

# Overcome for Christ

*September 2024*



I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENS  
AND EMPOWERS ME





# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

May 2024



# SCHOOL

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## Vision/Imagination - Part 7

By Wade Anderson

In everything we do, as being in Christ, we need to picture ourselves as successful. Look at this from God's perspective, **"For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."** (1 John 5:4-5) and recognize that Jesus made us ALL overcomers! How awesome is it that He has made us victors, that He has made us blessed, healed, healthy and whole, that He is the One that has made us prosper and gives us His peace. As we read these things it all looks great on the pages, but often times we have a harder time switching from thinking about our physical circumstances and past experiences. And that's exactly what the enemy wants us to do, stay focused on the natural things in front of us instead of the spiritual realm that is **VERY MUCH** real to the believer. What I'm saying is this, most battles take place in our own minds. And that's because we need to be more focused on what the Word of God states than what our natural circumstances are showing us. **2 Corinthians 10:3-5** shows us, **"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."**

Spiritual warfare is not a battle of good versus evil, Jesus has already won that battle. For us, as believers, spiritual warfare is a battle for our faith, and generally wages right between our ears. In many of the New Testament Scriptures about spiritual warfare I found focus on the mind and the imagination. I'm not saying that demons and angels aren't real, I do believe they are real! The more that I myself deal with these very issues, the more I realize the only way they can control or influence my life is IF they can capture my imagination and cause me to walk by sight instead of by faith. We see here in **2 Corinthians 10:4**, **"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."** Even as Christians we are still human and in our own human strength, we'll **NEVER** have enough power or resources to win that battle in and of ourselves. Scripture here tells us that the weapons of our warfare, the power to knock down the strongholds of the devil are **NOT** carnal. The Greek word used here for 'carnal' is **SARKIKOS**, 4559, which actually means *to be governed by human nature and strength as opposed to being governed by God's Spirit*.

You may be asking, "So how do we see the victory?" Here in **2 Corinthians 10:5**, Paul tells us, **"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."** Let's look over at **Romans 2:15**, **"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another."** The same Greek word **LOGISMOS**, 3053, is translated 'thoughts' here in **Romans 2:15**. Let's look at **Romans 2:15** (NIV), **"They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them."** As far as I can tell, these is the only two times this Greek word is used in the New Testament. I did find, in Reinecker's *Linguistic key to the Greek New Testament* this same word means *calculation, reasoning, reflection, thought*. It seems like this is telling us that the imagination is the part of us that calculates, reasons, reflects and thinks. Would you agree?

Even as Christians, many of us still believe that the devil is a powerful force. Why? And again, I'm not saying that he doesn't exist, and I know that I've covered this many times before, even with a time relevant visual that Paul had painted for the church in Colossae. These Scriptures are the fundamental foundation to our faith. **Colossians 2:13-15** has affirmed to us, (While) **"You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ (more of your identity), for He forgave ALL our sins. He canceled the record of the charges against us and took it away by nailing it to the cross. In this way, He disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by His victory over them on the cross."** Many of us see the Scripture reference, **James 4:7**, and can instantly quote, **"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."** Could it be because we are still looking at spiritual warfare as the devil being the 'strong man'? If that's the case, then we will never see great victory in the area of spiritual warfare. What we have failed to acknowledge is the **"Submit yourselves to God"** part, our part. **THEN** when we submit ourselves to God, we acknowledge that God is the source of our power. The crazy thing about this is the devil already knows he's been defeated. He's throwing all his chips in the ring betting that 'you' don't know it! God has an order for everything.

Here in **Matthew 12:29** Jesus is assuring us of the power of God's Spirit. Jesus said, **"For who is powerful enough to enter the house of a strong man and plunder his goods? Only someone even stronger—someone who could tie him up and then plunder his house."** In this Scripture the 'strong man' does represent satan while Jesus and you are the **"someone even stronger"**. As we reread Luke's account of Jesus being tempted by satan in **Luke 4:5-7**, we see, **"The devil led Him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to Him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. If you worship me, it will all be Yours.'" What's interesting is that satan led Jesus up to the highest place. Why? Well,**

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from down on the desert floor there was no way for him to pitch his appeal of the "great splendor and authority" that he was offering Jesus.

It's like driving across Phoenix, you only see the city from one level, street level. **BUT**, if you were to drive, from north to south, on Central Ave you'd wind your way up the switchbacks and end up on top of South Mountain Park. Instantly our perspective has been broadened, and now we are able see for miles and miles in every direction. In the evening this is an amazing and most beautiful sight. From there you can see over 20 different cities and towns and a total of over 517 square miles. So, you can see why the devil thought that showing Jesus from this perspective, would change His mind.

This was the last temptation in **Matthew 4**, the pride of life, that Jesus overcame. Each time He was tempted in **Matthew 4**, it was to show each of us that, in Christ, we too can overcome these very same obstacles! The liar might have tricked Eve with his deception, but did he really believe he could get Jesus to fold this easy? When the devil said to Jesus, in **Matthew 4:6**, "**If You are the Son of God, throw yourself down,**" he knew exactly who Jesus was. At all of these temptations Jesus always said, "*It is written.*" Maybe that's why satan said, "**For it is written,**" and then quoted **Psalm 91:11-12**, "**For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.**" The devil **KNEW** who Jesus was, just like he knows who we are in Christ. Just like he had no power or authority over Jesus, he has **NO** power over any believer, that you don't give him!

Both Jesus and satan were on a mission to accomplish certain specific things. So how is it that satan could say that he had been given authority over all that they were looking at? **2 Corinthians 4:4** references this very thing, "**Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.**" Let me ask you all this, "Do you just read Scripture and fail to look at punctuation and specific words? Recognizing punctuation is many times very forthtelling. Something like an exclamation mark or a question mark shows us the attitude. A question mark indicates this is something for us to think about and not just a statement. Notice in this Scripture Paul does **NOT** say that satan is a capital 'G' god. I also understand that some translations don't always capitalize some things the way that I'm describing here. So, it's up to you to know the difference. This is why, in the newsletters, I do capitalize some things. Again, remember those Scriptures in Colossians where Jesus disarmed him and made a public spectacle of him. Here's another reference to both satan's agenda and Jesus' agenda. "**The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.**" (**1 John 3:8**)

So how did satan get this said power and who gave it to him? In **Genesis 1** God created everything and then He created man, Adam, in His own likeness and His image. Creating Adam, He gave him the authority to rule over everything else that was created. By **Genesis 3:1**, Scripture says, "**Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden?''**" Notice that satan got Eve alone, separate from Adam. The reason he did this was because it was Adam that God said these things to, not Eve. Everyone knows that the story tends to be told or understood differently by the time it's told by the second or third party, right? That's when, "**The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'**" (**Genesis 3:2-3**) Right here it's important to note that God didn't say "**you must not touch it**". This is what God said in **Genesis 2:16-17**, "**You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; BUT YOU MUST NOT EAT from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.**"

It's just satan's nature to lie and twist the truth, he just can't help himself. The same way satan made Eve forget all that God had given her, he also tells us the same lies. Just like Eve, when we dwell on what God has forbidden, instead of the countless blessings and promises we have, in Christ, we've opened the door for him to come in and chip away at our faith. I've found for myself, the quickest way to pull out of what I don't have is to look over my life, and this reminds me of **ALL** that I do have. Sometime this happens a little sooner than others, but remembering the goodness of God always lifts my spirit and my countenance.

Let's continue with **Genesis 3:4-6**, "**'You will not certainly die,' the serpent said to the woman. 'For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'** When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." Right here is where Adam gave his authority over to satan to become the 'god' of this world. Like **2 Corinthians 4:4** states, satan blinds the minds of those who don't believe. This shouldn't be an easy task for him in a Christians life, but sadly enough it is.

Our enemy, satan, has used the same old lies and deception since he was thrown from the heavens. The same way he

*continued on page 9 ...*



**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

I haven't written in a long time. So now I'm writing to thank you all for the love and support that you have shown to me. Just to let you know, it appears that 'these' facilities have stopped our newsletters. I truly appreciated the newsletters as they really inspire me and help me remain grounded in the Word. Perhaps every one that reads this would lift a prayer to our Lord, that the evil one will take his hands off of your newsletters and we begin to start receiving them again here in Tucson! - **W.R.**

Good morning! Well, I have been studying and reading a lot of GOD'S Word. Through His Word and other things, He has been talking to me, and pointing me in the direction I need to go! He has also shown me that there will be troubles ahead in my life, but He's also shown me what I need to do to get through them! What an awesome GOD! I am doing great while leaning on Jesus and having faith! I continue to keep you and all at Overcomers in my prayers!! Please pray for us too. - **M.G.**

Wow, I am truly surprised!! I do think about you a lot and I even told myself that when I get out I would look for you and make contact. Sorry about losing touch. The county jail visits meant a lot and kept me sane. Your friendship and fellowship are something I truly appreciate. I will be released in nine months! Wow, time flies. I would love to meet up with you again, brother. I will pray for the ministry. Thank you for everything and hope to hear from you soon. You're in my prayers and thoughts. - **R.L.**

I just received your letter in which you thanked me for the tithe money, your words were very moving and touched my heart. I'm just thankful that The Lord provides for me so I'm able to help the persecuted brothers and sisters throughout the world, and of course **DE&C**! Someday I'll see those brothers and sisters who have suffered so much persecution and that will be a glorious day, because I've been praying for them for about 25 years now. It's just something that the Lord put on my heart to do. I have a prayer map of all the countries in the world in which Christians are being persecuted and its heartbreaking when you read some of their stories and yet they remain faithful unto death. I'm always heartbroken when I read their testimonies and yet I find it encouraging as well. - **W.R.**

Well, I was reading my Recovery Principal Devotion this morning and it hit me like a truck!!! I have been struggling with addiction and fighting with my mind and flesh. I prayed this morning not feeling like a proud son of God, so I started reading and it was all about FAITH!! I was feeling trapped and then our awesome God showed up and I cried, don't tell anyone. Sometimes I wonder why God cares about this messed up man that I am. But through His Word and love He shows me. I love Him so much; I hope that one day I will make Him proud. I didn't relapse but I wanted to! I can't get my mind out of the old life!! I can't wait to get out and go to church, to meet people and worship to our great God! I will always pray for you and your loved ones, please pray for me!" - **M.G.**

### PRaise REPORTS

Praise Jesus it's a beautiful day and the rains coming, I like the rain. I lived on the Oregon coast for awhile and loved the rain on the beach and forest. I always feel closer to God in that environment! I was raised in southern Calif., was a surfer, and we had cabins in Tahoe and Lake Shasta, so I got the joy of nature all my life. When I moved to Arizona, I moved to Flagstaff, and it was a great place to raise kids. I was really involved in the community there. I started a new Bible study yesterday, for two hours, and I felt so full of love afterwards and I have been in a good mood since! Your newsletters help so many people! - **J.R.**

Hello and Good morning my brother in Jesus! Well, I got the **DE&C** newsletter for January and man that's a lot of color! I am about to do my Bible study for today, but I wanted to send out this email first. I am studying this new Bible called The Life Recovery Bible. It's got the twelve steps of life recovery, the twelve steps and Scripture the early history of life recovery, it's all based in Scripture. I am studying this along with my N.A. book, I want to make sure I am ready for the streets. I am happy I found all this stuff that is based in God's Word. I keep you and all the **DE&C** family in my prayers! - **M.G.**

I'm doing what I can and still walking with the Lord! I won't be compromised so if I walk alone, He's still with me!! I'm grateful to be alive, time is time anywhere you are so make every day count! I wish y'all the best of the Lord's blessings and pray for our Father to come take us home soon to be with Him!!! Praise God! Keep me in your prayers. Y'all are my family and I love y'all more than you know for all the cards, newsletters and emails.! - **L.R.**



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# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Seeking God

By A.H.

I appreciate your words always! I'm doing well and getting my knowledge and wisdom up. We must seek God, and in doing so our lives and days will be prolonged. I love my relationship with my Father God, it's so amazing. I'm learning to apply Him in all my doings throughout the day. When I clean my room, I do it as I'm doing it for Him. I rebuke my unholy thoughts as I catch myself! I'm learning to love my enemies as He has truly prepared a table for me in their presence of them. My heart is at peace and I'm doing my best to train my mind. The way I was once quick to do wrong, I now want to do good just like that. I'm in the Word daily, and I'm constantly running to God in all matters!

### I'M NOT BACKING DOWN

BY D.F.

A little over 10 months and I will be able to speak face to face with all of you. I know Jesus has been ever so faithful to me through this time, and I also know that being placed here was not just for a time out, but a time to reflect, on His purposes and plans for my life, as well as how I can be of surrendered service to Him when I walk out of here. So, I not only learned how to listen to Him speak to me directly, but I also heard His hearts cry for these women in here, meaning; for me to come back from the outside with my church to teach these women how to be forgiven and loved, as well as how to love and forgive. There are so many in here that just need leadership full of truth and compassion. Most of them that I speak with know of God, but still, I want to show them how they can know God personally in a deep and intimate way. I cannot force anyone to want it, but when God opens up their spirit to receive Him, I know the Holy Spirit within me can reveal to them the truth about the Father, as well as He can stir the passion, a fire within their spirit to continue on the way no matter how it may feel in the physical. Oh, how there is so much I want to share with all of you.

Sometimes I joke with David and say I feel like I will pop like a bubble if God downloads anymore stuff into me, but sure enough, I have learned to release and bless as He pours into me and that my brother is one of the pieces of wisdom I found in this place. I don't just keep to the inmates; I share the Lord's truth with the officers in here as well. Jesus has no barrier between the two and neither should I. At first that didn't go over well with other inmates, but after a while others seen that what I was doing was protected by the Almighty Himself, so then they just came to the realization to stop fighting against me. Either that or after 4 years of preaching, praying, worshipping, and sharing the Gospel to orange and brown, they just figured well, that's just D.F. and she isn't going to change so let her be. Either way that works for me because I wasn't backing down nor stopping what God told me to do. I can stand before opposing people, but I WILL NOT stand opposing the Lord.

I am glad that *Overcomers for Christ* has grown so much, and there are so many women in here who receive these newsletters. I will have a few more ladies' names and numbers I will be sending within the next week as well. I just can't wait to get out there to tell all of the wonderful things God has done not only for me, but for other women in this place. Soon my brother, soon. Until then may the peace, joy, and favor be upon all the lives of the *Overcomers for Christ* family and may you ALL overflow to others all the passion and awestruck wonder that the Lord has revealed to you. May you ALL abound in truth and be protected by the mighty hand of our Lord Jesus Christ. May He keep us ALL in His grace and His mercy.

### Once Defective

By F.F.

Brother Duck and *OC&S* family! I can't even begin to tell you how much your letter meant to me. And as usual, the timing was spot on. I'd just gotten back from a meeting, and on our way back to our cells, I was telling him I could really use some 'wind' in my face. He's a much younger guy and he tried to tell me that 'wind' in my face might just be suicidal. Again, I tried to explain to him that this might have been the case had I gotten out years earlier.

But thanks be to God, these last few years I've been having much different conversations with my God. I really can't explain it, but these last few years I have acquired an inner peace through a true and real relationship with our Father.

Most of these guys here around me are younger than me. I've only been here on this yard a short time, so they don't know what I was like when I was in Yuma. I was very angry and didn't even know it because I'd been that way, and even



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

on the streets, for years. The more money that I made the more I spent. I had more toys than I could have imagined. But after a few days I'd be bored with it all and never realized it was me, not the toys that were defective!!

It was only after I opened my mind and then my heart that everything started changing for me. Here I had been attacking everything headfirst and it all failed. All it really took was for me to open my mind and then my heart and quit trying to do it all on my own strength. Today, I walk around with a smile on my face and a helping hand towards others when I can.

Today, I entertain myself with a book or just a pen and paper. I spend time daydreaming about building motorcycles or rides I'd still like to go on and even some places I've ridden to before. I can only imagine what it will be like to truly see these places with clear eyes and open heart for the beauty that they are. I dream of shopping with the locals instead of trying to shock or scare them that I might be trying to steal their stuff.

It's not like I think everything out there will be easy. Just like it's not been easy in here, making sure I do my best to stay in line and live according to the Word of God. It's taken me some time to adjust to this new life. I just keep plugging along. God has even helped me with a better exercise plan and I'm getting stronger. Not like I used to be, but more like what I need to be. So, you can imagine the thrill I got when I read your mail and you said, "Riding is good for us. It was our unchanged hearts holding the handlebars that was the problem then." Well, thank you again for taking the time to physically write me.

### It's Finally Obvious to Me

By I.S.

It's become obvious to me that He has plans for my life just like He has plans for everyone who accepts Him as their Lord and Savior. Now I'm not too sure just what His plans are for my life and believe me I sure wish I knew. But I can say this much, He has changed my life dramatically from the time I first got locked up to the present. A day doesn't go by that I don't start it off with Him on my mind by saying the Father's Prayer and praying for those who are dear to me as well as those who are suffering throughout the globe.

We're currently living in a world that Satan and his demonic angels are causing pandemonium. Sadly, a high percentage of the people don't see what's going on in the world, or they just flat out refuse to acknowledge it. Regardless, the day will come when Christ returns to take His children with Him to heaven and those who are left behind will only wish they had believed in the One and only Son of God, who bled on the Cross as our substitute for our sins that we wouldn't have to rightfully suffer. Always know that the *OC&C* newsletter is greatly appreciated and is without a doubt an inspiration to all who read it. May God's Presence, through His Holy Spirit, continue to bless and guide you in your personal lives, and in relationships with others. With brotherly love always.

### Today

By M.M.

My brother, how are you? Thank you for your message. I love hearing from you as always! I do want you to know that I do understand that I must be all in, not only for tomorrow and when I get released but for today and the time at hand! I know that every moment I have here, and I mean alive, not just prison but that every moment is divine time for God's glory to mature up, grow up and put childish nonsense behind. Putting all my burdens at His feet I take my walk very, very seriously, it's who I am today. I've walked like a fool and backslid more than enough.

Today, I know that I'm not here to make a point in man's eyes because man's eyes are weak and can be deceived but I am here to glorify God and give Him all glory!! Today, I do this with my walk, my talk, my conduct and every fiber of my being! I like that my walk proves these things in this life because for me to sit here and tell you these things, well, they can just sound like the same old story. I'm not one to be so verbal on the beautiful change the Lord is doing in me! Maybe I'm wrong for that. What a weak immature child I was! I was young and not only that, TODAY I can admit I was having one foot in the flesh and one foot in the spirit. So straight up, I was being a double minded man, unstable in all of my ways! That is no longer me.

I always share about the *Overcomers for Christ*, about your walk and how I have been privileged to be a part of this ministry and newsletter for so many years.

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# Foot's Bible Study

## Hosea 4:1-7:16

God explained the reasons for Israel's suffering. Their lawless behavior has brought the twin judgments of increased violence and ecological crisis. There is not always a direct cause-and-effect relationship between our actions and the problems we face. Nevertheless, when we are facing difficulties, we should seriously ask, "Have I done anything sinful or irresponsible that has caused my suffering?" If we discover that we are at fault, even partially, we must change our ways before God will help us. (4:1-3)

God sees and knows everything. We, like Israel, often forget this. Thoughts like, "No one will ever know," or "No one is watching," may tempt us to try to get away with sin. If you are facing difficult temptations, you will be less likely to give in if you remind yourself that God is watching. When faced with the opportunity to sin, remember that God sees everything. (7:1-2)

By the time Israel began to experience the consequences of its sins, it was no longer listening to God's messengers. Refusing to hear the truth from prophets who spoke out so clearly about its sins, the nation did not hear God's warnings about what was soon to happen. We all listen and read selectively, focusing on what seems to support our preset lifestyle and ignoring a radical reordering of our priorities. In doing this, we are likely to miss the warning signs. Listen to the people who think your approach is all wrong. Read articles that present viewpoints you would be unlikely to take. Ask yourself, "Is God speaking to me through these speakers and writers? Is there something I need to change?" (9:7)

## 1 John 4:1-5:21

Some people believe everything they read or hear. Unfortunately, many ideas printed or taught are not true. Christians should have faith, but they should not be gullible. Verify every message you hear, even if the person who brings it says it's from God. If the message is truly from God, it will be consistent with Christ's teachings. (4:1,3)

The emphasis here is on God's will, not our will. When we communicate with God, we don't demand what we want; rather we discuss with Him what He wants for us. If we align our prayers to His will, He will listen and we can be certain that if He listens, He will give us a definite answer. Start praying with confidence. (5:14-15)

## Psalms 125:1-5

Have you ever known people who were drawn to every new fad or idea? Such people are unstable and therefore unreliable. The secret to stability is to trust in God, because He never changes. He cannot be shaken by the changes in our world, and He endures forever. The fads and ideas of our world, and our world itself will not. (125:1)

## Proverbs 29:9-11

The fool's and scumbags hate honest people, but the upright and good people seek out the honest. (29:10)

## "Foot" Notes

Hey family!

We all have those in our lives that we pray they also can find their peace and comfort in Jesus Christ. I take great joy when someone I consider family finds Jesus Christ because in my heart, I know that they too can follow me home to an eternity in Heaven where we can gather together again. You too should take this perspective with your own loved ones as they too find their faith in Jesus Christ.

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



deceived Eve, he does his best to do to us. Adam and Eve had God Himself to fellowship with on a daily basis. They didn't have any concept of evil in their lives or around them. But the second they allowed themselves to be deceived, their whole world turned upside down. They had nothing but goodness to reflect on, until satan put thoughts of 'what they didn't have' in their minds. The liar is always doing the same thing to us. This is why it's important for us to always reflect on the goodness of God in our lives. As we reflect on the many great things God has done in our lives it builds our hope and strengthens our faith. Remembering God's goodness makes it easier to see that He is faithful in ALL things.

In **Joshua 3:9-17** Joshua was leading the Israelites through the Jordan River into the promised land. **Joshua 3:15-17** tells us, **"Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground."** What an amazing event! As soon as the soles of the priests carrying the Ark of Covenant touched the floor of the river, the water stood straight up on one side while downstream the water dried up. As the priests stood in the middle of the river, the whole nation of Israel crossed on dry ground. Can you imagine the things going through their heads as they watched not only the river stand up on one side dry up, but that the river bottom was completely dry, no mud, as they ALL crossed through the river bottom?

I love what the Lord spoke to Joshua in **Joshua 4:2-3**, **"Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight."** Consider this; Why would God tell them to get 'stones' from the middle of the Jordan River? Why not just use the stones from outside the river, on the banks of the river, they'd be much easier to access? Then, Joshua gives them further instruction, in **Joshua 4:5-7**, **"Go over before the ark of the Lord your God into the middle of the Jordan. Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."** I want to point out that these 'stones' were NOT something that one could carry in their hands. No! Joshua said, **"Each of you take up a stone on his shoulders."** If they were to carry them out on their shoulders, these 'stones' were actually large rocks! Sure, it would be easier to build this monument out of the stones on the banks of the Jordan River. But that wouldn't tell a great story that took place there. The rocks on the banks of the river wouldn't look like the ones from the center of the river. God knew the greater story or testimony would come from the 'stones' from the floor of the river. River rocks have been rolling and tumbling in the river for many, many years. They have no sharp edges on them like those from the bank. With the 'stones' from the center of the river floor, it would tell something much greater took place at this exact spot. God wanted this spot to be a memorial to everyone that passed by for generations to come. With this monument/marker God wanted the people to always remember the miraculous thing that He had done for His people. I love this!

Remember that motorcycle accident I had at the end of our street 17 years ago? I'm not sure how this happened but in the very spot where I hit the ground a 5-gallon bucket of white paint hit and splattered over the road from where I hit the ground all the way to where the motorcycle and dog finally stopped! Whenever I drive by there or walk past there it always serves as a monument to where my life took such a drastic change. Every time I pass by there with my grandsons, I always tell them, "Do you see where that white paint is? That's where God got my undivided attention, came into my life and gave me the vision/mission of the **OC&C** ministry." Over the years, I've told them all about this spot, but Anthony has heard it so many times that as soon as we approach it, and even before I mention anything he always says, **"YES! Grandpa you always tell me this same story! I know! You hit a dog with Frankie behind you on your motorcycle and you gave your life to Jesus that day! You've told me this 1000 times!"**

Now that he's a little older I'm able to share with him that this spot is a memorial to the Lord. It is a representation of the mighty thing God did in me 17 years ago. I can now relate to him this story in Joshua and how it's a similar type of place for me. I **NEVER** want my grandchildren to forget what God did in my life, right there. At that very spot in the road, God not only changed my life, but has also touched Michelle's life, and **ALL** of my children and grandchildren lives. One can only imagine the countless number of lives that have been touched, through this newsletter ministry! Here's another thing. It's been 17 years, and that paint is **STILL** there! The city has never done anything to our street, no street repairs, no seal coat or anything to cover over that paint!!! **PRAISE JESUS!**

And again, why am I telling you all about all of these events in my life? Because life happens, and there will be many



times your faith will be tested. It's generally when we focus more on the test instead of the Solution, that we have a greater tendency to fall. It doesn't matter what comes at you, if you turn from entertaining what the liar is trying to show you and focus on the goodness of God and what He has **ALREADY** done in your life, your focus changes causing your hope to rise inside of you. Here's something else. I've encouraged you all to write down the things God has shown you, spoken to you, and even done in your life. This is a good thing to reflect on from time to time. Now, do you think for even a second that when satan charges you with his lies that he is going to sit on a chair and wait for you to run get your notebook? **NO!** Absolutely not!

I've told you from the beginning of this message that I have everything I've shared with you in these pages written down in a notepad. Now, let me assure you, not once have I opened that notepad to reference what God has done in my life! **NOPE!** **ALL** of it is also written on the tablets of my heart. The longer I sit here at this keyboard, surrendered to His plan, the more Holy Spirit stirs inside of me to write. Some of it may seem like it's all over the place, but it's what Holy Spirit has guided me to in that second. Listen, when the liar comes at us there will be no time to get prepared, you'd better **BE PREPARED**. You have to have your ammo of Scriptures and what He has done for you, written on your heart. Then, you'll be ready to fire away. **ALL** of the things I've shared with you are only **SOME** of the **MANY** things I have in my arsenal of remembrance. It would be difficult for me to share all of the goodness God has done in my life in these newsletters. It could possibly take years.

I truly hope you all know that I am always transparent with you. The best way for me to teach or share is to be vulnerable and share my own trials, life's experiences and testimonies. At this point, but we'll have to wait and see, I am feeling that there are more events that God wishes for me to share with all of you. One of which is the most current event and is even still lingering (at the point of this writing). The things I will share next month, I hope, show you that no matter who we are or how long we've been serving the Lord life happens, obstacles arise, and our faith is tested. See you all next month.

## Quote Worthy

*"Rise above the storm and you will see the sunshine."* – Mario Fernandez

## Did You Know?

In the 1972 presidential election, George McGovern, Democratic Senator of South Dakota, won the electoral votes in Massachusetts and Washington, D.C.

## FUN FACTS

September 28th – In 1066, William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invaded England.

September 28th – In 1924, the first aerial circumnavigation of the world, conducted by a team of aviators from the U.S. Army Air Service, ended in Seattle, Washington, after 175 days.

September 28th – In 2008, the space transportation company SpaceX launched Falcon 1, the first private spacecraft, into orbit.

## Christian Comedy

Alright, in this small rural town there lived two brothers. All of their lives they went around doing horrible things to people that ranged from vandalism, stealing, battery, etc. One day one of the brothers died and the other brother goes to the town preacher to arrange his funeral and asks him, "For my brother's funeral can you do me one favor?"

The preacher answered, "Sure, and what might that be?"

"I'll pay you \$10,000 if you call my brother a saint." The preacher agreed and word broke out like wildfire in this small community that the preacher would be talking at the worst person in the town's history and calling him a saint. The day of the funeral came, and people were lined up all the way out the door to hear what the preacher was going to say. Once everyone had arrived the preacher started his speech.

"Ladies and gentleman, we are gathered here today to mourn upon the most wicked, the most hateful, and maybe the worst person I have ever met in my life. But compared to his brother, who is sitting here in front of me, he was a saint!"

LOL!!!! 😄



## WORD OF THE MONTH

### Batten

Pronunciation — bat-ten

Verb — **1a**: to grow or make fat; **1b**: to feed gluttonously; **2**: to grow prosperous especially at the expense of another — usually used with *on*; **3**: to fasten with or as if with battens — often used with *down*.

"He has always **battered** on the generosity of others."

Noun — **1a**: a piece of lumber used especially for flooring; **1b**: thin narrow strip of lumber used especially to seal or reinforce a joint; **2**: a strip, bar, or support resembling or used similarly to a batten (as in a sail).

*Did You Know ...* The origin of **batten** is believed to be the Old Norse verb *batna*, meaning "to improve". *Batna* is akin to Old Norse *betr* and Old English *betera*, from which we get the modern English word **better**. **Batten** entered the English language in the 1500s, with the meaning "to improve". It is not related to the verb **batten** found in expressions such as "**batten** down the hatches". This latter **batten** comes from the noun **batten**, which denotes, among other things, an iron bar used to secure the covering of a hatchway on a ship. This **batten** has Latinate rather than Germanic origins and can be traced back through Anglo-French *batre* to the Latin verb *battuere* "to beat".

## Joke of the Month

Replacing words with the names of musical instruments in a sentence often goes undetected, according to a recent survey.

ATTENTION

ATTENTION

Editor's Note

ATTENTION

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Hello everyone! We are working with Andrew Wommack Ministries, Charis Bible College, to have their books and Inmate Bible Study (IBS by mail) available to ALL of you that are currently incarcerated. This is FREE of charge! Each month when you write they will ship your requested book, FREE!

To obtain these materials in either English or Spanish you simply need to write: **Andrew Wommack Ministries - P.O. Box 3333 Colorado Springs, CO 80934-3333** and begin to grow even deeper in your relationship with the Lord. Get started today, your walk will never be the same!

### Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd, Mesa, AZ 85213    Ahwatukee - 14847 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044  
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255    Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296  
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009    Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

### 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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## The Master Potter By W.R.

The angels looked down from heaven, for they were in awe  
And the heavens grew silent, from what they saw

The Master Potter was working late, transforming a piece of clay into something great  
His hands moved gently across the clay, molding and shaping it throughout the day  
With loving hands, He fashioned and shaped, a marred piece of clay into a beautiful  
face

With a brush of colors, He painted her hair, and gave a crown for you to wear  
The Master Potter worked late into the night, so He commanded the stars to throw off  
some light

Then He placed a tablet upon your heart, and engraved upon it some Scriptures, so  
you'd be set apart

Just to remind you of who you are, and to close the distance from afar  
For people had told you all of your life, that you were ugly and not very bright  
Everyone told you that you were just a weed, and you lived in the shadows amongst  
the trees

So, the Master Potter kept working throughout the day, molding and shaping you from  
the clay

So that you would stand out from all the rest, as one of God's vessels for you were  
blessed

Not with riches, diamonds or pearls, but with the heart of a little girl  
But the Master Potter knew that His work was not through  
So, He placed a hedge around you to protect and cushion you  
From life's storms and showers, while being transformed into a beautiful flower  
When He had finished, He stepped back to see  
The beautiful vessel, He created you to be!

*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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