

Overcomers for Christ

December 2014



... to us a Son is given, Isaiah 9:6

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

July 2014



Grace Message - Part I

By C.L.

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in Christ and may grace and peace be multiplied to you all in the name of Jesus! As I start this let me first say the, "Grace IS the Gospel of Jesus Christ!" As I write these words I've got to tell you that the enemy is putting up a big fight against Grace being preached in here. It seems that something always happens to keep the pastor from preaching. Whether it is due to a lockdown or visitors that preach legalism I think that it has been three months or longer (at the time of this writing) since the truth has been taught by our pastor. BUT I proclaim that satan IS defeated and bound from any further interference in the name of Jesus. And you all should thank God with confirmation that we ARE on the right track with the message of Grace. Otherwise satan wouldn't care, right?!

The more God's grace is revealed to me the more I realize the depth of deception that exists in the Body of Christ through legalistic lies. Sometimes it feels like every Scripture that I've been taught means the opposite of its true meaning. It is becoming more apparent to some that the Church's relationship with God seems to be based on one verse (**1 John 1:9**) in a chapter that I believe was written to agnostics not believers. Agnostics are a group that does not believe in the existence of sin. I will reference **1 John 1:9** from the NKJV, "**If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**" For a long time now satan has had the Church right where he wants her with his lies, the lie is that we need to keep asking God to forgive us. Let me tell you all now, "GOD HAS ALREADY FORGIVEN US THROUGH THE WORKS OF JESUS!" What this lie does is it keeps the Body of Christ more sin conscious rather than righteousness conscious, which puts our focus on us instead of on Him. All of the sin consciousness is nothing more than the knowledge of good and evil, which is no different than religion. We are the righteousness of God in Christ! We only needed to be cleansed from all unrighteousness one time and just as we cannot undo what the first Adam did, neither can a regenerated child of God undo what the Second Adam, Jesus, did! Death and life are in the power of the tongue. Our enemy, satan, has taken the Word out of context and taught us, through religion, to confess our sins over and over. In **Hebrews 10:14** (AMP) we are told, "**For by a single offering He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy.**" How many times can you be cleansed from all unrighteousness? And it is only by the revelation of God's love that we will be able to see how perfectly righteous we are in Christ.

I believe that there is a grace revolution in the making right now. Men like Joseph Prince and many other pastors, evangelists, prophets and teachers are reestablishing the truth that the Church has been missing for so long. It is not some new thing. There is only but one Gospel, the Gospel of Jesus Christ as the Apostle Paul preached it. I also believe that as this grace revolution takes place great power will be restored to the Church. Millions of souls will be won to Christ as Christianity is seen as God's LOVE rather than His wrath and this will bring in the latter rain that must precede the rapture. This move will also bring with it the great falling away and this consists of the legalists who cannot accept that they play NO part in their own salvation. This all excites me and I want to be a part of what God IS doing!

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." (**John 8:36**) So I ask you this, "Are you free? Are you sure?" Last night at church, here on the yard, service was pretty great. I say it was pretty great because as is sadly the case in most services, grace was taught with a "but" after it, or just a touch of popular religious legalism. This morning I saw the results of the legalism when a brother told me that the Word was complicated and hard for him to understand. The Great I AM, El Shaddai, Creator of heaven and earth, Who can measure the skies with the breadth of His hand, is no doubt complex and awesome beyond our human understanding. However, our relationship with Him should NEVER seem complicated because our relationship with Him is based on Christ being revealed to us in the Word of God. The Apostle Peter warned that men would try to teach falsely with great swelling words, "**But there were also false prophets among people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord Who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.**" (**2 Peter 2:1-2**) The Apostle Paul stated in **Galatians 2:21**, "**I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by law, then Christ is dead in vain.**"

So what is grace? Religion teaches that grace is a doctrine of the Gospel, but is that really what the Bible says? Actually **Galatians 1:6**, "**I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel,**" makes it pretty clear that the grace of Christ IS the Gospel. As Paul continues in **Galatians 1:7-9** he affirms, "**Which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse. As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what we accepted, let them be under God's curse.**" Straight to the point; Paul is informing us that legalism is under a curse! Grace isn't just a subject in Christianity. It IS the school that all the subjects are supposed to be taught within.

You may ask, "How is grace perverted?" To that I answer, through "Legalism!" Legalism is any effort to be more saved, forgiven, loved by God, pleasing to God, eligible for His blessings or more valuable to His Kingdom. I believe that the leaven of the Pharisees is one of Satan's most powerful weapons against Christ's Church. Now I know you're probably thinking as you read this, "Yeah I hear you, thank God I'm not under any legalism." But think about this for a second. Do you think there is even one Christian out there that would say they are not under grace? Yet, we know that some are not because the Bible has entire books, chapters and countless verses on this subject. In fact, most if not all warnings about false teachers and teachings have to do with doctrines opposing grace.

At this point I would like to point out that I have been saved and in love with Jesus without 'backsliding' (we'll get to that word and its meaning later) for many years, but I've only recently begun to have a relationship with God through grace in its purity. It wasn't until grace was revealed to me that I realized just how legalistic I was, and how badly I was being robbed by the enemy via the lies coming straight from our church's pulpits. So, let's rightly divide the Word to further our understanding of what law and grace are. Many times gathering information on what things aren't helps to enlighten our understanding of what things are. Let's now look at the importance of knowing the difference. In **Revelation 3:15-16** (NIV) Jesus says, *"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of My mouth."* Religion has taught most of us that this means we need to be on fire for God. With that teaching it would seem, in my opinion, God would rather men are completely cold, hating God rather than be lukewarm by maybe seeking Him, or just getting to know Him. To me, that way of thinking seems a bit stupid. I believe the truth here is ... Jesus is talking about the law as (cold) and grace as (hot) which when mixed equal lukewarm. Lukewarm is a picture of a person who believes they are keeping the law through grace and essentially perfecting, through their own obedience and contrition (expressions of guilt or remorse), that which pertains to Christ's imperfect work. In that light, I hope it's a bit easier to see why our dear Lord would want to spew such a person from His mouth. That type of person has counted what Jesus has done for us ALL as not enough to make us right with God (righteous).

There is an even greater danger that Jesus is concerned with. The law has a very specific purpose and that is to break our self-righteousness and show us our need for a Savior. I encourage you to invite and allow the Holy Spirit to rightfully divide the Word of God in your very own spirit. Listen closely as the Holy Spirit enlightens us through these words Paul is speaking, *"But before faith came, we were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor."* (Galatians 3:23-25 NLT) Now in **Romans 7:7-8** (NLT), *"Well then, am I suggesting that the law of God is sinful? Of course not! In fact, it was the law that showed me my sin. I never would have known that coveting is wrong if the law had not said, 'You shall not covet.' BUT sin used this command to arouse all kinds of covetous desires within me! If there were no law, sin would not have that power."* Can you begin to see that the law has a very specific purpose? When law is mixed with grace man is allowed to think he is doing something to be righteous. Therefore, he can never truly repent of self-righteousness to receive God's GRACE.

The law, which preceded grace, in its procedure, was a shadow of the New Covenant. **Colossians 2:17** reads, *"These were a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ."* Here in **Colossians 2:17** and also **Hebrews 8:5** the phrase *"These are a shadow"* is referring to the priests of the Old Covenant. Now watch as **Hebrews 8:6** (NLT) reveals the Light shining from out of the 'shadow', *"But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for He is the One Who mediates for us, a far better covenant with God, based on better promises."*

Maybe it will help if I were to draw a mental picture, through the events that actually took place under the Old Covenant laws. First of all, it could not be just any, if I can say, ordinary person that was able to present offerings. The person that had sinned (sinner) was to bring the sacrifice to the priest for the atonement of their sins. The priest would then examine the sacrifice. Finding the sacrifice (animal) to be spotless and blemish free the priest would then place his hands on the head of the sacrifice and when the animal's blood was shed the man's sins were transferred to the animal and the animal's perfection was transferred to the man. This only symbolized the transferring of the man's sin consciousness to the animal. Notice something very important here. **The sinner was not examined, the sacrifice was!** This is the beginning to understanding grace. I ask you, "Who are you examining?"

The Amplified Bible shares **Matthew 6:33** like this, *"But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides."* Are you trying to be righteous? If that is you then listen to what **Isaiah 64:6** reveals, *"All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away."* Here, we can clearly see that God's Word tells us to seek His righteousness not our

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

Prayer Requests

I just got out of church and you guys were in my thoughts.

I've been having a hard time lately, a lot of things going through my head. It seems I feel guilty all of the time. I got a letter from my brother's wife that was really mean and it's hard to be spoken to the way she did when I know she is no better than me. Sometimes I feel God doesn't care for me, I

fight myself all the time and to top it all off my mother stopped writing me. If you could please pray for me and my family it would be great ... **C.S.**

Overcomers in Christ, God bless and I pray all is well with your family and ministry. I recently received your February newsletter and boundaries and your children slapped me across my face, great article. I was raised by two very strong and responsible parents. At 14, my father passed, but I thank Jesus for those 14 years! Now I have kids of my own (Charlie, John Jr. and my stepson Brandon). I've been in Brandon's life since he was one. My kids mean the world to me, their mother and I are not together but she passes my letters to them. I've been down two years, I've had no visits, no phone calls and have no pictures. I caught my son's first fish, cut Charles' umbilical cord, supported them, the whole nine yards. At 26, I chose sin over them and now I sit here with a 2025 release date. I write them twice a week, they are 10, 8 and 12 years old. My friends were in the street, all my family is in Canada and New York. My sister who lives like an hour and a half away is a school teacher with three boys of her own. She supports me, but will make no effort in reuniting us. I need help, I keep it in my prayers, I continue writing God filled letters and I believe He is getting me ready, full of His Word and knowledge so when we do reunite I will be able to explain the Gospel correctly! It hurts that I don't have any pictures ... **J.H.**

I believe that I need a little prayer, all the time, from you guys. I'm trying so hard to be good while I'm here around all the negativity. Can you please pray for me to stay strong because I want to stay changed when I get out? I'm asking if you will also pray for my mom, Artie, because she has bone cancer. Please pray for my children, Robin, Johnny, Larry and my sister Sharon as she hurts all the time ... **R.E.**

Would you mind praying for my parents and their financial situation to get better? They are going through a very hard time right now. Also, please pray for the lump on my dog's neck, that it goes away and that it's nothing bad ... **S.P.**

Praise Reports

Let me tell you, I was days away from killing myself. I had it all planned, I was going to ... never mind. But the devil had me convinced that was the only way out. I can say I almost died when I got rescued not arrested. I was beat like never before. I have to say that I am still dealing with head trauma and broken bones. I have the worst headaches ever but I praise God anyways! I can't believe I am back in AGAIN, I am heartbroken but I will never give up! Nor will God give up on me. All glory to God, I have a hunger for the Lord like never before. Well I made a Promise with God and that's all that matters to me is that Promise. "Get me out of this and I will serve You for the rest of my life." I was so close to suicide but by the grace of God He not only got me out of that mess, but He set me free as well ... **J.E.**

The enemy, satan, has been relentless in trying to take me away from Holy God Almighty. Holy God Almighty constantly gives me signs that He is always with me. I am thankful, grateful and blessed. I love Him dearly ... **D.M.**

I'm writing you these few lines to let you know how I'm doing. Well, so far, things are okay. The Lord has blessed me that my family has started writing me and I thank God for that. I prayed for open doors and now there open. I go to church every Tuesday and talk to the women that are walking the talk. You really inspire and bless my heart when you write to me. You just don't know how fulfilling your words are, they are like a sign from the Lord. It's like my spirit is always uneasy because of all the cursing, fornication, lust, arguing and fighting. I ask God to help me deal with this every day, all day long, and He puts His hands on me all day because I am able to turn the other cheek. Thank God I've been staying faithful and standing firm ... **R.E.**

I wrote a month or so ago explaining my situation as a new follower of Jesus and that my mother was recovering from a major stroke. I received the card you all sent with the heartfelt message and prayer. Praise be to God! My mother went home last week and I was able to speak to her, it was amazing! God truly does perform miracles in our lives - all the thanks and glory to our Most High God, AMEN! I also want to thank you all for your utmost Christian stewardship. You all are changing lives by reaching out to us through your ministry and sharing the Gospel. I received this month's newsletter and it was right on time. I am so grateful and thankful to God that He led me to the **Overcomers for Christ**. Every day is a blessing! I'd also like to share that since I've been walking with our Savior Jesus Christ, my lady has really been seeing changes in me and is going to start attending Living Word Bible Church. God is working in all areas of my life and it is truly powerful! I sure hope this letter doesn't sound like a brag session ... I just wanted to share all of these great things God is doing in my life!! Just as you pray for all of us we are praying for all you as well.

God bless you all ... **R.Q.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Trusting and Resting in God

By A.L.

I'll have eight calendars under my belt this term, but God willing I'll be released in February 2015.

With my brother Al's recent passing, where I had planned to be paroled to, my faith was put to the test. Our flesh always wants to rise up and say, "What am I going to do?" ... in times of crises. Still, as children of God we must always process things in a Biblical perspective. It's like, "Okay Lord, I know You've got me!" Remember, our problems are NEVER greater than our King! So, I prayed like this, "Open the door that You would open before me, and close the ones that You would close behind me. Show me and reveal to me with clarity Your will for this life." You and I both know where you land on parole is vital to a healthy beginning. So, immediately doors not only closed but some were even slammed in my face! Praise God! Often times in life those things that appear as if they are a blessing can later be exposed in the light of truth to be nothing more than baggage!

I said all of that to say all of this ... Even in uncertainty we have the assurance that our God is King of all creation, and He IS going to work all things together for our good! I still do not have a name or address to use for my parole, but the Lord has clearly told me that He IS preparing a place for me with either a single man or a family in the Tempe church. The Scripture says, "**Fear not for I am with you, neither be dismayed for I am your God and I will uphold you with My right hand of righteousness.**" (Isaiah 41:10)

"Like a sparrow up above I am enveloped in his love." (Keith Green) He has brought me safely this far and I trust Him daily to continue the good work He's done in this life, my life. I am not afraid! It is true that a man or woman on parole faces many challenges, but even though I do not know the specifics of His plan for me I KNOW He has a plan. He knows where I will live; what I will eat and where I will work. I trust that I will even step out of the shadow of my own infamy in the light of my King. "**By the Blood of the Lamb and the words of my testimony.**" (Revelation 12:11)

I continue to draw close to Jesus and seek His face daily. I cannot help but to speak of His goodness, His mercy and His grace. I know of no greater cause or purpose in this life than to lay down this life and allow Him to live in me, that we would use this life to take the simple Gospel of Salvation to a lost and dying generation! That excites me! If we as Christians do not see the lost in the eyes of Christ, with love and compassion, then there's something missing in our own walk!

Lukewarm?

By M.D.

I had a dream that the Lord told me I was lukewarm, neither hot nor cold and it terrified me. Friends, if we are apathetic about our relationship with Jesus we are in trouble. Jesus detests us being lukewarm. The church in Laodicea was filled with lukewarm Christians who compromised with the world. They professed to be Christians, but they resembled the world more than Christ. Christ said, "**But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked.**" (Revelation 3:17) The Lord warns this church about their spiritual condition in **Revelation 3:15-16** and tells them that they will be judged, "**I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm - neither hot nor cold - I am about to spit you out of My mouth.**" God hates us to be lukewarm. He wants our full commitment rather than a compromise with the world, resulting in apathy. Our being lukewarm leaves a bad taste in His mouth and He will vomit us out.

The Lord wants us to completely commit to Him with no compromise. Being lukewarm is repulsive to Him. We cannot try to have one foot in God's Kingdom and one foot in the kingdom of darkness. This kind of hypocrisy produces spiritual compromise and displeases God.

One reason God is concerned with us being lukewarm is because He knows people are watching our lives. The Bible says that our lives are like a letter that God writes to people who are watching us. "**You yourselves are our letter, written on our hearts, known and read by everyone.**" (2 Corinthians 3:2) Our lives are the only Bible that many people will ever read. Let's examine our spiritual lives TODAY! Are we lukewarm? If we do not find ourselves hot, excited about the things of God, then let's follow the prescription of the Lord found in **Revelation 3:19**, "**Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.**" Be zealous - let's become enthusiastic about the things of God! It's

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From the Inside

our choice.

I wake up each morning and make a decision to confess the truth of the Word of God to myself throughout the day. Jesus has come that I might have life. I will experience His abundance, rather than discouragement, confusion and fear as I daily surrender to Him. I am choosing to be hot! How about you?

Forgiveness

(Matthew 6:14-15, Matthew 18:21-22, Mark 11:25, Colossians 3:13)

By N.E.

When it comes to this one thing people find it very hard to do. It's not an easy thing to do. Forgiveness seems so hard that one can say that they forgive but really, in their heart, they still hold whatever they did against them. I hear a lot of people say, "I forgive you" only to hear and find out down the road that they still hold whatever I did to them against me. I myself have done this in my past too. Let's first take a look at **Matthew 6: 14-15** (NKJV). Your translation may word this a little different. If you have a Bible I always want to encourage you to look Scriptures up for yourself. *"For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father your trespasses."* (**Matthew 6:14-15**) Now, we as followers of Christ should listen to these two verses, and we should do what it says especially if we want God's forgiveness. Forgiving those that do us wrong is not an easy thing, especially if they keep doing things to us that are disrespectful, hateful and disloyal. But Jesus is saying here that we must forgive others for what they have done to us. We have to truly mean it not just say we forgive them and in our hearts not hold a grudge. If we don't forgive others then God doesn't have to forgive us.

"Then Peter came to Him and said, 'Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.'" (Matthew 18:21-22) WOW, this is crazy. You would probably say, "I have to forgive them more than a couple of times even though they keep repeating it over and over?" YES! Now, when we do the math on this it comes out to be 490 times. This does not mean that when we reach that number we don't have to forgive them anymore. NO! We still have to go on forgiving. "But why," you might ask? Because, if we want God's forgiveness the only choice we have is to forgive.

Now, let's look at **Mark 11:25**, Jesus again, *"And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses."* I'm currently in a maximum security prison in Arizona where I'm in a program called Behavior Management Unit (BMU). The people I deal with and live with are no different than probably any other prison, it's full of evil. People constantly talk crap about other people, start arguments, plot and say things that in prison could get you killed. I have more than once dealt with them and their evil ways. They will call you everything under the sun and then they'll start in on your family members. So, what am I to do about these things, especially when it has happened more than once? Since I'm trying to do my best to live as a Christian and have Christ-like character, in a sense, I am forced to forgive others. It says in the above verse that if I have anything against a person, when I am praying, to stop and forgive them. I have done this. But have they forgiven me? Not as far as I can see. So does that mean that it's okay for me not to forgive them? Of course not! I still must forgive them. It's hard, yes, but IT IS A MUST! Let's look at **Colossians 3:13**, *"... barring with one another, and forgiving one another, even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."* So there we have it right there. Since Christ has forgiven me, so must I forgive these people around me, even if it goes against everything I feel. Even though it reads in the above verse, *"and forgiving one another ..."* I can't expect these guys around me to forgive me when they are not even following Christ Jesus as I am trying to do. We must learn to get past the offenses and forgive.

So, after taking a look at all these verses about forgiveness what should one do when a person comes and asks for forgiveness? Even if they don't come to us asking for forgiveness we should still forgive them. And when we do it, it should and it must come from the heart.

Let's pray ... *"Father God, Lord Jesus we come to You to ask You for Your forgiveness for whatever we have done wrong in Your sight. And Lord Jesus we ask You to show us the way to forgive others as You have forgiven us. Teach us to forgive from the heart so our forgiving will be true and just. We ask this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. AMEN!"*

Foot's Bible Study Notes

2 Samuel 13:1-14:33

Love and lust are very different. Love is patient, lust requires immediate satisfaction. Love is kind, lust is harsh. Love does not demand its own way, lust does. You can read about the character of real love in **1 Corinthians 13**. Lust may feel like love at first, but when physically expressed, it results in self-disgust and hatred of the other person. If you can't wait, what you feel is not true love. **(13:14-15)**

David only made half-hearted efforts to correct his children. He did not punish Ammon for his sin against Tamar, nor did he deal decisively with Absalom's murder of Ammon. Such indecisiveness became David's undoing. When we ignore sin, we experience greater pain than if we deal with it immediately. **(14:33)**

John 17:1-18:24

When we admit our sin and turn away from it, Christ's love lives in us by the Holy Spirit. **(17:3)**

The key to immeasurable joy is living in intimate contact with Christ, the source of all joy. When we do, we will experience God's special care and protection and see the victory God brings even when defeat seems certain. **(17:13)**

Trying to protect Jesus, Peter pulled a sword and wounded the high priest's servant. But Jesus told Peter to put away his sword and allow God's plan to unfold. At times, it is tempting to take matters into our own hands, to force the issue. Most often such moves lead to sin. Instead, we must trust God to work out His plan. Think of it - if Peter had had his way, Jesus would not have gone to the Cross, and God's plan of redemption would have been thwarted. **(18:10-11)**

Psalms 119:81-112

This Scripture begins with the psalmist asking, "How long must I wait?" Wondering when God will fulfill His promises, obviously, this psalmist is tired and weary from being hunted down and persecuted yet throughout it all never gives up on hope, continues to follow God's commandments. We too must continue to follow God's commandments and persevere through whatever trials we face trusting that God does and will keep His promises.

To walk safely in the woods at night we need a light so we don't trip over tree roots or fall into holes. In this life, we walk through a dark forest of evil. But the Bible can be our light to show us the way ahead so we won't stumble as we walk. It reveals the entangling roots of false values and philosophies. Study the Bible so you will be able to see your way clear enough to stay on the right path. **(119:105)**

Proverbs 16:6-9

We want other people to like us, and sometimes will do almost anything to win their approval. But God tells us to put our energy into pleasing Him instead. Our efforts to be peacemakers will usually make us more attractive to those around us, even our enemies. But even if it doesn't, we haven't lost anything. We are still pleasing God, the only One who truly matters. **(16:7)**

We can go through life making all kinds of plans for this or that thinking that we can do whatever we want to, but the bottom line is that no matter what we may think we've decided to do in the end, it's the Lord Who determines our steps.

"Foot" Notes

Hello, and blessings to you all! No great observation this time around, just wanted to give a Christmas prayer for you all.

Lord, I ask that You continue to lead, teach, and comfort this band of Overcomers as this year winds down. And I would ask that You pay close attention to the Overcomers in which this may be their last Christmas 'Inside', for we all know that to continue this walk on the other side of the fence is full of trials and obstacles to overcome. I would ask that You give them the wisdom where with to surround themselves with like-minded Overcomers so that their transition can be more fruitful and less stressful. I give all glory and praise to You Lord for the work You've done in us all and continue to do through us all. I pray that ALL Overcomers feel Your Spirit that lives in each of us, for we are Your children, Your church. May we all continue to move forward in each of our walks. In Jesus' name I pray, AMEN!

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

own, because we could never be righteous through our own behavior. In this next verse we see that just because we think we do this and that right we are good to go, but that doesn't cut it in the eye's of the law. **"For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it."** (James 2:10) There is nothing complicated about this folks. And here is a topic that some of you may not like and I'm sure will trip a bunch of sacred cows. If you are still trying to enforce your belief of keeping the Sabbath or keeping it yourself, it's too late! And the above Scripture in **James** confirms; If at some point in your life you didn't keep the Sabbath or broke any other commandment, even once, you have not kept the Sabbath! In fact, nobody has ever kept even one commandment. You might say, "I've never committed adultery." Again, according to Scripture yes you have because you broke one of the other commandments, which makes you guilty of all of them. (James 2:10) I'm not showing you these things to make anyone feel condemned and give up on your walk. NO! It's to show that according to God's Word, not religion, that the law was given to show us we could never fulfill all of the commandments and therefore we needed a Savior.

Let's go back to the Sabbath for a second. There is nothing wrong with setting aside a special time or day (even Saturday if you like) to spend time with God in His Word. In fact, times like those are very beneficial to us and pleasing to God. But only if we realize that it is just that, setting aside some alone time with God. If, however, you think that by doing this you are keeping the Sabbath law you are in error. These are things that we should be doing mostly because we love God and like I mentioned earlier, it pleases God when we, His children, want to spend time alone with Him. Unfortunately, it seems we have done, or still do these things because we were taught by mostly well meaning pastors and teachers. But what we are really doing is attempting to bring the law down to a place we can manage it. Jesus warns us about this in **Matthew 5:27-28**, **"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart."** We see another teaching on this in **1 John 3:15** (AMP), **"Anyone who hates (abominates, detests) his brother (in Christ) is (at heart) a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding (persevering) within him."**

There is a popular teaching that the Scriptures tell us that we are not under the law, are referring to the Leviticus Laws but not the Ten Commandments. The problem with this teaching is that this would mean that bestiality (man having sex with animals) and incest are now okay. More importantly through the Word in **2 Corinthians 3:6-7**, clearly tells us the law we are not under is the one that is written in stone. **"He has made us competent as ministers of the new covenant - not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory ..."** It was the Ten Commandments, not the Leviticus Laws, that were written in stone. **Galatians 3:13** (AMP) tells us that, **"Christ purchased our freedom (redeeming us) from the curse (doom) of the Law (and its condemnation) by (Himself) becoming a curse for us, for it is written (in the Scriptures), 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (crucified).'"** (See **Deuteronomy 21:23**) It is a curse because the Spirit (of grace, **Hebrews 10:29**) gives life. (**2 Corinthians 3:6**)

What Others Are Saying...

"I felt the need to write and thank you about three weeks ago for the card but I kept putting it off. So, thank you very much for the birthday card you sent me. It really touched me that you all took the time to personalize the card with your own hands. On another note, I'm glad I waited. I just got your newsletter with the three part testimony of the gentleman who is facing the life sentence and I want you to know that I am looking forward to reading the next two parts." - **P.T.**

"He has enlarged my boundaries of His love, joy, peace, and healing to points I never dreamed possible before. Our Father is awesome! Another brother shared your April 2014 issue of the newsletter with me. The cover really got me! That is so cool!! I would please like to know if you would send me a copy of this issue and also place me on your mailing list for further issues. Can you please send me some information about this cover picture; where did it come from, who is the artist, is there a story to the picture? To me, I see the Word of God being a love letter to us, and He embraces us in His love with it!" - **G.W.**

"I was really happy to have received a card from you all. Thank you for thinking about me and wanting to reach out. I did receive your newsletter and I enjoy reading them." - **N.M.**

"To all the wonderful people in the church of **Overcomers for Christ**, I would like to thank you for signing the card for my 44th birthday. It really does mean a lot to know that there are Christian people out there that care for us all here. When I read your booklets; and see all of you doing your parts to give us hope, it brightens my heart. Thank you so very much." - **J.A.**

"I recently read a couple articles from your magazines, very inspirational. I also found the poems to be very enjoyable. I was hoping I would be able to be put on your mailing list to receive your **Overcomers for Christ** magazines." - **J.W.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

This is my initial correspondence with the *Overcomers for Christ* and the briefest of introductions I could give. I've been reading your newsletter for only a few months, my cellmate gets them. I've been considering communication with you all for awhile. Tonight I felt a surge within me to finally act on that notion and this is what is expelled onto the page.

On the 13th of August, 2010 (This was a Friday the 13th for anybody who enjoys indulging their temporal superstitions), I was housed in a cell block in Arizona Department of Corrections. The day was the same as any other, though I had very little to relate it to - it was only the 11th day into my 25 year sentence. Early in the afternoon, through a series of very convoluted events that are too numerous to mention in this short missive, a man I would have called a 'friendly acquaintance' had me tethered by my menaces to the bars of his cell and was stabbing me repeatedly with what appeared to be a crudely fashioned 9 inch ice pick. That man ended up burling that weapon into me 16 effective times and wounded me with it only superficially countless others.

Not long after that I found myself in a helicopter being flown to the medical center while being tended to by the flight nurse and a flight medic. Immediately after I was stabbed, I felt the life drop out of me and had the grave, dire and imminent sensation of death forthcoming. On the flight, through a deuce fog and placid twilight of morphine, I no longer felt in such a severe condition and was sure that my initial impressions of terminal injuries were only from shock. I arrogantly knew that it would be a turnaround visit and I'd be back in bed on the block in less than 48 hours.

I prayed at this time very aesthetically, with only selfishness and concern for what I wanted. I wanted God to help me though I had done little to nothing for Him, had only cursorily went through the motions of accepting Christ, and, truly, only ever had a fleck of real belief or faith in Him before and at the time of this entreaty. I was dying and all I wanted was what I wanted, not God's will. Whether or not I was dying I was only concerned about my human life rather than the eternity I could soon breach. I wanted God to give me my life back but I wasn't thinking about the "what if" - what if, then, He doesn't give me back my life?

As confident as I was that I wasn't heavily damaged, I was praying for insurance - just in case. Well, kind of, I wasn't doing anything to secure my afterlife, only praying to preserve this life.

Having been a United States Army combat medic/ trauma specialist (2003-2006) and serving a tour of duty in Iraq in that capacity (2005-2006), I had seen many men walk away, figuratively, from much, much worse sustained mayhem. Much to the exasperation of my confidence and arrogance, I was told by one of the ER doctors I was being taken into emergency surgery. I was bleeding out from my kidneys, liver and gallbladder and without it I would soon be dead. This news hit me with the impact of a freight train and I was immediately terrified, through heavy narcotics and all. I was pretty phobic of going under general anesthesia because of the ever present likelihood of not waking up. I had seen enough men take their last sight as they were inhaling overtures of knockout gas.

Later on I came to with staples and stitches from stem to stem in the ICU, tubes hanging from almost every orifice and even more from surgically crafted artificial conduits. The intern available to me who had aided in the surgery informed me that I was now minus my gallbladder, large enough fraction of my liver to be significant, and plenty of my own blood. Other than that "I would make a full recovery." About 10 days later my liver abscessed and I required another emergency operation. The wound vacuums, IV lines, shots in the guts, the barbaric digging through the wounds to clean them and catheters; yet none of the physical misery compared to the psychological agony in my isolated recovery.

Throughout these two months of healing I swore my life, thanks and devotion to God and Christ Jesus and tried to make myself believe what I was doing. In 2010, I cursed and repudiated God because it was easier to live as a reluctant heretic than to maintain a relationship with God. I was never committed to or believed in my heresy, but living how I wanted to live - albeit a farce - it was simpler and more gratifying than what it takes to walk with Jesus.

I know that this is long and complicated so I will fast forward to say that in May of 2013, I found my life backed into a corner, an unthreatened corner, and my only recourse was to believe in God, accept Jesus and do so on Their terms instead of my own. I would believe in Them because it was commanded of me regardless of any gain I cared to have. I found myself an internal necessity to live my life only with what God would do for me and what God manifested through me. My life wasn't good and I had to start living with purpose the only way there is to live with purpose.

I am now 5 ½ years into a natural life sentence that I continue to contest. I wish to have a relationship with the *Overcomers for Christ* and be a sheep among your flock if you will have me. Thank you for listening ... and thank you, too, for everything else. All light in life is a Light of God. Be blessed! - C.A.F.

Cory's Corner

As a Believer

By Cory Chilson

As a believer we are to have a thankful heart. We must trust that whatever we believe in and whatever we ask of Him in Jesus' name will be given unto us.

Well, as I sit here now on the other side of the wire and in the Alongside Ministries program, while walking alongside my Jesus as a believer 100%, I am not amazed, but thankful that just one day after my release I landed a job! It is a job paying \$10 an hour, working 60 hours a week! And it's doing what I love best, delivery, a driver!

The second day of my release I found myself standing in line outside the Social Security office waiting for the doors to open. While I was in line there was a lady standing behind me with her 20 year old son. The lady was crying, very sad and talking about somebody who was locked up and that he had been jumped in the pod he was in. I felt that she was not only talking behind me but rather to me. At that very same time God began to speak to me. God said to my heart, "Okay, here is your chance, let's see what you've got. We've been walking together now for 7 years, you'll make Me proud." I thought to myself, "Okay Lord." Then I turned around and said, "Hi, I can't help but hear that you are talking about someone that is close to you." With tear soaked eyes she responded that it was another son of hers and that he was in the county jail, in the hole. Immediately I told her my name and that I was just released yesterday after I finished 7 years in prison and I know what your son is going through. I told her there was nothing she could do except to pray for him. I then told her, "I would like to pray for you. I have a volunteer waiting for me out in the car would you allow us to pray with you and for your son?" Again with tear soaked eyes and a big hug she said, "I would love that!"

Now this was such a glorious time because the Lord's Spirit was moving in and through us all out in that parking lot that morning. After we had 'church' (prayer and hands laid on her) in the Social Security Office parking lot she thanked us and asked if I would take her contact information and keep in touch. As I told her, "Absolutely" she handed me a card where I seen that her last name was 'Church' AND she was CEO/President of a media company. I simply said, "Okay Lord, I've put a little time in for You today now I need to put a little time in for me." So, I turned and asked the lady for a job. She told me they were not hiring but she knew someone that owned a catering company and she would call them and ask them to call me. Well, they did call me and they did need a driver so I went out to meet them. And yes, Praise God, I was hired that day! Now here is the twist!

That Friday after my 10 hour work day my boss asked me to tell her my story. As I began to tell her about how this friend of hers told me about this job she stopped me and said, "You keep mentioning this friend of mine. I don't know this lady you keep referring to, I only met her one time and that was the day before I met you. She was only in our shop trying to earn our business."

Praise God!! So what I am encouraging you all with is this; Be obedient to God daily and His rich blessings will pour into your life. This is just one of the stories/blessings I have received since I've been released. Stay thankful and believe in your prayers being answered!

Hebrews 12:28-29 (AMP) tells us, "Let us therefore, receiving a kingdom that is firm and stable and cannot be shaken, offer to God pleasing service and acceptable worship, with modesty and pious care and godly fear and awe. For our God (is indeed) a consuming fire."

Quote Worthy

"If you wish success in life, make perseverance your bosom friend, experience your wise counselor, caution your elder brother, and hope your guardian genius."

- Joseph Addison (1672-1719) - an English essayist, poet, playwright, and politician

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the Word of God. **"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows." - Galatians 6:7**

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the Overcomers for Christ ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put 'For Overcomers for Christ'. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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

All About You

By R.S.

Started off with nothing,
Searching for something,
Only finding One thing ... You.
I never understood why things are as is,
But having You is as good as it gets.

I'll never ask for anything other,
Since we now have each other.
No longer will I have to suffer,
Because I have You ... because I have You.
My tears were falling, wetter and wetter,
I didn't believe life could be better.
But then I found ... I found You.

You are like an umbrella, stopping the rain,
And keeping me sane, I am complete, I have no pain.
I'd search all over, again and again,
Till I find You ... till I found You.

I look at the sky, I see a star,
I am not alone because there You are.
Up in the heaven waiting for me,
I close my eyes and You are all that I see.
Tho I never understood why things are as is,
Having You is as good as it gets.

When my tears are falling wetter and wetter,
And I didn't believe life could get better.
Then I found You ... Then I found You.
For those of you that can't relate,
Don't take your time, don't hesitate.
And always remember it's never too late,
To make it past the walls that we create.

On the other side 'Loves' waiting for you,
And just so you know I'll be waiting too.
It's not that hard, it's easy to do,
Just open your heart and always be true.

You'll be complete, having no pain,
No longer searching again and again.
Your face will be dry no longer wetter,
The tears will stop falling and life will get better.
Remember that I've been there too
But now I have You and You have me.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

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