

# Overcomers for Christ

March 2025

## Peace



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



# Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

## December 2024





## Responding

By P.G.

Shout out to all my brothers and sisters in Christ behind these walls. To all my **DOE** family, remember Heaven is our home, we are just here recruiting. There is a long table in Heaven with empty seats, our seats have been reserved, now we are helping fill in the other ones. I pray that this message would find its place in your hearts and that it would bear roots and grow fruits, in the Mighty name of Jesus Amen.

There has been a lot of prophetic words spoken over the prison systems by many Pastors on Pando: House of Rest Church, Pastor Rocha, has stated many of times along with brother Jerney and sister Eve on Real Vida, that God is raising an army of generals inside of the prison system. And we are **ALL** parts of that prophetic word. I once heard on Real Vida radio podcast, a minister had a vision. At the end of the vision the Lord tells the minister in his vision "Tell My people that great treasure is behind these walls. In these forgotten vessels, My people must come forth and touch these ones for a mighty anointing will be unleashed upon these for future victory in My kingdom and they must be restored." This is speaking of me and you, brothers and sisters, but it is up to us to respond.

In **Revelation 3:14-21** (KJV), Jesus says, *"And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of My mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.*

*As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne."*

The Church of Laodicea is being spoken of here, the church was complacent, and this is written to the church corporately and individually. The church was lukewarm and because of that a warning was given to tighten up or get spued out. We have to repent from our complacency as a church individually and corporately. We are the church, the Spirit of God dwells in each and every single one of us, upon being reborn. We cannot become complacent when God is moving and pouring out His Spirit upon us and these units. It is time for us to respond.

In **Revelation 3:20**, Jesus says, *"I stand at the door and knock and that if any MAN hears My voice and opens the door ..."* Put your hand on your heart, do you feel that thump? Every heartbeat that beats in your chest is Jesus knocking on the door of your heart. But it is up to you how you are going to respond. Are you going to invite Him in so that He can do what He has to do in and through you? When that heartbeat stops there are no more chances. Some of us have opened the door but have not invited Him in. Imagine opening the door to a visitor and then just standing there looking at them, in silence. We do not know when the heartbeat is going to stop, so answer the knock and invite Him in, so that He can come in and fellowship with you. Now notice, again, what Jesus says in **Verse 21**, *"I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me."*

Let's read another parable where Jesus teaches about this same invitation, now here in **Luke 14:16-24**, together, *"A certain man gave a great supper and invited many, and sent his servant at supper time to say to those who were invited, 'Come, for all things are now ready.' But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, 'I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.' And another said, 'I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.' Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.' So that servant came and reported these things to his master. Then the master of the house, being angry, said to his servant, 'Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in here the poor and the maimed and the lame and the blind.' And the servant said, 'Master, it is done as you commanded, and still there is room.' Then the master said to the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say to you that none of these men who were invited shall taste my supper.'"*

The pre invited guests is referring to the people of Israel, but they rejected the invitation. Then, **Verse 18** states that they even began to make excuses. What excuses do we make for not responding to the knock? Are we at the door telling Jesus, "Hold on let me get my house in order." No! He will do the ordering. Or did we open the door, but just stand there looking at Him? When the heartbeat stops there's no more chances.

Now, let's read **Matthew 22:1-14**, together, *"And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, and sent out his servants to*

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call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, 'See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.' But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. Therefore go into the highways, and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who did not have on a wedding garment. So he said to him, 'Friend, how did you come in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Here in this text, instead of making excuses, they just rejected the invitation. There in **Matthew 22:14**, the word "called" is a universal call to repentance and faith in the finished works of Jesus Christ. This call is to all who will hear the Gospel; however, many hear it and few respond to it.

In **Matthew 7:13-14** (NIV), again we read these encouraging words from Jesus, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it." Sadly, in our environment today, it is easier for us to go with the grain, and this path, as we all may have experienced, leads only to destruction. The 'path of life' is when we go against the grain, it's not going to be easy, but the reward is eternity (forever is a long time) in His presence, choose today which way you will go.

Those who respond to this call become God's chosen. We do not need to be Bible scholars to answer and respond to the calling. Listen here how Paul explains, in **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**, "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. Therefore, as it is written: 'Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.'" Chosen means to be selected for oneself.

Paul, again, here in **Ephesians 1:4-6**, states, "For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight. In love He predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves." In our being chosen we see here that we are selected for a sovereign purpose, "Before the creation of the world."

Let's continue and read **1 Peter 2:4-10**, "As you come to Him, the living Stone - rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him - you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.' (Isaiah 28:16) Now to you who believe, this Stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' (Psalm 118:22) and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' (Isaiah 8:14) They stumble because they disobey the message - which is also what they were destined for. But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."

I've added in the other Old Testament Scripture references for your further study. As you study those Scriptures, they will also take you to other New Testament Scriptures concerning this same message.

Notice there in **Verse 9**, it says that we **ARE** chosen to proclaim the excellencies of Him, to proclaim His name. Now that we are a chosen people for a sovereign purpose, how are we going to respond? It is time for us to lay aside our agenda for His, it's time to choose His way of life, so that He can live in and through us. This choosing is not based on our own merit, or because we are a special people. It is based on His choosing to knock on the door, and us responding and inviting Him into our lives. In **John 15:16**, Jesus assures us, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed

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## What Others Are Saying

"I'm smiling as I think about the revival and how God is moving and touching the hearts and minds of young people across this country, and that you can see His life changing Power on display in those people's lives! I've been watching the news a lot lately following the events that are taking place in Israel. It's crazy how so many people in this country are protesting on college campuses and various other places in support of Hamas and trying to justify the murder and butchery of all those Jews on October 7. Yet despite all that is going on in this world I see The Lord at work in such an awesome way, as you just experienced at the revival on the campus of Arizona university. When I think about it, I am reminded that the evil that is taking place throughout the world today is of course orchestrated by satan. It's clear to see that the problem is the **HEART** of people and until that changes in the hearts and minds of people nothing is ever going to change! And only Jesus can change the heart through the Holy Spirit of course!! Thank you, brother, for sharing the events at the revival with me. I just wanted to affirm to you that you were blessed to be a part of it and to witness God's Grace and awesome power on display. It goes without saying that the enemy was again defeated, and you know he left that revival angry at God, at you, and everyone who received salvation as well as everyone who played a part in making that revival happen! That last sentence alone causes me to smile, brother! And like I said, even though I couldn't be there with you in the flesh I was there in the spirit! What an awesome God we serve and what an honor it is to be a servant of the King of Kings!! God bless you!" - **W.R.**

"To all the **Overcomers for Christ** team! I can't tell you how much of a blessing your newsletters have become to me, and the men here around me. I read it, take notes and then pass them over to others. We always get blessed by your teaching, and the testimonies included in them. Please keep them coming." - **C.B.**

"I've gotta say, thank you! Your letters and cards, over the years, have been rare pleasures to receive. I really do appreciate them. I just wanted to thank you and everyone there at the **OC&C** for what you do, and what you stand for. Duck, you have lived this lifestyle, and your testimonies give people hope. Thank you." - **T.E.**

"Just wanted to say- Happy Sunday!! Jesus loves you **VERY BERRY MUCH!** Have a blessed week! Thank you for reaching out and sharing with me about the Revival and all. I love you all as my extended family, one I look forward to meeting!" - **J.L.**

"Well thanks for your kind words and your very easy for me to understand guidance! I like the way you explain things to me. It's just like you said, I have felt the anger and pain leave!! I am very willing to give it all to Jesus and run away from it all! Forgiving people is and never has been a problem for me. Right now, I am trying to understand why sometimes I feel all gungho about reading and studying, and other times not so much. Then afterwards I feel like I didn't put enough of an effort in. I don't understand why it's like that; I love Jesus just as much on my off days as my bursting with love days. I need to start reading more but my get up and do it is not around. I think I lost it! Some time's I have trouble finding the enthusiasm to do things in this place, that's why I can't wait to get out there. I know I will have to learn to slow down!" - **M.G.**

"I want to thank you all there at the **OC&C** for the years of support. I think what you all are doing is very important. You continue to be our connection to God and to a Christian family. I also pray for your continued success, growth and God's favor on all of you there at the **OC&C**." - **B.C.**

"Thank you so much for the card, it has so much love poured into it, with so many signatures. Thank you all so much that you guys remember my birthday, every year. I'm just filled with so much grace and gratitude. May your prayers be answered and the blessings of God to all of you there. I pray your hearts are filled with joy and smiles like mine is right now." - **Y.T.**

"I received the Birthday wishes from all you brothers and sisters at the **Overcomers for Christ**, **WOW!** I was very overwhelmed with joy at such a great surprise. It really touched me to the core of my heart. It brought tears to my eyes. That may sound strange but for me, being in prison now, into my 10th year without family for the last seven of it, I truly felt like I was loved, and by people I've actually never even met. Needless to say, it was very emotional. God is great, and through Him and His love for the first time in a long time I felt loved. Through the **Overcomers for Christ**, I feel as though I have people. God knows how lonely my life has been, so He has provided all of you for me. Thank you all so much." - **D.P.**



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Give and It Will Be Given Back to You

By H.A.M.

I've been trying to clarify to our Chaplin here, why I firmly believe that the New Testament doesn't exclude giving tithes and offerings. IF the 10% tithe had been abolished by Jesus, it would have been stated in no uncertain terms via His Word, right?

***"The Lord saw how great the wickedness of the human race had become on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of the human heart was only evil all the time. The Lord regretted that He had made human beings on the earth, and His heart was deeply troubled ... But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord. This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, blameless among the people of his time, and he walked faithfully with God." (Genesis 6:5-6, 8-9)***

Once you begin to understand how much God loves you, your love for Him will naturally increase. You'll want to give to Him and bless Him. You'll want to do all that you can to express your affection and gratitude towards the One who has done so much for you. But what can you give God, who is already the Creator and possessor of everything? How can you bless the source of all blessings? Well, you can walk with Him by faith. You can be one of those rare people who honors Him by believing what He says and stand fast on His Word, even when it contradicts what is seen in the natural world. Despite the taunts of the devil and the criticism of skeptics, this person says, "I believe my heavenly Father. I have His Word, and I will trust it no matter what happens, I will not let go!"

That's the kind of man Noah was. When God told him a flood was coming and instructed him to build the Ark, no one had ever seen rain before. Up to this point, the earth had always been watered from beneath its surface. So, when Noah began to preach about this coming flood and prepared for it by constructing a boat the size of a football field, no doubt people laughed at him. They probably made fun of 'crazy ole Noah' and labeled him a fanatic.

Year after year went by, and Noah kept building. There were probably no storm clouds in the sky either, or no indication in the natural world that God's warning would ever come to pass, but Noah wasn't moved by any of that. Instead, Noah just kept believing God. The rest of the world was in the dark, but when the flood came, Noah and his family weren't in the dark because they were in the Ark! If we truly love the Lord, that's the way you'll live. When you see something in His Word, you'll obey it in faith.

Let's look at some Scriptures now, in **Malachi 3:8-11**, ***"Will a mere mortal rob God? Yet you rob Me. But you ask, 'How are we robbing you?' 'In tithes and offerings. You are under a curse—your whole nation—because you are robbing Me. Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test Me in this,' says the Lord Almighty, 'and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it. I will prevent pests from devouring your crops, and the vines in your fields will not drop their fruit before it is ripe,' says the Lord Almighty."***

***"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." (Luke 6:38)***

***"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work." (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)***

Now when you read for example that God loves a cheerful, generous, prompt-to-do-it giver and rewards them with abundance, you won't stop giving just because your bank account doesn't skyrocket overnight. Instead, you'll just keep acting on God's Word and trusting the Lord of hosts. You'll do it simply because you love Him. You'll do it because you believe in Him. You'll do it because you want to bless Him, and He'll appreciate it too.

The Bible says His eyes go to and fro throughout the earth looking for someone like that. He found that in Noah. And if you truly love Him, He will find one in you!



# Overcomers for Christ

## From the Inside

### Faithful to the End

By C.P.

The last time that I wrote to you, I told you that my Son had gotten shot. Thank you for the Prayers. Although he was shot right next to his heart, he made it! Prayer works! Praise The Lord! He still has some bullet fragments on his heart, but he's already back hunting and fishing.

I was able to lead another person to the Lord last week. (Amen) Well, I've been in here for nine years now, and I have had the opportunity to lead seven people to Christ! All of my cellie's know that the Bible gets opened up every day, it doesn't just collect dust, **AMEN**. I've continued these nine years faithful in the Lord. Most of my cellie's eventually start reading their Bible also. I can honestly say that I've have been drug free the whole time. This God thing sure does get sweeter with time! Yep, the only 'pill' is the "GosPill"! Amen!? Pray for all the people who struggle with the spice and pills. It looks like the walking dead around here. Thank God for the Christian brothers around me. Out of about 400 people, we have close to forty solid meat-eating Christian brothers here.

Hey, my birthday is the 29th of this month! But I don't really celebrate that fake Birthday. My real Birth-Day is May 12th, 1982, the day when I accepted Jesus as my Savior. I still remember the Pastor who led me to the Lord, Dick Seaton. Amen!

I always read my *Overcomers for Christ* newsletters, and it's always inspiring to see Anthony grow up and staying faithful. What great examples he has in front of him. Even though I might not write as much as I should, you are all in my prayer's every night, faithfully, since I've meet Brother Wade at the Maricopa County Jail, almost 10 years ago. Forty-two more years to go, but I don't care, I'm still shouting from the mountain top or down in the Valley. Praise God! Heck, I might even work on my Appeal someday. I haven't had enough of the Bible yet to start studying any law books! I know who is in control, and for that I'm grateful. Even with all of these crazy war's going on, we still know Who is in control. God allows everything to happen for a reason. Because He gave us a free will, He will **NOT** go against the 'free will' He gave to **ALL** mankind. God is Boss Amen! Whether we believe it or not, God said it, and that settles it!

The harvest is so ripe for the picking around here. It seems like the lost around this place are throwing themselves at the Gospel. Everyone just talks about getting out of here! Sure, it would be nice to get out, but there is so much treasure around here to lay up in heaven, you'd almost have to be crazy to leave.

I have finished my appeal I'll be mailing it off real soon. So don't be surprised if you see me at your door asking if I could sign some cards and help sending out some letters. Heck, I might even go get me a job at Andrew Womacks Bible College! Thank you for turning me on to his ministry. I watch him every time the Lord permits. Do me a favor, let everyone serving there in the *Overcomers for Christ* team know that all their cards and help are a real inspiration for me as I keep serving God. May your rewards be plentiful in Heaven. You are all such a blessing. As Brother 'Foot' says, Love to you all short and tall. God Bless us All.

*Jeremiah 33:3 – "Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come."* - Praise God Always.

### My Inner Spiritual Being

By I.S.

I read Part 1 Vision/Imagination which you wrote and experienced and it's an eye opener for whoever reads it. God created us with the ability to see visions if we're willing to really focus on them as much more than just a dream. He speaks to us when He knows our minds are not preoccupied with worldly issues and what better way to do that than when we're asleep. God is capable of transforming even the most nonbeliever that was ever born. Sure, there are days when I wonder, "Why has this taken place in my life and what's the purpose."

I know God has plans for me and eventually they'll be revealed. I do know this much; my inner spiritual being is fully attentive to His Word on a daily basis and has been for many years. I rarely, if at all, read the Word when I was out there. I had a Bible always available in my house, but I failed to read it. Yet, through all my issues, health wise and getting into fights, He was always there to walk with me and carry me when I could no longer walk on my own.



# Foot's Bible Study

## Amos 7:1-9:15

The people had no appetite for God's Word when prophets like Amos brought it. Because of their apathy, God said He would take away even the opportunity to hear His Word. We have God's Word, the Bible. But many still look everywhere for answers to life's problems except in Scripture. You can help them by directing them to the Bible, showing them the parts that speak to their special needs and questions. God's Word is available to us.

Let us help people know it before a time comes when they cannot find it. (8:11-13)

We must not assume that going to church and being good are enough. God expects our belief in Him to affect all areas of our conduct and to extend to all people and circumstances. We should let Amos's words inspire us to live faithfully, according to God's desires. (9:13-15)

## Revelation 3:7-22

Christians have differing gifts, abilities, experience and maturity. God doesn't expect us all to be and act the same, but He does expect us to "hold on" to what we have, to persevere in using our resources for Him.

The Philadelphians are commended for their efforts to obey (3:8) and encouraged to hold tightly to whatever strength they have. You may be a new believer and feel that your faith and spiritual strength are little. Use what you have to live for Christ and God will commend you. (3:11)

## Psalms 131:1-3

Pride results from overvaluing ourselves above others. It leads to restlessness because it makes us dissatisfied with what we have and concerned about what everyone else is doing. It keeps us always hungering for more attention and adoration. By contrast, humility puts others first and allows us to be content with God's leading in our lives. Such contentment gives us security so that we no longer have to prove ourselves to others.

Let humility and trust affect your perspective and give you the strength and freedom to serve God and others. (131:1-2)

## Proverbs 29:23

Eventually, pride will end in humiliation. It's only a matter of time before you and your prideful ways will be put in check which in turn will cause you to look like a fool. Yet, if you humble yourself and continue through life being humble, God will honor you. (29:23)



## "Foot" Notes

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

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



**you to go and bear fruit. Fruit that will last ..."** Then, Jesus again, **John 15:18-19** says, **"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you."** God has chosen us out of the world, tied in with **John 17:18**, **"As You sent Me into the world, I have sent them into the world."** God has called us and chosen us, and **NOW** He is sending us into the world to share the Good News of Jesus them! Brother Renee says, "We have to put the Go in the Gospel. Amen."

From Abraham, Moses, Gideon, Elijah, Daniel, the twelve disciples and the Apostle Paul, among many more, these great men of God were called for His purpose. When the first disciples of Jesus were called, as we read here in **Mark 1:16-17**, it was for a purpose, **"As Jesus walked by the sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. 'Come follow Me,' Jesus said, 'and I will make you fisher of men.' At once they left their nets and followed Him."** Today, Jesus still needs followers, not just believers. Too many believers stop to count the cost. I say this not to scare you, but to show you the requirement. Just know we go in His strength, we follow in His strength, but it's going to cost us total submission to His calling to follow Him.

Let's listen how Jesus explains "the cost", here in **Luke 14:25-35**, **"Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them He said: 'If anyone comes to Me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be My disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple. Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you, saying, 'This person began to build and wasn't able to finish.'"**

**Or suppose a king is about to go to war against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he is able with ten thousand men to oppose the one coming against him with twenty thousand? If he is not able, he will send a delegation while the other is still a long way off and will ask for terms of peace. In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be My disciples."**

**Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; it is thrown out. Whoever has ears to hear, let them hear."**

In those days, a criminal had to carry their own cross to the place of execution, showing submission and to warn others to submit to the Roman government. The people in the crowd along with the disciples knew what carrying the cross meant. Sometimes it gets heavy, we get tired and worn out, but we never must drop it and quit, we have to persevere, we have to fight the good fight of faith.

In **Mark 8:34-38**, again Jesus, we read, **"Then He called the crowd to Him along with His disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be My disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the Gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul? If anyone is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His Father's glory with the holy angels.'" Here, the reference in Verse 34, "If anyone wishes to come after Me" means that we must walk the path which He walked. The path of self-denial and bearing our own cross. The cross is the symbol of suffering. So, what does the cross represent? Death to self, and beyond. Are we ready to lay it all on the line for the sake of the kingdom, unto the point of death.**

In **Philippians 3:4-6**, Paul gives his "pedigree", in the flesh, **"though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless."**

Listen closely, here in **Philippians 3:7-11**, as Paul begins to, with the help of the Holy Spirit and his new personal understanding, impart to us this descriptive picture, **"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead."** In Verse 10 we can see that He knew He would have to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. Are we ready to suffer for someone else? Well, Jesus suffered for us. We are currently in a state of suffering, but for the wrong reasons. Let's be ready to suffer for Christ. Storms are coming, persecution, tribulation, suffering, trials are coming.



But God, right, but God provides Hope, that Hope has a name, and His name is Jesus Christ.

Now, **John 16:33**, Jesus encourages us with, *"I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* Remember back there in **Mark 8:35**, where Jesus stated, *"For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for Me and for the gospel will save it."* I guess my question right here is, which life do you want to hold on to, the old life you are hanging onto or eternal life? If we are completely devoted to holding on to this life, we will miss the life that is forever in His presence. This life, this world, is fading away and will one day disappear, but eternal life is forever. One life leads to eternity in His presence, the other alternative/eternity **WILL BE** in a place where there is *"weeping and gnashing of teeth"* (**Matthew 13:42**). That place also has a name, and it's Hell!

Paul was sold out for the Gospel, and he was so devoted to the mission that he was willing to lose his life. Reflect, for a moment, back to **Mark 8:36**, where Jesus was expressing, *"What is the value of obtaining all the pleasures of the world, if a person dies and cannot enjoy it?"*

John records in **1 John 2:15-17**, *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever."* I truly do not believe that John is saying that we shouldn't have nice things. What I do believe he is encouraging us with is that our hearts are not 'seeking after and storing up a warehouse full of earthly treasures for a few short years, if it means the loss of eternal life.' We should be seeking eternal treasures, things like soul-winning and discipling others so that they grow and mature for kingdom business. Imagine hearing, "well done good and faithful servant," this is what we should be seeking after.

**Verse 38 of Chapter 8 of Mark:** to be ashamed, is to deny Christ rather than own Him or follow Him. We may face a time when we have to renounce Christ and live or accept Him and face death, to do the former is like if we are taking a stand with this adulterous and sinful generation instead of with Christ.

**Luke 9:57-62** – *"As they were walking along, someone said to Jesus, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' But Jesus replied, 'Foxes have dens to live in, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place even to lay his head.' He said to another person, 'Come, follow Me.' The man agreed, but he said, 'Lord, first let me return home and bury my father.' But Jesus told him, 'Let the spiritually dead bury their own dead! Your duty is to go and preach about the Kingdom of God.' Another said, 'Yes, Lord, I will follow you, but first let me say good-bye to my family.' But Jesus told him, 'Anyone who puts a hand to the plow and then looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.'"*

So what does Jesus want from us? To be sold out, all in for His name's sake. The same way we were sold out for the streets, the world and this life in prison. A verse in a secular song states, "There is no half way crooks" our Father does not want halfhearted commitment. No lukewarm Christians or churches, for the Word of God says He will spit us out. NIV Bible commentary "We cannot pick and choose among Jesus' ideas and follow Him selectively, we have to accept the cross along with the crown. We must count the cost and be willing to abandon everything else that has given us security—without looking back. With our eyes on Jesus, we should allow nothing to distract us from following Him." Amen!

Who is willing to respond to the calling?



*Quote Worthy*

*"I believe that the greatest gift you can give your family and the world is a healthy you."*

- Joyce Meyer – (1943 - ) an American Charismatic Christian author, speaker, and president of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

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## WORD OF THE MONTH

### Comity

Pronunciation – co-mi-ty kā-mə-tē

Noun – 1a: friendly social atmosphere; social harmony; 1b: a loose widespread community based on common social institutions; 1c: the informal and voluntary recognition by courts of one jurisdiction of the laws and judicial decisions of another

2: avoidance of proselytizing members of another religious denomination

*"The owners of the health club would occasionally hold social lunches or group outings in an effort to improve comity among staff members"*

*Did You Know ...* "Our country soweth also in the field our breasts many precious seeds, as ... honest behavior, affability, **comity**," wrote English clergyman Thomas Becon in 1543. Becon's use is an early documented appearance of **comity** – a word derived from Latin *comitas*, meaning "friendliness, courtesy, or graciousness." **Comity** is largely used in political and judicial contexts. Since the early 19th century, the phrase **comity of nations** has referred to countries bound by a courteous relationship based on mutual recognition of executive, legislative, and judicial acts. And, in legal contexts, **comity** refers to the recognition by courts of one jurisdiction of the laws and judicial decisions of another.

### Did You Know?

The Washington Monument is built with 36,491 marble bricks.

### Joke of the Month

What did Jonah's family say when he told them about what happened before reaching Nineveh?

"Hmm, sounds fishy."

#### ATTENTION

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#### Editor's Note

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

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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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## Eternal Life

By J.B.

My life is a lie, I blend in with the crowd,  
With my head down, so no one sees my frown,  
Tears from a clown, I thought they bring joy,  
Made to be a man, when I was just a boy.

So much in this world, that I have yet to see,  
My father died young ... it built up hate in me,  
Now I have kids left out there with no dad,  
I'm on my way to prison, how could it get this bad?

Destruction, drugs, and deceit ...  
Just when I thought I stood, I feel down to my feet.

One point in time my body should have been dead,  
Now my soul is free, I have Eternal Life instead!

**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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