

Overcomers for Christ

February 2023

God bless!



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2022



God's Word is Seed - Part IV

By Wade Anderson

Let's pray: *"Heavenly Father, as I share Your written Word I pray believing that Your Spirit, Sir, will begin to open the blind eyes and open the ears of Your children to see and hear Your love for each of them. Holy Spirit, I thank You for pouring the love of God out over these written words, that they are received with our love as well. I thank You, Lord, that Your Word tells us there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. I know that You hold all Your children close to You, Holy Spirit help them to understand that there is no condemnation in any of what is written here. Your Word is the only real truth, so I invite Your Holy Spirit to be the Teacher here on these pages, always. In Jesus name I pray and believe for the restoration of Your bride. Amen! Amen! And Amen!"*

Years ago, I wrestled with the message God was giving me about tithing. Having been inside those walls and fences myself 'I thought I understood' the value of every cent made there and how little it produced. Notice in quotes 'I thought I understood'. But honestly, the only understanding I had was a human understanding. As God kept laying tithing on my heart I reasoned with Him, saying, "But God, I know how little these brothers and sisters have and how they stretch what little they do get. God, I'm pretty sure that if I put a tithe message in the newsletter some of them will write us and say, 'We wondered how long it was going to take before you started asking for our money!'"

As I finished my reasoning with God, I felt Holy Spirit rise up on the inside of me and say, "Duck, (yes He calls me Duck) why is it that you will share everything else from My Word except the one place I tell people they can test Me? Look what I've done in your own life through your obedience to tithe. Give the people the opportunity to hear what I promise them. It's up to each individual whether they choose to obey Me or not." Immediately I repented for thinking 'I thought I understood' better than God.

From our own tithing, I DID understand that it wasn't about the amount, but about the obedience. God doesn't need our money; His streets are paved in gold. What He desires more than anything is for our hearts to respond to every area of His teaching. Here, in **Luke 21:1-4** (NLT), are Jesus' words about this very thing, ***"While Jesus was in the Temple, He watched the rich people dropping their gifts in the collection box. Then a poor widow came by and dropped in two small coins. 'I tell you the truth,' Jesus said, 'this poor widow has given more than all the rest of them. For they have given a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she has.'"*** The New King James Version renders these same verses as this, ***"And He looked up and saw the rich putting their gifts into the treasury, and He saw also a certain poor widow putting in two mites. So He said, 'Truly I say to you that this poor widow has put in more than all; for all these out of their abundance have put in offerings for God, but she out of her poverty put in all the livelihood that she had.'"*** Watching my grandparents, up to my teenage years, I'd seen how their lives were always blessed. My grandfather always worked hard, and they always had more than enough. In fact, they always had enough to sponsor several orphans AND still help our family and our cousin's family. The foundation for their success wasn't only because my grandfather worked hard. Their obedience to His promise was the foundation of their success and a perfect example for us to learn from.

Once I surrendered in obedience to write that article Holy Spirit has moved in the hearts of a group of you, and right this minute in front of me there are a half a dozen pieces of mail with tithes in them. Overall, there are over a dozen consistent tithers with another dozen occasional givers. Believe me when I say there is no condemnation in what I've just said. Before I even wrote the message Holy Spirit had already been moving in these people's hearts, they just needed direction to where to be obedient. Even though this is not a tithe message I'm pretty confident that if you were to ask any of us that do take God at His Word in this area, the seam of thread that would run through all of our testimonies is that GOD IS FAITHFUL! And again, this is not a tithe message BUT if Holy Spirit is moving in your heart about this topic, it's only because He wants your heart, not your money. And one of the ways to show God that He has your heart is through your tithing. Go ahead, test Him on this, give Him the opportunity to open the windows of heaven in YOUR life like He does in our lives. Let's move on.

In **Ephesians 4:1-3**, Paul is talking to us about 'Unity in The Body'. He begins by stating, ***"I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God. Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace."*** When I read these verses and many others like them, I do so by looking directly into God's mirror, His written Word, to see that I'm not fooling myself with the things I'm saying or writing. In the forefront of my thoughts and actions, I do my best to remember what Paul said, "It wasn't that long ago you too lived as the world lives." (My paraphrase of **Ephesians 2:2**)

Brothers and sisters, like Paul, I did not choose to do what God has called me to do today. Although I love and am honored that God HAS called me to this post, my simple mind had a way different idea for what my life would have looked like. My dream and ambitions consisted of working hard towards building custom motorcycles, retiring, then driving in a motorhome with a motorcycle on a trailer, around the United States fishing! Here's the one thing out of all of that state

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ment I've not done, and that's retire. Even though I no longer punch a clock for 'the man' God purposely keeps my new life FULL of Kingdom minded vision/missions. Since I was young, I was taught to believe that working hard and then retiring, all worn out, was the American dream. I'm not saying that's a bad thing, except for the worn-out part that is. Working hard is a good thing and it's sad that so many of our younger generation have not been taught this life skill! Instead, so many people in our society today have adopted an 'entitlement mentality'. Retiring, the way I once understood retirement, is not the call God has placed on my life. And to set the record straight, God didn't take all of those things away from me in order for me to do what He has me doing today. Honestly, God has taken those dreams to an even higher level.

I've accomplished 'building custom motorcycles' long ago, and on occasion of my choosing, I still get the opportunity to do so. We are continually taking our grandsons on road trips across the United States in motorhomes and airplanes. Instead of driving to fish, I fly wherever I choose to fish. In fact, God even nudges me to dream of what bucket list fishing trips I'd like to go on. Heck, I didn't even know I had a bucket list until God told me to put things in it! I guess what I'm saying here is, you can put all of your dreams and visions on the same plate with the visions God places inside of you, and as long as you follow God's direction that plate will never be too full to accomplish it all. So, when you feel like there's way too much on your plate, take a step back and evaluate what's on your plate. With frustration of 'time' I still find things on my plate that I had added without consulting with God first.

Scripture clearly states, **"God is no respecter of persons."** (Acts 10:34) What this means to all of us is this, God sees us all as equals, we ALL are on the same level playing field. And like any good athlete, it all boils down to how bad we truly desire to win for the team. Most all of us know, by heart, **Jeremiah 29:11**, **"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"** Like I said, most of us can recite this part of His promise believing our future lies in God's hands. But there's an 'our part' in achieving this promise. Now, with open eyes and ears, listen to **Jeremiah 29:12-13**, **"Then you will call on Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart. You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."** This is what it takes to fully live in all the promises of God. **Psalms 37:4** states, **"Delight yourself in the LORD; And He will give you the desires of your heart."** I want to clarify; this Scripture does not mean that because 'we' delight in God that He will reward us by giving us all of the luxuries that we want. NO! That is not what I was saying in the paragraph above either. However, what it does mean is, when we delight in God, when we focus our hearts on God and His true nature, when we love God with all that we are, THEN the desires of our heart will begin to transform and align with His plans and purpose for each of our lives. Please understand, I am NOT boasting in mine or Michelle's abilities to get where our lives are today. We both know and willingly confess that EVERYTHING we are and have are a direct connection with the goodness of God and His promise, **"You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart."** (Jeremiah 29:13)

Let me continue on in **Ephesians 4:4-6**, **"For there is one body and one Spirit, just as you have been called to one glorious hope for the future. There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all, in all, and living through all."** There's that level playing field again. Paul continues with, **"However, He has given each one of us a special gift through the generosity of Christ. Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers."** (Ephesians 4:11) Just like in **James 3:1**, **"Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly."** Many of you have heard God calling you forward, but right here is where you take a step back, **"Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do His work and build up the church, the body of Christ."** (Ephesians 4:12)

I truly believe one of the reasons many people step back instead of forward to this call is a lack of understanding of who they are IN Christ. What does that mean? When you truly get the revelation of who you are IN Christ all of the "I could never do that", "That's a lot of responsibility", "But that was Jesus", or "That was one of the Apostles" leaves your thought process. It's the revelation of who you are IN Christ and who Christ is in you that helps you realize there's no risk, but instead a sheer boldness rises up inside of you. When God has anointed you to do ANYTHING for His Kingdom, you CANNOT fail as long as you remain teachable and follow Him.

Believe this, I know that I am no different than any of you, we've all done some pretty crazy things before we came to know Jesus. And like Paul, **"Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 3:13-14) I guess what I'm getting at is this; When I picked the Bible up and started reading, 16 years ago, I believed God was speaking specifically to me every place I read. It was like I'd been held upside down and shook as everything in the pockets of that life fell out on the ground somewhere! All of the counterfeit things I'd held such a tight grasp on, seemed to have vanished. I knew something inconceivable, at the time, had taken place. Everywhere I turned to read I knew I was being Spirit tutored.

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What Others Are Saying

"I'm here with a long time and personal friend of yours, who has been sharing your **OC4C** newsletters with me for more than a few months now. I'm writing you now in hopes that I can receive my own newsletters directly." - R.C.

"Thank you for the birthday card you sent me. I've been meaning to write and thank each and every one of you for your thoughtful, kind and loving words you wrote. One name specifically stood out which said, "I love you, CASH\$" When I read it, I thought about Christ and how He freely loved us unconditionally. Thank you for that. I also want to thank all of you there at the **Overcomers for Christ** for your awesome ministry and helping us tear down the walls around our hearts. It's truly been a blessing to receive your newsletters and correspondence all these years. Well done good and faithful servants! I hope your ministry brings you all as much love and joy that it does all of us. May the Lord continue in and through you all." - M.S.

"Hello, I'm writing to ask if I might please start receiving your monthly newsletter? I found some of them here on the microwave on our run. Please and thank you." - D.L.

"Hello, I am currently incarcerated in a Colorado prison, and I recently found a copy of your newsletter in our pod. It was very insightful as I enjoyed it very much. I'm not sure if you send these out locally, or if this was sent in from a family member of someone housed here. Either way, if possible, could I please be added to your mailing list? Thank you so much." - R.T.

"I would like to know if you could please start sending me your monthly newsletter. Another brother in here let me read one of his and I loved it. I'm hooked now! Thank you for all you all do for all of us locked up, through your newsletter. God bless." - J.T.

"I want to send a special thank you to all of the **Proverbs 31:10-31** mothers for all you do to help send all of the **OC4C** newsletters. I truly love the pictures in the front of the newsletter. Keep up the good work." - B.A.

"Hello brothers and sisters, I'm writing to inform you that I have a new address. There's another Christian brother here with me that also wants to update his address as well. We both thank you for these newsletters and can hardly wait to start receiving and reading them again." - C.T.

"Gracious greetings in faith, with understanding through Christ's Spirit. Finding your handwritten letter comforting I sit this morning, somewhat resolved, knowing I have only 28 more months to do here. There's a point in life, now at 64 years of age, I just want to finish my life in God's will, the perfect part. The fact that we've been exchanging correspondence for 11 years now should be a sign that I could end up out there soon." - T.A.C.

"I still remember when you used to visit me in the County Jail. You told me you knew God had great plans for me and would keep His hand of protection around me when I went to prison. That was when I was 25 years old. I'm now 36 years old and should leave here December of 2023. I want to thank you, your wife, your children as well, all those there that help you in the ministry. I know God sent you to speak to me!" - A.N.

"Just a quick note to thank you, your wife and all the **Overcomers for Christ** there with you for all you all do for all of us. Things have really started changing around here. With no more Pod time it's almost like being in Max. It could always be worse, we could be in a 3rd world country prison, right?" - H.O.

"Hello, first I'd like to say thank you for being faithful over all these years in sending me your newsletters. In order to do my part and continue to keep receiving them, I'm sending you all my new address." - D.H.

"Thank you all so very much for the birthday card, especially since it was the only one that I received. Also, the fact that you guys haven't forgotten about my birthday since we first began writing back in 2014. Thanks, it really means the world to me. Yes, God is good! I turned 55 years young, and I didn't think I would make it to 21!" - R.G.

"Greetings and salutations **Overcomers for Christ** family! I want to sincerely thank you for the warm welcome. It feels so liberating being connected to a family of believers who have overcome so much for Christ! I'm at peace right now being connected with a body of believers, who God has chosen as His 'willing' vessels. This ministry has much harvest coming its way! Get ready! Get ready! Get ready! Your work is not in vain family! God is pleased!" - D.J.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Punishment, Correction, or Opportunity

By G.H.

Several years ago, I wrote an essay on how prisoners may choose prison as punishment, correction, or opportunity. Every prisoner maintains the freedom to choose, and all experience various seasons of adversity. Yet in the midst of every adversity lies a corresponding seed of opportunity. Yet sometimes opportunity 'knocks' by kicking in the door, disturbing my 'house', before running outside to look in the window to see my reaction or my response. My response is my choice, yet I find great opportunity even in the midst of great adversity when I seek with the eyes of grace and the heart of a disciple.

Fifteen years ago, my sins and crimes grievously wounded many people including my stepdaughter. I've had no contact since my arrest. Last year, she participated in a #metoo protest on sexual abuse and was subsequently featured in a Washington Post article. A TV producer with Red Month Media took note and contacted her and interviewed her. The producer has contacted me to get my side of the story, to find out what I've done with my time, what future plans I have, and my thoughts on forgiveness and redemption from a Christian perspective. He also agreed to read the manuscript of my book. It'll be an interesting year!!

In His grace and for His glory!

Learn to Trust God

By T.L.

I had my first visit yesterday with my daughter's dad, the one who agreed to close our child custody case, and it was wonderful.

Habakkuk 2:3 tells me, *"Though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry."* It's funny because human nature tends to want everything right now. When we pray for our dreams to come to pass, we want them to be fulfilled immediately. But we have to understand, God has an appointed time to answer our prayers and to bring our dreams to pass. And the truth is, no matter how badly we want it sooner, it's not going to change His appointed time.

We all have to wait and **Learn to Trust God**. The key is, are we going to wait with a good attitude and expectancy, knowing God is at work whether we can see anything happening or not? We need to rest assured that, behind the scenes, God IS putting all the pieces together.

My ex came all the way from California and that just renewed my spirit. I've known him for 30 years. We separated and I know he has been with another woman for the past 17 - 18 years. I am happy for him and know that God has someone special for me as well.

I ABSOLUTELY believe that my tithing has had something to do with all of this. In my six years of incarceration God has really shown out in my life and I am grateful I am leaving here a different woman.

Beloved Overcomers for Christ Family Everywhere

By J.S.

First, thank you for the card, your words of encouragement and the song in your heart, brings a much-needed smile to my soul at just the perfect moment.

Reflect on this everyone; Our Father's timing is always, and in all ways, perfect. Our Father is an expert at all things, as you all already know. I KNOW that I'm highly favored and blessed to have such a wonderful and loving family. And what a huge family I am a part of! I AM blessed and highly favored!

I know that ALL believers EVERYWHERE are my real, true family! And with that revelation of truth, I don't feel so lonely when the false sense of loneliness tries to set in. In fact, my soul, spirit, and face are all smiling right now just thinking of it. Our God is an awesome God, and He reigns from heaven on earth. AMEN? Yes, yes He does!

As His family we are told to greet one another with love and a holy kiss – cause the love of Christ to shine out into the

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From the Inside

world around you. Represent our Father as ambassadors and servants of God, beloved. Fear not – Jesus IS with you always until the age ... Jesus said so AND it's in writing!

I Love to Share the Word

By G.P.

I received your birthday card, "Thank you!" It has been a long 57 years for me. Now that I have the enlightening feeling of the grace of God inside of me, I feel so much younger.

I have been working on a few studies this month that have really been fun, the book of Noah and the Book of Jonah. I see myself as the distant brother of Jonah ... **I Love to Share the Word** with others and have this unusual way that causes people to believe what I'm saying.

For example, Jonah was given a command from God to go to the land of Nineveh and preach against its wickedness and ways. Instead, he ended up in the belly of a big fish, probably a whale, for three days and then spit out on the shores of that land.

The point, can you see what the WHOLE picture of that day was like? Let's say you spent three days and nights in the bathtub, and the tub was filled with tuna water left over from cans. What do YOU look like after three days!? I'll tell you; you are going to be all white and shriveled up, smelling like old dead fish!

THEN the word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, **"Go to the great city of Nineveh and proclaim to it the message I gave you."** (*Jonah 1:2*)

THEN Jonah obeyed the word of the Lord and went to Nineveh (*Jonah 2:1-3*). Notice, the Lord did not say for him to go and shower first. No! I believe that when they saw what Jonah looked like the people of Nineveh felt like the Lord was serious, especially after seeing what condition he was in!!

The moral to this story is when someone has on raggedy cloths, or some dirt on their face comes to you and says, "Look to the Lord of all High and He will bless you with the Love of His Son!" You had better take them seriously!

Not to brag, but I have a 54" chest and 17 1/2" arms, and in no way am I a small dude! Many call me the Gentle Giant, but I like it better when I am seen as a Jonah, someone to be taken SERIOUSLY!

In His Word

By M.M.

Overcomers for Christ family, I know it has been a while since I've written and I'm sorry for the delays. You see, I have been a very busy man. I am working on my divinity degree through Harvest Bible University. I'm one book away from my Associates in Ministry. In a couple of months, I will have that completed and be moving on to my Bachelor's degree and then my Masters in Ministry.

I wrote this college and they worked with me on my money situation and have blessed me with this wonderful opportunity! My roots are being saturated in God's Word with in depth studies, daily. What is getting me really in depth is that I have to write the Bible out, word for word. Every period, every comma everything. The writing of God's Word has opened up so much in my relationship with Him. Of course, the many exams and books I have to study help with my college studies and grow relationships as well.

Me and the other brothers in Christ here are busy with the calling the Lord has placed upon us. We have very full days with Bible studies, intercessory prayer, testimonies, and choir. The Lord has blessed me with playing the guitar and I even sing a bit. I give Him all the glory for all the talents and gifts He has bestowed on me.

Foot's Bible Study

Ezekiel 18:1-20:49

A typical childish response to punishment is to say, "That isn't fair!" In reality, God is fair, but we have broken the rules. It is not God who must live up to our ideas of fairness, instead, we must live up to His. Don't spend your time looking for the loopholes in God's law. Instead, live up to God's standards. (18:25) Not even the political and military might of Judah's kings could save the nation. Like branches of a vine, they would be cut off and uprooted by "the desert wind" – the powerful Babylonian army. (19:11-12)

At the very beginning of Israel's history God clearly warned the people about the consequences of disobedience. See **Deuteronomy 28:15**. When the people disobeyed, God let them experience those devastating consequences to remind them of the seriousness of their sins. If you chose to live for yourself, apart from God, you may experience similar destructive consequences. However, even though such consequences, God may be drawing you too Himself. Let your misfortunes bring you to your senses and to the merciful God before it is too late. (20:23-24)

Hebrews 9:1-28

The high priest could enter the Most Holy Place (9:3), the innermost room of the Tabernacle, one day each year to atone for the nation's sins. The Most Holy Place was a small room that contained the Ark of the Covenant. The top of the chest served as the "atonement cover" (alter) on which the blood would be sprinkled by the high priest on the Day of Atonement. The Most Holy Place was the most special spot on earth for the Jews and only the high priest could enter it. The other priests and the common people were forbidden to come into the room. Their only access to God was through the high priest, who would offer a sacrifice and use the animal's blood to atone first for his own sins and then for the people's sins. See also 10:19. (9:6-8)

All people die physically, but Christ dies so that we would not have to die spiritually. We can have wonderful confidence in His saving work for us, doing away with sin – past, present and future. He has forgiven our past sin, when He died on the Cross. He sacrificed Himself once and for all. (9:26) He has given us the Holy Spirit to help us deal with present sin. He appears for us now in heaven as our Advocate. (9:24) And He promises to return (9:28) and raise us to eternal life in a world where sin will be banished. (9:24-28)

Psalms 106:32-107:43

This is a beautiful picture of God's great love for His people who deserved only judgement. Fortunately, God's compassion and mercy toward us are not limited by our faithfulness to Him. God was merciful to us in sending His Son to die for our sins. If He did this while we were captive to sin, how much more merciful will He be now that we are His children? (106:44-46)

Those who have never suffered may not appreciate God as much as those who have matured under hardship. Those who have seen God work in times of distress have a deeper insight into His loving-kindness. If you have experienced great trials, you have the potential for great praise. (107:32)

Proverbs 27:10-11

Never give up on your friends or they won't be there for you in your time of need, and you won't have to go to your family, for every little trouble you may have. Be there for your friends so that they'll be there for you. (27:10) A child with wisdom, brings joy to his/her father. (27:11)

"Foot" Notes

Hey y'all! Those of you on this side of the fence know what a big deal mail is. Truly a blessing to say the least, that being stated I had a true blessing and laugh recently.

So, the middle of January I received a Christian card from a kind sister in Christ. What made me laugh was on the outside of the envelope it said, "Sorry this is late Foot." Some of you might question my laughter but to me there is no time frame or deadline for a blessing. A blessing is a blessing no matter when it graces your presence. What's even cooler is you know that a blessing will usually inspire the blessed which in time pays the blessing forward. Which can become a big deal in the long run. Who knows how many people could become blessed because of one person's kind gesture. What a great way to live.

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

P.S.S. Sorry this is late!!! Ha!!! Ha!!!

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I'll never forget when I first read this in **1 Corinthians 1:26-28**, "**Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes or powerful or wealthy when God called you. Instead, God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And He chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important.**" You all may think I'm crazy, but right then I stood straight up, and focused my eyes straight ahead. Not with pride, but instead with ownership and a sadness as I realized I'd been a poster child in most of these Scripture examples. That's when I knew and with lifted hand's I said out loud, "Here I am Lord, I'll go!"

In context, let's finish what Paul was saying above, "**As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God. God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; He made us pure and holy, and He freed us from sin.**" (**1 Corinthians 1:30**) I literally feel the difference between just reading something, and Holy Spirit making a direct statement to me. What rang deep inside of me was, "**God has united you with Christ, He has freed you from sin.**" I'm not saying that I instantly stopped sinning, but I did begin to make different choices of who I hung out with and where I allowed myself to frequent. The way that this became easier and easier was that I intentionally surrounded myself with new likeminded people. When we were in the world we did the same thing, so I knew deep within me that since Christ made us right with God, and I'd switched teams, this new way of life was completely obtainable! Let me assure you that ALL of you can do it as well!

As you too make the choices to separate yourselves to the things of God, it's going to 'feel' a bit lonely. But that's just a feeling. Just like temptation isn't sin until you act on the temptation, feelings of loneliness are a counterfeit to the truth that JESUS NOW LIVES on the inside of you! Somebody shout, "PRAISE JESUS!" Now let's read **Colossians 2:7,9-10**, "**Let your roots grow down into Him, and let your lives be built on Him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For IN Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.**" Did you get that? Paul just said, "**For IN Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.**" Sure, we can sit under amazing teachers of God's Word, but like Paul, the best Teacher I've sat under has been by revelation of God's Holy Spirit. That's why I always use LOTS of the written Word of God. I hope that you realize these truths in my heart are only there because Holy Spirit has written them there while maintaining an everyday relationship with God in His Word.

FUN FACTS

February 16th – In 1923, archaeologist Howard Carter unsealed the burial chamber of the recently discovered tomb of Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamen.

February 16th – In 1959, Fidel Castro was sworn in as prime minister of Cuba.

February 16th – In 1968, the United States' first 911 emergency phone system went into service in Haleyville, Alabama.

February 16th – In 2005, the Kyoto Protocol for the reduction of greenhouse gases took effect for 141 ratifying nations.

February 20th – In 1998, fifteen-year-old Tara Lipinski became the youngest person in history to win a singles figure skating gold medal at the Winter Olympics held in Nagano, Japan.

Christian Comedy

A jumper cable walks into a bar. The bartender says, "I'll serve you, but don't start anything."

Quote Worthy

"When a person reaches the point of sympathy for other people's discrepancies in behavior, they've reached a plateau of forgiveness."

- H.M.

God's Promise to Abraham Trivia

1. God promised Sarah she would
 - a. Never have to work again.
 - b. Live in a tent until she was ninety.
 - c. Have a baby.
 - d. Be the first woman president of the United States.
2. When God promised Abraham that his wife Sarah would have a baby, Abraham
 - a. Bowed down to God.
 - b. Laughed.
 - c. Sang God a psalm.
 - d. Wrote the Pentateuch.
3. Which did God promise Sarah, a baby boy or baby girl?
4. Abraham was surprised by God's promise because Sarah
 - a. Had vowed never to have children.
 - b. Was CEO of a large company and had no time for kids.
 - c. Was ninety years old, which is usually too old to have a baby.
 - d. Already had thirteen boys.
5. How old was Abraham when God promised him that Sarah would bear a baby?
6. Did you know that Abraham suggested another heir? He told God that his son Ishmael could be his heir. (Genesis 17:18). An heir is
 - a. A person with too much hair.
 - b. An honest mistake.
 - c. A person who receives an inheritance.
 - d. An airhead.
7. True or False - God agreed with Abraham that Ishmael should be Abraham's heir.
8. True or False – All males in Abraham's household were required to take a physical mark to show they were in covenant with God.
9. How do you think Abraham's covenant with God affects you today?

Refusing Responsibility

by Steve Arterburn

"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want." - Galatians 5:17

At no point in our country's history has there been such an epidemic of victimitis as there is today—that is, people who declare themselves powerless against their circumstances, metabolisms, or upbringings. This victim mentality prompts many alcoholics to say, "Drinking problems run in my family—it's genetic. There's really nothing I can do about it." Criminals say, "Look at my upbringing. I never had a chance. It's not my fault." I once spoke with the warden of a federal prison who told me that if he believed the inmates, there wasn't a guilty man there.

Don't create or allow circumstances to develop that can destroy you. Have you accumulated crushing debt? Given in to addiction? Refused to resolve broken relationships? Take responsibility for your life. Don't fall back on excuses like bad luck, bad genes, or bad parents.

Christians aren't exempt from the victim mentality either; we often put another spin on our situation—we blame God for things. The seductive power of the victim mentality is that you never accept responsibility. It's always someone or something else's fault.

I'm not saying your circumstances, genes, and upbringing don't affect who you are. They clearly do. What I'm saying is, regardless of all these things, we remain responsible for our own behavior. And more importantly, God is capable of bringing about change in any life, even yours—no matter how messed up it is.

Overcomer's Testimonies

First and foremost, I send this letter with the utmost love and respect to you and the rest of the body of Christ. I hope you receive this letter in the best of health and in high spirits. God Bless.

I am writing this letter because today I was in the library and was researching halfway houses for my release in eight months. One of the clerks here just happens to be a Christian brother here who writes for your magazine / newspaper *Overcomers for Christ*. I was telling Mr. Foot that I would be looking for a Christian based church in Mesa AZ, and he then went to telling me about a good friend / pastor Mr. Wade Anderson. He spoke a lot of good things about the heart of the Holy Spirit that resides in you brother. I really desire to be part of a Bible-based church where I can praise and worship The Holy Trinity. Is there a possibility that I could become part of this Ministry / Church?

"A Little about Me"

I was incarcerated in 2009 for a home invasion. I received 17.5 years as my sentence. I have my most current release date in December of this year.

While in prison I have made an attempt to better myself in every way possible. I do not get involved with drugs or any of that stuff that involves the politics of prison. I am currently enrolled in Ashford university and am attempting to receive an Associate's degree. I have actually been taking college courses randomly so to keep my brain fresh of the fundamentals of education. I have been a barber in prison for three years and have plans of getting to "Barber College" when released to receive my license in the trade. I have been following Christ for the last ten years although was baptized in October of 2019. I believe the same day our friend Mr. Foot was baptized. As stated earlier I am looking for a halfway house in Mesa, AZ and following the housing, I will be looking for a Bible-based church. I hope that I can be accepted at Living Word Bible Church. – O.J.

God's Promise to Abraham Trivia Answers:

- 1.C – *Genesis 17:16*
- 2.B – Abraham did not think it was possible for him and his wife to be new parents because they were old - *Genesis 17:17*
- 3.God promised a baby boy – *Genesis 17:16*
- 4.C – *Genesis 17:17*
- 5.99 years old – *Genesis 17:17*
- 6.C
- 7.False – *Genesis 17:19*
- 8.True – *Genesis 17:13*
- 9.Like Abraham, Christians are people of God. We are Abraham's descendants.

Did You Know?

New York City has 12,750 miles of sidewalks.

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
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

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.

Wide Awake!

By P.L.F.

Wide awake movin' so fast tryin' to slow it down so I can see
Wide awake place my time in the Lord's hands knowin' at least I can see

Wide awake and see that my lungs are blowing air through smoke clouds knowing I can see
Wide awake as pin hits this pad at this time I'm fillin' lightheaded, Lord help me be

Wide awake to lose this habit in the place to be
Wide awake can't stop to risk your life for the Most High to keep going knowing that the Good One is with
you, stop ...

And as I keep on pushing knowing I can make it.

I'm wide awake!

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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