

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

Develop Your **FAITH MUSCLES**

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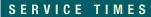
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Word of Faith



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VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 8 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2013

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

THE WORD OF FAITH has no subscription or newsstand price and is supported through contributions from readers worldwide. Gifts to this ministry are tax deductible as allowed by the IRS.

For a FREE subscription or to change your address:

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POSTMASTER

Please send address changes to Kenneth Hagin Ministries, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150-0126,

PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40032023

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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE

God Is Waiting for Your Praise

You might be praying and waiting on God for the answer to your requests. But while you're waiting for the answer, wait in an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. Wait in an attitude of expectancy! Wait on God in faith!

Prayer *asks*, but praise *receives*. Praise receives the answer by faith and thanks God for that answer before it is visible in the natural. Of course, prayer and praise are *both* necessary and important. But after you've prayed and believed God for the answer based on His Word, that's the time to stay in faith by praising Him. Act like God has already heard you, because according to the Bible, He has (1 John 5:14–15).

Praise keeps our focus on God, rather than on the problem. It ensures that we keep our hearts and minds in an attitude of faith. And it can actually hasten the answer we've been believing for.

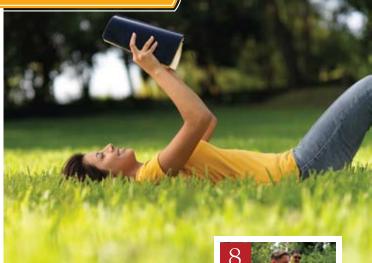
No matter what you're going through today, *give thanks to God* (1 Thess. 5:18). Don't thank Him *for* the adverse circumstances, sickness, or calamity Satan sends your way. Thank God because He has already provided the answer.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your family and friends! In the midst of your celebrations, remember to go to the Lord with a grateful heart and praise Him for Who He is. He has delivered us and set us free. He's healed our bodies and met all of our needs. He is our loving Heavenly Father.

This issue of our magazine is packed full of Bible truths to help you through this busy time of year. Be sure to check out Lynette's article on page 22 to learn how to kick the worry habit. And my article on page 5 is sure to have your faith soaring. Happy Thanksgiving from our family to yours!



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Has your faith ever fizzled out? Discover how to develop strong faith so you see victory after victory.

How to Break the Worry Habit LYNETTE HAGIN

We all are tempted to worry. Discover four steps to kicking the worry habit—once and for all!

25 On-Purpose Prosperity KENNETH E. HAGIN

God wants us to prosper, but we must keep our priorities straight. Discover the true purpose of prosperity.

Special Report: tornado relief

Craig and Mia Hagin head up Rhema's relief efforts in tornado-ravaged central Oklahoma.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, then you are not in God's family. But you can be! Simply pray the following prayer from your heart:



THE PLACE OF MERCY

KENNETH W. HAGIN



BECAUSE JESUS is our High Priest, we can hold fast to the Word of God and to our confession of faith. We can receive promises, withstand temptation, and have every area of our lives affected by the life-changing Word.

Jesus our High Priest has also given us an open door to the presence of God.

HEBREWS 4:14, 16 (NKJV)

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest . . .

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The "throne of grace" is the Throne of God, where He sits as eternal Creator. But because of Jesus, He also sits as Everlasting Father. And we can approach Him with confidence.

Hebrews 4:16 tells us that God is a giver. Many people believe that. But how many still hesitate to go to Him with their problems? They lack boldness and confidence to approach His throne. They don't understand that because the blood of Jesus has been applied to their hearts as believers, they have free access to God's grace.

GOD GRANTS FAVOR

Throughout history, many kings have struck fear in the hearts of their subjects. In many cases, if you approached the king's throne uninvited, you were killed.

In the Book of Esther, Queen Esther's uncle asked her to approach the king's throne uninvited. If the king extended his scepter, she could enter. If he didn't, she would be

God,

I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I'm not right with You, and I want to be right with You. I want to be in Your family. Please forgive me of all my sins. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead, I will be saved (Romans 10:9). I believe in my heart that You did dead, and I confess that He is my Savior and Lord. Thank you for saving me now and bringing me into Your family.

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for the first time, welcome
to God's family!
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of salvation is only the
beginning of a remarkable
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put to death! After fasting and praying, Esther went to the king. And God granted her such favor that she saved the entire Jewish nation (see Esther chapters 4–7).

For believers, God's throne is not a place of judgment, but of grace. Yes, He is the King of Kings and the only true God. But for God's children, His throne is a place of great mercy and favor! And because of Jesus' blood and His permanent position as our High Priest, God has invited us to approach Him boldly and without fear.

WE HAVE A RELATIONSHIP

I have five grandsons who all know how to come boldly to me, their "Poppy." When they visit me at the ministry, I guarantee you, they aren't afraid to approach me. They know they can enter my office confidently! It doesn't matter who else is there. They simply run in. Why? Because they're my grandchildren. We have a relationship.

Because of what Jesus did through His death, burial, and resurrection, we who have been born again are in God's family. We have a relationship with God the Father. We don't have to wait for Him to "give us the nod" before we approach Him. Jesus has cleared the way for us to go to Him anytime. Our Father God is never too busy. And we don't have to go to Him with our heads down, feeling intimidated and unworthy. No! We can go confidently to His throne of grace, receive His mercy, and find help when we need it because God our Father is a giver.



Climbing Faith Ladder

ONE TIME as two blind men were following Jesus, they cried out, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on us." Jesus asked if they believed He was able to heal them. "Yes," they replied. Touching their eyes, He said, "According to your faith be it unto you" (see Matt. 9:27–29).

Countless Christians today are crying out to God. They're asking Him for many different things. Yet, they're not receiving and they don't understand why. They're disappointed. They may have started out well. But on far too many occasions, their faith has fizzled.

The reason they're not receiving is simple. They're asking God for something that is beyond their ability to believe.

CLIMBING THE FAITH LADDER

Living by faith can be compared to climbing a ladder. The right way to go up a ladder is by taking one step at a time. A person with long legs may think he can take two steps at a time.

After all, he'd get to the top quicker that way. What about taking three steps at a time? Have you ever tried to climb a ladder by taking three or four steps at a time? Just think how fast you could get to the top.

It's obvious why taking more than one step at a time is not a good idea. Instead of being quicker, it's actually more difficult and unsafe. A person climbing that way can struggle and maybe even fall and get hurt. The best way to climb a ladder is one step at a time.

The same is true with faith. Trying to take two or three steps or one giant leap at a time is not a good idea. When we do this, we're actually trying to believe God beyond our faith level.

HOW MUCH FAITH IS ENOUGH?

Romans 12:3 says, "God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." In this verse, the word "the" indicates that all Christians received the same amount of faith when we were born again. So it's not that we don't have enough faith.

Jesus said in Matthew 17:20 that if we had faith the size of a grain of mustard seed, we could move a mountain. We don't need a lot of faith. We just need to exercise the faith we've been given.

Everybody has muscles. But some people develop their muscles more than others. I'm pretty strong, but if I stand next to a professional bodybuilder, my biceps will look small compared to his.

He's developed his muscles more than I've developed mine!

The same is true with faith. Some people have developed their faith muscles far more than others.

They can easily believe for something large, while others struggle with receiving small things.

The more we exercise our faith, the easier it will be to see the promises of God manifested in our lives.

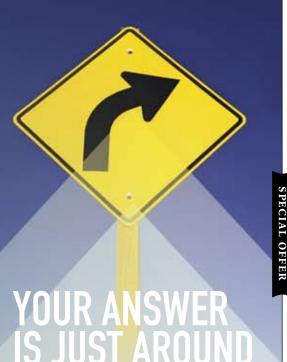
No one goes to a gym and immediately bench-presses 400 pounds. That person would hurt himself if he tried. He has to start out with lower weights and build his way up. The same is true with boxing. Someone doesn't start to box one weekend and then try to fight the world champion the next weekend.

We laugh at that because it would be ridiculous. Yet some people hear one sermon on faith and then try to fight for the "world championship."

DAVID'S FAITH WALK

David didn't start out by slaying Goliath. He first fought a lion





The Bible contains many stories of men and women who faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But their faith in God always brought

them victory. By looking at their lives and the tests they faced, we can learn valuable lessons for our own "fight of faith."



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and a bear. By the time he got to Goliath, he already knew how to believe God. He knew what it was like to step out in faith with nothing but God to rely on.

David didn't use the armor King Saul wanted him to wear. He hadn't proven it (1 Sam. 17:39). Some Christians make the mistake of trying to do what worked for somebody else. They say, "Well, so-and-so was in the same situation that I'm in now. I'm going to do what he did."

When we do this, we're basing our faith on another person's faith. To get results, we must base our faith only on God's Word.

David wasn't accustomed to a shield, helmet, or other armor. He was accustomed to his shepherd's garment, a staff, and a pouch on his side with stones in it. He had a slingshot and he knew how to use it. King Saul's armor didn't fit him. He didn't try to make what worked for King Saul work for him.

FAITH EXERCISES

A good way to exercise our faith muscles is to believe God for something every day. Make it something that is attainable that day.

In 1974 when we started Rhema, I left home every morning with nothing in my pocket except an empty billfold, a pocketknife, and a set of keys. If I wanted a cup of coffee, a cold drink, or lunch, I had to believe

>> READ MORE

To learn more about receiving God's promises by faith, go to khm.com/fc1f and read the article "Faith Fight or Faith Fizzle?"

God for it. I never told anybody I didn't have any money. I just trusted God.

Without fail, after I'd teach and go back to my office, a dollar or two and sometimes five would be on my desk.

Later, when Craig and I wanted to ride off-road motorcycles, I believed God for the money to buy the motorcycles and equipment. Even if I had the cash, I would trust God for it instead, because I understood the importance of keeping my ability to believe Him expanded to the limit.

I learned how important it is to believe God for something every day. I know for a fact that if I hadn't continually exercised my faith in Rhema's early days, I would not be able to believe God for the millions of dollars it takes to operate this ministry today.

If we don't continually exercise our faith, it will shrink. But the more we exercise it, the more it will grow. Instead of seeing our faith fizzle, we will see victory after victory after victory!♥

FAITH IN ACTION

Faith Steps

Below are some practical steps to building strong faith.

- Surround yourself with things that produce faith.
- > Turn off the TV, log off Facebook and Twitter, and read your Bible.
- > Put your faith in God's Word, not in someone's experience.
- ➤ Let God answer your prayers His way. Your answer may come an entirely different way than someone else's.

- > Obey God's Word.
- ➤ God requires all of His children to walk in the light of Scripture.
- > Remain humble.
- > God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble.
- > Be bold.

When you know who you are in Christ, you can boldly demand your rights in Him.

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DEBBIE POUNDS didn't have a good feeling about the storm. Newscasters had only bad things to say. She and her husband, Richard, were weary from the crazy weather. Central Oklahoma had endured a seemingly unending battering from tornados. Seven touched down on May 19th, one of them an EF-4. The next day, an EF-5 tornado ripped through an elementary school. Many wondered when it would end.

Two Minutes to DISASTER.

Thankfully, Debbie was able to leave work earlier than normal on May 31. The last thing she wanted was to get caught in the storm. She called Richard and told him to gather their medication and put it in the stairwell—the place they normally go during severe storms.

Once home, Debbie felt secure in their ICF home. ICF (Insulated Concrete Forms) buildings are constructed to withstand the worst natural disasters. Richard and Debbie were glued to the TV until they lost power. "Like true Okies," said Debbie, "we stood on the back porch and watched the storm." Central Oklahoma is a lot like western Kansas. It's open flatland so you can see storms from a long way off.

This storm was moving southeast—away from Richard and Debbie's home. But suddenly it changed direction and headed straight toward them.

"We've got about two minutes!" Richard yelled to his wife.

By the time they got inside and under the stairwell, the first wave hit. The reinforced concrete used to build the house virtually soundproofed it, so Richard and Debbie could only hear debris hitting the outside walls.

It didn't seem too bad, so Richard looked out the door to see what was happening. That's when the second wave hit. Winds of more than 200 mph peeled the metal roof off their house and dropped over five inches of water inside in a matter of minutes.

The dwelling that was supposed to be a safe haven for Richard and Debbie became a house of terror. Rain-soaked sheet rock began falling off the walls. The Pounds feared the house might fall in on them. They grabbed garbage bags and tried to gather their most precious possessions. In a short span of time, everything they had worked so hard for was lost.

It's because of people like Richard and Debbie that Rhema sprang into action. Since the string of devastating tornadoes hit, Rhema Bible Church has sent over 370 volunteers to Carney, Shawnee, Newalla, El Reno, and the surrounding countryside to help with the cleanup. Because these areas are remote and hard to reach, they were largely ignored immediately after the storms.

"This is an opportunity for us to give and keep on giving," said Craig W. Hagin, who, with his wife, Mia, has been heading up Rhema's relief effort. "I've driven all over the tornado-ravaged

areas [looking for people to help], and I'll keep on driving. It's overwhelming and indescribable how these folks have had their lives torn apart."





DUBBED THE "YELLOW SHIRTS," RHEMA'S VOLUNTEERS TAKE A BREAK AFTER CUTTING DOWNED TREES INTO FIREWOOD.

An EF-5 tornado basically disintegrates everything in its path. In places where homes were completely destroyed, Rhema's yellow-shirted volunteers went in with plastic totes and helped people sift through the rubble looking for anything that could be salvaged.

Where the tornadoes had passed, downed trees and tree limbs were a common sight. Trees and limbs rested on top of cars, leaned on houses, covered driveways, and blocked roads. Homeowners—many of whom are elderly—were doing their best with little equipment to clear the debris.

Enter Rhema's yellow-shirted chainsaw gang. They attacked the downed trees like termites on wood! The busloads of eager volunteers worked long days to clear debris—a job that would have taken homeowners months to do on their own.

Tears and gratitude were also common. Many of the tornado victims were emotionally drained. Rhema's volunteers not only

>> HOW YOU CAN HELP

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To find out more about Rhema's ongoing Oklahoma tornado relief and learn how you can get involved, visit **rhema.org/relief**. And be sure to watch video footage of the relief effort at **khm.com/an4u**.

used their brawn to help with the cleanup, they also were quick to offer prayer and words of encouragement.

"The volunteers have been an absolute Godsend," said Debbie, her voice cracking with emotion. "Everybody has been so wonderful and kind. God bless everybody for their understanding, love, compassion, and prayers. You never realize how much people can help and care until you're actually in that situation "



DAMAGED HOME OF A RETIRED MILITARY VET

"This is an opportunity for us to give and keep on giving."



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The One Thing



THE BOOK OF LUKE records a time when Jesus and His disciples came to Mary and Martha's house. Scripture tells us Martha began busying herself making sandwiches that Jesus never ordered. Her sister, Mary, however, didn't join in with the food preparations. Instead, she chose to sit at Jesus' feet and listen.

Martha finally blurted out, "Don't you care, Jesus? Look at what she's doing. I need help!"

"You're worried about everything," Jesus replied, "but Mary has chosen the *one thing* that is necessary." (See Luke 10:38–42.)

Without that one thing, life can stress us out and make us completely freaked out. In Mark chapter 4 we see that Jesus was in a boat and it was stormy. The disciples thought they were going to die. It was totally nutso outside, and Jesus was crashed out on a cushion sound asleep. I don't believe He was faking it either.

You see, the world Jesus lived from was far different from the world the disciples were in. JESUS LIVED FROM A CON-STANT PLACE OF REST. This is monumental, because the world today is in a place of stress. Most of the Body of Christ is really freaked out, and they shouldn't be.

When I was born again, God became my Father, and I finally realized Who God my Father was. And when I realized that, I realized who I am as a son.

WHEN GOD IS OUR FATHER, OUR IDENTITY CHANGES.

Some Christians have weird ideas about *father*. Instead of adopting their new identity, they're still carrying the identity they formed as a son or daughter before they became a Christian. How they felt about themselves depended on whether they believed their mother and father cared about them.

The term *born again* means "to be re-fathered; to be birthed again."

Nicodemus said to Jesus, "No one can *do* what You do unless he is from God."

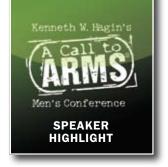
Jesus replied, "No one can see the Kingdom of God unless he's born again." (See John 3:1-3).

Nicodemus pointed out what Jesus did, but Jesus pointed out what we will see when we are born again. Now that I am born again, I get to see, but I also get to do. And because of how I see myself, my doing

becomes a byproduct of my being. I will never have to do anything so I can be. If I try to be something by doing, I'm living under the Law. I'm trying to get something from God through my works.

We have to live in a place of being. And the first place we need to be in is the place of rest that Jesus paid for. If we don't get to that place, we'll be in a constant state of worry.

Matthew 11:28 (NKJV) says, "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Verse 29 says that we will find "rest for our souls."



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But either the Bible's true or it's not. Either Jesus paid the price for us to enter that place of rest or He didn't. Scripture says, "Narrow is the gate that leads to life and broad is the road that leads to destruction" (Matt. 7:13–14).

Yes, this passage of scripture refers to the many different things

WE WILL NEVER FIND rest IN PLACES OR THINGS. OUR REST IS $in\ Him$.

What's the problem then? It's simple. Our mind is wacked out and spinning. When we come into the Kingdom, our brain spins on worry, worry, worry. When we go to church, our mind usually settles down during the worship service. Then we get psyched up. But when Monday rolls around, all of a sudden—WHACK!—life comes and cracks us one!

WHAT IF LIFE COULDN'T CRACK US? What if we lived in a place of constant rest—a place where we were never stressed? Some say that's impossible.

we could worship. But I don't believe the narrow gate is just talking about getting to Heaven. I believe it's also talking about entering into God's rest.

It's up to each one of us to enter into God's rest. Instead of doing that, many Christians try to find peace here or there. They're not doing the *one thing* that Mary chose to do—sit at Jesus' feet. We will never find rest in places or things. Our rest is in Him. And when we plug into God's rest, we can maintain that rest no matter how bad it is around us.

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Serving by Faith



leterans:

THANK YOU for your service to this country. We know it is because of you that we have our freedom. God bless you.

HEBREWS 3:10 SAYS, "The just shall live by faith." Master Sergeant Gary Houser not only believes this verse, he has lived it for the past 30 years in the U.S. Air Force.

One Step at a Time

Danger lurked around every corner for Master Sgt. Houser during a three-month tour of duty in Iraq in 2003. While stationed in Balad at a former Iraqi airbase, Gary and Tech Sgt. George Gooch were assigned to carry out a short survey mission near the runways. As they began the survey, an officer told them

to avoid stepping on anything metal because they had just cleared the area of mines.

Gary says it was enough to make their skin crawl, not knowing what their next step had in store for them. "We literally had to take steps of faith, listening to the Holy Spirit on the inside telling us to step here and not step there."

After successfully completing the survey, Gary learned that they had been in far more danger than they knew. There were booby traps and mines all over the base. BUT THE AREA THEY HAD JUST SURVEYED HAD NOT BEEN SWEPT FOR MINES!

He was told after the fact that the area they had just walked through was off-limits. Gary recalls that when he and George heard those words, they just looked at each other and said, "Thank You, Jesus!"

He Is Faithful

Fast forward 10 years, and Gary is still relying on the Hand that protected him in 2003. On April 26, 2013, Gary returned from a six-month tour of duty during which he traveled 30,000 miles to Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and Qatar.

At one point during the trip, Gary was singled out to lead an engineering team to complete an installation project in Kyrgyzstan. The task: install 17 antennas on a 100-foot tower. It was the first time he had been given such an assignment. And just as before, he turned for help to the One Who had helped him faithfully in the past.

"It really took faith for me to believe God for wisdom and that no one would get hurt," Gary says. "God was favorable to us. I gave them an estimate of three weeks to get this project done. We got it done in two weeks."

That quick timetable turned out to be a blessing. When the team began the work, the temperature was in the 70s. The day they finished they had freezing rain, ice coated the tower, and the temperature dropped to 20 below zero.

The Lord has continued to demonstrate His faithfulness. On another project, this time for NATO, Gary and his team successfully completed an engineering assignment in two

weeks. Smiling, he says, "We actually got a letter from a two-star general thanking us for getting the project done."

A Thankful Heart

While he is serving in the military, Gary carries the 91st Psalm in his pocket. The psalm begins, "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'" (Ps. 91:1-2 NIV 1984). TIME AND TIME AGAIN, THE LORD HAS SHOWN GARY HE REALLY DOES HAVE HIM IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND (Isa. 49:16; John 10:28-29). And looking back on his experiences, Gary is very thankful for that.

"THE WORD OF GOD IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE," he says. "When you're hit with the trials of life—and we're all going to have them—you will find out if you're walking by faith or walking by sight. When you're over there in some of the situations I've been in, then it's too late to learn to walk by faith. You need to prepare yourself before you get in—before circumstances and situations come against you."

"I really believe the Lord called me to be in the military so that He could use me there. It is not just a job; it is a ministry."

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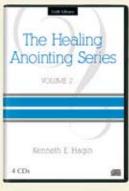
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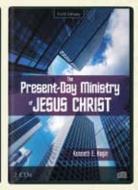
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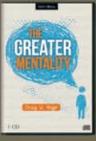
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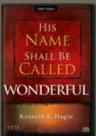








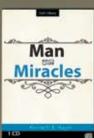






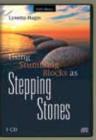














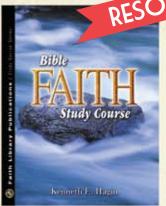


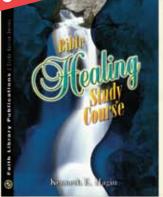


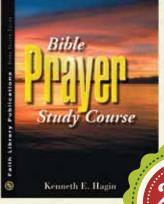
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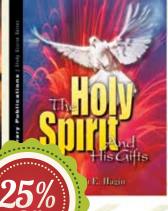
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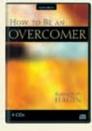
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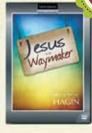


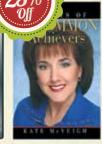




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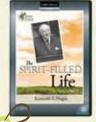




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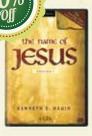


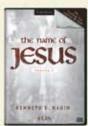
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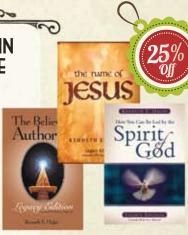
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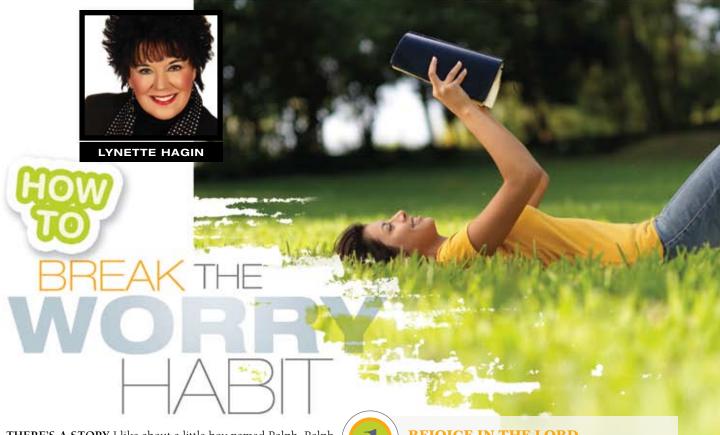




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THERE'S A STORY I like about a little boy named Ralph. Ralph was head-over-heels in trouble, but he was doing little to help himself. A friend advised him, "Ralph, you've got two hands. Why don't you do something?"

"I am!" Ralph replied, "I'm wringing them!"

This story makes us laugh, but how many of us are like Ralph? We're walking around wringing our hands, even though it doesn't do us any good.

In our world today, worry has become a way of life. Sometimes we don't even understand what has us stressed out, but worry will still devour our energy, peace, joy, and happiness. It can even affect our health.

Did you know that worry is actually faith in the negative? It is belief in defeat. In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus tells us that we worry because we don't have faith in God.

MATTHEW 6:25, 30-31, 33 (NIV)

- 25 "Therefore I tell you, DO NOT WORRY about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. . . .
- 30 If . . . God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you-YOU OF LITTLE FAITH?
- 31 So DO NOT WORRY....
- 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Notice that God is not suggesting that we not worry. He's giving us a command! Have faith, and do not worry!

How many of us would say, "That's easier said than done!" Worry is a tough habit to break. But I want to give you some keys that will help you.

REJOICE IN THE LORD

First of all, we must rejoice in the Lord! Philippians 4:4 (NIV) says, "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!"

When Paul wrote this to the Philippians, he was in prison. He was chained 24 hours a day to a Roman soldier and faced possible execution. He had a marvelous opportunity to be worried. Instead, he encouraged the Philippians to rejoice.

If some of us were in that situation, we'd have written, "Grumble in the Lord always. I will say it again: Grumble! Poor old me!" But Paul could rejoice because he trusted the Lord to work everything out for his good.

Likewise, if we'll keep our eyes on the Lord and rejoice, we won't have to be concerned. Our trust is in God, not man, and He will give us wisdom and show us what to do in every situation.

DEVELOP AN UN-ANXIOUS ATTITUDE

In the dangerous world we live in, it's so easy to become anxious and think, "Something bad is going to happen to me." However, we need to develop an unanxious attitude. Philippians 4:6 in the Amplified Bible says, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."

When we give our requests to God, we don't have to be anxious. The Word promises that He's going to take care of it all! When we're tempted to become anxious, we should look to the Scriptures.

I quote Psalm 91 nearly every day and it says, "Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps. 91:1 NLT). The Amplified Bible adds, "Whose power no foe can withstand."

If we rest in the power of the Almighty—in His shelter—nothing can come against us! We don't have to have an anxious attitude when we trust in Him.

DEVELOP A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER

Have you ever heard people say, "Well, I did everything possible, and then I just had to pray." Hello . . . pray first! The third key to breaking the worry habit is to develop a lifestyle of prayer. Instead of panicking, pray so much that worry has to take a backseat!

Remember Paul and Silas when they were in prison? At midnight they prayed and sang praises to God, and an earthquake shook open the prison doors (Acts 16:24–26).

If we'll pray and sing praises in our midnight hour, the prison doors of our lives will be opened! Our prayer doesn't have to be elegant. When I pray, I simply say, "God, I've got a problem. I need You to help me." In certain situations I'll even pray, "God, You called me to the ministry. I didn't call myself. You sent me here, You told me to do this, and you're going to have to do something about it!"

You see, God is right there to give us the answers we need. He is there to help us with every little detail of our lives. But we have to ask Him for help. John 16:24 says, "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." God hears our requests, and when we replace worry with prayer, our joy will be full!

CAST YOUR CARES

Finally, if we want to break the worry habit we must learn to cast our cares on the Lord. First Peter 5:7 (Amplified) says, "Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully."

This verse tells us to cast *all* of our cares upon the Lord—not just a part of them. You see, God wants us to live stress-free, peaceful, joyful lives. But we'll not do so until we learn to cast our cares.

Learning how to cast our cares on the Lord is similar in ways to learning how to cast a fishing line. The first time we cast our cares, it may be a total catastrophe! We may feel as if we're getting the fishhooks snagged in our hair. But we have to keep on casting. The more we cast our cares on the Lord, the more we will experience His peace.

Satan loves to get us so entangled in the worries, stress, and cares of life that we can no longer concentrate on our Father's business. But we *can* break the worry habit and rise to the level God has destined for us. We *can* experience His joy in every area of our lives!♥

>> MAKE A LIST

Make a list of all the things that have you worried today. Then find scriptures to stand on in each of those situations. When the enemy brings negative thoughts, just quote him the Word and rejoice. God will renew your strength and see you through!

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Bringing Hope, Help, and Healing



His prosperity was not measured by the accumulation of great wealth and worldly possessions. He did not live in a palace with rooms full of gold, looking out over fields of cattle and sheep. His lifestyle was not lavish or extravagant, and He was not driven by

possessiveness and greed.

Yet in a small country dominated by Rome's mighty power, where the majority of the people were oppressed and exploited, Jesus' personal needs were met. He could afford to move around the country freely, going about His Father's business. He was even able to support a dozen disciples who traveled with Him throughout Galilee and into the neighboring regions.

Why did Jesus have such abundant resources? Those resources enabled Him to do God's will. Perhaps you've heard the saying, "Where God guides, He provides." Well, I believe the purpose of prosperity for a Christian is to do God's work and will.

What is God's will? John 3:16 and 17 expresses it very simply. The Lord's primary interest is saving the lost! That's why He sent His Son.

The Bible is also very plain about what Jesus did when He came to earth. Matthew 9:35 says, "Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people."

Jesus is our great example. What He did, we should do. His purpose should be our purpose (John 14:12).

Can we expect to be prosperous? Yes, we can—just as Jesus was. But that means our motive should be the same as His. He wants His people—including ministers—to have plenty of resources that enable them to go teach, preach, and heal people in the villages and cities of the world, or to help others go.

Why do we want to prosper? Do we seek prosperity to help finance the work of God? Or do we just want to enjoy the lavish luxuries of life?

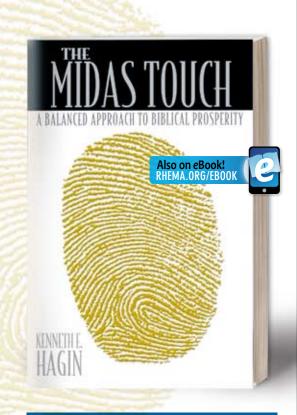
Now, I am not suggesting that God expects us to live on a skimpy, cramped, barely-get-by budget. Psalm 35:27 says, "Let the Lord be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."

God is not magnified by our scraping along. But He's also not magnified if we are focusing all our attention and time on money and worldly possessions. No! There must be balance and common sense in our material lives.

As we read the Gospels and study the life of Christ, we get the picture of a Man Who walked the streets of the villages and towns where He went paying His own way. He mingled comfortably with the common people and helped the poor. But He was also right at home visiting with the affluent and powerful. He went to the homes of Pharisees and other religious leaders, as well as to the homes of sinners like the tax collector Zacchaeus. Jesus' first recorded miracle took place at a wedding banquet in

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Cana, where He turned several large jars of water into wine for the feast (see John chapter 2).

In what we call the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that we do not have to worry about food, drink, or clothing. Jesus said, "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; AND ALL THESE THINGS SHALL BE ADDED UNTO YOU" (Matt. 6:32–33). He went on to say, "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" (Luke 6:38 NIV).

Does that sound like God wants to limit how much we can have? Absolutely not. He simply wants us to keep our priorities straight.

REACHING THE WORLD

Jesus commissioned all believers to "go into the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). With more than six billion people in the world today, we have a mighty big job left to do. We must either go ourselves or help send someone in our place. Either way requires significant resources.

Obviously, poverty-stricken people will be limited in their ability to fulfill this commission. So if God requires this of every believer, then it must be His plan and His will for His people to

rosper.

Let me say it another way: Going or sending is the true purpose of prosperity. And if we'll obey God's Word—helping to carry out His work on the earth—His blessings will be poured out on us!

▼

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

>> BOOK

Learn how to prosper God's way. Go to **rhema.org/store** and purchase Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Biblical Keys to Financial Prosperity*.

FAITH NIIGGET

Why Give?

Through tithing to our local church and giving offerings to other ministries, we can be part of what God is doing in the world today. Our motive and purpose for giving should be pure and unselfish. These reasons for giving are listed in order of importance.

- 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 do the same; we should give to God because we love Him.
- We should give to God in obedience to His Word. The Bible teaches us to give to the Lord and support His work.
- We should give as a means to help carry out Christ's Great Commission and support the work of those who are going into all the world with the Gospel.
- We should give because we want to see people blessed. Our tithes and gifts help support outreaches of the local church and other organizations. Through them we minister to the poor, evangelize the lost and unreached, and build up the saints while equipping them for Christian service.
- Finally, we should give in expectancy, believing God to honor the promises in His Word to bless and prosper us. The law of sowing and reaping applies in all areas—including our personal finances.



PEOPLE FROM ACROSS the U.S. and around the world descended upon the Rhema USA campus in July to be refreshed and hear from God. As the rain outside saturated the dry, thirsty Oklahoma ground,

>> CHECK THE ARCHIVES



If you were not able to attend Campmeeting 2013, you can watch the messages online at khm.com/r2h2.

the rain of the Holy Ghost flooded the hearts of everyone in attendance. Here is a sampling of what *Campmeeting 2013* speakers said. ♥

Cementing Your Future

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION ON THE WORD KENNETH W. HAGIN

"Demonstrations of the Spirit are good, but after you leave this building tonight, it doesn't matter how much you've shouted or how much you've laughed. When the cares of life hit you and the inspiration is gone, it's the Word that will see you through. The wind can blow, the storms can come, and the rain can descend, but your house will stand when it's built on the Word. THE WORD WILL TAKE THE PRESSURE SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO. Thank God for the shout, but without a foundation of the Word, your spiritual house will crumble."

CRAIG W. HAGIN

"Quit thinking your own thoughts. Quit thinking about how hard it is and that you can never make it. Get out of that loser mentality and start thinking on what the Word says about you. YOU'RE MORE THAN A CONQUEROR IN CHRIST JESUS!"

LYNETTE HAGIN

"To be after God's own heart, your life must be built around the Word. YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LOVE OTHERS AND FORGIVE AND OBEY HIS INSTRUCTIONS. Then you will fulfill God's plan for your life."

CHARLES COWAN "God is in us and God is with us. So when we really stop and think about that, **THERE IS NO WAY WE CAN LOSE.**"

**People look at things in the realm of what's not possible. Jesus looks at things in the realm of all things are possible. What about you? IF YOU'RE A BELIEVER, NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE ... NOTHING IS UNREACHABLE!"

"For the spirit of faith to work, you must believe and speak. Believing is the attitude of faith, and speaking is the initial act of faith. In other words, your faith must be strong enough to move your mouth. KEEP YOUR 'SPEAKER' CONNECTED TO YOUR 'BELIEVER!'

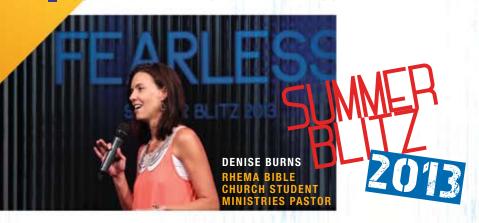
Courage you. But if you can see how precious this [life] is that it was bought with Jesus' life, death, and resurrection—you'll say, 'I don't care what hell throws at me.

DAVID VASQUEZ "The idea of change doesn't mess us up. What messes us up is transition. Transitioning is the process of LETTING GO OF THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE AND TAKING HOLD OF THE WAY THINGS ARE BECOMING."

>>> GET THE MESSAGES

You may purchase CDs, DVDs, or MP3s of *Campmeeting* 2013 online at **rhema.org/store**.

"It's the written Word of God that remains."



WHY THE THEME Fearless?

I was at home one morning reading the 91st Psalm and meditating on it when the Lord dropped the theme *Fearless* into my heart. There are all the things that kids and teenagers deal with nowadays . . . Even going to school is a scary experience, because shootings happen and tornadoes hit buildings. You look at the news and it's just scary story after scary story. It creates fear in them. But in the Bible it says "fear not" around 365 times. I believe if God put so much emphasis on this in His Word, then we need to talk about being *fearless*.

WE LIVE IN A WORLD where it's easy to be afraid. But hundreds of youth who converged on the Rhema campus for *Summer Blitz* were encouraged to beat fear and refuse to let it hold them back. As one speaker taught, "God didn't create fear and doesn't want you to have it!"

Between unforgettable dramas, amazing praise and worship, and out-of-the-box games and activities, youth discovered that they could have a fearless life in Christ. They learned to let go of the fear of not fitting in and let God take the driver's seat. They learned to trust God fearlessly for their future, let go of baggage weighing them down, and dream big. And they found out that with God on their side and the Holy Spirit within them, nothing is impossible!

Throughout the week, many youth stepped out boldly and were born again, healed, and filled with the Spirit. Many others committed to go all in for God—to follow His plan in faith—unafraid . . . **FEARLESS.** ♥



"God has given us the ability to beat fear . . . to be fearless. Why was David unafraid of Goliath? He was bold. Boldness is confidence. Confidence is knowing something. David knew Who his God was—Who his covenant was with. We have to see ourselves through God's eyes."

ROB POST

"We were meant to be dependent on God. But some of us have been trying to fill that God-shaped void on the inside with other things—people, relationships, social media. It's dangerous to let something besides the Lord fuel who you are. It's not worth it. You have to make Jesus the boss."





"God wants you to let go of your baggage and completely trust and fearlessly believe in what He's telling you. He wants you to lay everything aside and take that jump, knowing that He's got you the entire way."

PHILLIP HAGEDORN



"[Ephesians 3:20 says], 'To him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above everything we could ever ask or think, according to the power that works in us.' This is how you overcome. Not because of you but because of the Greater One living on the inside of you."

LAURA-LEE BOOTH



"You hear, 'The sky is the limit?' That's a lie. In Genesis God said, 'Let there be light,' and He never told it to stop. God made the heavens and the earth. How big is your dream? How big is it on the inside of you? That's the kind of God we serve."

KENT BOOTH

"... with God on their side and the Holy Spirit within them, nothing is impossible!"







CAMPMEETING Miracles

Campmeeting is not just something to do on vacation. When people attend this annual event, they're expecting to get results and see their lives change. This year we received testimony after testimony of what God did during Campmeeting, not only for adults but for our children and youth as well. Denise Burns, Rhema Bible Church Student Ministries pastor, said it best: "The Holy Spirit just came in a miraculous way and ministered the same thing to each generation, but on their level. At Rhema, we're in unity and harmony. And when you are in unity and harmony, big things happen." Check out these wonderful testimonies. . . . You might want to grab a tissue!

"Social media is so big with teens. I noticed on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook that teenagers were posting and saying, "I've rededicated my life. I'm going to live all for God. No more giving in! I'm just going to be a light!"

DENISE BURNS







In the Wednesday evening youth service, a 12-year-old girl was totally healed of scoliosis. Nobody specifically prayed over her for healing. At the end of the service, she was worshipping at the altar and said that God just touched her. She couldn't even touch her toes before, but she was bending over and touching them. Her mom later said she'd had to wear a brace every day. But she took it off, wasn't wearing it, and did a cartwheel, a backbend, and handstands. She was just TOTALLY AND **COMPLETELY HEALED!**

YOUTH TESTIMONY

A During Kenneth W. Hagin's Sunday evening service, A WOMAN WHO HAD BEEN ON CRUTCHES WAS COMPLETELY HEALED. After the service, she and her husband (who was carrying her discarded crutches), went for a quick-paced walk around Rhema Bible Church. Unable to contain their excitement, they were shouting, jumping, and praising God for what He had done!

On Tuesday night a young man who's now in seventh grade said THE LORD SPOKE TO HIM. He believes that the Lord wants him to be a pastor. God just revealed to him the plans that He has for him!

"As soon as I picked [mv daughter] up from Rhema Kids last night she said, 'Mommy, I experienced something new tonight.' She said she went up front because she was having pain in her back. She fell to the ground because the Holy Spirit touched her. She said, 'Mommy, I felt warmth all over my body and I was shaking all over. But I wasn't cold and it wasn't the music from the sanctuary shaking the ground either. Then she continued telling me that when she got up, her back didn't hurt anymore. She said, 'I feel so amazing. I DON'T THINK I **WILL EVER STOP TALK-ING ABOUT WHAT GOD DID FOR ME TONIGHT.** Going to bed as one happy

momma!"

ALISHA D.

"My daughter received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at Campmeeting this week. So thankful for the children's ministers and volunteers!"

LANZA S.

On Thursday night a group of local high school seniors stood together and prayed in the back of the auditorium for 30 to 45 minutes. THEY PRAYED FOR THEIR SCHOOL AND THEIR SENIOR CLASS. They truly believe that lives will be impacted and destinies changed.

"[My daughter] was healed on Wednesday night in the children's service. She was hardly making it through the morning services. Something was causing her to hyperventilate and her muscles would freeze up. Since she was prayed for on Wednesday night, SHE HAS NOT HAD ANY MORE EPISODES."

CAROLYN C.

"[My daughter told] me that they had a healing service [in kids]. She went up because she said she doesn't want braces. She said that when hands were laid on her head, [she experienced God's presence and power.] GOD IS DOING SOMETHING AMAZING IN MY DAUGHTER'S LIFE.

There is nothing more rewarding than to see your child have their own encounters with God and the Holy Spirit! This is something that money can't buy or replace! I'm so blessed!

CLARA G.

"My son had a brain injury 10 years ago. I was praying over him at the very time Pastor Craig turned around and spoke to the live Internet audience [during Campmeeting]. PASTOR CRAIG'S MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SO VERY CRUCIAL for [my son] this week. Praise God for that anointing and healing over his mind!"

JANET A.



// 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

WHEN I SPEAK ON PRAYER, many times I

quote the last portion of Daniel 11:32: "But the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits." This scripture has become such a reality in my life that I refer to it consistently. I like how that verse reads in the Amplified: "But the people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for God]."

God gave Daniel a vision of the last days—those dark days when the end of time is near. The vision talks of days when much sin and darkness will be upon the earth. It appears that we are in those days. But I am thankful for the promise that God gave to us in that vision. If we take the time to really know God and develop a relationship with Him, we will remain strong and do great exploits.

How well do you know God? Many have accepted Christ as Savior, but that is the extent of their relationship with Him. God desires that we have a greater relationship with Him than merely accepting salvation. He desires that we draw close to Him—that we totally depend upon His provision.

God wants to be Jehovah Rapha, the Lord your Healer. He desires to be Jehovah Jireh, the Lord your Provider, and Jehovah Shalom, the Lord your Peace. And most of all He desires to be to you El Shaddai, the God Who is more than enough.

God can break the power of drugs and alcohol in your life. He can change your alternate lifestyle and your desire for pornography. He is big enough to solve all your problems and pick you up when you're down.

Sometimes it is hard for some people to relate to the Heavenly Father because they try to compare that relationship to the one they had with their earthly father. And some may not have had a good example of an earthly father. But whatever your earthly

father has been like, no one compares to the Heavenly Father, Who is constantly waiting for us to commune with Him and ask of Him.

What are your needs?
Whatever they are, God is there for you. Make Him your priority. He will get you out of the lion's den. He

will deliver you from a fiery furnace. He will be your Healer and Provider. He is merciful. When you stumble, He will take you in His arms, brush you off, and extend His arm of mercy.

Mercy means that He will forgive you and wash you clean. You may be thinking, "I've messed up so badly that surely I've gone beyond the touch of God. I've lied and cheated too much and done too many bad things." Let me assure you that the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. He is saying to you, "Come home, My child. I've been waiting for you. My mercy will rewrite your life." When you ask for forgiveness, He eradicates your past and will not remember your sins.

Knowing your Heavenly Father requires trusting Him. Proverbs 3:5–6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." When you develop a relationship with your Heavenly Father, a trust is formed. Friends on earth can disappoint you or betray you. But your Heavenly Father is always there. He will never disappoint or betray you. You can pour out your heart to Him.

I can express my feelings to my Heavenly Father and He is always there to give me advice or comfort. I tell Him when I've experienced disappointments, hurts, and challenges. I trust Him to help me in every circumstance. I rely on Him to give me wisdom in every situation and to see me through every difficulty that comes my way.

I love the words of this hymn: "'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, just to take Him at His Word; just to rest upon His promise; just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.' Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him, how I've proved Him o'er and o'er. Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus! O for grace to trust Him more."

I encourage you to enter into that place of trust with God—to commit your life to His safekeeping. Commit your entire self to Him. Follow His path for you. Determine in your heart to know Him so well that whatever the enemy throws in your path, you can confidently say, "My God will deliver me out of every circumstance."

¹ "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus" / Words: Louisa M.R. Stead, Music: William J. Kirkpatrick, 1882. Public domain.



Fearless

DAVID AND GOLIATH. Daniel in the lion's den. Esther and the king. Kids *Campmeeting* 2013 was all about living a fearless life with God. Each night the high-energy elementary kids went on a journey with these courageous men and women of the Bible. The young people were inspired to be bold in their faith, follow their dreams, and live unafraid in today's world.

Before the kids dived into the lives of these fearless people, they played games, sang about the goodness of God, and danced. The first night, they listened to the tale of how a young David defeated Goliath with a rock. Lesson learned: God is greater than any giant.

The following night, they were taught that God will keep them safe as they live for Him. They listened as Daniel's story was told. Daniel refused to pray to the king, because he only prayed to God. That was against the law, so Daniel was punished by being thrown into a den of lions. But God rescued him.

Thursday, the kids learned that their friends can help them be bold for God. Queen Esther shared how her cousin Mordecai encouraged her in faith and helped her fearlessly face the king and save her people.

During Campmeeting 2013 the kids discovered that, just as God helped these fearless men and women, He is always there to help and protect them. And because He is, they don't ever have to be afraid.

"He [God] is always there to help and protect them."





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