



# THE Word of Faith

JUNE/JULY 2015

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.



# You Can Make It Through the Fire

As believers we are going to face trials and tribulations. We're going to come under fire. Why? Because Satan is the enemy of God. And he wants to hinder anyone who's following the Lord's plan for his or her life. That's why it's so important for us to know what to do when we're in a spiritual battle.

First, we must remember that we already have the victory. We're not just trying to overcome or make it through. First Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV) says, "Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Second Corinthians 2:14 (NIV 1984) says, "Thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ." These verses tell us that God leads us from place to place in one never-ending victory parade. Hallelujah! No matter what fire we're facing, our victory has already been won in Christ.

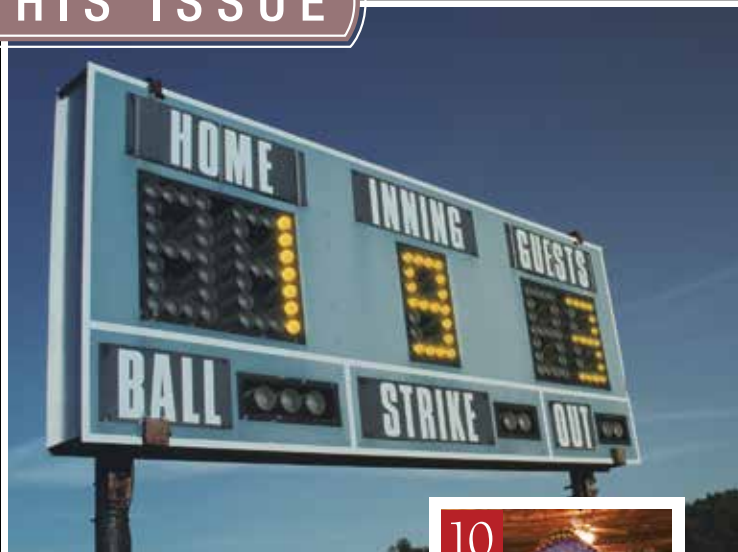
Second, we must remember that God never leaves us nor forsakes us. Isaiah 43:2 (NLT) says, "When you go through deep waters, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown. When you walk through the fire of oppression, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you." In the middle of your biggest trial—when the fire is burning the hottest—never forget that God is with you. He will bring you through unharmed if you'll put your faith in Him.

Don't be discouraged if you're in a spiritual fight right now. Dig into this issue of *The Word of Faith* and build yourself up. Get a fire burning on the inside that will stop the fire around you! You can make it through the fire unharmed!

*Kenneth W. Hagin*

PS. Happy Independence Day to those of you in the U.S., and happy Canada Day to those farther north. I believe that as we each stir up the fire of God inside us, we can set our nations on fire for Him!

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### Special Report:

Carol Taylor, a 2008 RBTC USA grad, is reaching those on the Jemez Pueblo Reservation simply by sharing God's love.





# Be a Man of Conviction, Compassion & Courage



**KENNETH W. HAGIN**

**DAVID WAS** a shepherd boy turned songwriter and musician. He was a young man who became a giant-killer. He married into the royal family and became a successful military leader.

You might say that David was the original Robin Hood. He was forever helping the common man. After he fled from the tyrannical King Saul, he gathered around him many unwanted people.

When David was anointed king, he provided strong leadership. History shows us that he was one of Israel's best-known kings. He was a strong advocate of following Jehovah. David was a man after God's heart.

Miles and centuries separate us from David. He was a king; we are common. But despite the distance and differences, we can learn something about being fathers from this father of long ago.

## **A MAN OF CONVICTION**

David's convictions drew him close to God. Psalm 119 shows David's strong beliefs. Each verse speaks of them.

### **PSALM 119:54-56 (NLT)**

**54** Your decrees have been the theme of my songs wherever I have lived.

**55** I reflect at night on who you are, O Lord; therefore, I obey your instructions.

**56** This is how I spend my life: obeying your commandments.

Today we need men with godly convictions. It seems that our society depicts men in cowardly, spineless positions on TV. We don't see men with godly character held up as role models. Unfortunately, people with some of the worst morals have reached influential positions and have managed to become role models for our children.

Our kids need to see examples of fathers with godly convictions who will stand strong against the tsunami of evil that is sweeping our countries. We need men with godly convictions to be the spiritual and moral compass that will point our children in the right direction.

David wasn't perfect by a long shot. He made mistakes, but he corrected them. He sinned against God, but he was quick to repent and make restitution. David's continual service to God demonstrated our Heavenly Father's forgiveness and love.

## **A MAN OF COMPASSION**

David's compassion can be seen in the way he interacted with his children. Although his children took advantage of him, he still loved them. When Absalom rose up against his father and tried to take the kingdom from him, David decreed that Absalom should not be killed. When David later learned that his son had died, he wept uncontrollably over a man who had instigated a coup against him.

Why would David mourn over someone who tried to steal his kingdom? The truth is, a father's love is not determined by a child's conduct.

In another instance, you can see David's compassion as he encouraged Solomon to build the Lord's temple. David didn't want

his young son to be overwhelmed with the enormous task ahead of him. In his final words to Solomon before he passed, he said, *“Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don’t be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. He will see to it that all the work related to the Temple of the Lord is finished correctly”* (1 Chron. 28:20 NLT).

### A MAN OF COURAGE

David’s greatest acts of courage were demonstrated when King Saul was trying to kill him. On two separate occasions, David had an opportunity to take the king’s life, but he refused.

It often takes more courage *not* to do something than to do it. David’s source of courage was his faith and trust in God. He was not afraid of anybody. Nor was he afraid to stand up for what was right and die for his beliefs. But David would not raise his hand against God’s anointed. As a result, King Saul pursued him for many years.



### A FATHER’S *love* IS NOT DETERMINED BY A CHILD’S CONDUCT.

We need fathers who will stand courageously for godly principles in the face of opposition—men who refuse to be afraid of what others will think. I often ask myself, “What good is it if someone says good things about me but I don’t have the courage to preach the truth of the Holy Word?”

Men, what kind of legacy are you leaving your children? Is it one of conviction, compassion, and courage? These are the three most important characteristics that you as fathers can have. ♥



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## What Makes a Great Dad?

Men often sacrifice being a successful father to succeed in business. But if you gain wealth and fame and lose your children, what have you really gained? Sadly, too many men are more interested in business, possessions, and their place in the community than in being a dad. Anyone can father a child. But **IT TAKES A MAN WITH CONVICTIONS AND COMPASSION TO BE A GREAT DAD.**

My father, Kenneth E. Hagin, went home to be with the Lord 12 years ago. He was internationally known. Many people called him the father of the modern-day faith movement, a title he detested. He was a successful author. More than 60 million copies of his books have been sold. He was a radio personality, noted Bible teacher, and prophet of God. But I remember him as Dad.

Although these wonderful accolades were laid at his feet, when he came home, he was just dad. He was a great man of God and I respect that. But I don’t remember him as a great teacher. I remember a man who drove all night just to have breakfast with mom, sis, and me. I have fond memories of staying up all night talking to him in the car while he drove to his next meeting. When I was 12, he taught me how to drive on those old East Texas oil roads. I remember him putting his arms around me and saying, “Son, you can be what you want to be with you and God.”

Whatever success I’ve achieved today is not because of my dad’s preaching, the books he wrote, or the thousands of radio broadcasts he recorded. It’s because of those father-and-son times.

**MEN, IT’S IMPORTANT THAT YOU HAVE THESE FATHER-CHILD MOMENTS.** That’s what your kids will remember. They won’t remember how hard you worked to put food on the table. Yes, we have to work and provide for our families. But we can’t neglect our children in the process.

If you die tomorrow, your company will replace you in a matter of hours. Other people will remember you occasionally. But your children will feel the loss forever. Is that extra hour at work worth it?

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# Our **First Priority** in Prayer

KENNETH E. HAGIN



**THE APOSTLE PAUL** instructed Timothy, his son in the faith, on how to pray for those in authority. He said, “*I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty*” (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

Notice that Paul wrote, “*first of all.*” Too often we put ourselves first in our praying, and sometimes that is as far as we ever get in prayer. In other words, most of the time we are just praying selfishly for ourselves or about our own personal lives and needs.

But Paul is telling us to pray *first of all* for those in authority over us. In Paul’s day, kings ruled over nations. That’s why Paul said to pray for kings and for all who are in authority. In our day, instead of saying “kings,” we would simply say “for the heads of the government and for all who are in authority.”

Why did Paul want Christians to pray this way? Because **WHATEVER HAPPENS IN THE NATION IN WHICH WE LIVE IS GOING TO AFFECT ALL OF US**. Paul told us why we are to pray for our leaders: “*that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*”

## **GOD IS CONCERNED ABOUT US.**

And He will change things in the nation in which we live because we ask Him to. Whether or not our government leaders are Christians, God will do some things for our sake.

## **Changing a Nation**

I was greatly moved some years ago to have two seminars in the summer on the subject of prayer. I was strongly impressed to do some praying for America—particularly about some things the Lord had shown me years before concerning the nation’s government and world events.

Many times prophecies are conditional. In the case of world events, for example, prophecies of God’s judgment don’t always have to come to pass. They can be averted if the people involved will repent. You can see that illustrated in the Bible in Isaiah chapter 38, for example.

God had sent the prophet Isaiah to King Hezekiah to tell him, “*Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live*” (Isa. 38:1). But as it is recorded, Hezekiah didn’t die.

Certainly, Isaiah was speaking under the unction and anointing of the Spirit of God, and what he said was certainly true under the present circumstances. But Hezekiah changed the present circumstances by repenting. Hezekiah humbled himself, and that stayed the judgment of God. He turned his face to the wall, wept, and repented.

HE WILL CHANGE THINGS IN THE NATION IN WHICH WE LIVE BECAUSE *we ask Him to.*

Share This!

When Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed, the Lord said to Isaiah, “*Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have seen thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years*” (Isa. 38:5).

I don’t know whether you know it or not, but in much the same way as Hezekiah prayed, some Christians have been able to change some things through prayer. The Christians who are able to change things in prayer are those who know how to pray and who know how to pray in the Holy Ghost.

We have been able to change some things in our nations. **I BELIEVE CHRISTIANS ARE GOING TO CHANGE SOME THINGS ALL OVER THE WORLD AS THEY PRAY FOR THEIR NATIONS.** 🇺🇸

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s *Bible Prayer Study Course*.]

## **PRAYER POINTS**



Make it a point to pray for those in authority in your nation this year. Pray for these people:

- » Head of State
- » National Legislature
- » Highest Court
- » State & Local Officials
- » Military
- » Intelligence Agencies





# Jesus Christ, Our Shepherd

KENNETH E. HAGIN

THE PSALMIST DAVID looked ahead to Jesus and said, “*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want*” (Psalm 23:1). And Jesus said, “*I am the good shepherd*” (John 10:14).

*We are living right now in Psalm 23. It belongs to us as believers in Jesus Christ. It is more than just a beautiful scripture passage. David was prophesying when he said, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” I like to say it this way: “The Lord is my shepherd; I do not want.”*

Philippians 4:19 says, “*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” The Heavenly Father knows our needs as His children. Jesus demonstrated that when He was on earth. He fed the multitude; He gave His disciples a great catch of fish; He turned water into wine; He healed the sick; and He met every need of man.

That is my Lord, my Shepherd Lord. I can say, “The Lord is my Shepherd, I do not want.”

Christ has provided abundant life for every man, woman, and child

on the earth. He has liberated the sinner. He took man’s sinful nature upon Himself when He went to the cross. And He is not holding man’s sins against him anymore.

Second Corinthians 5:19 says, “*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them.*” This verse in the *Amplified Bible* reads, “*It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them].*”

Some might argue, “Well, if Christ isn’t holding men’s sins against them, they will automatically be saved.”

No, the reason men must be saved is that we are all born in sin and must be born again in Christ. **CHRIST IS NOT INTERESTED IN HOLDING MAN’S SINS AGAINST HIM. CHRIST IS INTERESTED IN DRAWING MAN TO HIMSELF.**

God is not mad at the sinner. And God is not against him. The sin that sends a man to hell is not an



act or deed, such as lying, stealing, or cheating; it is rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

**CHRIST’S SAVING GRACE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERY HUMAN BEING.** He will meet every need—He is the Good Shepherd. But to know Him as our Good Shepherd, we must first receive Him as our Lord and Savior.

Have you been born again? Do you know Jesus as your Savior, your Lord, and your Good Shepherd? If you do not, simply pray the following prayer from your heart:

**God,**

I come to You in Jesus’ Name. I admit that I have sinned and come short of Your standard. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price for my sins.

Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. I ask You to be my Savior and Lord. And I trust You to be my Good Shepherd and provide everything I need. Through You, I receive God’s free gift of eternal life. Thank You for saving me!

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*"It's not all about me. There's a bigger picture out there. **RBTC helped me to better see the value of people in God's eyes.** And becoming more involved in the church's helps ministry has allowed me more opportunities to be a servant to the people."*

—**GREG FINLEY, PASTORAL MINISTRY '09**

*"The overall theme of the helps ministry program is definitely having a servant's heart. It takes you out of your comfort zone. You learn to be flexible. And **it prepares your heart so that you want to help wherever you're needed.**"*

—**CHRISTI FINLEY, HELPS '09**

After serving our nation in the Marine Corps, Greg and Christi Finley are today serving the Lord at Kenneth Hagin Ministries. Christi works as a project manager in the Communications Department and Greg serves as an assistant to the Rhema Bible Church pastoral staff and as the church's Oklahoma City campus coordinator.

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# GOD'S LOVE IS REACHING THE JEMEZ PUEBLO

CAROL TAYLOR



ON A DREARY winter day in December of 1993, Carol Taylor and her husband, Jay, were driving through New Mexico's exquisitely beautiful Jemez Valley. The area draws its name from the Jemez Pueblo tribe, its earliest-known inhabitants. The Taylors were at a crossroads in their lives and were looking for a new place to call home.

The meandering, two-lane State Highway 4 took the Taylors past stunning red rock formations and 1,200-foot mesas towering over the road. Around every bend, the landscape became more breathtaking.

Through a series of God-ordained events, Carol and Jay began operating a popular general store where they sold groceries and camping supplies. The Taylors found that a lot of the Jemez Pueblo Native Americans didn't have cash for groceries, so they began accepting pottery, sculpture, painting, and jewelry in trade for credit.

Carol gave them credit even when it wasn't good business. "I would always rather take a loss to make sure a family had food than to take a chance on them not having food," she said. "I was sowing into them before I understood what I was doing. And that has turned out to be an awesome thing."

LITTLE DID SHE KNOW THAT THE *small act* OF EXTENDING CREDIT WOULD SET HER UP FOR LATER MINISTRY.

It's common for Native Americans on reservations to be cautious with outsiders. The Jemez Pueblo are a particularly closed society, and as a rule they don't talk openly to you except about a business transaction. It's rare for them to share their deepest thoughts, hurts, or aspirations with those outside the tribe. But during the 12 years the Taylors ran the general store, some Jemez,

very slowly, began to open up to Carol. Little did she know that the small act of extending credit would set her up for later ministry.

As Carol shared with and ministered to different people in the valley, the call on her life began to stir. She and Jay started reading their Bibles. Before long, they turned the store over to an employee and headed for Broken Arrow to attend Rhema Bible Training College. They completed their first year in 2007, and Carol graduated in 2008. But poor health kept Jay from finishing school, and in 2010 he passed away.

After Jay passed, Carol returned to the Jemez Valley. She began working with a Native American woman who lives in California but whose ancestry is Jemez. Carol's assignment from the Lord was to help create a platform for the woman to minister whenever she was in New Mexico.

CURRENT MINISTRY HEADQUARTERS LOCATED ON HWY 4 IN THE JEMEZ VALLEY.

## THE GATHERING

Carol began holding monthly meetings she called "The Gathering." They are open to anyone. Native Americans attend, along with others from different denominational backgrounds. Carol has been pouring everything she learned at Rhema into everyone who comes. She wants to build them up in the Word and in who they are in Christ.

After one Bible study that included teaching on Christ the Healer, Barbie—a woman young in the Lord from a denominational church—asked for prayer for a detached retina. She also needed someone to take her to have her eye checked once more before surgery.

Carol laid hands on Barbie, prayed for her healing, and volunteered to take her to the doctor. And she encouraged Barbie to trust God to heal her eye.

On the way to the doctor's office, Carol could tell Barbie was nervous. The young Christian was doing her best to step out in faith. Once they arrived, Barbie was in the exam room for a long time. When she finally returned to the lobby, she excitedly proclaimed, "It's already reattached! The doctor said it looks so good that I don't have to come back for a year! It really worked!"

## CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

In 2011 Carol was contacted by Jeanne Orrison, an RBTC instructor and a teacher of one of Rhema Bible Church's adult





◀ **CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES**



**HELPERS AND FRIENDS AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE CHILDREN.** ▶



▶ **SAL AND FLO YEPA OPEN THEIR HOME TO DISTRIBUTE CHRISTMAS GIFTS.**



Sunday school classes. Each year the class sends out Christmas shoeboxes for children. Jeanne asked Carol if she knew of Jemez Pueblo children who would benefit from receiving the shoeboxes.

Carol's answer? A resounding "Yes!" Many Jemez Pueblo mothers struggle just to feed their kids, let alone provide gifts. This was an answer to prayer!

The class sent 70 shoeboxes and a church in Albuquerque supplied another 15. Carol also received hats, mittens, scarves, and lap throws from others who heard about the project. She and helpers wrapped several hundred extra gifts for the parents, grandparents, and older siblings who brought the children. No one would leave empty-handed!

Passing out Christmas shoeboxes is an all-day event. Parents are told to bring the children at designated times. When they arrive, Carol tells the kids—with those who brought them listening—a story interwoven with the Gospel. Then everyone receives a shoebox or present, cookies, and other treats. Several other Rhema grads have pitched in to help. And a generous Jemez family hosts the party.

For some reservation families, the Christmas shoeboxes are the only gifts their children receive. The shoeboxes have helped Carol make new friends, strengthen existing relationships, and develop trust among the Jemez people. Because of the shoebox program, some families are less afraid to interact with Bible-believing Christians.

**PROCLAIMING A HIGHWAY FOR THE LORD**

With its dramatic skies and beautiful landscapes, the Jemez Valley attracts many visitors. It also draws New Agers and Wicca. There's a flavor of just about every kind of spiritual activity there. So much witchcraft is practiced that some have called it one of the darkest places spiritually in the U.S. It was once a haven for pedophiles.

The Lord has repeatedly led Carol to blow the shofar and proclaim a highway for Him

through the wilderness (Isa. 40:3). To do this, she starts at the top of the historic Jemez tribal land—9,000-foot-high Mount Redondo in the breathtakingly beautiful Valles Caldera. Carol makes several stops on the way down the mountain and decrees that God's glory will manifest throughout the Jemez Valley. Today, she says, you can sense a shift in the spiritual atmosphere there.

Carol's calling to the Jemez Pueblo fits her like a glove. There's nothing she would rather be doing. Although her husband is not walking with her on this leg of her earthly journey, Carol knows he is cheering her on from above, standing among that "great cloud of witnesses."♥

.....  
 TO FIND OUT MORE about Carol Taylor and her ministry, email her at [Carol.Taylor1@windstream.net](mailto:Carol.Taylor1@windstream.net).  
 .....



▶ **HAPPY CHILDREN RECEIVING THEIR CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES.**





"IT'S YOUR *continued* CONFESSING OF THE WORD OF GOD THAT WILL GET THE ANSWER THROUGH TO YOU."

// KENNETH W. HAGIN, CAMPMEETING 2014



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## SPEAKERS



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DON DUNCAN



CHAD GONZALES



MARK HANKINS



DARRELL HUFFMAN



DAVID SHEARIN



ANDY THOMPSON

"SO WHAT IF YOU'VE FAILED. IT'S NOT ABOUT WHETHER YOU'VE FAILED OR NOT. IT'S ABOUT WHAT YOU DO *after* YOU FAIL. GET BACK ON YOUR FEET, *arise*, AND MOVE INTO WHAT GOD HAS FOR YOU."

// CRAIG W. HAGIN,  
CAMPMEETING 2014

# God Still Heals!

GOD WAS THE HEALER in both the Old and New Testaments. He is still the Healer today. Here are a few testimonies from people who have experienced Jesus as their Healer!

"Through **KENNETH E. HAGIN'S TEACHINGS**, I learned how to believe God when I had no hope, strung out on methadone, heroin, and other narcotics for over 20 years. **I am free today.**" // GARY

"At the end of October, I had a mole removed from my arm. The biopsy came back as melanoma cancer. The doctor said it was Stage 3, rapidly progressing to Stage 4. A scan showed that it was already in a lymph node. The doctor said it was too deep to cut it all out. He estimated that I would need at least five sessions of radiation.

"By the third session, I went in for a scan. And **glory to God, the cancer was completely gone!** The doctor said it doesn't even look like I had cancer!" // MIRANDA

"I want to praise God. Four months ago I wrote a prayer request for myself and my pill addiction. I stand this day **122 days sober.** Thank you, God!" // MATTHEW

"First, let me say what a blessing you are to us inmates. **We have grown in the Lord.** Your ministry has made such a difference on this campus.

"There is a lady here who does not believe in God. Two months ago she was told she was covered with cancer from head to toe and had three months to live. Some of the women here asked if we could pray with her. She said, 'What for? There is no God. But if you want to, go ahead.'

"So three of my dear sisters and I prayed for her. When she went back to the doctor, he said, 'I can't explain it, but **all the cancer that showed up on the MRI, bone scans, and blood tests is gone!** As a result of being healed, **this lady came to the Lord.**

"I want to share that it was through your ministry that **we learned how to walk by faith, operate in the spiritual gifts, and walk in our calling.** Thank you so much. All of the **BOOKS** you send get used and shared with all the women." // A WOMAN INMATE



TWO PRAISE REPORTS FROM THE JANUARY 2015 MIAMI, FLORIDA, LIVING FAITH CRUSADE

A gentleman who had been a Satanist for 30 years responded to Kenneth W. Hagin's altar call. He said he wanted to give it all up—all of his demonic practices. **He was also baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke with other tongues!**

On Wednesday night of the *Living Faith Crusade*, Rev. Hagin had a special altar call for people with chest problems. A man who had been diagnosed with cancer went forward because he was having trouble breathing. Rev. Hagin laid hands on him. The next day the man went to the hospital for a scheduled radiation treatment. The doctor was confused and said, "This can't be right." They could see that **the cancer was deteriorating.** Then, on Friday night of the crusade, this man was **baptized in the Holy Spirit.**

## TELL US!

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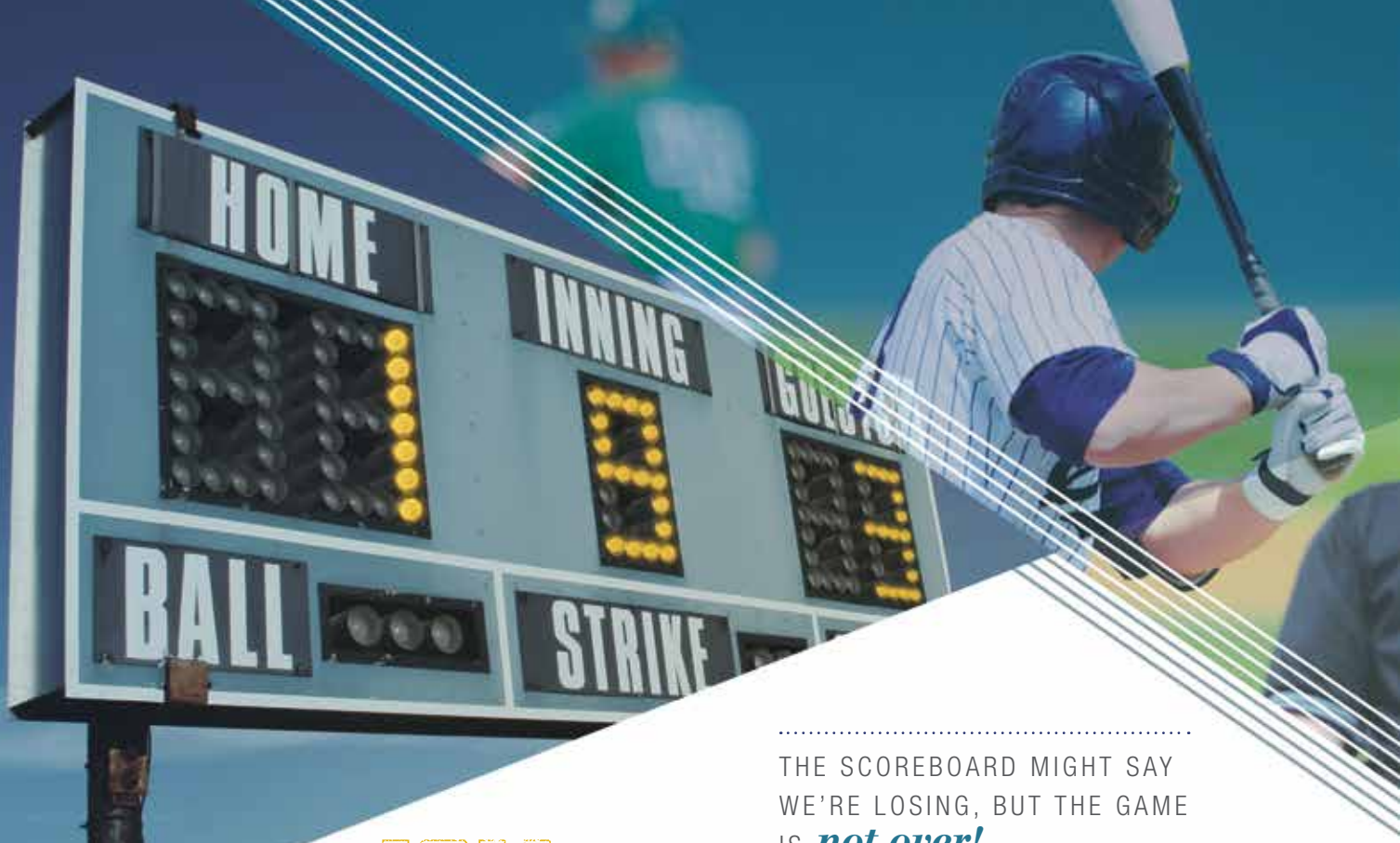
Tuesday–Thursday  
2:15–3:15 p.m.



"Come and stay until you get healed and have your faith built up enough to stay healed."

—KENNETH E. HAGIN





THE SCOREBOARD MIGHT SAY WE'RE LOSING, BUT THE GAME IS *not over!*



# JOY, NO MATTER WHAT



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**

**JOY IS A FRUIT** of the Spirit that we should all have operating in our lives (Gal. 5:22). And God wants us to be full of it. He wants us to have a full tank of joy

(John 15:11)—regardless of what’s happening around us!

James 1:2 (NCV) says, “*My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be FULL OF JOY.*” You may be thinking, “How can I be full of joy when bad things are happening all around me?”

You’re confusing joy with happiness. They are two different things. Happiness comes from things that happen on the outside—earthly experiences, material objects. And it’s temporary. True joy comes from the inside—from Jesus. And no matter what is going on around us, we can always have joy in Him.

## LOOK INSIDE

You see, if you’re looking at the world—at trials, wars, and financial situations—you’re forgetting Who’s inside you. Those things shouldn’t move you or cause you to lose your joy. Why? Because to know who you are in Christ is to be joyful.

Nehemiah 8:10 says that the joy of the Lord is our strength. It’s *His* joy that’s on the inside of us. It’s *His* joy that keeps us going strong, no matter what. And we can keep that joy in spite of the situations we face. Christ in us is greater than anything that’s in the world!

“Well, I just need Jesus to come by here, and help my situation. Then I’ll be joyful.” Jesus has already helped your situation! When He died on Calvary, He said, “It is finished.” Jesus defeated the devil and gave us His Name. He’s the ultimate winner.

When we believe on Him, we become ultimate winners too. It’s just that simple. And that’s why we can keep our joy in spite of circumstances. We know what the Word of God says and that settles it!

## REJOICE—ALWAYS

I’m going to be honest. Life is not always going to feel joyful. The devil is here to try to get us off our game. He’s here to steal our dreams—to kill and destroy (John 10:10). But God is always for us. And the Bible tells us we must “*count it all joy*” (James 1:2 NKJV).

That means we must count it all joy *now*—and not just when it feels joyful. Every day, we’ve got to stir up the gift of God that’s on the inside of us, knowing that situations and struggles don’t define us. The scoreboard might say we’re losing, but the game is not over! We are always victorious through Christ Jesus. And we can have what the Bible says is ours.



## THINK IT OVER

Have you been allowing the joy of the Lord to rule in your life? Or have you allowed situations and circumstances to take over? Decide right now that you will rejoice, no matter what. There’s no time like the present to start!

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**SPECIAL OFFER**

FAITH NUGGET

## Don't Stop Believing

*"My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be full of joy, because you know that these troubles test your faith, and this will give you PATIENCE. Let your patience show itself perfectly in what you do. Then you will be perfect and complete and will have everything you need."*

—JAMES 1:2-4 (NCV)

I believe in a "suddenly" God. We read in the Bible where certain things happened immediately. But sometimes, we have to have patience.

That can be difficult in our microwave generation. We're used to having things immediately. But when it comes to spiritual things, we must believe—and continue to believe—in spite of what's happening around us. We must keep our faith—and our joy.

When we do, the Bible promises that everything will turn around for our good! We will have what we need. Everything will be OK!

Hallelujah!

*Never stop believing.*

We can have joy and the peace that passes all understanding because we know our God is able. And as long as we put our trust in Him, He will deliver us out of every situation.

The Apostle Paul had many times in his life that didn't seem very joyful. He was persecuted, stoned, and beaten as he ministered the Word. But

EVERY DAY, WE'VE GOT TO  
*stir up* THE GIFT OF GOD THAT'S ON THE  
INSIDE OF US, KNOWING THAT SITUATIONS AND  
STRUGGLES DON'T DEFINE US.

those things didn't move Him. He kept his joy, because it wasn't based on the things he was going through. It was based upon the Lord. That's why he was able to encourage us in Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) to "rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" Paul knew of the power that comes from rejoicing in the Lord.

### UNSPEAKABLE JOY

Our joy is not based upon rising and falling gas prices. It's not based upon the stock market, the new iPhone, or having the newest vehicle. It's not based upon whether we live in a big house, a small house, or an out-house! None of that matters!

When we know Who our God is, who we are in Christ, and that the joy of the Lord is our strength, we can continue to rejoice. We can rejoice with "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

What does that mean? It means we rejoice with a joy that's so good we can't even describe it. A joy that will strengthen us and help us. A joy that will cause us to stand.

We might not know what to do about a situation, but we don't have to worry. God is still in control. And there is nothing that can stop us when we have the joy of the Lord on the inside!♥





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"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall."

—PSALM 18:28–29 (NIV)

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# Enforcing the Triumph of Christ

PATSY CAMENETI

IN EPHESIANS chapter 1, Paul prays for the Church in Ephesus. In verse 19 he asks that believers in this church receive a revelation of the exceeding greatness of God's power toward them.

## EPHESIANS 1:16-23 (NKJV)

**16** [I] do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:

**17** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,

**18** the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

**19** and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power

**20** which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

**21** far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

**22** And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church,

**23** which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

Even though this prayer was prayed specifically for the Church at Ephesus, it was inspired by the Holy Spirit. It therefore is an appropriate prayer for every believer and every church in any nation of the world. **ALL BELIEVERS, EVERYWHERE, HAVE A RIGHT TO KNOW THE SAME TRUTH OF THEIR DOMINION IN CHRIST.**

## A Position of Authority

To pray effectively, a believer must recognize that Jesus has been seated far above any demon spirit or principality that will be encountered, or any name that will be mentioned, in

prayer. But let's not stop there! Ephesians 2:6 says that God has raised us up *together* and made us sit *together* in heavenly places in Christ.

After the Holy Spirit reveals truth to us, we have a choice. Will we only privately enjoy the blessing and freedom which acting on it brings? Or will we realize that the truth is our weaponry which we can use to help others be free also?

To pray for governments, kings, cities, and nations (1 Tim. 2:2), we must comprehend the benefits of implementing this prayer. The highest, most effective place from which to pray for all men, kings, and people of authority and influence is the revelation that *I have been exalted with Him.*

**JESUS DIDN'T COME TO THE EARTH TO PURSUE A PRIVATE VICTORIOUS LIFE.** He didn't look on humanity and say, "I have life and life more

abundantly. It's a shame that you don't." No, He came to give life, not just receive and enjoy it. **JESUS DIED SO THAT OUR LIVES COULD BE VICTORIOUS AND GLORIFY THE FATHER.**

As God's sons and daughters, we are destined to look and act just like the Firstborn (Rom. 8:29). **WE ARE RESPONSIBLE BEFORE GOD THE FATHER TO DECLARE AND ENFORCE THE VICTORY JESUS DIED TO GIVE US.** To do that, we *need* the revelation and understanding for which this prayer in Ephesians asks.

We must be conscious of our position in Christ to pray effectively and prepare the way for the Lord's return. We take Jesus' victory and enforce it in our lives and in the earth as the Holy Spirit directs. ▼

[Editor's Note: Patsy Cameneti is a regular speaker at *Kindle the Flame*, Lynette Hagin's Women's Conference.]



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**SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT**



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I DON'T  
CARE . . .  
AND NEITHER  
SHOULD YOU

Some people seem to take comfort in thinking, “God knows and He understands.” But they continue to hold on to their cares, and they never get free from them.

**IT'S NOT ENOUGH** to know that God understands and cares. If you want to be free from your cares, you must do what God said to do about them. First Peter 5:7 (Amplified) says, “Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.”

You must cast all of your cares, all of your concerns, all of your anxieties, and all of your worries upon the Lord, because He cares for you. This isn't something you do every day. It's a once-and-for-all proposition that enables you to get rid of your cares. It puts them over into God's hands.

### COMMIT

Psalm 37:5 says, “Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.” A marginal note in my King James Bible reads, “Roll thy way upon the Lord.”

Cast. Commit. Roll. Just roll your cares, your burdens, your anxieties, and your worries upon God. That's what the Word tells us to do. Yet some people have asked me, “Please pray that the Lord will lighten this load I'm carrying.”

God won't do that. He tells you what to do about your burdens. And if you don't do something about them, nothing will be done. “You” is the understood subject in Psalm 37:5. You commit your way unto the Lord. You roll your way upon the Lord. You cast all your care upon Him.

This is why some people don't get answers to their prayers. They're not praying in line with God's Word. They're not doing what God said to do about cares, anxieties, worries, and so forth.

It won't do any good to pray about your cares unless you do what God tells you to do about them. *But you can do what He says to do!*

### WORRY

Shortly after I was born again, I promised God, “I'll never doubt anything I read in Your Word. And I will put Your Word into practice.”

Everything in the Word was a light and a blessing to me until I came to Matthew 6:25. This verse says, “Take no thought for your life.” I learned from a footnote that the Greek reads, “Do not be anxious about tomorrow.” Cross-references pointed out that God says, “Do not worry.”

At that time, I was full of worry! Not only was I nearly dead with a heart condition, but I was about to worry myself the rest of the way to the grave!

“Lord,” I said, “if I have to live without worry, I can't be a Christian!” Suddenly everything in the Word seemed dark and fuzzy. I couldn't get any more light from the Word. My conscience smote me, because I was not practicing the Word.

Finally at 6:00 p.m. on July 4, 1933, I committed all my cares to the Lord. I said, “Lord, forgive me for worrying, for being full



of anxieties, for fretting, for being discouraged, for having the blues, for feeling sorry for myself. I know You will forgive me because You said You would if I'd confess it. From this day on, because You have now forgiven me, I promise You the longest day I live, I will never worry again."

Many years have come and gone since I cast my cares upon the Lord. Although I will confess that I've been sorely tempted, I have not worried. I have not fretted. I have not had the blues. I have not been discouraged, no matter what. (Some people said I didn't have enough sense to worry. But, thank God, I had too much Bible sense to worry!)

Worry was the most difficult sin for me to give up. And worry is the greatest temptation you, too, will ever face. But you can resist it—and you must.

### STRENGTHENED

Your worst enemy is the flesh. The flesh and natural human reasoning would limit you to your own ability. You look at the circumstances, influences, problems, cares, tests, storms, and winds, and you say, "I can't."

The language of doubt, the flesh, the senses, and the devil is, "I don't have the ability, the opportunity, or the strength. I'm limited." But the language of faith says, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13). The Lord strengthens me. I cannot be conquered. I cannot be defeated. If a natural force comes against me, it can't defeat me, because there aren't enough natural forces in all the world to conquer the Christ Who dwells within me!"

The language of faith says, "Greater is He Who is in me, than he who is in the world. I am fortified from within. I've learned how to put Christ to work for me and *in me*. I have, dwelling in me, the Spirit of God Who raised Jesus from the dead! I have God's wisdom, strength, and ability in me. I'm learning how to let that wisdom govern my intellect. I'm letting God speak through my lips. I'm daring to think God's thoughts after Him."

The language of faith says, "The Lord is the strength of my life. Whom shall I fear (Ps. 27:1)? God has made me greater than my enemies. God has enabled me to put my heel on the neck of weakness, fear, and inability. I stand and declare that whosoever believeth in Him shall not be put to shame (Rom. 9:33). Therefore, I cannot be put to shame."

### FAITH IN ACTION

## Kick Worry Out the Door!

### SPEAK THE FOLLOWING CONFESSIONS ALOUD EACH DAY AND LET GOD'S PEACE RULE IN YOUR HEART.

- I cast the whole of my care—all my anxieties, all my worries, all my concerns—once and for all on God.
- I commit my way to the Lord. I roll my way upon Him. I trust in Him. And He shall bring it to pass!
- I do not worry about tomorrow. I have no worries or cares. I've committed them to God. I never have the blues. I am never discouraged!
- I can! I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.

I've cast my cares on the Lord, and I encourage you to do the same. He's figured it all out, He's working it all out, and I'm shouting while He's doing it!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's *Faith Food Devotions*.]

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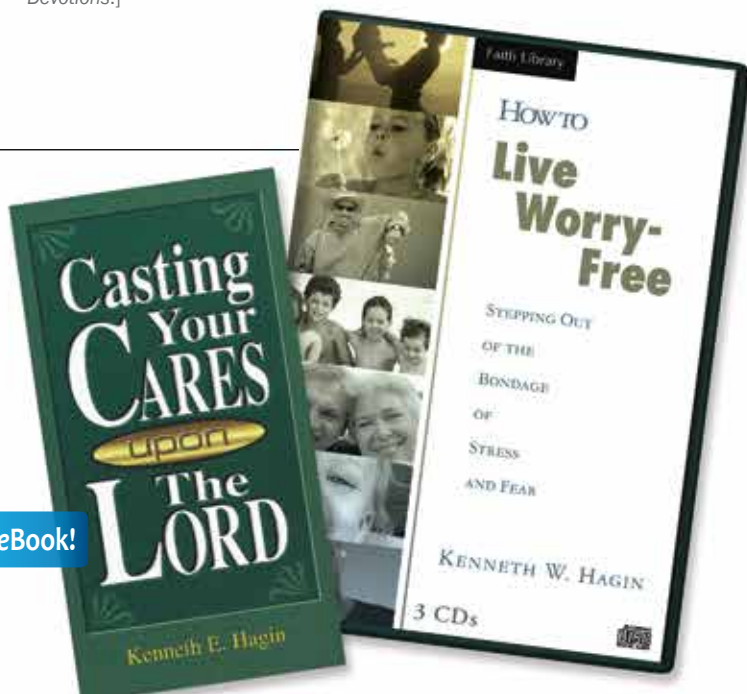
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# SEED

## Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL."  
— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

**I BEGAN THIS COLUMN** in June of 2001. It seems impossible that 14 years have passed. Looking back, I could not find a single column on fatherhood. So this month I felt impressed to write on that subject.

Ephesians 6:1–3 (NLT) says, "*Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 'Honor your father and mother.' This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.'*"

These first three verses of Ephesians chapter 6 are often read to children. My parents read them to me. I knew I wanted things to go well for me and to live a long life, so I endeavored to obey and honor my parents. And most times I succeeded, though none of us is perfect.

I have seen fathers literally hold these scriptures over a child's head. Yet I did not see those fathers practicing verse 4: "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.*"

Many children have difficulty relating to our Heavenly Father's goodness because they have not had a good example of an earthly father. I am so thankful for my father's example. He passed away 13 years ago, a month before his 90th birthday. I still miss him very much. He was such an inspiration. He was the guiding force in my life.

My father taught me about life and how to live it. He never took time to relive the past, because he always looked to the future. He taught me to love and respect God, Who was always placed first in our home. My dad also taught me how to overcome

difficult situations and disappointments. He often told me, "Lynette, never say that something can't be done. *Can't* should never be in your vocabulary. Somehow, some way, it can be done."

I learned from him never to accept failure. I can still hear him say, "Lynette, you have not failed until you fail to get up."

Many times those words have caused me to rise to the

occasion when I wanted to give up.

If I had to describe my dad in a single phrase, it would be "he lived to give." Helping others was his consuming and driving passion. I have embraced this same passion. I find great satisfaction in giving to others. I'll be forever grateful for his example. It helped me realize that, if my earthly dad loved me that much, how much more does my Heavenly Father love me!

I encourage each of you who are fathers to set the right example for your children. Certainly, children need instruction and correction. My father set boundaries for me, and if I didn't heed them, I was corrected. However, I was always treated with love and respect.

Many times parents concentrate so much on instruction and correction that they fail to develop relationships with their children. My husband has a saying—"Rules without relationship create rebellion." Develop a relationship with your children. Often the relationship part of bringing up children centers on the mother. But fathers, it is so important that you, too, have relationships with your children.

I so applaud my husband, who has excelled in this area. Though he keeps an incredibly busy schedule, he makes time for his children and grandchildren. They grow up so quickly. Relationships with your children should begin at an early age. When that does not happen, it can be very difficult to establish relationships later.

Fathers, do not be so consumed with your career that you neglect your family life. Have fun with your children. Make memories that they will talk about in years to come. Our kids still talk about riding four-wheelers on the sand dunes. They talk fondly about the amusement park vacation we took one year. We visited four amusement parks in two weeks and rode every ride in every park. Would my husband and I have chosen that vacation? Probably not! But we asked the children what they wanted to do on our vacation, and that was their choice.

Pray and seek the wisdom of God in helping to develop and train each of your children. They are all different and respond in different ways. If you will ask Him, He will lead, guide and direct you.♥

Lynette







# Kids' Page

Fearless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy, H-eirs of God

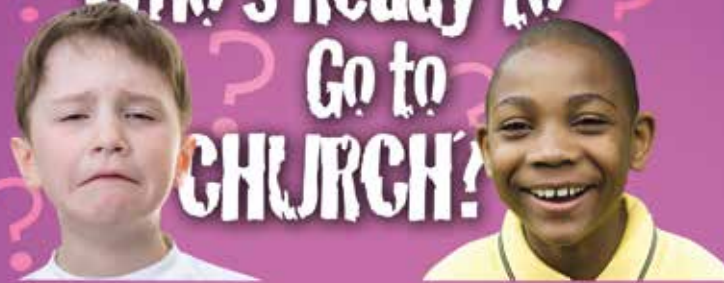
## PSALM 100

### WORD SCRAMBLE

**SLEBS**  
**GINRING**  
**IRAPISE**  
**FLANKTHU**  
**KANTHSIGGVIN**  
**SLADNEGS**  
**FLOYJU SOINE**

Psalm 100 tells us what our attitudes and actions should be when we enter God's house (the church). Unscramble the words to the left to discover some of these attitudes and actions. Read Psalm 100 for help.

## Who's Ready to Go to CHURCH?



These two boys have just been told that it's time to go to church. Now, considering that Psalm 122:1 says, "I WAS GLAD when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord," which of these two boys do you think is really READY TO GO TO CHURCH? If you guessed the boy on the right, then you're right! The Bible tells us in several places what our attitude should be when we're going to "the house of God" (CHURCH).

Here are just a few:

**Psalm 122:1**— "I was GLAD when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord." (When your parents tell you that it's time to go to church, your attitude should be, "I'm glad we get to go to church!")

**Psalm 42:4**— "I went with them to the house of God, with the VOICE OF JOY AND PRAISE." (Never COMPLAIN on your way to church!)

**Psalm 100:2**— "Serve the Lord with GLADNESS: come before his presence with SINGING." (If you're not GLAD to serve Him, you may not BE serving Him at all. He wants us to come before Him with joyful songs, so you'd better get a smile on that face and start singing!!!!)

ARE YOU READY TO GO TO CHURCH NOW?

## FIND THE JOY!

Even when you feel like frowning you can always find a reason to smile. It all depends on HOW YOU LOOK AT THINGS. You've just got to find the joy in life! See if you can find the smiling faces among all of the frowning faces below. How many are there?



## jokes & riddles



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."  
 —Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

Where does food go when it commits a crime?

**To the Food Court**

Which state has the smallest drink?

**Minnesota (Mini-soda)**

What did the police officer say to his stomach?

**You're under a vest**

What's the difference between a schoolteacher and a train?

**One says "Spit out your gum!" and the other says "Chew, Chew!"**

How do you know when it's raining cats and dogs?

**When you step in a "poodle"**

Answers:  
 PSALM 100 WORD SCRAMBLE  
 BLESS, SINGING, PRAISE, THANKFUL  
 THANKSGIVING, GLADNESS, JOYFUL NOISE  
**FIND THE JOY!**  
 Turn the page upside down and you will quickly see the smiling faces. There are 10 of them in all.



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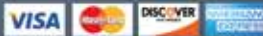
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