

He who can change, discovers  
the whole world embraces him.  
He who cannot change, walks  
a path of adversity, wanton  
dispair and regretful acts led  
and living in a life of loneliness.

Lions don't loose sleep  
over the opinions of  
the lost & sheep.

wisdom is knowledge in  
practice --- Not willing  
to practice what you know,  
is not knowing at all.

**THE BROKEN ARE**  
THE BROKEN ARE  
**THE MORE EVOLVED.**  
THE MORE EVOLVED.

Change to live responsibly to others,  
begins with change to live life as a  
responsible change to one's self.  
Change what is most basic ---  
--- your thinking. "As a man thinks  
in his heart, so is he". Proverbs 23:7.  
GOD IS GOOD - He gave us life.

# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

## June 2018



## SHIPWRECKED FAITH

By Arthur Lavato

I remember standing in the sally port on March 2nd 2015, dressed out in release clothes waiting on the van that was to take me to the shuttle. Fear wanted to grip my heart because after 8 1/2 years and two page two's it was difficult to see myself free on the other side of that gate, in the natural. Yet as men and women of God, **2 Corinthians 5:7** tells us, **"For we walk by faith, not by sight."**

You see, God had taught me some things while I was in prison. If we would be honest we would admit that incarcerated men and women are no strangers to fear. So when fear tried to grip me on the day of my release I knew just what to do. You cling to your faith and attach your prayers and requests to the Word of God. You call those things that are not as if they were (**Romans 4:17**).

Although I was still in custody I thanked God for my freedom and as sure as I am sitting writing this, it came to pass. I'm certain that God never wanted me to spend the years that I did in prison. I truly believe that He would have had that I took a different route. I am also certain that He was not taken by surprise when I opted to run my own program. I would attribute the majority of my sorrow that I've known to the fact that I freely, and of my own will, violated my own conscience, and chose to rebel against even the Word of God.

The Scripture, **Galatians 6:7**, is very clear, **"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."** So as a result of my own sin I landed myself in prison AGAIN in 2006. I wish that I could say that I repented immediately, but honestly it took me more than a minute to do so. Here once again, in **1 Timothy 1:19**, the Scripture is clear, **"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."** Obviously I would never have landed on the prison yard if I'd been living right on the boulevard.

I had violated my conscience and shipwrecked my faith. I had a desire to walk with God and walk in the Spirit yet my carnal nature continually ruled my decisions and choices. Why? BECAUSE I fed my flesh and neglected my spirit. Again, I was spiritually bankrupt, AND I had violated my conscience and shipwrecked my faith! I had forfeited the joy and the peace of God in my life for my own selfish desires. I hadn't merely left the door cracked open for the enemy to come in. NO! I left the garage door open and he came in like a flood!

It was 2010 when personal tragedy had struck my family in the life of one of my very own sons. I knew the moment that I got the news in the visitation room that God had long been calling me to repentance and I needed so desperately His hand in my life! In **Acts 3:19** the Scripture says, **"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, ..."** Times of refreshing! That's what I needed! I needed God to forgive me of my sins. I needed God to restore my joy, and give me that peace that surpasses ALL understanding (**Philippians 4:7**).

My dilemma was simply; How do you find restoration to a SHIPWRECKED FAITH? The answers are found in the Word of God.

- 1) **"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."** (1 John 1:9)
- 2) **"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."** (Acts 3:19)
- 3) **"You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."** (Isaiah 26:3) In other words, build a prayer life and learn to communicate with God.
- 4) **"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."** (Romans 12:2) Allow the Word of God to change you.
- 5) **"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service."** (Romans 12:1) Make a conscious effort to refrain from sin.

Stay in fellowship and get involved in your local church. **Proverbs 27:17**, **"As iron sharpens iron, So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend"** and **Proverbs 11:14**, **"Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety."** clearly encourage fellowship. Some will tell you that it is not necessary that we go to church to live for God. Well, you don't need a parachute to jump out of an airplane either but it sure helps! ;-) The author of **Hebrews** again encouraged us of this when he wrote, **"... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."** (**Hebrews 10:25**)

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I have found that these are the keys scripturally and the answers to healing a **SHIPWRECKED FAITH** and how to simply remain in position so that we can fulfill our assignment. Once I decided to serve God right there on the prison yard my years of incarceration were an amazing time of growth, restoration, healing and spiritual training for me. God knows just where you're at. The Scripture says that God has pre appointed the times and the boundaries of our habitations (**Acts 17:26**).

In this season you have even been set apart to make an impact **RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE**, and to grow to impact a people who await you **WHERE YOU ARE GOING!** God is not looking for perfect men and women (there are none), He's looking for willing vessels. Listen how Isaiah responded when he heard God calling out, **"Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'"** (Isaiah 6:8)

Take this time and let God work through you. Above all, stay in prayer, **"... pray without ceasing,"** (1 Thessalonians 5:17) And stay in your Word. Why? Because, **"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ..."** (2 Timothy 3:16) These ARE some of the keys to restoration and remaining steadfast.

At the time that I wrote this I have 43 days and a wakeup and I'll have been free from that old prison for 4 years, PRAISE GOD! Today I am still serving God and on fire for Jesus! I have an amazing and beautiful wife. God has restored EVERY relationship that sin had damaged in my past. I have a job where I am valued, a church family that loves and respects me, and we are making an impact for the kingdom of God in our community. I am also very grateful to God that He has allowed me to have owned 3 beautiful Harley Davidson motorcycles since my release. Imagine that; Living for God with my knees in the breeze, accompanied by the woman of my dreams! Our God is a GREAT God, and surely there IS life after prison!

I'm going to leave you all with these last two Scriptures. **"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."** (Romans 15:13) And here's one to keep in your clip, **"Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart."** (Psalms 37:4)


Love in Christ to you all, Brother Huero.

## What Others Are Saying...

"My time here is coming to an end. Thank you so much for all your support ... cards, letters, etc. They have meant the world to me. Keep doing what you do and God bless you all. You bring hope in times of need." - **C.L.**

"Please accept this tithe to continue reaching others on the inside, expanding the Kingdom. God bless you." - **R.W.**

"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 year. 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 the prisoners." - **R.B.**

"Well, I just wanted to send a little love your way and to say thank you for being a very important part of my life. Don't forget to always smile, it makes the enemy so, so mad. You are in my prayers. Thanks to all of you there at , you are truly a blessing in my life." - **R.G.**

"I want to thank you all for such a beautiful birthday card. I truly appreciate all that everyone does. I'm very grateful to have you all in my life. I love your pictures, you are all beautiful people. May God bless you all and keep you safe. I love your magazine and look forward to it every month." - **M.R.**

"I greatly appreciate all that you all do. God bless all of you there are Living Word Bible Church and your families. I enjoy your newsletter so much. I am doing great and I'm very blessed! What an awesome God we serve ...amen!" - **C.M.**

"I pray all is well on the other side of the fence. Doing pretty well here. I'm enclosing a tithe to forward your Kingdom work. Thank you for all you do. Thank you so much for remembering my birthday even though I'm getting old enough, I'd like to forget some. Going to be 59 in a couple weeks. Although, the '59 El Camino was and still is one of the coolest rides. So, I guess God delivered at least two great things that year." - **R.W.**

"I really enjoyed the card you sent to me. Thank you, it really did help. Your newsletters are so wonderful, I really like the poems that you have on the back of them. I look forward to your cards and newsletters, they really do mean a lot to me. Thank you for everything you do, and the people that you help. You're so wonderful." - **B.C.**

"Thank you so much for the birthday card. You guys are wonderful. The cards and letters you have sent have been a great light. Not only to myself but many other living here over the years. Thanks again and keep doing what you do." - **C.L.**

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**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

Please pray for Kingman yards in regard to drug use. That really bad spice made its way here, sixteen guys were hospitalized, most recovered, but one guy ended up brain dead. Please pray that men would be delivered from this destructive addiction. My friend E has been down for a while and only recently he has contracted some really bad allergies to food. He is a believer and the wrong foods make him break out in awful rashes. My friend C has a 16 year old daughter with inoperable brain cancer. Please pray for a miracle, and that his heart would be comforted ... **B.M.**

I would like to request prayer for this yard, our services have been put on hold and the yard has become broken. We have brothers fighting amongst brothers, the church has pretty much become divided in a way. We need revival on this yard, an uplifting of faith that our main chaplain will return and the church family will regain its strength to fight the good fight. So, we all can come back to our first love. I would also like to request prayer from you for my family who has become distant in my life. The family has become broken like small pieces scattered by the wind and it truly makes me sad to not be able to talk to them because of issues in the family. My heart is now broken knowing that they are arguing and at times I feel alone. Pray that the Lord God will touch our hearts and help us to stay strong and to stay in contact with one another. Well, brothers and sisters I will close for now. I pray that the Lord will give you all the strength in your lives to continue to bless us with your newsletters and warm wishes with the love of Christ. God bless you all ... **A.G.**

I need for you and others to pray for my sister, Kay. She's been in the intensive care unit at the hospital. She has fluid on her heart and lungs. Her husband told me the first night at the hospital, they didn't think she was going to make it. She's not doing good, so lift her up in prayer. She's been in bad health for the last five years. Praise God ... Kay is now out of the hospital and doing better, please keep her in your prayers ... **W.R.**

I'm sorry it's been so long since I've written. I have been working on getting things in place for my release. I got a letter from my niece telling me my baby sister has passed away, with everything she told me it just doesn't sound right. It's the last blood family. We haven't talked in years or wrote. I wrote them a lot, I closed myself off in my cell. I had so many plans to give back as a new person, now this. Trust me, it hurts so very much. I've been on my knees and asking God for help. I am putting it in God's hands as I pray I get released in May 2019 to county jail. I have a judge who wants to see me about an old case, I can't let anything come between me and my walk with Jesus Christ. How can I still be alive, He must have something planned for me. I hope you all will keep me in prayer and stay in touch, please I truly need you all so very much, Can you say a prayer for my brother-in-law, my niece, and my nephew ... **G.B.B.**

## Praise Reports

I've been thinking of you each and every day over these past 6-10 hard fought (spiritually) months. I'm so sorry that the struggle got the best of me for a while and I neglected my fellowship with the *Overcomers for Christ* family, but that was my desert and also His victory, because I not only came out the other side healed (heart and soul), He blessed me with who I believe is my wife to be. She had kind of been through a desert as well, and when we met and I began vigilant prayer for us and a strong witness about our Father's place in our lives. She renewed her faith and feels grateful to hear God's voice once again in her own heart! He used me to do this!! I do believe. He is so good, He loves us so much!!! I'm just so very grateful! Thank you Jesus! You prayed extensively for me and my broken heart and spirit, and I'll tell you, you have the Father on speed dial. He loves you and so do I. He does listen ... **R.E.D.**

First and foremost, thank you for the card. The Scripture on the front really hit home, you just can't go wrong with the Word of God. A crazy, weird, outstanding, miraculous thing occurred. You mentioned that I shouldn't have given away my Bible. Well, the one I had given away ended up at a Bible study we held. The Christian brothers all seen it as a confirmation of God's handiwork. What a trip! I had drawn my DOC # real cool on the outside of the edge of the Bible and shared how I thought the Bible was too big and heavy for my torn up property box to hold a big Bible. Apparently, not that big though. All and all, they were real sure that I'm supposed to have the Bible and not to give it away again. I thought that I'd share that with all of you there at *Overcomers*. I'll continue to pray for you guys and please do the same for me ... **T.C.**

I am writing you this letter in hopes that all is well with you and the *Overcomers for Christ* family. As for myself, I got 2 1/2 years, I only got a year and four months to go ... Praise God!!! I am staying strong in my walk with the Lord. The last time you visited me in the county jail, I was in tears because my lady was more or less homeless. Well, God is good, He got her a job interview and things are looking good for her. I'm trying to get her to give her life to the Lord. The Lord is working on her ... **O.A.**

This is my last year and I am very excited about moving on to the next chapter of my life. It's been six years since I've seen my daughter and now finally I've been in contact with her and we are building a relationship. This feels so humbling and I think that God has brought her back at this last year of my sentence to be as a reminder to His love and glory. Also, I have began to receive oil royalty checks and the time couldn't have been more perfect ... Lord, thank you ...

**J.L.**

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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

A Mother's Love  
By C.S.

To everyone at O&C, for the past 7 years, me and my Mom would write to each other twice a month, sharing the Word and life. I will always remember the day I got arrested, it was frightening and embarrassing. The police beat the you know what out of me, but it wasn't half as bad as having to face my Mom when she came down to visit me. When she came through the door, I saw that she had been crying.

I bowed my head in shame and awaited for her to tell me off or yell at me. As I looked-up with tears of my own, I saw that she was just looking, watching me with Love and Concern. I asked, "Aren't you angry with me?" She said, "Son, when you hurt, I only want to help you, you've done wrong, but nobody is perfect. That doesn't mean that I will stop loving you, what you did hurt me, but we'll work it out together."

What more could I ever want than to be loved so much that my life could still make a difference. She has always encouraged me not to give up and quit living because of my sins; and because I am in prison, but to learn from my own experience how God's ways will satisfy me, not to dwell on the past but that I need to understand it so I can begin to allow God to change me and become a new and different person.

In prison, no one smiles; there is no happiness or celebrations. Everything is grim and depressing, without hope. It is what some have described as "life in the abyss". But for me it is the perfect image of life without God. There have been times that I have been pressed on every side by trouble in here, and it has made me feel crushed and broken. I realized that I had to allow these trials in my life to change me and to make me better, not bitter.

I wish people would understand that there is nothing to be gained by mistreating others around you. We receive what we give, but often our own egos and insecurities cause us to think more about ourselves than others. We allow pride to interfere with what we know is good and right.

God became man, bowed Himself down to wash the feet of His disciples. He even went as far as to die a criminal's death on our behalf. If God could give so much of Himself for us, then why should it be so difficult for us to sacrifice a little of ourselves for others? My Mom always encouraged me not to give-up on God, regardless of my circumstances, to remember how many times He has gotten me through all my past hurts and trials in my life. This is no different. I can honestly say that the Lord's hand of discipline has been heavy on me, and His work in me is relentless. Now I have become a person with a fresh newness in all I do and think.

Thank you for letting me share a little of myself with you all. Now that my Mom has passed, I have no one to write to, for all my family have abandoned me. I don't understand how they can say that God abides in them, yet show no compassion towards me.

Blessings to Mothers  
By S.F.

God bless you all, I just received a beautiful birthday card and as any letter is special, it is even more so from you, the family I hope to meet soon. As for all our sisters and mothers, I pray you have a special day. As **John 1:16** says, "**From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.**" Blessings we have all received, whether a card or family, known or unknown as all are my family in Christ, but still very much a blessing to me so, to all you ladies, God bless you on Mother's Day, no matter if it's one day or 365 of them, God made you special and to all you brothers and fathers, God bless you also!

As for me, I could use a little mercy, I'm in US District Court and I'm praying the Magistrate Judge to be the blessing answer to almost six years of prayers and belief ...

**John 8:31-32** - "**Jesus said to the people who believed in Him, 'You are truly My disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'**"

**2 Timothy 3:14** - "**But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for**

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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

*you know you can trust those who taught you."*

So keep me in your prayers, that I will get what is needed to return me home to my mom soon, so I can be with family, known or unknown.

May God bless us all as needed, remember you're all special and part of a very special body of Christ, God's body. I send you all, love and respect, I also hope to meet all our family at OC4C very soon. A homecoming I have only dreamed of. God Bless and thank you.

### Reformers Unanimous By B.M.

We attend a discipleship/addiction program called Reformers Unanimous. It's really good, [www.refornu.com](http://www.refornu.com). There are ten Biblical principles that RU teaches, they are:

1. If God is against it, so am I.
2. Every sin has its origin in our hearts.
3. It is easier to keep the heart clean than it is to clean it after it has been defiled.
4. We cannot fight a fleshly appetite by indulging in it.
5. Small compromises lead to great distress ... little sins lead to big sins.
6. Those who do not love the Lord will not help us serve the Lord.
7. Our sinful habits do hurt those who are following us.
8. It is not possible to fight a fleshly temptation with fleshly weapons.
9. We lose our freedom to choose when we give into temptation. The consequences of our choices are inevitable, incalculable and up to God.
10. God balances guilt with blame. Accept the blame for your actions and God will remove the guilt.

### Singing to My Lord By Brother Goober

Lord I know I've let you down  
Time and time again  
The devil came in and touched my soul  
I thought he was a friend  
He led me down a long road  
I thought I saw the end  
But then You came and told me I had to repent

So I'm singing to my Lord  
Yeah I'm singing to my Lord  
From the hills of the countryside  
And the cities of before  
I'm singing to my Lord  
Yeah I'm singing to my Lord  
Until I have a place in His royal court

They call You the Carpenter  
The Creator of all life  
And You offer a kingdom of pure light  
But I must obey the teachings that You gave  
That is why I ask for strength when I pray

So I'm singing to my Lord  
Yeah I'm singing to my Lord  
From the hills of the countryside  
And the cities of before  
I'm singing to my Lord  
Yeah I'm singing to my Lord  
Until I have a place in His royal court

Now is the time to turn to the light  
Never to look back again  
I'm tempted by the day and the night  
I'm shivering in these burning winds

So I'm singing to my Lord  
Yeah I'm singing to my Lord  
From the hills of the countryside  
And the cities of before  
I'm singing to my Lord  
Yeah I'm singing to my Lord  
Until I have a place in His royal court

### **Song of Songs 5:1-8:14**

No matter how close we may be to our parents or our best friends, it is only in marriage that we realize complete union of mind, heart and body. (6:3)

Love is as strong as death, it cannot be killed by time or disaster. And it cannot be bought for any price because it is freely given. Love is priceless and even the richest king cannot buy it. Love must be accepted as a gift from God and then shared within the guidelines God provides. Accept the love of your spouse as God's gift, and strive to make your love a reflection of the perfect love that comes from God Himself. (8:6-7)

### **2 Corinthians 10:1-11:15**

We, like Paul, are merely weak humans, but we don't need to use human plans and methods to win our battles.

God's mighty weapons are available to us as we fight against the devil's strongholds. The Christian must choose whose weapons to use ... God's or the world's. Paul assures us that God's mighty weapons ... prayer, faith, hope, love, God's Word, the Holy Spirit are all powerful and effective. See **Ephesians 6:13-18**. These weapons can breakdown the proud human arguments against God and the walls that satan builds to keep people from finding them from a relationship with Christ, we may be tempted to use our own methods. But nothing can break down these barriers like God's weapons. (10:3-6)

Keeping Christ first in our life can be very difficult when we have so many distractions threatening to side track our faith. Just as Eve lost her focus by listening to the serpent, we, too, can lose our focus by letting our life become overcrowded and confused. Is there anything that weakens your commitment to keep Christ first in your life? How can you minimize the distractions that threaten your devotion to Him? (11:3)

### **Psalms 52:1-53:6**

With God by his side, David compared himself to an olive tree, thriving in the house of God. Not only is an olive tree a thriving tree, it is one of the longest living trees. David was contrasting God's eternal protection of his faithful servants with the sudden destruction of the wicked. (52:5)

People may say there is no God in order to cover up their sin, to have an excuse to cover up their sin, to have an excuse to continue to sin, and/or to ignore the judge in order to avoid the judgment. Fools do not necessarily lack intelligence, many atheists and unbelievers are highly educated. Fools are people who reject God, the only One Who can save them. (53:1)

### **Proverbs 22:24-29**

People tend to become like those they spend a lot of time with. Even the negative characteristics sometimes rub off. The Bible exhorts us to be cautious in our choice of companions. Choose people with characteristics you would like to develop in your own life. (22:24-25)

Here's another common sense Proverb. Don't co-sign a loan for other people for this will put the responsibility on to you if this other person cannot pay which will destroy your credit and cost you money, and not the person you co-signed for. (22:26-27)

In **Joshua 13-21**, the land was divided and the boundaries were marked out for each tribe. Moses had already warned the people that when they reached the Promised Land they shouldn't cheat their neighbors by moving any of the markers to give themselves more land and their neighbors less. See **Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17**. (22:28)

### **“Foot” Notes**

Hey Ya'll, a few thoughts to share. We are asked to follow God's example in all we do. The Salvation that God has given us is not about us, it's about being able to engage others and as long as we're pressing on we'll get better. We're called to respect God right where we are.


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



## Responses for K.H. Part 2

### WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT - By J.S.

I'm writing with words of encouragement to the brother in response to the article "I'M ASKING" by K.H. I feel I'm writing this in obedience to the Holy Spirit so please pass this on.

Brother, after reading the article I just received in the  newsletter I was led to share with you what I too have just read in a guide book by Paul Tsika entitled *Understanding Your New Life*. I'm writing this to you from the spiritual world brother K.H. and it is the exact words I was reading just before I began reading your article in the newsletter.

Grace is the heart of God's love and the hand of God's power moving towards us in empowerment so that we can do what He desires us to do and become who He has designed us to be.

The word "walk" is perhaps the key word in the New Testament for the daily vocational life of a Christian. Most human beings have a distinctive walk that allows them to be easily recognized. Some bounce when they walk, others sway, and others lean in a certain manner. The same should be true of Christians; they should be easily recognizable as a Christian by a distinctive walk.

Herb Hodges observes, "Just as a walk is made up of a succession of steady steps, so is the 'Daily Life' of the Christian." However, a walk is a **CONDITIONED ACTIVITY** that is learned by an infant only by trial and error, with many a fall preceding the easy going gait of a mature human being. Walking is a learned and conditioned activity, and the sad truth is that many Christians have never taken the required walk seriously to learn its mechanics and its pitfalls. It is even sadder than that.

While mature parents help human infants to learn to walk, patiently assisting them, encouraging them to learn, and then lifting them up after their falls, it is **USUALLY** true that little such assistance is given to the New Borns of the Christian community. Most are simply abandoned to their own discriminate course after their birth into God's family. Nothing could be more tragic than this!

Every new Christian desperately needs the teaching, the assistance, the encouragement and the training that can be given only by maturing believers. If "child abuse" receives such reprisals among men as it deserves, what should be said about such 'spiritual' child abuse? Every church should give far, far more attention to its "spiritual nursery", to spiritual pediatrics.

When you examine a walk carefully, you will see that any walk is **MERELY A SUCCESSION OF STEPS** (brother K.H.), and that each step is a near fall. Each step is a borderline catastrophe. We don't realize this because walking has become such a conditional **REFLEX** to us that we never think about it. **BUT** such was not the case when we were first learning to walk. Our much practice in a regular learning routine enabled us to walk without falling. You see, if you fail to put the other foot down when you are taking any step, you will automatically fall. **EVERY STEP IS A NEAR FALL!** The same is true in the spiritual life. Every Christian is close to a fall with every step he/she takes. So the counsel of this is crucial in being a consistent, happy, powerful and productive Christian - "the only kind God wants His children to be!" **AMEN?**

We are told to walk in grace and the only way that we can do this is to "walk in the spirit". The prepositional phrase, "in the spirit", is in the instrumental case in the Greek language, and thus it means, "by means of the Spirit". Therefore, the Christian is to go on taking **SUCCESSIVE** steps all the time "**BY MEANS OF THE SPIRIT**", which is, counting on Him and relying on Him. Just as you depend on your feet, your legs, your muscles, your eyes and your brain - indeed, on your entire body when you walk physically, you are to rely on the **HOLY SPIRIT**: the wisdom, vision, motivation, coordination and power of the Spirit every moment of your spiritual life. Furthermore, the words "in the spirit" bear major emphasis in the Greek text. This means that you are to walk only in the Spirit, never in the flesh, or the self-line. You are not to depend on yourself, but on the Holy Spirit, for the enablement to live the Christian life.

We want you to be reminded that the grace of God is available, abounding and truly amazing and will, **WILL**, be sufficient for every step of your pilgrimage. We are confident that the words of that old song "Amazing Grace" by John Newton are true ... *"Tis grace that brought us safe thus far and grace will lead us home."* We now live and move and have our being in Christ Jesus our Lord, and it's all because of His great, glorious and good grace!

*GRACE - By Paul E. Tsika, September 1988*

Oh the depths of His love how can it be, that He could love a wretch like me.  
To reach down past the muck and mire, to save my soul from Hell's own fire.  
Could one deserve to see His face, or is it just amazing grace!  
That grace the Father extends to me was purchased that day at Calvary.  
Without one sin they nailed Him there, for all to mock, jeer and stare.

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They gambled for His robe below, as He cried "Dear Father, they don't know."  
He died that noon upon the tree, but rose three days later to set men free.  
Free from all sin, free from all fear, free from all worry as death draws near.  
Salvation, my friend, is of the Lord, for none deserve such a great reward.  
Now each night I ask, but don't understand, why God fit me into His eternal plan?  
So, I sleep and I wonder where I would be, if not for His love and His grace towards me.  
I'd be in Hell or worse than all, I'd be living without Him and destined to fall.  
Thank You, dear Jesus, for so loving me, that You shed Your own blood upon that tree.  
To cover my sins, my guilt and my shame, You were willing to bear every bit of the blame.  
So someday my Lord, when we meet face to face, I'll join in that throng to sing of Thy grace ...  
So remember, it's an exciting journey with the Lord Jesus that will NEVER end.

*MY JOURNEY WITH JESUS - By Paul E. Tsika, 1983*

I set out to sail with Jesus one day; my heart was burning hot;  
We began to sail uncharted seas, but I knew not my own lot.  
I rose to ask my Captain, "Which way do we go from here?"  
But my Captain answered, "Be still My child, and in awhile, it shall come clear."  
His face was set towards the wind, there seemed to be no fear;  
I felt He'd traveled this way before, as He continued to steer.  
Again the tempest raged round about, I was certain this would be the end;  
But my Captain only drew me closer to Him; He had become my dearest Friend.  
The storms were great and often as we neared the uncharted land;  
And so I crawled up close to my Captain, and clasped His nail-scarred hand.  
And then one day the sky turned blue, the seas were calm with foam;  
And as my Captain lifted me safe to the shore, I knew at last I was home.  
I had sailed those seas with orders sealed and many times was put to the test;  
But my Captain, the Lord Jesus, had sailed with me and brought me safe to my haven of rest.  
I look back on the journey we made and remember right from the start;  
That it was often I could not trace His hand, but I could always trust His heart.

**In Response to K.H. - By B.T.**

As you walk the walk of faith and discipline yourself to seek positive possibilities, in every situation, you will still face such realities as sickness and separation from loved ones. I've been locked up for 23 years and I too went through so many battle zones. To make it simple, I lost my mother, my father, my aunties, all my uncles, cousins, friends and nephews. And all of this before I received Jesus into my life. Many, many trials, sufferings and tribulations. At one point I even told God that I couldn't handle any more.

To escape the row realities of everyday life, you either begin to shape realities or else they ravage your mind until you are devastated with worry. Faith faces all worries and anxieties with ambition. God can handle EVERY problem that we can't!  
Today I replace worry with work. I replace anxiety with ambition, depression with new drive. I replace stress with success knowing that faith and I will win.

Nothing is as dull as yesterday's race. When it is over we must always be living in today and tomorrow. God is always watching us to see how we use our faith. We MUST believe that, **"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."** (Hebrews 11:6) So trust and obey, there's no other way.

K.H., the reason we all fall is because we fail to remember to do as **Ephesians 6:11-12** states, **"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."**

Remember what the Word tells us in **1 Peter 5:8**, **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."** The devil watches and knows our weaknesses and he will use them against us. The liar comes to throw negative thoughts in our heads about our families, friends or whatever it may be. He will use your emotions to try and tear you to pieces. IF, IF you fall for his lies you won't even know he's the one that put that thought in your head! We have to trust, believe, be patient and build ourselves up on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ.

**James 1:2-3**, tells us, **"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of**

**your faith produces patience.**" So, we don't run from or abandon our problems, we face them, walk through them and be still knowing that God can handle ANY kind of problem. Confess the promises of God! "I walk by faith and NOT by sight; Greater is the One in me than the one in the world, there are NO weapons formed against me that will ever prosper!" When evil thoughts come into your mind don't fall for them! Instead stand firm and confess, "I'm a child of God, a seed of Abraham, I am the righteousness of God, I'm redeemed from the curse of the law by the Blood of the Lamb!" Cast ALL your cares on Him because He cares for you. He is the Creator of ALL things and He knows the beginning from the end! DON'T BACK UP, STAND FIRM!

### In Response to K.H., 'I'm Asking' - By H.A.M.

Please note that this is in response to the "Attention ... from Wade Anderson" in the February issue of the *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter.

The issues that you face, K.H., are NOT uncommon. ALL Christians struggle with daily shortcomings. **Ecclesiastes 7:20** states, **"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not."** Additionally our routines of study will always fall short UNLESS God's grace by His Holy Spirit initiates our inquisitiveness and UNLESS God's call draws us to Him and completes our search. Consider **John 6:44**, **"No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day."** In **Proverbs 16:3** we find this promise that says, **"Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established."** Then **Haggai 1:5** elaborates clearly, **"Now therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts; Consider your ways."** Then, there are those who will try to cause disorientation through misleading. This is why we are advised, in **Titus 3:9**, **"But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain."** And above all, K.H., follow what James has to say in **James 4:10**, **"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up."**

K.H. you asked for advice and that shows fortitude. Now, ask the Holy Spirit to take 100% control of your life. I think it was Wade Anderson that said, "If you see a turtle on a fence post, you know one thing for certain, somebody helped it up there." Always remember that Jesus cares!! We all fall short some times. Consider **Luke 5:5-6**, **"And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake."** Why do you suppose their fishnet broke? In probability they may have used an old worn out net. Doubt is incorporated into our sinful nature. True faith is not only a belief but a moral dynamic. It's tough to feel forgotten and forsaken by all those who are blood related to us in the free world. I've been down since 2003 and haven't received one letter from any blood family. Additionally it was a crushing blow when a CTF Soledad CO confiscated my only means of entertainment, that being an old Sony radio. And IF I ever have another radio it will be a miracle, especially since I'm 61 years old and have no income.

I'm only writing these things so that anybody that reads what I've been lead by the Holy Spirit to send, will understand my faith and love for Jesus is unconditional! Do I too vent? You may write the *Overcomers for Christ* and ask brother 'Cash' and he will attest to my, sometimes, lack of Christian composer. Brother 'Cash' can also attest to the Holy Spirit's ability to use the worst of sinners (me) for writing song lyrics. I'm NOT boasting in my own abilities, but as it says in James 1:17, "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variable-ness, neither shadow of turning."

God is good ALL the time brother K.H.! ALL the time God is good! In closing let me say, we **were** all sinners saved by His grace through faith. In Christ, God no longer sees us as sinners but as His children, saints in His eyes. This by no means insinuates that we won't be without sin in our lives! We are ALL battling our old natures every day. My personal battles were ones of pride and selfishness. It was not a sin of omission but of willful commission. It wasn't a onetime occurrence but a pattern of behavior, of rebellion. It was an attitude that resulted in actions that I do regret, actions that I now fully acknowledge as sin. Those practices I've confessed to God and have repented of them. I know that God has forgiven me and NO LONGER holds those things against me.

Religion, K.H., is mankind's attempt to reach God, while Jesus IS God's attempt to reach mankind. In as much, I've always believed but as **James 2:19** affirms, **"Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble."** My lifestyle had to change. Praise God for His wonderful grace!

### 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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**Broken but Saved**  
**By G.B.B.**

Shadow puppets in a darkly lit room my thoughts move.

An unseen dance like a monster they consume but I've found a second chance.

Like a piece of glass, I've shattered a hardened soul proven to be fragile cut down, beaten, and battered my life  
seemed too hard to handle.

I tried in the strength of my hand trusted in iron and steel, but now I see the Promised Land and gladly submit to His  
will.

My heavenly Father forever loves me, my life into His hands I give the mist high forgives and makes holy His  
glorious light I now live.

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