

Overcomers for Christ

March 2020

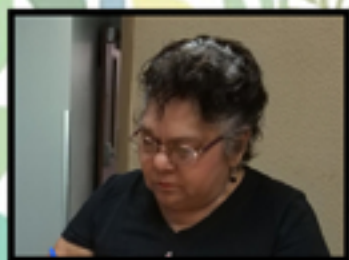
The Lord God is a
sun and shield:
the Lord will give
grace and glory:
... no good thing
will He withhold
from them that walk **uprightly.**

Psalm 84:11



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

April 2019



PROOF

By H.A.M.

Apart from us the world knows nothing about Jesus. The world gets to know Him by what it sees in each of us. Here's **John 17:10**, *"All I have is yours, and all you have is Mine. And glory has come to Me through them."* Every single Christian must be an evangelist. Lip service without deeds is fruitless. **James 2:14-18** reads, *"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds."*

The tasks of evangelism are NOT based exclusively on external methods. They are proliferated through character, and ones relationship to and with God as we see here in **John 17:17-19**, *"Sanctify them by the truth; Your word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify Myself, that they too may be truly sanctified."* Jesus is the Word, our truth, and our means for sanctification, **John 14:6**, *"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"*

Can God use ignorant people, unlearned, untutored, and untrained? Consider the first disciples as outlined in **1 Corinthians 1:26-30**, *"Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before Him. It is because of Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption ... what was emphasized here and everywhere."*

Paul wrote this not with wisdom of words, not with human understanding, but in demonstrations of the Spirit and power, that your faith should not be in wisdom of men but in the power of God. Let's read **1 Corinthians 2:4-5** together, *"The message I preached and how I preached it was not an attempt to sway you with persuasive arguments but to prove to you the almighty power of God's Holy Spirit. For God intended that your faith not be established on man's wisdom but by trusting in His almighty power."*

Being sanctified means to be filled with the Spirit of God and to continually desire, above all, to know God better. Through His Holy Spirit we become more like Him. How? Sanctification is accomplished through God's love. Let me give you the definition of charity and then we will move on. Charity - In Christian thought, the highest form of love, signifying the reciprocal love between God and man that is made manifest unselfish love of one's fellow man.

Charity separates us from the world's ways, and it is part of that process. It's love He can use because God is it's originator, *"The one who doesn't love has yet to know God, for God is love."* (**1 John 4:8**) We must not allow our lives to contradict the message of love, as seen here in **1 Peter 2:11-12**, *"My divinely loved friends, since you are resident aliens and foreigners in this world, I appeal to you to divorce yourselves from the evil desires that wage war within you. Live honorable lives as you mix with unbelievers, even though they accuse you of being evildoers. For they will see your beautiful works and have a reason to glorify God in the day He visits us."*

Love is the foundation for every good work, and dishonorable conduct is the foundation for every failure. Listen here to these Scriptures in **2 Timothy 2:20-26**, *"In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use. Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work. Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth, and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."*

The Spirit of God works only through clean vessels, and we must always remember that love is a verb, not a noun. As seen here in **1 Thessalonians 3:13**, *"May He strengthen your hearts so that you will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all His holy ones."* love that is exercised causes God to establish us perfectly. God's mighty power is rooted in the effectual service of love. The closer our walk with God, the more we are endued with the thoughts and spirit of sacrifice, which is to endure hardship, and look up to God in every trouble. It may seem a hard row to hoe, but no matter the circumstances, even in poverty, His endowing strength will shine.

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First Samuel 2:8-9 tells us, **"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; He seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor. For the foundations of the earth are the LORD's; on them He has set the world. He will guard the feet of His faithful servants, but the wicked will be silenced in the place of darkness. It is not by strength that one prevails."** And as the Apostle Paul tells us here in **Colossians 3:23-24** (TPT), **"Put your heart and soul into every activity you do, as though you are doing it for the Lord Himself and not merely for others. For we know that we will receive a reward, an inheritance from the Lord, as we serve the Lord Yahweh, the Anointed One!"**

And reiterated here in **1 Peter 4:11**, **"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen."** God provides us with the strength of His glory. God's work, down to the simplest detail of our daily lives, can only be accomplished in God's strength, by the power of His Spirit working in us (**1 Corinthians 2:4-5**).

Psalm 66:18 tells us, **"If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."** So quite simply, holding on to sin or even un-forgiveness in our hearts will have an effect in our prayer life. That's what it says here in **Hebrews 12:1** as well, **"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."** Furthermore, in **Isaiah 59:2**, it is clarified, **"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."** If we wish to continue fellowship with God we must, as it says here in **2 Timothy 2:19**, **"Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: 'The Lord knows those who are His,'"** and, **"Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."** Iniquity is corruption.

God's Holy Spirit consists of pure love and is gentle. That's why we are instructed in **Ephesians 4:30**, **"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."** And yet again here in **1 Thesalonians 5:19** NKJV, **"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption."** And here is the (TPT) Passion Translation of that same verse, **"Never restrain or put out the fire of the Holy Spirit."** Sin is like a millstone, it will always hold us down if we yield to it. A heart that harbors sin is resultant to anguish. The only true way to know **"the peace that surpasses all understanding"** (**Philippians 4:7**) is to break away from sin at all cost. **Proverbs 13:15** makes clear, **"Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard."** And in **1 Samuel 15:22** Samuel says, **"What is more pleasing to the LORD: your burnt offerings and sacrifices or your obedience to His voice? Listen! Obedience is better than sacrifice, and submission is better than offering the fat of rams."** And one more time, from **Proverbs 16:7**, **"When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him."** And once again, from the Passion Translation, **"When the Lord is pleased with the decisions you've made, He activates grace to turn enemies into friends."**

In closing, let me say that we as Christians are saved to serve. Unless we are doing something for the Lord Jesus, we're not true to the vision He's given each of us. Reiterating, we are the PROOF the world sees. Love is service, and those who really love the Lord Jesus will want to serve Him unconditionally.

Brain Teasers

1. A murderer is condemned to death. He has to choose between three rooms. The first is full of raging fires, the second is full of assassins with loaded guns, and the third is full of lions that haven't eaten in 3 years. Which room is safest for him?
2. What is black when you buy it, red when you use it, and grey when you throw it away?
3. Can you name three consecutive days without using the words Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday?

Answers:
 1. The third room. Lions that haven't eaten in three years are dead.
 2. Charcoal, as it is used in barbecuing.
 3. Sure you can name three consecutive days, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

Quote Worthy

"The spiritual life is a life beyond moods. It is a life in which we choose joy and do not allow ourselves to become victims of passing feelings of happiness or depression." - Henri Nouwen (1932 - 1996) - a Dutch Catholic priest, professor, writer and theologian.

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)

Praise Reports

I am looking for support people in a mentoring role as I begin my life outside again. As I am coming up on 2 1/2 years until my release, I am looking closer at my circumstances as I will then be two months shy of 75 years old. I love the Lord and want to live my life for Him. I want to serve Him in any way that He leads me. My life is in His hands. I wasted all those years living for myself instead of yielding to Him. I wished I had yielded to Him and stayed true to Him when I accepted Him as my Savior as a child. He has brought me back to Him and I praise His name for that. I am at peace because I know He is with me every minute of every day ... **J.M.**

Yeah, I'm working in the kitchen where I choose to remain in the dish room. Yeah it's hot, wet and noisy but it keeps the Riff Raff down to a minimum too. I've been there about three weeks. My days fly by. I'd love to still be able to become a pilot that was my dream growing up. Now my eldest, Tyler, is in Officer's Cadet School (Air Force) learning to become a pilot, or so I'm told. I'm not sure if he knows that was my dream that he is fulfilling. Praise the Lord! ... **K.Z.**

Brother Duck, God bless you, you all are always in my thoughts and prayers. You have no idea what you have helped me through. God is amazing, Amen? I talked to my appeal attorney and she told me that the Judge messed up my Jury instructions and that she has filed an appeal. They have to take off fifteen years or we'll go back to court and she'll hammer them. The attempted sexual assault is coming off for sure! Praise the Lord! ... **C.P.**

I want to first start here by saying, "Thank You Jesus! Thank You for allowing me to overcome my flesh. My body is Yours, and the devil cannot come in, he is not welcome!" And thank you all there at the **Overcomers for Christ**. Right now I do not have any family involved in my life. But I do have God and ya'll and that's more than enough. When I hear mail call it's like the Lord feeding me the Word, and that's powerful. And not only do I read it, I obey it as well as I preach it. People look at me and think I'm different. Let them, as a matter of fact God bless them. They hear the Word and to me that's all that matters. Thank you brother Duck for the Good News, and for the visits at LBJ ... **J.H.**

Dear **Overcomers for Christ** family, I hope this letter finds you in good spirits! As for myself, Praise the good Lord, I'm headed back to court! Our God is an awesome God! My appeal went through. I have a new lawyer, her name is Grace. I told you, "I didn't think I'd be here more than five years." Brother, you know that I have the faith of a mustard seed! Keep me in your prayers! As you know, I'll do the same. It's really starting to look like I really get to be part of **Overcomers for Christ** ... **C.P.**

A Christian brother here, V.V., sends both his prayers and his love. He's a big guy with tattoos all over his face. He and I have been fellowshipping quite a bit and he shared a testimony with me from when you used to visit him in the county jail. It really lifted our spirits and I wanted to share it with the other **DE&C** family. This brother, V.V.'s, granddaughter was very sick and in the hospital. He said that he prayed really hard, in faith, asking God, "If only Wade would come see him, maybe he would go visit his granddaughter and pray healing over her." Then, the very next day he was told by the CO that he had an attorney visit so he went to the visit. When he arrived at the visit it wasn't the attorney, it was Wade! He said that was all God! God sent the specific man of God that I had requested! As he began to share with you his request he said you simply asked him, "Do you believe in healing? Do you believe that God wants to heal her? Do you believe that God WILL heal her?" As soon as V.V. answered "YES," you asked him to put his hands on the glass window with yours and you prayed a prayer of faith, God's Word. V.V. was excited when he learned just a few short days later that his granddaughter had recovered and was completely healed! And both you and V.V. agreed that all God is trying to get us all to do is to believe what His Word says, speak it and receive it! PRAISE GOD ... **R.V.**

I was waiting for a few things to materialize before I wrote to you all. These things are not a surprise but a confirmation of God's faithfulness. My biggest news of all will show that God's will and His way is being done on my case. My attorney set up a phone call and when I went to receive it he told me, "I've received a letter from the attorney's that are representing the family of the victim in your case. Their attorney has told me that the family has filed a wrongful death lawsuit. But it's not against you! It's against Ford Motor Company. Your victim was riding in a 2012 Ford Escape, and they are claiming that the airbag system in that vehicle malfunctioned and the seat belt locking system, while the "side impact" airbag blew off throwing her violently sideways. The claim is that this malfunction fractured her ribs, two vertebrae in her back and tearing a hole in the aorta of her heart causing her death, not the collision itself. These attorney's are asking for your cooperation and anything you might be able to testify about in producing any evidence you can to assist the family with in this new case." This is truly God's faithfulness at work my friend. A year and a half ago I tried to get my attorney to see these very same things but he said, "It won't fly". My new attorney says that by them filing this suit, if the carmaker settles, will clear me of being her cause of death. With this there is enough evidence to open a new trial. Yes, that's right, A NEW TRIAL! ... **M.H.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

LOVE, JOY and HOPE W.R.

First, I received the birthday card and I want to thank you and everyone at the Overcomers for Christ who signed it for I found their words uplifting and much of what they said touched my heart. And in my heart is where it shall remain. I never thought that I'd live to be 70 years old and I'm sure many others felt the same. Only by the grace of God am I alive today and that is just a fact. God has spared my life time after time throughout the years and it's obvious that He did so for a reason.

He has, as you know, a future, a hope and a plan for all His people and when you sum it all up into a sentence, it goes back to the message which you conveyed in your card 'The purpose of our life is to bring love and joy to others'. And I would add the word *hope* to that message as well. Everyone who is a part of the Overcomers for Christ ministry has and are spreading that message of LOVE, JOY and HOPE and you're bringing it to those who are in most need of it. You - your message of LOVE and HOPE - goes where Jesus would go if He were on this earth today.

Last week, they brought in some social workers for me to talk with 'About my life, etc.' They were all young and recently graduated from college and were, I'm assuming, going to pursue a career in D.O.C. It seems as though they had read a lot of my poetry as well as a revised version of my testimony which was recently printed in the prison's newsletter, Santa Rita Times. My message to them was simple, "Just remember that the people they will be working with and counseling in the future, are no different than anyone else. They have families, people who love and care about them the same as you. That these people hurt and feel pain the same as you. We, in here, are seen as the lepers of society, the untouchables. But yet, we are the same ones that need to be touched the most. A word of encouragement, a kind gesture and sometimes just listening to us can have more of an impact upon our lives than anything that they may have been taught in a college or read from a book."

Of course I used this opportunity to share my life, my faith with them. But at the end of the day it all comes back to the same thing, loving others and helping them whenever we can. You can feed someone when they are hungry and that little act of kindness could open their heart to plant a seed which could lead that person to the Cross. An encouraging word can give someone hope when they have no hope for their future or a better tomorrow.

All of you brothers and sisters at Overcomers for Christ and Living Word Bible Church do that and though you all may not receive any awards or recognition for that here on this earth ... I know that God acknowledges it and I think that Jesus smiles when you show and act of kindness or love to another. The less fortunate, the untouchables, the lepers of society don't receive a lot of kindness from the world and I'm sure it breaks the Lord's heart, for they are the ones that need it the most.

You can see Jesus displaying that love, that kindness all throughout the Scriptures and always to those who needed it the most, the poor, the crippled, the widows and the lepers in His society. You all are doing the same, in the society you live in today. What a testimony. What a blessing you all are and have been to others. To the untouchables, the lepers you all have encountered in your journey upon this earth. And each of the lives that you all have touched will be and is a part of your legacy. You will have left a part of yourselves behind - long after you have passed from this life to the next. God bless you all and know that you are in my thoughts and my prayers!

Living On Purpose C.B.

When I open my eyes each morning tears of joy flow through my soul, each day is a new beginning with a fresh anointing of God's grace, hope and love. As the day starts I'm soaring in the clouds like a bird closer to the Son. It warms my life as I fly closer to my destiny. It's so refreshing as the rain falls on my life and washes me to greater depths. I'm so pleased to see this refreshing wind of hope blow deeply into every aspect of my life. As I lay down at night in wonder, I'm so pleased to feel the Lord's embrace on my life. Now I want to give a little testimony of a remarkable intervention of the last few months. The Lord has moved in a very special way concerning my spiritual vision and also my correction, which is still taking place. The context of the issue's concerns **Genesis 29:25, "But when Jacob woke up in the morning-it was**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Leah! "What have you done to me?" Jacob raged at Laban. "I worked seven years for Rachel! Why have you tricked me?" and Genesis 33:20 - "And there he built an altar and named it El-Elohe-Israel."

What an event it has been for me in this Old Testament story of Jacob, Laban, Leah and Rachel, as a modern day event for my own life. WOW! Sorting through the issues with all the things the Lord is showing me in rehma revelation is earth moving and life changing. I will never see life again as before. Seeing through the eyes of the Lord's understanding has moved me into a relevant, revelation mature relationship that comes with understanding of who I am in Christ. It has also revealed my direct responsibility to the family of God and also the other parts of my immediate family, that they are equally as important. In this way it brings clarity, proper attitude and character into place.

My prayer for all of you at this point is one of the Apostle Paul's prayer for spiritual wisdom, here in **Ephesians 1:15-18**. **"Ever since I first heard of your strong faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for God's people everywhere, I have not stopped thanking God for you. I pray for you constantly, asking God, the glorious Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, to give you spiritual wisdom and insight so that you might grow in your knowledge of God. I pray that your hearts will be flooded with light so that you can understand the confident hope He has given to those He called-His holy people who are His rich and glorious inheritance."** WOW! This encounter has absolutely in a way that is taking many adjustments, but also necessary help to step into the next season of life and maturity in Christ.

Christ has opened the door so the view is very clear in most areas. Let's read these next few Scriptures together. **John 10:9, "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture."** And now **2 Corinthians 2:12-16, "Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said goodbye to them and went on to Macedonia. But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ's triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?"** The second part of these verses have become even more real than ever because of the revelation of the Spirit and the divine revelation of my calling in the body of Christ, to the lost, family and also friends, WOW!

What an awesome blessing and what deep personal revelation. It's like an open door into heaven here on earth. Which I might add, comes with great joy, hope and curiosity as well as reverent awe, and sometime moving the spiritual senses to the brink of absolute bliss. Some days I'm like, "This is just unbelievable. Praise God!" He is such an awesome DADDY, with compound capitals! I hope the Lord reveals to you all a glimpse into the doorway of this spiritual life. What an awesome experience it is. My hopes for the whole family of Overcomers for Christ are that you all stay in His presence and in prayer as we are in a very special time in history.

As I come to the end of this message I pray that it is a blessing to someone somewhere. I'll close with **Proverbs 8:1-4** (TPT), **"Can't you hear the voice of Wisdom? From the top of the mountains of influence she speaks into the gateways of the glorious city. At the place where pathways merge, at the entrance of every portal, there she stands, ready to impart understanding, shouting aloud to all who enter, preaching her sermon to those who will listen. "I'm calling to you, sons of Adam, yes, and to you daughters as well."**

Pride By R.V.

No more pride ... my pride kept me from asking people in Christ for help with my ever growing fear, my stress, because I didn't want people to think I was weak. I've spent 39 years in jails and prisons. I was what was known as a shot caller for the Native Americans for the better part of 35 years. I could never show weakness and that caused a very strong will and ugly pride. Anyhow, 3 1/2 days with no food, no water ... I cried with all my heart, mind, and soul to God pleading to know where I was broken. For Him to either take me home or to fix me!

He did both, He fixed me and He showed me at my time He will take me home. It seems strange, you know His still small voice, He sees everything before it happens. He says He has taken me home or He shall take me home and either way He spoke to me.

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Isaiah 40:1-41:4

Instead of giving warning to the people of God's coming judgment, Isaiah comforts them. **(40:1)** At this point, Judah still has 100 years of trouble before Jerusalem would fall, followed by 70 years of exile. God tells Isaiah to comfort the people.

When your life seems to be falling apart, ask for God's comfort. You might not get out of the situation but you will gain God's peace and comfort as you go through it. That being said, sometimes our only comfort is in the knowledge that in the end we will be with God. **(40:1-2)**

It's only when we reach God's eternal world that we will obtain final solutions to our needs and problems. **(40:6-8)**

Even the strongest people, get tired at times, yet it's God's strength and power that never fades. He is never worn out to listen or help. It's in His strength that we obtain our strength. Don't forget that you can call on God to renew your strength when you feel as though life is crushing you and you cannot take one more step. **(40:29-31)**

Every generation gets caught up in their own unique kinds of problems. But what we need to take to heart is that God's plan includes all generations. He worked in the lives of your great-grandparents and shall continue to work in the lives of your great-great-grandchildren. God is the only being that can see 200 years from now, just as clearly as He could see 2,000 years ago. When you have worries or concerns for the future give them to God for only He knows the generations of what is to come as well as the generations of what has been. **(41:4)**

Ephesians 1:1-23

Hold tight to your faith, obey God, like the Ephesians you will become known as a person who has strong faith in the Lord. **(1:1)**

God's grace is a voluntary favor given to those of us He has saved. Without God's grace, no one can be saved. **(1:7-8)**

Psalms 66:16-20

Our confession should be a continual process due to the simple fact that we continue to mess up. Yet when confessing sins, we need to stop doing what is wrong. When we refuse to repent, we're putting up a wall between us and God. Surely, we can't remember every sin, but our attitude should lean more towards obedience. **(66:18)**

Proverbs 24:8

Plotting to do evil can be as wrong as doing it because what you think determines what you will do. Left unchecked, wrong desires will lead us to sin. God wants pure hearts, free from sin, and planning evil brings sinful thoughts into our mind. Should you say, "Then I might as well go ahead and do it because I've already planned it?" No!! You have sinned in your attitude, but you have not yet harmed other people. Stop in your tracks and ask God to forgive you and put you on a different path. **(24:8)**



"Foot" Notes

I'd like to share some thoughts with you all. We've either been around people or been the people who believe that if I was only in a different environment everything would be okay.

Now those of us who have applied that concept know it doesn't work for the simple reason because the same ole you keeps showing up!!!

Here's the deal, change has to start from within and until you can embrace a change from within it won't matter what environment you plant yourself in the middle of. You'll still be running into the same walls.

This is the point you trust in God to guide you on your journey of inward change. When you walk this type of path your environment will no longer matter. You can be who you strive to be and the environment cannot dictate who you are to be or how you will act.

Vaya con Dios ... Love to ya'll short and tall!!

Overcomer's Testimonies

Take the Limits Off of God

By R.W.

I just finished reading your letter and I felt like I wanted to tear up. For some unknown reason I haven't cried in many years. But these were tears of joy that wanted to come out of me this time. Thank you.

I always read what you write in the newsletters but in one particular issue you wrote about the things you were going through physically. I've got to say that the faith you had when you told the nurse "That you knew God had healed you and would she believe that with you," I really needed to read that. You have been my mentor and you've been disciplining me my whole time down, and I never knew it.

I guess the reason I haven't written you much was because I was still making plenty of mistakes and didn't feel right writing there. Instead, I should have stayed in contact with my brothers and sisters there at the Overcomers for Christ. You all are the ones that have never stopped sending me the newsletters when everyone else had given up at times. So, to all of you there that devote your time to the lost, "I thank Jesus and you as well."

I have to be totally honest with you. I am a far cry from a saint and more of a confused work in progress. I've been up and down these last couple of years, full of mixed emotions, depression, anxiety, loneliness, addictions and anger. Even though I caught a few tickets I was also doing lots of good. Through all of my troubles and worries of the past and the anxiety of what's still to come, I always find a way back to my knees before Jesus.

About a year ago, maybe less, I was starting to lose trust, faith and care because I was focused on what I didn't have materially and all of my loses. Watching most of the brothers I was in church with every week I felt they were being ungodly. It was as though they were being so judgmental with each other, they might as well be throwing stones at each other. It seemed like it was always a 'me' contest. I didn't agree with it and I started to doubt Jesus. I'm sorry Jesus.

It was at that point that I gave up and started drinking hooch and lost the very little bit that I did have. I got hooked up with some Muslim brothers that accepted me the way that I was but there was always a bad feeling inside of me, like I was doing something wrong. They taught me to pray their way and gave me a Quran which I read and read. As I read the stories most were very similar. But nothing compared to the feeling that I felt in my heart and soul when I looked one of these new brothers in the eye and told him, "Jesus died for our sins." He looked at me and told me that I was wrong and that "I was sinning against Allah". I felt so much shame and hurt for Jesus in my heart and mind. Immediately I said, "I'm sorry Jesus, I repent."

I started to remember who had been with me every single step of the way. God has been with me through all of the gang violence, through all the drunkard long nights when I was unaware of where I was or what I was doing. He was the One that helped me to walk again after shattering all the bones in my left ankle and foot, and when I snapped my fibula in a riot. He was the One who seen me through some of the roughest jails and prisons in California. The One who didn't let me die when I was shot at six times and only one bullet hit me under my left knee. When I was stabbed He was the One that always heard my cry for help.

When I was in the world doing what I thought to be normal I came back home like the prodigal son and today, I feel more accepted than ever before. More than anything these last few months my eyes and mind have been opened. Sure I've made a couple of mistakes where I let pride get in the way along with protecting myself. But all in all, I see my mistakes now and with his help I correct my faults. I humble myself and I try to help the next person.

Just a short time back a young kid came on the yard and said that he had never been to prison. I will say that he smelled and people here were making an issue of it. I gave this kid the little bit of hygiene that I had, not knowing how I was going to get anymore. But you know what, I didn't care, and a million bucks couldn't give me the feeling that I felt about that decision.

A couple days later this other guy comes up to me and told me, "Hey, you know that kid you gave your hygiene to is gay, right?" I told him, "So!" Then he told me, "You know he sold that hygiene for some smokes, right?" Instantly I got mad and started on my way to confront the kid. On my way there something inside of me said, "Forgive them for they don't know." I knew it had to be Jesus speaking to me so I responded with, "Thank You Jesus" and I continued on to chow.

I feel through all of my life's mishaps and struggles I have been being molded to overcome for Christ and in turn help the next lost soul to understand God's love and I'm reminded of **1 Corinthians 13:11**, where Paul said, **"When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me."** With this I say that I am ready for whatever Jesus Christ wants for me to do. All these blunt numerous

signs aren't for nothing. If this is what He wants from me then I say, "His will be done" and I truly accept His invitation from the center of my heart.

I'm excited to break this cycle and do something different with my life. I'll admit that I worry a lot and I know that I shouldn't. I was adapted to that other way of living for so long that at times I'm still afraid of failing. I'm tired of being a failure. I refuse to continue to allow satan to keep pulling me down. Today, I'm willing to do and take whatever steps it takes to make a better life for me and my family.

What Others Are Saying...

"Hello there family, God bless all of you with best wishes and a double portion of His grace, hope and faith. The reason I haven't written in awhile is because I've been getting some things in order in the order of my relationship with the Lord. I want to thank you all for your continued service in the Lord to all of us here in prison. Your prayers continue to reach home in our hearts." - **C.B.**

"I received your letter with a grateful heart! I really needed to hear from you. Your letters have always given me the encouragement I've needed at exactly the right time. I always appreciate the birthday wishes as well. My connection to LWBC and my small part of the ~~OC~~ ministry has always been a source of strength for me over these last 11 years, in and out of prison, so I can't put into words how very grateful I am for you and ALL the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ family. Truly heartfelt. I am amazed right along with you in all that God has done with this ministry and continues to do in and through you personally. Praise be to God!" - **M.D.**

"To the people of ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ. First off, thanks! For responding back to me so quickly, which caught me by surprise, because I really wasn't expecting that. And honestly that was just a shot in the dark by me writing to have you guys return that picture I'd sent you back to me. And I assume that just opened up a good door for me! Because of the response I've gotten in that letter and welcoming me into your lives/family, off the bat, without really knowing me to begin with, I felt the Lord's embracement of the people of Christ when I was reading that letter that Mr. Wade Anderson had written me back." - **S.L.**

"~~Overcomers~~ for Christ, I've been meaning to write to you though something always pulls my train from the track. First of all I am thankful and appreciate that I hear from you all monthly. My birthday cards I receive yearly are amazing. This year you're the only people I got a birthday card from, besides a few dollars from a beloved. In the prime of my life, I wish I would have known then what I know now." - **T.W.**

"I really, really love the card you sent me, it was lovely and made my day when I got it. I was laying on my bunk when the CO was passing out mail. When he stopped in front of my cell door and dropped off your card I was so happy. It was in the middle of the night so I jumped off my bunk and turned on the light just to read that card. I love it! It said, "**Walk in Love**", that's a beautiful thing. Jesus is always on time when I need Him. And yes, I do have someone else I'd like for you to send the newsletter to." - **G.F.**

"I want to thank you for the card and encouraging words. It means a lot to me when I get a piece of mail from you all. I try to stay positive the best that I can. I do alright until the weekends when everyone gets visits. Then I get depressed and down in the dumps. I hate being so far away from home in Mississippi. Because of that, I'll probably never have a visit while I'm here." - **D.T.**

"Hey now family! I hope this finds all of you doing well and in the best of health. I'm sure that it will. I'm doing the best that I can on this end. You know how it is, some days are better than others. I just wanted to drop you all a few lines to let you know how much I appreciate you being there for me. That birthday card really meant a lot, it was the only one I got. And the newsletters always brighten up my day, thank you for that. I can hardly wait to get out and meet you and the rest of the family there at ~~OC~~. Keep up the great work, stay strong and keep the faith." - **R.F.**

"~~OC~~ family, it's great when I hear from you. The only mail I get is from the ~~OC~~ family. The cards mean so much, it seems like someone cares. Praise God! And I thank you for all of your prayers and time." - **M.G.**

"I'm in Red Rock and I'm reading this book called, *DAD, Becoming the father every child needs, and every wife desires*. It's a good book and I was wondering how I could get more books like this one. My children are in CPS at the moment and their mom and I are no longer together, but I will see her because we still have our children together. Maybe one day when I see her I could talk to her about this book and what I've learned from it. Because of the children being at CPS we have to go to parenting classes. So when I seen this DAD book in the chaplain's office I picked it up and started reading it. Thank you for the books and your time." - **N.R.**

GRUNTZ



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
Florence - Florence High School 1000 S. Main St. Florence, AZ 85132

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

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

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REVEAL

By H.A.M.

H.A.M. was instructed by Holy Spirit to write these words to 'REVEAL' as a song.

Shine glory shine, Spirit of the Lord, Reveal in us Your Power, As we come in one accord
Help us to be open faced, Reflections of Your love, Forgetting what's been left behind, Looking now above.

Rebirth us into Your vessels of mercy, Radiate Your brightness in all that we do
Make our actions a mirror of Your goodness, Lord Jesus - our armor - we live for You
Strong Tower our hearts into knockout perfection, Enlighten our minds to reason like You
Bridle our tongues with holy conversion, Strengthen us for the slim path that's true

Shine glory shine, Spirit of the Lord, Reveal in us Your Power, As we come in one accord
Help us to be open-faced, Reflections of Your love, Forgetting what's been left behind, Looking now above.

Bring down the walls of demonic elations, Open closed ears for Your Holy Word
Talent us bold for Your sanctification, Enlighten lost eyes let them not be blurred
Reflect Your grace in our every action, Help us to love the un loveable too
Channel through us waves of forgiveness, Magnify to all our love for You

Shine glory shine, Spirit of the Lord, Reveal in us Your Power, As we come in one accord
Help us to be open faced, Reflections of Your love, Forgetting what's been left behind, Looking now above.

Let not our anger have domination, Lord bend that proud and stiff necked
Burden our flesh to yield to Your Spirit, Embolden our speech - let us not be shy
Flower our souls with hilarious giving, Open closed doors - set the captives free
Uproot the barriers that feed segregation, Pour out Your Spirit so all may see.

Help us be better stewards by sending your change of address when you move to help reduce unnecessary waste and expense

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