

Overcomers for Christ

August 2017



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

January 2017



God's Nature, Our Nature By Rodger Whisman

So, I've been asked many times, "What does God have to do with it?" and I remain to say, "EVERYTHING!"

Some questions I myself once dealt with were, "Who am I, really? Where am I going in life? There has to be a purpose in my life. What is life's suppose to be about? And even, whom is this Christ that I should serve Him?" We read, in **Colossians 3:24**, "**Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord.**"

Would you believe that God actually created man to have dominion over ALL of His creation? Well that's what God Himself said, in **Genesis 1:26**, "**Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and OVER ALL the earth, and over EVERY creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.**" Then in **Psalms 8:6**, David echo's to us yet again, "**Thou madest him (man) to have dominion over the works of Thy hands; Thou hast put ALL things under his feet:**"

Most of that dominion was forfeited at Adam's fall after disobedience to God's warnings. **Genesis 2:16-17** shows us, "**And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt NOT eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.**" By **Genesis Chapter 3** Adam had already gone against God's command and in **Genesis 3:17-19** God spoke to Adam and said, "**Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt NOT eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.**" (You can also read **Genesis 8:21** and fell God's heart) Therefore, God gave us Christ as the second Adam, to remove the curse and to reinstate the children of God, whom we are after salvation, and back in to dominion over His creation.

Today, we have access to that dominion by the Holy Spirit, through Christ our Lord, being accepted as son's and daughter's of God. Listen as **Galatians 4:3-7** explains, "**Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world: BUT WHEN the fullness of time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that WERE under the law, that we MIGHT receive the adoption of sons (and daughters). And because ye ARE sons (and daughters), God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art NO MORE servants, but a son (or daughter); and if a son (or daughter), then an heir of God through Christ.**" Paul also tells us, in **Romans 8:14-17a**, "**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they ARE the sons (and daughters) of God. For ye have NOT received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that WE ARE the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God; and joint-heirs with Christ;**" (Other references are **Romans 8:19-23**, **Ephesians 1:17-23**, **1 Corinthians 15:45-49**)

I believe one of the most important factors that we must recognize is that we were designed by God to bless others as He has blessed us. There is such a fulfillment in ones heart just accomplishing this one goal. Let's read **Galatians 5:13**, "**For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**" Here's the same Scripture, **Galatians 5:13**, from the NIV, "**You, my brothers and sisters, were called to live free. But DO NOT use your freedom to indulge the flesh, rather, serve one another humbly in love.**" Luke reminds us, here in **Acts 20:35**, "**I have shown you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'**"

Considering what you have read so far and the Scriptures used here showing that it be so, let us discuss a subject, the 'very nature' of whom God IS to understand His plan.

This is the divine nature of whom God is. God is love, forgiveness, patience, and all such virtues tie into His nature ... including miracles of diverse kinds. Let's look at just five Scripture locations as references to verify ALL of this. By using these Scriptures and the words that I have shared, and by experience, we can begin to paint a picture in our minds of God's 'True Nature'.

1) **1 John 3:1**, "**BEHOLD, WHAT manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called sons (and daughters) of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not.**"

2) **1 John 4:16**, "**And we have known and BELIEVED the love that God hath for us. God IS love; and He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.**"

3) **Ephesians 3:17-19** says, "**That Christ may dwell IN your hearts BY FAITH; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend WITH ALL saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to**

know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with ALL the fullness of God."

4) **Philippians 4:8-9, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you."**

5) **First Peter 1:2-8, "Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as His divine power hath given unto us ALL THINGS that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**

So what does all that have to do with us? EVERYTHING!

When that nature of God begins to develop in us; from the inside first and then outwardly, we will begin to see changes in our very lives. I call them 'dynamic changes' because you have begun to enter in to God's plan AND His plans for your life right here on this earth. Second **Corinthians 3:18**, tells us, **"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."** (Other references are **2 Corinthians 4:15-17** and **Philippians 3:20-21**)

Since you are by now aware that you ARE a creation of God, through **Genesis 1:26**, and that you ARE a part of God's plan from the very beginning, and if you are NOT living for God, then a piece of whom you are will ALWAYS be missing.

You were given a purpose driven life. For what? To express the very divine nature of God through you to others. How? By knowing and living God's will in all your ways, your life. YES! Others are to see God in you and through you! **Galatians 2:20** tells us this, **"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I; but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me."** Here's Paul again, in **Colossians 1:26-27**, **"Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints: To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which IS Christ in you, the hope of glory."** In **1 Peter 1:23**, Peter expounds on what Paul just wrote, **"Being born again, NOT of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever."** (Another Scripture reference is **Hebrews 1:2-3**)

Now that we've seen, through God's Word, we should begin to realize that God's plan for us is whom we are AND what we are to be on this earth (**Romans 8:28-30**). Your purpose is God's purpose for you. **Ephesians 2:10** tells us, **"For we ARE His workmanship, created IN Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."** So, again, our life is about purpose in God, doing God's will. This life AND lifestyle will fill ALL of those dark places in you and it identifies to you first whom you are and then to others around you. The 'miracle' of a changed life is a heart set for the Kingdom of Heaven! AND to take as many 'Home' there with you as you can!

My brothers and sisters, we are NOT going to surprise our Father in heaven in our oopses, mishaps, errors, sins or our present placement or displacement. In fact I believe you are reading this and feeling a pull, unction, a desire and even a tug at your heart. That is God calling out to you through His Holy Spirit. Your Father in heaven desires to talk to you, and say to you: 'I love you! I created you with purpose and intent, and I am the secret to ALL the life you are searching for.' I encourage you to allow His purpose to soak deep inside of you as you read these next Scripture references.

Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor ANY OTHER creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is IN Christ Jesus our LORD."

In **Ephesians 1:9-14**, the Apostle Paul shares this with us, **"Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: That in the dispensation of the fulness of times He might gather together in one all things IN Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in Him: In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him who worketh all things after the counsel of His own will: That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted IN Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, Which IS the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory."**

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Don't worry about anything; instead pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all He has done **Philippians 4:6 (NLT)**

Prayer Requests

I've been struggling with my thoughts and emotions and how to respond to all of this. This reflects some of the answers I have found and I'm doing my best to apply it to my life no matter the circumstances I'm dealing with. I'm in solitary confinement, max custody now due to a life sentence. Seems unfair when all of these guys are here for getting in trouble, but it is what it is. I do realize that I am here for my own poor decisions and if I have to be here for however long, then that's what I will do. Plenty of time to spend with the Lord that's for sure. I'm doing the best I can. All I ask for are your prayers specifically for the lines of communication with my son's to open as well as my family and friends ... **M.D.**

Please keep me on the prayer list that my family and I can get back together when I go home. I'm also struggling from being sick right now so please pray with me on this too ... **K.M.**

Thank you all for keeping me in your prayers. I really need every prayer possible. I still struggle with some worries/stress. I worry a lot for my mother and little daughter, who is 7 1/2 years old. I know I shouldn't worry for them, they're good, especially my daughter. She is in my mother's care and custody and I talk to them both at least twice a week. But I still stress and worry for them a lot. I'm currently on medication for depression. There are days that I don't stress, but when I do stress it hits me hard, I don't talk to others and I lose my appetite. I try to overcome those situations by trying not to think of what got me stressing in the first place, I grab a book or put on some music. My current sentence plays a major role in my depression ... **S.L.**

I would like to send in some prayer requests: 1) Approve my appeal and release from prison in 2017, 2) Heal, bless, protect and provide for me, my family, friends and dogs, 3) Remove alcohol addiction from Joey, Natasha and Eddie, 4) Help Natasha with her warrant and DUI, 5) Bless my mother, Connie, give her peace, joy, prosperity and abundance, let her stop struggling, and 6) Arizona prison and judicial reform. Thank you and God bless ... **A.H.**

I would like to put in a prayer request to pray for my family that all is well and in good health. I would like to pray for my friend's son, Ian, that he is blessed in his life with lots of love ... **K.M.**

Please pray for my cousin, Stephen, he is at home in West Virginia and his wife and sons are in North Carolina. Prayer that his wife will not file for divorce and they can reconcile and be a tight God loving, Bible believing Christian family ... **S.L.**

Praise Reports

Praise Jesus!!! Thank you for your thoughts and love. I definitely have a praise report. I'm now in contact with my kid's mother after four years of me writing letters, praying, frustration, questioning God, but through it all staying faithful, God has made a way. His thoughts and ways are different than mine. His timing, not mine. Also, after a long spell of not hearing from my mom and sister, she showed up for a visit with my sister and nephews that felt great. My nephews are saved, my sister and I said the sinner's prayer and she asked Jesus into her heart. Also, they passed a law that may affect the amount of time I have to serve on my sentence. Jesus is in control, when He's ready, these doors will open. Those who read Scripture regularly will learn to recognize the Lord's activity in their life. He always acts in accordance to His Word. I believe the most important part of my walk and continued growth in the Lord is my time alone in the morning ... **J.H.**

Greetings to you in the Jesus name!! I received your card, and know it's perfect, thank you! It's great to hear that you all are doing good cause that means that God has been on the job hearing everyone of my prayers for all of you to be blessed as much as you bless me!! Praise God! I am so happy to hear from you and the **OS+S**. What you wrote in the card was just what I needed to hear, and so many questions I prayed about were ALL answered in your message to me. I am forever grateful to you Maria! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for all of your prayers and time you take to write because in a place like this it is so hard when you think you're all alone. Then, the Lord blesses me with people like you Maria. I am doing great because God allows the blessing to keep moving forward. Plus you writing helps me pick my chin up even higher than it has been. NO doubt, Jesus does open doors for us. Praise God! I am forever grateful for the Cross, you and the **Overcomers for Christ** family ... **C.H.**

I'm loving the teachings on grace. When the church finally understands the fullness of God's grace THEN it will understand unconditional love and fall deeper in love with our Heavenly Father! WOW! That simple statement, "Our Heavenly Father," just blows my mind! The King of the universe loves us! To God be the glory, forever and ever ... **A.P.**

I received my newsletter from the **Overcomers for Christ** and it always brings a smile to read everything. Oh how the study on *Self-Centeredness* applied to my past is wild. I love all the photos, too. It's so nice to be remembered and more than once just receiving it picked me up. Praise the Lord ... **K.Z.**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

IN HIS GRACE

By G.H.

I've been in the system for 11 years with 7 1/2 left to go. Prison began as a time of correction, but blossomed into an incredible opportunity. Most of my time I've worked as a literacy/GED tutor, but 2 years ago I began working as peer facilitator in the sex offender treatment program on a medium yard. I am saddened, of course, in listening to my brothers confess why they are here. Each one, including myself, committed some sort of a sex offense; however, in almost every instance, the brother that committed the offense has himself been often abused sexually and emotionally as well as neglected as a child.

I am NOT suggesting - EVEN FOR A MOMENT - that such tragedy justifies their or my offense. However, if we do not find the compassion, mercy and love to help others begin healing from such wounds, those who deny such mercy are themselves guilty of the greatest injustice. My time here has been filled with the abundance of mercy and grace from an extraordinary God! Because of God's endless grace and favor I've been given the opportunity to earn a Bachelor's and a Master's degree in Biblical Studies and Apologetics and I am nearing completion of a PhD in Christian Leadership and Counseling. As I had begun research for my final project, a 150 page paper, I've been praying and longing for some time of solitude and silence to be able to spend some time in meditation and prayer. God provides!

I live in a 45 man dorm, designed for 26, so solitude and silence are nearly impossible. However, in recent months I've developed a skin rash, and because I filed a grievance to see an outside dermatologist they retaliated and sent me to SMU 1 for scabies treatment. Which they even admitted that I did not have. What should have been a 24-48 hour stay stretched out into eight days because the medical staff was short handed and no one would examine me or clear me to return.

My medical treatment consisted of one tube of lotion to spread over my body. However, my spiritual treatment was MUCH MORE extensive. For the first three days, I was placed in a 9x12 cell with a thin foam mattress, two blankets and nothing else ... No Bible, no books, no paper, NOTHING! But guess what I did have? Just what I prayed for, solitude, silence and days to pray and meditate! On the 4th day a CO found a Bible for me and in two days I read the whole thing! I used every hour of every day to read and study. It had been years since I had read more than one book in the Bible in a single setting. How could I have been so blind!?

I eventually returned to my unit and within four hours was able to retrieve my property, and NOTHING was missing! Within three days, I was able to return to my original single man cubical and got my old bed back. I never realized how God works all things - including a rash and medical staff - for good so He could get me alone in a quiet place where He could answer my prayers. In His Grace, for His Glory!

God is My Portion and My Strength

By R.G.

I believe and trust the Lord to restore what the locusts have eaten in my life! And what the enemy meant for bad, the Father meant for good. Yes, we will go through things in life but they all are meant for us to grow and mature from. I myself am back in the system all because 'I' chose to get back on drugs. The drugs really took me fast this time and had me doing things I had no business doing. And since I can't turn back the hands of time, the next best thing that I can do is to try and tell everyone that will listen, "The answer is NOT in drugs and alcohol! Instead the answer is in the Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ."

You see, I was given another chance by the Creator when I was released from jail. Even though my wife and I got back together I really feel that we were not ready at that time. It was obvious by our actions. We were getting high right from the jump, when we should have been thanking God for placing us back in each other's lives and seeking guidance from Him. In all of that, like they say in the program "I will not regret the past nor shut the door on it." I want my past to help someone else, hopefully by letting them know they don't have to go through it - I already did it for them!

Today I stand on these few Scriptures:

Psalm 119:114 - "You are my refuge and my shield; I have put my hope in Your Word."

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Psalm 73:26 - "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever."

Philippians 4:6 - "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Those are just a few Scriptures that help me to get through the day. Sometimes the enemy tries to get in my head, to convince me to give up. But I literally turn and tell him, "NO-WAY! GET BEHIND ME! GOD IS MY PORTION!"

Even though I just turned 50 years old this past May, and it stinks to be in here at this age, I still try to be a light to others. I exercise my mind and my body so that I am around to encourage others. Please know that I pray for all of you in my daily prayers. I ask God to continue to bless all of you there in every area of your lives so that you can keep doing what you do for all of us. God bless.

How Should I Respond to My Failure or My Setbacks?

By M.D.

I've been asking myself this question over and over this past year. To call all that I've been through a failure or a setback doesn't even begin to explain the situations I've gotten myself into. I knew that I must turn to God's Word for the answers I seek. Here is some of what I found from the **Book of Joshua Chapters 7-10**.

When the men of Israel returned from Ai, Joshua needed some answers, and so he turned immediately to prayer. He tore his cloths, which was an act of grief, and fell on his face in humiliation before the Ark of the Covenant until nightfall. All the elders joined him. Joshua cried out to God, "**LORD God, why have You brought these people over the Jordan at all - to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us?**" (Joshua 7:7)

Joshua asked the wrong question - a question many of us ask when unexpected trouble strikes. Our first impulse is often to blame God for the tragedy or problem that overwhelms us. We cry out, "Why me? What did I do to deserve this? Why did You allow me to get into this mess?" Usually, these are exactly the wrong questions to ask. Consider these more appropriate questions, "What may I have done wrong? What can I do to correct this situation?" Sometimes we need to change a habit or correct a bad attitude. We may need to confront our own sin and errors. God is always far from the cause of our trouble. We human beings are at fault, either individually or collectively.

When Joshua ceased pouring out his hurt, frustration and questions God said, "**Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face? Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them.**" (Joshua 7:10-11) When we go to God in prayer, we must be willing to hear what He says. Often we never even stop to listen to Him. We must learn to wait when we voice our petitions, to hear His response.

This is especially true when we pray in the aftermath of a setback or failure. It is also vitally important that we do this anytime we find ourselves blaming God for our troubles. We must be willing to listen for His explanation, which often includes correction. Once the Lord reveals to us what we need to do, the time for prayer has ended. Nothing more needs to be said - no excuses, no attempts to justify what we have done. We must accept what the Lord says and immediately move to obey Him. Our obedience should usually include repentance and the help for us to obey Him in the future. Our obedience must follow quickly because delayed obedience is still disobedience. Usually this requires that we make amends or take specific actions that will help right the wrong.

We know that God eventually gave Joshua the victory over Ai. **Joshua 8:28** states, "**So Joshua burned the town of Ai, and it became a permanent mound of ruins, desolate to this very day.**" And in fact, God gave Israel even greater, more miraculous triumphs - such as their success over the Amorites, where God sent hail to kill the enemy and stopped the sun in the sky so the Israelites could prevail (see **Joshua 10:11-14**).

God will be with you as well as my Overcomers family - and He will continue to work through you powerfully. Don't allow your setbacks to be the end of your wonderful journey with God. Rather, obey Him, accept His forgiveness, and move on. In His service. Your brother in Christ.

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2 Chronicles 26:1-29:36

We are never closer to failure than during our greatest success. If we fail to recognize God's part in our achievements, they are no better than failures.

While it is normal to feel elation when we accomplish something, it is wrong to be disdainful of God or to look down on others. Check your attitudes and remember to give God the credit for what you have. Use your gifts in ways that please Him. (26:16)

Difficulties and struggles can devastate people, or they can stimulate growth and maturity. For Ahaz, deep troubles led to spiritual collapse. We do not need to respond like Ahaz. When facing problems or tragedy, we must remember that rough times give us a chance to grow. (James 1:2-4) When you are facing trials, don't turn away from God, turn to Him. See these times as opportunities for you to claim God's help. (28:22)

We may not have to face a wicked king, but pressures or responsibilities can render us inactive and ineffective. When you have been given the responsibilities to minister, don't neglect your duty. If you have become inactive in Christian service, either by choice or by circumstance, look for opportunities to minister and listen to the Hezekiah's God will send your way, then like the Levites be ready for action. (29:11)

Romans 13:1-14

Why is love for others called a debt? We are permanently in debt to Christ for the lavish love He has poured out on us. The only way we can even begin to repay this debit is by loving others in turn. Because Christ's love will always be infinitely greater than ours, we will always have the obligation to love our neighbors. (13:8)

Somehow many of us have gotten the idea that self-love is wrong. But if this were the case, it would be pointless to love our neighbors as ourselves. But Paul explains what he means by self-love. Even if you have low self-esteem, you probably don't willingly let yourself go hungry. You take care of your body and may even exercise. You clothe yourself reasonably well. You make sure there is a roof over your head. You try not to let yourself be cheated or injured. This is the kind of love we need to have for our neighbors. Do we see that others are fed, clothed, and housed as well as they can be? Are we concerned about issues of social justice? Loving others as ourselves means actively working to see that their needs are met. Interestingly, people who focus on others rather than on themselves rarely suffer from low self-esteem. (13:9)

Psalms 23:1-6

God, the perfect Shepherd and Host, promises to guide and protect us throughout our life and to bring us into His house forever. (23:5-6)

Proverbs 20:11

By his deeds, a pattern established early in life may continue to mark a person for his or her lifetime. Even at a very early age, a person's most moral character may be revealed. (20:11)



"Foot" Notes

Hello everybody, this time around I'd like to share with you all what a special friend of mine told me while we were talking at a recent visit. She had mentioned that we are 'broken people'. In which I readily agreed for everyone of us has been broken over obstacles in our lives. But when I got back to my housing that thought kept coming back to me and I came up with this ... It's all the broken pieces coming together that creates a whole, which in our case is the 'church' and without all the broken pieces the 'whole' would be incomplete. So, just know that each and every one of us is vital to the 'whole'. A special thank you to my special friend for giving me cause to pontificate. Love to ya'll short and tall. Don't ride faster than your angels can fly.

God's Nature, Our Nature *continued ...*

And then again, in **Ephesians 3:8-13**, **"Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ: To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which He purposed IN Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of Him. Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory."**

YES, it's just that simple! So when someone asks you, as I have been asked many times, 'What does God have to do with it?' you too can and should respond, 'EVERYTHING!' I will close by praying the same prayer over all of you that the LORD instructed Moses to have Aaron pray over the children of Israel (**Numbers 6:22-23**).

"The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: The LORD make His face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace." (**Numbers 6:24-26**)

I Receive the Inheritance that Is Mine, IN CHRIST

By Wade Anderson

"God's Word is FULL of His promises for our lives. The only way we'll ever know what He has already supplied for us is to get in to His Word and read it! Reading it is the first step. We encourage you all to personalize and confess Scripture in and over your life based on the promises of God as we have done here. STOP confessing the problem and START confessing the SOLUTION!! Being IN CHRIST you already have the authority to use these promises but 'you' have to believe God has already provided them for 'you' in order to receive ALL that He has promised and provided. Believing by faith causes the promise to come from the supernatural and manifest itself into 'your' life here in the natural. I can assure you all that in following this same principle, my life has changed and it's NEVER been the same because of His Word in my heart AND in my mouth. These are only a few promise filled Scriptures. The enemy is okay with you reading the Word of God and never putting 'IT' into action. What he doesn't want 'you' to know is that when 'you' believe 'IT' in 'your' heart and confess God's Word with 'your' mouth 'you' have an arsenal at the tip of 'your' tongue. 'You' believed for 'your' salvation this way! So why wouldn't 'you' believe the rest of His promises the same way?!"

2 Corinthians 5:21 - I am reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on my behalf, so that I might become the righteousness of God IN HIM.

Galatians 3:29 - I belong to Christ and I am Abraham's seed; I am an heir according to the promises.

Romans 8:17 - The Spirit Himself testifies with my spirit that I am a child of God, and as a child, I am also an heir of God and co-heir WITH CHRIST.

Genesis 13:2 - As Abraham had become very wealthy, I too have become very wealthy IN CHRIST.

Genesis 24:1 - Abraham grew very old, and the Lord had blessed him in every way. As an heir IN CHRIST, I too will grow very old and receive all the Lord's blessings in every way.

Proverbs 10:22 - The blessing of the Lord brings me wealth without painful toil for it.

Psalms 91:1,10-11,19 - I dwell in the secret place of the Most High because I live IN CHRIST and He lives in me. I am the righteousness of God IN CHRIST JESUS, joined together by His love and nothing shall be able to separate me from His love. I say of the Lord that He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, IN HIM I trust. No evil befalls me and no disaster comes near my tent. The Lord commands His angel's to guard me in all my ways. I call upon God and He answers me. He is with me in trouble; He delivers me and honors me. With long life He satisfies me, and shows me His salvation.

Romans 5:17 - I receive the abundance of grace and His gift of righteousness and I reign in this life by the One, Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 9:8-12 - God makes all grace abound toward me, so that in all things at all times, I have all I need, and I abound in every good work. I am a sower and God supplies seed to me. God also supplies bread to me for food and also supplies and increases my store of seed. God enlarges the harvest of my righteousness (and my righteousness is IN JESUS CHRIST); therefore, He is enlarging the harvest of the finished work OF CHRIST in my life and causing Him to manifest more and more in my life as I believe upon Christ. I am made rich in every way so that I can be generous on every occasion, and my generosity results in thanksgiving to God.

Psalms 103:5, Isaiah 40:31 - The Lord crowns me with His loving kindness and compassion. He satisfies my years with

good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle. I look expectantly to the Lord and gain strength. I run and do not grow tired. I walk and do not grow weary.

Proverbs 4:20 - I give attention to God's Word; I incline my ear to His sayings. I do not let them depart from my eyes. I keep them in the midst of my heart; His words are life to me. Because I seek in His Word, I find and they are health to my whole flesh (medicine and a cure). I keep my heart with all diligence (not letting anything in contrary to God's Word), for out of my heart flow the issues of life.

The Best Life Possible - (John 10:10) - Life More Abundantly By The Preacher

"I have come that they may have life, and that they have it more abundantly." (John 10:10)

I am a born again, son of God, chosen by the Father to be adopted in to His eternal family and called by Almighty God to SERVE the Kingdom of Christ. Thus, I fulfill my Father's purpose for me, bear much fruit for His purpose, and enjoy 'The Best Life Possible'. Praise the Lord! I've rigorously studied Scripture these past dozen years, and have learned basic spiritual principles that are necessary for living the best life possible. Understand, I already have 'eternal victory' when I die, but also desire 'daily success' in my walk with Christ. EVERY true believer should desire spiritual prosperity and can have secular achievement in their other endeavors. I want the abundant life that Jesus promises, and so should you.

To be a true 'son of God' and true 'servant of Christ' is my eternal identity. This is who I am, this is what I do, period! And to be a true 'man of God' is my eternal privilege, one that comes with a daily responsibility. It is my spiritual duty to: **SEEK** the Lord with all my heart by studying His Word throughout each day; **SURRENDER** consistently and persistently to the power of God and His purpose for me ... How? By submitting my 'self' to the will of God AND committing my 'life' to the Lord's perfect plan for 'me'. Thus I obtain the wisdom and strength necessary for walking faithfully this 'path of life' the Lord has already prepared specifically for 'me'. Then I am able to **SERVE** the Kingdom of Christ, fulfill my Father's purpose and bear much fruit for His pleasure. Praise the Lord!

This is the true meaning of life and the only way for a true believer to fully enjoy 'The Best Life Possible'. Every born again, child of God, has this same spiritual obligation ... '**SEEK - SURRENDER - SERVE**', and thus to grow into the mighty man or woman of God they were created to be ... to mature into the faithful 'servant of Christ' they are called to be. This is our Father's purpose for each of His beloved children, and if we will live by His perfect plan we will then enjoy 'The Best Life Possible'. Praise the Lord! I've also discerned another important spiritual reality through the years, as I've learned to walk strong upon the Lord's path of light. The Christian life is an exciting adventure and the narrow way of Jesus Christ is full of twists and turns; most wonderful times of peace and joy, but also some tough challenges that can test even the strongest believer.

Therefore, it's our responsibility to discover the wisdom of God and to become strong in His mighty power. So our glorious Father has graciously provided many timeless principles to assist us in realizing our true identity and becoming the victorious 'sons and daughters' we were created to be. Understand this well, there is no substitute for spending ample time alone with the Lord in prayer and study of His Word. This is our Father's judicious way of teaching His obedient children how to become faithful servants of Christ. We have been chosen and this is our calling. Praise the Lord!

In future articles, I will provide the valuable lessons I've learned and taught through the years. I do this in hopes that they will give each of you the basic principles necessary for walking faithfully with Jesus and living every day in the Spirit, enjoying 'The Best Life Possible'. I pray that every reader will also put forth the necessary time and effort to grow close to our Creator and Savior, and thus mature into the mighty men and women of God you each are destined to be. This is the transformation process that will help you achieve a lifetime of success, while assisting you to avoid the many traps that can lead to failure. Brothers and sisters, NOW is the time to act as men and women of God and claim victory! Praise the Lord!

Finally, I want to remind each of you that are truly born again children of God that we **HAVE BEEN** chosen by our eternal Father and so are already winners in this life AND have eternal victory in the next life. As a true man of God, I claim success EVERY DAY and fully expect to live the best life possible 'Right NOW!' How? By my heart and mind, through desire and determination I walk faithfully this path of life the Lord has already prepared specifically for 'me'... just as He has already made a path of light especially for each of you! Our individual path is God's perfect plan and the only way to truly enjoy 'The Best Life Possible'. Praise the Lord! My faith is in Jesus Christ alone, as He has given me eternal victory at the Cross ... The greatest act of love in all of history! It's NOT about me, nor what I've done; It's ALL about Jesus and what He has done for the wretched sinner I was. I'm already a winner in this life because of Jesus Christ, Crucified and Risen! I no longer live for myself, but for Him who died for me AND rose again! Praise the Risen Lord! Praise the Living God! Praise the coming King! ... Pastor Jack Flash ... **1 Timothy 1:12-17**

What Others Are Saying...

"Each day when I exit my cell I see that someone has left one of your newsletters on the table. For some reason something told me to pick it up. I want to thank you for coming in to my life. I never give up. After 16 years total I still know that God has a plan for my life, not sure what it is though. Would you please send me my own copy of your monthly newsletter? God bless." - S.B.

"I just received my copy of your last newsletter and I really enjoyed all of it. I also seen the comments that I had submitted to you. That brings me to my current place of sitting here in effort of sharing something else that would be beneficial for you to share with your readers. We are currently on one of our annual lockdowns, which by the way happens twice a year. So your newsletter came at a great time. I have already read it 3 times! And just when I needed to be reminded about **Philippians 4:6** you guys came through. Thank you very much." - R.G.

"Thank you to all of you there for the B-day card and the loving words. They made me feel wanted and loved in life. A personal thanks to Monty, Michelle and Wade Anderson, Julie, and Deborah for signing that card. You really don't know what the card and your words meant to me." - J.M.

"I recently came across one of your newsletters and I have to say God placed it in my hands to read. I read it cover to cover and it gave me the words I so badly needed to hear. Your newsletter, *Overcomers for Christ*, is truly an inspiration to so many of us that are so far away from our loved ones." - J.R.

"I am just about to parole, I live in Oregon. I just wanted to thank you for being with me these last three years. You have truly been there for me, sending me cards on my birthday and Julie writing me as often as I wrote her. Even publishing my story in one month and publishing other excerpts of my letters in other months. You really made my experience of life and undergoing of finding out who exactly Christ is, so very important and valuable. I'm grateful for your faithfulness to me as a prisoner and a daughter of God, even when you didn't hear from me as much as you deserved. You never abandoned me. What a beautiful example of godliness! Wow! Praise the Lord! I am so glad you all exist to do what you do. I'll be looking you up on-line when I get out and will keep you in my prayers. Your work matters and makes a difference in so many people's lives. Keep up the good fight." - C.H.

"Brothers and sisters, I do not know what to say except, "You guys are amazing!" I couldn't believe it. When I got my newsletter I saw that you had printed my prayer request. Thank you so much. You all are a true blessing to all of us." - K.M.

"I hope this missive finds the OC4C family in the very best health ... physically, mentally, and spiritually. Thank you very much for reaching out to me in that 'Embraced in Loving' postcard. You surely did catch me off guard. It felt good to receive mail. Thank you for your uplifting words and encouragement. I really appreciate that very much." - S.L.

Quote Worthy

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."

- Lewis B. Smedes (1921-2002) a renowned Christian author, ethicist, and theologian in the Reformed tradition. He was a professor of theology and ethics for twenty-five years at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. His 15 books, including the popular *Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve*, covered some important issues including sexuality and forgiveness.

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

It takes the body of Christ working together to create, print, and mail this newsletter. None of this would be possible without the faithful support of many people who believe in this ministry. The vision of this ministry is to offer hope, love, and encouragement to those who are incarcerated. You are investing in spreading the Word of God to lost souls, encouraging, mentoring, and discipling believers.

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

We thank everyone who sows into this ministry. We pray all that your hands touch will be richly blessed, and that you will have abundance in every area of your life.

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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Intervention

By F.P.

"I can do all this through him who gives me strength." - Philippians 4:13

Have you ever considered how your actions make others feel
Do you even know the difference between the fake and the real
Have you ever thought, what you say might cause someone pain
Does it bother you to know you have caused many tears to rain

How can you stand there and look me in the eye
When every word you speak is always a lie
Is it my fault that you continue to treat me this way
Can I be responsible for the sick games that you play

Where did I go wrong, what can I do
What will it take to get through to you
Should I bring up your kids, and the fact you're never around
Can the father they are missing ever be found

What do I tell them when they ask where you have been
Does your son have to learn how to be a man from other men
Would you want your daughter to be with a guy like you
You wouldn't want her to be treated like that, you know it's true

So what's the next step, where do we go from here?
How do I change that man I'm staring at in the mirror?

"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations." (Ezekiel 36:25-27)

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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