

Overcomers for Christ
February 2020

Jesus

A silhouette of two hands, one from the left and one from the right, with fingers interlaced to form a heart shape. The hands are dark against a warm, orange-gold gradient background.

Loves Me,

This I
Know

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2019



Of Greatest Importance – The Word of God

By Vern Deadmond

Earlier this year, I was reading a book called "The Holiest of All" by Andrew Murray. He was a pastor in South Africa over a hundred and fifty years ago. He was ordained as a minister at the age of 20 in 1848 and he went on to write over 250 books in his life, many of them promoting a deeper spiritual life in the Christian. In his book, "The Holiest of All", he mentions **Hebrews 2:1**, and as I read this verse and the following verses, a fuse was lit inside of me and I began to meditate on these verses. I want to share some of the revelation I received as I have meditated on these scriptures for some time now. I ask you to pause before reading further, and open your heart to hear and receive from the Holy Spirit. You can even say a short prayer and ask the Father to give you revelation as you begin to read what I share.

Let's begin with reading **Hebrews 2:1-3**; ***"Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard."***

As I read these verses, the first thing that stopped me was the phrase, ***"how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation..."*** Can I ask you a question? Have you ever meditated for yourself what salvation is? Do you only believe salvation is when you die, you go to heaven? If that is all you think salvation is, I accuse you of small thinking. The verse says, ***"so great a salvation"***. I found in the Greek, the phrase ***'so great'*** was translated from a single word. In English, we don't have a single word that can translate the Greek word, so it was translated ***'so great'***. As I was thinking on this and trying to imagine in my mind, how big is ***'so great'***, the Lord reminded me of a time I was sitting on the patio of a restaurant in Santa Barbara, California that sits right on the beach. I was drinking my morning coffee and watching the waves roll in and break on the sand. The Lord reminded me of my conversation I had with Him at the moment, I was talking with Him about how vast the ocean was and how much power there is in that water. This salvation Jesus bought for us is so vast, like the oceans.

He was showing me that our salvation is so great, so vast, there is no end to it. Most Christians neglect their salvation by failing to pursue God beyond the concept of going to Heaven when they die. There is so much more to salvation than going to Heaven, salvation is for us today in this life. Jesus says in **John 17:3**; ***"And this is eternal life, that you may know God, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom God have sent."*** So, where do you begin? Go back and read **Hebrews verses 1-3** again, and you see that this ***"so great a salvation"***, is sandwiched between two statements, ***"we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away, for if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast..."*** and ***"which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard."*** What are the things we have heard spoken through angels? This is a reference to what we know as the Old Testament of the Bible. And the things first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed by those who heard. This refers to Jesus' teachings to His disciples and they were confirmed by His disciples, the New Testament. Both Testaments we know as the written Word of God. We are to ***"give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard."***

The Word of God should be of more importance to us than anything else we hear or read, for it is the absolute truth, the final authority. Nothing else is to have greater importance than the Word of God. In today's world, there is so much distortion of the truth being said, we are being assaulted by the distortions constantly. We need to use the Word of God as our compass to show us what is truth or fiction. If you're confused or not sure what to believe in today's world, with what the naysayers and doomsayers are saying, look to the truth and authority of the Word of God. Jesus tells us in **Matthew 24:35**; ***"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."*** We see Jesus is the Word from **John 1:14**; ***"And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."*** So, establish in your hearts now that Jesus is the final authority, God's Word is superior to anything the world says or tries to conjure.

Hebrews 13:8-9; ***"Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace, not with meats which have not profited those who have been occupied with them."*** Here is a warning for us not to let deception deceive us. Deception can be very dangerous if you begin to entertain it and believe it is truth. I have a missionary friend whose son bought into the lie of homosexuality probably when he was in high school, and when he left home to go to college, soon afterward he came out to his parents. He was raised in church and received Jesus into his heart at an early age, and therefore he should have known differently. Today in this age, we are constantly bombarded that the homosexual lifestyle is OK, and people are born this way. Ask yourself, does this align and agree with the Word of God? My friend still loves his son, and has not rejected him, but my friend's wife became so offended with those that teach the uncompromising truth of the Word of God that she divorced her husband after 27 years of marriage. She bought into the world's saying that this is hate speech. To hear him tell the story, it is so evident how the deception was like a cancer – spreading and slowly killing his

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family.

If you remember, back in **Hebrews 2:1**; **"Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away."** The Greek word translated into the phrase, **'drift away'**, means to let carelessly pass, to let slip. When we start to buy into the lies of deception, the truths we have heard are in danger of slipping away from us, and we allow it to happen too carelessly. If we begin to give greater priority to anything other than God's Word, His truths, we enter in a dangerous zone.

I'm thinking of a church I attended for years, I made some awesome and great friends at this church who love the Lord. But every football season, weekly attendance would drop 25% or more from September until February. It saddens my heart to think people place greater importance on watching football on Sunday's, instead of coming to church to worship God, to give praise and thanksgiving to the One who gave so much for this so great a salvation. I'm not saying it's wrong to watch a football game, but when football is a bigger god in your life than the One True God who bought and paid for you – it's no wonder we have the problems we have in this life. Football may not be your god, but there are many other things that can become gods to us; sports in general, television, movies, career, anything we use for entertainment that draws us away from God – anything that we give priority too over God. Maybe this is not speaking to you, but if it is, you need to reprioritize God in your life, make Him and His Word first in your life.

I am not trying to condemn you with my words, but to encourage you. We were created for fellowship with God and when we neglect our fellowship with Him, we are neglecting or ignoring this so great a salvation. **Exodus 34:14** tells us, **"for you shall worship no other god, for the Lord, whose name is jealous, is a jealous God."** If you look at this through our New Covenant perspective, God is saying He will not compete against anything that you give greater priority too. He allows you to make whatever choice you want, and He does not bring the hammer down on you for making bad choices. You bring the hammer down on yourself. The benefits of fellowshiping with God are immense and I want to push you towards a relationship with God. The more you realize the benefits of this relationship; you can't help but become a fanatic for God. **2 Peter 1:2-4**; **"Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of Him and Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."**

For me, as I began to really seek to know God, there was something on the inside of me that started to desire more of God's presence than anything else (like television). Now, I get greater enjoyment from reading God's Word, and meditating on His Word. I like to go for walks praying and talking to God, and I listen for His response to me. His Word will change your attitude towards life in general, and then you will notice one day how much your life has changed for the best.

For most of us, actually for all of us, we go through life trying to make the changes in ourselves. You might be a chronic liar, or you might have an addiction to drugs, or an addiction to pornography, an addiction to alcohol, or you have used and abused people in all sorts of ways. We all have something about us that is not healthy or good for us as Christians. We all have something we want to change about our personalities, and some of us have tried and tried in our own strength to make the change – but to no avail. How do we change? I want to tell you that knowing God, really knowing Him through His Word is the answer we all are looking for. How does this change our life without struggling to make it happen? His Word, when given the opportunity, will facilitate the change effortlessly. I say effortlessly, because the change does not occur in your efforts to make it happen. There is a parable in **Matthew 13:3-9**, it is known as the Parable of the Seed and the Sower. Jesus tells the parable to the crowd, and then he explains the meaning of the parable to His disciples.

Matthew 13:3-9; **"Behold, a sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up, they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop; some a hundred-fold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!"**

Jesus goes on to explain the parable to His disciples, and what we learn is the seed represents the Word of God, and the four different types of soils represents various conditions of the heart. The first type of soil represents a heart that is hardened through unbelief, and because this person does not believe, he does not understand and the devil immediately takes the Word of God from that person. It is also for this reason, when you are sharing the Gospel of Jesus with unbelievers, you should maintain the simplicity of the Gospel, keep it easily understood.

The next soil is represented by a stony soil, where there is a shallow layer of soil and therefore the soil will not hold

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'm asking you all for prayers in helping me and my family, but most of all for Melissa to open her heart to forgiveness ...

D.M.

The one prayer need I have right now is that I would manage my time better while I'm on this yard. Oh ya, please pray for my daughters emotional well-being, and for my mom's health ...

B.M.

Please keep my wife, I and family in your prayers. Also, remember my mother Esther, uncle Fernando and family. Thank you! Also pray for a brother who was diagnosed with cancer, John. Thanks ...

M.R.

Cash, alley cats go everywhere and they are bold like Christians should be. In one of your cards you stated that you were from Bakersfield, CA, that's where my son and my daughter live. I haven't heard from them since 2003. Naturally they are always in my prayers. Perhaps you might have all the brothers and sisters in the *Overcomers for Christ* family pray that they would contact me. If both of them and my best friend, Angelo, got together in collaboration, I'm sure God could use them to get me set free ...

H.A.M.

I'm humbly asking if you could put my mom on the prayer request. After losing my dad and her husband of 50 plus years she suddenly has become sick. The doctors are not sure what is going on. She has been to a number of tests and I would like everyone in the *Overcomers for Christ* family to lift her up in the name of the Lord. Her name is Penny. She is the strongest woman of faith that I know and she is my hero ...

D.G.

This 54 year sentence is a challenge for me, and I'm sure my Lord wants to see what I will do, as He already knows. So it's up to me to do right. Which leads me to, please pray for my family and hopefully they will come to see me or write. if not, that's okay too. If anyone there wants to write me, feel free ...

J.H.

I have a special prayer request, that all of our families, loved ones and friends experience a year of loving reconciliation with Jesus and our Father. As well, a reconciliation with lost and forgotten loved ones. PRAISE GOD! TRUST GOD! AND THANKS BE TO GOD! ...

J.S.

I want to be a part of your fellowship. I would also want to ask you if you can please pray for me and keep me in your thoughts and prayers. I love you all and God bless you, too. I would like for you all to please pray for me, I am sick right now. So, maybe with your prayers God could and will heal me ...

P.R.

Praise Reports

Praise God! I just turned 51 years old. I'm here where we have a great church, at the 'Academy'. I cannot express in mere words the magnificent and genuine progress I have been making with the 'Helper', the Holy Spirit, and my Lord, Jesus Christ's awesome guidance and encouragements. I am even learning a little bit of the Old Testament Hebrew language along the way. I am fascinated, intrigued, confident, and joyful regarding my 'ear-hearing' and 'soul-understanding' of God's Word. He teaches me awe-inspiring knowledge daily. There is not a night I go to bed, that I have been able to drift off to sleep. All the while remembering the calm, reassuring presence of God having taught me something new that day! Every night I go to sleep with a smile on my face. Praise God everyone, Praise God! ...

J.S.

Hello, Pastor's Scot and Jason and family! In August I was transferred from the 'Academy' to this new yard. While I was at the 'Academy' I had the privilege of spending seven days a week in the chapels learning, fellowshiping and helping in any way that I could. The time I spent there without a doubt were the best years of my life. It's the place that God, by His goodness, led me to repentance. I also experienced God ignite and fan a revival. I'm writing you because I believe the chapels at the 'Academy' were the keys God used to start the revival that is flourishing beyond belief. My goal, God willing, is to get a chapel built here at my new location, a chapel that would be a place where people can go for a reprieve from prison. A refuge away from the troubles of the world to build each other up, renew our minds, values and behaviors. It would be a place of hope for a better life, a city on a hill ...

B.H.

Hello *Overcomers for Christ*, I am currently residing here in the A.D.O.C., Tucson. I was at the fourth avenue jail for over a year and a half, that is when God touched my heart. It was in a holding cell in that jail that I found myself at rock bottom and began searching for something greater than myself. I was introduced to God by a neighbor of mine in the lockdown unit. He asked me what the most important book in my cell was ... I had no real answer for him. He asked me if I had a Bible and he began the process of helping me understand the who, what, where, when and why of God. I would get visitors from churches every week during the fifteen months I spent in a one man cell. This simple act of selflessness will stick with me forever. When I was searching for direction, members of the body of Christ were there to selflessly take the time to come see me, of all people. I could see firsthand what it meant to let your light shine. I had ample time to evaluate my choices, my goals and the overall direction of my life. I found God inside that room and it forever changed the course of my life. My core values and beliefs are not what they once were. I have a new perspective of what life is ...

J.R.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

God Is Good

By R.A.

Happy New Year to all my brothers and sisters at *Overcomers For Christ!*

Another year has passed, for some that means very little, as their situations seem bleak and unchanging. Some are looking at several years before a possible release from incarceration. For others it's a dead end job, or a broken - perhaps abusive - relationship. To many, the holiday season, and especially the New Year, brings despair.

But for those of us in Christ, there is hope. Not in our circumstances, but in the Lord. He promises that we will never be alone. He will be with us in our situations and guide us through our trials. He promises us we will be overcomers, if we persevere. He has our best in mind, and while His will was NOT for us to go to prison, or to get involved in a destructive relationship or lifestyle, His will is to use these things meant for our destruction and turn them to good so He can be glorified.

So, this New Year, let's focus on the hope found in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. As we do, our circumstances matter less. Develop an attitude of praise and worship. Seek first the Kingdom. We are only in these fleshly, sin stained bodies for a short time. Soon, all of us who believe will spend eternity in fellowship with our Savior. Herein is where our hope lies. Our earthly vessels don't like to wait, but they can be put to death. As we daily die to the flesh, and focus on Christ, our lives will begin to find the peace and joy we all seek. Those around you WILL notice the change.

This is what God has laid on my heart for this coming year. I am to seek Him first with all my heart, and He will take care of me. God is so good, and has a great year planned for me, as He does for each of you! So, to paraphrase Joshua, if no one else will, at least I am going to praise and worship my Lord. My goal this year is to press into extravagant worship and praise to my Creator, for He is most glorified when we are most satisfied in Him.

God bless you all! May God's blessings overtake you, and favor rain upon you this coming year. May you be healthy and prosperous as your soul prospers. You ALL are in my praise and prayers, love you all.

Self-Forgiveness

By W.R.

I got a very moving and heartfelt letter from M. I spent the morning responding to it and I just pray that the words and Scriptures that I shared with him will help him in his struggle to overcome his feelings of unworthiness and more importantly, start seeing himself as God sees him.

I struggled with that issue myself when I first became a Christian, Self-Forgiveness. You know the last thing that satan wants is for us to come out of our past and start seeing ourselves for who we really are in Christ. For once we come to realize who we really are and how God sees us, that frees us from our prisons of doubt, self-condemnation and our feelings of un worthiness. Our feelings and how we may perceive ourselves are often misleading. That is why we must always trust in the Word of God and what He says in relation to who we are.

That devil will keep you in your past and keep you chained to it if he can. I know he's always trying to take me there. I stopped listening to some music years ago just for that very reason. It triggered a lot of memories from my past.

Just a few days ago I was asked by one of the teachers who does the programs here to come in and speak to her class. And while doing so one of the guys asked me a question (that I'd already answered twice before) and it was about my past. I could see the devil in him brother when he was asking me the question, so I didn't trip on it. Had I not already forgiven myself for those things the devil could have taken me back down through there again. Thank You Jesus!

I've been in these physical prisons now for 48 years. But if I can just reach one soul then what years I've spent here will have been worth it. That's how I see it! Knowing that perhaps in some small way I may have been instrumental in helping someone come to the Cross is worth more to me today than my freedom or anything this world has to offer.

I wished that someone would have taken the time to talk to my grandson about Jesus before he died. Maybe it would

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From the Inside

have made a difference in his life. I don't know - only God knows. But what I do know is this - we have to keep fighting for those who are still lost. We have to share with them what we know to be the truth.

My heart goes out to M, for I know from my own experience (after I got saved) what he is going through. I intend to stay in touch with him. May God continue to bless you and everyone in this ministry for the work you are doing for God's Kingdom.

Power and Authority In the Name Of Jesus

By M.R.

First, I would like to send to you my great love from the heart and soul and my respects and care for you and your family. I thank you all for your precious time in writing me and sending your prayers for my family and friends. I also pray for you, my brother, that the Holy Spirit continue to teach you all things.

I've been doing good here in this facility, staying in the beautiful Word of God and in prayer so strong. At times, I feel weak in some areas of life but then I lift those problems, people, cares and burdens to God. I won't lie, it's been rough these past few weeks, but God has given me the strength to overcome it and get through it. And as you once told me, "Going through it is surpassing it, through Jesus Christ." AMEN!

It is all by faith that we stand strong, trust and believe in Jesus that He does His work in us. Right? Amen! Having the Holy Spirit teach me all the beautiful mysteries of God is amazing. The enemy does try to attract more but I just cast out all of satan's tricky spirits, evilness and wickedness in Jesus' name. Amen? It's not my power but the great Power and Authority of Jesus Christ! Amen?

I would like to ask you and all my family of Overcomers that read this to pray in agreement with me concerning these new findings in my case. I found some error in my plea agreement and I put in for a Rule 32 to get back into the courts. I am guilty of having that gun that day, and I admitted that in court and signed this plea for 4.5 years. In getting here to DOC my celli was reading my plea agreement and found that a certain 'she' committed that crime on that date. But in my prior they are trying to use 'that' against me. Then they use 'he', being two people on one plea. I pray to God that this is Him and His miracle working at an immediate release or lower sentence.

Living in the Spirit and not in the flesh is beautiful and feels great. I trust and love Jesus Christ with all that I am. He, Jesus, is my Savior and my Rock FOREVER! Scripture tells us, "**Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil.**" (Psalm 23:4a) God is with us even to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20). So, when God says, "Do not fear," I trust in God.

Let's all pray for all of the lost sheep of God, as I was once lost and heard my Lord's precious voice. God is with you all and loves you beyond even your imagination.. He is calling you to Him. Depart from all evil and cling to God and His truth, His Word - He will take you to depths unimaginable! Loving you all!!

A New Creation In Christ

By T.R.J.

I want to thank you for the letter you wrote to me, I heard every word you said. I am so happy that you told me that the Lord Jesus does love me, and that He does forgive me for ALL of my past. In your letter you told me that if I would say that simple prayer to ask Jesus into my heart, write and let you know. So, YES I did ask Jesus to come in to my heart and life. When I did, I felt this very, very cold chill come over my entire body. It felt so good and I too love the Lord Jesus Christ! After reading the newsletter and then your letter to me, I believe they were specifically to me from the Lord.

From this day forward, I will with His help stay as positive and humble as I can. My real goal now is to let people know about the Lord Jesus Christ and the love that He has for ALL people. To let them know that there is a way to get to know Him, through His Word.

Isaiah 37:1-39:8

Judah is compared to a woman giving birth, but too weak to complete the task. When all seemed hopeless Hezekiah refused to give up. Instead, he asked Isaiah to pray to God to help his people. No matter how dire your situation may seem, don't fret, turn to God. (37:3)

When we pray, we need to have faith that God already has the next response. Our job is to ask in faith and wait in humility. (37:8-10)

If you have a serious need in your life bring it to the Lord. In response to steadfast prayer, God may change the course of your life also. (38:1-5)

The next time you have tough struggles, pray for God's help so you can learn something useful from them. (38:16-18)

Hezekiah, one of Judah's most faithful kings, worked throughout his reign to eliminate idol worship. But it was only God's intervention that kept Judah from their enemies. But due to the amount of evil in Judah as soon as Hezekiah died the nation went right back to their sinful ways with the leadership of Hezekiah's son, Manasseh. All that Hezekiah removed was brought back. (39:8)

Galatians 6:1-18

It's discouraging to keep on doing right without receiving any type of thanks or observing no tangible outcome. But we're challenged by Paul to keep up our efforts and to trust God for results. In time, we will be a part of a harvest of blessings. (6:9-10)

The world is full of distractions and we are confronted daily by bad influences. This is why we need to ask God to remove our interest in the junk in our lives, just as Paul did. (6:14)

Psalms 65:1-66:15

Access to God and the joy of living in the temple was a great honor. Back in the day, it was men from the tribe of Levi. But because of Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross, we, as believers have 24/7 access to God's presence, any place at any time. (65:4)

Nature helps us to understand God's character. God's care of nature is a sign of His love and how He provides. Nature shows us God's generosity. (65:6-13)

People always want to cut a deal with God, "If You do this, I'll obey You the rest of my life." Yet, soon after things change for the better, all is forgotten and they're back to their old shenanigans. God keeps His promises and expects no less from us. Be sure that you follow through on whatever you promise to do. (66:13-15)

Proverbs 24:1-34

As followers of God, do not get caught up with envy for people who are evil and who have gotten what they have through evil ways. We need to hold fast to the fact that God always has our best interest at heart. ALWAYS looking out for our needs. (24:1)

Being a fool or foolish will leave you with nothing to offer when people with wisdom gather to speak. It pays off to put out the effort to gain wisdom. (24:7)

“Foot” Notes

Hello ya'll, just would like to share that as God is closing a chapter in my life, I just received my 2nd Associate's degree, and I'm excited to see what He has in store for me next. God has given me opportunities in here that I never thought possible.

I would like to say to you all that no matter your circumstances pay attention because God will put opportunities before you that will add to your faith in Him.

Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya con Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angels an fly!!

moisture. This person hears the Word, they receive it with eagerness, but there is no root in himself. Meaning this person relies on others revelation of the Word of God, they look to others to help them when trouble comes. But they have no root of God's Word in them, and they are unable to stand against trouble themselves. My suggestion for those that have no root of God's Word in them is to stop relying on your pastor, or your friends who have their own personal intimate relationship with God and develop your own relationship with God. This is what you were created for.

The third type of ground is represented by the soil with thorny bushes. Jesus tells us these thorns are the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches. When you allow the drama around you to overtake you, and when you participate in the drama yourself, the Word of God is choked inside of you and it is unable to produce fruit in your life. Also, if you pursue money and things over God, the Word cannot produce in your life either. All of these will hinder your relationship with God.

The final soil is called good ground, and this is a heart that is open to receive the seed of the Word of God. It's not hard soil, it has been loosened and turned to where the Word of God can take root and grow inside of you. The seed when allowed to grow will produce fruit in your life. If you notice, this is the only type of soil that produced any fruit in the parable. You cannot expect a harvest from God's Word in your life if your heart is not open to all of the things of God.

I want to draw your attention to **Mark 4:26-29**: *"The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself; first the blade, then the head, and after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."* So, as you seek God through His Word, you are taking that Word into your heart. Don't try to reason how God's Word is going to produce fruit in your life, you're not going to figure it out. Just believe in faith what God says about the Word. It will produce by itself, allow the Holy Spirit to water your heart, keeping your heart. The more Word you commit to your heart, the more fruit will be produced in your life. Just keep putting the Word in you, and after some time, harvest after harvest after harvest will begin to appear in your life. As you plant the Word in your heart, day after day, eventually your life will be like a garden of your own – you will continually have fruit being produced. If you are not planting in your heart, how can there be any fruit produced?

An excuse I have heard in the past from people who don't read their Bible is, "It just doesn't make any sense to me." Do you know what they really are saying? They are actually saying they have no personal intimate relationship with God because their heart is not committed to pursuing, seeking, and knowing Him. I'm not saying this to offend anyone, I am saying this to direct us to the truth. About a year ago, I was reading the Parable of the Seed and the Sower, and as I read **Matthew 13:10-11**: *"And the disciples came and said to Jesus, 'Why do You speak to them in parables?' Jesus answered and said to them, 'Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given.'" The Lord stopped me from reading further, and He asked me, "Who asked the question?" I responded, "The disciples." He then asked, "What is the definition of a disciple?" I responded, "A disciple is a learner of God; a pupil; one who receives instruction from God." It occurred to me that one who has set their heart towards God, who has committed self to being His disciple, has been given a gift from God to receive revelation from His Word, this person has been given eyes to see and ears to hear. **Matthew 13:16** says, *"But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear."* This is why some do not have understanding when they read the scriptures, they have not made a true heart decision to give it all to Jesus. As a disciple of Jesus, you have been blessed to understand and comprehend the Word of God.*

Let's read **Luke 14:26-33**: *"If anyone comes to Me and does not love less his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not bear his cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it – less, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.' Or what kind, going to make war against another kind, does not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him who comes against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is still a great way off, he sends a delegation and asks conditions of peace. So likewise, whoever of you does not forsake all that he has cannot be My disciple."*

To be a disciple of Jesus, you must consider the cost. Are you willing to put God first in your life? Are you willing to give up those things that you thought were important? Can you make this decision and not look back and regret it? As I look back at the decision that changed my life four years ago, I have realized that those things that I thought I was giving up were of no significance. God has replaced those things with even greater things in my life, and awesome experiences. He even restores those things to you that you thought were gone. God is so good. You only have to believe His Word, take the first step in faith toward being a disciple and commit in your heart to be a disciple. **Psalms 119:2**: *"Blessed are those who*


keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!" God will bless your commitment beyond what you think you gave up.

Let's look at **Mark 4:24-25**: *"Then Jesus said to His disciples, 'Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.'"* You need to take the revelation you receive from God's Word and put it to use in your life. And as you receive more revelation, you will receive even more. But if you are not giving the Word of God priority in your life, you will lose what little you did have. A better translation to the phrase, 'whoever has', is 'whoever holds on to what he has'. So read **verse 25** as *'For whoever holds on to what he has, more will be given.'* This brings us full circle right back to **Hebrews 2:1**: **"Therefore, we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away."**

Hold on to the Word of God, don't let the Word slip away from you. It will produce magnificent things in your life, be patient. A farmer knows that the seed he plants does not produce fruit the next day, there must be a time period that passes before the harvest is ready. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know this.

My hope is you have received understanding and comprehension of how important God's Word is in your life. Not just a weekly dose of it from sitting in church, but daily intake of His Word. **Matthew 6:11** reads, *"Give us this day our daily bread."* Read and meditate on His Word, give it first priority in your life and sit back and watch God begin to perform in your life.

Another Response to K.H. By W.R.

After reading the February 2019 issue of the  newsletter concerning the article called *Who's Asking* by brother K.H., I felt moved to respond. Here's what I believe God wants K.H. to know.

God tells us in His Word that He will never leave us nor forsake us. (**Hebrews 13:5, Isaiah 41:10, Deuteronomy 31:6**) And of course the enemy doesn't want you to believe this. If your son or daughter was going through trials and tribulations, if they needed your help would you leave them or forsake them? Of course not! Neither will Jesus ever leave you alone without His help.

We all go through seasons, times in which we all feel alone, isolated and sometimes forgotten. Some of the greatest men in the Bible felt that very way (Read **1 Kings 19:1-10**). Elijah felt so alone he actually wanted to die and in **Matthew 11:1-2**, John the Baptist even began to have doubts about Jesus being the Messiah, after he too was imprisoned.

Every man and woman of God goes through storms and trials (**"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything."** **James 1:2-4**) in which we may feel alone, isolated and even abandoned. I think this may prove to be even more true to those of us confined, I've been in prison for 48 years straight now. Sure, sometimes I feel alone as I get distracted. But what we have to learn and understand brother K.H. is this, "The enemy is going to do everything he can to distract us, to weaken us (**Daniel 7:25, Revelation 12:17**), to wear us out spiritually, mentally AND emotionally." For we are engaged in spiritual warfare and prisons are one of satan's strongholds. So, think of yourself as a soldier (**2 Timothy 2:3-4**) trapped behind enemy lines. But know to that, God is with you and the battle belongs to the Lord. He has His angels fighting with you and for you (**Daniel 10, Psalm 34:7**) and brother K.H., our God has NOT lost a battle yet!

The enemy will do everything he possibly can to hinder us from doing God's will, His work and to prevent us from drawing closer to God and coming to the **"knowledge of who we are in Christ Jesus."** (**1 Thessalonians 2:18**)

You ARE a son of the Most High God and He is NOT going to leave you or forsake you any more than you would one of your own children. Know that He loved you so much that He left His throne in heaven - came to this earth in the flesh and died a horrible death on the Cross so you my brother K.H. could be with Him in paradise. That's how much He loves you! So, when you feel alone and that no one cares, think about that. Stay strong, stay focused in prayer and God's Word which are His promises to us and remember that you ARE a soldier in God's Army and NEVER forget He is fighting with you and for you! Never surrender or compromise what you already know to be the truth brother K.H. That is, GOD LOVES YOU!

What Others Are Saying...

"I received the card you recently sent me and wanted to say thank you. It really meant a lot to me to find out that my testimony was relatable to someone else. Thank you for the encouragement on following God's will. One thing I have learned in this walk is that our Father will reveal His plan for us when He knows we can handle it. It might not be when we want to know it, but that to me is what makes it perfect. The Holy Spirit guides us through it, the whole way through it. I will keep you and everyone involved with *Overcomers for Christ* in my prayers. I hope God continues to bless you all in what you do. I hope to continue corresponding with you or anyone else from your ministry. May God continue to do a great work in you as He is in me. God Bless you." - T.L.

"Just a few short but really special lines to let you all know that you're in my thoughts and in my prayers. I hope and pray that when you receive this letter that it finds you all in good health and in good spirits. As for me I'm so sorry that I haven't written to you all. I have been really busy with school, my groups and my Bible studies. I just wanted to say that I am sorry and thank you so very much for the newsletters. I received all of them, the testimonies and the stories are so inspiring to me. Also, to say that I say special prayers for brother Wade and the whole family. There's not a day that goes by that I don't say a prayer for all of us, the whole family of *Overcomers for Christ*. Take care of each other and love one another." - E.G.

"First I want to thank all of you for your love and devotion, It's been like 4 years since I started receiving the *OC&C* newsletters every month without fail. Every birthday I get a card as well as every Christmas. I've got to say that my most cherished card was a birthday card handmade by Caleb, your grandson. You should have seen a 47 year old man cry over a simple birthday card." - D.M.

"*Overcomers for Christ*, thank you for all of your newsletters throughout the years. they are always a joy to read and share with the other men in here. I was transferred to a much better level 2 prison and I'm sending you my new address so I may continue receiving your mail. May God continue to bless all of you, in Jesus name." - J.C.

"Praise God for your newsletters! The testimonials and the very uplifting words encourage us all here greatly! There are many men here at this facility who have been blessed by your ministry. A brother who arrived here a short time ago had brother Duck as his mentor while he was at the county jail. Another brother that has been here for quite some time, you ministered to and also mentored at the county is now also growing ever so in the Lord and he's sharing Scripture with his wife every visit." - R.V.

Quote Worthy

"Of all the people in all of the prisons in the United States God chose you according to His purpose and He has a plan for you. You are God's answer to the issues in your pod, your dorm, your prison. Be faithful to your calling and through you God is leaving His fingerprints in your prison."
- Contributed by G.H.

Living Word Bible Church Locations

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Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296
Florence - Florence High School 1000 S. Main St. Florence, AZ 85132

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the *Overcomers for Christ* ministry:

By **check** or **money order** – Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For *Overcomers for Christ*". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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Taken Heed

By C.J.

Righteously is how I try to live,
always having pleasant words to say and give.
The Lord is inside of me,
and I make it a point to tell everybody.
I spread the Gospel faithfully,
letting others know the path to eternity.

Jesus died for us all,
And it's time we take heed of His call.
The time no one knows,
but the Lord is only taking those with the spiritual glow.
Because judgment day could be tomorrow,
and then non believers will forever dwell in sorrow.
However, they have the chance, to seek sincere repentance.

I'm a living example of a New Birth,
Blessed and ready to leave, this wretched earth.
And there's charity in my heart,
thus I want to be the light, so I can help others escape the dark.
My walk and my talk, convey my spirituality,
of a man trying to live sin-free.

I'm just a humble servant showing my loyalty
to the highest form of royalty, our Majesty,
Jesus, the One in whom we must believe.

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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