

Devotions for Christmas

June 2



Glory Meeting of the Overcomers for Christ

March 2025



Sola Scriptura – Part 2

By Arthur Lovato

STOP listening to your neo-Christian YouTube celebrity preachers and supposing that will suffice as time spent in God's Word!

What are the deceptions of this day and age?

They will tell you there will be no rapture. They will tell you that the church is to usher in the millennial reign of Christ by taking control of the seven spheres of society. They will call themselves prophets and apostles falsely and promote their unbiblical doctrines and sell them to us as new or extra biblical revelation. This is what Joseph Smith did when he started Mormonism, and what Charles Taze Russell did in starting the Jehovah's Witness cult. Beware of the new apostolic reformation. Their unbiblical doctrines are very clever, and subtly masked. So subtle is the enemy that even well church-ed believers are missing it and believing the lies. If you hear terms like; seven mountains mandate, dominionism, Kingdom now, or subdue the earth, Joel's army, or latter rain, Run! They will preach complete sermons and never open God's Word or quote the Scripture incompletely or out of context. **PAY ATTENTION! RUN!**

There are others who will tell you aliens or UFOs have biblical relevance or significance. This is an example of both metaphysical new age teachings mixed with doctrines of the Word of God. There are those who will claim exclusive, divine and mystical revelation of codes hidden in the Scriptures. The theory that there are hidden messages in the Torah is rooted in Kabbalah, or traditional Jewish mysticism. The claims of exclusive biblical revelation are also a form of Gnosticism.

Listen here, in *Galatians 1:6-9* (KJV), *"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."*

"I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the One who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the Gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let them be under God's curse!" (Galatians 1:6-9 NIV)

Why then do men chase this nonsense down? Here's what the Bible says:

In *1 Corinthians 1:22* (KJV), *"For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom."* (A stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the Greeks.)

Mark 8:11 (KJV), *"And the Pharisees came forth, and began to question with him, seeking of him a sign from heaven, tempting him."*

Deuteronomy 6:16 (KJV), *"Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God, as ye tempted him in Massah."* God don't play that! God don't do parlor tricks for your amusement.

Matthew 12:39 (KJV), *"But He answered and said unto them, 'An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jones.'"*

Matthew 12:39-40 (NIV), *"He answered, 'A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.'"* There's your sign.

Why would I say such things to you? I'm gonna give you two verses to answer that.

Matthew 24:24 (KJV), *"For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."*

"For false messiahs and false prophets will rise up and perform great signs and wonders so as to deceive, if possible, even God's chosen ones." (Matthew 24:24 NLT)

And *Deuteronomy 18:20-22* (KJV), *"But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him."*

***"But a prophet who presumes to speak in My name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death. You may say to yourselves, 'How can we know when a message has not been spoken by the Lord?' If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously, so do not be alarmed."* (Deuteronomy 18:20-22 NIV)**

What does this mean, ***"A prophet who falsely claims to speak for the Lord, or a prophet who speaks on behalf of another god, must be put to death."***? The Lord will validate His prophets by ensuring that what they predict will come to pass. The Scripture is clear; miss one prophecy and you're a fake. When you are in error in doctrine you open yourself up to the doctrine of demons and demonic influence.

Let's continue in ***Joshua 1:8 (KJV), "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."***

***"Don't get off track, either left or right, so as to make sure you get to where you're going. And don't for a minute let this Book of The Revelation be out of mind. Ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it."* (Joshua 1:7-8 MSG)** Wade added verse 7 here to put even more emphasis on not getting distracted.

Luke 11:28 (KJV), "But He said, 'Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.'"

***"Jesus replied, 'But even more blessed are all who hear the Word of God and put it into practice.'"* (Luke 11:28 NLT)**

So, what did Jesus say we should be doing? He said in ***Matthew 24:14 (KJV), "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."***

***"And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come."* (Matthew 24:14 NIV)** The very Gospel John the Baptist preached; Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand!

We are called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ without falter or error in simplicity and truth equipping and preparing the church for the coming of our King according to the Scriptures.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (KJV), "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

***"For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever."* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 NIV)**

And as we eagerly await the coming of our King, we will lead the lost to the Cross!

This command, or often noted as 'The Great Commission' is found here in ***Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV), "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."***

I'll close with these last few Scriptures.

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV), "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

***"Work hard so you can present yourself to God and receive His approval. Be a good worker, one who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly explains the word of truth."* (2 Timothy 2:15 NLT)**

1 Peter 3:15 (KJV), "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."

"But even if you suffer for doing what is right, God will reward you for it. So don't worry or be afraid of their threats. Instead, you must worship Christ as Lord of your life. And if someone asks about your hope as a

continued on page 9 ...

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

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, that we would continue to be very effective for Christ. - **C.M.**

Dear Heavenly Father, we lift the leaders of our nation before You. Grant them godly wisdom in every decision they make. May they seek Your guidance, recognizing that true wisdom comes from You. Help them lead with integrity, compassion, and a sense of justice. Surround them with godly counsel and give them the humility to listen and learn. We pray for their hearts to be open to Your will and that they may govern in a way that honors You, and serves the people well. **James 1:5** says, **"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him."** Lord, we thank You for the privilege of leadership in our nation. May those in power seek Your face and trust in Your wisdom. Help them to be humble, fair, and righteous, and may they prioritize justice, truth, and peace. Guide their steps and decisions so that our nation may thrive under Your care. Amen. - **M.A.**

Sorry for your loss brother. Praying for you and your family. Death, as we know, can be a victory... No more pain or sorrow, I'm going to enjoy every day under the sun that the good Lord allows me, Amen! - **C.P.**

I am praying for you all ... May this year bring peace, love, joy and happiness to all the ~~Overcomers~~ for Christ along with all the Lord's children around the world. - **C.S.**

I am so looking forward to coming home. I am also nervous; I have done nothing but mess things up before. The difference now is, I have Jesus, you and the Church, as friend's and support. I guess I'm still nervous, because I don't want to let anyone down! But with God I feel strong, and I feel able! Pray for me!!! - **M.G.**

Vision ... Great message. Looking forward to hearing the rest soon. I'm grateful that God has given me bits and pieces of the vision for my future. Also looking forward to seeing His work coalesce into fruits. What I do know is that God has a plan for me to do ministry inside and outside of these walls. I hope that when I'm outside I can do it on two wheels. God has given me a vision. I will be traveling across country visiting at risk youth and ministering the Gospel. Red Rock has proven to be the training grounds and I'm excited about what's to come. I'm sure that your passion for motorcycles and Christ has been what's driven me to your ministry. I remember the first time we met. About a year before the baptisms, I said now there's a man after God's heart. I had prayed about God's plan for me since then and I know that our ministries will be similar but also very unique. Many of the men I talk to say they can't wait to get out and get started in ministry. My response to them is to start right where you're at! And so, I've done the same. I pray for the men here and for our futures and the visions God has given us. - **J.T.**

PRAISE REPORTS

God has been talking a lot, or I have been talking and God answers when it feels right. What I mean is God has been teaching me things, showing me what's coming up in my life and teaching me how to handle it! I am so scared that I will disappoint Him! I am trying my best, but I still need work. He has also shown me that troubles in my life were ahead and what I needed to do to get through them. What an awesome **GOD!!** - **M.G.**

How's it going? Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father! I thank Jesus that you are now on my tablet. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved and thy household! Thank You Jesus that You save sinners like us! - **H.O.**

Hey Family! Just got a text from my daughter. Last night my grandson, Matthew, age 14, gave his first sermon! Tears down these ol' biker's cheeks family. Just maybe my life on earth hasn't been an utter waste of time. God is good!! - **Foot**

How's the Valley's happiest married couple doing? Thanks for the nice card. They moved me to another Unit, and they treat us like minimum security here. Thank You, Jesus! After I arrived, they even gave me a new issue of clothes! God bless all of you there and your families. Let us never forget that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father! Thank You Jesus!! - **H.O.**

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Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

Live a Life That Matters

By M.D.

Hello there, thought I'd reach out and shoot a little something for consideration for our newsletter. Ever since I returned to prison this time, I've run across the thought of how I can still live a life that matters! It's what encourages me to do the things I do and think the way that I think!

Ready or not, someday it will all come to an end.

There will be no more sunrises, no minutes, hours or days.

All the things you collected, whether treasured or forgotten, will pass on to someone else.

Your wealth, fame, and temporal power will shrivel to irrelevance!

It will not matter what you owned or what you were owed.

Your grudges, resentments, frustrations, and jealousies will finally disappear.

So, too, your hopes, ambitions, plans and to-do lists will expire.

The wins and losses that once seemed so important will all fade away!

It won't matter where you came from!

It won't matter whether you were beautiful or brilliant.

Even your gender and skin color will be irrelevant.

So, what will matter?

What will matter is not your success, but your significance.

What will matter is not what you learned but what you taught.

What will matter is every act of integrity, compassion, courage,

Or sacrifice that enriched, empowered or encouraged others to emulate Christ's example!

What will matter is not your competence, but your character!

What will matter is not your memories but the memories that live on in those who loved you!

What will matter is how long you will be remembered and for what living a life for Christ that matters doesn't happen by accident,

IT HAPPENS BY CHOICE!

I'm NOT Just a Statistic

By J.D.

I was reading through Deuteronomy yesterday and as I was praying and meditating on the Word of God when a revelation came across my heart. In **Deuteronomy 30**, right before Moses is to go and **"be joined to his people"**, he is renewing the Lord's covenant with the Israelites. Moses prophetically speaks in this chapter, saying that when you find yourself back in captivity, God is faithful and just and quick to forgive. I see here that the Lord allowed Moses to see Israel's future, and to see their disobedience that would come after his death. Moses' message here was not "don't do this" and "don't do that". The Lord allowed Moses to see into the hearts of the Israelites, into the hearts of men. Moses was able to see that there was no avoiding what was to come. So, instead of the "don't do this" and "don't do that", Moses preached a message of repentance. His message was a message of grace and love. Moses simply said in **Deuteronomy 30:3**, **"The Lord your God will bring you back from captivity and have compassion on you."**

I relate this to my old lifestyle and the person that I used to be. The liar had me completely convinced that I was a slave to my circumstances. The enemy had me convinced that I was powerless and would forever live outside the law. I believed that my life was forever going to be one big "statistic" so to speak. The revelation here is that we ALL have a choice. The choice is obedience that leads to life or disobedience leading to death. When you find yourself in captivity or being held prisoner to sin, if you repent and return to the Lord, He will restore you and strengthen you. **WE WILLINGLY BECOME SLAVES TO SIN AND WE WILLINGLY CAN BREAK FREE FROM IT AS WELL.** God gave us ALL the choice to decide, and He even forewarned us of where each decision would lead us in **Deuteronomy 30:15-18**, **"Now listen! Today I am giving you a choice between life and death, between prosperity and disaster. For I command you this day to love**

Overcomers for Christ

From the Inside

the Lord your God and to keep His commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in His ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy. But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods, then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy."

God's Word is good and it's the only thing in this world that you can count on 100%.

I guess this message and Scriptures would be for our brothers and sisters out there who are still struggling in their mess. The message is, "Don't be deceived, you hold the power to determine your future. Surrender to God and tap into the source and He will strengthen you and restore you to a new life, before you make that decision to go further and further down that rabbit hole think about this, **YOU DONT HAVE TO DO IT**. You always have a choice. You've always had a choice and at any moment you can make the choice to quit and turn around and come back to the Lord."

Edifying, Exhorting, and Uplifting

By C.M.

First, it was very good to hear from you. The card that I received was one from when you were above the clouds, heading to visit your family. I am on the email list, but I also don't mind handwritten letters and cards either. I think there is a special anointing that comes in handwritten letters, at least for me – thoughts and words seem to flow freely. Thank you for the O&C newsletters. They very much bless me. Once I'm done reading them, I usually **DO** share them with the others around me. Your teachings have been very edifying, exhorting and uplifting. I looked up the meaning of those three words and this is what I came up with.

Edifying means to instruct or improve spiritually, to build and establish in moral or religious knowledge.

Exhorting means to incite by argument or advice; urge strongly, to give warning or advice; make urgent appeals.

Uplifting means to develop gradually by increments; to promote the health, strength, esteem or reputation of; the act or process of building up.

That is what your articles do for me, and I have a feeling that the Holy Spirit has been using you that way, throughout your spirit-filled Christian life.

I'm not sure how much you communicate with the brothers at C.A.C.R.F., but God is moving beautifully in here! We now have Bible studies almost every day of the week. God is feeding us, and there is now between 50-60 men that are on fire for God! There are also several of us that have intercessor groups where we meet every night after count to pray for any needs that come to our attention.

God Never Gives Us More Than We Can Handle

By J.T.

God says He will never give us more than we can handle and moments before your arrival, I felt the pressure of these walls closing in. I know this pressure is coming from God's call for me to be a leader amongst men while I still deal with my own afflictions. As I reflect on this I'm reminded of the Apostle Paul. Throughout his ministry he too was inflicted and disturbed by his own troubles. Blindness, shipwrecks, and even a thorn in his side. Paul's mission was bigger than himself and he recognized that. Additionally, He was always on his missionary journey and looking to take new territory for the kingdom.

When you were ministering to me this morning, you shared **Joshua 1:1-5, "No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you."** This was a promise that the Lord was giving Moses **ALL** of the land under his feet. You shared that that was the intention for us also, as I move into new territories and not be afraid, because He will never leave me nor forsake me. I'm comforted by this. Knowing that God has given me this territory here at Red Rock to disciple men, I'm encouraged and have a renewed strength through this revelation not to beat myself up, but instead to focus on Christ crucified.

Foot's Bible Study

Micah 1:1-4:13

The people of Lachish had influenced many to follow their evil example. They led Jerusalem into sin. We often do the same when we sin. Regardless of whether you consider yourself a leader, your daily actions and words are observed by others who may choose to follow your example, whether you know it or not. (1:13)

When God reveals the future, His purpose goes beyond satisfying our curiosity. He wants us to change our present behavior because of what we know about the future. Forever begins now, and a glimpse of God's plan for His followers should motivate us to serve Him, no matter what the rest of the world may do. (4:12)

Revelation 5:1-6:17

People from every nation are praising God before His throne. God's message of Salvation and eternal life is not limited to a specific culture, race, or country. Anyone who comes to God in repentance and faith is accepted by Him and will be part of His kingdom. Don't allow prejudice or bias to keep you from sharing Christ with others. Christ welcomes all people into His kingdom. (5:9-10)

At the sight of God sitting on the throne, all human beings great and small, will be terrified, with many calling for the mountains to fall on them so that they will not have to face the judgment of the Lamb. This vivid picture was not intended to frighten believers. For them, the Lamb is a great Savior. But those kings, rulers, generals, and other powerful people who previously showed no fear of God and arrogantly flaunted their unbelief will find that they were wrong, and in that day, they will have to face God's wrath. No one who has rejected God can survive the day of His wrath, but those who belong to Christ will receive a reward rather than a punishment. Do you belong to Christ? If so, you need not fear the final days. (6:15-17)

Psalms 134:1-3

This psalm is about a very small group, the Levites who served as Temple watchmen. Singing this psalm, the last of the "Songs of Ascent", Psalm 134:1-3, "Oh, praise the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, you who serve at night in the house of the Lord. Lift your hands toward the sanctuary, and praise the Lord. May the Lord, who made heaven and earth, bless you from Jerusalem." The worshippers would ascend on the hill where the Temple sat and see the watchmen who protected it, day and night. They saw the watchmen work as an act of praise to God, done reverently and responsibly. Make your job or your responsibility in the church an act of praise by doing it with reverence to God. Honor Him by the quality of your work and the attitude of service you bring to it. (134:1-3)

Proverbs 30:1-4

Because God is infinite, certain aspects of His nature will always remain a mystery. Compare these questions with the questions God asked Job. Read Job 38-41. (30:2-4)

"Foot" Notes

Hello brothers and sisters, I just finished reading a testimony from an old newsletter and this person had written how God came back into their life, or they had let God back in. This caused me to smile due to the fact that no matter how stupid we get or how much we want to ignore or distance ourselves from God, He is never out of our lives. He's always there waiting patiently for us to ask for His help. Like a Father of unruly children who think that they have all the answers.

Reminds me of the poem *Footprints*, when there's only one set of prints, we truly believe we're on our own. The reality is that is when God is carrying us through our toughest trials, it's His footprints in the sand. Stay at peace even in the deepest sand for God will carry you through.

Love to ya'll short and tall ... Vaya on Dios ... Don't ride faster than your angel can fly!

believer, always be ready to explain it." (1 Peter 3:14-15 NLT) Again, Wade added **verse 14**. Know God and His Word so intimately, that you are always prepared to give a sound scriptural answer to why we believe as we do and do so with humility and a reverence for a Holy God.

Allow me to reiterate; If you open yourself up to doctrines that do not line up with the Word of God, you open yourself up to the demonic influence of deception. We often repeat secular cliches such as 'eat the meat and spit out the bones', but this very statement contradicts the Scripture.

Galatians 5:9 (KJV), "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

"This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough!" (Galatians 5:9 NLT)

If we do not know the Word, the Bread of Life, and know Him intimately, it is not unbiblical to say the deceptions of this age and could lead you to run the wrong race.

Matthew 7:13-14 (KJV), "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in therest: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it." (Matthew 7:13-14 NLT)

How you gonna stay on track?

1. Seek to know God
2. Keep prayer consistent
3. Engage in God's Word
4. Practice praise and thanksgiving
5. Exercise your faith
6. Beloved do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God
7. SOLA SCRIPTURA!

Did You Know?

Dads across the United States will be honored as they celebrate Father's Day. Though it's something we can count on celebrating every time the third Sunday in June rolls around, the holiday didn't always have the public support it deserved. In fact, for decades it looked as if a day dedicated to the influential and hard-working fathers in our lives would toil in relative obscurity. Read on to learn about this beloved holiday.

The first modern Father's Day was rooted in tragedy.

On July 5, 1908, the same year that Mother's Day is credited as beginning—a small church in West Virginia held the first public event meant to specifically honor the fathers of their community. The day was held in remembrance of the 362 men who were killed the previous December in a mining explosion at the Fairmont Coal Company. Though this specific day did not transform into an annual tradition in the town, it did set a precedent of reserving a day for dads everywhere.

Washington was the first state to celebrate Father's Day.

In 1909, Spokane resident Sonora Smart Dodd was listening to a Mother's Day sermon at her local church when she had the idea to try to establish a similar day to honor the hard-working fathers of the community. Dodd was the daughter of a widower and Civil War veteran named William Jackson Smart, who raised six children on his own after his wife died during childbirth. She contacted local church groups, government officials, YMCAs, businesses, and other official entities, hoping to gather the community to recognize fathers around the state of Washington. The campaign Dodd embarked upon would eventually culminate in the first statewide Father's Day celebration in 1910.

That Father's Day takes place on the third Sunday in June just happened by accident.

While Father's Day always takes place on the third Sunday of June now, that date was actually a compromise after the original turned out to be unrealistic. Dodd's goal was for the holiday to be observed on June 5th to land on her father's birthday, but when the mayor of Spokane and local churches asked for more time to prepare for all the festivities involved, it was moved to the third Sunday in June, where it remains today. Officially, the first Father's Day celebration took place on June 19, 1910.

continued on page 11 ...

What Others Are Saying

"As you probably already know I enjoy reading the monthly newsletters and all the testimonies and praise reports are an inspiration to myself as well as anyone else who reads them. Thanks to you and all the OC4C staff." - I.S.

"Duck, my brother! So wonderful to have you here on my messaging. I'll always cherish the time I spent with you here at Red Rock and when we baptized all those 70 men together. That was a special day for me. God showed me in that moment, a glimpse of the plans He has for my life. I sure do miss you brother! I can't wait for the day we get to fellowship again." - J.T.

"It's always a pleasure to receive an email from a brother or sister in Christ, knowing that the Holy Spirit is alive and active in their lives and many more. I always start my day with a prayer to our Heavenly Father and thereafter listen to three separate daily audio bible readings on my tablet. There are always many more podcasts that are spiritually uplifting which I watch or listen to as it's soothing for my soul. Wade, I've been down for many, many years and throughout those many years I've seen a dramatic change in my own personality and perspective on the future. A person would think that being incarcerated, whether they're guilty or innocent, they would constantly be depressed. But the fact of the matter is that doesn't have to be the case if they would only allow Jesus into their hearts to awaken the Holy Spirit that resides in all of us. Then, and only then, will they truly experience inner peace that only Jesus can bestow. I'm not sure when I'll get out, but what I am sure of is, when I do leave this body, and the second coming takes place, I'll reside in a Heavenly Realm indescribable to men. A place where sorrow, death, pain, or anything negative will no longer exist nor will those memories come to mind. That's the one sure thing all believers can look forward to, a utopian world in a celestial body. Like the Word says, *"Do not store up for yourself treasures in the world ... Instead store them in heaven where your treasure is your heart will be."* (Matthew 6:19-21) Thanks again for signing up as one of my contacts on my tablet. Also, words can't describe the great inspiration you and all the OC4C staff are doing with the monthly OC4C newsletters. May our Heavenly Father, the Lord Jesus Christ watch over each and every one of you and bestow blessings upon each of you daily." - I.S.

"Hi Brother Wade! God Bless you, Michelle, Anthony, and all the other card signers at Overcomers for Christ. What a blessing all of you are to me!" - C.P.

"Thank you so much for my birthday blessings and it smells good as well! Please thank everyone that signed it and many blessings to you all as well." - C.S.

"I received the Overcomers for Christ newsletter, and I like the pic of the mountain and neighborhood on the front. I think I will save that one and hang it up on my board. Well hopefully this weather cools down. I had to change my work out time, because my younger work out partner has to go to school in the morning, making it afternoon workouts for us. I do sleep better at night this way! This new routine also gives me all morning to read and study God's Word! Please tell everyone I send my prayers and love. I am also reading this book called *Celebrate Recovery Inside*, a Christ-Centered Recovery Program based on the Beatitudes by John Baker and Rick Warren. I like it." - M.G.

"I often wonder, if God loves a cheerful giver, how much does He love a cheerful receiver? One who knows and recognizes that every good and precious gift comes down from the Father. Duck, you and the OC4C family have been such a blessing during my sojourn here in this wilderness, and I'm looking forward to meeting y'all and discovering how I can serve alongside you." - G.H.

"I really enjoyed both your messages this morning. It sounds like you're having an amazing time with your family. I look forward to the day I can make those same kinds of trips with mine." - P.G.

Quote Worthy

"You cannot have a positive life and a negative mind."

- Joyce Meyer - an American Charismatic Christian author, speaker, and president of Joyce Meyer Ministries.

Did You Know? ... continued from page 9

Roses were originally a big part of the Father's Day celebration.

The first Father's Day included a church service where daughters would hand red roses to their fathers during the mass. The roses were also pinned onto the clothing of children to further honor their fathers, red roses for a still-living father and a white rose for the deceased. Dodd also brought roses and gifts to any father in the community who was unable to make it to the service. This gave birth to the now-nearly-forgotten tradition of roses as the customary flower of Father's Day.

Not everyone was happy with the idea of making Mother's Day and Father's Day separate holidays.

In the 1920s and 1930s, there was a movement to get rid of Mother's Day and the burgeoning Father's Day celebrations and instead join the two holidays as a unified Parents' Day. Robert Spere, a philanthropist and children's radio entertainer, saw the holidays as a "division of respect and affection" for parents, especially during a time when Father's Day hadn't officially been recognized nationwide. "We should all have love for dads and mothers every day, but Parents' Day on the second Sunday in May is a reminder that both parents should be loved and respected together," Spere told *The New York Times* in 1931. The movement died out in the 1940s, but if it had gone through, we'd all be celebrating Parents' Day every year with the slogan, "A kiss for mother, a hug for dad."

WORD OF THE MONTH

Cognoscente

Pronunciation – co-gno-scen-te kăg-nə-'sen-tē

Noun - a person who has expert knowledge in a subject: connoisseur

"Liz Goldwyn is, in fact, a film world royal ... not to mention a fashion world darling and an art world **cognoscente**."

- Peter Haldeman, *The New York Times*, January 3, 2014

Did You Know ... **Cognoscente** and *connoisseur* are more than synonyms; they're also linguistic cousins. Both terms descend from the Latin verb *cognoscere*, meaning "to know", and they're not alone. You might guess that *cognizance* and *cognition* are members of the *cognoscere* clan. Do you also recognize a family resemblance in *recognize*? Can you see through the disguise of *incognito*? Did you have a premonition that we would mention *precognition*? **Cognoscente** itself came to English by way of Italian and has been a part of the language since the late 1700s.

Christian Comedy

What do you call a father lion's family?
His pride and joy.

Living Word Bible Church Locations

Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213 Ahwatukee - 14647 S. 50th St. #165 Phoenix, AZ 85044
Scottsdale - Contact us for current location Gilbert - 202 S. Gilbert Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85296
Phoenix - 3525 W. Lewis Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85009 Español Mesa - 3520 E. Brown Rd. Mesa, AZ 85213

Ministry Tithes & Offerings

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

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

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

Overcomers for Christ P.O. Box 42023 Phoenix, Arizona 85080
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I Rise
By M.M.

The power to be out of our control but under God's control is unlike a wildfire or a wild-geese chase. It is into this vibrant, robust, unpredictable adventure that the Holy Spirit calls us. A new manhood, a new calling, a new power, and a new chase is the calling out of the Spirit of God upon the man or woman who is willing to be baptized and anointed by Him!!

I rise today in the power of Christ's birth and baptism,
I rise today in the power of His crucifixion and burial,
I rise today in the power of His rising and ascending,
I rise today in the power of His descending and judging
I rise today with the power of God to pilot me,
I rise today with God's strength to sustain me,
I rise today with God's wisdom to guide me.

God bless **ALL** of the **Overcomers** for **Christ** family!

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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