

Overcomers for Christ

February 2019

His love
lasts forever

psalms 118:2

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2018



What God Had To Do With It

By Rodger Whisman

There have been several times that I have felt I had an opinion that I needed to express to God. In this I tried to be sure that I wasn't accusing Him wrongfully even though I seemed to have a lot of questions. On a few of these occasions I have walked away very humbled with a different point of view, His view. The words I received were always soft in return. They were as simple as this. **"For, lo, he that formeth the mountains, and createth the wind, and declareth unto man what is his thought, that maketh the morning darkness, and treadeth upon the high places of the earth, The LORD, The God of hosts, is his name."** (Amos 4:13) (Jehovah-Sabaoth)

I would like to add to this topic the Book of **Job**. Job, a righteous man of God, also attempted to reason with God. God spoke very clearly in return to Job about 'What does God have to do with it'. I myself have come to a far better understanding of who God is and what God has to do with everything. What I had expressed to Him was about 'my' life, 'my' world and 'my' hurts. Basically, "What about 'me' God? Do You really know that I exist? Why am I even here? What was I made for?" God most certainly began to reply as He did here in **Romans 9:20**, **"Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?"** Now listen to this same Scripture from the NIV, **"But who are you, a human being, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to the one who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"**

Having been corrected I was still troubled and even more... then why am I here? A gentle answer came back to me as equivalent to **Jeremiah 33:3**, **"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."** What was explained to me was that each of us like the stars differ. Our personal relationship will also differ one from the other. To call or petition God is not an option but a God given right and is a must to know His purpose for us through Christ our Lord, giving us purpose and intent in life. Within that purpose we reach out to others as we were given purpose by Him. Also in **Ephesians 2:9-10** I found an answer to what I was made for and what that reason is, **"Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."** Now look at this again from the New Living Translation, **"Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."** Then to express even further the 'what' I looked in **2 Timothy 1:9** (NLT), **"For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time to show us his grace through Christ Jesus."** This all took place before the world began (Jehovah Jireh)

It was simply that our lives were to be purposed in Christ and that simple purpose was to love and serve the LORD our God. Then I was troubled about my own needs and wants. Does that mean anything? That was answered close to **Matthew 6:32-33**, **"(For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."** I realize more clearly now that God is asking for a close relationship, on a personal level. Without Christ there remains little purpose and our lives will remain empty with lose of purpose and intent. I'd tried so hard on my own to be good and get it right. All that I obtained were oop's and failures. Trying to learn by trial and error, frustration and stress remained as the old man arose with the same old end results, not good!

In further reasoning and prayer for answers I was given **Proverbs 3:5-6**, **"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."** I came to realize that all of the good I tried to do on my own would most certainly fall short without His divine guidance without the Holy Spirit. In **Matthew 19:16-17** Jesus tells us this, **"And, behold, one came and said unto him, 'Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?' And he said unto him, 'Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.'" (Jehovah M'Kaddesh)** If we need to be more understanding reading **Matthew 19:18-21** will allow us to consider God's point on this topic. Here in **Galatians 5:22-23**, **"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law"** we find the fruit of the Spirit and the attributes of God that flow through us towards others. God will reason with us if we will just take a little time after prayer and petitions to listen and meditate on His Word.

My latter question to God was plain and heartfelt. "Lord, where do I stand with You now?" I merely answered my own question, where I stand is my own choice and the results of my own choices, whom I choose to serve and how I choose to serve. Locked within God's love to each of us is the free rights to choose. Choose life!

I know that I was blessed with a servant's heart as I find much pleasure in helping others. I find the same peace and joy in serving God. In that I also desire to be a friend of God. In this petition I was given **John 15:15** Jesus explains, **"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all**

things that I have heard of My Father I have made known unto you." WOW! That Scripture touched my heart and set off a new way of praying and thinking. **Proverbs 22:11** says, **"He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend."** Then in **2 Corinthians 1:20** we find, **"For all the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."**

So when we ask, "What does God have to do with it?" My friends this self same God set all the heavens in place. He placed each star in its place. He put each planet in its order AND He created this planet, Earth, for us with purpose and intent. This same God created you and yes you ARE special to Him. Within each name of God is a full explanation of whom He is, what He has done and will do, what He should mean to us and what we mean to Him. The Lord God takes pleasure in hearing His names spoken.

Explanations are very valuable to those mature enough to receive them. I find expressing myself very hard to do. I call that; OMH= over my head ;-). That's why I write totally dependent on inspiration and wisdoms that are supplied by the Holy Spirit. See you all next time.

Bible Trivia

1. Which of the four gospels is longest in length, based on the number of words?
a) Matthew b) Mark
c) Luke d) John
2. In what book is the following verse found? "Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."
a) Galatians b) Ephesians
c) Philippians d) Colossians
3. Which is the only book of the Bible that begins with a blessing on all who read, hear and keep the words written in the book?
a) Jude b) Isaiah
c) Daniel d) Revelation
4. Name the last book in the Old Testament.
a) Micah b) Haggai
c) Amos d) Malachi
5. In which book of the Bible do we find the verse: "...for God did send me before you to preserve life."
a) Daniel b) Esther
c) Genesis d) Luke
6. The verse that states, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," is found in what chapter of Romans?
a) 1 b) 2
c) 3 d) 6
7. Why was Philemon written?
a) to deal with the problem of a runaway slave b) to deal with the problem of believers fighting amongst themselves
c) to tell of God's love d) to tell of Christ's sufferings
8. David and Jonathan make a covenant of friendship together in which book of the Bible?
a) 1 Samuel b) 2 Samuel
c) 1 Kings d) 1 Chronicles
9. Who wrote 1 and 2 Timothy?
a) Timothy b) Paul
c) John d) Titus
10. What does chapter 15 of 1 Corinthians discuss?
a) love b) the resurrection
c) the Lord's Supper d) spiritual gifts

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 pray that you and your family, spiritual and physical, are well and in good health and spirits. I'm doing well, some health issues, but I'm standing on God's word to heal and take care of me. I need you and the body of Christ to pray for my family, my son, my grandsons, and my sister. I just had one of my grandsons, Kurtis, die of an overdose, 21 years old. I have another grandson, Kyle, whose also using. Pray for him to be set free from his addiction. My family is grieving, I'm grieving over Kurtis' death. I have four other grandsons, none are saved. Pray for their salvation. I can't save them. I have no contact with them, I wish I did so I could tell them about Jesus and how much God loves them. It breaks my heart, it torments me knowing that my grandson, Kurtis, is in hell for all eternity with no hope of salvation and I say that because he was involved in the occult. No matter how painful that is to me, I know what God's Word says and nothing or no one can change or alter the truth. Satan took my grandson and the Word tells us that he came to kill, steal and destroy, that he's taken people captive to do his will, that he's blinded their eyes to the truth. My grandson's death makes me more determined to stand steadfast against satan and his forces to go into demolish his strongholds, and set the captives free. As Christians and soldiers for the Lord we are all called to do that, we have an obligation to do that at all costs. Now that is the truth. The battle belongs to the Lord, but we still have to fight. When Israel went into the Promised Land, God told them, I'm giving you this land but he also told them you have to fight for it ... **W.R.**

If I could ask, would you please keep my mother and father in your prayers? They are 76 and 84 years old. I worry so much about them as they live in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They have been there my entire time in prison. I love them dearly ... **G.K.**

Please keep Larkin, Nikki and Gilbert's girlfriend's niece in prayer. Pray for God's hand of protection and healing over Larkin as he went into surgery for brain cancer. Nikki also went in for surgery and the little girl is 12 years old and is now receiving Chemo. Please, everyone, lift them in your prayers. Also, pray for all of us here in this unit, for peace and stronger fellowship. And we here will keep you all in our prayers ... **M.D.**

Please pray for Joe, he's in his 80's and has a leaky heart valve. Also, remember Mike who is in his 40's and I believe he has lymphoma. Cancer in prison is no bueno. Well, it's not good out there either but the chances of better survival/health care are outside of these walls. BUT GOD can still work miracles for people in here, I know He can. I'd also appreciate petitions on behalf of my wife and youngest son. He is 19, and had to move back in with her. He really needs to finish/get his GED so he can get a better job ... **B.M.**

Praise Reports

I have some praise reports that I'd like to share ... I'm nearly done with college. I have a test to take in a couple of weeks, then I need to pay my final fees and I will be done. Praise God! I also started attending a creative writing class in the hopes of meeting other writers in here. So far, so good. I've got a new diet, and although it's bland I have NOT had an episode of choking on my food. There's no bread but there are more veggies, which is nice ... **B.M.**

I'm writing to thank you so much for your inspiring newsletters that I get monthly. I'm coming to the end of my time here in prison. This past 6 1/2 years seems to have been a long one. Maybe it's because I've spent 15 years altogether locked up. I used to wonder why this happened to me, "Why God did You send me here?" Today, I know that it was my actions that landed me here. Today, I know that in this 'time' the Good Lord has restored me, I am a new creation with a renewed mind, in Christ! Thank You Jesus for saving me! I have joy in my heart now, and I know there is a plan for me, I am a child of God! The Good Lord has blessed me through this 'time' in prison. I am a musician and He has opened the door for me to play with the praise and worship team here. He has opened my eyes and mind to what it means to give, to work as a team with others giving ALL the glory and honor to the Lord. Today, when I play and see all the hands in the air worshipping Him, it brings tears to my eyes. I've been here on this certain yard for 5 years now and I realize this is right where the Good Lord has been using me. I've been very close to the Chaplin. I study the Word daily. Sometimes I think that people get a little annoyed at me because I'm always trying to get them to go to church with me, doing the Good Lord's work. I have no worries today and that's why **Matthew 6:34** stands important to me. *"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* I have a home already approved that I am going to. My family is two blocks away. My dad who is in poor health is there and I will be there close to help him. There are two good churches within a few miles and good Christian friends and a great support network. I would like to end with this, **"Thank You Jesus for everything You've given me and I know that I will continue to be blessed beyond my means."** ... **G.W.**

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force." (Matthew 11:12) Amen! I personally was one of those violent ones but now I'm a soldier for God and only God! Together we will take back His kingdom a soul at a time. I just want thank all of you once again and tell you that I send my love and respect ... **U.S.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

I'M ASKING

By K.H.

Although things seem to be going a lot better for me today I do still have other troubling concerns. Let me start by saying that the one thing really bothering me lately is that I'm not doing good spiritually. I know what I need to do to get right with Jesus BUT to be honest with you all, it seems that something is holding me back. I struggle with myself daily and honestly I can't find a medium. I don't know if you know what I mean so I'll try to explain it as best as possible.

It's hard for me to find a middle ground within myself. It's extremely hard for me to keep any kind of routine because I seem scatter brained. I try my hardest to stay focused on one routine but for some reason I get overwhelmed and it all falls apart. It's the same way when I get in to my Bible and studies. I stick with it for awhile and then I just fall apart. So, I don't try it again because I know the same pattern will occur. Plus I haven't heard from anyone from the streets or gotten any response back.

I'm asking for advise or help with these matters because honestly I really don't know what to do. I'm asking you guys for help because you understand where I'm coming from. I need guidance and I want to get back on track with Jesus but I need help. I am tired of feeling like no one cares and I'm tired of feeling lost and lonely.

I need you guys more than ever so I don't fall off the deep end again. I'm doing my best to stay away from the drugs and stay as positive as possible. Please let me know what Jesus says so I can obey and feel free again. I love you all. God bless ... Your brother in Christ.

Attention ... Note from Wade Anderson: *This is the first time that I have ever done anything like this in the newsletter ... BUT, as I was reading this piece of mail I felt Holy Spirit put this on my heart. There are plenty of you out there that have gone through or ARE going through what our brother K.H. is up against right now. We here at OC4C always write and respond to every letter, and we have this one also. But, I know there is someone else reading this that can and will respond to help K.H. through these trying times. All I'm asking is that 'someone' would pray and listen to Holy Spirit then send, to us, what you've been led to in response to reading this. God wants to use YOU in this matter so please listen to Him AND we're waiting to hear what He has to say. Thank you for your obedience.*

Build Your Foundation on God

By H.M.

Dear beloved family in Christ, thank you ever so much for the birthday cards. They truly brought joy to my heart. All of you at the Overcomers for Christ outreach ministry, I deeply appreciate and naturally cherish your monthly periodicals. Being indigent, locked in a cell on orientation states, and my lack of indigent metered envelopes has delayed my contacting you. Nevertheless, I still look forward for the city whose architect and builder is God. See **Hebrews 11:8-10**, **"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God."**

As you know, our faith does not rise out of our own dreams and solutions. The foundation of faith is in God alone, and what He can do in and through us. Whenever I'm relocated to a different prison, several articles get confiscated for various reasons like, "It's been modified", or you can only have a certain number in your possession, etc. etc. The bottom line though is strength comes from remembering God's faithfulness in the past, and prayer is always the bridge between panic and fear. All of God's chosen, through prayer and study can gain joy through enlightenment of God's Ten Commandments.

(Exodus 20:1-17) ... "Then God gave the people all these instructions: I am the Lord your God, who rescued you from the land of Egypt, the place of your slavery.

You must not have any other god but me.

You must not make for yourself an idol of any kind or an image of anything in the heavens or on the earth or in

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From the Inside

the sea. You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me. But I lavish unfailing love for a thousand generations on those who love me and obey my commands.

You must not misuse the name of the Lord your God. The Lord will not let you go unpunished if you misuse his name.

Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. You have six days each week for your ordinary work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath day of rest dedicated to the Lord your God. On that day no one in your household may do any work. This includes you, your sons and daughters, your male and female servants, your livestock, and any foreigners living among you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens, the earth, the sea, and everything in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and set it apart as holy.

Honor your father and mother. Then you will live a long, full life in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

You must not murder.

You must not commit adultery.

You must not steal.

You must not testify falsely against your neighbor.

You must not covet your neighbor's house. You must not covet your neighbor's wife, male or female servant, ox or donkey, or anything else that belongs to your neighbor."

How? Answer these questions ...

First, what does each commandment divulge about God's nature and personality?

Second, what does each commandment free us from?

Third, what defense (protection) does each commandment provide us?

Fourth, in question, meditate on the love that each commandment reveals, and how God has said we can fulfill them through His grace in love. See **Galatians 5:14**, "**For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

The following is how faith in prayer works. Once one makes their request known to God, believe to receive it. (**1 John 5:14-15**) Thank Him in advance, fear not nor be dismayed. See **Isaiah 41:10**, "**Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.**" Possibly, the next morning when you wake up the situation may still appear bleak. Remember, God is in control and He always knows what's best. Try saying out loud, "I'm not moved by what I see, nor am I moved by what I hear. I'm moved by what I believe, so I give You thanks Father, for answering my prayer!"

His answer may not be yes, but His ways are beyond our limited comprehension. Besides, it's ridiculous for us to attempt to instruct the Creator of everything in how something must be done. Don't feel like the Lone Ranger, I've been guilty of doing just that, many, many times. In the NLT version **Luke 8:21** states, "**Jesus replied, 'My mother and brother are all those who hear God's word and obey it.'**" In a nutshell, when Christ is our uncontested King, He makes those who follow Him, unquestioned conquerors, no matter what! In **Hebrews 10:38** (KJV) His Word says "**Now the just shall live by faith; but if any man drawback, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.**"

Proverbs 3:34 (KJV) elaborates, "**Surely He scorneth the scorners: but He giveth grace unto the lowly.**" Praise God for the grace He supplied through Christ! There are many people who (like me) do not pray eloquently with "thee's" and "thou's", so on an ending note, prayer is simply an honest conversation with God, and He's never too busy to listen! (See **Psalms 103**)

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Ecclesiastes 4:1-9:18

When we enter the house of God, we should have the attitude of being open and ready to listen to God, not to dictate to Him what we think He should do. (5:1)

In this section, Solomon shows that having the right attitude about God can help us deal with present injustice. Prosperity is not always good, and adversity is not always bad. But God is always good; if we live as He wants us to, we will be content. (6:1)

We are to enjoy what we have while we can but realize that adversity also strikes. Adversity reminds us that life is short, teaches us to live wisely, and refines our character. Christianity and Judaism see value in suffering and sorrow, the Greeks and Romans despised it. Eastern religions seek to live above it, but Christians and Jews see it as a refining fire. Most would agree that we learn more about God from difficult times than from happy times. Do you try to avoid sorrow and suffering at all costs? See your struggles as great opportunities to learn from God. (7:1-4)

Don't let the inequalities of life keep you from earnest, dedicated work. We serve God, not people. (Colossians 3:23) (9:10-11)

2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7

For those who have discovered God's light, there can be no fellowship or compromise with darkness. (6:14-15)

Cleansing is a twofold action, turning away from sin and turning toward God. The Corinthians were to have nothing to do with paganism. They were to make a clean break with their past and give themselves to God alone. (7:1)

Psalms 47:1-9

Abraham was the father of the Israelite nation. The One True God was sometimes called the "God of Abraham". (Exodus 3:6; 1 Kings 18:36) In a spiritual sense, God's promises to Abraham apply to all who believe in God, Jew or Gentile. (Romans 4:11-12; Galatians 3:7-9) Thus, the God of Abraham is our God, too. (47:9)

Proverbs 22:16

The last of the **Proverbs** of Solomon in this collection deals with social justice. Ultimately, all human affairs are in God's hands, even though, at times the wicked prosper. God made the poor and the rich and He will justly determine their destinies. (22:16)

"Foot" Notes



Hey Ya'll. Some more thoughts/observations for ya'll. We should be encouraged that God's power always comes through in our weakness. This should build up our courage. For when we come to know our limitations we will also learn to lean on God even more for our effectiveness, instead of relying on our own efforts. It's in our limitations that we can not only build our Christian character but also build on our relationship with God.

Ya' know if we look really close, we struggle most with the junk we really don't want to cut loose. When we become saved we're given the ability to clean out all our junk in one swoop because of God's help. The thing is, God doesn't care what we keep or throw out. But remember this. What you decide to keep you will continue to deal with again and again pretty much just spinning your wheels instead of just cutting it loose for good. If we don't get rid of the junk we'll always be miserable. There's no denying the fact when we're struggling. But until we give it completely to God we'll still deal with junk in our lives. We can't expect 'the world' to fix anything for the world will always tell you that you're messed up.

Yet in God we're all brand new beings. Look at **Hebrews 10:22**, "**Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.**" As long as we're obedient to God, it doesn't matter what we're going through. The junk in our lives should never be allowed to diminish our faith. Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya con Dios

P.S. If nothing changes, nothing changes ...

What Others Are Saying...

"Hello, I want to thank you for visiting me here in the Durango jail. The newsletters you brought me are really great. In fact, I read them now instead of the books I had been reading. I was reading fiction books, not real, but I see that the stories in the newsletters ARE real and inspired by the Word of Christ. The real testimonies/stories of your life's accounts are great, too. Please continue to come visit me and bring any of the reading materials that you can bring. Thank you again." - **E.M.**

"I have been listening and studying a lot of Tom Anderson's CD messages and I'm thrilled and joyful to say that I have been edified a lot with his messages. Hopefully, when I get released I can join your ministry and apply my servanthood to the ministry. Thank you very much, God bless you and your ministry." - **A.L.**

"Hello, how is everyone in our loving O+C family. There's not a day that goes by that I don't pray for the whole family at O+C. Thank you so much for the birthday card, it truly meant a lot to me, you guys are the only ones who sent me anything for my birthday, it truly touches my heart." - **J.Y.**

"Hello to all of you Overcomers. I have been with you since 2009. Your newsletter means everything to me. They have changed my life forever, and all the birthday cards that you have sent me every year, not one time have you ever missed one. I have every one from 2009 to 2017. My first release date is 2021, I have been locked up since 2004. I hope to continue to be a big part of your family. I will always pray for the family of Overcomers, as they have for all of the prisoners, as God prayed for His family as they were in prison." - **R.B.**

"Thank you for the birthday cards. I know every year that I'll get at least one card. You ladies and gents have been very faithful in sending a card, though I don't correspond much. I'm very grateful, truly thank you." - **C.T.**

"I want to thank you all for such a wonderful birthday card. I swear tears came to my eyes when I received your card. I thank you and love you all from the bottom of my heart. Thank you and God bless you. You don't know how grateful I am and how blessed you make me feel. Thank you all for what blessings you bring to all who receive your magazine." - **M.R.**

"I am currently in Perryville, I have rededicated my life to Christ and study God's Word daily. The chaplain handed out a few of your newsletters on our yard and I read it and really enjoyed it. I am requesting for you to please send your newsletter to me. Thank you and God bless you all for your time." - **C.B.**

"Hi, my family in Christ, I believe I have been writing you all for almost 10 years. I'm writing to say, have a happy time together on your next 10 years. I thank you all for the cards and letters over the past 9 or 10 years. Jesus is with me here and keeping me in His hands and blessing me with His goodness." - **L.C.**

"Thank you so much for everything you do for the shut-ins, the lost, the confused, the searchers, the questioners, and the spiritually hungry. You touch and feed the outcasts, the ones whom even families have rejected. Thanks for giving them a new forever family." - **L.A.**

"Thank you for the card with care. I love the art and poems in the newsletters. I really needed this card you sent. I'm going through a lot right now. Last month, my mom got called home to heaven and it's been really hard to deal with. Plus a few other things, but they say, 'When it rains it pours.' I just wanted to write to say thanks for writing that card. God bless Overcomers for Christ and thank each and every one of you." - **M.B.**

"Thank you so much for the birthday card and the newsletter. It means a great deal to know you all are out there and care about me in here. Only four more years and I can meet you face-to-face. Maybe ride along with you to the Andrew Wommack retreat. Looking forward to the day I walk through these gates and some day the pearly ones." - **R.W.**

"Thank you all there at O+C, what a blessing it is for your continued work in the Lord, and to the special ministry the Lord has placed in your hands, as overseers. What a pleasure it is to share in the love of God with you and march heaven bound as a soldier in the army of the Lord. You guys, and I mean all of you, are family and so appreciated. Please know the Lord is looking down from above with an awesome smile." - **C.B.**

"I received the birthday card, thank you. I know I do not write a lot to Overcomers for Christ, however, every month when I receive your newsletter, I am blessed. I do appreciate your consistency, your prayers, your kindness and thoughtfulness. Always know that everyone at Overcomers for Christ are in my daily prayers and it has been like that for years. All of you always look happy in your pictures. You are what Christ wants us to be in the body of Christ. Thank you and know that I am blessed to know you and to receive your newsletter." - **L.M.**

"It's nice to see that you are serious about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For me this will be my first priority when I'm released. I'm really hoping to make Overcomers my home base. I love the fact that you put your family pics in there. I laugh my head off every time I see that cute little guy with the curly hair, hand the devil his butt with that big beautiful smile." - **T.C.**

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Overcomer's Testimonies

I really do hope that by the time that you receive this letter in your hands it finds you in the best of God's love and care! You are probably wondering who is this, Nachito? Well, I am your bro in Christ, who reads your newsletter every month. It helps me stay strong in faith, knowing that I am not alone in the world. Looking at your pictures gives me hope, thank you for everything you do for Christianity. I was sentenced to Natural life in prison in 1993 or 1994, sorry I don't keep track of time that well, but I do know I have been down 25 years.

Ten years ago, I was addicted to meth and heroine; all broken down in a prison cell I got down on my knees and prayed for the first time in 15 years. I was going through heroine withdrawals. All I remember is praying for Christ to come into my heart and heal me. I told the Holy Spirit He was welcome here. I closed my eyes and blacked out. I remember waking up the next morning completely healed! The strong craving for heroine, gone! I no longer felt loneliness in my heart, although I was in debt to the Mexican Mafia, I was not afraid.

I remember picking up an old Bible that somebody left behind in my cell. I just opened it to **Deuteronomy 31:6**, it said, **"To be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."** So, I got down on my knees and I prayed to God. I said, "My Lord, my debts are now your debts help me to make things right with this people." At that time, I did not realize I was praying out loud. My neighbor to the left heard me. He was already aware of my situation. He was told by a friend of his to stay away from me, cause I was going to get hurt at lunch time for not paying my bills.

Back then I did not know that he was a Christian, a lot of brothers in here go under cover, cause other inmates see Christianity as a crutch. He talked to his wife, and then talked to the people I was in debt to and paid them \$800 to take the green light off my back. On his way back from school, before lunchtime he stopped in front of my cell and told me not to worry, that my debt has been paid! He also said that he signed me up for church! I told him that it was not possible, cause my wife just left me for another man. She said that she was done supporting my bad habits! He said, "I paid it in full!" I told him, "I had no way of paying him back his money." He said, "Don't worry bro; you can repay me by staying sober and dwelling on the Word of God!"

God is just amazing, ten years ago, I remember praying to our Lord for the law to change and for Him to set me free! Not too long ago He answered my prayer. I was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and sentenced to two natural life's in prison. Not too long ago I was given a celly named "Crazy Eddie", a legal beagle always filing lawsuits. After reviewing my case, he said, "Dude, I'm sending you home! The law has changed, the Supreme Court ruled!" I did not know anything about the law, so he filed some paper work on my behalf.

Before I knew it, I got a letter from a judge, appointing me a lawyer to represent me in my post-conviction relief. I met him in person this week, as well as a Mitigation Specialist for the second time. I don't know the words to express the feeling of God moving in my life; all I know is that it is "amazing". The attorney told me, "My case had slipped thru the cracks that I was lucky to have filed in time."

The possibility of me going back home is real! I'm so happy and full of new hope!! I love God with all of my heart and soul! Even though I have had my ups and downs over the past ten years, I have not stopped praying every morning and every night before I go to sleep. Crazy Eddie is also a Christian, the Holy Spirit moves through us all. I regret what I did as a child and I prayed for forgiveness!! I honestly feel in my heart that God has forgiven me.

Through His deeds, alone I have a daughter who is 25 years old. I talked to her on the phone not too long ago. I haven't heard from her in years. She now wants to be a part of my life, and that alone wants to make me a better person, a stronger Christian. I am 40 years old; I can't wait to meet my grandson!! Take him camping and fishing along with my daughter. I had a dream, and in that dream God broke my chains and set me free, to do just that. I'm just waiting for that day to come! My conversion to Christianity has been the best thing that ever happened to me, and I want others to know my truth. Through God, all things are possible!

Today, there is no hatred in my heart; I am happy and full of joy!! No drug in the world could ever replace that feeling. I want to thank you all for the Birthday Cards you have sent me these past few years, they made me feel real good inside, somebody remembered me! Even though most of my biological family has forgotten me, or passed away, my Christian family is plenty and strong. God bless you all for everything you do every day. There has always been a Christian around me to lend a helping hand, especially when I needed it most! When I was lost and addicted to drugs, they helped me replace the needle for the Word of God, and for that, I will always be grateful!!!

My only addictions are writing and listening to Gospel music. You are probably wondering why I am writing you, telling you all this. I dream a lot and that's probably cause I am always thinking, I'm real quiet. I had a dream and in that dream I was

burning up alive in a lake of fire, it felt so real! I woke up dripping in sweat; I could feel that pain of the flames! All I can remember is invoking the power of Christ, but it was not Christ who pulled me out of the lake of fire, it was you! I remember you telling me that everything was going to be all right, that the flames would never touch me again. Your face was clearly from the pictures, I see your newsletter every month, but your hair was white as snow.

Please keep my in your prayers! I believe that we are all here for a reason, we all have a purpose. Mine is to help others in here overcome addictions, like I did in here. Most prisoners are not looking for the change in their lives, they are lost and blind. But there is always the possibility of finding one who is, and that is what keeps me going strong! I am doing my best to study the Word of God, to be able to spread His message behind these walls. I'm telling you, I'm on my way to becoming a preacher, and nothing is going to stop me, not the devil or his minions!!

I'm trying to sign up for G.E.D. courses, right now I already turned in the inmate letter. Before this law came into effect, I did not care about an education, but now that I might have a release date, I really do. I should be back in the county jail fighting my case early next year, isn't that great? All thanks to our Lord Jesus Christ who heard and answered my prayer. I will continue to stay sober one day at a time, please keep me in your prayers. Any help in educating myself in the Word of God is greatly appreciated. Thank you for taking your time and reading this letter. Nachito to my brothers and sisters ... Sincerely - I.V.

Strong Enough To Encourage Others

By Steve Arterburn

"Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on." - Hebrews 10:24-25 MSG

Want to build character and, at the same time, build a better life? Then find thoughtful, honorable, God-fearing people who will offer you a steady stream of encouragement.

Life is a team sport, and all of us need occasional pats on the back from our teammates. As Christians, we are called upon to spread the Good News of Christ, and we are also called to spread a message of encouragement and hope to the world.

In the book of *Ephesians*, Paul writes, ***"Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen"*** (*Ephesians 4:29* NIV). Paul reminds us that when we choose our words carefully, we can have a powerful impact on those around us.

Whether you realize it or not, many people with whom you come in contact every day are in desperate need of a smile or an encouraging word. The world can be a difficult place, and countless friends and family members may be troubled by the challenges of everyday life. Since we don't always know who needs our help, the best strategy is to encourage all the people who cross our paths. So today, be a world-class source of encouragement to everyone you meet. Never has the need been greater.

Quote Worthy

"The finger of God was on me all day-nothing else could have saved me."

- Duke of Wellington, Arthur Wellesley (1769-1852) - an Anglo-Irish soldier and Tory statesman who was one of the leading military and political figures of 19th-century Britain, serving twice as Prime Minister. His victory against Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo in 1815 puts him in the first rank of Britain's military heroes.

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

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From Dreams to Life

By W.T.L.

**To be awake is to be left out of a dream
Why is life always different from what it should seem
A life full of pleasantness with expectations so serene
A place of happiness and joy, a place where I should be**

**Life with true freedom from loneliness and pain
I often wonder why life and dreams can't be the same
If bled together one truly might go insane
A life lived with guilt, torment and shame**

**The answer isn't in reverie but in hope and the gift of grace
His blood offered up freely to take my place
No more pain, guilt or shame, all gone without a trace
A love so pure and just how I long to see His face**

**To dream is to be lost to all of reality
To be found and saved happens so miraculously
My life is Yours my King, each and every aspect of me
A life everlasting, eternally, forever lived happily.**

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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