

Overcomers for Christ

February 2017



Greg K. Olson

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

September 2016



Spirit, Soul and Body By Wade Anderson

Somewhere in August or September of 2016 the Holy Spirit began stirring inside of me, through the Scriptures I was directed to, the numerous books I was reading, teaching CD's I was listening too and the sermon teachings I was sitting under that I was to bring a deeper revelation, through the Word of God, concerning Grace. It is time to rightly divide God's Grace from the legalistic and religious teachings that so many of us have been held in bondage to for so long. Although the October 2016, Grace Through Faith, message was not titled as Part1 it was the first area we established that was to help us break free from those chains that USED to hold us captive.

Let's pray: *"Heavenly Father, we are so grateful for Your Word because we know that it is the truth. We know that it has NEVER been Your purpose/plan for us to be captives to ANYTHING. We know this because You GAVE Your One and only Son to break us free from the bondages of Pharisees of false teachings. You gave us Your Word, Your Son Jesus, AND then deposited Your Holy Spirit inside each of us to counsel us and guide us in this New and much better covenant, that has been (past tense) made available through Christ. So, right now, I invite Your Holy Spirit to be the teacher in all that is written on these pages. I pray that if there is ANYTHING here that is NOT of You that it be washed away in the Blood of Jesus and only truth be revealed. I ask You these things in complete confidence that You DO hear and answer our prayers. In Jesus name, AMEN, AMEN, and AMEN!"*

In that October 2016 issue of the newsletter, I shared many different Scriptures and today I'm going to share some of them again. These are only a few of the many foundational Scriptures that we have to build our new Christian lives upon. These truths are ever important to plant and cultivate in our hearts in order to move forward in our adventurous journey with Jesus. It is also important because someone may not have gotten the October 2016 issue. I believe it's even more important to give the whole Scripture and not just give the address. In other words, repetition builds familiarity. From this end I have access to many, many translations to where some of you may not even have Bibles. In that case what good would the address (example **Mark 11:22**) do you if you didn't know what was at that address? *"Have faith in God."* (**Mark 11:22**) Now you know what lives at that address.

"For it is BY GRACE that you have been saved, THROUGH FAITH - and this is NOT from yourselves, it is THE GIFT of God - not by works, so that no man can boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to ALL men." (Titus 2:11)

"Having been born again, NOT of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God (Jesus) which lives and abides forever ..." (1 Peter 1:23)

Before we move on, I want to encourage everyone once again ... as you read through Paul's letter's underline every place you come across a phrase like, ***in Him, in Whom, in Christ, with Him, through Christ, through Him***, etc. After you do that stop and take a few minutes to digest the promises you have IN Christ given in that area. Then begin to confess these things over your lives. Here is a couple examples. ***"God made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that IN HIM we might become the righteousness of God."*** (2 Corinthians 5:21) ***"I can do ALL things through Christ who strengthens me."*** (Philippians 4:13) Instead of kicking, cry babying and begging God to do something that He has already done for us, we have got to load our hearts with the ammunition, His Word, that we've already been given in order to stand firm whenever opposition comes our way.

In ***Ephesians 4:22-25***, listen as Paul compels us to put on the new man, ***"You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put OFF your old man, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; and to PUT ON the New Man, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness."*** In ***Romans 13:14*** we see, ***"... CLOTH yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the desires of the flesh."***

Now don't start throwing things at me but I find these Scriptures interesting, very insightful and painting a pretty clear picture of IN Christ being revealed to us as similar to a garment. Isn't that what Paul just said? ***Cloth yourselves ... Put On the New man***. Don't get all religious on me. I'm just quoting what Paul wrote. But, instead look at what Paul is saying like this. I know from time to time many of you 'get' to wear those big orange jump suits for your general dress attire so you can relate to this illustration. (sick humor I know) Now, grab hold of that 'Jesus' jump suit and imagine that it is form fitting and goes completely over your head. Next, step IN TO it one leg at a time. Then place each arm IN TO the sleeves and pull "Him" up over your shoulders. Now, reach down towards the bottom of the 'Suit', in the front, and grab hold of the zipper. Pull the zipper all the way up and over the top of your head. At that point there is NOTHING left of the 'old man' that is visible. To me, this is the picture I see Paul painting when he says to, ***"Cloth yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, Put On the New Man."*** Now I know we don't literally have to do this because we are already IN Him and He is IN us but, do you see the picture? ***"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ now lives in me."***

The life I live in the body, I live BY FAITH in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me."
(Galatians 2:20)

Believe me it's totally to our advantage to understand that this is the way the enemy sees us when we are clothed IN CHRIST! I can also tell you that walking by faith means we have to zip it all the way over our head. Leaving the zipper down far enough to see out in front of us is NOT total faith in God and the enemy knows it. **Second Corinthians 5:7** says, **"For we walk by faith, NOT by sight."** I can tell you that as I began to picture myself clothed IN the New Man, 'Jesus suit', I too began to view the obstacles that lay in front of me in wait much differently. I know that we will travel here again at a later date so for now, we'll move on.

Let's turn over to **2 Corinthians 5:14-15** (NIV) and read, **"For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that One died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again."** Now, **2 Corinthians 5:17** tells us, **"Therefore, if ANYONE is IN CHRIST, he is a NEW creation; the old has gone, the NEW has come."** Notice it doesn't say, rich people, poor people, well educated people, those in prison or out of prison, or those with little or no education. It says ANYONE! Anyone, **"... that if you will confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART that God raised Him from the dead, YOU WILL be saved."** (Romans 10:9-10) If you have done this then you're a qualifier as an ANYONE. Everyone who has already done this should be praising Jesus for the access to the throne room of God! And to all of you who have already asked Jesus to be the Lord of your lives then that right there should excite you enough to share this same invitation with others wherever you are. Let me just say this. Now that you ARE saved it doesn't please the devil. BUT here's the great thing about that, there is absolutely nothing he can do about it! Listen as Jesus gave us this promise in **John 10:28-29**, **"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish, no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand."**

I'm just going to step out here and say, we just seen that there is absolutely nothing the enemy can do about your salvation because it is 'sealed'. But, the reason he throws so much opposition at us once we are saved is because he wants to discourage us in our own walks so that we might be distracted from sharing Jesus and taking someone else along with us. This is the way that I personally approach that situation each morning whether I'm going in to the jails or simply moving through my day. **"This is the day that the Lord has made, I will rejoice and be glad in it! Lord use me today to be a blessing to someone somewhere, that Your will for my life here and NOW is being fulfilled ... devil, you have absolutely NO power over me because I am the righteousness of God, IN Christ Jesus. I take my authority and I exercise it today AND every day! I'm telling everyone that will listen that you are a liar NOT a lion! My desire is to continue with what the Lord's plan and purpose is for my life! I'm Not going to heaven by myself! AND I'm taking bus loads of others with me that will listen and respond to Jesus' voice! So beat it!!"**

Let's go back and take a look at what the Bible says about being 'sealed'. In **Ephesians 1:13-14**, (NKJV), we find, **"IN Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; IN Whom also, having believed, you were** (past tense, already) **sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, Who IS the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (us), to the praise of His glory."** Now let's go find the definition of 'trusted'. First thing we want to notice is that 'trusted' is the past tense of trust, meaning we've already did/already given our trust. When we look in the *New Lexicon Webster Dictionary* we find the definition of trust to be; *confidence in a person or a thing because of the qualities we perceive in him or it, acceptance of something as true and reliable without at first being able to verify it, to have faith in, to rely on and trust in God.* What I would draw from this definition is, when we first believed we 'should have' placed our complete confidence and acceptance in the qualities and reliability, by faith, in what God has already completed for us. When we fully trust in God it takes all of the 'I have to do's or our works' out of the equation. WHEN we rely on His finished work, NOT OURS, THEN we can rest in His promises. I can hear some of you saying, "What about **James 2:17** where it tells us, **"Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being alone?"** Okay, the difference in what I just said and what this Scripture in **James** is saying is; It is NOT our works that draws God close to us or that God has a check list for us to meet in order for us to get our prayers answered or receive our healing. By faith we believed therefore we are qualifiers to receive. What James is saying, in context, is (my paraphrase) ... we say we have faith in God but when we see another person in need of something that we ourselves can provide for them why do we turn our head the other way?? God has provided all of our needs by His riches in glory through Christ Jesus. We ARE His hands, feet, and mouth piece here on earth! The works that James is speaking about here is that WE DO something with that faith and help provide for that other person in need. Believe me, God gives us EVERYTHING we need and if we give it away He will ALWAYS give it back to us! It says so right here in **Luke 6:38**, **"Give, and it WILL be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, WILL BE poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."** Folks those are red lettered words, a promise from the very lips of Jesus! In **Philippians 4:19** Paul assures us, **"And my God will meet ALL your needs according to the riches of His glory IN Christ Jesus."**

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

Please accept this prayer request for my husband and myself.

We are both incarcerated. Though we've been together almost 25 years, he's chosen to end our relationship and has severed contact completely. I ask that you pray for him to find whatever happiness it is that he's searching for. I also ask that you add me to your prayers that I find an end to this pain and that each of us find peace and a new beginning from this tragic end of our marriage. I know that **"I can do everything through He who strengthens me."** (**Philippians 4:13**) May God bless us all through our pains and our joys ...

D.W.

I have recently begun to disciple a small group of men with the goal of multiplying until our numbers are sufficient to spread the real gospel in the midst of so many legalists and even turn the legalists, whose zeal is great, into ministers of reconciliation rather than condemnation. Please keep us in prayer as we are under constant attack for our liberty in Christ ...

C.L.

A little bit about myself, I'm divorced with two kids. I was married for twelve years and have been divorced for 16 years. Prior to that me and my family were active in the church of Victory Outreach. I relapsed to drugs and the street lifestyle and now I'm serving a 7 year prison sentence. I'm blessed to still have my immediate family in my life, my twin sister and dad. Because of the divorce and many other bad issues, me and my kids have drifted apart. I will continue to keep them in my prayers and believe in God to restore them to me. I have been raised up to teach the Bible study, so please keep that in your prayers. I'm limited on resources for my studies, please pray for me and I will do my part on this end for the Lord to provide and give insight and interpretation of all in His Word ...

P.C.

God bless you big brother. I've been slaking and falling into depression lately. I can't get a hold of my 2 sisters. Apparently they moved and I didn't get their new address. Then about 2 months ago I was moved to this new yard ... and I'm getting even more frustrated and upset that I still can't get a hold of my sisters. I feel like I'm starting to slip. Please pray for me. I know people have more serious prayers or issues for you to address in prayer. But for me, this is a big step asking for help through prayer. I've never done this before. Feeling alone and not hearing from my sisters is kind of cracking the ole heart ...

B.G.

I was hoping you guys could pray with me that my lawsuit turns out in my favor and that I am continually being guided and blessed ...

M.A.

Praise Reports

A whole bunch has went down since the last time we 'talked'. "God is so good"! I mean, it's not like Jesus Christ isn't enough ... He's "More than enough". But the ways that He continues to bless us just blows me away! To start, this brother in Christ, E.E., that I met some time ago in another facility just gave back a life sentence! He is now a free man and doing real good out there and keeping it all about Jesus. Now another brother in the Lord, J.R., and I are continuing the work of the 'Soul Patrol' here at this facility. Together we'll continue to spread the Gospel and share the love of Jesus 'from the inside'. I've learned that If Jesus can change someone like me, and He is, then He can change 'ANYBODY' that asks ...

J.W.

Lately, God has been dumping showers of more blessings upon me. First, after five years of not seeing any of my family God answered my prayers and I received a visit from my daughter AND my grandbabies! We had a great visit. We cried, we laughed and then we even prayed together. I thought my grandbabies wouldn't recognize me but they did. God is so AWESOME! I was crying as they were getting ready to leave and one of my grandbabies looked at me and said, "Soon Nana soon." I would have expected that coming from my daughter but not one of my grandbabies. That made me cry even more but gave me even more hope. Then my aunt recently got approved for phone calls. Not long after that I was able to buy myself a fan to help keep me cool this past summer. Shortly after that my sister finally wrote to me. And just as important as all the rest of these blessings, I've been able to make amends with other relationships here on the yard. I'm feeling truly blessed. Praise God! Thank You Jesus ...

C.P.

I want to thank all of you who signed my birthday card. Thanks to my sisters, Julie, and Claudine, and my brothers, \$ and Anthony. That meant the world to me. I lost my family and I seen that God gives family back. I lost six people, my mom, my two sisters, my niece, my nephew and my niece's son, and the card had six people sign it. I can't wait to meet you all in person at church when I get out. Sixty more days, praise God, my Redeemer, the God of second chances. Expect a call from me, so I can make it to church. I thank God for the new church family and friends He has waiting for me. I thank Him for the job and the place I have to stay. I thank Him that He closes doors and opens others. I'm thankful for His guidance and love and mercy, I know I will prosper. I'm not in a hurry, I will take it slow and trust in Him and be aware of His flowing blessings. God bless all of you at Overcomers for Christ and Living Word Bible church. May you all have a joy filled season with peace and love ...

D.H.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

If I Didn't Have Him

By C.P.

Thank you all for welcoming me in to your family at the Overcomers for Christ. That's a BIG blessing. Thank you for the nice cards and the newsletters that you send. I am so blessed to have you all in my life. I always think about you all there at the O+C and want you to know you are in my prayers. I love to read the stories from others around the country along with the Scriptures and the messages. Thank you all for your hard work and time. What you all do helps those of us that are locked up to get into God's Word and learn to praise Him.

I thank God that He gave me the strength to reach out to this ministry. Let me tell you a little bit about why. I was born and raised as a Catholic and I always went to Catholic services. It was confusing to me because all that they did was recite the rosary. The reason that I kept going for so long was that I was seeking and hoping that one day they would talk about God. I really wanted to know about God ... I wanted a relationship with Him. That never did happen for me there so I stopped going to services.

Then one day I seen all these women sitting and reading at a table here on the yard. I seen that they all had their own Bibles so I asked them if I could join them and they said yes. I truly believe that God showed me the way to these ladies. They asked me if I went to any services on the yard and I told them that I used to go to the Catholic ones but I stopped because they never talked about God. Then one of the ladies asked me if I would like to come to one of the Christian services to see if I would like it there. LET ME TELL YOU ... I loved it and not only that, I got touched by the Holy Spirit! I couldn't stop crying. It seemed like everything the pastor was saying had to do with me. I LOVED IT! Everything the pastor was talking about was what I had been yearning for. These services were talking about God and telling me how I too could have a relationship with Him.

The very next day I put in a request to change from the Catholic services to the Christian services. I gave my life over to Christ on March 13, 2013 and that has been the best thing that I have ever done in my life! I'm still taking baby steps but one day I can see myself in the same shoes as all of you. Thanks to the grace of God He gives me the strength to keep going forward. If I didn't have Him I don't know how I would carry on with my life.

God is with Me

By C.P.

I stand firm in my faith. I'm so thankful just to spend the time in God's Word and have the Holy Spirit fill me. It's awesome, whenever I'm stuck in a situation and don't know what to do, I just cry out to God and pray and I ask Him, "What should I do?" God is always there for me, He never leaves me. My purpose in captivity is to share love to others. Just love them, no matter what. God put that in my heart and that's what I'll continue to do. I don't let negativity bring me down. I refuse to give satan that power. I wake up every morning, I pray to God, and thank God for another beautiful day and just give myself fully to the Lord.

I read about four different daily devotions to get into the Word. I love to watch Joyce Meyer preach on TV. Right now I'm learning not to worry about my needs in prison, I give it to God. He says "Don't worry about tomorrow, let tomorrow worry about itself." Also, if we don't receive, it's because we didn't ask. I always think about that and have to remind myself of that. That keeps me positive and I put my trust and faith fully into God and I know He will make a way, He always does. All the trials and suffering I've been through growing up in CPS; being a single mom, drug addict, alcoholic and now my crime and all this time I have seen it as a true blessing. Yes, it may sound crazy but I believe God is doing His purpose in my life, here on earth, to prepare me for eternity in heaven.

I may stumble but I get myself right back on up and move forward. Satan can never win this battle, because I'm equipped with the full Armor of God. Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift! (2 Corinthians 9:15) May God bless each and every one of you. May God bless you abundantly and that you all prosper. Thank you so much for all that you do!!! You're the best.

"But just as you excel in everything in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving." (2 Corinthians 8:7)

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Overcomers for Christ

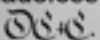
From the Inside

Don't Live with Fear

By C.S.

Thank you so very much for the card, it brought tears of joy to me, just knowing that someone cares. I am not going to be transferred this year and I am always fearful when I go to a new prison. Because of my crime I never know what to expect. I know that feeling fear is part of life, I just have to learn to deal with it because it will never completely go away. I usually just do what I believe I am supposed to do, even if I have to do it afraid. I've watched people put a name on how they hate me, because I am a sex offender. They even put a label on me. I lost my identity and my integrity and nobody hates me more than me for what I have done. A name is a lot to lose. When you don't have a good name, doors will close on you when they haven't even met you yet.

By the grace of God, I haven't lost my faith. Some people put faith in themselves, some in other people and some in things. But I put my faith in God. I am so very sorry for my sinful actions and it grieves me every day that I disappointed God, my family and my children. You know this month is Father's Day. Do you know how much it hurts me when my children won't even send me a Father's Day card because they no longer want nothing to do with me? I have to keep believing that I can handle whatever life hands me, and do whatever I need to do through Christ. I found that my attitude towards unpleasant things is an important part of going through them successfully. But it's hard to do when it comes to the ones you love. I do believe God gives us the strength to bear up under our challenge, and to go through it with a good attitude. Do you think that your attitude is actually more important than your challenges?

Since I've been in prison I have been maturing in the Word and when I'm thinking positive thoughts the devil attacks my thoughts and my mind-set gets all messed up. I feel like the devil wants me to become self-focused by making me try to figure out what's wrong with my thinking. How could I have done such a shameful thing? I have been tormented by questions such as these, and the feelings that accompany them. I am trying real hard to develop a positive mind-set so that my life could be more pleasant. People are everywhere and you never know what they might say or do. Why should I give control of my day to other people? Being hurt and offended does not change the people, it only changes you. I have been through some of the consequences of offense, such as insults, hatred and attacks. And when this happens to me, I pray for the Lord to work through me to not allow these negative and poisonous emotions to rule my life. Love bears up under anything, and everything that comes, is ready to believe the best of every person, it's hopes are fadeless under all circumstances and it endures everything without weakening. May God bless you and everyone there at .

"Amen"

By C.G.

Let me pass along some counsel regarding the word "Amen". When we speak this word into existence, we not only agree with what our pastor or brethren are saying, we are also making a commitment before God, our true audience of One, to apply this shared knowledge to our lives. As Christians, we need knowledge and revelation as well as application to mature in our faith. May the Triune God continue to strengthen you in your marriages, your ministry, your health and your faith. Thank you for being an integral part of my spiritual recovery process.

It's a Small World

By D.M.

Hello, my name is David. As you can tell from my address, I'm currently incarcerated in prison. I was given 20 years for aggravated assault. I had gotten into a fight with the family of the guy that tried to rape my pregnant girlfriend. We tried to do the right thing and call the police, but they wouldn't even take a report, saying she took too long to file one. So, I took the law into my own hands and well, here I am. But, before all this I was attending your church with my father for a little over 2 years. My sister and her family, including my father all still go there. My Dad and I, we used to go to the singles class every Sunday morning before the regular services. I really loved those classes with Dr. Tom. Also, we used to volunteer for the single dances helping set up the tables and helping the ladies with the concession stand. It was a great time and I miss it. Now comes the reason I'm writing. I was blessed to find your publication with your address, so I took it as a sign from the Lord to write. So here I am. What I am hoping for is some correspondence with someone, anyone at the church. I'm not sure if you have that type of program, but I'm just putting it out there. Thank you very much.

2 Chronicles 1:1 - 6:11

Solomon could have had anything, but he asked for wisdom to rule the nation. Because God approved of the ways Solomon ordered his priorities, He gave Solomon wealth, riches and honor as well. Jesus also spoke about priorities. He said that when we put God first, everything we really need will be given to us as well. (**Matthew 6:33**) This does not guarantee that we will be wealthy and famous like Solomon, but it means that when we put God first, the wisdom He gives will enable us to have richly rewarding lives. When we have a purpose for living and learn to be content with what we have, we have greater wealth than we could ever imagine. (**1:11-12**)

God's work can be moved forward when the older generation paves the way for the younger. (**2:1**)

The craftsmen followed God's specifications carefully with spectacular results. When God gives specific instructions, they must be followed to the letter. There is a time to be creative and to put forth our own ideas, but not when the ideas add to, alter, or contradict any specific directions God has already given to us in the Bible. For best results in your spiritual life, carefully seek and follow God's instructions. (**4:7**)

The first service at the temple began with honoring God and acknowledging His presence and goodness. In the same way, our worship should begin by acknowledging God's love. Praise God first, then you will be prepared to present your needs to Him. Recalling God's love and mercy will inspire you to worship Him daily. **Psalm 107** is an example of how David recalled God's enduring love. (**5:13**)

Romans 6:1-7:13

If God loves to forgive, why not give Him more to forgive? If forgiveness is guaranteed, do we have freedom to sin as much as we want to? Paul's forceful answer is, "Of course not!" Such an attitude, deciding ahead of time to take advantage of God shows that a person does not understand the seriousness of sin. Jesus paid with His life so we could be forgiven. The availability of God's mercy must not become an excuse for careless living and moral laxness. (**6:1-2**)

When a person dies to the old life and accepts Christ as their Savior, a new life begins. An unbeliever's life is centered on his or her personal gratification. Those who don't follow Christ have only their own self-determination as their source of power. By contrast, God is at the center of a Christian's life. God supplies the power for a Christian's daily living. Believers find that their whole way of looking at the world changes when they come to Christ. (**7:4**)

Psalm 16:1-17:15

David's heart was glad, he had found the secret to joy. True joy is far deeper than happiness. We can feel joy in spite of our deepest troubles. Happiness is temporary because it is based on external circumstances. But joy is lasting because it is based on God's presence within us. As we contemplate his daily presence, we will find contentment. As we understand the future, He has for us, we will experience joy. Don't base your life on circumstances, but on God. (**16:9**)

Just as we protect the pupils (apples) of our eyes, so God will protect us. We must not conclude, however, that we have somehow missed God's protection if we experience trouble. God's protection has far greater purposes than helping us avoid pain. It is to make us better servants for Him. God also protects us by guiding us through painful circumstances, not only by helping us escape them. (**17:8**)

Proverbs 19:20-21

A wise person commits his or her plans to the Lord. (See **16:3**) A person whose plans oppose the Lord (as in **Psalm 2:1-3**) may actually become God's enemy. But the person whose ways are from God will certainly succeed. (See **16:1-9**) (**19:21**)

“Foot” Notes

Brothers and sisters, don't ever think that God does not have you in mind. No matter where you are, pay attention and you will see opportunity open up before your very eyes. God WILL move in your life so just stick with your faith in Him and things will always happen for you.

Love to you all short and tall. Don't ride faster than you angels can fly.

Most of us, through lack of knowledge and understanding, believe that we are made up only of body and soul. Most of us believe that our spirit and our soul are one in the same. That's not correct. Listen here to what it tells us in **1 Thessalonians 5:23**, (NIV), **"May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."** This Scripture clearly defines that we are a three part being. When we look in the mirror it's pretty obvious that the 'reflection' we see is our physical body. In other words if you were fat, ugly or bald when you got saved and went directly and looked in the mirror you may be discouraged because we were still fat, ugly and bald. You may say, 'I thought the Bible just said that I was brand new?' It did. But that's not the part of you that's brand new or born again. It was our spirit that was made NEW! (I'll come back to some of that mirror stuff in a bit.) In **Genesis 1:26**, **"God said, let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness:"** When God said this He wasn't talking about our physical bodies. What God placed in each of us was a soul AND a spirit. **Genesis 2:7** tells us that, **"And the LORD formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."** I'm not sure if you, right now, will find this encouraging but I do! Listen to what Solomon tells us happens with this earthly tent we are living in when we die. **"Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."** (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**) And God made a way for that to happen ... through the life, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ!! Praise Jesus!

We can feel both our body and our soul. For instance, if someone comes up to you and places their hand on your shoulder you feel it without seeing them. Likewise, without even touching you someone can speak to our soul and in doing so make us sad, happy or mad. We all have felt the cuts inside of us when someone has said something that hurt us deeply. So obviously that old saying we were taught as kids, 'Sticks and stones can break our bones but names and accusations don't hurt you!' is NOT the whole truth.

How many of us have gotten up in the morning and almost instantly our body begins to give us a **mental** inventory of how 'it' feels? It could be telling us 'you're tired, lonely, fighting a cold or healthy.' Perhaps we step into the shower and our body says, 'This hot water sure feels good on these sore muscles today.' We step out of the shower and the body instantly sends new information, 'It's cold out here! I need to turn the heat up.' Our bodies are constantly feeding us new information. But it's not always the whole truth. Our bodies are followers. Can you see how our bodies go right along with whatever our minds, wills and emotions tells it?

We can check in with our souls and it will tell us whether we're angry, joyful, mentally worn out or ready to take on the day. Sometimes it's crazy how we can wake up from what was a great night of sleep and for some reason or another we almost instantly become aware of some sort of sadness or depression inside of us. Why? Because we are in touch with our souls. According to **Genesis 1:26** we have been made (paste tense, even before we were saved) a spirit being. Again, in **2 Corinthians 5:17** Paul says that ANYONE that steps in to that 'Jesus suit' is IN CHRIST and INSTANTLY a NEW creation, the old has gone and the NEW has come!

Through our bodies we cannot access our spirit. Since we are new creations look what **John 3:6** (NKJ) tells us, **"That which is born of flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."** Our soul encompasses our spirit and then our body is the outer layer of us that we can visibly see. The only way we can get what's in our New spirit to manifest fruit on the outside is to renew our minds with the Word of God. This is why **Romans 12:2** (KJV), tells us, **"And be not 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."** Once we are born again, what has instantly been placed in of our New spirit, in fullness, is found in **Galatians 5:22-23**, **"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law."** I know many of you are asking yourself right now, 'I've asked Jesus to be the Lord of my life, why is it that I don't see much of this fruit in my life?' The answer to that, once again, is found in **Romans 12:2**. We find that the Apostle Paul struggled with the very same situations we do, in **Romans 7:15-20**, **"I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is the sin living in me. For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil that I do not want to do - this I keep on doing. NOW if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it."** Paul sounds pretty perplexed here doesn't he? In fact the first few times I read this early on in my walk it sounded to me like he wasn't taking responsibility for his own actions. Thanks to Holy Spirit bringing a greater understanding, today I see that Paul had a true revelation of the war that goes on inside of us once we've given our lives to Jesus. It's important to understand that when Paul said, **in my sinful nature** he was talking about his soul NOT his born again spirit. Remember, our New spirit is born of **incorruptible seed** and vacuum pack **sealed with the Holy Spirit**. Paul even gave us the answer to what we ourselves fight with, and that is ...the struggle between our flesh and our Spirit.

Brothers and sisters, I don't know about all of you but for me, I am immensely grateful that the Holy Spirit gave such great revelation to the Apostle Paul and that he in turn wrote it down to help us find our way! AMEN?! Paul has definitely become one of my greatest Biblical/spiritual mentors! Listen here to the great spiritual advice he gives us in, **Galatians 16-18**. "So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will NOT gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want. BUT if you are led by the Spirit, you are NOT under the law." And again, in **Romans 7:5-6**. "For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. But NOW, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and NOT in the old way of the written code (Law)." And this my friends is the goal for walking in the Spirit, **Romans 7:4**. "So, my brothers and sisters, you also died to the law THROUGH the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to Him who was raised from the dead (Jesus), (Why?) **IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT BEAR FRUIT FOR GOD.**"

Remember, it's only our spirit that has been made brand new. We still have the same soul and we still live in the same body. Our soul is made up of the mind, will, and emotions that we have always had. We also have five natural senses and our conscience to deal with. God gave us these natural senses (hearing, feeling, seeing, tasting and smelling) to help us maneuver through life easier. They are good things that we have used for sometimes the wrong reasons. So we will continue to use these five senses but NOT allow them to dictate why we do or do not do things from now on. You know what I'm saying. Just because something might taste good doesn't necessarily mean it's good for us. Just because something might feel good doesn't mean it's the right thing for us to engage in. For way too long we've been tricked and allowed our minds, wills and emotions to guide and even dictate our route through life! Now, in order to change what is in our souls we have to renew these areas with what the written Word of God says.

I'm going to stop right there for now but next month we'll pick up right here and continue on. My hope is that you all take what is written here, pray over it and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal only truth to you in your own private time with Him.

What Others Are Saying...

"I do not know how I was placed on your mailing list, but I do know why. I really appreciate your remembering my birthday. I appreciate all your encouragement along the way and everything else you all do for us behind the fence. Be encouraged ... May He that knows all continue blessing you and your ministry." - **V.S.**

"I've been getting your newsletter and I don't ever remember signing up for anything so I don't know how you got my info, but I'm glad you did. Every time I read the newsletter, I feel God's talking to me ... All the time!!! It's like I have a better understanding on everything that I'm going through in my life right now and it's right on point. Anyhow I would like to say thank you very much, for some your newsletters help me a lot." - **K.P.**

"Thank you so much for thinking of me and taking time to send me birthday greetings. It came at a time that I was feeling so lonely and abandoned by family and friends. Opening the letter was like a kiss and a hug from God! You showing kindness and love to the body of Christ is so beautiful. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!" - **K.W.**

"I always look forward to your newsletter, it is always uplifting and makes me feel like it's a letter sent from our God. I read it when I feel sad, mad and happy. It really is the true loving word of God. What a wonderful God we serve. Thank you to all the brothers and sisters at **Overcomers for Christ** for all your morale support. Our God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ sends your newsletter to get me through hard times, while I was in the hole and in the SHU unit. I have since been out of that unit and got transferred to a different institution closer to my house. Thank you to your prison ministry for touching my heart through God's Word and thank you all at **Overcomers for Christ** for sending me a card of hope through my darkest hours. I will keep you all in my prayers. God bless your prison ministry and thank you for the prayers for all of our brothers and sisters who are behind these walls, but free in the Spirit through our God and Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." - **L.Z.**

"I received the birthday card you so thoughtfully sent me. I would like you to know how deep down it touched me. Having only my daughter in my life, who is struggling while I'm in here, I never expected anyone to think of me or care enough about me to take time out of their lives to let me know that I am thought of. Thank you from every fiber of my being. God bless you." - **S.B.**

"I enjoy your magazine. This is a real group of people. The photos are also a relief. I study them, I do, to share the family-feel they exhibit. Your articles are personal and share points that soften the time." - **D.G.**

"Thank ya'll for your love. You fine people have blessed me and uplifted me for more than four years of my incarceration. The love of Jesus is such an amazing thing and is very evident in ya'll. I have always enjoyed the family photos, birthday cards, Christmas cards, but especially the Word about our Lord Jesus. Again, thank you kindly and very much. Also, I get released in ten days, I wanted ya'll to know so their wouldn't be wasted resources from your great ministry for Jesus." - **D.B.**


Cory's Corner Trusted With Much (Required)

Hello my dear brothers and sisters in the Overcomers for Christ family. First I want to apologize for not contributing in such a long time. So I'll start by saying that my journey, at close to 3 years on the outside now, has continuously been a fantastic grace filled life! When we read in *Luke 12:48b* we see, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more is required." Well, in short, as it turns out, being entrusted with the full restoration of my family, friends and work have proven that a lot is required to keep and maintain them all.

My family and I have begun a wonderful journey at Glendale Nazarene Church where we all serve. My wife and I both are greeters at the church every Sunday. At the time of this writing my wife, Melissa, is now on her first weekend going inside to Perryville with Prison Fellowship Ministry. Our daughter, now a freshman in high school, is involved in the youth ministry, teaches in the children's Sunday school class and attends a Bible class every Friday at her school. Praise Jesus she is turning into a great God fearing young lady!

As for me ... well, as for those of you who have been reading these Cory's Corners for a long time will know that these things mentioned here above are just a few things that I had been praying for in my life. Now here I am or I should say here we are with so much given which comes with huge requirements. No, I am not required to make sure my wife wants to go in to the prison to spread the Word of Jesus. No, I am not required to tell my daughter that she has to attend Bible class at her public high school. But what I am required to do is to share all that Jesus has given unto me! A loving God fearing family that loves to serve Jesus everywhere we go. Even at times when it seems like too much weight is on our backs we just remind ourselves of the scars bore and wore on His back for us and we continue to march on praising Him, serving Him and forever loving Him. So when you feel like your plate is getting filled up just remember to read *Luke 12:48b* and it will quickly remind you of what we actually deserve. Then we're reminded that God is entrusting you with a heavy load because He knows you can handle it. And yes, you will be required to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ with others ... love and blessings, Cory.

P.S. ... Here's just a couple more short testimonies.

- 1) My wife's parents moved from Flagstaff to Phoenix and now go to church with us.
- 2) This past December I was reunited with a childhood friend I hadn't seen in over 27 years.
- 3) I was also reunited with sister's and their families I hadn't seen in 30 years.
- 4) Since my release God has blessed me with a second motorcycle but this time it is with a beautiful new Harley Davidson Sportster 1200. Now me and brother Duck get our knees in the breeze together quite often. On the back of my helmet I have  and their red cross. On the one side of my helmet I have *Romans 1:16*, Jesus Christ.

I just wanted to touch base with everyone to let you know that God still sits on the throne, hears and answers prayer and loves us ALL deeply! Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus and He'll ALWAYS come through for you.

Quote Worthy

"All I have seen teaches me to trust the Creator for all I have not seen."

- Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803 -1882) - an American essayist, lecturer, and poet who led the transcendentalist movement of the mid-19th century

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, and encouraging and mentoring 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 that 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.

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Taken Heed

By C.J.

**Righteously is how I try to live,
always having pleasant words to say and give.**

**The Lord is inside of me,
and I make it a point to tell everybody.
I spread the Gospel faithfully,
letting others know the path to eternity.**

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

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

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

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

EDITORIAL Wade "Duck" Anderson, Michelle Anderson **ART & DESIGN** John Dobbins **PRINTING** Living Word Bible Church

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