. The doctor told me to keep an eye on it and if my vein began to turn black I needed to come back. The very next morning I was high out of my mind on pain meds and I needed to go right back to the hospital because I seen the black line. I ended up with Mersa in my left foot and it was spreading fast.

I spent three weeks in the hospital, and my whole time there I was fighting for my life because of my kidneys. They couldn't hang with the antibiotics that they were giving me. That's when they switched the meds. The hospital chaplains would stop in to see me, but I would tell him to leave, they weren't wanted. I really just wanted to die. I was depressed, lost laying in a hospital bed, couldn't walk, couldn't eat and looking at porn on the internet. Still getting high, I had my Meth pipe with me where I'd break a piece of dope out of it and shoot it up or smoke it in the bathroom. I just didn't care whether I lived or died.

One day I was on Facebook and met an old drug buddy. We'll call him John Dough, who I lived with before I went to prison. We made arrangements to connect once I was out of the hospital. I was discharged and went and lived with my friend and his roommates, we'll call them Bonnie and Clyde. So it was me, John, Bonnie and Clyde all living in a small studio apartment. All we did was get high and watch porn, steal bikes, clothes and things from all over to pay for our drugs. It got pretty bad and that led me down even darker paths.

I became a complete monster. I was stealing from them, stores, colleges, people's backyards and dope dealers. I basically lived at book stores, sold drugs and shot up all kinds of drugs. I just gave up caring about anyone or anything. If it paid for my drugs, I got it or found ways to get it.

On March 23, 2016, I believe was a sign from God, because usually I was carrying bolt cutters to break chains, locks and stuff to steal and break into things. That day I told my friend that I wouldn't be back. I had Meth on me but that was it ... and I was arrested.

In jail, I accepted Christ 'part time'. I thought that I would get out when I went to court. I went to court but things didn't go the way I had planned it. Back in my cell, cursing God and throwing a temper tantrum, I threw my Bible across the cell and it opened to **James 1:2-3, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience."** I read on through the whole Book of James and I lost complete control of my body. The Holy Spirit filled me to an overwhelming feeling of conviction. I was burning hot all over, ears on fire, and tears just pouring out of my eyes. At that point I felt God stronger than I'd ever felt anyone physically.

That night I received a vision from God about Judgment Day. I met Gabriel the Arc Angel who took me some place safe. He said to me, "You are chosen by God." Then I seen a black sky, burning buildings and people's faces I recognized walking down the path of death. I was watching for my family but seen not one. Then Gabriel said, "They lost their faith so they're not coming." I woke up shaking and it felt like I was getting shot with arrows in my wings, and it felt like Gabriel was taking them out. I was there, I believe it!

I ended up getting out through a promise to God, He made the way for me to get out. I realized I had let Him down again. This time He had allowed me to see death and look it in the face. I seen some scary things that I could only try to explain in person. But that scared me straight!

On September 6, 2017, I was back in prison sitting in maximum custody when I picked up my Bible again. Sadly, still only part time. I was still getting high, but trying to serve two masters. By October, I was moved to the unit where I am today. When I got to this unit I still smoked, abused pills, and tattooing. After all God showed me I still wasn't giving Him my all. Finally, two months ago I completely surrendered my life to Christ. I now carry my cross. After that, God took smoking from me. I don't get high anymore and I was healed of the Hepatitis C, by God NOT meds. God took it out of my body and I am super healthy. I have no desires to get high, I'm no longer a porn addict! I've been completely transformed by God!

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
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I've finally made Jesus Christ the very center of my life, and without Him, I'd be nothing. I'd still be lost, wandering around in the dark valleys of destruction. But instead, the Holy Spirit led me to the Light and I've begun to lay down a solid foundation with Christ being my Rock. I don't worry about anything. I've placed my whole life in His hands. I will tell you all, life is so much better without all of the negativity in it.

God has protected me all along because He had an assignment for me. He wasn't going to give up on me as I was being prepared to do what He had planned for me all along. I'm ready to fight the good fight and witness to the world that God is real, Jesus Christ is real AND all the promises in the Bible are real. God talks to us and when we don't listen He'll keep telling us over and over again to do it. God is AWESOME and He's ready to do the same thing for every one of you reading this. Here's all that's required ...

You just have to have faith and believe that Jesus Christ is the Messiah, God's Son, who took away the sins of the whole world. Believe that He died on the Cross and rose again on the 3rd day, accept that He is your Lord and Savior, ask Him to forgive you of all your sins and leave them there with Him because He has forgiven you. Now receive Him as your personal Lord and Savior and receive the free Gift of Salvation. I promise you that you will NOT regret it. I did it and believe me I'm free from all the depression, addictions, anxieties, worries and struggles. My chains are busted and I'm restored. That decision doesn't mean that I don't go through trials and temptations and even sometimes fail but I know that God is right there to pick me up, dust me off and get me back on track.

I always thought that I wasn't good enough for anything, but I was lying to myself. God loves us regardless of our flaws. He made each of us just the way we are for His purpose and He knew and thought about every single one of us before the creation of the world. He knew what each of us would look like, sound like, what race we would be and how many hairs there were going to be on each of our heads. He knew how each of us would choose to live our lives, who will choose Him and live in eternity and those that won't. His hands are reached out to YOU but it's up to each of us, individually, to accept His free Gift to YOU, Salvation, Jesus Christ's ultimate sacrifice on Calvary's Cross.

My new life has become free of the negativity. Today I hang with my new brothers and we have prayer circles together, inmate to inmate Bible studies. We also share praise and worship with each other. We have a prayer team and we hold prayer meetings together and it's ALL through God's glorious power! I'm actually starting a new job here where I will then have access to two more pods and hold our studies on the other side of the building now. I truly believe that God gave me this new job so that I can begin to fulfill His assignments. Today, I can do ALL things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me. I thank God every single day for saving my life.

I now see prison as a spiritual hospital. A place where we can have the closest relationship with God because we have all the time in the world to study His Word, memorize Scripture, learn to fellowship with other brothers and sisters and allow Him to mold us into Christ-like disciples. Righteous, followers of Jesus Christ. He crafts us into vessels to testify about God's glory and mercy and to share how Jesus loved us so much that He personally died for each of us. I am an Overcomer for Christ and I will serve God EVEN after I die!

I really hope that through my testimony God will open up some eyes and hearts to see that there are people in the world who were heavily involved in gangs, and addictions, which I myself once was. I hated ALL races except whites, but that all has changed. I love everyone, black, white, green, brown, it doesn't matter! I love everyone! God loves us because He created us all. If you have asked Jesus to be the Lord of your life, then you too belong to the family of God and that makes you my brothers and sisters! People CAN change through Christ Jesus, you just need to have faith. - M.D.

Quote Worthy

**"Do you wonder where you can go for encouragement and motivation? Run to Jesus."
- Max Lucado - a best-selling Christian author and writer and preacher at Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Texas**

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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And God Said

By J.H.

**I said, "God I hurt."
And God said, "I know son."**

**I said, "God, I cry a lot."
And God said, "That's why I gave you tears."**

**I said, "God, life is so hard."
And God said, "That's why I gave you family."**

**I said, "God, my family is MIA."
And God said, "That's why I gave you strength."**

**I said, "God, I pray for my family all the time."
And God said, "I know! You pray for them more than you pray for yourself."**

**I said, "God, I hurt."
And God said, "I know son, I know."**

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

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

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