

Overcomers for Christ

October 2017

I AM THE LORD,
WHO DIRECTS YOU IN THE WAY YOU SHOULD GO



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

January 2017



A Moment In Time

By Rodger Whisman

I'll open with these two Scriptures ... **Psalm 39:4**, "**LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am.**" And **James 4:14**, "**Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**"

So again I say, "What does God have to do with this?" And I remain always, "EVERYTHING!"

"That in every thing ye are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge ..." (1 Corinthians 1:5)

Recently I've confronted a new challenge. I found within this challenge that I was dealing with time itself as an important consideration. That is, leaning toward a new understanding of the time I have been blessed with on earth and being patient with God as He works out the process with me. **"In your patience possess ye your souls."** (Luke 21:19) The NIV translates the same verse like this, **"Stand firm, and you will win life."** In **Romans 5:3-4** we read, **"And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope ..."** Even Solomon in the great wisdom God gave him wrote much on times and seasons such as **Ecclesiastes 3:1**, **"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven."** (Read on through **Ecclesiastes 3:2-8**) I want to stay on point but I will share a bonus at the end of this on one of my challenges that became apparent, but was tucked away in a hidden corner of my heart and mind.

When God blessed mankind with life He also blessed him with time. A time to grow, to learn, to experience, to mature and a time to process all of the above. So we were given 'time' to make choices and freely decide for ourselves. **Ecclesiastes 3:17** reminds us of this, **"I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work."**

In our youth time is not considered, as we take for granted that there is much of it at hand. As we begin to grow older and age we begin to realize that there is not as much time as we originally thought. Let's read **Romans 13:11**, **"And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed."** What I too have begun to realize and grasp is the importance and significance of our time on earth. And all of what we do here on earth is our allotted time and it is of greater significance than I had led myself to believe previously. **Ephesians 5:15-16** says, **"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil."** Listen now how the NLT shares **Romans 5:15-16**, **"So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days."**

The Scriptures in diverse verses even state clearly that we ARE foreknown. Our existence is there, foreknown of and by the Father. And if foreknown and that IN Christ the Father has a purpose AND a plan for our lives. That makes us born with purpose and intent. WOW!! This is what **Romans 8:28-30** tells us, **"And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose. For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified."**

So yes, God most definitely has a divine purpose for each of our lives, for those that have chosen freely to accept and walk for God. The offer of Salvation is for ALL men, as **Titus 2:11** reads, **"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"** Now let's read **2 Peter 3:9**, **"The LORD is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** In laymen's terms; His love is so great for you, His intent so clear that He has made a blueprint ahead of time for each of our lives, for this time and this season. What I mean is this, YOU are part of a far greater plan that He has already drawn up AND has begun to finish the work/workmanship of that plan. When you begin to fulfill His purpose and intent for you, you also begin to be totally fulfilled in your heart, mind and life. God also expresses His desire, that you are wanted and loved in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Yes! He loved you first and put His purpose and intent, for this time and season, within you. He even confirms this in **Jeremiah 29:11-12**, **"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end. Then shall ye call upon Me, and ye shall go and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you."**

Maybe at this point in your life you think that your time has passed. You've messed up too much, or just plain blown it and/or think you have lost your chance and opportunity to recover that time. REALLY? First let me say this, when you come to Christ, the word chance does NOT exist. Salvation has NOTHING to do with chance. Salvation is God's GIFT of opportunity and restoration is one of God's specialties. You can pick nearly anywhere in the Bible and see God's hand of

restoration. You could read the Book of Job or how about David throughout the Book of Psalms and yes, even Saul in the Book of Acts, where through God's restoration process Saul was redeemed and renamed as Paul, the Apostle Paul. Paul went on to write nearly 2/3 of the New Testament. How about that!?! Secondly, you truly don't think that ... do you? Have you even stopped to consider that the Father that see's ALL is in NO WAY suddenly taken by surprise of what you have already done OR will ever do, your placement or misplacement or your present circumstances catch Him off guard?? Let's examine the Scriptures, Old and New.

Romans 11:29 tells us, **"For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance."** Listen here as the Message translation states **Romans 11:29, "God's gifts and God's call are under FULL warranty - NEVER cancelled, NEVER rescinded."** My dear friends, our Father in heaven finishes EVERYTHING He has ever began! You are a work of God's and His plan is to finish that work in you. And watch this, YOU get to choose to allow Him to be a part of your life! That my friends is called 'free choice'! YOU choose. What does the Bible say about this?

Deuteronomy 30:19 reads, **"I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live ..."** This Scripture gives you two views to consider, for this day and this time. Let me offer a third opportunity to consider or reconsider.

There are many attributes to God our Father. Several of whom He alone is, and several of whom He is to you personally. Allow me to introduce 'El-Roi' to your studies. This is just one of the many names/attributes of God which simply put translates, "The God that see's ALL". He has seen every single aspect of your life. Yes, NOW in this immediate time. There are NO surprises to Him and definitely NO private interpretations or so called, secrets to life with Him. He, yes the same God, our God, is Omnipresent. Which means, "ALL in all, present EVERYWHERE at the same time!"

As you step forward today you may say, "Okay, I got that! What am I supposed to do in my present circumstances, life IN Christ and through Christ?" Let me begin by saying this, "God IS above ALL of your circumstances!" Your job, should you choose to accept it, is to reflect the very divine nature of whom God is, the Christ IN you, the very hope of glory. Or, this is a simpler view. You/we are to be a representation of the Kingdom of God, NOT a salesperson of spiritual real-estate. You/we are to be a reflection to others of whom Christ is, in you. In other words, you are here to allow/let the Gospel of Christ shine through you. God's purpose for you comes through you to others offering an abundant life, that being IN Christ. Let's look at **2 Corinthians 9:12, "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."** And now, **2 Corinthians 8:14, "But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality."** This is the way the NIV translates **2 Corinthians 8:14, "At the present time your plenty will supply what they need, so that in turn their plenty will supply what you need. The goal is equality."**

Be very clear of this, Christ came to do away with our sins, and in due time, do away with sin itself! NOT merely cover them up! Christ set us free for the purpose and intent to in turn help set others free through the Christ IN you/us! To me, that sounds VERY significant, as we ALL are here at this appointed time and season to be totally purpose driven.

Let's step further forward, to **John 4:2-3**, where Jesus Himself said this, **"In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto Myself; that where I am, there ye may be also ..."** God's Son, our Christ, after being resurrected by the Father and having been received in His heavenly placement just told us, His NEW brothers and sisters, "Hey, it's okay. I've gone ahead of you to prepare a place for you in the Kingdom of Heaven." But that's not all.

In **John 14:16-18**, Jesus still, promises us this, **"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you."** In the NIV translation the word 'comfortless' is translated 'as orphans'. What does Jesus mean when He says **"... and He shall give you ANOTHER Comforter?"** I love how the Word of God explains and is confirmed by itself, when we read on further. So let's read on, in **John 14:25-27, "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."**

So here's what's going on in your time and in your season, right NOW and right here on this earth today. Christ sent us a Helper, a Comforter, a Teacher and a Personage to walk through ALL of this life with us and by our side which is the Holy Spirit/Holy Ghost. He is also known as our Guide and our Counselor. So when did the Holy Spirit come? Watch and listen as we walk together to see.

... continued on page 9

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

Thank you so much for being a part of my life by your newsletter. You have touched me in so many different ways, so many different times. Today, I need your prayers. I am doing 2-40 years and a 20 year agg sentence that the D.A. is currently looking into turning it around. My God is mighty and this can only come through God. I have a calling on my life and I'm more than ready to get started on it. I have a 90 year old praying mother waiting for my release. She needs me as I need her. Please come into agreement for the Holy Spirit to move on my behalf and to soften the D.A. and judges heart so I can go home. I am under a lot of physical illness and as we all know prison isn't the place to be sick. Pray me home in Jesus' name. There is power in numbers before the throne of the King. I believe I will be pulled back to the county, please believe with me in Jesus' name. I love each and every one of you and you are a blessing to me. Look forward to the next newsletter ... **D.M.**

My girlfriend has three kids all under 5 years old. She is dealing with a drug addiction. Can you please pray for her and her kids? Thank you ... **A.T.**

I just wanted to say thank you to all of you. Receiving my birthday card made my soul smile. My walk with the Lord isn't as strong as it used to be but I know there are people like you out there praying for me. I appreciate everything you do and pray that you are blessed. Please keep me in your prayers. I get out in November and I am getting nervous ... **C.W.**

I thought this year would never come, I'm overjoyed because I only have four more months before I'm released. So as I prepare for my transition, I've made a few changes as well. I'm getting a new job for starters because I'm mentally and physically exhausted working and I would like to rest a little before my new challenge. Please pray to have a smooth transition and that my brother's house will be approved for me to live in. And if not, please pray that I find a place, so I can see my daughter. I've been incarcerated since she was seven. Thank you so much for your prayers and may God bless you. Your sister in Christ ... **D.D.**

Hello Overcomers, it's been a long while since I have written. I just want you all to know that your newsletters are very uplifting to me. I have been going through a lot of different changes but I know that it's all according to God's will. I ask to keep my mom, dad, sister and nephews in prayer of God's favor, will, healing with pain through the body and drug addiction. To keep my nephews safe and the bondage of addiction broken in their generation. Thank you for all you do for all of us and thank you all for your support through Christ ... **B.W.**

Praise Reports

I sit here 30 days free after 10 years away from life as I now know it. There were days that I didn't think I would make it. There were many days that I questioned my faith and was very angry with God. I often thought to myself "If God loved me and forgives me for my sins, why would He force me to endure a 10-year prison sentence." There was a day that always was near and dear to my heart. The day that mail call came and a beacon of light in the form of a newsletter, by the name of *Overcomers for Christ* would bless me with its presence. Today is a significant day for me because I spent most of my youth in and out of jails and institutions. I never made it beyond two weeks in the free world before life became uncomfortable. I had to feel and cope with life's emotions and so I ran back to what I knew and what was common ... the fast life. While I was in prison God blessed me with marrying my beautiful wife who stood by my side as my best friend the entire time. Now life as I know it with God as my center and Jesus first in my life, we don't have to question what tomorrow will bring, because we are good today. God's got us. It is His plan and on His time frame ... not ours. Today, I feel honored and privileged to spend the day with my son that I have missed so terribly for 10 years and got to meet four of my grandbabies. So, today as I share some love with you, please remember that today is a good day. Rest in God's presence and know that every day with God in your life, as your center, is a great day and you are blessed ... **J.D.**

I've been doing good lately. I've not gotten side tracked lately. I hope it continues like that. The very first thing I just did was move to another cell. My prior cellmate was a good dude, but he still had his negative ways, you feel me? No type of 'I want to change' attitude. We got along good, don't get me wrong. But it just wasn't my type of thing no more. He wasn't spiritual, in other words, he wanted nothing to do with the Word of Jesus Christ. That's why I said I no longer wanted that living style. I needed a cellmate who was on my level (spiritually). That's why I decided to move to a different cell and move in someone who reads the Word, prays, etc. And that's exactly how it ended up. I moved in a good dude and it's a healthy, blessed, and spiritually motivated environment in our cell. No distractions or U-turns now. We just stick to our spiritual growth and try to teach one another the little bit we know. We're both new to this journey of Christ Jesus. Every day is a great blessing, knowing that I am walking with our Lord Jesus Christ. **Second Corinthians 5:7, "For we walk by faith, not by sight."** God is good and He's working in my life. Molding me at His pace and time. Baby steps as some call it ... **S.L.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Fixing our Thoughts - Psalm 77

By M.D.

I'm sending along something that I've been inspired to write. These words truly reflect some of the answers that I have found lately. I hope everyone likes it but more importantly pray that it touch the hearts of the brothers and sisters that read it and are getting caught up in their thoughts as I have. Especially those locked away in a cell by themselves, as I too am.

Although I have had some recent correspondence from the courts it's only to let me know that they are investigating my appeal. With that said, I would greatly appreciate all of the prayers that I can get concerning my appeal. Of course I am praying that the Lord will take away this life sentence hanging over my head right now. In this cell 24/7 I'm with my Lord all the time searching for the answers I need to move on. Here is what has been revealed to me.

No doubt, I can understand where Asaph the psalmist was coming from when he wrote in **Psalm 77:4**, "**You had my eyelids open; I am so troubled I cannot speak.**" I've spent many sleepless nights, tossing and turning in bed, considering solution after solution for my dilemma, evaluating every little thing. Though my body is completely weary, and what I need most is rest, I just can't shut my eyes. Because of the heaviness of exhaustion and helplessness, my lips are silent, but my tormented spirit is quietly calling out, "Oh my Lord God, I don't know what to do!"

Yet, please understand overcomers, just as a shot of dope has NEVER helped anything, analyzing your plight over and over again will never help your troubled souls. Rather you MUST redirect your focus.

Asaph wrote, "**I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, and my spirit makes diligent search. I will remember the years of the right hand of the Most High.**" (Psalm 77:6,10)

The only thing that will heal you and help you rest is to turn your thoughts to the faithfulness of God. That is why Paul wrote, "**Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your HEARTS and MINDS through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy - meditate on these things.**" (Philippians 4:6-8)

Here, our brother Paul offers us the blueprint for ending the sleepless nights. First, we pray out our anxieties - discuss your troubles with God and then give them to Him. Second, we call God to us with praise and gratefulness. When you remember God's amazing ability to create new, un-thought of solutions, His peace will begin to fill your soul. Third, fix your thoughts on God's glorious character and nature: His omnipotence, omniscience, omnipresence and unconditional love. Whenever your thoughts begin to stray back to your troubles, counter the attack with more of God's wonderful, never changing attributes. It is difficult and it takes ALL of our self-will but you MUST change the focus of your mind to the God who will surely help you OVERCOME every dilemma. Then you will find that it's true, "**He gives to His beloved sheep.**" (Psalm 127:2)

Don't Beat People Up with the Bible ... Love Them

By S.K.

I just read your article, the one issue that has the war memorial on the front, I was moved by the testimonies in that issue. I feel like I know a few of the people in it. My favorite one is how the man found God after a long time being astray and looking at things in a worldly sense. I can relate. I feel like I could have helped him out, and I just thank God that he found his way. I used to be a real brutal believer; I persecuted people a lot, for what they did, just like Paul. My ways were a little different though; instead of saving the people I was trying to save, I was pushing them away.

I didn't know the ways of grace. I had to have forgiveness that I didn't have, and belief that I didn't have to make it where I am now. My favorite thing is the Word of God and sometimes too much zeal can have us lose sight. Like the stony ground, I was condemning people for what they did instead of teaching them how to live good lives. I didn't know the main commandment ... Love. I was blinded by the wrongdoing that people did because of the hatred in my heart. I secluded people out, people that I needed. If I would have known then what I know now, I wouldn't be here right now, but would I

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

have learned it if I hadn't gone through what I'd gone through?

God works in mysterious ways! Just know that.

Faith is Everything

By S.F.

What a blessing to receive the birthday wishes and newsletter, the words in Conviction of Life are so true. I'm coming up on five years in prison and for 90 days I've been awaiting a reply from the appeals court on my motions for a hearing in my case in which I have been fighting the whole time. God has been giving me insight to so much I never knew. This is the hearing I've been asking for since this all started five years ago and this is the first time I wasn't denied or responded to within 15 days of filing my motions of request. **Hebrews 4:16** says, "**So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.**" But we must all remember in doing so, in **Hebrews 11:6**, "**And it is impossible to please God without faith.**"

Anyone who wants to come to Him must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who sincerely seek Him. Our pastor has said, "Don't work for what you can't keep! Live for the thing you can't lose." Remember **Luke 17:6**, "**The Lord answered, 'If you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, 'May you be uprooted and be planted in the sea,' and it would obey you!'**" Faith is everything. Read **Matthew 15:28**, "**'Dear woman,' Jesus said to her, 'your faith is great. Your request is granted.' And her daughter was instantly healed.**" Also in **Timothy 1:19**, "**Cling to your faith in Christ, and keep your conscience clear. For some people have deliberately violated their consciences; as a result, their faith has been shipwrecked.**" Read **John 3:16-17**, "**For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.**" Also, Jesus did not come to condemn us but to save us. In faith, I know every day that I'm alive, I'm with each and every one of you for we are all one IN Christ.

Ephesians 6:10-11, "**A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil.**" **Philippians 2:13**, "**For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases Him.**" **Philippians 4:13**, "**For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.**" For you all ... **Ephesians 4:1**, "**Therefore I, a prisoner for serving the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of your calling, for you have been called by God.**" I will keep you all in my prayers.

Darkness to the Light

By M.W.

I received your card and I thank you for taking your time to get back at me. Overcomers for Christ family ... I have been living my life the wrong way for way too long. I'm really not a bad person, I've just made some bad choices in my life. I turn 35 in December and have come to realize, I'm not getting any younger. I want to do God's work now. I have never been so alone in my life, I have the Lord and that should be all I need, and He is, but personal guidance is comfort too. I never had problems with drugs, well I did when I was younger but nowadays it's the people that I love that do them.

My new desire is to help out in churches, food banks, with the homeless and especially children when I do get out. I know I still have 2 years to do but I'd like to start making plans now and give myself more motivation. I really plan to give it my all in loving Jesus. I didn't know how you put your newsletters together, until today. My neighbor received his today in the mail and I happened to look over it. I was amazed! I thank the Lord for your organization. Every day I praise the Lord and each time that I do I feel more and more excited.

So much bad keeps going on in my life and I feel like I have every reason to say, "Forget it!" and go back to drugs and violence. But there is one thing I have never done, until now, that is to trust the Lord with ALL of my problems. But now I want to hand Him my burdens and put my ALL into the Lord instead of all the things that got me here in this prison cell. I'm new at this so I'm asking all of you there at the Overcomers for Christ for your guidance. Please help me to be a better servant for/to God. The most important thing for me is that I stay faithful to God and not leave Him at the door. God bless you all and thank you for listening.

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

A Moment In Time *continued ...*

In **Acts 1:4-8**, Luke recorded these accounts, **"On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave them this command." (Acts 1:4a)** Let's stop right here for a second. It's important to know and remember that at this immediate setting Jesus had already gone to the Cross, been crucified, went to the grave where He defeated satan, took BACK the keys to the Kingdom and having ALL the authority He then rose again on the third day (**Colossians 2:15, "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross."**). Jesus had now been walking with them (this side of the Cross) for 40 more days and they were all now sitting together eating when Jesus gave them these instructions. **"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4b-5)** **"Then they gathered around him and asked him, 'LORD, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?'" (Acts 1:6)** Obviously they didn't fully understand what was just about to happen. Jesus was about to leave this earth and ascend into heaven and receive His seat at the right hand of the Father. Listen as Jesus tells them, **"It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by His own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."** (**Acts 1:7-8**) What powerful promises! The Scriptures are full of promises and dispersions of the POWER and intent of the Holy Spirit on our behalf. **Second Corinthians 1:20** tells us, **"For all the promises of God IN Him are yea, and IN Him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."**

Maybe you're asking, "But what about my situation, the circumstances, the present overwhelming odds and how hard I condemn myself for my errors?" Please consider and receive comfort through these words in **Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is IN Christ Jesus our Lord."** So you are greatly loved and were designed with great purpose. With all that I have shared and that with Scriptures; at this time and hour the choice remains yours! I promised you all a bonus at the end of this share. Here it is.

Those that truly know me know that fear is no issue with me, or so I too thought. At a Veteran's (Christian) meeting we spoke on FEAR. Not in combat. Not in our return and attempt at adjustment to the civilian life. Ready? But the fear that each of us carried of God, of serving God, of failing God in our calling and especially a fear of what God's choices were for each of us in our responsible positions of ministry. We found not one but two fears predominate:

- 1) Old Testament; the very fear of God Himself.
- 2) New Testament fear of God; this kind of fear covers mostly respect, reverence and a soft humble heart for Him so He can touch our hearts AND we can touch His heart!!

WOW! This is our conclusion and acronym for F.E.A.R. - False, Evidence (that), Appears, Real. Our fear was our proof that we lacked greatly in simply 'Trusting God' with His plans for our lives.

I pray that what I've shared here steer you, through my own challenges which were no more than a false illusion at an attempt to hinder my walk with my Father. *God: guide these words.*

God's Grace is Available to All By Maria Gonzales

God's Grace is for everybody, no matter who you are and no matter what you've done, God loves you, and He wants you to come home to Him. He wants to shower His grace on you; He wants to throw a party for you when you return. The Bible says in **Romans 4:16, "The promise is not only for those people that live under the Law of Moses. It is for anyone who lives with faith like Abraham who are the people who "live under the Law of Moses."** The Jewish people, the nation of Israel lived under the Law of Moses in the Old Testament. This verse is saying that God's grace is available not just to the Jews who lived under the Law of Moses; it is available to everybody with faith. That's good news! God's grace is not just for the Jewish people, it's for all of us. All of us can come to God in the same way, through faith in the grace of God through His Son, Jesus Christ.

You can't understand what it means to have a relationship with God without understanding grace. Without grace, you don't have any relationship with God. It is the heart of Christianity. It is the heart of following Christ and being a believer. No matter what you've done and no matter who you are, God's grace is available to you. Why do you think so many people have a hard time believing in God's grace? In light of God's offer of grace, how do you think He wants you to treat others, even if they are undeserving your grace? How does grace affect how you approach God in your relationship?

Overcomer's Testimonies

Hello to all of my Overcomers for Christ family everywhere! This may be a rather lengthy praise report BUT He is always worthy of our praise, Amen?!

First off, like I said, I want to give all glory to God for everything I'm about to share. God has blessed me in so many ways. I know it's been awhile since I last wrote to the O&S family, but I want to say that I have not forgotten all of you. In fact you all are always in my prayers. I'm always sharing with others what you all do there for all of us here in prison and sharing the newsletters. Here is my praise report.

When I first came down I had to go to a 3 yard only because of an out of state warrant that placed a hold on me. I didn't know how I was going to do it but I had to find a way to send all of my paperwork forms to have the hold released and the warrant dropped. And that was only if they wanted to due to the fact that I also had 3 years probation left in California. So I sent a letter to my probation in California to see if they would work with me before having to send all of those forms to the courts there.

Well, before I knew it probation sent me a form to inform me NOT to send any paperwork to the courts there. They said that they did it all for me and told the Judge that they would be dropping me from probation. Therefore, leaving me clean of any pending charges, warrants or probation in California. Thank God!! And all of this without me having to do anything but 'believe that all things are possible through God who gives us the strength.' Before all of this I had only one release date in 2019. All of this time I have continued telling my wife and kids that I am coming home in 2018 just to try and keep their spirits up. I kept telling them all to trust in God as I'm doing and you all will see His blessings.

Well, I have now been moved to a 2 yard. That's a blessing and here's another blessing. Only four days on this yard with no job and once again God did what He will always do on His time and terms. He got me a job! And not just any job. I am now working as a structural firefighter and going through all of the tests. It's a dream I once had when I was a volunteer firefighter. I remember I wanted to become full time, save lives and help others.

I also have a new release date just like I trusted and believed God would give me at the proper time. I go home just like I told my kids to believe, in 2018! AMEN!! I'm sharing this NOT to brag about anything that I have done. I'm sharing this with everyone to encourage someone to surrender your life to God and trust the Lord to do right for you. Trust is all we are required to do because He has already supplied the promise to us as long as we allow Him to do His will and not ours.

Have I struggled at times? Yes! I am just like everyone else. But when I do find myself trying to take back control of my own life I quickly remember what Paul said in *Philippians 4:7-9* (ERV), **"And God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds. Brothers and sisters, continue to think about what is good and worthy of praise. Think about what is true and honorable and right and pure and respected. And do what you learned and received from me - what I told you and what you saw me do. And the God that gives peace will be with you."** TRUST THE LORD, AMEN!!??!

All of this started to take root in me from a seed that brother Wade, his wife, kids and family planted in me when I was in the county jail. Wade used to come and do one on one Bible studies with me there back in 2014. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart. You all are my family and soon we will find each other on the 'outside' serving the Lord there together. - **B.P.**

What Others Are Saying...

"Overcomers Family, please note my change of address. I have been receiving your newsletters since 2013 but I have not written in to you all more than 2-3 times at best. The Lord struck a certain and definite necessity in my heart recently to reach out and give recognition and thanks for your constant efforts. Thank you very much! It means a lot in the heart to get your monthly mail. To the specific point; I have been struggling to find God and Christ these past years and your mail, in its ceaselessness has been the encouragement and reinforcement a floundering man needs to keep looking. I can't say that your mail has only helped me achieve such great growth to God and in God and Christ, but it has also provided heavy perseverance in me to do so. The guiding light shines so brightly through your ministry. I can only say, thank you and I pray that His riches continue to bless you and continue to flow through you to all His children that you all so selflessly touch. AGAPE" - **C.F.**

"I want to sign up for your Overcomers for Christ newsletter. I read a friend's and loved it. I was wondering if anyone wants a Christian pen pal, I would really like that. I have no family or anyone writing me so if someone wants to be pen pal, I would really appreciate that. I have no positive people in my life, so I'm hoping that changes with this letter. I really hope to receive your newsletter and hopefully some mail to brighten my day - **K.M.**

Columbus Day Trivia: 9 Facts You May Not Know about This National Holiday!

Columbus Day is a national holiday in many countries in the Americas and elsewhere which officially celebrates the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492.

1. The landing is celebrated as "Columbus Day" in the United States, as "Día de la Raza" ("Day of the Race") in many countries in Latin America and as "Día de la Hispanidad" and "Fiesta Nacional" in Spain, where it is also the religious festivity of la Virgen del Pilar.
2. It is also celebrated as Día de las Américas (Day of the Americas) in Belize and Uruguay, as Discovery Day in the Bahamas, as Día del Respeto a la Diversidad Cultural (Day of Respect for Cultural Diversity) in Argentina and as Giornata Nazionale di Cristoforo Colombo or Festa Nazionale di Cristoforo Colombo in Italy and in the Little Italy's around the world.
3. These holidays have been celebrated unofficially since the late 18th century and officially in various countries since the early 20th century.
4. Columbus Day first became an official state holiday in Colorado in 1906, and became a federal holiday in the United States in 1937, though people have celebrated Columbus's voyage since the colonial period.
5. In 1792, New York City and other U.S. cities celebrated the 300th anniversary of his landing in the New World. President Benjamin Harrison called upon the people of the United States to celebrate Columbus Day on the 400th anniversary of the event.
6. During the four hundredth anniversary in 1892, teachers, preachers, poets and politicians used Columbus Day rituals to teach ideals of patriotism. These patriotic rituals took themes such as citizenship boundaries, the importance of loyalty to the nation, and celebrating social progress.
7. Many Italian-Americans observe Columbus Day as a celebration of their heritage, the first occasion being in New York City on October 12, 1866.
8. Since 1970 (Oct. 12), the holiday has been fixed to the second Monday in October, coincidentally exactly the same day as Thanksgiving in neighboring Canada fixed it since 1959.
9. The traditional date of the holiday also adjoins the anniversary of the United States Navy (founded October 13, 1775), and thus both occasions are customarily observed by the Navy (and usually the Marine Corps as well) with either a 72- or 96-hour liberty period.

Quote Worthy

"I gave in and admitted that God was God."

C.S. Lewis (1898-1963) was a British novelist, poet, academic, medievalist, literary critic, essayist, lay theologian, broadcaster, lecturer, and Christian apologist. He held academic positions at both Oxford University (Magdalen College, 1925-1954) and Cambridge University (Magdalene College, 1954-1963). He is best known for his works of fiction, especially *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, and *The Space Trilogy*, and for his non-fiction Christian apologetics, such as *Mere Christianity*, *Miracles*, and *The Problem of Pain*.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, and mail this newsletter. None of this would be possible without the faithful support of many people who believe in this ministry. The vision of this ministry is to offer hope, love, and encouragement to those who are incarcerated. You are investing in spreading the Word of God to lost souls, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

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

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

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.

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

Joyful Expectations

By J.H.

My hope comes from the Rock that is Jesus,
These words I speak I hope you can heed this
So much pain in this world everybody needs Him
A peace that passes all comprehension

A full life He will give you, fulfill every dimension,
Excuse me a moment, did I forget to mention,
His love is endless, a friend to the friendless
New drive and direction,
My once cold black heart, now flows with affection,
The Blood erased my tension
We must stay focused, we must pay attention

Life saving measures achieved through tough lessons
Set backs are blessings viewed with proper perspective
His love is not idle, always present and aggressive

We're clay, He's the potter, He's my armor, a loving Father
Protection against satan who only wants to harm you
My hope is these words don't alarm you,
My hope is the Holy Spirit charms you
Into believing that He rose
He chose you, a rose,

His Son beaten to the bone
For freedom, not submission,
Faith the only cost of admission,
To a life that's uplifting from Arizona to San Quinton,
We all have hope, strength that allows you to cope,
Jesus will guide you as we balance on life's tight rope.

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