

Overcomers for Christ

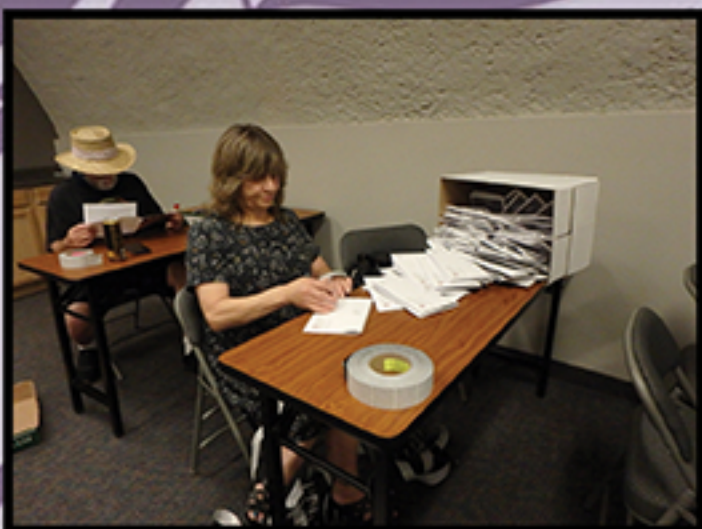
May 2023

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

Proverbs 31:26

*Happy
Mother's Day*

Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ August 2022



Reflecting on the Things of the Past

By C.S.

It's hard to make any sense of the world today. You would think with all of the people dying around the world, people would start to take some of these things serious. But instead, most people are complaining and have turned instead to their crooked ways and gave cause to the adversity to disrespect one another. You'd better believe that God sees everything that is happening to us, past, present, and future. He knows all, nothing surprises Him, and nothing sneaks by Him unnoticed. He promises that all things work together for the good of those who love Him. This is still true whether or not we understand why things happen the way they do. No matter how dark or despairing things may seem at the moment, God is in full control.

Let me ask you all this, what would happen if you approached a fork in the road and found two signs, one reading "Road to comfort" and the other, "Road to adversity"? Would you agree that most of us would probably veer onto the path of comfort with a sigh of relief, because no one wants to experience pain, disappointment, or loss. Yet through my years of imprisonment, I've learned that hardships are essential and part of the believer's spiritual journey.

First of all, adversity reveals our view of the Lord. The more clearly, we understand who God is and what He desires to accomplish in us, the stronger our faith will be and the greater our joy. It's when we stay focused on the negative aspects of our current circumstances, that we may begin to doubt His loving sovereignty and good purpose.

Secondly, I've learned that adversity teaches us the truth about ourselves. Sinful attitudes and misplaced priorities often come to the surface in times of affliction. Though we may just want the situation to improve, God intends to teach us through it. So, it's important that we have a willingness to learn. Instead of seeing our difficulties as loss, we need to view them as a means God uses to build our endurance. Then we may be, as James says, in **James 1:4**, "**Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**"

God's Word tells us, in **Numbers 32:23**, "**But if you fail to do this, you will be sinning against the Lord; and you may be sure that your sin will find you out.**" And I for one know all too well, that the secret sin will lead to public consequences. It may appear for a season that a person is getting away with a certain sin. Their life may seem to be as good as anyone else's, but in the end, there will always be evidence of the choices they have made. Sin is a powerful foe. In this place, I would say a plain word or two to those who understand the method of justification by faith, which is in Christ Jesus, but whose trouble is that they cannot cease from sinning. We can never be happy, restful, or spiritually healthy until we become holy. We must be rid of sin, but how is the riddance to be shaped? This is the life-or-death question of many. The old nature is very strong, and I have tried to curb and even tame it, but it will not be subdued. Then I would find myself, though anxious to be better, stubborn. The passions are so furious, the thoughts are so changeable, the imagination is so ungovernable. The desires are so wild, that the man feels that he has a den of wild beasts within himself, which will eat him up sooner than be ruled by him.

We may say of our fallen nature what the Lord said to Job concerning Leviathan, in **Job 41:5**, "**Wilt thou play with him as with a bird? or wilt thou bind him for thy maidens?**" A man might as well hope to hold the North wind in the hollow of his hand as to expect to control by his own strength, those discipline powers which fall within his fallen nature. So it is with an ungodly man, you cannot force him to do what a renewed man does most willingly. Yes, you may teach him, and set a good example, but he cannot learn the art of holiness, for he has no mind to it. His nature leads him another way. When the Lord makes a new man of him, then all things wear a different aspect. So great is this change, that the new nature follows after right as naturally as the old nature wandered after the wrong.

What a blessing to receive such a nature that only the Holy Spirit can give. I'm sure you would agree that man is more than a body made of flesh and bones. He is a spirit, and he has a soul which consists of a mind, a will, and emotions. It is the personality of man. Sinners suffer in their mind. They are filled with mental anguish and no matter what they do or possess there is nothing that completely satisfies them. They suffer emotionally. Since they have chosen to run their own lives, they become frustrated and angry, emotionally upset, when things don't go their way. They know nothing of faith. Trusting God, a power greater than themselves is incomprehensible to them. They never enter rest in their souls because one may only enter the rest of God. As **Hebrews 4:3** tells us, "**For we which have believed do enter into rest, as He said, 'As I have sworn in My wrath, if they shall enter into My rest,' although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.**"

Sadly, this world is not a friend to grace. This my brothers and sisters is what God says about the outcome of a person who attempts to live without Him, who miss merciful, longsuffering, and slow to anger. Even though in my own past life, I too have gone far into sin and living openly in rebellion. I have done evil with both hands, going from bad to worse while persisting in ungodliness. I now realize that my friends and family must have looked upon me with disgust, rather than with hope. But not so of my God!

No one else would ever have thought of justifying those who are guilty. He, in the splendor of His grace having chosen some of them before the foundation of the world, will not rest until He has justified them, and made them to be accepted in the beloved. Is this not written in **Romans 8:30**, **"Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified."** Thus, we see that there are some whom the Lord resolves to justify, why then should 'we' not be in those numbers!? No one but God would ever have thought of justifying me. I am a wonder to myself, and I doubt not that is equally seen in others.

Look at Saul of Tarsus, who foamed at the mouth against God's servants, **"As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison."** (Acts 8:3) Like a hungry wolf, he worried the lambs and sheep right and left, and yet listen to Scripture as God struck him down on the road to Damascus, **"As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, 'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?' 'Who are you, Lord?' Saul asked. 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,' he replied. 'Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'"** (Acts 9:3-6) It was right there, on his way to persecute more of God's people that Jesus was able to change his heart, and so fully justified him that before long, this very man became the greatest preacher of justification by faith that ever has lived.

Saul/Paul must have often marveled that even he was justified, by faith in Jesus Christ, for he once was a persecutor for salvation by the works of the law. None but God would have ever thought of justifying such a man as Saul. So, I say to you all, how much more can He do, the same for sinners like us.

Oh, how the Lord is glorious in His grace. I can and will say, that the Lord has altogether delivered me from the power of my former habits and has made me an example of virtue. God cannot lie and in **Ezekiel 36:26** says this, **"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh."** Has it ever struck you what a wonderful thing it is for the Lord to give not only a new heart, but also a right spirit to those who seek Him? Perhaps some of you may have seen a lobster that has fought with another lobster and lost a claw, and a new claw has grown back? Wouldn't you say that this is a remarkable thing? But it is a much greater astounding fact that a man should have a new heart given to him. This indeed is a miracle beyond the powers of nature. Let's look at a tree for a minute. If you cut off one of its limbs, eventually another one will grow in its place, but can 'we' change the tree? Can 'we' sweeten sour sap? Can 'we' make the thorns bear figs? We may be able to graft something better into it and that is the analogy which nature gives us of the work of grace, but absolutely to change the vital sap of a tree would be a miracle indeed.

There is such a marvelous mystery of power that God works in all who believe in His Son Jesus. If we yield ourselves up to His divine working, the Lord will alter our nature, He will subdue the old nature, and breathe new life into all who believe in Him! Let me encourage you all to put your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Where everything was once hard, everything shall become more tender. Where everything was vicious, everything will become virtuous. Where everything trended downward, everything shall rise upward with a divine driving force. The lion of anger shall give place to the Lamb of meekness, the raven of uncleanness shall fly before the dove of purity.

In my 11 years of incarceration, I have seen with my own eyes marvelous changes of moral and spiritual character. Blaspheming men who now delight in and around the Gospel. Thieves are made honest, and drunkards and druggies are sober. While liars become truthful, and scoffers become zealous. Wherever the grace of God has appeared to a man or woman it has trained them to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. This same grace teaches us to live soberly, righteously, and godly even in this present evil world. Many people may not believe this fact, but it's only because they do not understand the grace and power of God, until they need it for themselves.

Even though we may be living in some troubling times, the life of faith is frequently contrary to typical human living. Jehoshaphat faced his difficulty by applauding God's past work and faithfulness, and by recalling God's promises. When we respond in a similar way, we too will be able to proceed with courage. The natural man (human) response to troubled times is self-pity. And to go over and over the details and repercussions of our problem only makes it seem more threatening. Instead, praise focusses our attention on God, and if we are looking to Him for our aid, then we can't help but to recognize His sovereignty.

Every trial that enters our life comes through His permissive will, which means that He has complete control. Whatever His reasons for allowing these things into our lives, He is faithful to see us through it all. In **2 Chronicles 20:9** we read, **"If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in Your presence before this temple that bears Your Name and will cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear us and save us."**

continued on page 9 ...

THIS IS THE CONFIDENCE WE HAVE IN APPROACHING GOD: THAT IF WE ASK ANYTHING ACCORDING TO HIS WILL, HE HEARS US. AND IF WE KNOW THAT HE HEARS US - WHATEVER WE ASK - WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE WHAT WE ASKED OF HIM. 1 JOHN 5:14-15 (NIV)

PRAYER REQUESTS

I will be 70 years old this March and within 30 days following my birthday I should see the parole board. I'm asking for the O.C.C. family to agree with me for a positive response to my release hearing. I have been incarcerated for 36 years. I now have 6 grandchildren that I would love to take to the National Parks camping, fishing, and hiking. I want them to have good memories of me before I pass away. Thank you ALL for your prayers. With love to everyone there, your brother in the faith ... **D.P.E.**

I have a prayer request to ask of the O.C.C. family. Let me explain. It's been something else these last couple of years. No one ever told me that the sanctification process would hurt so badly. But through it all I've learned the true revelation of **Philippians 4:13** as well as the importance of obedience. This is what I need prayer for. I've recently went through a divorce, and it wasn't so much the legal part or again, the process, but it was the ugly, hurtful things being said to me over that year we were figuring everything out. The more soft spoken I would be, the more ugly the attitudes grew towards me. Breaking me down with words cut me deep. Resentment and bitterness can really break the accused one's heart. I'm asking that you all pray for me that God blesses me with a good Christian lady who loves Jesus as much as I do. I've applied for some pen pal services, but I've not had any success. I think I've been looking in the wrong places. Recently I heard that still small voice tells me to write the church, so here I am. As you keep me in your prayers, please know that you all will definitely be in mine ... **A.A.**

Please pray for me. I've been having some conflict with my cellie. He has no love, just hate. He has threatened me several times and I have asked to be moved due to the threats. They don't seem to care, until something actually happens between us, and blood is drawn. I really don't want to go to 'seg', but I will if that's what it takes to get out of this situation and have peace. I lean heavily on, **"I can do all things through Christ Jesus who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13)** ... **R.S.**

Please agree with me as I pray this prayer, 'You Are There'. Lord, in **Genesis 6:5**, it's recorded, **"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."** These words assure us that You are not blind. With this I know that You see all that is happening on this earth over the past couple of years. Lord, my heart is heavy as young black people are dying at the hands of the police. But Lord I also know, as Scripture states, none of these things are a surprise to You. And Lord, as hard as it is for me to say, but I know You command us to love even our enemies, Lord bless the men and women that have taken the lives of these people. And Lord, let them come to truly know You. Lord, I also ask You to bless the families suffering due to the loss of their sons or daughters. I know that only You can comfort them ... **J.M.**

PRAISE REPORTS

I wanted to send you this notice, in order to be a good steward, as I'm being released next month. We've had a long run together, but if you would remove me from the mailing list and use the funds for someone new to the ministry. I thank all of you there at the **Overcomers for Christ** for all your love and hard work. I pray that our Father continue to bless you all there at the ministry. Your monthly newsletters, cards and birthday cards over the years have helped me get through this prison sentence. All of your efforts have strengthened my faith, along with the other brothers here I've shared them with. I appreciate all that you do for the body of Christ. May God bless all of you and your families ... **R.B.**

Hello **Overcomers for Christ** family. I wanted to give the family a praise report. Three years ago, I wrote you all to have the prayer warriors pray concerning my children. We all agreed that our relationship would be restored. Well, God has done exactly that and then some. I'm now in contact with them, and the beauty of it all is they've never once thrown my past in my face or even brought it up. That's the way our God restores our lives and relationships, with peace, love, and healing. Tell everyone to hold their ground, and stay in prayer for their loved ones, don't fret, but remain obedient to the Most High God ... **U.S.**

I'm writing to let you all know this will be my last letter to the ministry from prison. I want to thank you all for all of the prayers, newsletters, cards, and correspondence these last ten years. Your correspondence has really encouraged me to try and do the right things from day to day in here and now out on the streets. I'll be hitting you up at your email address and look forward to meeting with you again ... **P.B.**

Thank you, Jesus!!!!!! My daughter has been finding God in her own way. Long story short some things have happened for her that have no explanation than God's hand and in turn she has gotten rid of all of her occult stuff, such as, tarot cards, astrology stuff, etc. She is researching and talking with others about the Bible. Her journey is beginning ... **Foot**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

The Value of Trials

By M.D.

"Consider it all joy, my brothers, whenever you fall into various trials, knowing that the proving of your faith works endurance. And let endurance have its perfect work in order that you may be perfect and enhanced, wanting in nothing." (James 1:2-4)

These words of the Spirit, through James, just about say it all concerning the value of trials and temptations. They are blessings to the children of God. They may not seem so when we are hurting, but we who be **Overcomers for Christ** spirit builders, would do well to adopt the same philosophy of 'body builders' and their adage, "No pain, no gain". Indeed, on the one hand, *"All disciples seem not joyful at present, but sorrowful; later, on the other hand, it gives back the peaceable fruit of righteousness to the ones who have been developed through it."* (Hebrews 12:11) Therefore we are reminded, in 1 Peter 1:6-7, *"In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."*

It is human when suffering to grieve, even to be inclined to despondency, by the pain or trial or temptation or persecution. Yet we may find courage, not only in the knowledge that these things like bodily exercise, *"We know that the law is good if one uses it properly,"* (1 Timothy 1:8) are given to us to strengthen us, but also in the knowledge that when we, *"Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings."* (1 Peter 5:9) Believe this, satan is cosmopolitan, he shares his misery with everyone.

As those who trust in the Lord Jesus, we must remind ourselves what James 1:12 tells us, *"Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love Him."* Furthermore, 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures us, *"No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."* For, *"then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment."* (2 Peter 2:9)

Because of these things, the saint may face trials and temptations with confidence, crying in joy with these words from Paul, *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.' No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."* (Romans 8:35-39)

I'll finish with this, *"Do not waste time arguing over godless ideas and old wives' tales. Instead, train yourself to be godly. Physical training is good, but training for godliness is much better, promising benefits in this life and in the life to come."* (1 Timothy 4:7-8 NLT)

God's Plan is Supreme

By J.H.

I salute you all with the most sincerity from a younger soldier in the army of Christ! Your cards and words likewise are encouraging and add fuel to the fire that is burning in my chest.

Trusting in His plan, 100% of the time, all the time is key. Peter was able to walk on water until he took his eyes off of the Savior of the world. No matter what storm I'm in, I need to discipline myself to keep my eyes on Him. I also continue to work on understanding that God's plan is supreme and sometimes people we love, might not be a part of day-to-day operations.

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

As you know, through the blood of Christ, true change is possible. I get discouraged when my sister will not help communicate with my teenage boys, I have so much to pour into them. My family is small, and I have no extended family in San Diego. And for me, this is a mini storm that I need to continue to trust in His plan, His provisions and how He is working in my son's lives.

In one of my poems, I mentioned that "changing in the streets is not easy". In that I was speaking of my inability to change with all of those distractions, temptations, and skewed identities. Prison has been a perfect and ideal location for my particular situation. I had a chance to understand that people, drugs, money, and 'fake friends' could never satisfy the hole in my heart that is perfectly designed to fit only one thing, JESUS!

Today I have the contact information and I look forward to coming back into these same prisons and feeding His sheep!

God's Creations

By B.T.

I was given a free phone call this morning, so I called one of my daughters. It was nice to hear her voice, and that my grandkids liked their cards and pictures I sent them.

Earlier I was writing a letter to a couple old friends, explaining to them about God's creations. Being in nature while I was growing up, with the beauty of God's creations it's easy to see the many things God created. It is so amazing to see how God created everything for a reason. Even with all the beauty it's hard for me to understand how most people don't see this beauty.

It's a shame that I'm in here and missing out on everything He has created out there. When I used to go fishing, hunting and to the mountains I would always look around at everything. I love nature, all of the animals, birds, trees, the wind, the fresh air, the clean fresh water that I could see through, rocks, cliffs, the different sizes of mountains. I loved the stars at night and how close they are. When it rains, watching the snow as it falls and hearing the power of the Lord as the thunder booms in the mountains makes the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

In God's power He is the Creator of the universe and brings peace in the mountains. Many people don't see what God has given to us to steward and take care of. Compare the mountains with the city life, it is so amazing how the mountains have so much more peace than the city life. City life has so many problems. Prison has so many problems, but we don't have to live like others. Jesus says, *"My peace I leave with you. In the world you will have all kinds of problems and tribulations. But be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* (John 14:27, John 16:33)

God knows the beginning from the end. Everything God has created He's created for a reason. Isn't it amazing how the water in the mountains find its way to the ocean, and how water makes everything come alive? Before drugs found their way into my life, I was a funny guy, and I lifted other people's spirits up. I was caring, respectful, helpful, honest and a giver. I was raised to know how to survive. I fished, hunted animals for food and raised a vegetable garden.

Since having Jesus in my life, I've learned who I was and who I had become. Jesus has changed my whole life. Today I am very emotional, and I can feel the pain, the hurt and the suffering in people around me. I don't like to see people or even animals hurting. I don't like who I was, but today, I like who I am in Christ. I was very ashamed of my past, but today I am forgiven by the blood of Jesus. I am a new creation, saved by my Savior Christ Jesus.

God is so full of loving kindness. He seen my ugly life and came to save me by sending His Son Jesus to die on the Cross He didn't deserve, for me! I was lost but now I have been found. I used to be so blind but now I see. God lives in my heart, and I can feel Him there. The little things I think I know sometimes help me understand I don't know much without Him, and apart from Him I can do nothing.

The Father promised us that He would never leave us, so be strong and of good courage. Many of the things I'm going through I tried to figure out on my own, and it didn't come out to good. God said, "Don't get your wisdom from men, but from above, and don't try to be wise in my own eyes." (1 Corinthians 2:5) I tried all of that and I failed. So today, I don't lean on my own understanding. (Proverbs 3:5) The Book of Proverbs teaches us to fear the Lord our God. This is not

continued on page 11 ...

Foot's Bible Study

Ezekiel 27:1-28:26

The beauty of Tyre was the source of its pride, and Tyre's pride guaranteed its judgment. Conceit or pride in our own accomplishments should be a danger signal to us. In **James 4:13-17**, "**Look here, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit.' How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that.' Otherwise you are boasting about your own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil. Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.**"

God is not against our taking pleasure or finding satisfaction in what we do; He is against arrogance and inflated self-esteem that looks down on others. We must acknowledge God as the basis and source of our life.. **(27:3-4)**

As truly wise people get closer to God, they recognize their need to depend on Him for guidance. **(28:2-3)**

Hebrews 11:17-31

Abraham was willing to give up His own son when God commanded him to do so. See **Genesis 22:1-19**. God did not let Abraham take Isaac's life, because God has given the command in order to test Abraham's faith. Instead of taking Abraham's son, God gave Abraham a whole nation of descendants through Isaac. If you are afraid to trust God with the possession, dream, or person you treasure most, pay attention to Abraham's example. Because Abraham was willing to give up everything for God, he received back more than he could have imagined. What we receive, however, is not always immediate or in the form of material possessions. Material things should be among the least satisfying of rewards. Our best and greatest rewards await us in eternity. **(11:17-19)**

Psalms 111:1-10

The only way to become wise is to fear (revere) God. This same thought is expressed in **Proverbs 1:7-9**, "**Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. A Father's Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don't neglect your mother's instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck.**"

Too often people want to skip this step, thinking they can become wise by life experience and academic knowledge alone. But if we do not acknowledge God as the source of wisdom, then our foundation for making wise decisions is shaky, and we are prone to mistakes and foolish choices. **(111:10)**

Proverbs 27:15-16

Quarrelsome nagging, a steady stream of unwanted advice is a form of torture. People nag because they think they're not getting through, but nagging hinders communication more than it helps. When tempted to engage in this destructive habit, stop and examine your motives. Are you more concerned about yourself - getting your way, being right - than about the person you are pretending to help? If you are truly concerned about other people, think of a more effective way to get through to them. Surprise them with words of patience and love and see what happens. **(27:15-16)**

"Foot" Notes

Blessings to you all, I would like you all to remember that no matter what is happening, even in the worst of circumstances, it is you who decides what becomes of you mentally and spiritually. It is in this inner achievement that your spiritual freedom cannot be taken away. It is this freedom that allows for life to be meaningful and purposeful regardless of your circumstances.

The ability to choose one's own attitude in any given set of circumstances cannot be taken from you. There are always choices to make as to how you will respond to any situation or circumstance. Again, this is one freedom that can never be taken. Love to ya'll short and tall. Vaya con Dios!!! Don't ride faster than your angels can fly!!!

So, what is the focus of our gratitude? Most believers will probably find their thoughts centered on all the blessings God has given them over the years. We must always turn our gratitude towards God Himself. Instead of simply thanking Him for what He has done, let's also be thankful for who He is. Since we've come to know God as a loving Father, who watches over us all, we could easily lose sight of His awesome majesty.

Who is this mighty one we call God? In Scripture, the Lord is described with a variety of names and titles. But my favorite is found in **Exodus 3:14**, where He calls Himself, **"I AM WHO I AM"**, which is also the Hebrew word YAHWEH. This name alone signifies His eternal existence, sovereignty, omnipresence, unlimited power, wisdom, and knowledge. What an AMAZING God we serve! Who is also compassionate and gracious, while abounding in lovingkindness and truth. We not never doubt His love or fear He's unable to help us. Even when everything around us changes, God remains the same!

Let me leave us all with this, "May the abundant blessings of God fill all of your hearts and homes, every day of your lives!"

Loving God with Your Mind

By Rick Warren

***"Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."* - James 1:22**

We've been looking at **Mark 12:30**, ***"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength."*** One way to restate this verse is love God with all your talk, all your feelings, all your thinking, and all your doing.

Although every person is called to do all of these things, God created each person to be stronger in one area. That means God has shaped you more naturally to be a talker (heart), feeler (soul), thinker (mind), or doer (strength).

Let's look at the thinkers, who most readily love God with their minds. Do you know that you can love God with your intellect? When you develop and strengthen your mind, it's an act of worship.

One way you can recognize a thinker is by this: When thinkers become believers, they fall in love with the Bible.

Psalm 119:97 says, ***"How I love your law! I think about it all day long."*** (GNT)

There is no other book in the world like the Bible! It has the answers to life's questions, including why God put you here on earth.

We need thinkers—because the world needs consideration. Somebody has to be thinking through complex issues and the implications of what the rest of us are doing. We need people who think through tough problems and bring solutions to the table.

But thinkers need to be careful to also practice humility. The Bible says, ***"Don't be impressed with your own wisdom"*** (**Proverbs 3:7** NLT). Why? Because God is God, and you're not.

Humility is a choice. **James 4:10** says, ***"Humble yourselves before the Lord"*** (NIV). Humility is something you do to yourself. And it's not denying your strengths; it's being honest about your weaknesses.

Thinkers also need to be careful to practice what they know. If you know it, then do it! **James 1:22** says, ***"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says"*** (NIV).

Your personality is unique and precious to God. When you use it to serve Him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, you bring Him glory!

Quote Worthy

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May."
- Edwin Way Teale (1899 – 1980) an American naturalist, photographer and writer.

Mother's Day Word Search

R H H I A Z E B A P M Y S S C
L E N E R P L V Q J A A T P A
O O H O L E P S I C R D F E R
V D N T S P S R A G Y I I C N
E O X S O P Y P E R R L G I A
H O E L P M A X E C A O V A T
I D N E T S I L I C I H F L I
T H A N K V R A M A T A R R O
C O M M A N D M E N T H T S N
Y E B O Y F P L E A S E S E S

Appreciate

Blessed

Carnations

Commandment

Example

Forgive

Gifts

Help

Holiday

Honor

Listen

Love

Mary (mother of Jesus)

Mother

Obey

Pleases

Respect

Sarah (mother of Isaac)

Son

Special

Tamar (mother of Perez, in the genealogical line of Jesus)

Thank

telling us to be fearful of God, but respectful of Him. Being respectful we will listen to and live by what His Word has to say to us. Proverbs tells us to get understanding, gain knowledge, get wisdom, and avoid evil. His Word shows us the way to go, and our sleep will be sweet.

When we listen AND OBEY, He says that will even add many days and years to our lives. While seeking treasures, it's better to seek wisdom and learn what the Lord God tells us. Don't follow after riches like gold, silver, rubies, and money. Jesus even used the example of the rich young man storing up his riches in barns where moths and bugs can destroy it all. Jesus also said, "**Seek first, (not last, not tomorrow, but first) the kingdom of God and THEN all these other things will added to you.**" (Matthew 6:33)

In closing, a person's life here on earth is to seek after and adore God. After which we are to lead others to the Cross of redemption where they too may have eternal life in heaven with our Creator. Listen, no one knows what tomorrow may bring. Heck, we might not even wake up in the morning, and accidents happen every day. It doesn't matter how healthy a person is, or how rich they may be. What truly matters more than anything in this world, is that we have come to know Jesus, we follow Him AND that we truly trust Him with our lives!

FUN FACTS

May 4th - In 1886, a labor demonstration in Chicago's Haymarket Square turned violent when a bomb exploded, and demonstrators began rioting.

May 4th - In 1970, Ohio National Guardsmen killed four students at Kent State University during an anti-war protest.

May 4th - In 1979, Margaret Thatcher became the first female prime minister in British history.

May 11th - In 1858, Minnesota was admitted as the thirty-second U.S. state.

May 11th - In 1997, the IBM chess-playing computer Deep Blue defeated world champion Garry Kasparov with two wins, one loss, and three draws in a six-game match.

May 18th - In 1974, India successfully tested its first nuclear weapon.

May 18th - In 1980, Mount St. Helens erupted in Washington state.

Christian Comedy

Just went to an emotional wedding. Even the cake was in tiers.

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - 8551 E. Anderson Dr. #105 Scottsdale, AZ 85255 Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd., Mesa, AZ 85213

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

Here is how you can give to the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ ministry:

By **check** or **money order** - Make checks payable to **Living Word Bible Church** and in the memo section put "For Overcomers for Christ". Mail your check or money order to PO Box 42023, Phoenix, Arizona 85080

Your giving does qualify as a charitable contribution on your taxes. For donations of less than \$250, your cancelled check is sufficient proof for taxes. For donations of \$250 or more, you will receive a contribution statement from the organization. If you have any questions, please call or write Wade Anderson.

Our Father in Heaven
by S.F.

Dear heavenly Father,
I thank You for this day Lord.
I thank You for me being able to see and hear today Lord.
I'm blessed because You are a forgiving bounder, standing heavenly Father.
You have done so much for me and You keep blessing me Lord.
Please forgive me this day for everything I have done, said and thought that was not pleasing to You Lord.
I ask now for Your forgiveness Lord.
Please keep me safe from all danger and harm Lord God.
Help me to start each day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude Lord God.
Let me make the best of each and every day Lord.
Please clear my mind so that I can hear from You and accept those things Lord.
Let me not whine or whimper over things I have no control over,
And give me the best response when I am pushed beyond my limits Lord.
I know that when I can't or don't pray Lord You listen to my heart Lord.
Please continue to use me to do Your will Lord God.
Continue to bless me always so that I may be a blessing to others always Lord.
Keep me strong so I may help the weak Lord.
Keep me uplifted so I may have the words of encouragement for others Lord.
I pray for all those that are lost, that can't or won't find their way Lord.
I pray for those that are misjudged or misunderstood Lord.
I pray for those that don't know You intimately Lord.
I pray for those that don't believe in You Lord God.
But I thank You God that I do believe in You Lord.

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

Overcomers for Christ a Ministry of Living Word Bible Church

www.livingwordonline.org jasonlivingword@gmail.com

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
(602)472-8741 • OC4Cphx@gmail.com