



THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2012

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

Lord,
Help Me
to Forgive!

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the Word of Faith



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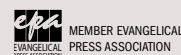
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Jesus Is Alive!

It's so important that we understand the power of Jesus' resurrection. Without it, there would be no power to save—no power to heal and deliver. All Christ suffered on the cross would have been for nothing. He would have been just another individual crucified by the Romans. But thank God, Jesus' crucifixion was not ordinary! Though no one could grasp it at the time, God had a magnificent plan to raise Christ from the dead.

You see, the resurrection of Christ was a mystery God had hidden through the ages until the fullness of time. Three days after Jesus died and was buried, He came out of the grave (1 Cor. 15:4)! His tomb was emptied! That empty tomb is what sets Christianity apart from all other religions. We don't go to a grave to worship a dead, powerless leader. No! Jesus is alive, and He lives forevermore (Rev. 1:18)!

What does that mean for us today? It means that though we were dead in our sins, we have been made alive with Christ—raised to a new life in Him (John 11:25; Rom. 6:4-5)! Christ's death, burial, and resurrection make it possible for us to experience our own personal spiritual resurrection. We go from death to eternal life, from sin to righteousness, from certain damnation to being found not guilty, and from defeat to absolute victory. Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also" (John 14:19 NKJV).

Hallelujah! That empty tomb represents a power that nothing on earth can even come close to. It's our escape from sin, our hope of eternal life, and the basis of our faith. It is the grand event of the ages and the very foundation upon which we believers stake our lives. Christ *has* risen from the grave and triumphed over the enemy! Thank God for the Resurrection!

I encourage you to set aside time to really absorb this month's issue of *The Word of Faith*. Each article—from Dad's on forgiveness to mine on letting your spirit dominate to Lynette's on committing your ways to the Lord—each one was chosen to help you walk in the power and victory of Christ's glorious resurrection.

Kenneth W. Hagin

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You Can

FORGIVE



**Timeless
Teachings**
of Kenneth E. Hagin

FORGIVING OTHERS IS
REALLY A MATTER OF
choice.

A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO, I heard a minister say that anytime you want a congregation to get really quiet, just start talking about paying tithes or church members' children. I've also found that to be true when you preach on forgiveness. Whenever I preached on faith and told people that their faith wouldn't work if they had an air of unforgiveness about them, they got really quiet.

It's amazing how misinformed good born-again, Spirit-filled, tongue-talking Christians are about the subject of forgiveness. Mark 11:25 says, "And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses." "Ought" in this verse means anything at all. That includes any type of offense—ones that are little, middle-sized, and big.

The Apostle John wrote, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). I'm so thankful that God forgives. Where would we be if He didn't send His Son

to the earth to redeem mankind from sin?

Not only does God forgive, but we also are supposed to forgive. We are told in Ephesians 4:32, "Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." We can forgive others in the same way God forgives us, because God is love and the Bible says that "the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts" (Rom. 5:5). The same kind of love that God is has been shed abroad in our hearts. He furnishes the love for us to forgive with.

We see from Romans 5:5 that God's love is in our hearts, not in our heads or in our flesh. Most Christians miss it by letting their heads and flesh dominate them instead of their hearts. Instead of allowing their spirit man to

dominate them, they are letting their flesh get the best of them.

Paul said in First Corinthians 9:27, "I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection." The flesh, or the body, is the hardest thing for us to keep under. And by "keeping under" I mean not giving in to fleshly desires.

When we talk about keeping our body under, most folks think about sexual sins. Sexual sins are included in this verse, but so is our unwillingness to forgive those who have wronged us.

One time a woman came to me after one of our faith seminars. With tears in her eyes, she asked me, "Brother Hagin, would you cast this old unforgiving spirit out of me?"

She went on to tell me how another woman wronged her.

"I want to forgive her," she said, "but I can't."

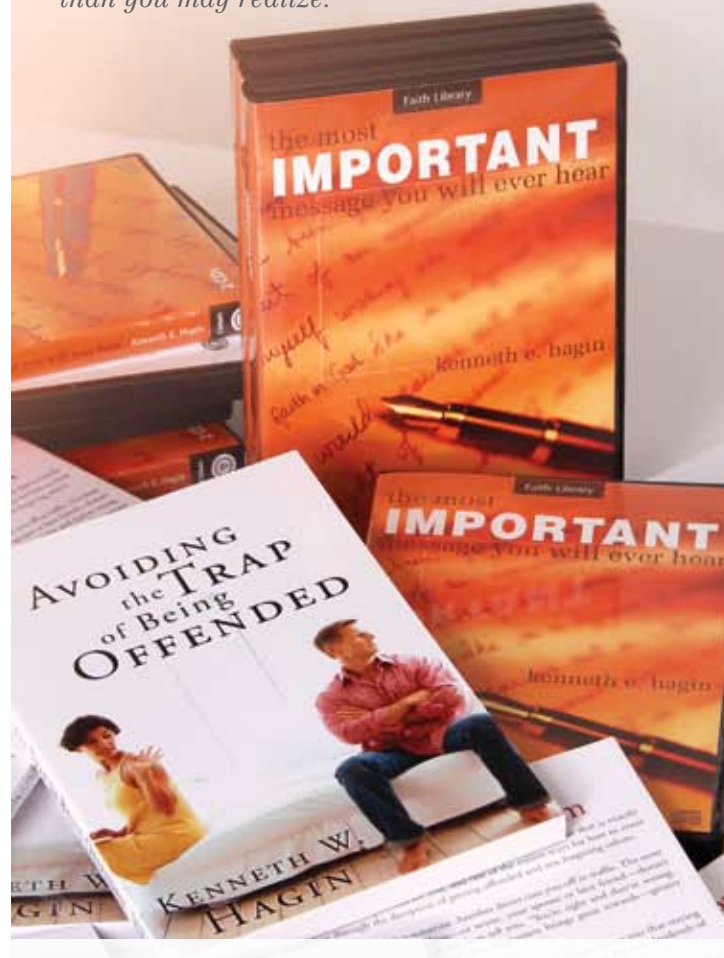
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“Are you married?” I asked. I didn’t look to see if she had on a wedding band.

“Oh, yes.”

She told me how old she was when she got married and how long she had been married. I put the two together and figured up that she was 43 years old.

“Well, you’ve been married for 23 years,” I said. “Have you ever had to forgive your husband?”

Grimming, she said, “At the breakfast table this morning we got into a little disagreement. I forgave him and he forgave me.”

“I thought your ‘forgiver’ wasn’t working,” I replied. “Sister, you don’t need any spirit cast out of you. You just don’t want to forgive that woman. You wanted to forgive your husband, so you did. Now be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only. Go ahead and forgive that woman.”

Forgiving others is really a matter of choice. And it’s a good choice to make, because when we forgive we open the door for our faith to work.♥

(Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from messages Kenneth E. Hagin preached at an All Faiths’ Crusade in Winston-Salem, NC, in May of 2003.)

» FAITH NUGGET

The High Cost of Offense

KENNETH W. HAGIN

My father often said that he never prayed a prayer for himself that wasn’t eventually answered. However, he taught that when he wasn’t seeing answers to prayer, the first place he would look was at his love walk. He asked himself, “Am I holding a grudge or harboring bitterness and animosity toward anyone?” When he got those answers straight, he’d go back to what he was believing for and refuse to budge in his stand.

Dad always said, “I refuse to permit the least bit of ill will in my heart toward anyone.” He told me at an early age, “Son, if you will refuse to take offense, you’ll never be out of the will of God, and you’ll never fail to receive His blessings.” There’s a great lesson packed into that statement.

When you’re tempted to become offended, ask yourself, “Is this where I want to get stuck in life? Is this the level of blessing I want to walk in, or do I want to go further with God?”

Harboring offense will harm us more than it will others. We must count the cost of harboring offense and weigh the consequences. Will our harboring offense be worth the price we will eventually pay?

It’s been said that **SIN WILL TAKE YOU FURTHER THAN YOU WANT TO GO, KEEP YOU LONGER THAN YOU WANT TO STAY, AND COST YOU MORE THAN YOU WANT TO PAY.** This is certainly true of the sin of offense. It will bring you needless suffering and cause you to say and do things you never thought you would. Offense will deter you from your divine destiny. That’s much too high a price to pay.

(Editor’s Note: This Faith Nugget was adapted from Kenneth W. Hagin’s book *Avoiding the Trap of Being Offended*.)



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The Blood Changes Everything!



MARK HANKINS



I REMEMBER the first time I ate wasabi. People warned me, “Watch out for that green stuff.” But I told them, “I’m from Texas! I eat jalapeño peppers. I’m not afraid of wasabi. Give me a bunch of it.”

So I dipped into the bowl and got a double dose of green wasabi and put it in my mouth. When I did, something hit me right in my head and I wanted to call 911. I thought the top of my head was coming off! Wasabi hit the front. Wasabi hit the back. Wasabi!

Let me tell you something. If wasabi can do that to your brain, the Word of God and the blood of Jesus can help you take every thought captive—everything that is tormenting and harassing your mind. The blood can turn any situation around, because the blood changes everything!

In the church I grew up in, they would plead—or apply—the blood of Jesus to every situation. It didn’t matter if you were going to school or going on vacation, facing physical problems or facing financial problems, they’d say, “I plead the blood.” Some people

today try to argue that pleading the blood was an Old Testament thing, but look at what Romans 3:25 says: “[Jesus] whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation THROUGH FAITH IN HIS BLOOD. . . .” Faith in Jesus’ blood! That’s synonymous with pleading the blood and that is New Testament!

What’s so important about pleading the blood? Look closely at Romans 3:25. It says that through faith in Jesus’ blood, we have a propitiation. That simply means we have restoration to fellowship with God—restoration to blessing. Andrew Murray said, “To receive this blessing, nothing is necessary except faith in the blood. The blood alone has done everything.”

To receive God’s blessing of redemption—and all His other blessings—nothing is necessary except faith in the blood. I like to say, His blood plus nothing, minus nothing. That means your faith, confidence, and expectation should be in the blood alone. It’s not in what you have or haven’t done, but in the blood.

As you find out what the Scripture teaches about the blood, you will see that **FAITH IN THE BLOOD CAN PRODUCE GREATER RESULTS IN YOU THAN YOU HAVE EVER KNOWN**. And in the future, a ceaseless blessing may

be yours. But you *must* live in constant view of the blood of Jesus to see those results! It’s not enough just to believe in the blood—to have knowledge of it. There must be an application of it.

In the Old Testament, the children of Israel applied blood to the doorposts of their houses in Egypt. God told them, “When I see the blood, I’ll pass over you.” Notice He said, “I’m just looking for the blood.” He didn’t

it has that much power, then it has enough power to remove sin consciousness from your memory. **THERE’S NOT ANY PLACE THAT THE DEVIL CAN STAIN OR DAMAGE IN YOUR LIFE THAT THE BLOOD CANNOT REACH**. If sin can reach it, the blood can reach further still.

Live in great expectation of the blessing of God today. You are qualified because of the blood and that blood changes everything! It will change your body, it

Wasabi, Wasabi, Wasabi!



say, “I’m looking for your talent,” “I’m looking to see how educated you are,” or even “I’m looking to see how pretty you are.” God said, “I’m just looking for the blood.” So the Israelites applied the blood and they stayed in their houses—they stayed under that blood. And God brought them forth with silver and gold! There was not one feeble person among their tribes (Exod. 12; Ps. 105:37).

Hallelujah! There are benefits in the blood that you ought to be expecting. It doesn’t matter what’s in your past; the blood of Jesus literally removes your sin—your failure—from God’s mind. If

will change your finances, and it will change your family and your future. Faith in Jesus’ blood will even change your nation.

Don’t let the devil tell you there is something that cannot change. You ought to say, “All right, devil. You’re in trouble now! I just had a revolutionary revelation: I don’t have to be poor anymore. I don’t have to be sick anymore. I don’t have to be guilty, afraid, or ashamed anymore. The blood of Jesus changes everything!”♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Mark Hankins’ Wednesday night message at *Campmeeting 2011*. Don’t miss any of our awesome speakers this year.]

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DISCOMFORT.

ARE YOU STILL CARNAL?



KENNETH W. HAGIN

WHEN WE ARE born again, our spirit being is made new. Our spirit man is immediately recreated and connected to God. Our body and our mind, however, are still the same. We still have the same body and we still think the same way. God leaves the transformation of our mind and the control of our body up to us.

Born-again Christians who don't make an effort to change the way they think and act are called carnal. In the Bible we see examples of carnal Christians in the Corinthian church. Although the Corinthians had all the gifts of the Spirit in operation in their church, there was also a lot of quarreling, division, and strife among the people. The Apostle Paul admonished them because of this.



THE WAY TO *rise above* OUR FLESH IS THROUGH WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS "RENEWING OUR MIND."

1 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3 (NKJV)

1 And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ.

2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able;

3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

According to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*, the word *carnal* means "pertaining to flesh." After some people are born again, they continue to be dominated by things their body craves or lusts after, and they still have a worldly mindset. We call this being "flesh ruled."

The way to rise above our flesh is through what the Bible calls "renewing our mind." *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be*

transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2 NKJV). We renew our mind by spending time with the Lord—by reading our Bible and praying every day—as well as by hearing anointed ministers teach or preach the Word. This is how the transformation process takes place.

As we become more familiar with what the Bible says and hear ministers preach or teach the Word, we'll begin to see what

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the true nature of the Christian really is. Then, according to Ephesians 4:24, we can begin to put on the new man.

Right here is where many Christians battle. The spirit man on the inside wants to be spiritual. He wants to be holy. But the mind and the old man on the outside don't want to change. Our spirit man may be screaming, "Stop! Don't do that!" But the old carnal mind is saying, "This is nice. Go ahead; I like this!"

It's possible that the Apostle Paul had this

THE MORE WE
READ THE WORD
AND RENEW
OUR MIND, THE
stronger OUR
SPIRIT MAN
BECOMES.

same battle because he said, "I keep my body under" (1 Cor. 9:27). You see, it's up to us to put a bridle on our mouth.

We're the ones who choose not to criticize or gossip about others. No one else can keep us from being self-centered or filled with pride. We must make the effort to prefer others above ourselves.

But renewing our mind with the Word of God every day causes us to think in line with that Word. And that's when carnality has a hard time getting a toehold in our life.

The more we read the Word and renew our mind, the stronger our spirit man becomes. Then when we are tempted to do something contrary to the Word, our spirit being will be able to control our carnal nature.

Knowing the promises of God helps us escape carnality and embrace the new man. But we choose which way we'll live. We can be dominated by our carnal nature or we can allow our new man—our recreated spirit man—to control our thoughts and actions. Let's choose to follow after our spirit man. The more we do, the more we will receive the best that God has for us. ♡

» FAITH NUGGET

Carnality Will Rip You Off

The devil wants you to stay carnal, because carnal people never step into what God has for them or receive God's blessings. Here are some ways to tell if you're carnal.

- YOU KNOW YOU'RE CARNAL IF . . .**
- You look down on people because of the way they dress or wear their hair.
- You only see other people's faults and imperfections.
- You leave a church every time you don't like the way the minister preaches.
- You run to the phone when a fellow Christian makes a mistake and falls.
- You always talk about how things "ought" to be instead of getting involved in anything that brings about a change.
- You only think about what's best for you.
- You're easily offended and are usually in strife with a family member, co-worker, or fellow church member.
- You're envious of what others have.
- You leave one church to go to another because you believe that's where the fire is now.
- You have used your words to try and destroy people you don't like.



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Have you heard the good news? After Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He didn't stay in the grave. The Bible says, "He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!" (Luke 24:6 NLT). The Bible also says that if we confess Jesus as our Lord and believe that God raised Him from the dead, we will be saved. And yes, it really is that simple. To accept Jesus into your heart today, *pray this prayer:*

God,

I come to You in Jesus' Name. I don't want to perish. I want to have eternal life. The Bible says, "If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9 NLT). **I believe in my heart** that You raised Jesus, Your Son, from the dead. And I confess Jesus as my Lord. Therefore, I am saved. I have eternal life. **Thank you!**

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Listen to Your Heart

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KENNETH W. HAGIN

Knowing what choices to make in life and learning how to hear from God are two of the most important things anyone can learn. Kenneth W. Hagin does an excellent job teaching on that



in this book. *Listen to Your Heart* provides in-depth teaching on the primary way the Holy Spirit leads us. // **VIDAR LIGARD**
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PAPERBACK BOOK //
KENNETH E. HAGIN

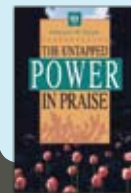
This book teaches that just as in the natural, a baby goes through different stages to reach adult maturity, there are stages of growth spiritually. You will learn to locate where you are in your spiritual development and how to grow into the next stages. We should never allow our spiritual growth to be stunted. // **STARLA BENINTENDI**
// RHEMA CORRESPONDENCE BIBLE SCHOOL DIRECTOR



The Untapped Power in Praise

PAPERBACK BOOK //
KENNETH W. HAGIN

I recommend this book to all believers who want to maintain victory in their daily lives. It looks at praise from a different perspective and explains why praise is one of the most powerful tools we have as believers. This is also a wonderful book for children's ministers to use in teaching children the importance of praise.



// **DENISE BURNS**
// RHEMA BIBLE CHURCH CHILDREN'S MINISTER

Sometimes when missionaries first move to a foreign country, it seems as if adversity hits them hard. It's almost as though they're tested to see if they're really committed to bringing the Gospel to that nation—or if they'll leave at the first sign of trouble.

GARY AND ELENA MEADOR were put to such a test when they started Rhema Costa Rica in 2007. The school had been open for only a few months when armed bandits raided it. Gary saw their car pulling up in front of the building and rushed to the front entrance to lock the door. But by the time he got there, it was too late. The bandits had already barged in. They pulled out their guns and began pistol-whipping Gary until he was knocked unconscious.

When the bandits entered the classroom, they shot at one of the students, but the bullet went between his legs without striking him. The bandits kept demanding laptops and were enraged when they couldn't find any. They were able to steal only one old laptop that belonged to the guest instructor who was teaching that day.

At one point, one bandit returned to the front entrance, pointed his gun at Gary, and was about to shoot him when suddenly the second bandit called from the classroom. The armed intruder returned to the classroom without taking the fatal shot!

Thankfully, after the ordeal, not one of the students was harmed. Gary was examined by doctors at the local hospital, and test results showed that he suffered no internal injuries—only a few cuts here and there.

After the incident, the Meadors were told they should leave the area—that it was too dangerous to start a Bible school there. But Gary and Elena were firmly resolved to stay. God had called them to this nation and had led them to that property. They weren't

about to quit—especially when they were just getting started.

Fear, however, gripped the students. In fact, a couple of students left Rhema because of what took place. But shortly after the incident, Pastors Craig and Sharon McCune from New Creation Church in Salt Lake City, Utah, were guest speakers at the school. As they ministered to the shaken students, the Holy Spirit moved powerfully. Shackles of fear were broken and a sadness that choked the students lifted. Students were able to move beyond the chilling experience and boldly press forward to prepare for God's call on their lives.

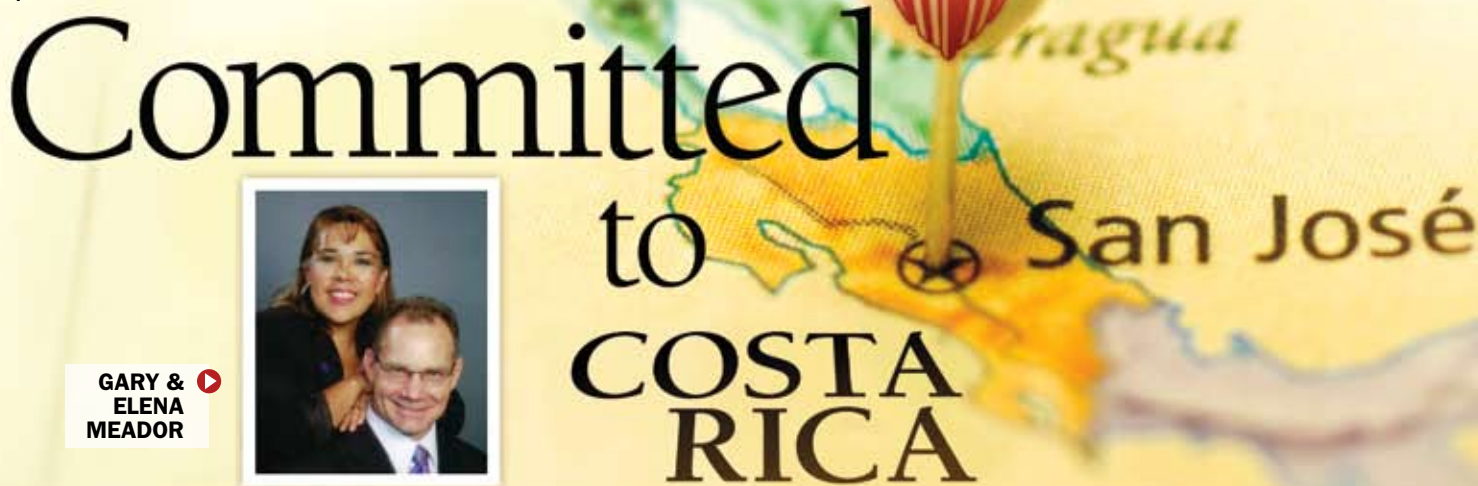
Instead of packing their bags and leaving after that harrowing experience, the Meadors have poured the message of faith into hungry students. And since December 2008, Rhema Costa Rica has held four graduations!

RHEMA COSTA RICA

Nestled in the capital city of San Jose, Rhema Costa Rica offers three avenues

FEATURE

Committed to COSTA RICA



GARY & ELENA MEADOR



of study. Some students first enroll in Academia Biblica Cristiana (ABC), a discipleship program. The next step is enrollment in Rhema's two-year program, which is patterned after the Rhema USA curriculum.

While most students are from San Jose and the surrounding towns in the Central Valley, others have come from both the Caribbean and Pacific coasts. One dedicated student from the northern province of Guanacaste takes a four-hour bus ride every week to attend classes.

RHEMA "BOOT CAMP"

The Meadors found that prospective students from outside of Costa Rica wanted to attend Rhema, but it was difficult for them to leave their jobs. To accommodate them, the Meadors started what they call Rhema Boot Camp, an intensive, month-long, 40-hour-a-week study program held in January and June—the two months that regular classes are not in session. In Central



America it's possible for workers to get a special permit that allows them to leave their jobs for one month. The concentrated program perfectly accommodates international students.

This year eight students—five from Nicaragua, two from Panama, and one from Costa Rica—descended upon San Jose to bury themselves in the intensive Boot Camp. Rhema Costa Rica provides accommodations and food, which allows students to shut themselves off from outside distractions.

Run with military precision, the Boot Camp keeps students on strict schedules. When the morning alarm sounds,

they race in and out of the shower, grab a quick breakfast, and head off to eight hours of classroom study. Evenings are cordoned off so they can complete reading assignments and study for exams. No TV is allowed, and phone and Internet use are restricted. And of course, it's lights-out at 10 p.m.

Boot Camp students complete five sessions before they graduate. Needless to say, they return to their countries transformed and on fire.

"It's a strategic way to get into a country without being there," says Elena. "Whenever we go to these countries, we already have grads there who can help us and who are already talking to people about Rhema."

TRANSFORMING A NATION

Since its inception, Rhema Costa Rica has graduated 33 men and women. And they're sharing the Gospel with a boldness that is typical of Rhema grads everywhere. Many graduates are in ministerial positions in their churches or are working in full-time ministry. One graduate started a small Bible school in the rural, mountainous region of Tarrazu. Another graduate travels to poverty-stricken areas ministering to children.

FAST FACTS

- » Gary Meador pastored two churches in Colorado before moving to the mission field.
- » Before starting Rhema Costa Rica, Gary and Elena worked with John Romick at Rhema Colombia.
- » The Meadors were full-time missionaries for three years in Venezuela and two years in Colombia. They have also ministered in Nicaragua,

Panama, and the Dominican Republic.

PRAYER FOCUS

- » Faithful, Spanish-speaking laborers
- » Finances
- » Boldness and wisdom

To learn more about Gary and Elena Meador, go to www.RhemaCostaRica.org.

Although the international students attending Boot Camp haven't graduated yet, they're already impacting their nations. Two students are ministering in churches throughout Nicaragua. And another student is helping to open doors for Rhema in Panama.

The Meadors have begun to duplicate themselves. They're imparting everything they know into hungry men and women who are eager to share the Gospel. Graduates, in turn, are taking what they've learned to the far corners of Costa Rica and beyond. But there's still much work to be done in this popular tourist destination. The nation is steeped in humanism and liberalism. The Meadors are plowing in rocky soil, so to speak. But they won't stop until Costa Rica is transformed by the Gospel and inroads have been made into all of Central America. ♥

FEATURE

THE DEAF SHALL HEAR AGAIN!

In October Elena Meador and two Rhema Costa Rica graduates traveled to the Nicaraguan city of Estelí near the Honduran border. While there, the small missions team ministered in two churches. Elena was also able to visit

with some of the international students who live there. A main topic of discussion was how to start a Rhema extension campus in Estelí!

The group then hopped aboard a small propeller-driven airplane and flew to the coastal city of Bluefields, where Elena ministered in El Verbo Church. While Elena was preaching, a man who had been deaf for a long time received his hearing! Many others were also healed and baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The fields in Central America are ripe for harvest. And the Meadors have dedicated their lives to training more laborers to bring that harvest in!



Never Say 'Never'

LYNETTE HAGIN

I'VE LEARNED that we must never let the words "I'll *never* do that" come out of our mouths.

"I'll never go back to my hometown."

"I'll never be a missionary."

"I'll never marry a minister."

Somehow it seems that our "nevers" often become the very thing God calls us to do!

When I was a college student, I was a member of a singing group that traveled a lot. I told my roommate, "I will *never* marry an evangelist because I hate to travel."

Guess what my husband's occupation was when we married? An evangelist! I learned the hard way what it means to "eat your 'nevers.'"

WHAT IF JESUS HAD SAID, 'NEVER'?

What would have happened if Jesus had said, "Never!" when God asked Him to die on the cross? He could have told the Father, "This is too difficult. I can't do it." What would have happened to us if Jesus had not been willing to sacrifice His life?

Making that kind of commitment had to be difficult for Jesus. The Bible records that He said, "*If it be possible, let this cup pass from me*" (Matt. 26:39). If Jesus found it hard to submit to God's plan, it's no wonder we have difficulty. Following God's plan for our lives is not always easy. It takes surrender and a heartfelt determination to follow after God.



But what did Jesus say next? "*Nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will*" (v. 39 NKJV). Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus continually prayed that the will of the Father would be accomplished on this earth. That needs to be our prayer too, because our flesh wars against God's will. We have to remind ourselves to stay committed to His will.

THE ALTAR IS A SACRED PLACE

I remember as a child how we gathered around the altar to seek the Lord. We often sang "I Surrender All." The first line of that old hymn says, "All to Jesus, I surrender; All to Him I freely give." We were encouraged not only to bring our requests to the altar but also to commit our wills to the Lord.

The altar is a place of consecration, dedication, and commitment. In today's world, *commitment* is a word we rarely use. It

CONSIDER: How committed are you?
Will you do whatever the Lord asks of you?





None of These Things Move Me

“Now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. But none of these things move me” (Acts 20:22–24 NKJV).

Those last few words need to be impressed upon our hearts, because many things in life can get us off track.

We'll have many opportunities to say, “It's just not worth it.” During those times, we have to stand strong and declare by faith, “None of these things move me!”

Adverse circumstances come to all of us. What we do with those circumstances determines the outcome of our lives. We can choose to let them move us, or we can refuse to allow them to defeat us and

keep us from our destination.

We don't always understand everything that happens to us. But we must determine to never let the enemy draw us off course. Instead, we must fully walk with the Lord all the days of our lives. Then when Satan launches his attacks, we can stand tall and declare by faith, “None of these things move me!”

In the Book of Daniel, the three Hebrew children refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. When the king threatened them with being thrown into a fiery furnace, they replied, “*Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us. . . . But if not, let it be know to you,*

SOMEHOW IT SEEMS THAT OUR “NEVERS” OFTEN BECOME THE VERY THING *God calls us TO DO!*

O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up” (Dan. 3:17–18 NKJV).

Some people call that a statement of unbelief, but I believe it was a statement of their commitment to the Lord. They knew He could deliver them, but their commitment was, “Even if He doesn't, we're not going to bow down to other gods.” And that has to be our commitment today.

seems that people don't want to commit to anything. In some cases, I've even heard people call commitment bondage!

The word *commit* means “to give over.” It conveys the idea of entrusting, obligating, and binding. I like a definition I found in *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*—“to put into a place for safekeeping.” We are to commit our body, soul, and spirit to the Lord for safekeeping. Really, commitment is saying, “I'm committed to God regardless of the cost.”

COMMIT YOUR WAY TO THE LORD

Throughout our lives, we'll face many crossroads. We'll have opportunities to follow our own desires or the will of the Father. Will we trust the Lord? Or will we “lean to our own understanding” (Prov. 3:5–6)?

When temptations, distresses, and obstacles come, let's stay committed to the Lord. If we do, our lives will be a great success for Him!♥

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ALONG THE WAY

(book, Lynette Hagin)

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Holding the Ropes

BEING PART OF A TEAM—having a base of support—is invaluable to any endeavor. No one can be successful in this life as a lone ranger. We need each other and the support that comes from strong relationships.

William Carey of England knew the value of strong relationships. He knew the importance of having friends who would support him in his endeavors.

Carey was ordained in August 1786. During a ministers meeting that year, He suggested that Jesus' command to His disciples "to teach all nations" was still in effect. Mr. Ryland, the meeting chairman, rebuked him and accused him of being an enthusiast!

Carey was greatly embarrassed. His fellow ministers treated his ideas as impractical. But that same year he met Thomas Potts, who had been to America and seen the need for missionary work. Potts supported Carey in his vision.

In time, God brought other people across Carey's path who encouraged and helped him. As a direct consequence of Carey's work, the first Evangelical missions agency was created in 1792.

One day in 1793, Carey and some friends were discussing the need for foreign missions. Andrew Fuller, a fellow minister who was at that gathering, recalled, "We saw there was

a gold mine in India, but it was as deep as the center of the earth." Fuller asked who would venture to explore that mine. Carey spoke up and addressed his friends: **"I WILL VENTURE TO GO DOWN, BUT REMEMBER THAT YOU MUST HOLD THE ROPES."**

By "holding the ropes," Carey meant **CONSISTENTLY PRAYING** for him, **FINANCIALLY SUPPORTING** him, and **REGULARLY COMMUNICATING** on his behalf with the churches in England. His friends agreed.

Carey went to India and made possible the translation of the Bible into numerous languages. Many have called him the father of modern missions. But Carey knew he was only able to accomplish what he did because his partners back in England were "holding the ropes."

Rhema Word Partners, **thank you for "holding the ropes"** for us as we reach people and nations around the world. Every day, the lost are saved, the sick are healed, and those in despair find peace and joy in Jesus. And you're a part of that! Together, we are making a difference.

If you're not a Rhema Word Partner but would like to help change and save lives, grab hold of the ropes! Join with us and start making a difference today.



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Praying for Our Nation

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).

hort 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.

lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.”

God is concerned about us. And He will change things in our nation because we ask Him to. Whether or not our government leaders are Christians, God will do some things for our sake.

Changing a Nation Through Prayer

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 our nation, particularly about some things the Lord had shown me

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

concerning the government and world events some years before.

Many times prophecies are conditional. In the case of world events, for example, prophecies of God’s judgment don’t always have to come; 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.

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 heard 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. And 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 our nation this year. Pray for these people and events:

- » President
- » Congress
- » Supreme Court
- » State & Local Officials
- » Military
- » Intelligence Agencies
- » Upcoming Presidential Election
- » Primaries & Conventions

**NEW
RELEASE**
From Kenneth W. Hagin!

The Healer's in *Your House!*



“For you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.”

— MALACHI 4:2 (NLT)

HERE THE PROPHET Malachi is looking down through time and describing what he sees. As he gazes into the future, he sees Jesus coming with healing in His hands. He sees Jesus ministering to the sick. He sees Jesus delivering those who are bound!

As we look at these truths, we must understand that when Jesus came to this earth, He did not come empty-handed. He came with healing. That means the day of healing has dawned.

If your body is racked with pain or if you're facing a terrible diagnosis, the good news is, there's an end to your darkness. There's an end to your trouble—because Jesus Christ has risen with healing in His wings!

Jesus Has Come Into Your Dark Night

Have you ever suffered through a dark night? I'm talking about a night when the pain was so great that you could not sleep. As the hours ticked away, you wondered if the sun would ever appear on the horizon again. You asked yourself, over and over, *Will morning ever come?*

Maybe it's not sickness that's plaguing you today. Maybe it's something else. You think, “If I can just make it through the darkness, if I can just make it through the night, there will be light in the morning.”

As we live our lives and walk on this earth, dark clouds of hopelessness and despair seem to hang over us at times. Satan does everything he can to keep us in the darkness and out of the light of the Word of God. And it seems that he uses sickness and disease to rob and steal from God's people more than anything else.

Perhaps you've suffered for so long that your pain and misery seem to stretch into eternity. Maybe you're like so many people whom the enemy has told, “This is your lot in life. You might as well get used to living this way.”

But I'm telling you, the devil is a liar! The Healer has already come. The Sun of Righteousness has risen with healing in His wings.

As you let the light of God shine into your life, you will rise from the darkness. You will rise from the pit of despair. And you will walk in joy and gladness instead of gloom and doom.

Jesus has risen that you might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). The darkness, sickness, disease, and problems you face are only temporary if you will let the light of God shine in.

In John 8:12 Jesus said that He was the light of the world. And when the light comes, darkness

is dispelled and gloom is gone. The Light of the World has risen upon you, and He's risen with healing in His wings. As you lift up your eyes and look to Him, you *can* and *will* be delivered from the darkness!

Malachi 4:2 says when Jesus comes with His healing power, *you will go free*—leaping with joy, filled with life—like a calf let out to pasture.

You may never have been on a farm, but I remember my grandpa's farm and other farms I visited as I was growing up. I would see the calves and colts that had been cooped up in the

stall jumping, kicking, and running around in the pasture as soon as they were let out. They were rejoicing because they were free!

You may be cooped up in the devil's stall of sickness and disease, but it's time for you to go free. It's time for you to go leaping and dancing and rejoicing, because your day of deliverance has dawned. The Sun of Righteousness has risen over *your* life with healing in His wings!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth W. Hagin's new book, The Healer's in Your House!]

YOUR DAY OF HEALING HAS DAWNED

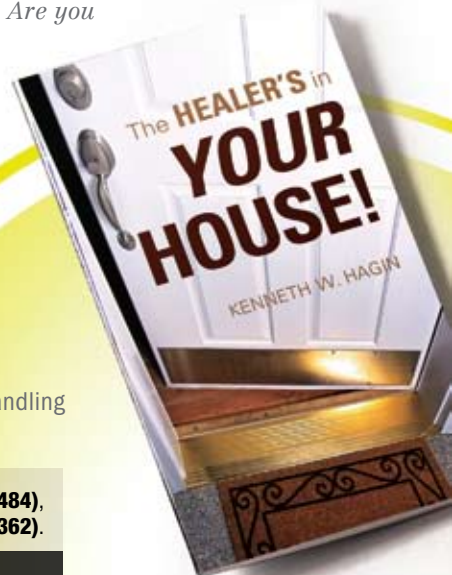
The power of the Lord is always present to heal. The Healer is always in the house. And no matter what pain or diagnosis you may be facing today, there is an end to your darkness. Are you ready to be made whole? Are you ready to activate the mighty healing power of God? Discover how your faith will make you whole!

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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 1984)

I HEARD THIS STORY

many years ago: Steve was head over heels in trouble but doing little to help himself. A friend advised, "Steve, you've got two hands. Why don't you do something?" "I am," Steve replied. "I'm wringing both of them." That's humorous, but too often in the midst of circumstances, we worry and wring our hands instead of adhering to God's instructions in His Word.

Jesus commanded us in Matthew 6:25–27 (NLT), "*That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?*"

In our life's journey, one of the hardest pieces of luggage to shed is worry. It is a tough habit to break. When I'm tempted to worry, I always remind myself of the Apostle Paul's example. Paul had many opportunities to worry, yet he remained focused on the One Who could deliver him.

Here are some keys that I have found to be helpful when I'm tempted to worry. The first is, **rejoice in the Lord**. We don't rejoice because of the circumstance but in spite of it. We rejoice because we know that our God will see us through victoriously. Paul says it this way: "*Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 4:4–7 NLT).

Paul said here, "Don't worry about anything." Yet let's look at Paul's situation when he said this. Was it after a successful meeting where many were converted? No, Paul was a prisoner in Rome, chained 24 hours a day to a Roman soldier. He was facing possible execution. He had a marvelous opportunity to be worried about his future. Yet his letter to the Philippians is saturated with joy.

Paul determined that whatever circumstance he found himself in, he was going to rejoice and not worry. He controlled his thoughts—he didn't let circumstances control them. Paul's strategy for dealing with trying times that could bring anxiety, worry, and fear was to *rejoice in the Lord*.

The second key is, **develop an unanxious attitude**. The *Amplified* version of Phil. 4:6 says, "*Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything.*" When asked why she was happy when she had not been happy on an earlier day, one little girl said, "Today I pushed my thoughts around, and the other day I let my thoughts push me around."

Paul said not to be anxious about anything. But we want to categorize our concerns. We want to tell God what we will worry about and what we won't. We might say, "OK, Lord, I won't worry about what's wrong with my dog. However, Lord, my financial situation—I just can't help but worry about that!" Charlie Brown and Linus were talking one day. Charlie said to Linus, "I worry about school a lot." He thought a little longer and said, "I worry about worrying so much about school." After reflecting further he concluded, "My anxieties have anxieties!"

We can all identify with Charlie Brown. The enemy would love to fill our minds with anxieties. What is he dogging you about today? Concerns over your financial situation? Downsizing of the company you work for? Your health? Your retirement? Don't let those thoughts push you around. Learn to develop an unanxious attitude.

The third key is, **develop a lifestyle of prayer**. Don't panic—*pray!* Replace worry with prayer. Pray so much that worry has to take a number and stand in line. We are exhorted to pray about everything. Nothing is too big or too small to pray about. Acts 16:25 says, "*And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.*" Instead of worrying, Paul and Silas chose to pray and praise. When they did, suddenly there was an earthquake and the prison doors were opened. Start praying and singing praises to God instead of worrying and the things that have imprisoned you will be removed.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

Fearless, Anointed, Inward-Led, Trustworthy, Heirs of God

Bible Character CAR TAGS

Match the tags below to the names on the right that the car tag might have belonged to if cars had been around in Bible days.

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DCEVDB4I8

2BIG2B B10

MT 2MB

EVE ADAM JESUS SOLIVUS

What is Jesus Worth?



God loved us so much that He sent His only Son to earth to die for us. **THAT'S WHAT HE THOUGHT WE WERE WORTH!**

Unfortunately, many people don't realize **WHAT JESUS IS WORTH.** Read the Bible story below and you will find out what two different people thought Jesus was worth.

"Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table. But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, 'Why this waste? For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor.' But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, 'Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me.' . . . Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, 'What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?' And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him."

—Matthew 26:6–10;14–15 (NASB)

So, what was Jesus worth to the woman in this story? The cost of the perfume that she poured on him, according to John 12:5, was 300 denarii (about one year's wages for a worker). And what was Jesus worth to Judas? Thirty pieces of silver (the common price offered for a slave). Who do you think valued Jesus more? What is Jesus worth TO YOU?

FINISH THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE BELOW TO FIND OUT ONE THING THAT WE ALL HAVE THAT JESUS IS WORTH.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer these questions from the Bible story above to fill in the crossword puzzle.

ACROSS

1. Simon was a _____.
2. The disciples said the perfume could have been sold for a high _____.
3. Whose house was Jesus at in the story?
4. The disciples thought pouring perfume on Jesus' head was a _____.

DOWN

5. What was poured on Jesus?
6. What position was Jesus in at the table?

1.			5.			6.	

NOW, unscramble the letters in the yellow boxes to find out what Jesus is really worth!

Here are some things that Jesus is worthy of. Match the top halves of the words in green with the bottom halves in purple.

UNAD	ADAM
FNAIJE	EVE
IADV	ADAM
NUNUN	EVE
DIESSING	ADAM
WUNSHIP	EVE
DDAICE	ADAM
IHNKVS	EVE
WADCUID	ADAM
DIESSING	EVE
TUANKV	ADAM
GLUN I	EVE

jokes & riddles



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

What is one fruit that you can never eat just ONE of?
A pear (pair)

Where do all hamsters come from?
Hamsterdam

What do a cautious person and a person allergic to bees both have in common?
Both say "Beware" (Bee! where!)

What kind of bee never gets full of pride?
A humble bee

What kind of bee is very awkward at walking?
A stumble bee

What is the smartest bee?
A spelling bee

Mom: Timmy, why are you crying?
Timmy: Because, I've got a B on my report card.
Mom: Oh son, there's no reason to cry about a B on your report card!
Timmy: But mom, he stung me before I smashed him with it!

Answers:

CROSSWORD PUZZLE:
1. LEPER 2. PRICE 3. SIMON 4. WASTE
ANSWER IN THE YELLOW BOXES: PRAISE
BIBLE CHARACTER CAR TAGS:
CREATED FOR CREATOR—ADAM
DECEIVED BEFORE I ATE—EVE
TOO BIG TO BE BEATEN—GOLIATH
EMPTY TOMB—JESUS
JESUS IS WORTH OF:
HONOR, GLORY, BLESSING, PRAISE,
WORSHIP & THANKS



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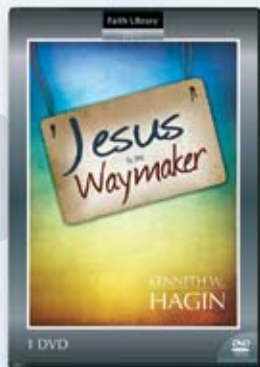
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