

Overcomers for Christ

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Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

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Oh, How Precious is His Word - Part II

By Vern Deadmond

The third type of soil or heart described in the parable is a life full of worry. Look here in **Luke 8:14**, *"Now the ones that fall among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity."* This person may have been a Christian for 50 years, but his garden is full of weeds, thistles, and thorns. He worries about being able to keep those things that he has worked so hard to get; his career, his health, his home, his cool looking car. He even worries about what he is going to eat tomorrow, what he is going to wear for clothes, is he going to have enough to live on? This person becomes a workaholic, never having enough time to pursue God, because he is pursuing physical and tangible things, what he has is never enough. He relies on his own abilities, his own talents, and his own strength, believing he has to physically work hard to earn the blessing of God. This person is frustrating the grace of God. He is not seeking to know God intimately; therefore, eternal life is elusive and beyond his grasp. He questions why is the Word not working for him, what does he have to do to increase his faith, how does he make God move on his behalf, does God even hear his prayers? He hears about the blessings and promises that are his, but he is not seeing these things come to pass. In pride he believes he obtains God's promises and blessings through his labor and his self-effort, but when bad news comes, he worries and takes the care onto himself.

Jesus tells us, in **Matthew 6:25-26**, *"Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"* Oh, how much God loves us, He promises to take care of us. Jesus continues to say in **Matthew 6:31-34**, *"Therefore, do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."*

How do we seek the kingdom of God? We plant ourselves alongside the rivers of water, we have a relationship with God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, this is eternal life – to know God. **John 17:3** says, *"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."* Again, it all comes down to the seed of God's kingdom which we sow in our heart and soul. I know of no other way to grow in the knowledge of God except through His Word. And there can be no harvest of fruit produced if there is no seed sown because there is no fruit to be had. Just look at a farmer's field, if there is no seed planted in it, there are only weeds and thorns growing in it. The farmer is not tending to the ground as he should. Likewise, you need to make a decision, do you only want weeds growing in your life, sucking you dry of your life? Without the life that God gives us, we are unable to sustain ourselves. God is the fountain of Living Water that will nourish you, you will never thirst again. In fact, the Living Water will flood and drown the weeds in your fields.

Let's consider **Matthew 6:32-33**, *"... for the heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."* Stop and read this set of Scriptures again. Do you see it? God fully knows what we have need of, but most of us haven't even sought after Him. The only time we turn to the Scriptures is when we have a need, and often that need is an urgent one. God needs to come through by tomorrow morning or it's all done. I am not trying to be sarcastic, but most of you don't have any seed planted in your heart to grow into anything. Have you sought God to know Him instead of seeking Him at your time of need, and only when it is convenient for you? If you've been pursuing Him with your whole heart, you have seed in the ground of your heart that is growing and the harvest is ripe. But, if you only start planting seed when you have a need, how can you expect that seed to grow and produce overnight? What farmer plants seed today, and then expects to harvest it tomorrow?

There is a natural law of seed, time, and harvest; and this law is applicable in God's kingdom. We read, in **Luke 4:26-29**, *"And Jesus said, '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, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.'"* Jesus equates the natural law of seed, time, and harvest to the kingdom of God. We don't know how a little apple seed becomes a large tree and produces fruit for years to come; it just happens. But it doesn't happen overnight, we have to factor in 'time'. And just like any seed, how does the Word of God grow? We don't know how it grows, but it needs time to produce fruit. We need to be responsible farmers in the kingdom of God, planting His Word in our hearts continuously. We can plant one seed, and receive a small harvest when it is ready; or what if you planted 100 seeds? How much fruit do you want in your life?

I was this type of Christian described as the third type of soil for most of my adult life, until I stumbled into the truth. In frus-

tration I staggered around in the dark wanting more of God but I was ignorant of how to pursue Him. Until one day when His Holy Spirit revealed to me that everything that I wanted and that I was looking for comes through a deep, personal, and intimate relationship with Him. Let's look here at **2 Peter 1:3**, **"... as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him."** Instead of pursuing those things I wanted and thinking I needed to be 'doing' to make God do for me, I only needed to pursue Him and know Him with my whole heart and my soul. I had struggled thinking I had to earn God's promises for myself, thinking I had to be good enough for Him. I too had been captive in a dark cell. I was blind to the grace of God and didn't understand it at all, and I was trying to make God move on my behalf. But then I discovered God's grace. In a nutshell, I remember the moment I called out and prayed to Him, laying aside my 'self'. Within two weeks, God put in motion plans that fulfilled the scriptures in **Jeremiah 29:12-13**, **"Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the Lord, and I will bring you back from your captivity."** Within one year I came to the realization that I was in the midst of an awesome journey. Oh, how I wish I would have started this journey 30-40 years ago, but instead I let religion hinder God's plan for me and I went my own path. It is never too late to call out and seek Jesus with your whole heart, start by calling out to Him. It has been an amazing journey to know my God and my Creator, and it will never end unless I choose to end it. I want to know Him more and more, and I cannot do it aside from His Word.

The last type of ground that Jesus mentions in the Parable of the Sower is the good ground. Now, **Luke 8:15**, **"But the ones that fall on the good ground are those who, having heard the Word and with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."** This is the only Christian that will bear fruit and produce any fruit in their life. This Christian has a real and meaningful relationship with God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, seeking and pursuing God with his whole being. He loves the Word of God and he loves to listen to the voice of God's Holy Spirit teach him and to reveal the mysteries of the Word. God will talk to anyone who has a noble and good heart, a heart that desires and pursues after Him. What great joy you experience when you hear God's voice inside of you.

There is no relationship with God if the Word of God is not priority in the believer. A disciple of Jesus believes the truth and integrity of God's Word, regardless of what the world may say that contradicts His Word, and never doubts the truth of His Word. **John 1:14** tells us, **"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."** The Christian who says there are things he can't believe or accept, that are written in the Bible, makes me question if the supposed Christian is really saved. We need to accept the truth of God's Word by faith.

- **John 6:47**, **"But if you do not believe his (Moses) writings, how will you believe My Words?"**
- **John 10:25-26**, **"Jesus answered them, I told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in My Father's name, they bear witness of Me. But you do not believe, because you are not of My sheep, as I said to you."**
- **John 14:1**, **"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me."**

Throughout the Gospel of John, an overall theme Jesus speaks continually is in regards to us believing Him. He is the Word of God and yes, we need to accept the truth of His Word by blind faith. What we believe does not change the truth of God's Word, therefore accept and believe God's Word. Believe as a little child believes, as Jesus tells us in **Mark 10:15**, **"Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."** The kingdom of God contains all the promises of eternal life, and if we are always the eternal pessimist, never accepting God's truth without proof first, those promises will be out of reach to us. Always bear in mind, it is not God that is withholding His great and precious promises back from us, He takes great pleasure in giving us the things of the kingdom. **Luke 12:32**, **"Do not fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."** This is a continuation of **"... seek first the kingdom of God..."**, so as we seek and pursue the kingdom of God with our whole heart, He does not hold back any of the benefits of His kingdom. But, it is our responsibility to pursue a relationship with God the Father and Jesus the Word. As we seek Him and to know Him, the Word that has been sown in us will take root and produce fruit in our lives; this is truth according to His Word.

In this Parable of the Sower, the seeking and believing heart is the only type of ground that produced any fruit or harvest in the kingdom of God. The good ground is the good and noble heart that seeks and pursues to know God. This knowing God is more than intellectual knowledge, the original Greek word implies that you also experience God. This knowing God comes from spending time with Him, fellowshiping with Him through dwelling and mediating in His Word. When you begin the journey to really know God, the Word becomes alive to you. God's Holy Spirit will speak to you as you read your Bible, speaking revelation to you as you experience His goodness in your life.

Don't doubt in the truth of God's Word, and don't question how His Word grows and produces life in us. We only need to believe and trust that it does. This is faith in Him. Jesus tells us in **Mark 4:27**, **"... and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how."** We don't know how the Word of God grows inside of us, but just accept and

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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

Just a few lines to let you know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Praying for Skylar. I saw the surgeon again, he will only do surgery on my back as a last resort, I think due to my aorta. He ordered another cat scan for it. Overall, I'm doing okay. Just dealing with things as they come with the grace of God I'll be healed. Just standing on His Word, His promises and I know He is faithful. Doesn't matter what the doctor or cat scan reports say,
I know what God's Word says ... **W.R.**

I have a prayer request. I would like prayer for my coming parole and for me when I go to missionary school that I have been approved to go to upon my release from prison. I can't wait to show people how God showed Himself through me around the world. I can't wait to hear from y'all. I am praying for the **DEUCE** group and hope to hear from you soon ... **R.G.**

I'm thankful for the volunteers we have been blessed with here. The chaplain has started having a little chaplain's service every other Thursday. Unfortunately, it hasn't drawn any of the brothers in so far. The last time we went my cellmate and I were the only men to attend. So, please have the **DEUCE** join together in interceding on our behalf that these men on this yard will be attracted to the services available and draw into a more intimate communion with the Lord ... **M.D.**

Please pray for my release ... **S.M.**

My prayer now is for God to make a way for an early release for me. I miss my children so much and my parents. Please stand in prayer with me that God will make a way for me to go home early. I believe He has already made a way for me. Now He is just preparing me and molding me into the woman I need to be in Christ Jesus. Also, pray for my family, my parents, children, grandchildren, sisters, brother, nieces, nephews and in-laws for God to always keep them safe and protect them from COVID-19. I will also pray for everyone there at the **Overcomers for Christ**. God bless you all and may God shine His light upon you all ... Amen ... **V.F.**

I will keep you in my prayers and I ask you to also pray for me and my freedom from prison ... **J.A.**

Could all you at Overcomers, please pray for my ace Deuce's grandson, Dillian. He just suffered an overdose ending up in ICU. Pray that the Lord open his eyes to the fact he's not only hurting himself but also all those who love him and that the good Lord relieves him of all that feeds his addiction. Love to y'all short and tall! Vaya Con Dios ... **FOOT**

Praise Reports

Well, I got the COVID-19 and then got a transfusion so I could fight it, and then my taste and smell returned. I've never been that knocked back by the flu in my life. It was great that they were offering high risk medical persons the transfusion with antibodies to fight it because of my weakened immune system.
Well, thanks for all your prayers ... **S.M.**

My walk with Christ has been so beautiful, I have never felt so much peace. Although I miss my children and parents so very much God has given me peace. My life before prison was so dark and lonely. The relationship I was in was so abusive, mentally, emotionally and physically. Drugs made it ten times worse. I never knew what my purpose in life was, I always felt like I was stuck in a cycle of drugs and one abusive relationship after another. During those times, I always believed and prayed that God would save me and my parents prayed non-stop throughout those years. Although my heart hurts being away from my family, I am thankful God brought me to a place of safety. I still remember that night before I got arrested. I fell on my knees crying asking God to remove me out of the relationship I was in. My heart was so broken I asked God to remove the drugs out of my life and to save me. The next night on June 18, 2018, I was arrested. Praise God!! ... **V.F.**

Thanks for the letter, for it touched me and I praise God for the good news I receive in here. It brings joy to my eyes and love in my heart. I know in my heart, mind, body and soul that I'm an Overcomer. The word Overcomer seems like a new word that I've just learned. Right now, my days are spent in a cell by myself 23 hours out of each day with no TV, newspaper or magazines. All I have is my Bible, the **DEUCE** newsletter and things that other churches around the world send. Well believe it or not, it's all I need and I thank God for the situation I'm in. It's a blessing to know Christ and to see Him working in my life. I want to thank you guys again for all you do for us prisoners. You guys have truly helped me as an Overcomer and a stronger Christian ... **J.A.**


Greetings in the strong name of Jesus! I want to thank you all for your prayers and support over the last ten years. I've been in for twelve years now and the only mail I get is from you. I've been blessed. On year eight of my incarceration, President Obama commuted my federal life sentence to 27 years. Then in 2019, I was finally given the eight week treatment and cured of Hep C, a disease I had nearly twenty years. I still have a long way to go until release, but next year I could actually make it to a camp ... **D.V.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Change

By B.A.

Praise God! And God bless ALL the 'Overcomers'! What a great time to allow our faith in our God to get us through each day! I pray all things are going smooth and graceful for ALL the  family. As for me things here and with me, well - God is good and 'things' are interesting. My family is well, by the grace of God, and I am facing each day with joy in my heart so glory to God!

I'm sure that when I look back at this time I will realize that this is one of those chunks of time that went by fast. You know, like when you get moved to a new yard or reclassified and get to know the new things about a changed custody or even sometimes when you get a new celly. That first little while or like 6 months of getting into the new groove always seemed to fly by, that is for me anyways. I will probably look back in a year or so and think, "Man that went pretty quick. Praise God!"

I'm hoping that this fire season gets us going and we get busy. Then, before I know it I'll be looking back thanking God for the lessons in patience and understanding of His Word. You wrote about it in the newsletter. My understanding, or what I was led to believe about God as a youth was, well, let's just say, it isn't what I see now in His Word or in my day to day walk/relationship with Christ. Truly knowing God and seeking knowledge through His Word and the Spirit in me, has indeed changed me. It changed the way that I look at things, the way I see things, it changed the world around me and it has changed the 'me' the world around me sees. I hope that makes sense to someone today.

The Final Judgment

By B.G.

I'll open with these words from Jesus here in **Matthew 25:31-36**, *"When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'"*

I want to be at the judgment seat of Christ. What I'm saying is, I want to be on the right hand of Christ. Listen to what He says about those on the left side, *"The King will turn to those on the left and say, 'Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons.'"* (**Matthew 25:41**) Yes, I have a passion, or I'm deeply moved to feed children that are hungry and have nowhere to get food and I want to help the poor as well. I developed this passion when I was in South unit and I've never stopped wanting to do it. Jesus Himself, in **Matthew 25:40**, said, *"The King will say, 'I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!'"* Jesus just said, whether we do these things or we don't do these things we are either doing it unto Him or against Him. So, I want to be the one doing these things unto Him. I'm thankful that someone reached out to help me. Robert has helped me so very, very much and I thank him so much. Now the thing for me to do is to reach out and pass it on.

My brothers and sisters, I encourage you to put all things away that don't edify the body of Christ. We need to get up in the morning and put on the Whole Armor of God. In this way we'll be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. It's like I was talking with our good brother 'Duck', we need to always be ready to give an account for our life. Or another way of saying it is, we should be able to be accountable for the places and the things we've been and done. It might be that everything is taken care of in this life. But the day is close at hand when we must stand at the throne of Christ, or the great white throne. I'd rather be at the throne of Christ! Yes, I want to stay away from the great white throne, at least as far as walking against God.

Well now, God bless and please always remember how precious **John 3:16** is. Why? because God loved us so much that He gave His only Son so that we could have everlasting life if only we would believe in Him. Listen here to **John 3:36**,

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From the Inside

"And anyone who believes in God's Son has eternal life. Anyone who doesn't obey the Son will never experience eternal life but remains under God's angry judgment." After reading the first part of that verse I hope that you too will believe. And when you do you won't have to worry about the second half of it. Yesterday you may not have known this but today you have no excuses. Today a cool breeze has told you and the option is still yours.

Bobby Joe sent this message to you all from the 'outside'!

Never Lose Faith

By P.O.

Medically, I've been going through a lot of tests. Almost every 2-3 days a week I've been going all over the Valley to different specialists at three different hospitals. Finally I end up at the Cancer Treatment center in Goodyear.

The oncologist spent all day putting me through more tests. At the end of the day he comes in my room and tells me, "**Joshua 1:9.**" I said, "Huh?" Then he said, "There's a Bible in the drawer of the bedside table. Read **Joshua 1:9** and I'll see you in the morning for more tests." Still confused again I said, "Huh?" The CO called Complex and told them that I was being admitted, to send relief for them and hung up. Then he pulled open the bedside table drawer and gave me the NKJV large print Bible that was there. I read **Joshua 1:9, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."**

Next day they did six more tests and then off to my room where I was finally getting to eat something. My doctor even ordered my food, double cheese burger, fries, apple pie and strawberry milkshake! Totally awesome! When the food came I saw there was a card on my tray from the oncologist that read, "You don't get discouraged. Don't lose faith, hope or love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Be strong, God guides my hands, my heart and my soul. He told me to take care of you, He has a plan for you. Remember **Joshua 1:9.**"

The next day they released me from there so I was back here on the yard on Friday. On Saturday, the property officer brings me a Bible and a chain and Cross that Rita had ordered and sent while I was in the hospital. The front of the Cross has **Joshua 1:9** on it and on the back, the whole verse!

NOW! No one can tell me that God doesn't work in mysterious ways! When I told Rita about my doctor and what he said. Then I asked her if that was the verse she wanted on the Cross. She told me, "I just ordered a chain and a Cross. I had no idea if anything was going to be on it or not. I just told them the size and length." Just then I felt the peace of Jesus surround my whole body and I told Rita, "The cancer is called G.I.S.T. and it's in 9 inches of my small intestines, gallbladder, appendix and right kidney. BUT! God's not done with me yet. Have faith honey, they're going to cut it all out, I'll do Chemo and it's never going to come back again! Jesus told me so, just now!" Right then she asked me, "Do you believe that?" I answered, "I do 100% honestly believe it, with no doubt."

Two weeks later, I went in to prepare for the surgery but all of my vitals were way too low to continue. All of my doctors are Christians. When they saw these vitals they all went into another room and prayed. Thirty minutes later they came to me and said, "God said, 'Not today. Reschedule it.'" I'm not going to lose faith. No way, no how!

Here's something real crazy. All four of my doctors have the same Cross and chain that Rita sent to me. I saw it with my own eyes when we met again for the rescheduled appointment. I had mine on and so did they. The two CO's seen it as well, they're Christians too. The doctors and I sat there and prayed together in agreement about God guiding their hands in my future surgery. Surgery is rescheduled soon but I can't know the date (security protocol) but I am at peace with it now more than I ever was before. Praise God!

Amen, Amen and Amen!

Duck note: Just moments before reading this article I was on the phone with Rita. She told me, "Phil has undergone extensive chemo. In fact, these same doctors mentioned here have called in a fellow doctor from Japan to come to the USA to help treat P.O. They all are amazed by his body's reception to these treatments. The cancer is deteriorating and passing out of his system, although he has other underlying things to deal with the doctors know that God is doing a mighty work in his life. Rita also told me, "Thank you all for all your prayers on P.O.'s behalf."

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Jeremiah 18:1-23:28

When God's living message of forgiveness and love becomes fire in your bones, you will also feel compelled to share it with others, regardless of the results. **(20:7-18)**

Too often we expect God to help us in our time of trouble even though we have ignored Him in our time of prosperity. But God wants a lasting relationship. Are you trying to build a lasting friendship with God, or are you merely using Him occasionally to escape trouble? What would you think of your family or friends if they thought of you as only a temporary resource? **(21:1-14)**

Jehoiakim has been hardheaded and hardhearted since childhood. God warned him, but he refused to listen. His prosperity always took a higher priority than his relationships with God. If you ever find yourself so comfortable that you don't have time for God, stop and ask which is more important - the comforts of this life or a close relationship with God? **(22:21)**

As you share God's Word with friends and neighbors, they will look for its effectiveness in your life. Unless it has changed you, why should they let it change them? If you preach it, make sure you live it. **(23:28)**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-28

Our joy, prayers, and thankfulness should not fluctuate with our circumstances or feelings. Obeying these three commands - be joyful, keep on praying and be thankful - often goes against our natural inclinations. When we make a conscious decision to do what God says, however, we will begin to see people in a new perspective. When we do God's will, we will find it easier to be joyful and thankful. **(5:16-18)**

2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

As we live for Christ, we will experience troubles because we are trying to be God's people in a perverse world. Some people say that troubles are the result of sin or lack of faith, but Paul teaches that they may be part of God's plan for believers. Our problems can help us look upward and forward, instead of inward. See **Mark 13:35-36; Philipians 3:13-14**. They can build strong character. Read **Romans 5:3-4**. They can provide us with opportunities to comfort others who are struggling. Read **2 Corinthians 1:3-5**. Your troubles may be an indication that you are taking a stand for Christ. **(1:5)**

Psalms 83:1-18

Sometimes we must be humbled by adversity before we will look up and see the Lord. We must be defeated before we can have the ultimate victory. Wouldn't it be better to seek the Lord in times of prosperity than to wait till His judgment is upon us? **(83:13-18)**

Proverbs 25:15

Being patient and soft spoken can get you much farther in life than you might think. **(25:15)**

“Foot” Notes

Via the fringes of social media! Hey y'all! Can you believe it? They've given me the ability to email, Ha! Ha! What were they thinking? I believe the best part is that Wade and miss Michelle will no longer have to spend hours trying to decipher my scribbling!

I've spent some time looking back over my life (this is what us old folks do) and have recognized places where God had put angels in my life. Granted none of them were saints but they all tried to protect/save me from myself. I can now relish the fact that God has been with me all along. I'd bet if any of you would do the same you'd get the same result.

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

believe it does, and be patient. As time goes by, we watch it begin to change our lives. Just like a natural seed, which is smaller than a fingernail, it grows into plants and trees producing life giving food.

Again, some seeds take longer than others to produce fruit. The principles or laws of God's kingdom operate similar as the laws of nature. I don't know of any seed that we can plant today, and wake up tomorrow and eat of its fruit. But there are so many Christians who never plant the seed (His Word) of God's kingdom into their hearts. And then when an emergency arises, they turn to God's Word and look for it to immediately produce the need. An example of this is the Christian that never spends time meditating on God's Word for themselves, and then they receive a bad report from the doctor that they have stage 4 cancer. Fear enters in and they worry about what will happen. As a last resort, they go to God's Word looking for the drive-thru fast miracle. But fear and worry choke out the Word from taking root and growing.

Begin now to create and plant your own garden in your heart, allowing the Word of God to produce His life in you. Everything you need in this life is provided through His Word. One of these promises I have believed for is to live in divine health. ***Psalms 91:10*** reads, ***"No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling."*** Imagine a life where you have no physical ailments. The Word says no evil will happen to you; no sickness will come near you. You have no reason to fear when you have the promises of God being produced inside of you. Let the Word of God become real to you, plant it in your heart and believe it – and start living according to it. How wonderful it is not to get sick. You are not of this world; therefore, you do not have to partake in the flu season or the cold season. Cancer will not come knocking at your door. I challenge you to begin to search God's Word for these promises, to believe them, and to live accordingly.

Another promise we have from His Word is in ***Titus 2:11-12***, ***"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age."*** There is a power in God's grace that will teach and help us live sin free. His power operating in your life will help you deny any temptations of sin that is common to us. Jesus was a man who walked the earth, and He was able to resist all temptations of sin as a man; not as God, but as a man. He was full of grace and truth, these are the things that enabled him to live sin-free, and we have the same things available to us. God's Word is truth, you only need to plant it, receive and believe it. Remember ***James 1:21***, ***"... lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted Word, which is able to save your souls."*** It is the Word of God that will produce a supernatural strength and power inside of us, enabling us to say no to the temptations of sin.

Finally, I encourage you to desire and develop a love for God's Word. A good place to start in your Bible is reading the entire chapter of ***Psalms 119***, it extols and praises God's Word. I leave you with ***Psalms 119:18***, ***"Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your Word."*** Start to pray this Scripture on a regular basis, asking God the Father to reveal the mysteries of His Word that you may receive the awesome revelations in His Word. These things are concealed in His Word for us, the righteousness of God. After you pray this, then go to your Bible and begin to read it and you will be amazed. God Bless all of you!

The Void

By Steve Arterburn


***"My son, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you, turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding, and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."* - Proverbs 2:1-5**

For several summers in the 1950s, Howard Mumma was a guest minister in Paris. There he met the existentialist philosopher, Albert Camus, who was coming to church to hear the great organist, Marcel Dupré. Eventually Mumma's sermons stirred Camus, so the two men met several times to discuss Camus' questions about the Christian faith. In one conversation, Camus said, "The reason I have been coming to church is because I am seeking. I'm almost on a pilgrimage, seeking something to fill the void that I am experiencing, and no one else knows. Certainly the public and the readers of my novels, while they see that void, are not finding the answers in what they are reading. I am searching for something that the world is not giving me." Are you where Camus was? Searching for that something? The best gift we can receive is precisely what the world can't offer, true, eternal life through Jesus Christ. All you gotta do is ask.

FUN FACTS


The world's busiest airport is Hartsfield-Jackson in Atlanta through which over 100 million passengers travel in a year.

What Others Are Saying...

"What you shared about Skylar's recovery in the Jan 2021 issue was not inspiring, but a powerful testimonial to God's grace and healing power! I love reading and hearing how God works in people's lives, some powerful stuff. God bless you and know that everyone at  are in my thoughts and prayers." - **W.R.**

"I have been seeing and reading your newsletter and always enjoy reading how others have found help in the newsletters. I am one of them. Until today I have never written to your program. As you have seen by my D.O.C. number I have done some serious time. The reason that I know about God is because I have been around other inmates that received these newsletters. I'm asking if you would please put me on your mailing list?" - **A.M.**

"As always, thank you for the wonderful newsletters that I receive monthly, they give me hope and a foundation to build on. You all are part of the reason I am who I am today, a child of God. Iron sharpens iron, right!? I find it so amazing how God uses all kinds of people and something as small as an ant to teach us His wisdom. It seems they have no sense of direction, no captain and yet they are organized, energetic and have goals. We can mess up whatever they are doing, but they don't give up. They just start all over again. This is very encouraging, don't you think?" - **C.S.**

"Dear family at the , I love you people, and appreciate all you do for us. Thank you for the Christmas and birthday cards, your thoughtfulness brings a smile to my face every time I view them. God bless all of you. May His favor rain down on you, and His blessings overtake you. Live a life of worship, for God is most glorified in our worship." - **R.A.**

"*Overcomers for Christ*, I'm writing to inform you that I am going home in 2 weeks. So, I'm canceling my subscription to your monthly newsletter. As I have written before, when changing prisons, your newsletters were always encouraging to those of us incarcerated believers. I always took advantage of the artwork and cover pages by using them for decorations. I even shared the artwork on the church bulletin board. Thank you all again for your prison ministry. Many souls need to know that they are loved by people in the outside world." - **A.K.**

Overcomer's Testimonies

The Best Day of My Life

By R.S.

Hello, I would like to give you all a little bit of my testimony and ask you if you would please place me on the mailing list for your 12 page magazine, *Overcomers for Christ*? My name is R.S. and I am a believer in God and I accepted Christ Jesus into my heart and life in January of 1992. I can honestly say that that was The Best Day of My Life!

Before Christ I was in a world of sexual addiction since the age of 5 years old. You see, both of my parents had porn and of course, as a kid I was nosey and I always found the nude books like *The Joys of Sex* there in their room. Everything went downhill from there.

My dad drank heavily and he was the disciplinary in the family. So when I got in trouble, I literally was beaten for it. My dad worked at a mill and my mother was a housewife that watched daytime 'soaps' and gambled. We were Catholic and we seldom, or better yet, never went to church. My parents showed their love by buying me things like TV, radio and video games for my room. Even though they provided me with these things, I had an anger and rage problem where I would throw things and break them.

Needless to say, at the age of 12, I went to foster home for 7 years with the same family. This family already had two sons and a daughter and most of the time I was with the younger son. They were Roman Catholic and went to church all of the time. I did go to church with them, for awhile, but when they would do the 'Lord's Supper' (Communion) I would act like I was sick so eventually they stopped taking me.

I'm not saying that it was all bad with this family because I do remember some fun times. We went on camping trips, some being six to twelve weeks where we stayed in cabins. In high school, I did a bike camp for three days and two other camps for 12 days, where we 'roughed it' using tarps, dry food and learning to use a compass and maps. One time we went to Bay Beach Amusement Park in Green Bay and another time to Six Flags. These times were fun for me.

Eventually the sexual addiction got me in trouble and I landed here in prison with a 30 year sentence of which I have now done 25 years. But I refuse to let that define me! Since I've been here I've gotten a Master degree in Christian Education because I want to do missionary work. I've completed all the programs they've asked of me and I attend all of the church events. That is right up until this 'little or no movement' policy went in to place. We now have tablets so I read a lot and listen to lots of Christian music.

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Mind Blown?

By Foot

The Spirit woke me up at 3:00am prompting me to get to writing, what a gift God has given me! An epiphany, the greatest validation, or more simply stated "HOLY CRAP!" Many of us have the belief that God only uses us once we turn our messed up lives over to Him and become born again. Well nothing could be further from the truth. I had that belief as well. Once I started reading the Word and learning about God my thoughts were that NOW God can use me to help others whose lives have been on a similar path and this would allow others to overcome the crap and find the same inner peace and joy that has been growing in me daily since May of 2005. You know, being an example of what's possible.

Well, last night I received a letter in the mail and the name on the return address looked familiar but I couldn't quite place it. For one thing it came from Tennessee and the name was not the name of the only guy I knew who left here for there. Once opened and within three lines a flood of memories surfaced from 1991 ... thirty years ago. This was from an old friend who was up in Winslow with me. He kicked with me and my ace deuce at the time. This was a point in my life that was fueled by drug addiction, delusions of outlaw riches, and notoriety. This cat at the time wanted to come along for the ride. The plan was for us all to meet up once we're free and fulfill these ignorant delusions. So this never came to be on this cat's part but it did come to pass for myself and my ace deuce and truth be told we never much thought of this cat not making contact.

Fast forward thirty years to this letter, long story short my old friend is apologizing for not keeping his word to join up with us but instead made the choice to get his life back on track, which he did, he got married, he had kids, his kids had kids, and he experienced both the joys and also the losses of living a real life. I know you're thinking "and the point of this?" He came to the realization that if he would have kept his word the only outcome would have been a life in prison or death, and he wanted neither one. So he changed directions and has had a good life. The point is this, God was using me 30 years ago to reach my friend before he too ended up with a life sentence even though I was still rolling "FOOL steam ahead", for God was not a common topic of conversation at that time in my life. My friend closed his letter stating that he would understand if I chose not to respond. You know that whole mindset of "you're nothing if your word's no good." Well nothing could be further from the truth in this circumstance. With tears of joy in my eyes I answered his letter. Not only has my friend had a good life but I've been shown not only how God has been with me all along but that God will use you as He sees fit to reach others and cause change in their lives whether you're on board with it or not. What a huge blessing I was given with this letter a true eye opening. Truth be told, validation of the working of God not only in my life but my friends life as well or even more so.

Vaya Con Dios!

Quote Worthy

"When you are a mother, you are never really alone in your thoughts. A mother always has to think twice, once for herself and once for her child."

- Sophia Loren - (1934 -) an Italian actress. She was named by the American Film Institute as the 21st greatest female star of Classic Hollywood Cinema. She is currently the only living actress and highest-ranked living person mentioned on the list.

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

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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Love Thy Enemy
By C.J.

Through my many trials, I have learned to wear an authentic smile
I used to let my enemies, steal my happiness and my joy I began to miss
I was being swayed by my fogs, and my lack of spirituality showed.

Caught, I was in the cycle of retribution, with no escape or solution
But only because I failed to seek a higher-power, to address my plight
Didn't possess the tool to fight.

That was Jesus, the One who died for us, the only One I could trust
Only He was capable of changing my ways,
and putting sunshine in my cloudy days.

The enemy was now my friend
and my happiness, I could now defend
Our Savior showed me how to forgive, and open my heart,
brought His light, to what was once dark.

Christ now resides in me, and my faith shines faithfully
The Lord has mercy on me, and has taught me how to love my enemy.

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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