



OVERCOMERS OUTREACH CANADA

April 2018 Newsletter

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

SURRENDER

Overcomers Outreach: Where Jesus is Our Higher Power.

That's more than just a catchy motto, it's something that we believe with all of our hearts. Jesus Himself said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28, NIV). I remember what it was like in my own life to carry the heavy burdens of lust, pornography, drunkenness, lying, selfishness, pride and all kinds of sin and the shame that came along with it. But there is nothing that compares to the rest, joy, peace, freedom and forgiveness that comes from surrendering our wills to Jesus.

Our journey to freedom begins with the first two steps, admitting, "I can't!" but "God can!" But that's just the beginning. From here, we must move from a place of *believing* that God can help us, to actually *inviting* Him into the brokenness of our lives and surrendering to His will for us. This is where we say, "I will." This is step three:

"Made the decision to turn our wills and our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Step three is about letting go and letting God. There's a popular song by Carrie Underwood that tells the story of a young mom who's driving home to see her parents on Christmas Eve. It's been a hard year for her, she's got a baby in the backseat of the car, and there's a blizzard outside. Suddenly, she hits a patch of black ice and starts spinning out of control. What an apt picture of those whose lives have become unmanageable! In this story song, the young woman is so scared she simply throws her hands up in the air (there was nothing she could have done to save herself anyway), and prayed:

"Jesus take the wheel, Take it from my hands, Cause I can't do this on my own. I'm letting go, So give me one more chance. Save me from this road I'm on, Jesus take the wheel."

That, my friends, is what surrender looks like. Where we stop trying to be in control of everything. Where we stop pretending to be in control of everything. Where we pray: Jesus take the wheel, and You be in control on my life!

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The Biblical basis for this step is found in Proverbs 3:5-6: “Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” (NLT). To turn the control of our lives over to God is to say that we trust that His plan for our lives is good, that He is good, and that He cares for us.

“We will not make this decision just once. We will make it every day, many times a day. Deciding to choose our will is a way of death. Deciding to choose God’s will for us is a way of life.” (Meditations for the Twelve Steps – A Spiritual Journey).

Who’s in the driver’s seat in your life? As long as you’re in control, you’re going to make mistakes. But when you choose to let Jesus take the wheel, you can trust that He is good, and that His plan and purpose for your life will lead to joy, peace and freedom!

Third Step Prayer:

“God, I offer myself to you, to build with me and to do with me as you want. Relieve me of the bondage of self, that I may better do your will. Take away my difficulties, that victory over them may bear witness to those I would help of your power, your love, and your way of life. May I do your will always.” Amen! (Prayers for the Twelve Steps – A Spiritual Journey).

Chris Jordan

President, Overcomers Outreach Canada

(Visit our website to see our entire series of articles based on the twelve steps)

Supporting Overcomers Outreach Canada Financially

Overcomers Outreach is a faith ministry – we depend on the Lord and His people for the ongoing financial support needed to operate and expand this ministry.

Financial support can be designated to a specific ministry area:

1. General operating expenses (telephone, website, office expenses, etc.)
2. Program Consultant’s or Executive Coordinator’s salary and expenses.
3. Or simply designated as “wherever needed”.

Donations may be made by cheque or online through [Paypal](#) - just click on the Donate link on our website. Please add a note to designate the area of ministry you wish to support, and provide us with your mailing address; a receipt will then be sent out early in the new year for donations made in this year. Thank you for your support of this unique and important ministry!

MY ELEVATOR TO HEAVEN BROKE DOWN:

My elevator to Heaven broke down and now I am taking the steps.

One of the steps is a life time step and that is the third step. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God.

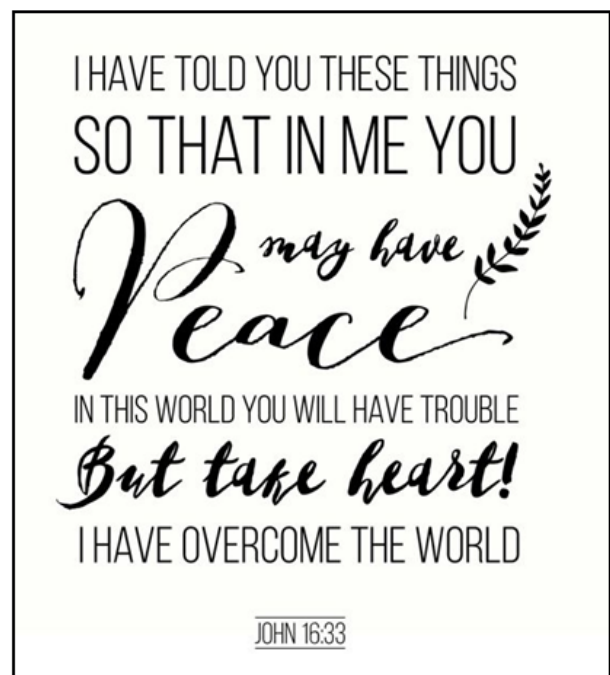
On June 5th I will have 40 years of sobriety from alcohol and drugs and in these 40 years I have learned that living in God's will can be a daily challenge. Because in the reality of every day life, we all will face many things that we have very little control over. In my life of sobriety I have had cancer twice, loved ones have passed away, many people in recovery have gone back to the old life and that's just a very brief example of what Jesus said in John 16:33: "I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world." (TLB).

So as we journey through life and face all the things life gives us we have to keep the purpose of step 3 always on the forefront of our relationship with Jesus seeking his will not ours be done. Romans 8:37: "But despite all this, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ who loved us enough to die for us." (TLB).

So I close with this challenge to us all: are we willing to die to self so the will of God can be done in our lives? That is step 3, part of our spiritual journey taking the steps to Heaven.

Ken Sundelin

Addictions Consultant,
Overcomers Outreach Canada



TELL US YOUR STORY!

In each of our newsletters, we want to share with you a testimony of someone whose life has been changed through the ministry of Overcomers Outreach. If you have a story to share, please submit it to us, making sure to let us know what OO group you're involved in, and you might see your story in an upcoming newsletter!

Note: For the sake of anonymity, we will only print your first name and last initial.

WHO'S WHO IN THE ZOO:

Here's a look at the current leadership team of Overcomers Outreach of Canada.

We are here to serve you!

President:	Chris Jordan
Vice-President:	Mark Kleinsasser
Treasurer:	Pete Gerbrand
Secretary / Women's Ministry & Resource Manager:	Joan Griffith-Parker
Men's Ministry:	Willie Froese
Program Consultant:	Ken Sundelin
Accountant:	Rey Schellenberg

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To see a price list of our resources, visit "Resources" on our website, or email resources@overcomersoutreach.ca