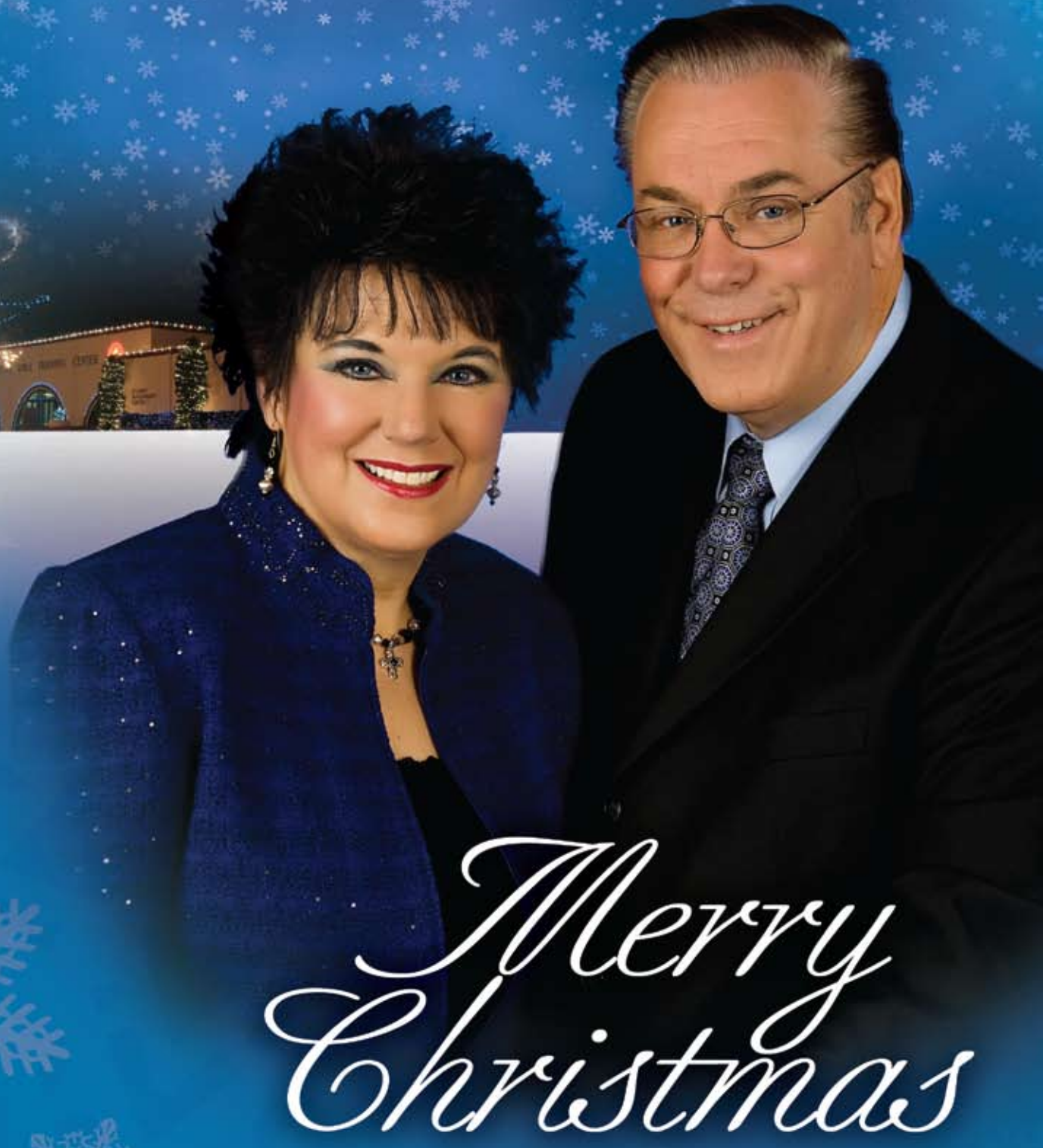




# THE Word of Faith

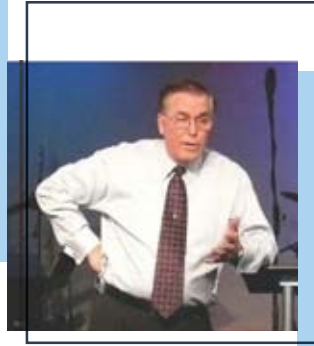
DECEMBER 2008

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



*Merry  
Christmas*

# The Deliverer Is Here!



# Heart to Heart

*With Kenneth W. Hagin*

This is the time of year when we celebrate the birth of Jesus—when we rejoice that God sent His Son to the earth.

When Satan entered the Garden of Eden, he brought sin, sickness, and poverty with him. When Adam and Eve fell, Satan gained power over mankind, and mankind stood in great need of a Deliverer, a Savior. Thanks be to God—Jesus' birth in a Bethlehem manger marked the moment the Deliverer had come!

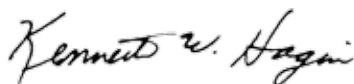
Jesus was born to set men free. John 8:36 says, "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed!*" And First John 3:8 tells us, ". . . *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*" Jesus came to destroy Satan's bondage! The story of Jesus is the story of man's deliverance. Jesus was, is, and always will be the Deliverer!

But Jesus is not just *the* Deliverer. He's *your* Deliverer! He's your Deliverer from sin, sickness, poverty—your Deliverer from anything the enemy can throw your direction. It doesn't matter whether you're oppressed, distressed, or in trouble or whether the devil has been holding you or someone you love hostage. No matter how rough it gets—no matter how high the water rises or how hard the wind blows—Jesus is your personal Deliverer!

You can put your trust and confidence in the Lord! He will never leave you nor forsake you. He'll protect you from danger. Even in the strongest storm you face in life, Jesus is still your Deliverer!

Sometimes we're waiting for our deliverance, but our Deliverer is here! Our Healer and Protector is here! *Jesus is here!*

What do you need from the Lord this Christmas? In the midst of all the lights and celebrations, the tinsel and shining gifts, remember, you don't have to wait for your deliverance, healing, or miracle. Let this Christmas be the time when you say, "I receive it! It's mine! I have it now!" Let today be your day of deliverance—because your Deliverer is here!

  
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If we're going to tap into God's overflow blessings and live above life's limits, we must discover how to participate in God's cycle of giving and receiving.



### **To Tithe or Not to Tithe?** Kenneth E. Hagin

Tithing originated as an act of faith. It was not introduced by the Levitical Law but merely regulated by it. Find out whether Christians should still pay tithes to their local church.



### **Jesus Is Greater Than Anything!** Craig W. Hagin

If the cares of life try to weigh you down this holiday season, you can rejoice in God's precious Gift to mankind, knowing that the Greater One now lives in you!

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We can become so wrapped up in holiday preparations that we lose our joy. This month, Lynette Hagin encourages us to make memories with our family, whatever our budget, and to remember the reason for the season.

### **23 F.A.I.T.H. Academy Kids' Page**

(F-earless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy H-eirs of God) If you're a kid, this page is for you. We've included Bible lessons, puzzles, and riddles for you to enjoy. Have fun!

## Our Gift to You

The Apostle Paul encouraged us to "Eagerly pursue and seek to acquire [this] love [make it your aim, your great quest] . . ." (1 Cor. 14:1 Amplified). Love never fails. We would like to send you Kenneth E. Hagin's CD *The Love Walk* as our holiday gift to you.

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# The Cycle of Giving and Receiving

kenneth w. hagin

*(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book Overflow: Living Above Life's Limits.)*



God's Word makes it very clear that God wants us to live an abundant life. John 10:10 says, "*The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)*" (Amplified). This abundant life is what God intends for every

one of His children.

Unfortunately, many of God's children aren't enjoying this kind of overflowing life. One thing we all need to understand is that *our living* is connected to *our giving*. When people think of giving, they usually think about giving of their time, talent, and money. Although giving does have to do with more

than money, in this article, I am going to focus on the blessings of God as they pertain to finances.

God has made a way for us to have abundant living through our giving. But we must be convinced that our quality of giving affects our quality of living. If we're not convinced, we're probably not going to give. And even if we *do* give, we probably won't have faith for a return on our giving and receiving.

Let's look at some verses that deal with giving and receiving.

**LUKE 6:38 (NIV)**

**38 Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.**

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 (NIV)

6 Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

GALATIANS 6:7-10 (NIV)

7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

8 The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.

9 Let us not be weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The Bible clearly has a lot to say about the connection between giving and receiving.

At times in years gone by, people have said to me, "All that tithing and giving offerings won't do you any good." I never

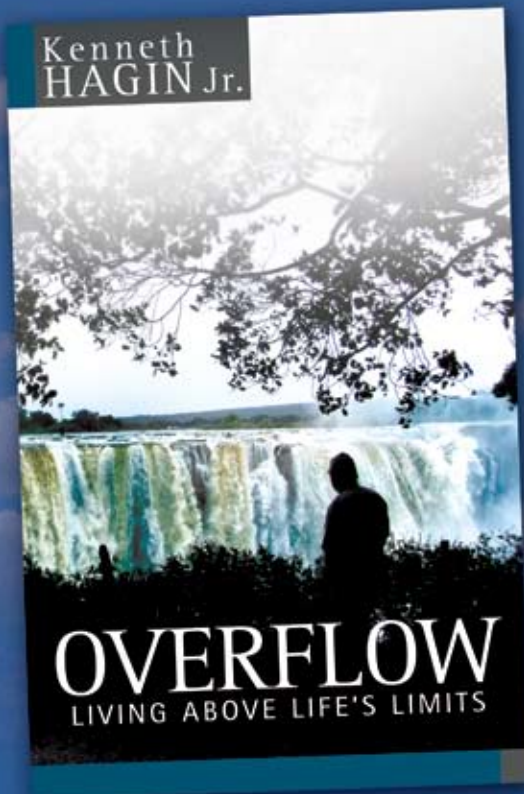
## Set Financial Goals

If you know anything about sports, you know that a coach develops a game plan for his or her team to execute in hopes of winning a game against the opposition. In the corporate world, executives often develop a plan or strategy for reaching certain goals for their companies. They set goals and then lay out an action plan for accomplishing those goals. Spiritually, when we set goals of what we want to give to God, we are developing a winning game plan for our lives.

It is very important for us as Christians to sit down with our family and set certain financial goals each year—for example, giving a certain percentage above our tithe. Decide how



much you want to give for the year. Then form a plan for reaching those goals. For example, if you're married, have your spouse pray and agree with you about reaching those goals. If you have children who are old enough to understand these things, have them pray with you too. It's important to understand that the purpose of setting goals is not just to gain money. The purpose is to stretch and exercise your faith for something specific that honors God and His faithfulness to provide for His people.



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let that kind of talk bother me, because I believe the Bible. And the Bible says that God cannot be mocked—whatever a person sows, that's what he's going to reap (Gal. 6:7). And if I'm sowing obedience—if I'm acting in obedience concerning tithes and offerings—God will see to it that His promises come to pass in my life.

When you obey God and walk in line with His Word and His way of doing things, He will make His promises come

money as it relates to ministry. But without money, a church can't keep its lights on! It takes money to pay pastors and other staff. It takes money to operate a ministry that supports missions and funds outreaches that are spreading the Gospel—not only to the local community, but to the four corners of the earth.

In the secular world, a company keeps its doors open by the finances it receives. In much the same way, that's



There is a cycle of giving and receiving we must participate in if we're going to tap into God's overflow blessings and live above life's limits.

to pass in your life too. Why? Because God is utterly faithful to His Word. If you obey Him, He *will* bless you.

Some people mock biblical prosperity by saying, "That sowing and reaping stuff doesn't work. Those preachers are just trying to get your money."

I'm not saying that there's never been a preacher who has missed it in the area of finances, because some have missed it and have overemphasized

how a ministry keeps its doors open—by the finances that the ministry receives.

Some people complain when the pastor mentions tithes and offerings. And usually the people complaining are the ones who don't tithe. And if they give at all, they don't give very generously. Why don't they tithe or give? They either don't have an understanding of the Word concerning prosperity, or they just don't believe it. God wants us blessed. But He wants us to be blessed *His way*, and one of the main ways He blesses us is through the avenue of our giving.

Other people will gripe as they're tithing or giving. They're not giving their finances according to God's Word. And as a result, they don't receive any blessing from their giving. The Bible says that God loves a *cheerful giver* (2 Cor. 9:7), not a giver who gives begrudgingly or unwillingly.

There is a cycle of giving and receiving we must participate in if we're going to tap into God's overflow blessings and live above life's limits. In this cycle, we give to live—to enjoy the overflow—and we live to give.

The Bible says that it is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35). But until we receive something ourselves, we won't have anything to give to others. Giving doesn't stand alone, but neither does receiving. It's a constant cycle of God's provision. We receive, we give. We give, we receive.

## FAITH IN ACTION

### Living Beyond the Past

Some people are imprisoned by their past. They feel that it is impossible to have even a tiny measure of success because of past events. Remember, *failures are not final!* Here are four tips to help you forget the past and enjoy a prosperous future.

**Number One:** Change what you identify with. If you are born again, you are a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). Identify with who you are, what you have, and what you can do *in Him*.


**Number Two:** Understand the power of Jesus' blood. That blood cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:7–9).

**Number Three:** Don't dwell on your past—forget it. Paul forgot his past (Phil. 3:13), and he told us what to remember (Phil. 4:8).

**Number Four:** Focus on the future. The Apostle Paul did that and encouraged us to do the same (Phil. 3:13–15).

Your yesterdays may not be pretty, but God can make your tomorrows beautiful.

God doesn't want us blessed so we can hoard the blessings to ourselves. He wants us blessed so we can show others His goodness by always having our own needs met and having extra to be able to give to every good work (2 Cor. 9:8).

Friend, no matter where we are in life, God wants to take us to a higher level. I encourage you to read the Scriptures for yourself. Meditate on those verses that talk about giving. Meditate on those that promise a return on your giving—when you give with a right heart and a right attitude. Then begin to act on those promises. When you act on the Word of God believing it will come to pass in your life, you will be blessed in your doing (James 1:25)! 



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## Kindle the Flame® Testimonies

### Attendees in Their Own Words

I came to *Kindle the Flame 2007*. I'm an administrator of a retirement community, and 2007 was a tough and challenging year at work. The week before last year's conference began, the situation at work escalated and the pressure mounted. By the week of the conference, I was ready to resign. I was tired of fighting for a particular issue and was ready to give up. When I left work on the Wednesday before the conference, I wanted to run away from it all. I wanted to do anything but pack for my trip to Tulsa. I didn't even want to go. I had lost my zeal. I was so drained, mentally and emotionally, that I could hardly decide what to pack.

At Thursday's evening session, Lynette shared about a time when she wanted to run away. She didn't know where she was headed, but she got in the car and just started driving. I looked over at the friend next to me with a knowing smile of "this is amazing!" As Lynette continued to share, it was as if the Holy Spirit had given her the inside scoop and she was reading my mail verbatim. From the opening session to the closing candlelight service, *Kindle the Flame* was a glorious, right-now time of refreshing. I returned home with my focus back in its proper place. Thank you for obeying the Holy Spirit and His direction for *Kindle the Flame*. It blessed my socks off!

—M. Y., Florida



Still rejoicing at *Kindle the Flame 2008*

I had been deaf in my right ear since childhood. A little over a year ago, at a month-long healing meeting at our church, I was healed. Then about two months later I lost my healing. I knew that when I came to *Kindle the Flame* I would receive it again. However, I didn't figure it would happen the first night. As soon as Lynette called for healings, I stood up and walked to the front. I was ready. I knew as she touched me I received it! I remember praying and thanking God for healing my ear. As I returned to my seat, my associate pastor leaned over and whispered into my right ear, "Can you hear me?" I started nodding and crying! I could hear out of both ears without straining! I am so grateful for you and the ministry you provide to us each year! Thank you so much!

—A. V., Graham, Washington

I had a miscarriage in the first trimester in 2000. Then I had a full-term pregnancy in 2001 and two miscarriages in 2003. My husband and I strongly desired to have a second child. At *Kindle the Flame 2007*, Lynette put a casket up front and encouraged us to write our fears on a piece of paper and bury them in that casket. On my paper, I wrote the fear of not being able to have a second child. I let go of that fear and within weeks I was pregnant. I saw a perinatologist through the first 20 weeks of my pregnancy. From weeks seven to 11, he watched a blood clot that he said could block the blood supply to the developing baby. I stayed in faith and out of fear. At 11 weeks he told me the clot was no longer there. Praise the Lord! He also told me I might bleed a little, but I never did. At *Kindle the Flame 2008* I rejoiced over all that God has done in just one year. On June 17, 2008 my husband and I welcomed our second child into our family. Her brother, Gabriel, 6, was thrilled to welcome her too. God is faithful!

—E. S., Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

For 13 years I have had recurring low back pain. When Lynette laid hands on me at *Kindle the Flame 2008*, I fell and sat down. But as I continued to yield to the Holy Spirit, I eased down to a flat position and felt my legs and back come in line. I was in such peace and comfort. My back has been completely healed!

—J. H., Plano, Texas





**N**early 2,000 women gathered in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, this past September for the eighth annual *Kindle the Flame*® Women's Conference. This one-of-a-kind women's conference was birthed in the heart of Lynette Hagin during a time of prayer and seeking the Lord. God revealed to her that He was gathering an army of women—women of balance—to accomplish a mission for Him in this hour!

From the beginning, the *Kindle the Flame* conference has taken place at pivotal moments, both spiritually and naturally speaking. The first conference was held only a few days after the 9/11 terrorist attack on America, and this year's

conference was held the same weekend Congress was dealing with economic crises. It's no accident that God had gathered together an army of women to seek His face and to pray for this country and its leaders.

Lynette Hagin opened the first service with a powerful message, "What Is Your Issue?" The altar was filled with hundreds of women who responded when she asked the question, "What issue needs to be removed from your life?" As she laid hands on the women and prayed, God set them free from the issues that hindered them. Guest speakers Patsy Cameneti, Anne Durant, and Brenda Thomas encouraged the women to pray in the Holy Ghost, find their place in the Body of Christ, and take their stand in the Lord.

All of the ladies who attended the conference had a wonderful time fellowshiping and getting to know each other at the daily luncheons and exciting workshops. This year's workshop topics included financial planning, the art of appreciation, time and stress management, communicating with teenagers, etiquette, makeovers, and party ideas. The





style show on Saturday afternoon was a fun time of relaxation as the ladies enjoyed seeing the season's latest style trends.

During the candlelight service at the close of the conference, the women were exhorted to not let their light grow dim. As the world around us grows darker, we all need to let our lights shine so people will know there is a Light to guide their way—the Light of the World, the Lord Jesus Christ! 🕯️



## What Is Your Issue?

Lynette Hagin



The woman in Mark chapter 5 is now famous because Jesus healed her and did what no doctor had been able to do: stop the issue of blood that had plagued her for 12 long years. That woman had a physical issue that desperately needed to be removed from her life. Finding the answer to her problem had become so important to her that she was willing to step out of her comfort zone in order to receive the help she needed.

Do you have an “issue” that needs to be removed from your life? The Bible says that God has a wonderful plan and future for His children (Jer. 29:11), but before you can fulfill His plan, you must be willing to get rid of your issues.

How can you get rid of the issues that hold you back from the future God has for you?

1. You must face your issue.
2. Don't cover up the issue.
3. Don't be afraid to share your issue with someone who can help.
4. Reach out to the Lord—He can set you free from your issue!
5. You must press in with determination if you're going to be set free from your issue.

When the woman with the issue of blood heard about Jesus, she was determined to do something about her issue. Pressing through a large crowd of people, she touched the hem of Jesus' garment and was set free from the issue that had her bound!

No matter what *your* “issues” are today, you can have victory over them through the Lord Jesus Christ. Why don't you reach out to the Lord right now and let Him set you free from your issues!

## Kindle the Flame® Speaker Quotes

### Hold On to God's Plan

The Holy Ghost is inviting you to a great life, but before you can enjoy that life, you have to connect with God's plan. When you grab hold of God's plan and look to the Lord, His power will take you to places you never dreamed you could go! God wants to do supernatural things through your life, things that are impossible for you to do on your own. But if you'll hold on to God's plan and purpose, He will take you there!



—Patsy Cameneti

### Take a Stand!

When it comes to the things of the Spirit we have to take a stand. We have to stand up for righteousness' sake. We have to stand on the Word of the living God. Faith is a fight and faith is a stand, but we always win. When we have this attitude of victory, we can outlast any test and trial. If we are determined on the inside, we can outlast anything that the devil throws our way.

—Brenda Thomas



### Connected to the Body of Christ

You must have a working relationship with the Holy Ghost, and not just where your own needs are concerned. That's a start—to pray about your own needs and issues and to take those before the Lord. But realize that you are also connected to the Body of Christ, and you have a supply to offer. Each one of us is significant. We all have a part, and we all have something to give.

—Anne Durant





Timeless  
Teachings  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

# TO TITHE OR NOT TO TITHE?

*(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book The Midas Touch.)*

From time to time over the years, people have asked me if the practice of tithing is still valid for the Church today. “The New Testament really says very little about it,” they say. “Should ministers preach and encourage tithing with so little New Testament information on the subject? Should Christians be bound by the Old Testament Law?”

It is true; there is very little mention of tithing in the New Testament. Only the Gospels of Matthew and Luke report incidents of Jesus speaking about the

tithe. In the following instance, Jesus clearly affirmed His belief in the practice of tithing.

**MATTHEW 23:23 (TLB)**

**23 Yes, woe upon you, Pharisees, and you other religious leaders—hypocrites! For you tithe down to the last mint leaf in your garden, but ignore the important things—justice and mercy and faith. Yes, you should tithe, but you shouldn't leave the more important things undone.**

Jesus upbraided the hypocritical religious leaders of His day for



ignoring important parts of the Law. They ignored such things as justice, mercy, and faith. Instead, they meticulously paid the tithe they owed down to the last leaf in their gardens. Jesus was saying that giving money doesn't take the place of living right. God is not as interested in a person's money as He is in the individual's heart. But Jesus did say that a person should tithe.

The majority of biblical references to the tithe are clearly part of the Old Covenant. However, tithing was not introduced under the Law. It was merely regulated under the Law. Tithing originated as an act of faith. And faith transcends both the Old and New Covenants! And "by faith" is how we should tithe today—not as an act of legalism, but as an act of faith.

Genesis chapter 14 tells us how Abram paid tithes to Melchizedek, king of Salem. However, Abram lived four hundred years before the time of Moses and the Law. Obviously,

he did not pay tithes by legalistic requirement because he lived before the Law. Isaac and Jacob also lived before the Law and paid tithes (Gen. 18:19–20; 28:22).

By faith, Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High



God is not as interested in a person's money as He is in the individual's heart.

God. We see this in the Book of Hebrews, which also tells us that, "... Jesus has become the guarantee of a better covenant" (Heb. 7:22 NIV).

Galatians chapter three makes some crucially important statements.

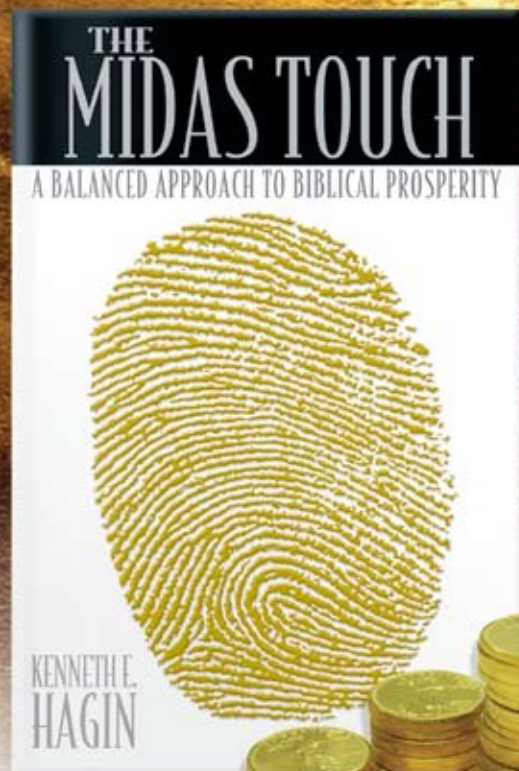
**Galatians 3:11–14**

**11 But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith.**

**12 And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them.**

**13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree:**

*(continued on page 14)*



# The Midas Touch



Many Christians have fallen into a ditch on one side or the other when it comes to biblical prosperity. Some Christians believe it's God's will for His children to be poor. Other Christians teach that God wants all of His children to be millionaires. It's time we learn a balanced, biblical approach to prosperity. True and godly prosperity is about more than money, but it does include our finances, which is an important aspect of life that affects each of us every day.

Topics include:

- Is "supernatural debt cancellation" biblical?
- Can believers expect a "hundredfold return" on what they give?
- Are Christians entitled to an "end-time transfer of wealth"?

**The Midas Touch**

(book, Kenneth E. Hagin)

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*Merry*

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*Christmas*



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(continued from page 11)

**14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

This passage says that we're to live by faith. Should we pay tithes today? Absolutely! But we should pay them in the same way Abraham paid them—not by the Law, but by faith. And besides that, the people of God paid 10 percent *before* the Law and 10 percent *under* the Law. Should we, who live by grace, be doing any less when we have a better covenant?

Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek, who was a type of Christ. And Abraham received the blessing, which was threefold—spiritual, physical, and material (or financial). Because we are redeemed from the curse of the Law by the sacrifice of Christ, we have received the blessing of Abraham—spiritually, physically, and financially.

We, then, by faith follow the example of Abraham in paying tithes. We pay our tithes unto Christ! The Bible says that when God raised Jesus from the dead, He gave Him to be the Head over all things to the Church, which is His Body (Eph. 1:22–23). When we pay tithes to Christ, the Head, they flow to His Body, the Church. Do you see

it? Through the Church, we have the great privilege of giving to Jesus to do His will and work.

I believe if every Christian would be faithful in tithing and giving, there would be more than enough funds for

and purpose for giving should be pure and unselfish.

1. *We should give because we love God.* Giving is a natural expression of love. John 3:16 says, “God so loved the world that He gave.” And we should

## Should we pay tithes today? Absolutely!



the Church to carry out its mission in the world. Researchers have found that amazingly few born-again Americans tithe regularly. And a surprisingly large number give *nothing!* Imagine what could be accomplished if all Christians were faithful in their tithing and giving!

Just think how much more your church could be doing to minister in your city, in your community, in our nation, and around the world if more funds were available. Suppose your church's income was suddenly multiplied by four. It would have a much greater impact in reaching more souls, helping more people in need, and financing more missionaries.

Through tithing and giving offerings, we can be a part of what God is doing in the world today. Our motive

do the same; we should give to God because we love Him.

2. *We should give to God in obedience to His Word.* The Bible teaches us to give to the Lord and support His work. In addition to the scriptures we've already examined, there are many others that are unmistakable in their instruction about giving.

3. *We should give as a means to help carry out Christ's Great Commission.* By giving to the Church, we will support the work of those who are going into all the world with the Gospel.

4. *We should give because we want to see people blessed.* Our tithes and gifts help support outreaches of the local church. Our financial gifts also help those who minister to the poor, evangelize the lost, and build up the saints while equipping them for Christian service.

5. *And, finally, way down the line, we should give in expectancy.* We should believe God to honor the promises in His Word to bless and prosper us.

Notice that I have listed five reasons to give. I believe the order of this list reflects priorities that are very important. It seems to me that many preachers are overemphasizing *number five* on the list and presenting that as the major reason for people to give.

Nevertheless, giving is a tried and proven way to plant seeds for a harvest. This will result in our needs being met. The law of sowing and reaping does apply in the area of personal finances. The Bible is true when it says, “*Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom . . .*” (Luke 6:38).

All of these are good and valid reasons for giving. And I believe they will lead to true prosperity—spirit, soul, and body. ♥

## Principles Regarding Money, Giving, and Receiving

The Epistles are filled with principles that relate to the general topic of money, giving, and prosperity. Here are a few.

1. Believers are not able to give anything to God that did not originate with God (Rom. 11:33–35; 1 Cor. 10:26).
2. Some believers operate in a special grace of giving (Rom. 12:6–8).
3. Believers are called upon to be diligent in business (Rom. 12:11).
4. The believer's giving must be motivated by love (1 Cor. 13:3).

5. Paul and John encouraged Christian charity among the brethren (Gal. 6:10; 1 John 3:17–18).
6. Paul advocated contentment and denounced covetousness (Phil. 4:11–13; Heb. 13:5).
7. Paul stressed the individual's responsibility to provide for his family (1 Tim. 5:8).
8. Believers are not to love or trust in money (1 Tim. 6:5–10, 17–19).
9. Exploitation of the poor by the rich is condemned (James 5:1–6).
10. God wants His children to prosper (3 John 2).



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\* For you non-texters, here is a translation:

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• Do you like it?

• I love it. I've learned so much and can't wait to tell you about it.



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# Winter



**With Kenneth and Lynette Hagin**

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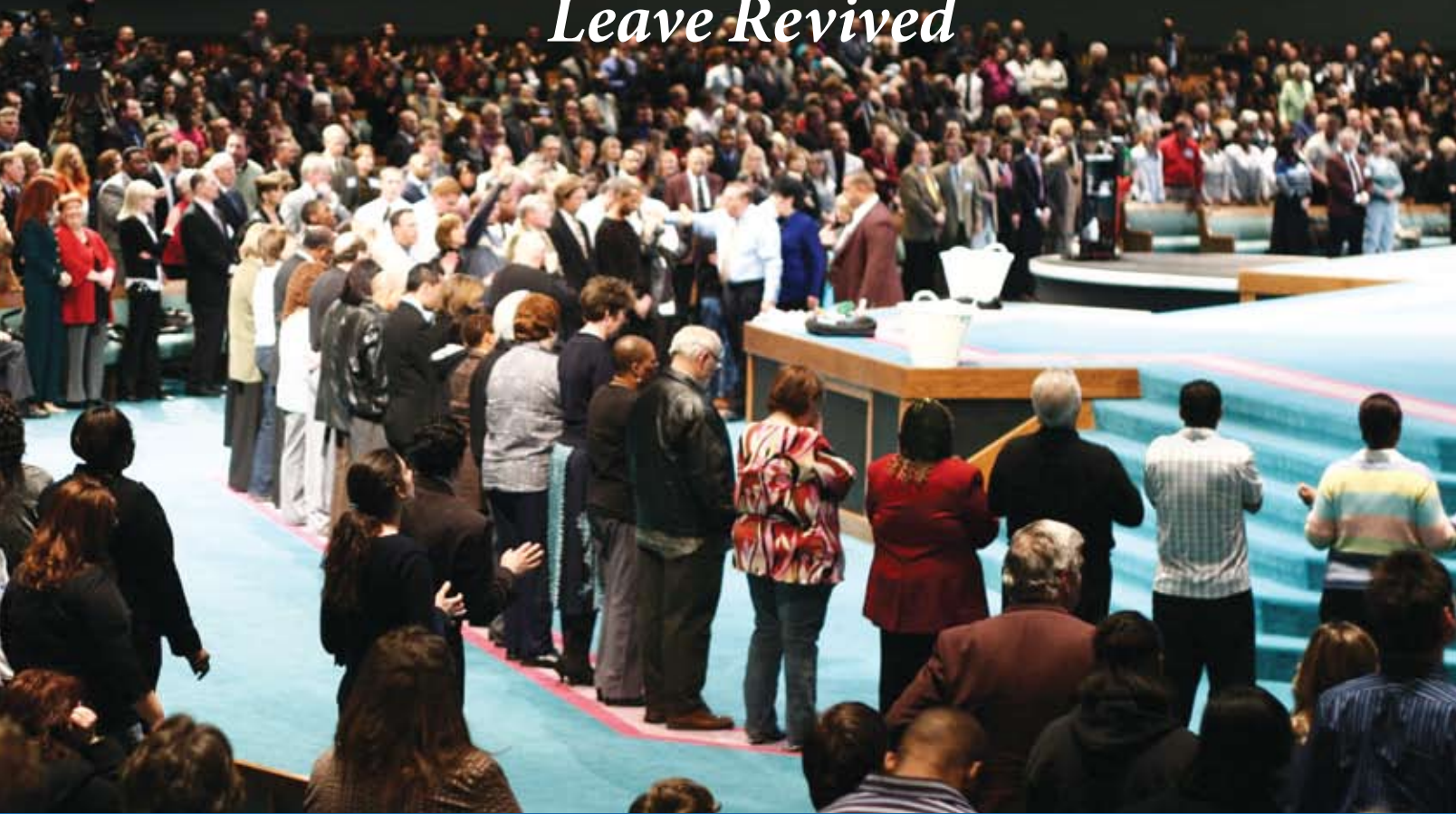
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# JESUS > ANYTHING

*craig w. hagin* **Jesus Is Greater!**

**T**he Christmas season is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. It should be a happy and joyful time of year. Unfortunately, for some people the Christmas holiday can be one of the saddest times of the year. Statistics show that suicide rates spike during the holiday season.

During a time when we should be joyful because Christ was born to redeem mankind, many people—Christians and non-Christians alike—are battling depression. When I thought about why so many people are plagued with depression during Christmas, the scripture John 10:10 came to mind.

#### **JOHN 10:10**

**10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.**

I believe that one way the devil tries to steal from us is by trying to get our minds off of Jesus. Many people are not focusing their thoughts on Jesus, His life, and the abundance He came to provide. Instead, many people are allowing their minds to focus on the things that the thief—Satan—has put in their lives to destroy them.

The devil knows that if we keep our focus on Jesus, we will realize that the devil is a defeated foe. So he tries to do everything he can to keep our eyes on the problem instead of on the solution—Jesus Christ.

This world is filled with trouble. Every day someone is challenged with economic difficulties or physical problems. The list of diseases that people battle can be endless. They range from cancer and AIDS, to blindness and paralysis. In addition to all of this, many people are challenged with emotional problems: fear, worry, hurt, and depression.

But nowhere in the Bible does it say we have to combat the devil and the problems he brings our way by ourselves. Jesus came into the world to overcome and defeat the devil. His victory over Satan enables us to live above the attacks of the enemy.

When Jesus began His earthly ministry, He made it clear what He was called to do.

#### **LUKE 4:18–19**

**18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,  
19 To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Notice that Jesus said He was sent to heal the brokenhearted. If you are struggling with a broken heart, know that Jesus came to heal you.

Some people may become depressed when they don't see anything change in their lives. Maybe they have had to deal

Because the Greater One dwells on the inside of you, you have everything you need to be an overcomer.



with the same situation year after year after year. But no matter what they might be facing, Jesus is their way out.

No matter the name of your circumstance or problem, Jesus' Name is higher than any other name!

#### **PHILIPPIANS 2:9–11**

**9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:  
10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;  
11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

After Jesus' death on the Cross, He was given a Name above every name. No other name is higher than Jesus' Name. However, if we don't keep our focus on Jesus' Name

and all that it provides, the circumstances in our life will become so big in our own sight that we may begin to doubt Jesus' ability to help us.

On the other hand, the more we focus on Jesus, the more those troubling things of life—sickness, poverty, financial problems, and so forth—will fade away. As we maintain our focus on the Word, the hardships we are encountering will become smaller and smaller until they eventually disappear.

The Name of Jesus is above depression. The Name of Jesus is above cancer, lack, and any other negative circumstance we might face. The problem is that too many times we focus on troubles, trials, and sicknesses more than we do on Jesus.

When we keep our eyes and thoughts on Jesus, the joy of the Lord will become the strength that carries us on to victory (Neh. 8:10). It's not that we are joyful *because* of what we are going through. No. We're joyful because we know *in Whom* we believe. And we know that He will carry us through!

Any adversity you are facing can be turned around through God. Mark 10:27 says, ". . . *With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*" Whatever may look impossible to you is not impossible with God.

One time I was diagnosed with an incurable disease. The word "incurable," however, is below the Name of Jesus. What looked like an impossible

situation and what medical science could not cure, the blood of Jesus and the Name of Jesus were able to heal!

First John 4:4 says, "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" The Greater One dwells inside of you!

In mathematics, the greater than (" $>$ ") and less than (" $<$ ") signs are used to show inequalities in mathematical equations. Here are some spiritual equations for you to remember.

Jesus is  $>$  cancer.  
 Jesus is  $>$  AIDS.  
 Jesus is  $>$  depression.  
 Jesus is  $>$  whatever you are facing!

Too many people focus on the devil and believe that he is very powerful. But the devil is really very small in comparison to Jesus. The devil doesn't have any power or authority. He can only lie and trick you into thinking he can destroy your life.

Because the Greater One dwells on the inside of you, you have everything you need to be an overcomer. And as you keep your focus on the Lord Jesus Christ instead of on your problem, you will see a dramatic turnaround in your life. So instead of allowing the cares of life to weigh you down during the holiday season, rejoice in God's precious Gift to mankind. Jesus was born so you might have life and have it abundantly. Now *that* is something worth celebrating! ♥

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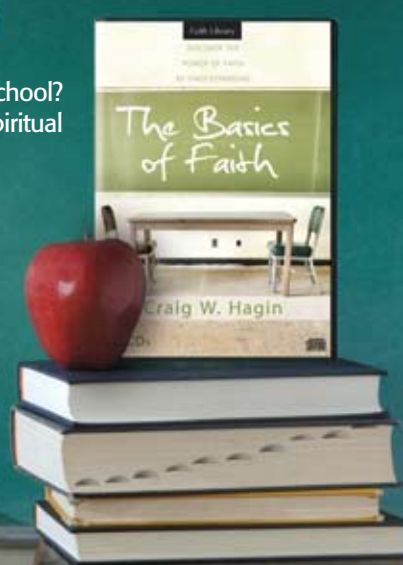
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# The Best Things in Life (and Beyond) Are Free

At Christmastime, everyone is trying to find the perfect gift to buy, even though we often find that “the best things in life are free.” Whether it is a sunset, holding a newborn baby, laughing until you cry, watching children play, a random act of kindness, or an unexpected call from a friend, many times the best things in life can’t be purchased because they truly are priceless.

The best thing in this life—and in life for eternity—is free, and it has already been given to you. When Jesus died on the cross, He offered you the gift of eternal life. Now it is up to you to accept it. Have you ever accepted that gift? If not, pray the following prayer to receive Jesus as your Savior:

Dear God,

I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I am not right with You, and I want to be right with You. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. The Bible says, “*If you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*” (Rom. 10:9 NIV). I believe with my heart and confess with my mouth that Jesus is the Lord and Savior of my life.

Thank You for the gift of eternal life with You! In Jesus’ Name I pray. Amen.

*If you prayed that prayer for the first time, we would like to hear from you. Contact us at (918) 258-1588, ext. 2238.*

*We would like to help you find a church home in your area and to give you three FREE minibooks—The New Birth, In Him, and Why Tongues?—to help you get started in your walk with God.*

## Dear Word Partners,

Really, there's no way to adequately describe how Lynette and I feel about our Word Partners. Words can't fully express how much we appreciate you! You're a member of our partner family. You're the backbone of this ministry. And we're always thankful when we have the opportunity to meet you face to face, to get to know you better, and to thank you personally for your prayers and your support.

We had such a wonderful time meeting with you during our annual campmeeting in July. We shared a special video so you could see for yourselves the outreaches we've been involved in together over the past year. We also love to meet with you in special WPC meetings we conduct during our Living Faith Crusades.

We believe it's important for us to get to know you better and for you to know the things God has put in our hearts. Because the more we share our heart with you and you share your heart with us, the better we can accomplish what God has called us—as partners—to do!

Thank you for being such wonderful partners!

*Kenneth and Lynette Hagin*



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# Seed Thoughts

by Lynette



If you are a parent or grandparent, I encourage you to spend quality time with your children and grandchildren. They grow up so fast. Sooner than you think they will become involved in their own lives and your time with them will be limited.

Your budget may be tight this Christmas, and you may be disappointed that there might be fewer presents. But instead of looking at what you don't have, concentrate on what you do have. We often think that we have to spend money to have fun. Your family can enjoy each other's company without spending money.

Our family used to play board games together. We enjoyed just spending time with each other. Trivial Pursuit was one of our favorite board games, and during the game my husband would usually be winning. However, the children and I would always choose Literature as the category for his last question because we knew that was his weakest area. Our kids and I still recall a time when we thought we were going to stump him. We chose the Literature category for him, and the question was, "In the Bible, whose wife turned into a pillar of salt?" We couldn't believe that was the Literature question! Of course, he knew the answer, and I can still see the grin on his face. The children and I still laugh when we remember that we lost and he won.

Most of all, though—whatever else you do this Christmas—remember that the reason for this season is the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Take time to celebrate His birth and thank the Father for sending us His very best gift. One tradition that our family has kept for many years is praying together on Christmas Eve. We each in our own way thank the Lord for what He has given us and done for us over the past year.

Don't take the blessings of God for granted. The Father enjoys the praises and thanksgiving of His children.

May the blessings of God be upon you as you enjoy this Christmas season with your family.

"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)

It seems only yesterday that I was writing this column for 2007. Years seem to pass so quickly these days. As a child I thought that each year would never pass. I was counting the years until I would be grown. Now it seems that we blink our eyes and the year has passed. Sometimes I wish that time would stand still for a while—but it continues to pass quickly.

Time cannot be stopped or stored; therefore we must use it as it comes. This holiday season I admonish you to take time to enjoy your family. During the Christmas season I used to get so wrapped up in trying to find just the right gifts for my family members that I did not even enjoy the holiday. The trips to the mall and the lines at the cash registers left me tired and frustrated. I found myself beginning to dread the holidays.

Several years ago I concluded that spending time with my children and grandchildren was a present that they would remember long after the gift that I had gotten for them was broken or worn out. So I decided to change my gift strategy. Now, either I take my children and grandchildren shopping and let them choose their own presents, or I give them money and they can shop at their leisure. This relieves me of my shopping frustrations and I can enjoy the holidays so much more.

This month I want to encourage you to take time with your family to make memories that will last a lifetime. As I look back on my life, I cherish the times when my grandmother took me to the zoo. I enjoyed just being with her. I have fond memories of just spending time with several of my aunts. I remember our family vacations. My dad pastored churches for most of my life, and often it seemed that the family had to take a back seat to his pastoral duties. Therefore I so looked forward to vacations when my parents could concentrate on just the family and not be encumbered with their church responsibilities.

This past summer my husband and I took our five grandsons, ages 14 to 4, on a vacation. We spent that time alone with just the five boys. At our age, it was hectic at times trying to corral five boys in amusement parks. However, we enjoyed every minute. We knew that we were making memories that our grandsons would cherish throughout their lifetimes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynette". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page.



# Kids' Page

Fearless, A-nointed, I-nward-led, T-rustworthy H-airs of God

## Name that Tune!

The pictures below tell the names of favorite Christmas songs. See if you can figure them out!

A.



B.



C.



E.

1. ABCDEFGHIJK  
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

2. ABCDEFGHIJK  
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

The Missing Piece—Answer: c.

1. Holy Spirit—Acts 2:38 says that we should repent and be baptized so that we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
2. Righteousness—Romans 5:17 tells us that by the gift of righteousness we will reign in life through Jesus Christ.  
3. Eternal Life—Romans 6:23 says that the free gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Word Scramble—Answers:

A. O Holy Night O Holy Knight  
B. Silent Night Silent Knight  
C. Away in a Manger (A Weigh in a Manger)  
D. Angels We Have Heard on High  
E. The First Noel (The First No. "L")

Name That Tune—Answers:

ANSWERS:

## The Best Christmas Gift of All!

Kids all around the world

love Christmastime. They love to sing Christmas songs, watch Christmas plays, and eat Christmas goodies. They love the Christmas tree with its decorations and lights. Let's

see . . . wasn't there something else? Oh yes! The presents! Christmas is a time when people exchange gifts with those they love. Of course, the first Christmas gift was given 2000 years ago when God gave the world His One and Only Son. If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then



you have received the **Best Christmas Gift of All**. If you have not, why not receive this gift today! To receive God's gift of salvation, the Bible says you must confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9–10). If you'll do this today you will receive the **Best Christmas Gift of All!**



## WORD SCRAMBLE

God gives lots of gifts to those who love Him. Unscramble the letters below to find out three very special gifts that God has given us. If you need help, the answers can be found in Acts 2:38, Romans 5:17, and Romans 6:23.

- lohy ripits
- sertinghouses
- neretal file



A

B

C

D

## The Missing Piece

A piece is missing from the puzzle and only one of the four pieces to the left is correct. Can you find the missing piece?

## Jokes & Riddles

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

*It's Christmas, Eve!*

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?

*The Letter "D".*

What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations?

*You get tinsel-itis.*

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a shark?

*Frostbite.*

What is Tarzan's favorite Christmas song?

*Jungle Bells.*

What is never hungry at Christmas Dinner?

*The turkey . . . it's always "stuffed."*

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?

*Thanks, I'll never "part" with it.*

What was the name of the angel who sang on Christmas Day?

*Harold (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing).*

Coming Soon!

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