

The Grace of an Overcoming Faith

By Daniel Mark

In the theology of salvation that goes by the fancy name of soteriology, an ongoing debate among believers since the dawn of the Church Age is about the role of free will to a person's salvation. We must accept that salvation is wholly by God's grace and mercy. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5) Yet we also acknowledge that the will of an individual isn't dead, before or after salvation. For hyper-grace believers and preachers, a person's will might be of no consequence, because their interpretation of salvation means however a person conducts his/her life, salvation is intact and is eternally secured. Why then, does the Bible warn us about overcoming or perseverance? Whatever these terms suggest, we have no reason to believe in a life of no striving and efforts. An excellent reply to this question can be found in Apostle Paul's epistle to Titus. Paul wrote that God's grace has been offered to all for salvation but also for the equipping of salvation's recipients to live out the purpose for which God has saved us. The workings of salvation in practical existence demand that we learn perseverance and overcoming.

Much about overcoming and perseverance is written in scripture for our benefit and warning. John's first epistle and the first two chapters of the Book of Revelation deal considerably with this topic. It's instructive that these exhortations were written to believers who lived in a setting of imminent and constant persecution. The command to overcome is binding on all Christians, because regardless of our period in history we must strive against all that militates against our spirituality.

Sinful pleasures, opposition to faith, temptations, a life of easy casualness and apathy, are some of the forces to be overcome

THOSE
WHO DO
WHAT IS
TRUE
COME TO
THE
LIGHT...
JOHN 3:21, NRSV

in our pilgrimage to heaven. Alertness is of the essence when the Spirit and the flesh are in continuous opposition to each other. The believer cannot afford the indulgence of spiritual complacency or lethargy.

Our Lord Jesus taught a lot about persistently enduring to the end, and He said only that only those that do this will be saved! (Matthew 24:13) Moreover, the entire enterprise of self-denial as inherent in carrying the cross daily is indispensable to the overcoming life. There is no overcoming for the believer who neglects the cross and self-denial!

The Book of Hebrews presents our Lord as One whose exemplary conquest must be our incentive and goal as we navigate the narrow

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“The Grace of...” continued...

and difficult path to heaven. Christ saw all that laid behind the excruciating agony and ignominy of the cross and endured because of the glory that awaited Him. Likewise, as followers of the Son of God, we can look forward to overcoming through faith, keeping in mind the incredible rewards of overcoming. Revelation 2 and 3 are probably the definitive sources of God’s promised rewards for the faithful, the uncompromising and the obedient.

“For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (John 5:4-5) Hallelujah!



Please join us on Saturday, March 28, at 9:00 am, and enjoy fresh air, fellowship, and healthy exercise as we spruce up our facilities in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29, at 3:00 pm.

The Boy Scouts will be assisting us. If you have them, please bring wheelbarrows, gloves, and gardening tools. Coffee and donuts will be provided. Your help is greatly appreciated. We hope to see you there!

Financial Update

(Through January 31, 2026)

	Actual	Budget
Income	\$5,292.59	\$14,750
Expense	\$22,030.00	\$14,750

Please note due to inclement weather there were only two in-person services in January which affects total income figures.

“And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

Philippians 4:19
Praise God!

New Worship Time As 11th Hour Returns

Beginning Sunday, March 8, our worship service will begin at 9:30 am, and we will return to our 11th Hour format for our Adult Bible Class. Please join us downstairs for a serious look into and discussion about Paul’s Epistle to the Ephesians. Teachers: Larry and Janet Berrill, Ken and Cindy Bills.



Sunday School classes for children begin at 9:50 am. Children age four through 4th grade are downstairs. Middle and high school students meet in the Chapel House.



Happy Birthday!

Blessings to all who celebrate a birthday this month. May you feel the love, joy and presence of the Lord as we all celebrate your special day with prayers and warmest wishes.

Joan Hagestad	March 2
Michael Seiboth	March 7
Thor Bernheisel	March 9
Larry Berrill	March 12
Donna Westbrook	March 19
Cindy Bills	March 21

Elders' Corner

By Darrell S. Bernheisel

Spring is a time of anticipation, and after the winter we've had, that anticipation feels especially welcome. Yet I must admit, I enjoyed those weekends tucked inside a warm house, sheltered from the cold. I loved looking out at the frozen ponds and ice-filled rivers. The white snow blanketing the landscape seemed to stretch my vision to the horizon. There was a peaceful quiet in the crisp air, broken only by the rhythm of my own breathing.

And still, even as I appreciated winter's icy calm, I found myself thinking about what comes next: sunshine, warmth, and growth. Steinbeck captured the tension: *"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?"*

Soon the earth will burst forth with new life and all sorts of small and wonderful miracles. As I've advanced in my years, I've found myself wanting to savor these moments more intentionally. One way I do that is through prayer. When I give a moment quiet contemplation and offer thanks, I find I'm able to appreciate it more fully.

The Bible instructs us in 1 Thessalonians 5:16–18: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."* What's remarkable is that this isn't only spiritual, but it can literally reshape the brain.

For many years, it was widely believed that the human brain grew in childhood, plateaued in adulthood, and then declined. But research by Dr. Andrew Newberg, who has studied the neurological effects of prayer since the 1990s, shows something far more hopeful. According to his findings, as little as twelve minutes of

daily prayer can have a profound impact on the brain. Prayer strengthens neural circuits tied to empathy and compassion, while helping to quiet negative emotions. Even more, it supports the brain's ability to remain flexible and continue developing, a process known as neuroplasticity. God is amazing!

Perhaps like the winter freeze, you've had a spiritual chill set in. Circumstances can leave any of us feeling frustrated, weary, or stuck. Life's cruel twists may include health setbacks, career struggles, unemployment, the loss of a loved one, problems with children, financial woes, divorce, upended friendships, mental health issues, and family instability, to name a few.

If that's where you find yourself today, let me encourage you: your spring is coming. What feels barren and frozen can become the very ground from which spiritual growth emerges.

Scripture tells us in Luke 2:52: *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."* If we are called to follow Jesus, we should take comfort that our Savior Himself also experienced growth. Luke didn't provide details, and in many ways, that's reassuring. It reminds me that I don't need to understand every part of God's perfect plan.

Just as we can't fully explain how frozen earth suddenly bursts with life each spring, we can trust that God is quietly at work beneath the surface in our lives. He will give us the wisdom, strength, and grace we need to grow and become more like Him.

Please know that the Elder Board continues to faithfully pray for each of you. If there are areas of your life where you would like us to come alongside you in prayer, it would be our joy and privilege to do so.





Spring Forward— A Friendly Reminder!

Daylight Saving Time begins again on Sunday, March 8, at 2:00 am. Before going to bed Saturday night, remember to set your clocks ahead one hour so you'll be on time for Sunday activities. This seasonal change is also a helpful reminder to replace the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to keep your home safe.

The idea of adjusting clocks to make better use of daylight dates back to Benjamin Franklin, who suggested it as a way to conserve candle use. It was first adopted nationally in 1918 and later standardized in 1966 when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Uniform Time Act.

Today, most of the United States observes Daylight Saving Time, with the exceptions of Arizona and Hawaii. Although the United States Senate has considered making the change permanent, Daylight Saving Time remains in effect for now.

Enjoy the longer evenings of daylight—and don't forget to "spring forward!"



P.U.S.H.

by Pastor Jame John

"Talking with God" is perhaps the simplest, yet one of the most profound, definitions ever given to prayer. It comes from none other than the "golden-mouthed" early Church Father, John Chrysostom. Prayer, in one way or another, is part of almost all major world religions. It is no surprise that, in moments of desperation, even some atheists turn to prayer as a last resort. Sadly, in some cases, unanswered prayers or misconceptions regarding prayer itself have also led people away from faith.

P.U.S.H. is an acronym that stands for Praying Until Something Happens. Many times, we start praying for something, and after a few days, weeks, or even months, especially when we don't see results or progress, our hearts quietly grow weary. We become discouraged and stop praying specifically for that. We simply move on. P.U.S.H. calls us to intentionally cultivate a habit of consistency and persistence in prayer. It reminds us that prayer is not meant to be a short sprint, but a faithful journey—one in which God shapes our hearts even as we wait for answers.

Prayer can be understood as a universal equalizer. It gives everyone the same opportunity to "commune and converse with God" (De Oratione Dominica by Gregory of Nyssa). Yet, our prayers are directly connected to our faith. The truth is, when we have faith, we pray. And when we don't, we don't.

The book of James reminds us, "*The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much*" (James 5:16b). In this new year 2026 and beyond, let us decide and remain committed to spending time with God in prayer. Yes, let us Pray Until Something Happens!



Join Us for Our Annual Easter Egg Hunt!

Everyone is warmly invited to Windsor Chapel's joyful Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29, at 3:00 pm. This enjoyable afternoon is designed for children ages 2-9. It will be filled with fun, laughter, and special treats, and everything is free! Remember to invite your family, friends, and neighbors who have young children. If weather requires, the rain date will be Saturday, April 4, at 3:00 pm.

This important outreach would not be possible without caring volunteers. If you would like to help or learn more, please speak with Ed MacQueen on Sunday, or contact him at e.macqueen1@comcast.net or 609-751-6584.



A Little Time Can Make a Lasting Difference

Would you like to serve in a meaningful way, even with a busy schedule? Just a few hours of your time can help make our Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, March 29, at 3:00 pm, a welcoming and joyful experience for children and families

in our community. The rain date is Saturday, April 4, at 3:00 pm.

This rewarding annual event is one of our most important outreaches, and there are many simple ways to help beforehand or on the day of the hunt. Whether you assist behind the scenes or during the Easter Egg Hunt itself, your help will make a real difference. Please review the list of volunteer opportunities below and prayerfully consider how you might be part of this special day:

Prior to Event

Candy Bag Preparation
Set up Egg Hunt Areas

Day of Event (Starting 1PM)

Set up Tables, Chairs Outside
Distribute Eggs in Field

Volunteer Positions

Crafts: support team

Decorations and Photo Booth: 1-2 people needed

Candy Exchange Table: Team leader and support team

Face Painting: support team

Water Station: one person needed

Trash: 1 Person Needed

Welcome Table: support team

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Further Up and Further In

*Inviting dialogue to encourage growth in
and among us*



By Cindy Bills

Springing Forward... By Abiding in the Vine

With March comes the realistic anticipation of Spring.... Plants spring back to life, and gardeners and farmers are busy preparing the soil and plants big and small to produce the fresh fruit and vegetables that we enjoy. It is quite a contrast to the bleakness that has surrounded us these past several months.

With the limited information of fall and winter, we could easily conclude that most of our plant life has died. But nothing could be further from the truth. Plants become dormant, storing energy in their roots, so that they can be ready for spring and the rush of new life and growth. And as with much of creation, this can be a metaphor for us in our walks of faith. There are times when the Lord is quiet, when our ministries seem stalled, when we are more tired than excited. But that does not mean that the indwelling Holy Spirit is done with us!

The early chapters of Genesis tells us a lot about our God, the God of creation. He is the God of teeming life and productivity:

The God said, "Let the earth sprout vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them, and it was so. (Genesis 1:11)

God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. God blessed them; and God said to them,

*"Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it....
(Genesis 1:27-28)*

And here we are, millennia later, serving our Creator, who is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. We have been created to bear fruit for His kingdom! But unlike the plants that the Lord created, we need the Lord's direct help in order to bear the fruit He is calling us to produce.

I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine-dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit...Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. (John 15:1-4)

We will invariably find ourselves in a season of pruning at times. But spring reminds us that our Creator and Redeemer has created us to bear eternal, glorious fruit for His kingdom. He invites us to nurture an abiding relationship in Him so that we can know the joy of doing so.

One of the most cowardly things ordinary people do is to shut their eyes to facts.

C. S. Lewis

If you have any items or information you would like to share in the newsletter, please e-mail:

Susan Seiboth at
susan@quiltingsquare.com

Dorothy Soi at
dsoi@windsorchapel.org
Chapel Office (609) 799-2559
www.windsorchapel.org