

Overcomers for Christ

May 2014

"God's Helpers"

by George W. Wiseman

God could not be in every place
With loving hands to help erase
The teardrops from each baby's face,
And so He thought of mother.

He could not send us here alone
And leave us to a fate unknown
Without providing for His own,
The outstretched arms of mother.

God could not watch us night and day
And kneel beside our crib to pray,
Or kiss our little aches away,
And so He sent us mother.

And when our childhood days began,
He simply could not take command.
That's why He placed our tiny hand
Securely into mother's.

The days of youth slipped quickly by,
Life's sun rose higher in the sky,
Full grown were we, yet ever nigh
To love us still, was mother.

And when life's span of years shall end,
I know that God will gladly send,
To welcome home her child again,
That ever-faithful mother.

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

December 15, 2013



January 5, 2014



Grace, In Love - Part I

Let's pray and get right to it: *"Heavenly Father, I know that this is the word that You have placed on my heart. While knowing that this is what I've heard I also KNOW that You have already prepared the hearts of those ready to receive it. I ask that Your Holy Spirit continue to saturate not only the minds but the hearts of Your people to hear what You have to say to them! I ask that anything written here that is not of You be washed away in the Blood of Jesus, to bring only truth. It is in His name that we pray and believe. And now by faith we open our hearts to receive. AMEN!"*

WOW! Look how fast the year is moving along! Here it is May already! The Spirit of God has been continually pouring these things into my spirit since January that I'm aware of that is. I've remained still, as for giving you all a different message, while giving others the opportunity to share what God has placed on their hearts for us as well. Today, I've reached a point in my spirit where I KNOW that this is the right timing for this particular word to begin to be shared. I am not professing to be a prophet but I am CONFIDENT that this is the message I've been receiving. "The year 2014 is going to be the beginning year, NEW BEGININGS, NOT the only year but the first of MANY to come where the spirit of religion is going to start falling off the body of BELIEVERS! But God says this IS the season where He is going to saturate the pulpits with the boldness to teach His people the TRUTH! He's ready to move His Faith people into a realm to where they will finally stretch their Faith to BELIEVE ALL that He has been preparing for them to receive! Get ready because you cannot put new wine in an old wineskin!"

The most important and fundamental thing that I'm receiving in all of this is LOVE!!! Nothing we do for the Lord is EVER going to produce the lasting fruit He has designed it to produce until we first receive, BELIEVE and then begin to operate in LOVE, REAL LOVE A KIND LIKE HE HAS SHOWN US! It's not until we ALL make LOVE our first priority that we will EVER receive the fullness of what God has already prepared for us! It's when we believe God (**Mark 11:22**) that all this gets easier to understand. The depths of His Love will take the CHURCH ... HIS BODY ... US to an endless understanding of revelation truths already waiting for us to receive! AMEN!? This is the way that I seen it in my spirit. God has His arms stretched as far as the East is from the West and He's holding what looks like a HUGE funnel/strainer. The funnel/strainer is a picture of LOVE. He's calling all of those who will completely trust Him to leap into this funnel/strainer and allow His LOVE to catch and separate all of the lies and religion that His people have been burdened with and have been carrying for so long! What will come pouring out the bottom is a more pure, honest brotherly LOVE for each other. (**1 John 3:16**) The pearls that will be seen then filtering to the earth will be ones reflecting true GRACE, MERCY, KINDNESS, TRUE FORGIVENESS TOWARDS EACH OTHER, HANDS REACHING OUT, FEET GOING THE EXTRA MILE AND LIPS THAT DRIP WITH THE FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT!!! AMEN! No more religious division!

I recently read a comment that, "It took God only one night to get Israel out of Egypt (the Exodus) but it took 40 years to get Egypt out of the Israelites." Right here I want encourage everyone that has been white knuckling your walk with God through certain religious traditions and rituals to let go and grab hold of the truth. I know that there are many of you out there that have grown up under the strong hand of religion, as I did. I am NOT saying that ALL of what we were taught was wrong. NO! But what I am saying is this; perceptions are one thing while the truth is always the truth! (**John 8:32**) If I were to ask the question, "How did you find your way to the saving knowledge of Jesus?" I'm pretty sure that not one of you would be able to answer that it was by following the Ten Commandments. I'll add that such a revelation like this does not come to us without the Holy Spirit's involvement! In fact, and I'm sure you will let me know if you don't agree, it was the laws/rules or religion that once kept many of us from even attempting to see what the inside of a church was about. In the past, I've even used the comment, "If I go in there the roof will surely cave in, or, lightening will strike us all" to keep me from going in. The truth of the matter is that Jesus wants us to come to Him in whatever state of mind or lifestyle we are in.

Being someone that loves to fish and buy t-shirts I bought a t-shirt that has a picture of a big fish on the front of it and the caption above the fish reads, "You catch'em and let God clean'em." To me this is saying our job is to share the Gospel, the Good News, love on people, get them to church and then God will use His Holy Spirit to get them cleaned up in a way that ONLY He can do. Jesus has an open door, come as you are policy but sadly enough it was the spirit of self-righteousness that shunned most of us away, NOT Jesus! Let me see if I can explain this through my own life as a young boy. Remember, these were the things going on in my life but I also believe there were two different perceptions involved, mine and theirs. The church that our family attended was one full of rules/laws that we had to do or could not do or else I believed I was going to go to HELL! They taught us from the same Word of God that I still read today, the Holy Bible. They did attempt to train us up in the way that we should go. (**Proverbs 22:6**) We were taught to memorize Bible verses, play well with others, be kind to each other and, "Don't you dare cut up in church or I'll jerk a knot in your butt!" It mostly seemed to me then, that there was a law or a rule regarding everything. We weren't allowed to go to the movies; women were not supposed to wear jewelry or use makeup. The clothing issues the church had never really affected us boys as much as they did the girls due to the fact that jeans and a t-shirt were fitting for us. We couldn't go to the beach for fear we would see girls half-dressed in bathing suits. That was referred to as "swimming in mixed company." Being boys we could slip off to what we referred to as "the freeway ponds" to swim and cut up. I guess the girls were stuck squirting each other

with the water hose, I don't really know. Listening to Rock-n-Roll was "the devil's music" and heaven forbid we have a desire to attend the school dances. If you smoked cigarettes you couldn't be a member of the church and for sure you were going to Hell. If you had been married and then ended up divorced with your spouse still alive, you weren't suppose to marry again or the church looked down on you. And if I wasn't at the altar crying and belly aching once a week, begging for forgiveness, I thought I was going to Hell. It got to the point where I began to wonder what I had done so terrible from one week to the next that God would be so mad at me. Yes, you can probably look nearly every one of those "rules/laws" they gave us up in the **Book of Leviticus**.

I am by no means attempting to paint an ugly picture of the church setting I grew up in. In fact some of the church family and friends I had then are still in my life today, and even to this day when I visit that church family in Ohio my mind always reflects to some of my fondest memories ever. I will also say that those Holy Ghost filled, speaking in tongues services, where people stood up and boldly testified to the Glory of God in their lives, are the very foundation I believe in and stand on still today! What I'm leading to is this. All of those rules only seemed to make me more aware of sin due to the way I understood it all then. It seemed that I became more sin conscious than God conscious. I know today that they were only trying to teach me to say no to sin. I love to read the words of the Apostle Paul. His words help me see that he was not only like us but for our sake he was transparent and explained his/our sinful nature. See if you can relate to Paul's words here in **Romans 7:15-16** (NLT), "***I don't really understand myself, for I want to do what is right but I don't do it. But if I know that what I am doing is wrong, this shows that the law is good.***" In other words, it's like when we are driving down a road and see the speed limit sign posted just ahead of us. The sign helps us be aware whether or not we are breaking the law. The sign/law has served its purpose. Drop down a few more verses to **Romans 7:18-19**, "***I want to do what is right, but I can't. I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.***" Paul's words might sound familiar, like some of the "excuses" many of us have used but in Paul's case they are not excuses. Instead Paul is telling us it's the sinful nature living in us that we have to learn to control and overcome. Now in **Romans 7:25** he tells us, "***Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord.***"

Let's look now to **Galatians 3:19** (AMP), "***And all who depend on the Law (who are seeking to be justified by the obedience to law of rituals) are under a curse and doomed to disappointment and destruction, for it is written in the Scriptures, Cursed be everyone who does not continue to abide (live and remain) by all of the precepts and commands written in the Book of Law and practice them.***" Right here I see that when I've broken one law I am now under the curses of the Law and doomed to disappointment due to the fact that I CAN NEVER fulfill the requirements the Law has placed before me. At that point one might think, "What's the use?" If that is you keep coming because you will see that following Jesus is worth every second of the journey. A few paragraphs above I mentioned a subject concerning being "married, divorced, etc." Again I'm going to use the words of the Apostle Paul to help us better understand law from grace. In **Romans 7:1-3** (AMP), "***Do you not know, brethren – for I am speaking to men who are acquainted with the Law – that legal claims have power over a person only for as long as he is alive. 2) For (instance) a married woman is bound by law to her husband as long as he lives; but if her husband dies, she is loosed and discharged from the law concerning her husband. 3) Accordingly, she will be held an adulteress if she unites herself to another man while her husband lives. But if her husband dies, the marriage law no longer is binding on her (she is free from that law); and if she unites herself to another man, she is not an adulteress.***" Praise God! Did you just see what Paul said? Remember earlier where I mentioned the things I was being taught in my youth? Here they are in the New Testament.

As we continue on notice the word "**Likewise**" as light is being shed between the first three Scriptures (Law) and the message through Christ (grace). **Romans 7:4** (AMP) explains, "***Likewise, my brethren, you have undergone death as to the Law through the (crucified) body of Christ, so that you may belong to Another, to Him Who was raised from the dead in order that we may bear fruit for God.***" Simply put, when you made Jesus the Lord of your life you are now dead to law that you might now be married to Jesus because He is the Husband in reference here. Jesus has completed the requirements of the Law. It is NOTHING we could EVER do so this DOES NOT MEAN that His grace is a license to sin more! (**Romans 7:7-8**) It just keeps getting better folks so let's read on. **Romans 7:5** (AMP) reads, "***When we were living in the flesh (mere physical lives), the sinful passions that were awakened and aroused up by (what) the Law (makes sin) were constantly operating in our natural powers (in our bodily organs, in the sensitive appetites and wills of the flesh), so that we bore fruit for death.***" Here the word flesh, in the *Strong's Concordance* is the Greek word, #4561, (sarx), and is referring to our human nature which we all know is always at war with the Spirit. Now in **Romans 7:6** (AMP) we see, "***But now we are discharged from the Law and have terminated all intercourse with it, having died to what once restrained and held us captive. So now we serve not under (obedience to) the old code of written regulations, but (under obedience to the promptings) of the Spirit in newness (of life).***"

Let me remind you that the Old Covenant (Law), revealed through Moses, was only for the Jews and not the Gentiles. The New Covenant (Grace), brought by Jesus, was not only to redeem those under the Law but also for the purpose of saving the Gentiles (us) as well. Jesus didn't pay the high price that He did to leave any of us under the Law. The only way you

... continued on page 9

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

When my dad found out where I first fell in Kentucky, he e-mailed the C.M.A. Chaplain Bruce Lipsteuer with the Free Born Riders, answered my dad's e-mail and wrote me a letter and asked for a visitation form. He never met me or my dad and he came to visit me faithfully for the year and even came here last year. He did not ask me what I did, he didn't care and he has been a great brother in Christ. Please keep him in your prayers, I just found out he has cancer ... **J.W.**

Please pray for my grandchildren for their protection from sexual, physical and verbal abuse while they are under the control of the enemy. Please pray that before this month is over that the Lord will deliver them from out of the hands of the enemy ... **I.A.**

I ask in the Spirit of the Lord, can you pray that the judges look favorably on my appeal. I received 15 years for breaking someone's glasses, then getting in a fight with him. They charged me with robbery and grand theft. It's all in God's hands, He kept showing me things, warning me but like a dog returns to his vomit, I did. I am not bitter. I truly believe in God's Word ... **"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."** - **Romans 8:28** ... **J.H.**

Please pray that God continues to work His miracles and ministers to me ... **R.T.**

I had my interview for a drug program called RDAP. It takes 1 ½ years off my sentence. I was told by a doctor that I have to contact my attorney and probation officer and see if they can help me to qualify for this program. I ask **Overcomers for Christ** to please have me in your prayers for a miracle.

Nothing is impossible for God. I've been stressing, crying and praying that I qualify. I also haven't been able to contact my kids or their father. Please pray for their safety and well-being. My sister is currently having health problems. She's my only sister and I can't imagine life without her. Like I said God is great and I know He is the only One that can heal her.

Please include her in your prayers and I'll keep doing the same over here ... **M.V.**

If you could put in a prayer request for my family, as I know they are having it hard ... **D.L.**

Pray for me, I was in a funk readjusting to being back in here.

I thank God for all my Christian brothers and sisters. Pray that God takes control over all the evil that prevails in here. I can't believe how hopeless the whole atmosphere in here is, I mean being out ten years didn't prepare me for how bad it has gotten. Pray, pray, pray for me, please ... **D.S.**

Praise Reports

Thank you for all your prayers. I had an aneurysm last year before Thanksgiving, but God is so Big, the Holy Ghost is inside of me. I felt angels all around me, I knew I was going to be alright. It had to be the trust and faith that we were praying. God the Father will ask each of us, "Do you trust Me? Do you believe in MY love when you can no longer understand Me?" As the **Book of Revelation** repeatedly stresses, for the end times we need above all an unshakeable faith, implicit trust in God's love. I didn't abandon God's love. I believed that He would heal me and sure enough here I am back to work. He has saved me more than once ... **M.G.**

God is great! In my last letter I sent you, I mentioned something about me trying to get a better paying job in order for me to be better economically. Guess what? God is with me because I started my job on January 2nd. Despite the fact that I am incarcerated, I am a happy person. Why? Because God is transforming me to what He wants me to be and I am pleased with His work ... **M.V.**

A good brother of mine shared your newsletter about your ministry and gave me your address. I got no idea why except to say it was God's will. I misplaced your address until now, Praise God, Thank You Jesus!!! I'm doing life or until God sees fit to let me back out, but until then He has freed my heart and soul and given me joy and peace. Thank You, Jesus!! May God bless and keep you. May He make His face shine upon you and give you love, joy, prosperity, peace, and good health for you and yours ... **J.C.**

I turned my life over to the Lord back in 2007. I can't begin to tell you how truly blessed I am, I'm blessed beyond words. Since becoming a Christian my life has done a complete 180. Doors that were once shut are now open to me, once again, so that I may share in the full experience of what God has in store for me ... **B.C.**

I received your February 2014 issue for **Overcomers for Christ**.

As I was reading the prayer requests, I noticed the one I wrote to you ... I must tell you that since I wrote that prayer request, my life has changed dramatically. I have found a sense of peace. My wife never came back to me, and I still have a lot of time to do within these fences, but God is changing who I am as a man. He is changing my heart. It's not easy and some days are hard to get through, but I see my life differently. My heart is no longer broken, it's being put back together the way God wants it to be. Right now, I work as a chapel orderly within these fences. God placed me in this position so that I can grow even more. I want to thank you for your prayers. I truly do believe the power of your prayers is what touched my life ... **D.R.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Death Penalty
By N.K.

I'm enclosing a story Father God gave me while I was fasting for a guy who was looking at the death penalty. I know that God crossed the two of our paths and he came to receive Christ before I was sent to prison. The details up until he met the Lawyer were from this new brother in Christ. The rest of this is the way God revealed the story to me. God revealed to me that this could be for ALL those that believe and receive Jesus!

I was arrested and incarcerated for the following crimes; three counts of murder, three counts of home invasion, one count of prohibited possessor, one count of negligent homicide and ten counts of possession of a dangerous drug with the intent to distribute.

I sit in my cell and as time goes by and as my mind clears the actions of my choices sets in. My guilt racks my body like a freight train. I realize that I have taken life, destroyed homes; pushed poison and perpetuated HATE and DISCONTENT to everyone I came in contact with. I once was the one that caused hopelessness in the lives of the innocent; now hopelessness overtakes me. I am fatigued and weak, not able to stand the man that I am; a bringer of destruction and death. Now, from guilt and shame I long for that same death and destruction to be brought to me. There seems to be no way out. I was caught red handed at the scene and my DNA ties me to all my charges. I have no hope. My cellmate says they most likely will give me a Letter of death.

I met with my Lawyer, he introduced himself and said hello. We went over the specifics of my case and he was brutally honest. He told me that the evidence is so concrete that there's no chance of a good trial. He told me my Judge is a very stern but just Judge. He told me that He has been sitting on the bench longer than I have been alive and He is totally against the shedding of innocent blood. He then proceeded to tell me about the prosecutor, that he is totally unforgiving and that he is working night and day to convict me. He added that he was using all of my prior convictions and anything else he could use to bring accusations against me to sway the Judge into believing that I'm an evil man. Then He told me, "He's pushing for the death penalty."

At this point I'm devastated. My Lawyer looked at me and said, "The Judge respects Me. Would you like Me to ask Him if He will consider a plea?" I thought for a moment that anything is better than that Letter. I told Him that I trusted Him and for Him to use His best judgment. Then I realized I just told Him that I trusted Him with my life and I don't even know Him, and then I thought their trying to give me this Letter.

My court date was in three weeks. As I sat in my cell all of the bad things I'd ever done flooded my mind. Again the guilt and the shame racked my body as physical fatigue overtook me. I can no longer stand on my own two feet. I am suicidal, a broken man with no hope. I have no family, no one cares.

One week before my court date and my Lawyer comes to visit. He said hello as I sit down and goes on to say, "There have been some developments in your case. The Judge will consider a plea of life without parole, but that means you will have to plead guilty to all the charges and take responsibility for all your actions before the Judge." He went on to say, "I will take responsibility for your actions before the Judge. And I'll write up in the plea that anything in the past shall be dismissed without prejudice, but it's up to the Judge." He added that the prosecutor was pushing for the death penalty at all cost.

The night before court while I was in my cell asleep I saw the brightest light I've ever seen. A voice called out to me and said, "Sign the plea; it's your only hope." At that moment I was flooded with peace. I was no longer scared and I no longer felt hopeless. I've never known or talked to God before but I do remember hearing about Him and then it hit me; God IS REAL and if this is what it feels like to know God I will sign whatever plea is set before me, and I did.

The next day at court, my sentencing, I was calm with no worry. I was ready to take responsibility for my actions. Then my name was called. The Judge asks me, "Did you knowingly and intelligently sign this plea?" I said, "Yes, Your Honor." He asked, "Did the prosecutor make you any promises?" "No Sir. I'm guilty as charged," I replied. He continued, "I accept your plea. All past charges are dropped and cannot be brought back up. I sentence you to life. But, because you were honest and took responsibility for your actions I can see you're a changed man. I Am suspending your incarceration." The prosecutor screamed, "NO!" as the Judge told him to be quiet. Then the Judge turned to me and said, "You will be released

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

from custody. See that you live a life of honor, integrity and truth. You've been given a second chance at life, don't take it for granted." As He slammed His gavel down He said one last thing, "Court dismissed!"

Judge: God

Lawyer: Jesus

Prosecutor: the devil

The Point Is

By D.J.

First and foremost, I appreciate your words and the fact that you took time out of your life to write me.

You hit on some core topics in this latest letter. You talked about old play grounds and people and it got me to thinking. **Psalm 32:8** says, "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with My loving eye on you." And **Proverbs 3:5-6** reads, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." Both of these Scriptures talk about guidance, which means basically to let go and let the Creator steer the handlebars. We get to push on the gas and brake pedals and most importantly keep our balance as we travel down God's road to glory!! Nothing well earned is easy but it is priceless once you've earned it.

I've never really enjoyed or experienced quality friendship so throughout my life I took people not by what they said but by what they did – their actions not their words. And I'm in belief that the 1% are the loudest group and the hardest to tame and with that being said we'll move on to the next topic.

Overcomers for Christ are in my prayer box and I am certain that the Creator shall guide you in all of your affairs in the manner that speaks volumes to your flock. You all there are doing a great thing for the people around you and for God! I am positive that O+C will reach anywhere that the Creator wills it too and each and every person that reaches back to O+C will capture some of God's brightness. I know this for sure as my heart beats while I write this letter to you.

I don't know what God's plan for me is but I do know that I am willing to walk the walk, enjoy the ride, learn, share, experience and believe in what He tells me. God's always been in my life but before I found it way too complicated to grasp and allowed myself to push God away for many, many years. The conflicts with the God of my understanding waited ever patiently for me to get it. I've had some moments of clarity, a spiritual awakening. I've come to believe and I suppose the entire point of all of this is; who knew that one day a man that I met during some of my darkest hours, would later on in life be talking to me about the brightness of God and His works. I love God for bringing us together in this moment!

Godly Sorrow

By M.V.

I felt so sad and down for some reason I couldn't smile. So, I went to our recreational counselor and he had a little talk with me. He told me that he could be wrong but he explained to me that there is worldly sorrow, and there is Godly sorrow, and that he believes I am going through Godly sorrow.

I told him that I feel so much guilt and anger towards myself for putting myself in this situation and leaving my kids alone. I have forgiven everyone who has did harm to me over the years of my life, but I haven't completely been able to do that to myself. I feel a little better now, I know God will pull me through this.

Can anyone explain to me a little more about Godly sorrow?

I'm So Close ...

By T.G.

I'm down to my last year, and time seems to have stopped. This is the time I turn to God and show my obedience. It is in His time, not mine that the blessing will come. In **1 Timothy 2:6**, Jesus gave His life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message that God gave the world at just the right time. Maybe this is where the phrase comes from ... "I'm so close I can taste freedom" ... that's me. I am of mind, body and soul ... I keep my mind busy by staying in the Word, my body I keep strong by working out, and my soul belongs to my Father God.

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Foot's Bible Study Notes

1 Samuel 18:5-19:24

Jealousy may not seem to be a major sin, but in reality, it is one step short of murder. Jealousy starts as you resent a rival, it leads to you wishing he or she were removed. Then it manifests itself in your seeking ways to harm that person in word or action. Beware of letting jealousy get a foothold in your life. **(18:8)**

Don't allow popularity to twist your perception of your own importance. It's comparatively easy to be humble when you're not on center stage, but how will you react to praise and honor? **(18:15-18)**

John 8:31:59

Jesus Himself is the Truth that sets us free. **(8:36)** He is the source of truth, the perfect standard of what is right. He frees us from the consequences of sin, from self-deception, and from the deception of satan. He shows us clearly the way to eternal life with God. Thus, Jesus does not give us freedom to do what we want, but freedom to follow God. As we seek to serve God, Jesus' perfect truth frees us to be all that God meant us to be. **(8:32)**

When Jesus says those who obey won't die, He is talking about spiritual death. Even physical death, however, will eventually be overcome. Those who follow Christ will be raised to live eternally with Him. **(8:51)**

Psalms 112:1-10

We all want to live without fear, our heroes are fearless people who take on all dangers and overcome them. The psalmist teaches us that fear of God can lead to fearless life. To fear God means to respect and revere Him as the Almighty Lord. When we trust God completely to take care of us, we will find that our other fears – even of death itself – will subside. **(112:7-8)**

Proverbs 15:11-14

If the Lord's knowledge goes as far as the depths of death and destruction, surely He would know every nook and cranny of the human heart. Hence, He knows all about us, we cannot hide anything from Jesus Christ. Is your eternal life worth playing a game of cat and mouse or hide and seek with the Lord? Mine's not. I choose to submit to and revere our Lord Jesus Christ.

What we feed our mind is just as important as what we feed our body. The kind of books we read, the people we hang with, the music we listen to, and the films we watch are all part of our mental diet. Be discerning because what you feed your mind influences your total health and well-being. Thus, a strong desire to discover knowledge is a mark of wisdom. **(15:14)**

"Foot" Notes

Hello, to my fellow strugglers. God put me in a position of opportunity today that I'd like to share. I was running late getting from work to chow, I sat down by myself to eat when a friend got up from his full table and came to sit with me. Of course, I asked how he was doing and he replied that things were rough and that he was struggling with his faith. But after a few moments, I came to the conclusion that what was really happening was he was doing more struggling with himself. He went on to explain his issues and that's when I told him that there's no need for him to beat himself up over his issues that he just needs to "cut it loose" (PG version). I told him that since he's already given his life to Christ that his slate is washed clean and that God has not only forgiven all he's done but he's forgiven all he will do in the future. That God doesn't beat Himself up over our issues and that God doesn't want us to beat ourselves up either. Confess it and move on, que no? Jesse Duplantis says it best, when it comes to our problems:

- 1) Confess it
- 2) Quit it
- 3) Forget it

God loves us unconditionally, no matter what. We need to openly accept that fact and with that we can learn to overcome any setbacks we either run into or bring on ourselves. There's not one person on this earth that doesn't make mistakes in his/her walk – life happens. You've got to trust in God's love for us and also His promises for us. It's through this love that allows me to keep on keepin' on, no matter what obstacle may be put in my way. I guess the long and short of it friends, is this; don't waste your time beating yourself up over stuff that's stealing your joy or peace. Don't spin your wheels on it, just confess, accept forgiveness, and keep on keepin' on. At the end of the day, we all have struggles and we can all move forward from them, just trust in God, it works. Love to you all, short and tall ... vaya con Dios!!!

remain under the Law is by your choice to stay under the Law. Grace is not something that has just recently been inserted into the Bible. I see the message of grace all the way back to the Garden of Eden. Both Adam and Eve fell short and God banned them from the Garden but He didn't kill them and start all over. Yes, they were kicked out of Eden and if you will remember they were wearing fig leaves in the attempt to hide their sin. God said, "That won't work." So He clothed them with the skins of animals. This is also the first place that I see there was shed blood. I believe God was giving us a picture of His grace for them. I also believe this picture is to show us the coming grace through the Blood that Jesus would shed for our sins as well. I will close right here and continue on next month with the remainder of this message. Remember, we all share the same Holy Spirit and when God gives you a word/message PLEASE write it down and send it so that we might share it with all those God has prepared the hearts to receive.

BELIEVE – Part I

By Bob Small – Introduction by Wade Anderson

Introduction: Let me introduce Bob Small to you all. Over six years ago, we met at a Patricia King prophetic conference in Phoenix. He was here from Canada. It was shortly after the conference began that we stumbled onto each other. Every day we were there, the Holy Spirit seemed to draw us to praise and worship, even share meals together. We agreed to stay in contact and we have done just that. A few months ago, we were speaking together on the phone, when a message of "Believe" became the topic. I asked Bob to pray about it, and then follow what the Spirit of God led him to do. Here are the results and it will be a three part series. I can't express enough how important it is to have relationships with other brothers and sisters in the Lord, even long distance. I know that this is just the beginning of the things God is going to use our relationship with Him to accomplish for His Glory!!

Do you realize everyone believes in something? Every person has a belief system that shapes who they are and where they end up in life. Often it comes from the environment we grew up in or an event, good or bad, that happened to us that dramatically impacted our lives. Sometimes we can be forced into a belief system that we don't really feel is true, don't like or feel there is a better way to live. Believing starts with thoughts and ideas in our head. In our culture today, technology and media bombard us with thoughts, ideas, commercials, TV shows, movies, billboards, internet, Facebook ... on and on with images and ideas of what we should believe in and become. Free choice and independence to go and do what we feel is right, relieves and avoids pain and helps us feel good, we believe. Generally we are a self-centred culture.

From the seed of a thought/ idea in our mind we accept or reject it. If accepted we let it grow inside our mind until we take action upon it. We believe it in our mind to the point we let it become part of our life and start taking action on that belief. As it does, the belief is shifted from our heads to our hearts and it starts shaping our life. This is where the true belief in a person is. You can have a thought or an idea in your mind you accept as true but until it moves into the action of your life the belief is not alive in your life. It is not in your heart. Ultimately, **we** have choice of all thoughts and ideas as to which ones we want to become. The root of our core belief system revolves around our inner security, or lack of inner security.

What is your core belief system? Maybe it is that you need to be in a gang/club to be accepted or feel protected. Maybe you were abandoned as a child and believe no one loves you and isolate yourself, trust no one and can never hold a stable job. Maybe for various reasons you feel inferior and insecure and turn to alcohol or drugs to help you fit into your surroundings. Briefly, mine was the latter. I used alcohol and drugs to help me fit in. I found a lifestyle of fun and excitement for awhile but eventually I became dependant to them and they robbed me of relationships, jobs, money and all material things in my life. More importantly they robbed me of hope, peace and the will to live. I harboured anger and bitterness and trusted no one in this world. I found myself homeless and involved with gangs to survive. My belief system was a lie and failed me. As much as I wanted it changed it had entrenched itself in my life and on my own I could not change it. After being dead in every way but physical and full of anguish, bewilderment and pain I cried out from the depth of my soul "**HELP!**"

That cry changed my belief system and ultimately my life. I had always believed in a God, as I was raised in a religious setting. We went to church every Sunday, attended Sunday school and I hated every minute of the experience. I remember the hard pews and feeling bored; there was no life in it. From that I had formed a belief that church was for weak people and thought myself as being independent and was responsible for making my own way. I always believed God existed but saw Him as being somewhere else, far away. As tragedy occurred in our family, it solidified this belief and became my core belief to which I lived by. In the end this belief proved to be a lie. I was no longer secure and all of the fun had long past. The lifestyle was about trying to kill the pain and survive through life.

After the cry for help God started revealing that He was real to me. Through circumstances, He was getting me out of the situation I was in; there were people in the right place at the right time. I was lead into a church that was Spirit filled and immediately I started experiencing a God that I know without a doubt lives with us and loves us all.

... continued on page 11

What Others Are Saying...

"I loved the cover of August 2013 *Overcomers for Christ* newsletter! At Pismo Beach in California the Monarch butterflies cover the trees in August. I have seen it, it is beautiful! God is good!!" - K.G.

"To all my family at *Overcomers for Christ*, I thank God for you all. I want to thank you all, with all my heart for sending and wishing me blessings and prayers on my birthday. I love you guys. You guys are awesome. Please continue to be *Overcomers for Christ*. Thank you for helping us to walk in our serving the Lord. May we all walk in unity ... **Ephesians 4:1-6** – **"As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."** Thank you once again for everything ... May our Lord's grace and peace be our strength and victory always." - A.H.

"First, I would like to thank you all for the birthday letter. It is nice to get things like that, and I don't have anyone to do that, so it means a lot to me. I enjoy reading your newsletter, also. Thank you all for caring. Since I got to TDC about 1 year and months ago, I have written to more than 250 different churches asking for help with getting a pen pal. I had gotten three pen pals over that time, but they all wrote two or three times, then I never heard from them again. After sending two or three letters to them without getting any response, I give up on them. You guys are the only ones who keep sending me Christmas and birthday greetings and your newsletter." - J.E.

Overcomer's Testimonies

I am in the county jail right now and I would like to thank you for your ministry. A friend here gave me your May 2013 issue and I loved it, thank you again. Now I guess I will tell you a little about myself. I will start right after high school.

Well, I didn't listen to my parents and keep my grades up or I might have gotten a sport scholarship, instead, I enlisted in the Army. During the first six months of my enlistment, I would assist the chaplain by teaching classes and even saying a few verses in front of the congregation. Before too long the chaplain said to me, "I believe you should become a chaplain yourself and I can make this happen for you." My calling, but I ignored it and stated to him, "No, I'm not worthy and I want to go into the Special Forces." I now believe that He was calling me in to service for Him.

As the years went by in the Army, I served in the 82nd Airborne, 2nd Ranger Battalion, the Special forces and I loved it! Before long I came to another crossroad if you will; either reenlist or take a job making great money with the Feds. I took the job with the Feds and became a Federal Agent. It was during this time that I met my Bathsheba. I didn't come to know all of the facts until after we were married. My new wife had been lying to me. She was already married and still living with that husband while she was seeing me. I was also active at this time in church teaching and ministering.

Soon after this we left that area and moved to Buckeye, Arizona and I took a job as a police officer there and the church attendance stopped. During my law enforcement career, I became SWAT and K-9. From there I became a K-9 trainer and owned some German Sheppards where I even made this a small business. At the same time, I had my own small school where I was a martial arts instructor and I taught out of a church gym. I got out of law enforcement because I was tired of the politics.

From there I had some other options. I could either take a job back in the Army being a chaplain, chaplain's assistant or take a job making six figures plus bonuses. This Army job would also be a K-9 trainer in Iraq with the United States State Department. By the way, the dogs I was training now were bomb detection dogs. Can you guess which job I accepted? I took the K-9 job. I completed all of the training in Florida and was preparing to fly out to Iraq. I received a knock on my hotel door at 6:30 a.m. June 22, 2011 and I was arrested for the very first time in my life. Since then I've been sitting in the county jail awaiting trial. I will NOT plea out to something that I didn't do! I am looking at 115 years plus if I am convicted. Since then my wife has divorced me and by the way, I believe that's a blessing.

During my time here in the county jail my walk with my Lord and Savior has grown even closer. I know for the first time in my life that Jesus is preparing a place for me in heaven. Thanks to the Lord that after a year of petitions, I was able to get a worship service going on here in this unit. I've helped other inmates sign up for Bible correspondence courses and I'm even taking college courses to receive a ministry degree someday. Before I was arrested I was three classes shy of an associate's degree in criminal justice. I've received my calling and His will be done (**Jeremiah 29:11**) right here where I sit today. Today I preach and teach the Word of God right here in the county jail. The Lord has truly blessed me! I only wish that I would have truly given myself to Christ a long time ago but I needed to be at the end of me, I guess. I hope that someday I will be able to assist your ministry in some way. No matter what happens I will live in peace and do the Father's work until I die ... C.S. (County Jail)

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I also know that there is an enemy to God ... satan. This enemy is responsible for all of the evil and pain that occurs in this world. There is a war and that war is over every one of our souls. On the one side is Jesus Who wants us to believe in Him. He wants to have our lives filled with good and not bad. He wants to give us life in abundance. But His love must allow choice because His love is perfect love. He tells us in **John 6:40**, *"For this is My Father's will, for all those who see His Son and BELIEVE in Him should have eternal life."* This is where satan comes to steal, kill and destroy (**John 10:10**) that which God intended for good in our lives. Lucifer was God's highest archangel until pride overcame him and he tried rising above God. At this point, he believed he was as great as God and because of this belief; God had to throw Lucifer out of heaven. In this rejection, he became satan who harbours all evil, hatred and sin in this world and his mission is to take as many souls to hell with him. The way that he does this is by breeding lies into our belief system.

God had created the Garden of Eden where Adam and Eve lived and it was an environment that was only full of good. There life was pure and without the evils of this world. What God told Adam, they believed. God had told them the one thing they must stay away from, the tree of good and evil. God did not want them to know anything evil or experience evil at all. But because of His perfect love God has to allow choice. He said to them if they stay away from the tree of knowledge of good and evil they will continue to control the Garden, but if they eat of the tree they will surely die. Things were truly very good for man and woman until satan came through the serpent to breed seeds of other thoughts into Eve's mind, seeds to potentially accept and believe, just as we are filled with all kinds of thoughts and ideas from this world. The enemy planted the idea in Eve's mind that God would not kill them but rather they would gain the same knowledge on good and evil as God; that God was truly not being good to them but was holding out. Sounded logical and harmless to Eve, so she chose to believe the lie from satan and ate. In that action the sin and the death that God was talking about was separation from Him. God had to throw them out because they chose to believe the liar ... satan.

However, God has made a way to come back to Him if we come to believe in Him and not the lies of this world. He tells us in **Romans 10:9-10**, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."* Here it shows us the importance of believing in our heart, or changing the ideas in our head to become the actions of our life. Believing is not always about the words that come out of your mouth, but is a reflection of who you become in life. It is work but it is more than worth it.

Bringing this to an end I feel that I want to share with you all a day that God took me to three different men. The first was a man on the street. I felt drawn to approach him and talk to him about God. As I did I noticed an unusual peace upon him. He said he knew God and believed very strongly in Jesus. We had an amazing talk and he seemed very secure. The second man I was led to was a middle-aged man going into a mall. As I approached him I asked him if he knew God loved him. He stopped and began breaking down in tears. In his crying he told me that he used to go to church, believed in God but was not living it now. He said that he ran a business that was in trouble, his wife was getting ready to leave and he was not connected with his kids. The third man was in a coffee shop. As I sat across from him I learned through over hearing his phone conversations that he was successful in running a computer business, had lots of material things in his life and had some friends. But there was a pride, coldness and loneliness to him. Against my own feelings I felt God wanting me to approach him so I did. His response was that he was an atheist and didn't believe in God. A week later after forgetting all about this day a small voice came to me, reminding me of the three men and asked, "Of the three men who truly was homeless?"

You see it is not about whom we are in this world, what we have or the friends we have, but **IT IS** about believing in something that gives us true security and peace. Nothing of this world will do that!! In fact, the voice of this world will bring death as it did to Adam and Eve. But believing in Jesus and learning Who God is will bring the true life we all are seeking, whether we know it or not.

Quote Worthy

"Trust the past to God's mercy, the present to God's love, and the future to God's providence."
- St. Augustine - An early Christian theologian and philosopher whose writings were very influential in the development of Western Christianity and Western philosophy.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, assemble, and mail this newsletter every month. We thank each and every one of you who have sown a seed into this ministry. None of this would be possible without the generous financial support from people who believe in this ministry. By sowing your financial seed into this ministry, you are helping us reach out to those incarcerated by offering them hope, love, and encouragement. You are investing in reaching lost souls, encouraging new believers, and spreading the

Word of God. **"A man's harvest in life will depend entirely on what he sows."** - Galatians 6:7

Any tithes or offerings that you would like to make to the Overcomers for Christ ministry, please make your checks or money orders payable to Living Word Bible Church, in the memo section put 'For Overcomers for Christ'. Mail them to Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023, Phoenix, AZ 85080. Your donation does qualify as charitable contribution on your taxes. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

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You Don't Understand
By O.P.

**You don't even understand,
The true meaning that you have in my life,
Sometimes I am everything wrong,
But no doubt, you're everything right.
When I look into your beautiful eyes,
I see happiness and bright blue skies.
Without you my love,
It seems as though I am nothing.
Just a mere particle of this earth,
Floating around with no use or worth.
Although as I sit in this prison,
Confined to this God-forsaken cell.
Thoughts of you and our love,
Keeps me at peace and makes me want to keep
living.
I may not be in your presence in the physical,
But I'll always be there in the mental and
spiritual.
You are my beginning and my end,
You are my life, better yet, you're my best
friend!**

Convict's Cross
By J.C.

**In the valley of things more foul
Calling the woe and shadowed death
It is there in that wicked wild
Where wandering I did come
Upon a convict's cross.**

**Pick it up, this heavy hurting
And under burden walk.
For sin is dying,
Then I lifted up I ride
Upon a convict's cross.**

**So cry, and cry our Lord
I am guilty, oh so guilty.
Father, lift this for me
So that I unworthy live
Upon a convict's cross.**

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