

Overt Christ

April 2019



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

May 2018



The Beginning of a Great Journey - Part 2

By Vern Deadmond

Before you discount what I said about the crossing of the Red Sea representing our baptism into Jesus Christ, because you believe baptism is being dunked in water, recall I said that this event is representative of our baptism into the name of Jesus Christ. The word baptize means to immerse, so when we are saved, we are immersed into Jesus. I am trying to show you how the Israelites journey to the promised land is similar to our journey, maturing as a Christian. Let's move forward now and cross over the Jordan River. If the crossing of the Red Sea is representative of when we received the baptism of Jesus Christ, salvation, I see the crossing of the Jordan River representative of us receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Jesus baptizes us and we are immersed into the Holy Spirit, endued with His power. If we are going to walk in all the promises of God, we need His power in our lives. Just as the Israelites needed God's power to take the promised land, we need His power to overcome and be victorious in the battles we face in our spiritual walk. It is not required of Christians to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but without the power of the Holy Spirit operating in your life, the promises of God, I believe are unattainable. What do I mean? Without the power of the Holy Spirit operating in your life resulting in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you can't win the battles in your life to walk in everything God has for you.

In **Chapter 1 of the Book Acts**, Jesus tells the disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Jesus was telling the disciples to not even attempt to go fulfill the Great Commission until after they have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They would not be able to accomplish that which Jesus has commanded them without the power of the Holy Spirit. It is the same for us, we need the fullness of His power operating through us if we are going to fulfill God's will, plan, and purpose for each of our individual lives.

"And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but tarry you in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49) "And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit ... you shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:4-8)

Receiving the power of the Holy Spirit is accomplished in the same manner as you received salvation. You receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit by believing, it is a Gift of God and you must receive it. As it is with any type of gift, if you do not receive it how can you benefit from it. If someone offers you a gift on your birthday, and you don't open it and then refuse it, you never will know what's inside of it. Don't refuse this free Gift, the Holy Spirit's power operating in your life is essential to living victoriously.

Now let's backtrack to when the Israelites left the Red Sea as we read in **Exodus 15:22-26**, *"So Moses brought Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water, and when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter ... and the people murmured against Moses, saying What shall we drink? And Moses cried unto the Lord; and the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there Moses made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there Moses proved them, and said, If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and will do that which is right in His sight, and will give ear to His commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon you, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that heals you."*

Breaking down part of these Scriptures, let's look at certain words and phrases. If we catch hold of these principals, we can eliminate so much frustration in our lives, so I encourage you to learn from the examples given to us in the Scriptures. The word murmur in Hebrew refers to grumbling, and the definition implies its due to obstinance. Murmuring is always done behind someone's back, never to a person's face, its purpose is to garner support for a person's stance or beliefs. It is rooted in pride, where the person who is murmuring believes they are right, and the leaders are wrong. For instance, if an employee does not agree with management's decision or policy, the employee goes to other employees of the company talking behind managements back attempting to prove he/she is right and management is wrong. As we see in the Scriptures, murmuring never ended well for the Israelites. As you follow the journey of the Israelites, every time the people murmured against Moses and Aaron, the Lord said the murmurings were against Him. *"... for the Lord hears your murmurings which you murmur against Moses: and what are we? Your murmurings are not against us (Moses and Aaron), but against the Lord."* (Exodus 16:8) And we see in **Numbers 17**, the Lord determined to end the murmuring against Him. *"... and I will make to cease from the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you (Moses)."* (Numbers 17:5) In this particular usage in the Scripture, the word murmur has the meaning "to stop." When we "murmur" we stop moving forward in our walk, we are hindered by our own words from growing and maturing.

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Another phrase we need to consider is the phrase *"diligently hearken"*, which is translated from the Hebrew word *shama*, meaning to hear. In the Hebrew text, it is written *shama shama*, thus emphasizing the importance of what is being said. Whenever a word is repeated twice, as in this instance, the writer's intention is to show there is great emphasis and importance to what is being written. The meaning of *shama* implies to gain knowledge, and to come into knowledge. But besides just hearing what is being said or spoken, by implication we also agree with what is said or written. Moses is speaking to the Israelites and telling them if they will diligently hear what God is saying, and gain knowledge from what is being spoken, no sickness or disease will come upon them. And they also have to agree with what God says in order for this to be proven. By comparison, we as Christians need to hear intently what God is speaking, grow in knowledge from the written Word of God, and we are to believe what God has spoken. This is living by faith (we agree with and believe God). ***"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith."*** (Romans 1:17)

Let's read further in Exodus and learn something from Moses. Let's read ***Exodus 18:13-18***, ***"... Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses' father-in-law saw all that he did to the people, he said, what is this thing that you do to the people? Why do you sit yourself along, and all the people stand by you from morning unto evening? And Moses said, because the people come unto me to inquire of God ... And Moses' father-in-law said unto him, the thing that you do is not good. You will surely wear away, both you and the people: for this thing is too heavy for you: you are not able to perform it by yourself alone."*** Here Moses was busying himself with the responsibility of judging the people, he became so busy with the needs of the people, this was all he was doing. Moses stepped out of what God had called him to do, and that was to lead the people, not to be their judge. But what I was wanting to point out was that the Israelites along with Moses had come to a stop in their journey, they were not going forward. Moses was not seeking after God, he was too busy. It is the same for us, we can become so busy with our jobs, daily routines, our entertainments that we forget that God has called us into fellowship with Him, for it says in ***1 Corinthians 1:9***, ***"God is faithful, by whom you were called unto the fellowship of His Son Jesus Christ our Lord."*** Never forget that God has called you into fellowship with Him, never stop making time with God a priority in life. God needs to be first in our lives, not secondary.

"... for your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things. But seek you first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:32-33)

So many Christians are hurting and suffering, but if you talk with them you will find they have no intimate relationship with God, He is not their first priority in life. They will go to church once or twice a month, ask for prayer, then return home to their busy lives and still not make room for God other than give Him a ride to church. Most Christians have a Bible, but their Bible collects dust until they attend the next church service. There are other Christians that will attend church services every Sunday and maybe a Bible study during the week, but still have no intimacy with God. They think in their minds that they are being the good Christian by attending church. But wait a moment, isn't that what a Christian is supposed to do? If your idea of being a good Christian is you must attend church, then you have just based your righteousness upon what "you" do, and "you" have made going to church a law in your life.

Why is it that during football season, church attendance drops? And then the Sunday after the Super Bowl, church attendance goes up again. The reason is because most of these Christians make entertainment priority above their relationship with God. Did I just kick someone's sacred cow? Do you know what a sacred cow is? In India, cows are sacred. People will die of starvation before ever considering butchering the cow and eating it. There are many Christians that are the same, they would rather die than give up a Sunday watching their favorite football team. There's nothing wrong with watching football or sports, but don't make it priority over your relationship with God. I know guys that study football and the players just so they can put together the best fantasy football team. These guys can tell you how many yards their quarterback passed the ball in the last game, but if I asked them to quote their favorite Bible Scripture, they wouldn't be able to because they don't read God's Word enough to have a favorite Scripture.

Answer this question, does knowing everything about your favorite quarterback produce life in yourself, let alone does this person who you know everything about even know you exist? Knowing God produces life in our lives, He is our source for all that pertains to life and godliness. God knows who you are, you are an adopted child, and He knows and calls you by your name. When you fall ill, can you call your favorite sports player that you know so much about, and ask that person to provide healing for you? You can with God. Does your job give you so much peace and joy in your life that you desire nothing else? God provides us with unspeakable joy. Please don't take my words offensively, I was one of those people. I was a working fool, working 50-60 hours per week. I would come home from work and turn on the television and vegetate watching absolutely nothing edifying. I would attend church twice a week, serving in church faithfully, and assist the pastor where ever I was needed – but I rarely opened my Bible except during church, I only prayed when I was sick or needed something. I was a good Christian and miserable (not all that miserable, but definitely wanting more of God). But I have discovered God wanted so much more from me. I want to testify to you that a close intimate relationship with God is so

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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

My uncle was recently diagnosed with cancer. He has had a mass removed from his sinus cavity and his lymph nodes removed. He is a believer and so are his my wife and son. They know that God is the ultimate Healer and their eyes are focused on God. I am asking all of you ... 800 plus strong ... to stand with me in prayer and thanksgiving for my uncle's healing. In the supernatural, he is healed, we are asking that we see it in the natural. We, all the readers of this prayer request, are going to create a spiritual cord that wraps around my uncle and his family. **Ecclesiastes 4:12** says, "**A person standing alone can be attacked and defeated, but two can stand back-to-back and conquer. Three are even better, for a triple-braided cord is not easily broken.**" - Michelle

My release date as of now is January 2021, but I am able to file for lost good time back closer to my release date. That's if I stay away from trouble. Pray for me and that I'm able to refrain from any type of prison yard drama and trouble. Believe me I need as much prayers as possible in here ... **J.M.**

Get in agreement with me. I have a prayer request for Veronica, that she be delivered from drugs and return to serve the Lord. She's my ex-wife, I haven't been with her in eleven years, but I still want her to be healed, so our kids can have their mother back, Amen. And restore their relationship. And that I get to know God like I never could have thought imaginable, rooted and grounded in Christ, to preach the Gospel, Amen, praise God ... **U.S.**

Thank you for your prayers as I am literally fighting for my life. I have less than three years left on this 25 year to life sentence, which since 1994 was imposed illegally on about 700 of us, maybe you read about it in the Arizona Republic. Anyway, this coming year will be the year it becomes an issue and we'll find out what they plan to do about their mess ... **C.L.**

I hope this finds you all doing well. One year closer to the gate, and one year closer to the Pearly Gates. I'm doing well, staying busy with work, school and life. I would like to request a special prayer for my mom. She's been struggling with pneumonia for about a month. She's a strong, healthy, 79 years young and strong believer. I would appreciate the prayers of you righteous ones to effect great healing for her. Thank you so much and I'll let her know you all are lifting her up ... **R.W.**

Please pray for me, I need your prayers next month, my birthday is bittersweet because my mother died of COPD on my birthday in 2016. I was in the county jail at the time. Just know that I love you all and will keep you all in my prayers too ... **A. R.**

Praise Reports

I have twin daughters born three months premature. My daughters are currently in foster care and with a very good family. They are growing up learning of the Lord in a Mormon faith family. They may have a very good future with the family they are with. Not saying I was unable to provide, but to be 100%, they are really in a good place and have no worries at all. Praise the Lord ... **J.M.**

I think of you all each month when I get my newsletter and praise God for the fruit of your ministry and pray God blesses you with the desires of your heart ... **C.L.**

Praise the Lord, wow 63 today, and I feel every bit of it. You've been there for me for the past few years with your newsletter and birthday cards. I wanted to try and give back a little somethin', somethin'. God is amazing! So amazing! My father is a retired Pentecostal minister. Yes, I was raised right, but the 60's really did a number on me. As you can see in the before picture, that was satan's trophy. But I am so thankful God didn't see it that way. It took a twenty year sentence to bring me to my senses. I serve a very compassionate God, Jesus Christ! Once again, He is amazing!!! The sixth of last month, I've been serving the Lord for 16 years. I will be out of here in April. So, most of my stay in this place has been walking with my Best Friend, Jesus Christ! I've been blessed with music talents, singing, and playing the guitar and hope/plan to do some recording when I get out ... **J.W.**

I just want you all to know I truly love you and miss you! All is well here for me. I'm still doing the fire crew deal and I love it. Not only do I love my job, but first and foremost, my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!!! I couldn't have made it this far without Him, and I'm sure without a doubt He has been working in my life. There was a time when I just thought I've had enough, and I was tired of this life and that's when He really started working in my life. Just know I'm on the right track and doing the real deal. I appreciate all the brothers and sisters at ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ ... **J.E.**

I am on fire for the Lord, you all were at Red Rock and man was that awesome. Pastor Jason was awesome, a man of the Lord. Thank you all so very, very much at ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ for everything. Thank you for talking with me at the end, I also put the inmate letter in for a one-on-one. I have truly found a new home and family when I get out in November 2019. I love all of you from the bottom of my heart. That service was the best thing that has happened to us so far. God is truly working in my life ... **R.F.**

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From the Inside

Thank You
By B.B.

I just finished *You've Been SET UP* by Mary June Collins. It was stamped in the back indicating that it had been donated by your church. Thank you so much. I have other material; magazines from Kenneth Copeland, a book by Andrew Wommack, but this book seemed to have a special anointing on it. It seemed especially fitted for my struggles.

After twenty-five years in prison, I was granted parole, twice. I committed no new crimes, I was a Christian, but I didn't know how to make it as a "citizen", in a completely unfamiliar world. I've been back for nearly eight years now. The parole board is very skeptical about giving me another chance. I can understand their viewpoint. So, anyway, this book really helped put some things together for me. I finally feel like I can move forward and find my destiny in Christ.

I do so appreciate you all. God bless you BIG!

Free Will
By R.B.

First and foremost, I'd like to wish you all a Happy Easter! I hope that my letter reaches you well and in the very best of spirits. I received the card you sent along with the halfway house list, and appreciate the time and effort to get them to me.

God has made an enormous impact on my life, and to fail in my walk is not an option. My salvation is so important, as salvation is God doing for us what we can't do for ourselves. Once we realize that the focus of our lives should be God and His glory, then we can see how insignificant and small things down here on earth are. The greatest gift He gave us is our free will. If used incorrectly it can be a curse, or at least seem like one. Our responsibility as His followers is to be both responsible and grateful for this, because we get the greatest gift of all. When we follow the right path of "Free-Will", we receive eternal life in His glorious kingdom. Well, on that note I will get this in the mail. All of you are in my continued thoughts and prayers.

Appreciation
By T.E.

Well hello to all my fellow brothers and sisters through the faith and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I do not know how to use in words on paper how much you guys have done for my faith, the push you have provided for me monthly will forever be in my heart. My faith in humanity has been restored. You've inspired, encouraged, motivated and most of all strengthened me in a desperate yet critical time. You are truly appreciated, and I'm sure your good deeds by faith will continue to reach many other brothers and sisters in the prisons throughout Arizona.

May your ministry and family be blessed greatly in everything they do and touch for many generations to come. Sadly to say, that this is my very first note or letter since I began receiving your *Overcomers for Christ* pamphlets almost one year ago. Sorry about that, but the good news is that our Father has molded and groomed this man to know, serve and fulfill His purpose, and it's the most beautiful thing I've ever experienced in almost 30 years of life.

I'll be going home soon, Lord willing all is well. Once again, thank you for everything, you guys are truly wonderful, you will never be forgotten. Give love in the name of the Lord.

1 Peter 4:8 - "Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins."

A One Step Program
By W.R.

I pray that all the brothers and sisters at *DS&S* are doing well and that the peace of our Lord Jesus is resting upon your hearts and households. I want to thank you for the card, and even more so for your words of encouragement. They were very uplifting and touched my heart.

You are so right in relation to our having to stand steadfast in the midst of life's storms, it's trials and tribulations. With that

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From the Inside

being said, I must say, it is comforting to know that even in the midst of the storms we can still be at peace within ourselves. For Jesus goes through them with us and He has always calmed the storms that I've gone through these last 20 years that I've been serving Him. Without Him in my life, I don't think I could have gotten through them. I want the brothers and sisters at O.C.C. to know and understand that your prayers, your encouraging words have made this journey through my storms and my families a lot easier. Thank you!

You know the Word tells us that there are times in our lives that we may go through trials and hardships and that God comforts us, so that we in turn can comfort others who may be going through trials/storms of their own, and recently I found myself doing exactly that with a guard who had lost a son by way of an overdose of heroin. And that by the way is what killed my grandson, "Heroin". I used it most of my life, and it's a demon. But praise God I've been set free from that addiction since the summer of 1997. I started using drugs back in 1965, but I haven't used anything since the summer 1997, and only by the grace of God can I say that!

I used to teach drug classes in here years ago ... NA, Not Thinking Straight, Smart Recovery and others. I used to share what I called "A One Step Program" because it's better than any 12 Step Program you could ever attend, for it will always prove to be successful in your life, and that Program is simple "Step up to the cross and Jesus will set you free!" I wish someone would have told my grandson about that program. But even if they did, or would have, it all goes back to what you said in your letter. God has given all of us Free Will (even the Angels have free will) and God will not impose, force His will upon any of us.

I've been praying, fasting for my son, grandson and family for years, now, for their salvation, and I will continue to do so every day until I am dead, and yet I know that I may never see them come to the Cross. Still I have hope that they will. I had people praying for me for years, and none of them lived long enough to see me get saved. A week/two maybe before one of them passed, she wrote me and told me that God had shown her a vision of me in church praising God. I thought she was seeing things, because of the drugs they were giving her. Six to seven years later that vision came to pass! Yes, we have to speak what we know to be the truth – no matter how painful or ill received by others it may be. The truth is the truth and nothing we say or do is ever going to change that.

Satan came to kill, steal and destroy, and he killed my grandson, stole him from my family – but my grandson chose to get involved in the satanic cult and that choice took him to hell for all eternity, with no hope of salvation. Now that is the truth, and for me to think or say anything differently I'd only be deceiving myself and what I know to be the truth, and worse yet, I'd be calling God a liar.

Christ died for the truth; the least we can do is live for it and share it with others. And my grandson's death has just made me more determined to do just that. To bring/share with others that truth! I am more determined now than I've ever been to demolish the strongholds that satan has in people's lives. To show them the way to freedom, to bring them out of the darkness and to the Cross. I know that God doesn't want anyone to perish and I know He will give me the wisdom and strength that I need to plant the right seeds in people's hearts. Only God can make those seeds grow, but we as Christians have to plant them.

Satan taking one of my grandson's has only made me angry and I have never been a defensive fighter. When I see a threat to me or in this case my family, I go on the offensive. I attack. When I was living in the flesh I never waited for an enemy of mine to attack me, and I apply that same principal in spiritual warfare! Satan brought it to the right one; I ain't no little lamb who is frightened by the roar of a lion. I've been serving God for 20 years now and I know His Word. For 20 years, I have studied it and lived it, and if I live to be 100 years old (I'll be 70 next year), I will fight that devil all the way to the gates of hell just to save one soul. Now that's just the way I feel about him taking one of my grandson's. Now I'm going to take others back from him and I'm going to do it on my knees, fasting and praying.

When I was in lock-up in Ohio all those years, I went on a hunger strike 2-3 times (24 days on one, 25 on another), protesting prison conditions and didn't eat so much as a crumb of bread. So I know how to fast, only this time I'll be doing it for all the right reasons. I'm going to let this go for now. Sorry I rambled on, but as I said, I am angry and in this case, it's probably a good thing, for I know God is going to give me the wisdom/strength to do what I have to do. Like I said, I'll be 70 years old next year, but I've got one fight left in me. God bless you and everyone at O.C.C. for the work you are doing for the Kingdom. I'll see you all in the New Jerusalem!

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Song of Songs 1:1-4:16

The rose of Sharon and lily of the valley were flowers commonly found in Israel. Perhaps the girl was saying, "I'm not so special, I'm just an ordinary flower." To which Solomon replies, "Oh no, you are extraordinary, a lily among thorns." Solomon used the language of love. There is nothing more vital than encouraging and appreciating the person you love. Be sure to tell your spouse, "I love you," every day and show that love by your actions. **(2:1)**

Solomon's bride was as refreshing to him as a fountain. Could your spouse say the same about you? Sometimes the familiarity that comes with marriage causes us to forget the overwhelming feelings of love and bliss we shared at the beginning. Many marriages could use a course in "refreshing". Do you refresh your spouse, or are you a burden of complaints, sorrows, and problems? Partners in marriage should continually work at refreshing each other by an encouraging word, and unexpected gift, a change of pace, a surprise call or note, or even the withholding of the discussion of a problem until the proper time. Your spouse needs you to be a haven of refreshment because the rest of the world usually isn't. **(4:15)**

2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15

These honest men were sent to handle the collection in order to do what was honorable before the Lord and men, and to prevent anyone from blaming Paul for mishandling the funds. **(8:20)**

Our attitude is more important than the amount we give. We don't have to be embarrassed if we can only give a small gift. God is concerned about how we give from the resources we have. **(9:7)**

Paul emphasizes the spiritual rewards for those who give generously to God's work. We should not expect to become wealthy through giving. Those who receive your gifts will be helped, will praise God, and will pray for you. As you bless others, you will be blessed. **(9:12-15)**

Psalms 50:1-51:19

Asaph begins his psalm by describing God's final judgment of people on earth. Surprisingly, we read that God's great fury is leveled against His own people, or at least those who claim to be His. God's judgment must first begin with His own children. See **1 Peter 4:17. (50:1-14)**

No sin is too great to be forgiven! Do you feel that you could never come close to God because you have done something terrible? God can and will forgive you of any sin. While God forgives us, however, He does not always erase the natural consequences of our sin. David's life and family were never the same as a result of what he had done. See **2 Samuel 12:1-23. (51:1-7)**

Proverbs 22:22-23

This Proverb is a message of hope to people who must live and work under unjust or authoritarian leaders. It is also a warning to those who enjoy ruling with an iron hand. Sometimes God intervenes and directly destroys tyrants. More often, He uses other rulers to overthrow them or their own oppressed people to rebel against them. If you are in a position of authority at church, work, or home, remember what happens to tyrants. Leadership through kindness is more effective and longer lasting than leadership by force. **(22:22-23)**



"Foot" Notes

Hey Ya'll! Can you remember when Jesus rode into town on a donkey and then goes into the temple and begins flipping over tables? **(Matthew 21:1-16)** We'll we can use that for a metaphor in our own walks. For when we ask God to enter our lives the first thing He does is flip our situation upside down, bringing our attention to all the things we need to deal with and most likely cut loose. It's funny how it's our favorite most desirable tables God flips over, and how many times do we go right back and set those tables right back up again until we realize those tables need to go, period, for our lives to move forward? Or how about this; We cut loose that broken table but become uppity and metaphorically beat others with our tables? Say, addiction. Your table was flipped and destroyed and now you're using that to brow beat someone else suffering through addiction instead of showing them love and letting your own walk be example enough. Just a little food for thought.

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

much more rewarding and satisfying than anything the world can provide. There is nothing that compares to knowing God, no nothing. You can talk to Him whenever you want, and people around you won't even know that you are conversing with God.

I would like to conclude with Jesus' parting words in the **Book of Matthew** to His disciples. *"All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and remember, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."* (**Matthew 28:18-20**)

In this passage of Scripture, one could say that this was the promotion ceremony for the disciples to the next level of being an apostle (sent one). For the 3 ½ years of Jesus' ministry here on earth, Jesus discipled His followers. The word disciple means "a student", and what does a student do – a student learns. Jesus had many followers and He taught them during this time. I want to encourage you to become a follower, a true and committed disciple of Jesus Christ. *"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."* (**Luke 9:23**)

Jesus is saying, if you will follow Me and die to everything you want, you will save yourself. I have already said there is nothing more rewarding than an intimate relationship with God. Words cannot accurately describe what it is like to be in the presence of God, you have to experience it for yourself. You will know and understand this if you have already experienced it for yourself, but if you haven't ever experienced His presence I encourage you to make it a point to get alone with God and allow Him to share His love with you. Take time to talk to God, this is what you were created to do.

Responses for K.H.

"In the February 2019 issue of the newsletter there was an article titled 'I'M ASKING', submitted by K.H. As I was typing it up I was led by the Holy Spirit to add an 'Attention, Note' along with it for a response from the many of you there that have gone through or are going through these same issues in your own walks. God has moved in several of your hearts to respond, to encourage K.H., as I knew you would and here are just a few personal responses from the Overcomers for Christ Church, that's ALL of you out there that receive these newsletters! You ARE the church! The responses were great." - Wade Anderson

I'M ANSWERING TO: K.H. (2 Timothy 4) - By M.D.

When he wrote to Timothy, the Apostle Paul was in prison, where he experienced physical discomfort, personal attack and desertion. For what reason would the Lord allow one of His most faithful servants to endure such suffering? Why didn't He step in and protect him?


At times God doesn't pull us out of hard situations, because He has a different plan. We may feel as if He's abandoning us, but in reality, He is protecting us - not by deliverance but through strengthening.

When trouble and pain pay us a visit, we should seek to view the situation from God's perspective, by asking ourselves these questions:

- Which is the greater demonstration of the Lord's power - changing something around me or changing something within my heart?
- Which is the greater faith builder - seeing God's deliverance from every difficulty or experiencing His presence and strengthening in the midst of trials?
- Which reward is greater - immediate relief from discomfort or tested and refined faith that will result in praise and glory when Christ returns? (**1 Peter 1:7**)
- Which answer to prayer is greater - that God has removed something and given us eternal peace or that He has left us in a trial and given an internal peace that nothing can steal, not even our circumstances?

Does God have to fix something for us to be happy? If He removes the situation, you may never learn He's sufficient for all you need. Instead, let Him change you, and discover His joy in whatever comes your way.

MY APPEAL TO HELP K.H. - By A.M.

In the February issue of the  newsletter you personally put out for an appeal to help K.H. with the battlefield he has found himself seeking shelter from.

Honestly, we all have been through these tests in our lives as Christians walking the path for Christ. Nowhere in the Word of God have I read that being a man, woman, child ... no individual that believes in Christ as our Savior or Redeemer is

now on a road paved with rose petals. It's a rocky road no matter where we find ourselves in life. But the path can be a lot smoother and tolerant with a scout leading the way.

Find solid likeminded friends to help you K.H. and remind yourself every day that you wake up that this is a new day that our Lord has given to you. It's up to us to seek out and make the very best of the day before us. The past is gone. We can't and will never be able to change the past. But we can, if we will cease the day of present, make the right choices needed to bring about positive changes in our lives. Begin with a prayer of praise to our heavenly Father each morning. Praise Him for the life that He has given you. Praise Him for putting people who genuinely love you in your path. Today, Christian people are the only ones that I seek out. Remember to surround yourself with positive minded and likeminded people that can and will lift you up.

When you feel "scatter brained", "all mixed up" recognize this as a trigger that satan has put in place to put doubt and lead you astray. And when you find yourself on the "comeback" for the umpteenth time ... praise God for this "comeback" and stop feeling overwhelmed with guilt. Why? Because you, I and every believer in Christ knows that our Lord is always there to help pick us up again, dust us off, help heal our wounds. Christ lives in ALL of us brother K.H., He has given life to each and every one of us through the breath of God.

Be honest with yourself brother K.H. Reach down deep in your soul and be honest in seeking the answers you're looking for. But before you start this process first pray for God's guidance to lead you in the right direction of the rocky path we ALL walk in life. Sooner or later, you'll be walking on the beach of God's glory and love. And don't forget, that extra set of footprints left in the sand behind you will be those of our Savior, Jesus!

Keep on with the 'keeping on'. You are obviously wanting answers and you will find what everyone else who has sought out ... the truth for our lives in the world in which we live. That being said; No matter what or where you find yourself in this wonderful life you have been blessed with, you are NEVER EVER, EVER alone. God is with you, His Son Jesus is always with you and we, your Christian brothers and sisters, are with you. Remember that you ARE a child of our Father in heaven.

I'm about to get out of prison here in 4 months after being locked down for 44 years and it has definitely been a journey. But life is good!

DEAR K.H. - By R.E.

I would like to open my words to you with Scripture first; **Jeremiah 29:13** states, "**You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart.**" And **Proverbs 3:5-6** states, "**Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your path straight.**" And finally, **Philippians 4:13** states, "**I can do all things through Him who gives me strength.**"

K.H. I was automatically touched by your thoughts and feelings, because I walked in prison 21 years ago with a life sentence for just having a gun in my home. I struggled for years in here having an up and down relationship with our Lord and Savior, and to add to that dilemma, I would write letters and get no response. This would only add to my struggles and assisted me in falling away from the only Person that had my answers, solutions and direction in which my life needed to travel.

The most important thing for you now is to allow what's going on in your head to enter your heart that will allow you to be vulnerable and embrace the Scriptures I enclosed. The things and the people of the world have their own problems that we can't fix, be blessed with the fact that you have someone to write and they are reading your words and hopefully you're making a difference in their lives by sharing the Word. It would be nice to get a reply, but it's not necessary. What is necessary is that you allow God to keep your attention and use you for the good of those who are in the world struggling because they are not guided as you are. Allow God to make you aware of His purpose for your life.

I've prayed over this letter and hope you receive my words. And now I'd like to share a few things about purpose with you K.H. Life with purpose is precise and directed. It allows you to wake up in the morning confident that you know what you are supposed to do with the day. Purpose has this organizing value because it provides a vision, which motivates a plan of action to meet specific goals. Purpose is destination - the end toward which something exists. When you know the desired end before you begin the journey, you are much more likely to stick with your task and stay on the described path. Apart from purpose, direction is lacking and nothing of importance happens. Purpose creates vision. Vision provides goals. Goals permit the development of a plan and a plan allows for an orderly journey. Purpose doesn't make life easy, it makes it possible. Purpose permits a view of life that looks beyond the apparent surroundings and the obvious pitfalls. May God bless you.

Renoir and Matisse

By Steve Arterburn

"I can do everything through him who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13

Renoir and Matisse were friends with a common bond; they loved color, beauty, and painting. Renoir, however, developed a very serious case of arthritis . . . so debilitating that he was almost completely paralyzed by it. He winced and jerked in pain as he applied each stroke of color to the canvas. But no matter how severe the pain, no matter how difficult the brushstroke, he continued to paint.

Matisse watched his friend with great concern and passion, mystified at the dedication that led to creating his artwork at such a painful level of personal sacrifice. When he asked Renoir why he continued to paint, Renoir replied, "Because the beauty remains: the pain passes."

Are you struggling through painful times? If so, please don't give up. Don't believe the lie that there's no hope for you. Surrender and persevere. Hang on to Christ. Make the healing choice to persevere and do whatever necessary to hang on one more day. The pain passes; the beauty God brings through perseverance remains.

"Austere perseverance, harsh and continuous, may be employed by the least of us and rarely fails of its purpose, for its silent power grows irresistibly greater with time." - Johann Wolfgang Von Goethe

"Pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our consciences, but shouts in our pains. It is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." – C.S. Lewis

"Our wounds are often the openings into the best and most beautiful part of us." - David Richo

Bible Jokes and Riddles

Q. Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?

A. Because he knew there was something fishy about it.

Q. Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

A. Noah; he was floating his stock while everyone was in liquidation.

Q. Where was Solomon's temple located?

A. On the side of his head.

Q. Where is the first tennis match mentioned in the Bible?

A. When Joseph served in Pharaoh's court.

Q. What excuse did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden?

A. Your mother ate us out of house and home.

Q. What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

A. It's Christmas, Eve!

Q. How does Moses make his coffee?

A. Hebrews it.

Q. How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?

A. By his net income.

Q. Who were Gumby's favorite Bible characters?

A. Shadrack, Meshack and AhBENDago.

Q. Who was the smartest man in the Bible?

A. Abraham. He knew a Lot.

Q. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A. Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Q. Who was the fastest runner in the race?

A. Adam, because he was first in the human race.

Q. Why did the unemployed man get excited while looking through his Bible?

A. He thought he saw a Job.

Q. What animal could Noah not trust?

A. Cheetah

Q. Who was the greatest comedian in the Bible?

A. Samson. He brought the house down.

Q. What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

A. Ruthless.

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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Joi Brings Joy By A.W.

I'll pray! I'll pray! I love to pray, that's what Wade said, Joi would say!
Then he showed me her picture in a *Overcomers for Christ* magazine one day.

I Knew right then that this was a precious, beautiful girl in her own way,
God hears those that mean what they say, I'll pray! I'll pray! Joi loves to pray!

Some parents ask for this or that, some ask God for a girl or a boy,
I'll pray! I'll pray! I love to pray, the lucky parents get blessed with Joi.

Love is the creation of life, love is not a game or a toy, love brings joy,
I'll pray! I'll pray! I love to pray, now that's love for God, love is Joi!

Joi, Mr. Wade "Duck" Anderson speaks so highly of you, he loves you!
I can see he loves you like a parent and down here at 4th Ave, we love you too!



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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