

Overcomers for Christ

July 2014



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ



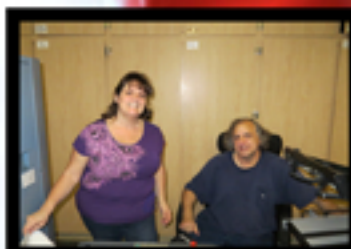
February 2nd



February 16th



February 23rd



March 15th

BELIEVE - Part III

By Bob Small

I once had a dream where I was in God's hand and facing Jesus I asked this question, "Why does God love me after all I have done?" His answer was quite profound as He said, "Because He made you, now go and help others."

With man, the problem in this world lays in God's adversary, satan - the devil. I find it interesting that there is often a common belief with people that have experienced hardship and loss of loved ones that God is to blame. They had become angry at Him as if it was His will that we suffer. I use to be one in this camp. Yet satan is nowhere to be seen in this blaming game. In the following Scripture, God is showing us who has been given control of this world as Jesus is in the desert being tempted by satan, **"I will give You (Jesus) the glory of these kingdoms and authority over them", the devil said, 'because they are mine to give to anyone I please. I will give it all to You if You worship me.'** (John 4:6-7) This clearly indicates that what happens in this world is under satan's rule. The meaning of satan is 'the accuser'. This means he is the one that should be shouldering all blame for evil and bad in this world. Over and over, he is the one that spreads lies into the minds of men and women that has caused all chaos, disease and death in our world. The accuser has no true power but gains access to lives through lies and deceit. After convincing them to accept a belief system, he traps them with shame, guilt and accusations that he himself is guilty of, and through all of it, he creates fear. The accuser is the source of bitterness, pride and self-centeredness.

God gives us choice, probably for various reasons. I believe one of the reasons is to see what is in our hearts, what do we truly believe in our actions. The thing with choice is there is a lie that will try to draw you away and deceive you from that which is of God and good. God does not allow you to choose then force you into it. That would be a dictatorship and we would be in a situation of "having to" rather than "wanting to". God wants us to experience a love of purity that we will choose no matter what happens in this world. With satan in the picture in my experience, this can only happen if we experience and come to know Who God truly is. We cannot try to figure Him out or think our way into a relationship with God. We can experience Him and feel Him only with the aid of His Holy Spirit.

Remember in Believe Part I where I talked of Adam and Eve accepting satan's lie and believing his deception? Because of believing the lie he planted in their mind they took action and his belief system then began to reflect in their lives. They went from pure spiritual beings in the Garden, to falling into physical beings on earth, realizing their nakedness and shame after accepting his lies into their lives. Just to note, Adam was equally responsible so this **IS NOT** to be a gender blaming issue at all! The point is through the serpent; satan planted thoughts of doubt and deceit in their minds to not trust God, just as he does today in both men and women.

God did not want us to experience the evil that satan carries. There were two trees in the center of the Garden of Eden, the tree of life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil. God gave Adam one warning, not to eat of the tree of good and evil. Why? Because God knew satan was that tree. Lucifer was jealous of man and wanted man and woman to fall just as he did. These next verses talk of worldly wisdom versus wisdom from God. **"But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find evil of every kind. But wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere."** (James 3:14-15) I believe the tree of good and evil represents satan and that he possesses the worldly wisdom talked about in the verses above. In falling into his belief system men and women start reflecting his character. In doing this, mankind becomes separated from God and experience a spiritual death, the death God warned Adam about. The tree of life represents Jesus and the wisdom from above or God's wisdom in **James 3:14-15**.

Lucifer's fall from heaven was due to the fact that pride, evil and violence were found in him. This is shown in **Ezekiel 28** and exposes a bit of what went on with him. He became full of pride and selfish motives. It also mentions of him being in the Garden of Eden. I encourage you to read it. When man and woman were removed from the garden, **Genesis 3:24** says there were flaming swords placed by the tree of life to guard it so man would not eat of it for they would live forever. In the garden they were completely spiritual beings and God found they had deception in their hearts after taking on satan's belief system. We see here that he fooled mankind into the world he was given control of after being thrown out of heaven. This was accomplished by planting seeds of unbelief of God's goodness into man's mind.

From the fall from Eden, because of His love for all of us, God has had a set plan to redeem mankind back to the place where we are meant to be, with God in His kingdom. In this context, the reality is that we have ended up on earth as spiritual beings in a human body. Over time man has been trained in belief systems to try and fill the spirit within by worldly desires and different belief systems. From generation to generation lies have been filtered into man's mind and because of them we live in a broken world with physical desires to fill our spiritual needs. This has occurred because of satan's pride and refusal to submit to God because he is jealous of God's creation, you and me. And his only purpose is to steal, kill and destroy everything he can that God offers us. (**John 10:10**)

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Many lives are born into this world where there is dysfunction. You don't have to look very far to see broken families, spouses cheating, physical and verbal abuse, rape, disease, and poverty. There is anger, hostility, indifferences, sexual immorality and promiscuity, insecurity, loneliness and addictions of all kinds that fill this world. Many different political, legal and social belief systems are set in place in attempt to correct the problem and often have the 'liar' breathing into the very systems trying to correct the problem. Along with these come corruption, worldly power and personal gain and self-centered systems. At the root of all this is the tree of good and evil, the lie, battling against the spirit inside every man, woman and child searching for the answer to find peace, justice, security and satisfaction to the soul.

God's plan, as satan rules in this world, is to have all that believe in Jesus and come into a relationship with Him, they will overcome satan and the lies that have us in bondage and slavery. In **John 16:9**, Jesus says the world's sin is unbelief in Him. There were prophecies and signs for many hundreds of years from God that He was sending a King to bring peace and order. Jesus enters the world approximately 2,000 years ago saying "I am He." But people were looking for a worldly king to help with the political, social and worldly injustice. They were expecting peace, order and justice to come to their homes, cities and country. When Jesus started His ministry around the age of thirty and proclaimed He was the Messiah sent by God, most of the world looked at Him and couldn't wrap their heads around what He was saying. He challenged the religious leaders and teachers because they were following worldly belief systems and laws. None of their belief systems, so heavily based on law, brought life to the spirit within. Rather, it kept people trapped in separation from God, spiritual death. It allowed the authorities to have control and position and a degree of worldly power. Instead of peace, Jesus caused controversy and conflict because He challenged the world's belief systems. The peace and justice Jesus came to give was for our spiritual being not for the physical world. In order to complete this, His death to the physical world and the pouring out of His Blood was required. Jesus was qualified as perfect because He did not once fall into one of satan's lies or the world's belief systems. He left this world through death and was fully born into the spirit realm and into God's kingdom. In this, Jesus conquered satan and overcame him and Jesus now says, "If you believe in Me you will be given the same. Not on your own effort or merit." It truly is a freedom when you make Jesus your belief system no matter where you find yourself in this world.

As such, a perfect life was given and His blood cleanses any human that comes to believe what God says is true. With Jesus' Blood we are cleansed so we can come into the presence of God no matter where we are at. He wants the relationship first and He will then send His Holy Spirit to help us clean our lives up. No human power can do what He does for your spiritual being. In my experience when a person starts accepting this belief and steps into it, God will start revealing Himself through various ways in this world. If and when you become filled with the Holy Spirit peace and justice comes to your inner world and you will experience a whole new meaning to life. Your spirit is filled with what it has been designed to be filled with, God's Holy Spirit and not worldly spirits. You can learn to have this peace, satisfaction, security, hope and feeling of love that nothing in this world can compare to. One of the keys though, just like anything, is to continue to seek after it on a daily basis. It does take work but if successful the spirit inside will take on a life you've never experienced before! Your soul will experience peace and emotions will not rule you! That does not mean that circumstance in the world will disappear or go the way you expect, but rather you can overcome worry, depression, anger, jealousy or any negative thing that has you bound.

I've found there is another key ... your environment. If you stay in an environment that supports old belief systems and stay in communication with people of old beliefs you have an immovable mountain in your life and will not experience the new life very long. The enemy is ruthless and relentless. He will continue to bring things at you to try and keep you from letting go of your old belief systems. Why? It's because you become a threat to him. It is important to surround yourself with people that have the Holy Spirit, are positive and are looking for and experiencing a long term relationship with God.

Paul was an apostle that wrote a large part of the New Testament. Before Paul came to believe in and follow Jesus he was a prominent Pharisee in the Jewish religion known as Saul. Saul was known for his zealous pursuit of abolishing the movement of the followers of Jesus, now commonly known as Christianity. He put to death disciples, apostles and followers of Jesus with no mercy. Just after witnessing the death of Stephen, a prominent apostle, Saul met with Jesus (in the Spirit) on the road to Damascus. In **Acts 9:4-5**, after Jesus had risen to heaven, Paul fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "*Saul, Saul why are you persecuting Me?*" Saul said, **'Who are You?'** **And the voice replied, 'I am Jesus. Now get up and go into the city and you will be told what to do.'** When Saul got up he was blind and remained that way for three days. I find it interesting God made Saul blind to the physical world so his eyes would be opened to the Spiritual world of God's kingdom. Another believer prayed for Saul and the scales dropped from his eyes and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. Saul then became Paul and his life radically changed. Why? Because he understood there was much more to this world than what the human eye could see. Before God got a hold of him Paul thought he was doing right by God by following the letter of the law. **Luke 12:33-34** reads, *"Sell your possessions and give to those in need. This will store up treasure in heaven! And the purses of heaven never get old or develop holes. Your treasure will be safe there; no thief can steal it and no moth can destroy it. Wherever your heart is there the desires of your heart*

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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

I would really appreciate it if you all could put my prayers with your own. My mom used to be deep into the Word but drugs got a hold of her and won't let her go. I pray for her. My sister said that my dad has been doing a little better. He went outside the other day trying to cut the grass and fell out. The neighbor called my sister because he wasn't coherent. By the time she got there to him with all the prayer, he was sitting up. Praise the Lord! I need him to be there when I get out. I need time with him; I've put him through so much. I think God listens to my heart and knows that I need my dad. Will you and the church pray for my dad, I'm getting ready to lose my father to cancer? I pray for his heart to be in the right place with God. I don't want to lose my dad or my faith. Times are hard for my family right now. I was wondering if maybe you could send a prayer to God, to ease the struggle and stress. Maybe throw a small one in for me too. I want to say thank you for taking the time to write to me. Your letter really touched my way of thinking as well as my well-being. I've read and re-read your letter and each time I do, I really fight the urge to shed tears. Something in me just won't let go. I want you to know that every day of my life is a challenge to do the right things. I do want the change God offers. I want a change in my life so much. I do now realize that I can't do it on my own, no matter how hard that I try. I know it's there, I feel it. I just don't know how to get it. I'm 40 years old now and I don't ever want to come back to prison. I don't want to hurt myself or my family. I try to read the Bible, but it's very difficult for me to understand. I pray for understanding. I still try to do things on my own, knowing that I can't. The church that sends me my Bible studies I've asked to also send them to my sons. I hope their mom helps them, I don't know if they're interested in it, something else to pray about. I hope that they see me trying to change and it rubs off on them ... **D.L.**

Please brothers and sisters would you pray with me for strength and the guidance to stay strong in the Word. I also request prayer about my future and the help to achieve what I need in order to attend college courses through mail ... **J.M.**

As much as I didn't want to be in NY, I believe God has a purpose. My cell mate became a Christian and quite frankly had to renounce his membership to a gang with a very troublesome confrontation, although everything turned out well. I ask for your prayer because now they're looking at me like I'm stealing gang members. This prison ministry is challenging subtle work; I must do what God directs me to do ... **T.C.**

Please help pray for Jennifer. Please God save my family. Get her back into a program ... **M.H.**

Please pray for me, my loved ones, my children, our families, our friends, our neighbors, our surroundings and protection for us all and our loved ones ... **M.P.**

Praise Reports

I want you to please put in the praise report what I have done ... that I praise Yahweh for my health. I am the one Yahweh healed of stage 4 throat cancer. Just like Moses took the staff and threw it down and it turned into the serpent and the magician did the same. The doctors say I have cancer now in my lung and left shoulder bone. I prayed and asked the Father what should I do? And He said, "Be still and I will heal you, and you will know I am the Creator of Heaven and Earth and have power over life and death." The PET scan was in August, they did another one and the cancer is the same size. I know Yahweh's voice, I pray three times a day on my knees. I do cry out to Him and I know He hears me. I have no fear with Yahweh in my heart. The voice I listen to is the same voice that Abraham heard in **Genesis 26:5**. To honor God is to call Him Father and live like His Son. I just want you all to praise Yahweh. It's my faith that Yahweh will heal me. I know He will take the life out of the cancer I had. I just want you all to please praise Yahweh for my healing in Yahweh's mighty name ... **L.W.**

I was involved with Good News jail and prison ministry on the outside. I gave into the flesh and I was on a path of destruction. By the grace of God I am rescued, and set free from the bondage of sin, glory be to God ... **O.M.**

I really have been blessed because I'm not sure if you remember that my daughter and ex-wife used to be living up in Flagstaff. Well, now they live in Glendale. This is so cool. The guy who runs the men's house at Alongside Ministries said he wants me and my daughter to be visiting the very first Saturday upon my release. My daughter wrote me in June 2013 and said she will be allowed to go to church with me on Sundays. God is so wonderful. I guess things are just going really great. For I have delighted myself in the Lord and He is giving me my hearts desires ... **C.C.**

I really do feel that God is with you and your family on what you are doing for the inmates across the country. I also believe that what you said in your card was the will of God and it came at the exact moment God wanted it to. Also, since I have been placed on your mailing list it seems to me that God has been moving in my life. My time has been extremely hard for me, especially being abandoned by most of my family and the woman I thought that I was to marry. However, lately I have been placed around other Christians in a faith and character based dorm. I believe this has a lot to do with your prayers and your ministry. I just want to say thank you and God bless you for taking the time to care, you don't see that very much in this world, and because of your prayers I believe that I have some hope for a future ... **D.R.**

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From the Inside

Not Abandoned
By R.M.

God lets us go through things for a reason. Just look at Job, he lost everything he had and you know I have too, but all this needed to happen. My mother still won't talk to me, but I know that is okay now. I and a brother prayed over my mother about two weeks ago, that God may soften her heart. I wanted to know if she was okay and we asked God to help me get through this. Even if she won't ever talk to me again, it is okay now; I've put it in God's hands. I will still write every few months to let her know that I love her. After we prayed, two days later, this is what the Lord brought to me in the Bible and my Daily Bread.

Not abandoned

Isaiah 49:15-16 ... *"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee? Behold, I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands; thy walls are continually before me."*

Deuteronomy 31:8 ... *"And the LORD, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee; he will not fail thee; neither forsake thee; fear not, neither be dismayed."*

Matthew 28:20 ... *"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world, Amen."*

Romans 8:35-39 ... *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, for thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

God is really working in my life right now. I was told by a friend in here that when I first hit the yard a year ago that God has moved everyone out of my life for a reason. He wants to show me that He comes first, and for me to do the calling He has put on my life, to preach His Word. I have to give up everything for Him and that is where the real teaching is going to begin. Everything I went through over the last four years was to get my attention and to show me it is going to be His way, not mine, because my way would lead to hell. All I want to do is God's will. My eyes are open. By the time I get out I will be ready to preach God's Word. It will take me about three to four years to get through the New Testament. I am breaking the whole New Testament down so that I will be ready. I really thought I knew a lot about the Bible, but come to find out, I really didn't know anything. Once you stop just reading it and start studying the Bible, it will blow you away.

Prosperity Message

By N.K.

I'm sending you a message given to me by the Holy Spirit. I hope it's good enough to go into the newsletter. Thank you in doing your part in serving our Master and caring about His sheep. Love covers a multitude of sins and pulls people to Jesus so as to be saved. Keep up the good work; please pray for Father God to help me to reach His lost sheep on this yard, so I can lead them to Jesus.

Christian Patriotism:

1. The offering of the ultimate Sacrifice of one's self for the liberty of a people and place.
2. The deep driven desire to act valiantly and honorably, to proclaim the rights of the widow, the orphaned, and the oppressed.
3. The obtaining of liberties, standards and achievements outside one's own capacity of strength or station or intellect.

Christian Patriotism is evidence of the presence of the Creator's essence, the One Who from the mere heat of His breath spoke all things into existence. To rely on one's self is futile, but to rely on our Father, the Ancient of Days, is future! The pursuit of truth, honor, hope and happiness is achieved in the Blood of His Son, Who was sent to suffer. For His

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From the Inside

innocence to suffice the wrath of His Father for the sake of all humanity, for the liberality of life, the pursuit of things hoped for and the assurance of things not seen. For the setting free of those under a taskmaster driven to serve, walking as free but blind, walking in the confinement of flesh and carnality; the ultimate act of compassion to set the captives free. That is true Christian Patriotism. That's the beautiful Jesus who died for you and me.

The Double Minded Christian

By J.M.

What does it mean to be double minded? Double mindedness is a problem that the Christian must be sure to combat daily. It's as simple as serving God while you are at church and living in agreement with the world outside the church. Do you sit in the pews on Sunday mornings giving God praises only to glorify the world by your contrary actions when you leave? It's really more common than one might think.

A double minded walk, just by its very nature will keep the Christian in a spiritually weakened state. There is no way to withstand satan's attack living this way. Then again, why would satan be attacking this Christian at all since he or she is already firmly in his grip?

How many times have you gone to a service and listened to the man of God bring the Word, and lifted your hands up in praise just to return home and laugh at things that the Child of God should never find funny or watch things you shouldn't watch? I ask this question because I am guilty myself and I am sure I'm not the only one. Here of late, I find this question coming to mind more and more, "What would Jesus do?" If Jesus would not do it, we shouldn't do it. If it can't be done unto the glory of God, then we shouldn't do it. Christ is our example of how to live this life. In turn, we are the example to a dead and dying world. We are the only Christ that most will ever see in this world. Are you happy with the picture of Christ that you portray to this world's lost?

This particular way of living is a part of the wide path that leads to destruction that Jesus spoke of in **Matthew 7:13-14**, "*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*" This Christian needs to pray for the Father's guidance in correcting his or her current course.

Jesus' teaching in **Matthew 6:22-24** paints a clear picture of this double minded man. The passage reads, "*The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.*" Mammon here refers to the riches of the world. This contradiction is just too big and no one can live this way. Yet a lot of professing Christians attempt to.

It's very important to keep in mind that if you are a Christian, all non-believing people's eyes are watching you even when you don't know it.

Freedom

T.G.

As I write this I'm counting down to a few months until God opens those gates for me. I try to stay true to the Word, but find myself in fear of freedom. This is where my faith is put to test. I turn to **Hebrews 11:1** to find the words of comfort that I need, "*Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see.*" I do know that God would not leave my side, and it is in His love I find my strength, joy and peace. **Galatians 5:22-23** ... "*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*"

Foot's Bible Study Notes

1 Samuel 22:1-25:44

Not every opportunity is sent from God. We may want something so much that we assume any opportunity to obtain it is of divine origin. As we see from Saul's case, however, this may not be true. An opportunity to do something against God's will can never be from God because God does not tempt us. When opportunities come your way, double check your motives, make sure you are following God's desires not just your own. **(23:7)**

The means we use to accomplish a goal are just as important as the goal we are trying to accomplish. David's goal was to become king, so his men urged him to kill Saul when he had the chance. David's refusal was not an example of cowardice but of courage – the courage to stand against the group and do what he knew was right. Don't compromise your moral standards by giving in to group pressure or taking the easy way out. **(24:16-19)**

No matter how right we think we are, we must always be careful to stop and listen to others. The extra time and effort can save us pain and trouble in the long run. **(25:24)**

John 10:1-42

In contrast to the thief who takes life, Jesus gives life. The life He gives right now is abundantly rich and full. It is eternal, yet it begins immediately. Life in Christ is lived on a higher plane because of His overflowing forgiveness, love, and guidance. Have you taken Christ's offer of life? **(10:10)**

Just as a shepherd protects His sheep, Jesus protects His people from eternal harm. While believers can expect to suffer on earth, Satan cannot harm their souls or take away their eternal life with God. There are many reasons to be afraid here on earth because this is the devil's domain. **(1 Peter 5:8)** But if you choose to follow Jesus, He will give you everlasting safety. **(10:26, 29)**

Psalm 115:1-116:19

Too often we ask God to glorify His name with ours. For example, we may pray for help to do a good job so that our work will be noticed. Or we may ask that a presentation go well so we will get applause. There is nothing wrong with looking good or impressing others, the problem comes when we want to look good no matter what happens to God's reputation in the process. Before you pray ask yourself, who will get the credit if God answers my prayer? **(115:1)**

God is so responsive that you can always reach Him. He bends down and listens to your voice. This writer's love for the Lord has grown because he has experienced answers to his prayers. If you are discouraged, remember that God is near, listening carefully to every prayer and answering each one in order to give you His best. **(116:1, 2)**

God stays close to us even in death. When someone we love is nearing death, we become angry and feel abandoned. But believers (the Lord's loved ones) are precious to God, and He carefully chooses the time when they will be called into His presence. Let this truth provide comfort when you've lost a loved one. God sees and each life is valuable to Him. See Jesus' statement in **Matthew 10:29**. **(116:15)**

Proverbs 15:18-21

The path of the upright doesn't always seem wise, **(15:19)** but look at the alternatives. Hatred **(15:17)**, dissension **(15:18)**, and laziness **(15:19)** cause problems that the upright person does not have to face. By comparison, his or her life is a smooth, level road because it is built on a solid foundation of love for God. **(15:17-19)**

Our lives are filled with opportunities of acting foolish or doing foolish things. These all will detract us from our path, God's path for us. If we deny the foolish opportunities and use our good sense we can and will stay on the right path.



"Foot" Notes

Hello, everybody!!

I would just like to share how trusting in God will fill your needs. Remember awhile back I mentioned being uprooted and losing my good job, etc. Well of course at first, the devil tried to get in my head, but I stayed in the Word and kept on believing and I am now working in the library which puts me back where I was financially before being uprooted. God is truly looking after my needs. Ya just have to keep up your faith and you will get through whatever crosses your path – that's why we're overcomers and as overcomers we shall inherit it all. For we're told this in **Revelation 21:7**. Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya con Dios.

Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

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*will be.*⁹ I believe in Paul's blinding of the world he saw the meaning of this scripture. He was in a comfortable worldly place before his meeting with Jesus. An interesting note, just before the Apostle Stephen was put to death he forgave Paul and the others killing him. Stephen's last words were, **"God do not charge them with this sin, please forgive them."** (Acts 7:60) How important is forgiveness?

My version of God's plan in a nut shell ... He created Lucifer to be a beautiful angelic creation and gave him much authority. God also created man and woman and gave them the Garden of Eden with one warning "Don't listen to that tree." Lucifer became self-centered and proud causing evil and violence within himself. God threw him to earth and renamed him satan (accuser) where satan became ruler. He was jealous of man and woman so satan came to deceive mankind to steal what was given to man by God. This caused a spiritual death between man and God. He rules the earth where, because of satan's deception, man has been banished. God provides a way out for man – the relationship with man is restored by asking His Son to come into the world to give His life and pour His blood out as a sacrifice to provide the necessary cleansing of man's soul. God sends His Holy Spirit to have a relationship with anyone one in this earth who BELIEVES and then we get to party with God when we leave this world. God loves us unconditionally and is giving you choice to believe this. Will you stand by your human right of this world or will you dare to trust the unseen God?

Two disciples approach the tomb where Jesus' body was buried after they heard news the tomb was empty. (John 20: 8-9) Then John who reached the tomb first also went inside and he saw (the tomb with only Jesus' garments wrapped) and believed – for until then they hadn't understood the scripture that said Jesus must rise from the dead.

God is showing us that the physical death in this world leads to something greater if we believe. That is why He came into this world because He wants a relationship with us and He wants us to choose His way because it truly is better. This believing is a life time journey. With the Blood of Jesus (Tree of Life) we are now given access to experiencing a taste of God's kingdom before our physical death. I have experienced the shift of understanding from just believing to knowing and nothing can ever change that in me from what I have experienced. I have experienced the fullness of His spirit in my life and I have seen it happen to a very cared for and close friend before my eyes. I have seen transformation from darkness and depression to amazing peace, happiness and joy. I have also experienced it taken away from my life and my friend's life. I have seen dark spiritual things come back with vengeance. I am fortunate because somehow God has made away back to Him for my life. The spirit world is real and alive and if the tree of life is not impacting your life then the tree of good and evil is. Many people have a hard time with there being only one way to an existence after this world to be with God. I believe at the root of this is fear. Fear that we have to give up ways that we have become used to living, fear that we don't have control of our lives, fear of losing our independence and identity, fear that we have to become religious and holier than thou, fear that we might fail, fear of what other people will think and I'm sure there is many more. There are many spiritual beliefs out there. I once attended a self -help program meeting that was based on loose spiritual beliefs. A man said "Whatever floats your boat for spiritual belief then row with it to improve your life." I guess that is true if you don't care what happens to your life or others close to you. Spiritually, there are many beliefs systems in this world. What better way to confuse the real truth. There are many dark spiritual beliefs such as Wicca witchcraft, satanism and many others. Are they real? Absolutely, in this physical world and in the spiritual world. All part of satan's kingdom to steal kill and destroy. There are also many other legitimate religions out there that I cannot speak on. What I do know is that Jesus is the only one that offers mercy and grace to whoever believes. His salvation is not based on works, status or anything else of human effort. Anything that may suggest this is false. It is based on relationship with Him and learning about His love that is above all differences in this world. His heart is to help those broken and in pain, and to meet them right where they are at with no requirement other than believing in Him. He came into the world to save all of us if we simply believe in Him and trust He cares and loves all.

Personally, I don't hear God say to me "Repent or you will go to Hell!" What I do hear Him say is "I want to be in relationship with you, I want you in My kingdom. I love you beyond your understanding and I will give you peace that surpasses all of your worldly understanding, joy, happiness and love that you cannot begin to understand with your human mind. But I allow you choice, because I always allow choice and I have to allow you choice. Be aware of your choice though. Although it may appear more complicated than this, it is not, Myself, God or satan, the tree of life or the tree of good and evil."

A few years ago, I was in a coffee shop. It was just after a church service that was based on "finishing the race". The pastor's talk related life to running a marathon and how we need to keep our eyes on the finish line as we endure the pain. As I sat in the coffee shop I had two things occur. First, a man came and sat beside me. This man was very agitated and as I struck up a conversation with him he was very negative and profane. I asked him what he believes in, in this life and he stared at me and started saying he was a soldier of the archangel Lucifer and went off on how the world was going to hell. He then left with flailing arms muttering as he went. A little while later a couple of special needs gentlemen came and sat beside me. They were pleasant and told me they had just come from a race they were in. The one gentleman then

talked about what the pastor talked about relating this life to God and a race. He talked about many of things that the pastor talked about, just a couple of hours ago. I no longer believe in coincidence.

Do I think I am better than someone without this belief system? The short and long answer to this question is NO. I know I am a fallible human and have proven it time and again with many faults. I do know this, when I am in relationship with God through the Holy Spirit, I experience things like peace, joy, hope and order. My life starts reflecting those things. When I am not in relationship with Him I experience things like anxiety, worry, depression, hopelessness and my life reflects them. My emotions want to control my choice. There have been times where I was away from alcohol and not with God and I poured myself into such things as work, exercise, running, relationship, schooling, food ... on and on. None of them have ever given me that peace and contentment and feeling truly alive inside. At times there had been temporary peace or happiness only to be filled with feeling like something was missing. What do you fill your life with in this world? How much peace, contentment and happiness do you experience? You may not have had alcohol or drugs control your life, but is there something that is not as harmful that directs your life? Do you need to look a specific way in order to be seen in public, do you need to be noticed and given recognition all the time? Do you make fun of people to make yourself feel better? Do you need to buy stuff to make you feel better? Do you need to feel and be accepted all the time? What happens inside if you do not get or experience these things? There are many different things, sometimes subtle that we do to bring that feeling of security or satisfaction to our internal self and then justify it as being normal or that everyone else does it. What do you believe you need in this world to make you feel secure and satisfied and once you get it, do you eternally feel that way?

I will finish with this. I was given a picture of peace and justice versus chaos and war. At the top was God in the land of peace and justice. In this land was love and unity. At the bottom was satan in the land of chaos, confusion and war. In this land was hate and separation. There was a great distance between the two. In the distance towards the top appeared confrontation and as the confrontation grew it descended to conflict and as it grew it descended into satan's land of war and chaos. This descending was driven by law, judgment and persecution. I then saw an ascending upward to the land of peace and justice that was driven by forgiveness and faith in the Holy Spirit.

Do you believe your world is flat with an end? Or do you believe your world is round with no end to it? You have a choice as to what you believe and that will determine the land you end up in. God loves you and wants you to take a chance and believe in Him, so He can show you how much He loves you and really cares about you.

What Others Are Saying...

"Thank you so much for the beautiful spiritual birthday card. I'm sure you know cards and letters mean so much in prison. Just a short note to show my appreciation. May you have continued success for the *Overcomers for Christ* organization." - **J.Q.**

"I want to thank you all from the bottom of my heart for sending me a birthday card. That was so kind of you all and it touched my heart. Please thank everyone there for signing the card filled with their encouraging words. I love all of you there like brothers and sisters. You are my family and I was deeply moved by your gesture.
Thank you so very much" - **J.H.**

"I was in a California prison until recently; there was a guy there who regularly got your ministry mailings. They would eventually get handed down to me; I really enjoyed them, very good feeding (spiritually) and encouraging too. I'm now very blessed to be in Indiana, I am wondering if you would please add me to your mailing list?" - **D.V.**

"Thank you so much every year for remembering me on my birthday. I feel so special and blessed to have people like you in my life. I've been receiving the newsletter for almost six years now and every one of them has touched my heart, and to see photos of everyone in every newsletter. I feel as if I know you all and you are my family." - **N.W.**

"I wanted to write and thank all of my brothers and sisters in Christ there for sending me a reminder of the fact that I'm not so young anymore. Ha! Ha! Isn't doing the Lord's work wonderful? You guys have been faithful in sending so much encouraging and uplifting words for many seasons now" - **R.T.**

"Allow me to start off by saying thank you for the birthday card. I'm sitting here with about 10 ½ months left. You guys are great people. Your magazines have been very helpful to many of us in here" - **R.F.**

"Hello, *Overcomers for Christ* family ... It made my day to get your card and birthday card. How warm and thoughtful to have received that. When I first received that card, I was like "Who wrote me?" It took me a minute, then I saw the *OC&C*. I realized who it was from. Our walk with God is a daily process. I have many wasted years out there drinking and it took me getting locked up to get sober. Now, I know if I put God first in my life everything goes smoothly. I thank you for your studies, plus the word you put out." - **W.B.**

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Cory's Corner What Does God Say About Faith?

Living by faith ... (Acts 1:8) ... ***"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."***

God designed the Christian life to be one lived in the Power of the Holy Spirit

Believers must appropriate (set apart for a particular purpose) daily by faith the Power of the Holy Spirit to live as Christians. ***Romans 8:4-5 ... "... in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires."***

This means that God says that the believer must trust the Holy Spirit to empower them in specific instances such as resisting temptations, being faithful and sharing one's faith.

There is no secret formula that makes the Holy Spirit's power operational in our lives. Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit dwells and operates in us. ***1 Corinthians 6:9 ... "Or do you not know that wrongdoers will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor men who have sex with men."*** We have to learn by experience through interaction with God to understand how that dynamic works.

First, the disciples received the Holy Spirit, then He gave them the power and finally the disciples were told that they would be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth. Effective witness requires that we first learn to rely on the Holy Spirit to help us. (Faith)

The children of Israel, simply put, had no excuses. They could not say to God, "Oh, we didn't understand that law" or that "Your commandments weren't very clearly explained" or "We don't know what to do." ***Deuteronomy 30:14 ... "No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it."*** God's laws were not beyond their understanding or in a secret code or hidden in a mysterious place. No, God made His laws and rules quite plain to His people so that they could follow them, as we read in this verse, ***"But the Word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it."*** (Romans 10:8)

Clearly we understand that to have faith just isn't enough. Faith needs to be worked, applied and practiced daily. ***"Faith without works is dead."*** (James 2:17) We need to not only keep faith in our hearts as God has instructed, but we need to reflect on and respect faith as a true fiber of our own being; being made one in faith (God's law) daily in our lives. To just know about faith is not enough. To live by faith is acceptable in God's eyes and noticed as an act of obedience.

Quote Worthy

"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man which cannot be filled by any created thing, but only by God, the Creator, made known through Jesus." - Blaise Pascal (1632-1662) - A French mathematician, physicist, inventor, writer and Christian philosopher.

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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PRIDE

Contributed by D.J.

Here is a poem about pride I got it from Beth Moore's book *Praying God's Word* about pride. We all get attacked by satan with it, and we all have some form of it that lurks in our sinful nature. I hope you are blessed by it, I sure am.

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.
I cheat you of your destiny from God ...
because you demand your own way.
I cheat you of contentment ...
because you deserve better than this.
I cheat you of knowledge ...
because you already know it all.
I cheat you of healing ...
because you are too full of me to forgive.
I cheat you of holiness ...
because you refuse to admit when you're wrong.
I cheat you of vision ...
because you'd rather look in the mirror than out the window.
I cheat you of genuine friendship ...
because nobody's going to know the real you.
I cheat you of love ...

because real love demands sacrifice.
I cheat you of greatness in heaven ...
because you refuse to wash another's feet on earth.
I cheat you of God's glory ...
because I convince you to seek your own.

My name is Pride. I am a cheater.
You like me ...
because you think I'm always looking out for you.
Untrue ...
I'm looking to make a fool of you.
God has so much for you, I admit, but don't worry ...
if you stick with me You'll never know.

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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