



THE Word of Faith

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2014

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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the Word of Faith



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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.



Identify the ‘Giant’ Within You!

Many Christians don’t understand the vital role of the Holy Spirit in their lives. Jesus said in John 16:7, “It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you” (NKJV).

The Greater One—the Holy Spirit—is the “Giant” Who lives inside each of us as believers. Because this is true, we can stand against the giants of life. We have more wisdom than the problem that needs to be solved, more light than the darkness that tries to obscure, more strength than the cares that can weigh us down, and more stamina than the test or trial at hand. No matter what giant is attacking us, our “Giant” is *greater* (1 John 4:4)!

You see, there are times in our lives when nothing but the wisdom of God and the counsel of the Holy Spirit will do. And the “Giant” within us stands ready and willing to help. His power is not limited to being in one place at a time, and His wisdom is not limited to the wisdom of man.

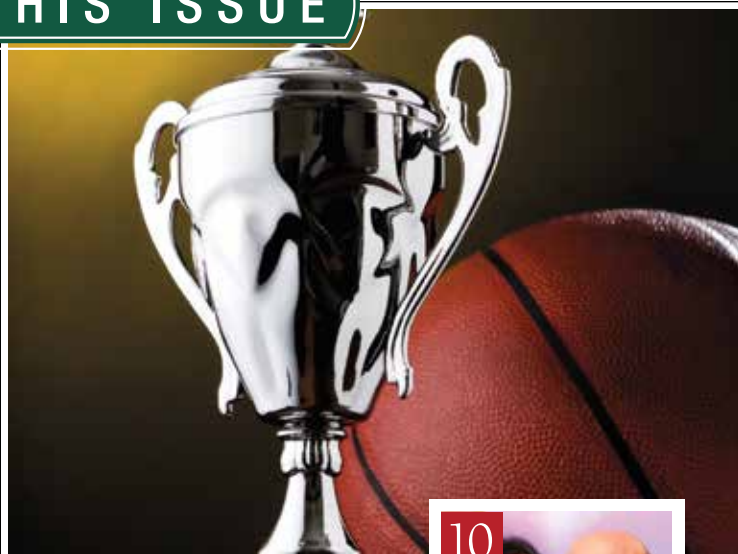
God is omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient. No giant anywhere can defeat us when we realize the infinite power, Presence, and knowledge of the Greater One Who resides in us!

I want to encourage you this month to look up the many scriptures that talk about the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer today. The Holy Spirit will be to you a Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Intercessor, and Strengthener. He is greater than the devil and all of his cohorts. He is the Spirit Who raised Jesus Christ from the dead and defeated Satan in hell’s awful combat. And He lives in *you*!

Don’t miss a single page of this magazine! My dad’s article on page 7 explains God’s ideal of marriage. Then on page 16 my son, Craig, shows us that there’s more to the story of the Prodigal Son than we may think!

Kenneth W. Hagin

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Special Report: MISSIONS

Fatmir and Silvana Spahiu, pastors in Tirana, Albania, are passionate about sharing God’s healing Word. Read their story.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

WHAT COMES

• AFTER •

VICTORY ?

EVERYONE LIKES TO TALK about victory and success and how to receive from God. But we don't hear people talk too much about what to do *after* we win great victories. So many times, that's when Satan tries to set up roadblocks in our lives. There are important lessons we must learn in order to protect ourselves from the devil's schemes and stand strong in God after the victory.

There's an old saying I've often heard paraphrased: "Let us be as watchful after the victory as before the battle." That's a good statement, because it tells us to be forewarned and forearmed against the devil's strategies. Life is not a playground; it's a battleground. The Bible says we wrestle and are in a spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12-18).

THE WORD GUARDS OUR LIVES

We need to be careful to guard our lives with the Word of God and prayer. How do we do that? We need to set guards in place.

When I was growing up, there were three groups of kids that always played together. We each had our own fort or clubhouse. We'd set guards around the clubhouse to make sure that the other kids didn't slip in on us.

The Word of God is your guard and defense against the enemy. If you'll walk in the promises of God, you won't fall prey to the enemy's devices.

First Peter 5:8 (NKJV) reads, "*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR.*" You've got to be alert and abide in the Word to be able to detect the enemy trying to slip in unawares. When we've been believing God for certain things to come to pass and we finally receive our victory, we have a tendency to let our guard down (1 Cor. 10:12).

It's great to rejoice and praise God for our victory. But while we're rejoicing, let's set out some sentries to guard our territory so the enemy can't come in without our knowing it.

WE MUST NOT RELAX OUR GUARD

I think the prophet Elijah relaxed his guard. In First Kings chapter 18, we see that Elijah experienced a lapse of faith after a great victory. He went up on Mount Carmel with God and defeated the prophets of Baal. He mocked them, and then he stepped up to the altar of the Lord and prayed. The power of God fell like fire, burning up the sacrifice and soaking up the water in the trench around it. Then he killed all the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:40). Now that was a tremendous victory! But he didn't guard himself after his victory.

When the wicked Queen Jezebel heard what Elijah had done to her prophets, she sent a messenger to tell him, "*So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life as the life of one of them by tomorrow about this time*" (1 Kings 19:2 NKJV).

So what did this great man of God do after he heard the queen's threat? He turned and ran in fear. Elijah wasn't on guard



against the enemy's wiles, and we need to learn from his experience. He had just called down fire out of Heaven, so why should he have been worried about Queen Jezebel? If God could take care of him on the mountaintop, couldn't He take care of him in the valley? Elijah didn't guard himself after the victory, and he began to expect the worst.

God has demonstrated His power to us in our past victories. And He will demonstrate that same power to us in any other situation or problem.

In the New Testament, Jesus' disciples made the same mistake Elijah did. They had been with Jesus when He turned the water into wine at the marriage at Cana (John 2:1-11). They witnessed Jesus heal the lepers and the blind men.

With their own eyes, the disciples saw the miracle of Jesus feeding five thousand people with a few fish and loaves of bread (Matt. 14:15-21). But one day after ministering, Jesus told His disciples to go to the other side of the lake (Mark 4:35). They all got into the ship, and Jesus fell asleep in the stern. While He slept, a storm arose and the disciples became fearful.

In fact, the disciples thought they were going to drown. So they awakened Jesus and said, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" (v. 38 NKJV). That reminds me of some of us: "Oh, God! Why did You let this happen to me? Don't You love me anymore?"

What we fail to realize is that God sees all the trouble we're in before we ever tell Him about it. He wants to find out what we're going to do in the midst of the trouble.

Jesus immediately stilled the storm. But then He turned to His disciples and asked, "Why are you so fearful?" (v. 40 NKJV). Jesus was trying to get the disciples to see that when their faith is anchored in God and in His Word, there will be no room for fear.

We sometimes make the same mistake the disciples did. We start out walking in God's victory plan for our lives. We're living right and obeying the Word of God. But when the storms of life come against us, we take our eyes off of God and look at the boisterous winds of tests and trials. When we do that, we're going to fail. We need to keep looking at God.

FAITH IN ACTION

How to Keep Your Victory

- Trust God to do for you what He has promised.
- Keep your faith in God and expect the best.
- Don't become overconfident in yourself. Your victories come because you're in Christ, not because of your own strength.

Right after experiencing a great victory is no time to let our guard down. We've got to keep on fighting the good fight of faith, because as long as we're on this earth, the enemy is going to keep on trying to defeat us.

But thank God, we can depend on God and His Word. No test, trial, or circumstance is too hard for Him. If we'll look to God's Word in every situation, we'll come out the victor and fulfill His plan for our lives. ♡

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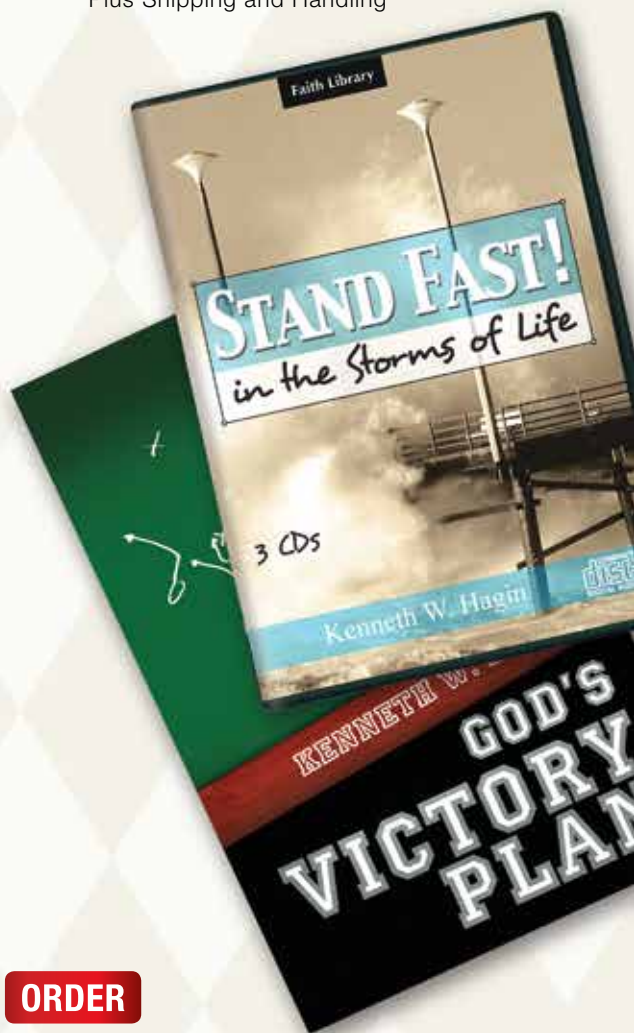
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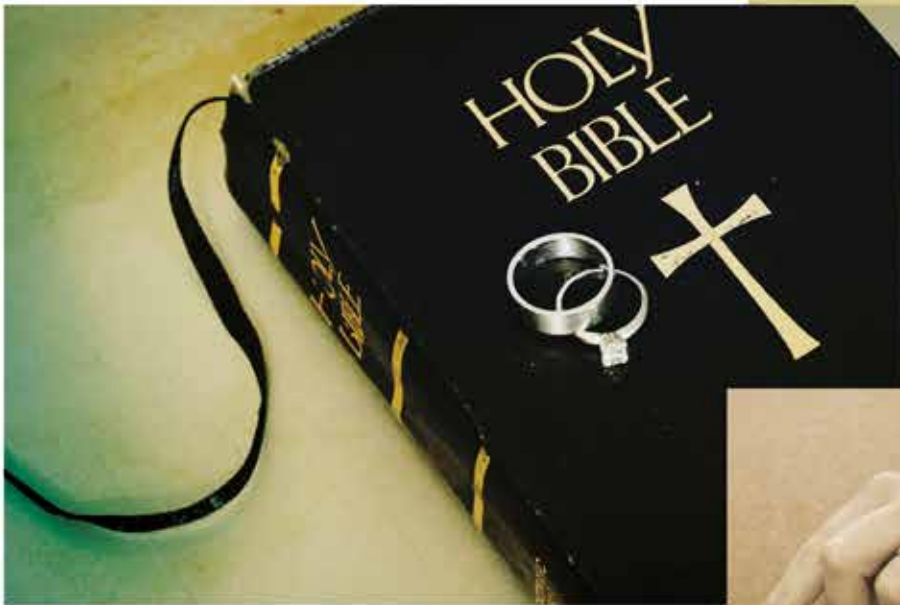
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MARRIAGE



Timeless
Teachings
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God's Way

A GOOD MARRIAGE doesn't just happen. You have to work at it, just like you do anything else. For example, you may be called to ministry, but it doesn't just happen and success is not automatic. You have something to do with it. The same is true with a marriage!

God's ideal of marriage is revealed in Ephesians chapter 5. What you need to do is pick up wherever you are and build your marriage on God's ideal. Let's look at this passage.

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

22 WIVES, SUBMIT YOURSELVES UNTO YOUR OWN HUSBANDS, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 HUSBANDS, LOVE YOUR WIVES, EVEN AS CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER

In talking about marriage, we often start with this passage, in which Paul tells wives to submit themselves to their own husbands. But if we go back a few verses, Paul gives instructions to the whole Church at Ephesus. In verse 21, he tells them to submit themselves to one another. Then in verse 22 he brings up the marriage relationship.

By taking a scripture out of its setting, you can make it say anything you want it to say. Many times people quote verse 22 out of context. They say, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." They leave the impression that the

man is the dictator of the home and the woman is supposed to do whatever the man says.

Well, if that's the case, we in the Church are also supposed to be dictators over one another, because verse 21 tells the whole church at Ephesus, "Submit yourselves to one another." That would be chaotic.

So what does Paul really mean? When he said, "submitting yourselves one to another" (Eph. 5:21), he meant giving in to one another or getting along with one another. He didn't mean for one person in the Church to be the dictator over everyone else, or for everyone in the Church to be little dictators. He meant that it is easy to submit to the rule of love. And he meant the same thing when he said in the very next verse, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands."

WALK IN LOVE

Let me give you an example. My wife and I were having lunch one time with a certain man and his wife. I noticed that the wife didn't say anything. She was just like a little kid who had been continually intimidated. She was so bowed down. We knew something was wrong with her.

As my wife and I visited with them, I noticed that the husband did all the talking. My wife picked up on the fact that his wife wasn't saying anything. So she worked the conversation around, and finally this man's wife spoke up and said, "Brother Hagin, do you think that a wife has any say-so at all? I mean, can she speak in her own home?"

I said, "Certainly!" I noticed the husband looked "daggers" through me! I saw where the problem was right away. He wanted to dominate and control her. He wanted her to do exactly what he told her to do. She couldn't even speak unless he allowed her to.

This man took a few scriptures out of context. He twisted them to make them say that the husband is to dominate the wife. But we've already seen that's not what the Scriptures are saying.

Actually, if you go on and read a verse or two down, it says, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church" (Eph. 5:25). It definitely wasn't the law of love that this man was demonstrating!

You see, the husband should love the wife just as Christ loves the Church. The husband should nourish and cherish his wife as Christ cherishes His own Body. This kind of love far exceeds human love. It's a love in which he puts her first and loves her better than he does himself. And she also loves him with God's divine love.

GOD'S PLAN FOR A COMPANION

When God created woman to be man's companion and helpmeet, He took part of man and, out of that, He formed the woman. The woman became flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone (Gen. 2:23).

Now notice in the Book of Ephesians that Paul made reference to what God did in Genesis—how God made woman out of man: "So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself" (Eph. 5:28).

The Lord also said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him" (Gen. 2:18). Actually, the Hebrew word for *helpmeet* means "an answering unto." I think that's the most unique expression in this wonderful description.

Woman was made to answer to the heart need, the spiritual need, the mental need, and the physical need of man. And when man and woman are married, they are to be a distinct unit, utterly separated from all other humans.

God wants your marriage to be successful. And by coming in line with the Word, you will experience good results. You will see your home become like Heaven on earth!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage*.]

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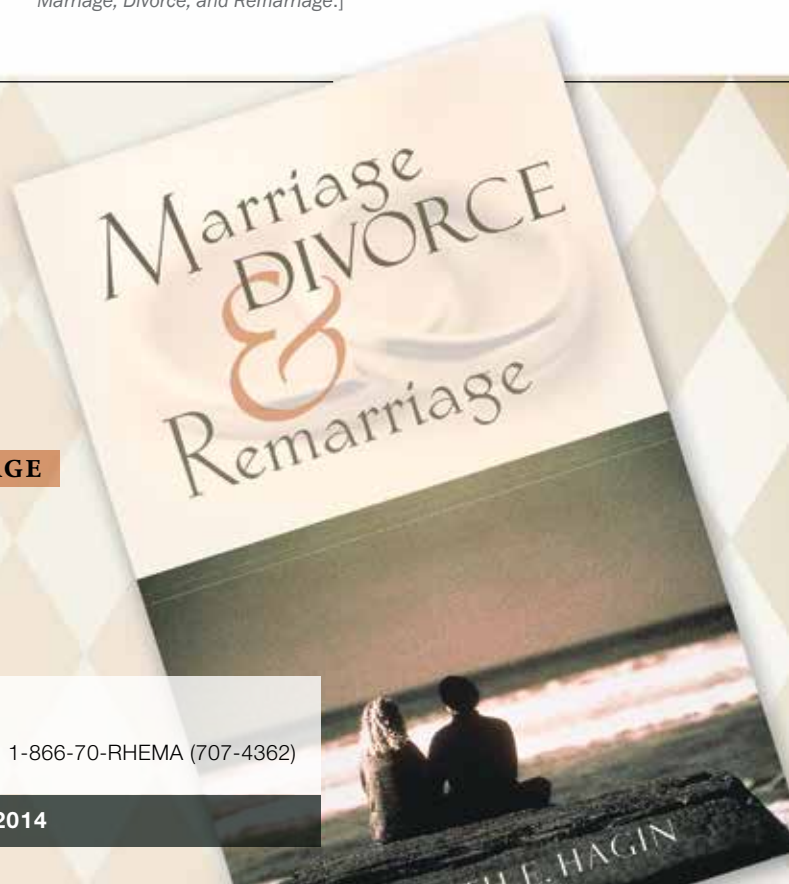
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DEMONSTRATING GOD'S POWER

ALBANIAN FLAG



“You are forbidden to preach your religion to others,” ordered Fatmir’s father. “You must keep it to yourself!”

FATMIR SPAHIU had never been a staunch Muslim. But in 1994 when as a 16-year-old he told his family he had accepted Jesus as his Savior, they were furious. Fatmir had always respected his father, but he couldn’t keep silent about his newfound faith. He had to tell others. One day family members saw him preaching, and when he got home, they were waiting.

“Leave this house!” his father demanded. “You are no longer our son. Let’s see what your Jesus will do for you—if He will provide a roof for your head and food for your table!”

“Even if the whole world comes against me,” Fatmir resolutely said, “I will follow Jesus until the end.”

When Fatmir left his parents’ home, the cold winter air had little effect on him. He was elated because he had heard the Lord clearly say, “Son, I will take care of you.”

Fatmir felt impressed to go to a dormitory where a friend stayed. The guard who normally stood at the door wasn’t there. Fatmir easily slipped in and found his friend, who took him to meet some Christian believers. When they heard what had happened, they said, “We will take care of you.” They gave him a bed to sleep in, food to eat, and money to buy whatever he needed. The next day they took Fatmir to a church and Bible school where Rhema Bible Training College graduates taught.

Three days later, Fatmir’s father began searching for his son. He was certain that something bad had happened. When he found Fatmir, he was shocked to learn that he had food, shelter, and money! The two sat on a bench on a busy street in Tirana, Albania’s capital, and talked as heavy traffic whizzed by.

“I want your permission to go to Bible school,” Fatmir said. Pointing to the people hurrying by, he added, “Do you see these people? If I do not tell them about Jesus, they will go to hell.”

Amazingly, Fatmir’s father consented. Fatmir completed his studies at the Bible school and later served as its director for five years.

HEALED OF SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA!

Silvana, Fatmir’s wife, began her journey of faith differently. At the tender age of one, she was diagnosed with sickle-cell anemia. For most of her life, she lived in constant pain and endured more blood transfusions than she could count. The doctors did not believe she would live past her 20th birthday.

Silvana accepted the Lord when she was 11, but she attended a church that didn’t believe in healing. For another nine years, she didn’t think her life could be different. Then a friend told her

about Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *The Believer’s Authority*. Her friend had been healed after reading the book and shared how Silvana could be healed too.

Looking to the future, Silvana asked the Lord for a mate. “Lord,” she prayed, “I want somebody who has faith.” That’s when Fatmir came into her life. Eventually they married and together they stood in faith for her healing.

“I took this challenge very strongly,” says Fatmir. “I said to God, ‘If I can’t believe for my own wife, why preach this to others?’ ”

Silvana slowly began to get better. The pain began to ease and she stopped needing blood transfusions. Today there is no sign of the disease in her body! She has since given birth to twin boys, now age 6. Both have tested negative for sickle-cell.

PREACHING A ‘NOW’ JESUS

Fatmir and Silvana now pastor Living Word Church, located 30 minutes outside of Tirana. They proclaim Christ’s healing Word with a confidence born of experience. Healings are common in their services. But then, Fatmir is passionate when he preaches on the power of God.



FATMIR & SILVANA SPAHIU

“How can people have faith if they don’t hear?” he asks. “We teach them, and then we challenge them to respond.”

Fatmir further explains that people often talk about the Jesus of yesterday and the Jesus of tomorrow and forget about the Jesus of today.



“He is a ‘now’ Jesus,” says Fatmir. “He wants to do miracles now. When He shows up, He doesn’t want to be a visitor and see how we play church.

He wants to take over a service and minister life to people.

“I preach this,” Fatmir continues. “I stand in faith for this and challenge people to act in faith so they can receive. This is how miracles happen. We’ve made up our minds that we’re not going to have church without the supernatural. Otherwise, we’ll just be religious.”

THE DEAF HEAR; THE SICK ARE HEALED

When Fatmir was 17 and just learning to flow in God’s supernatural power, he was part of a three-day evangelistic outreach in Tirana. A young girl asked Fatmir to pray for her 10-year-old brother. She wasn’t specific about what the youngster

THEY PROCLAIM CHRIST’S *healing* WORD WITH A CONFIDENCE BORN OF *experience*.

needed, so Fatmir looked at the boy and asked him. The child just stared at Fatmir.

“He can’t hear,” his sister explained. “He was born deaf and he can’t speak.”

Fatmir laid hands on the young boy and prayed. Immediately he could hear. The boy’s family was so touched by his healing that they all came to the conference the next day!

Later, when Fatmir was pastor of Living Word Church, a woman came crying and asking for prayer. Her 2-year-old nephew had suffered brain damage in a fall. Fatmir and Silvana prayed for the boy and had the church stand in faith for his healing. A month later, the woman testified that her nephew was completely healed and had no signs of brain damage!

During another service, Fatmir called for people who needed healing, and a woman and her 8-year-old son came forward.

“How can I pray for you?” asked Fatmir.

“I don’t want you to pray,” the mother said.

“Why are you here?”

“My son had a high fever when he was little and his eyes became permanently crossed. While you were preaching, I watched his eyes turn and become fixed! I came down to tell you what Jesus has done!”

GO YE . . .

The Spahius are members of a coalition of Albanian pastors called Heart Covenant. They are standing in faith to see their nation transformed by the faith message. They also believe it’s time to go to other nations. They’ve partnered with Spyros Voulgaris, director of Rhema Greece, to hold outreaches in Athens where many Albanians live. In May

of 2013, the coalition held a three-day meeting in that city.

“The spirit of faith has gotten into our hearts,” says Fatmir. “We live it, walk it, and are it.”

“The church needs to grow in this,” adds Silvana. “Not just to talk faith but to believe in faith and shine as the Body of Christ.”

One thing is certain: whether in Albania, Greece, or any other nation, the Spahius will demonstrate God’s love and healing power to anyone who is in need!

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Getting Our Glow Back

DAVID VASQUEZ



GOD WANTS to break limitations off of our lives. No matter how much He is moving through us, He wants to do *“exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think”* (Eph 3:20).

Whatever our vocation is, it’s time to break off any limitations that are holding us back. The world needs faith-filled, Holy Ghost-led mechanics. We need veterinarians who can minister the power of God to sick and dying animals when people bring their pets into the office. Instead of crying, pet owners will leave rejoicing because God moved miraculously on their pet. That’s when they will want to know more about our God and where we go to church.

We need schoolteachers who teach under the anointing. They may be teaching multiplication, but multiplication is happening among the students. When people look at us, they shouldn’t just see humanity; they should see divinity!

GOD HAS GIVEN US AN IMAGINATION AND A SPIRIT TO SEE LIMITLESS POSSIBILITIES. Limitations live in our mind. But if we’ll use our imagination, it will create opportunities for the limitless to happen. It’s up to each of us to take control of his mind. When we do that, God can do amazing things for us.

Remember the story of the widow in Second Kings? After her husband died, she went to Elisha because a creditor was threatening to take her two children as slaves. She wanted help. (See 2 Kings 4:1-7.)

Instead of giving her a handout, Elisha asked, “What do you have in your house?” (v. 2).

God doesn’t ask us to look outside of what we have. **WE DON’T HAVE TO LOOK TO OTHERS TO OBTAIN OUR BLESSING. WE ALREADY HAVE WHAT WE NEED.** We just need to search inside of ourselves for the gifts God has already put there. What do you have in your house that you’re not using? People often say, “I only have a little bit.” That’s OK. That’s all God needs.

You’ve probably heard the phrase, “Think outside the box.” I disagree with that statement. We need to think *inside* the box. When we do, we’ll use everything that’s in it. Then God will begin to expand our boxes!

We need to be careful, however, when we ask God to move our mountains. He usually throws us a shovel.

When the widow faced a mountain of debt, the prophet of God told her to borrow jars and start filling them with oil. She had a

limitation, but God threw her a shovel. A lot of times, we ask God to do something for us and then sit back. We just stand, because Scripture tells us to stand (Eph. 6:13-14).

Yes, I believe in doing that. But for things to happen in our lives, we have to start moving. Without activity or motion, nothing changes.

God wants us to break some patterns and ways of thinking off of our lives. We’ll never see limitlessness if the limitations that are holding us down aren’t broken off of us. But God is able to do “more than we could ask or think according to the power that is working in us” (Eph. 3:20).

We can compare that power working in us to a glow stick. Everything that is needed to light up a room is in a glow stick. But before that glow stick can come to its full potential, it has to be broken.

It never feels good to be broken. But we have to realize that limitations are really just a bunch of outer influences that are trying to affect the power that is working within us. As limitations are broken off of our lives, we’ll start getting our glow back. And the

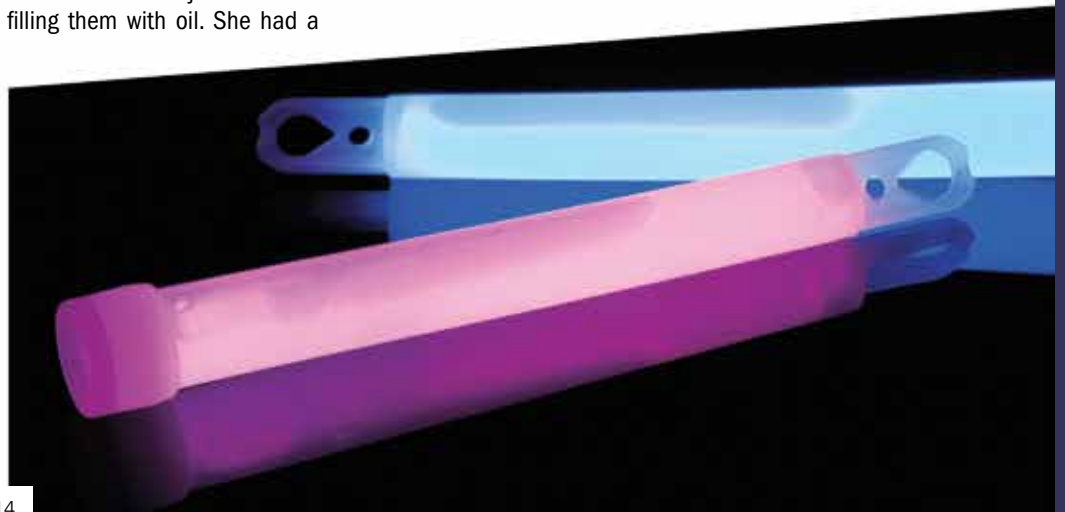
more those limitations are broken off, the more we will shine.

After a glow stick is broken, it has to be shaken. In our lives, we can be so used to limitations that breaking them off can be hard. But we have to shake those things off and let them go.

After the widow filled up all of her jars, Elisha didn’t tell her to keep the oil. Just because she had oil didn’t mean she had provision. She had to sell it (v. 7). Likewise, we may think that some things in our lives are assets, but we really just need to get rid of them.

Let’s shake off the things that are holding us back. Let’s make up our minds not to be like the Israelites who wanted to go back to Egypt. Instead, let’s go forward and let go of everything that has ever limited us. Let’s stop being bound by limitations like race or background or lack of education. Instead, let’s be bound to the Spirit of God. As we do, we’ll get our glow back!♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from a message David Vasquez preached at *Campmeeting* on July 23, 2013.]



(SUNDAY-FRIDAY)

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“You have multiple sclerosis . . .”

‘We Just Kept Standing’

KEYSHA ROBY didn't feel well. This was supposed to be one of the happiest seasons of her life. For 16 years her husband, Willie, had dreamed of attending Rhema Bible Training College. And they were finally stepping out to fulfill that dream.

But in February 2011 as she and Willie trekked through the wet Broken Arrow snow looking for an apartment, Keysha knew something was wrong. Her feet were tingling and going numb. And it wasn't just from the cold.

Keysha and Willie returned home, and as the weeks passed, the symptoms grew worse. She had trouble moving her legs, and her feet burned so intensely that walking was nearly impossible. “It was so bad,” she remembered. “It's something you almost can't even describe.”

After seeing several doctors and undergoing a battery of tests, Keysha finally knew what was going on in her body—and it wasn't good. **“YOU HAVE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS,”** doctors told her.

MS, as it is commonly referred to, affects the nervous system and causes gradual loss of muscle control. Things only get worse with time. In fact, doctors told Keysha's husband that he would have to take care of her for the rest of her life.

Facing a grim future, Keysha immediately began medical treatment. She underwent grueling physical therapy and even had to inject herself with medication three times a week.

“It was crazy,” she said. “I thought, ‘This is definitely from the devil!’”

Unfortunately for Keysha, the medication didn't seem to help much. The symptoms returned with a vengeance and began spreading to other parts of her body. She began dropping things, unable to hold them. People told her, “You're walking like your feet are on fire.” Keysha had to agree. The soles of her feet felt horrible.

In spite of increasing symptoms, Keysha and her husband didn't waver in their decision to move to Tulsa so he could attend RBTC. Those who knew them—even faith people—were in disbelief.

As if the situation wasn't bad enough, Keysha also began to experience severe shoulder pain. In August, doctors told her she had a massive disk herniation and would have to undergo neck surgery as soon as possible.

In September, after she and Willie moved to Tulsa, Keysha had a successful surgery. The shoulder pain immediately disappeared. However, the multiple sclerosis remained.

Even as Keysha faced hell on earth, God was making a way for her. Before she was ever diagnosed, her husband had encouraged her to read books he'd gotten from Rhema. Of all the subjects Keysha could have begun with, she chose healing. Before her study, she didn't even know that healing was part of redemption.

Keysha had been encouraged by what she had gleaned from books by the Hagins, and after her diagnosis, she dug even deeper into God's healing Word. In November, she began to regularly attend Rhema Healing School. Though she had learned much about divine healing, she still had questions. And those questions brought doubts.

Healing School answered all of Keysha's questions. “I didn't have any idea that I would be encouraged so much,” she exclaimed. **“THEY TAUGHT ME ABOUT FORGIVENESS, LOVE, AND HOW TO KEEP MY HEALING.** Not only did I get the Word, but they ministered to me one-on-one. They laid hands on me. It blessed me so much!”

Finally, Keysha began to grab hold of her healing in Christ. Everywhere she went, she told people, “One day, I'm going to be ministering with my husband. I'm going to tell people how I was healed of multiple sclerosis.” Though many thought she was crazy (there's no medical cure for MS), she didn't stop.

With determination like this, it's no surprise what came next. Keysha began to notice





“I was Healed of multiple sclerosis!”

a change—a reversal—in the MS symptoms.

In December, she told her doctor she was stopping the medication. (She'd known for months it wasn't helping her.) “God healed me,” she said. “And I want you to do another test.”

Though the doctor reminded Keysha, “Nobody gets healed from MS,” she persisted. In January 2012, she underwent the same grueling tests that had led to her diagnosis. One test required that she be strapped to a table and flipped upside down while they withdrew fluid from her back. It was far from pleasant, but the results were worth it.

On February 12, 2012, Keysha's doctor called her at home with the good news—**“YOUR RESULTS ARE NORMAL.”**

“I was so excited,” Keysha remembered. “Doctors look at you strange when you say you're healed. But these tests proved it!

“As soon as we made the decision for my husband to attend Rhema, the devil got busy,” Keysha continued. “Obstacles tried to stop and defeat us—to get us off the path we needed to be on. But we just kept standing on the Word of God.

“THAT'S WHAT RHEMA TAUGHT US—TO NEVER QUIT. We didn't give up on the Word, and things turned around!”

Be a Life-Giver!

Thanks to the prayers and generous gifts of Rhema's Word Partners, people like Keysha are discovering that God is a good, loving, *healing* Father. They're being born again and set free from seemingly impossible situations. They're receiving *life* in the face of death.

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CRAIG W. HAGIN

.....
THERE COMES A TIME
WHEN WE HAVE TO *let go*
OF THE ISSUES
THAT FRUSTRATE US.
.....

MANY OF US are familiar with the parable of the prodigal son. It's recorded for us in Luke 15:11–32. Usually people read this passage of Scripture and think it's about a backslidden person who rededicates his life to the Lord. While that is true, there is a lot more to the story.

Have you ever thought about what it takes to become a prodigal son? I don't believe this young man woke up one morning and on a whim decided to take his inheritance and leave the country. I believe there was a process that led up to him leaving his father's household. That process started with one word. It's the same word that causes many of us to set in motion a string of bad decisions. And those decisions ultimately take us places we don't want to go. The word is *frustration*.

There are two brothers in this parable. To make this story less confusing, let's give them names. We'll call the older brother John and the young prodigal, Steve.

There probably was a rivalry between the two brothers. Maybe little Stevie felt as though he could never live up to his older brother's reputation. People said to him, "You're not like John. He was always a better student and a much better athlete." Over a period of time, Steve began to believe that he could never be like John. I believe he was jealous of his brother.

THE PATH OF FRUSTRATION

When people are frustrated, they rarely seek wise counsel. But the truth is, they really don't want good advice. They're looking for people who will tell them what they want to hear. They find someone else who is frustrated with the person they're frustrated with—in this case, John. Steve and his "advisor" talked about everything John ever did to them.

It was probably Steve's friend who told him to ask for his part of the family inheritance and leave town. Between the two of them, they worked out a scenario of how great everything would

THE PATH TO THE PIGPEN



be once Steve got away from John and out from under his father's jurisdiction.

Frustration causes us to think about change. However, being frustrated with something or someone does not mean it's time to leave. It's an indication that we have a personal issue we need to get rid of. Now, if God is leading us to do something different, we should follow His leading. But we should never initiate change out of frustration.

What people don't realize is, if they don't deal with what's bothering them, their frustration will only grow. For instance, if they don't straighten out the issue, later on they'll become frustrated with their friends, family, and co-workers. Anytime we're frustrated, it's not the other person's issue. It's our issue. And our frustration doesn't mean that other people need to make a paradigm shift to coddle us.

THE DOWNWARD SLIDE

When Steve left town, he thought his life would be better. I don't believe he planned on living a prodigal lifestyle. I think he just wanted to make a name for himself. But once he was away from his family, he was surrounded by new influences that caused his lifestyle to change. And he began making wrong decisions. The choices he made led him down one wrong road after another, until one day he ended up in a pigpen.

When people end up in the pigpen, they often blame somebody else for getting them there. They don't realize that their frustration was the start of their downward spiral.

HEART ISSUES

The pigpen wasn't Steve's problem. Even getting his inheritance wasn't the problem. The problem started long before that. Steve's problems started in his heart.

We have to look honestly at our hearts. Have we allowed bitterness and strife to creep in? Are we allowing issues to boil and fester? If so, we have to deal with those things. If we don't, then before you know it, we'll become like the prodigal son. We'll walk out the door and down the same path he did. There comes a time when we have to let go of the issues that frustrate us.

We see in Luke 15:17 that the young prodigal "came to himself." Unfortunately, it takes some people a long time to come to themselves. Some Christians who were once on fire for God have been wallowing in the pigpen for a decade and still haven't come to themselves. They've allowed bitterness and resentment into their hearts, and it has changed their destiny.

If you're in a pigpen, it's time to come to yourself and get out. If a family member or friend is in the pigpen, they have to come out on their own. We can lead them, but we can't pull them out. Until they're ready to get out, they'll just get mad, because they don't see themselves as being in the pigpen.

Although John never ended up in the pigpen, he had some issues too. He wasn't happy to see his brother. John had an opportunity to learn a big lesson when Steve came home. And that was to love somebody despite his mistakes. We know from the parable that he didn't do that.

The people who stay in the father's house can sin just as much as those in the pigpen. Outwardly they're doing all the right things. But inwardly they're harboring a lot of wrong attitudes.

But it's really not about this sin or that sin. It's about getting our hearts to a place where, no matter what, God's love is poured out through us to those around us. When God's love is the motivation behind our actions, we will be full of compassion toward others. That love will help us not to become frustrated in our day-to-day lives. It

will keep us out of the pigpen, and it will help us be merciful to people who are there. ♥

OUR *frustration* DOESN'T MEAN THAT OTHER PEOPLE NEED TO MAKE A PARADIGM SHIFT TO CODDLE US.

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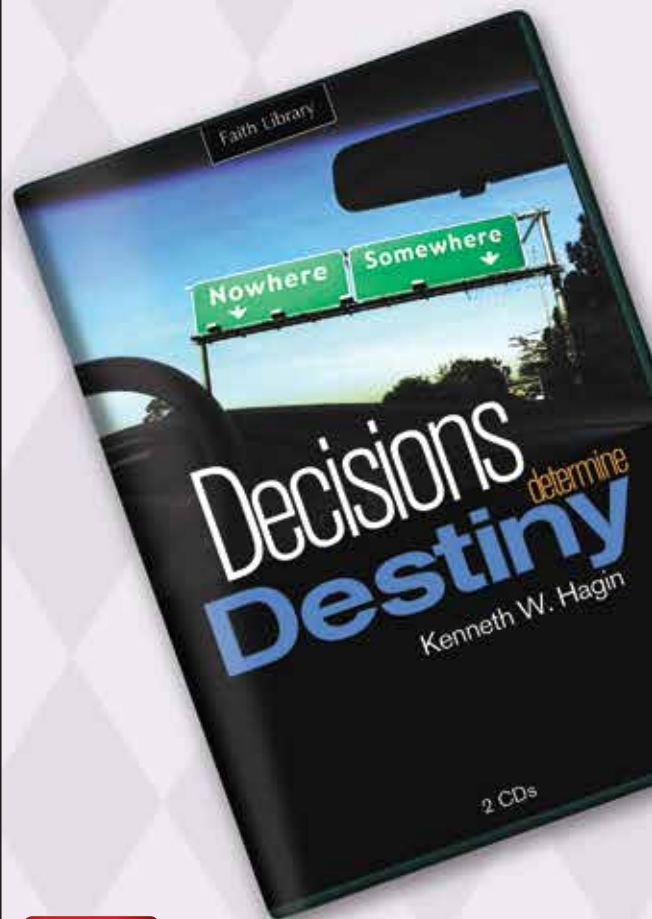
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God,

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 Him as my Lord. Therefore, I am saved. I have eternal life.

Thank you!



If you prayed that prayer, welcome to God's family! We would like to give you some materials to help you in your new life with God. Email us at PartnerService@rhema.org or call us at 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484).

Healing Is God's Will for You

KENNETH E. HAGIN

SOME CHRISTIANS who need healing have said to me, "Maybe God put this sickness on me for some purpose."

Did Jesus ever put sickness on anyone? When people came to Him for healing, did He ever turn even one away saying, "No, it's not My will. Just suffer a little longer. You're just not pious enough"?

NO! NOT ONCE!

And the Scriptures tell us that to see God, we look at Jesus. Look at what Jesus Himself said:

JOHN 14:9-10

9 Have I [Jesus] been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see God at work? Look at Jesus. Do you want to know the will of God? Look at Jesus. *Jesus is the will of God in action* (John 6:38). Did Jesus go about making people sick? No! He went about doing good and healing!

ACTS 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

From the natural standpoint, it is difficult for people to understand that most laws governing this earth today came into being through the fall of man—when Adam sinned and the curse came upon the earth. Because people don't understand this, they accuse God of causing accidents, sickness, and the death of loved ones. God is not the author of any of these things. They are acts of the devil. Their author is Satan.

Notice in Acts 10:38 who was healed by Jesus: "ALL that were oppressed of the devil." Now, that's a plain statement—all. That means everyone who was healed under the ministry of Jesus was oppressed of the devil. In other words, the devil had something to do with their sickness.

In John 10:10, Jesus tells us that anything which kills or destroys is from the enemy—the thief. Jesus came to do the will of God and set men free, not to hurt or destroy lives.

Jesus purchased healing for us in the plan of redemption through His death, burial, and

resurrection. The Bible says, "Himself [Jesus] took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" and "by whose stripes ye were healed" (Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24)! If we were healed by Jesus' stripes, then we are healed now by His stripes.

Unless our minds are renewed with the Word of God, we won't understand that Satan is the author of sickness, disease, and everything else that destroys. Our thinking will be wrong. But once our minds are renewed with God's Word, we will be able to see that Jesus came to redeem us from Satan's power and give us life more abundantly (John 10:10).

It is through *the Word* that we can be assured that it is God's will to heal us. Let the Word of God—not man's ideas or opinions—settle this issue once and for all. *Healing is the will of God for you!*♥

KEY FAITH POINTS TO REMEMBER

- Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus. Jesus is the will of God in action.
- Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil.
- Jesus purchased healing for us in God's plan of redemption through His death, burial, and resurrection.
- Let the Word of God settle this issue once and for all: healing is the will of God for you!

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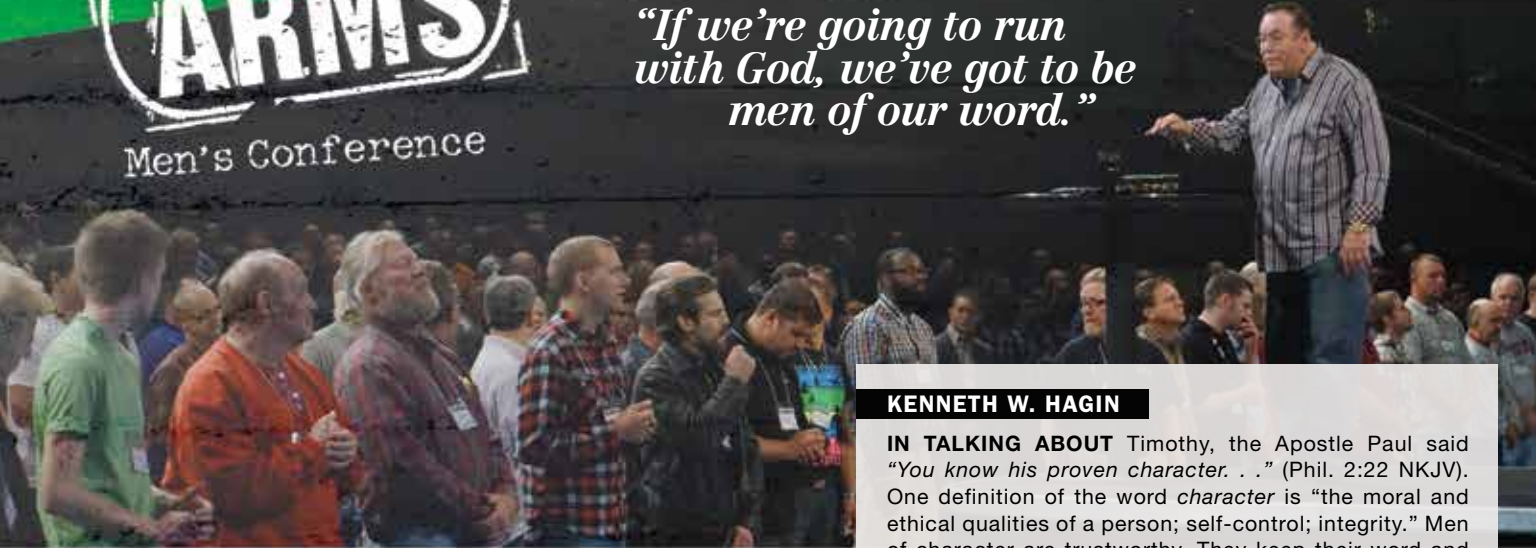
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Kenneth W. Hagin's



Men's Conference

"If we're going to run with God, we've got to be men of our word."



KENNETH W. HAGIN

IN TALKING ABOUT Timothy, the Apostle Paul said "You know his proven character. . ." (Phil. 2:22 NKJV). One definition of the word *character* is "the moral and ethical qualities of a person; self-control; integrity." Men of character are trustworthy. They keep their word and care about others. They are the same, whether by themselves or with many.

Character is revealed in several ways. During prayer, the Holy Spirit can show us what we need to change to be men of character. Problems—or the pressure they bring—also reveal character. And prosperity—or the lack of it—reveals true character. True character shows up when we're alone. Character does the right thing when nobody's looking.

It takes faith to maintain godly character. And it takes faith to believe that God will help us when we're tempted, to stand strong for what is right, and to resist fear when it tries to grip our minds. When we've messed up, character is what causes us to come to God and believe that He'll forgive us. It also compels us to go to the person we've wronged and ask for forgiveness.

In Daniel chapter 1, we see that Daniel maintained godly character in the midst of a godless society. And because he did, he was promoted by the king. Daniel made a conscious choice to believe God to help him maintain godly character among the Babylonians. In the same way, we have to decide to be men of character no matter what others are doing. It takes character to say no.

We all talk about faith and are believing God for this or that. Why don't we use our faith not just to get healing and things, but to help us build character? We're all different, but we're all tempted in some area. The Word of God will help us overcome whatever temptation we face.

We need to learn how to speak right words. God puts a high value on His Word (Num. 23:19 NLT; Ps. 138:2 NKJV). That means God says what He will do and does what He says. If we're going to run with God, we've got to be men of our word. When we speak, our words can't be empty. Empty words don't have any power.

Let's decide to be men of godly character, no matter what. I believe that God will help us and give us the strength we need. ♥

Building Men of Character

GOD WANTS Christian men to show the world His character. And Kenneth W. Hagin's *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* was about building that character into those who came.

Men from across the United States and other countries were encouraged, challenged, and equipped to have true godly character. Kenneth W. Hagin urged the men to keep their word, even when it hurts. André Butler reminded them that God will help them every day to live pure lives. Todd White challenged the conference attendees to keep their relationships with God their first priority. And workshop speakers shared practical ways to walk out Christian manhood in day-to-day life.

Powerful worship and ministry, great food, new friends, relaxing times at the gym . . . all were part of this conference. ♥

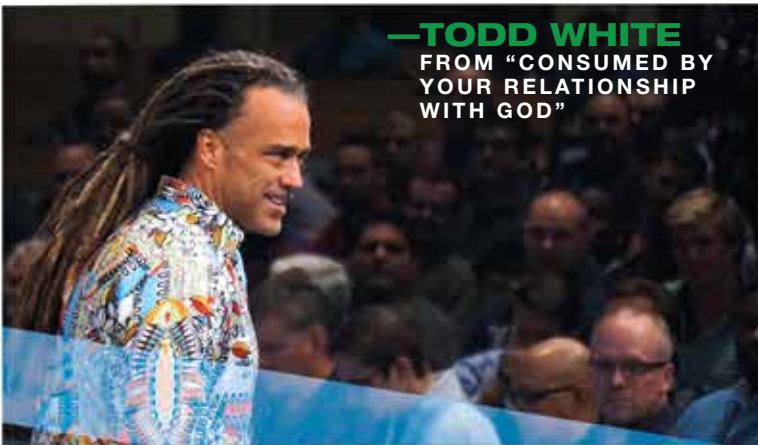




—ANDRÉ BUTLER
FROM “NO HINT OF
SEXUAL IMMORALITY”

“God has made available to you the strength and ability you need to do everything He’s told you to do. The Bible says in Second Peter chapter 1 that He’s given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness. **YOU CAN LIVE HOLY IN 2013. YOU CAN LIVE HOLY IN THE MIDST OF THIS CRAZY SOCIETY. YOU CAN DO IT.** God’s strength and ability will help you do it. God wants you to get to the place He has planned for you. He’s not just standing on the side saying, ‘Come on. Knock it out.’ He’s getting in the ring with you and giving you the strength and ability you need to knock this thing out of your life once and for all. . . . You can do all things through Christ Who strengthens you!”

“Everything is competing for intimacy time [with God]: business, ministry, all that stuff. You have to be very careful to not be caught up in all that stuff and lose your relationship with God. What good is it if I come here and share with you but don’t have a relationship with Jesus? I will labor in vain, because the Lord builds the house. **I CAN PREACH THE TRUTH. BUT OUTSIDE OF THE REALITY OF MY RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, THE TRUTH WON’T KEEP ME FREE.** I can quote as many scriptures as I want. But the reality of this thing is my love relationship with God. And my being in love with God enables me not to be sucked up into the world’s vortex.”



—TODD WHITE
FROM “CONSUMED BY
YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD”



“**WE DON’T REALLY HAVE A PORN PROBLEM. WE HAVE A THINKING PROBLEM.** And obviously the thinking problem eventually leads us to porn. Proverbs 23:7 which says, ‘As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he,’ is true.”

— GENE BAILEY
From the workshop
“ ‘Porn’ Identity”



“**TO WIN IN LIFE YOU NEED SOMEONE** who sees and understands what’s going on more than you. . . . Who are those mentors in your life that see your strengths, weaknesses, and blind spots? You have to have them.”

— PAUL FOSLIEN
From the workshop
“Redline”



“Because I know about attitude, I **TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY OWN ATTITUDE.** Nobody else has the ability to take my right attitude away from me if I choose to control it.”

— WYATT BROWN
From the workshop
“Attitudes”



“**WHAT YOU FOCUS ON WILL EQUAL YOUR REALITY.** If you focus on a tragic event that has happened in your past, you’ll become depressed; versus focusing on it as an opportunity for God to show how big and great He is.”

— VICTOR BLANCO
From the workshop
“ ‘I Am That I Am’ ”



“Learning is important. But learning by itself does not cause mind renewal. Romans 12:2 (NCV) says, . . . **‘BE CHANGED WITHIN BY A NEW WAY OF THINKING, THEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHAT GOD WANTS FOR YOU.’**”

— AL JENNINGS
From the workshop
“Transformation”



“You think . . . when you get married . . . that the world’s going to close in behind you and say, ‘They lived happily ever after.’ **BUT YOU HAVE TO MAKE YOUR ‘HAPPILY EVER AFTER.’**”

— MARK BINTLIFF
From the workshop
“Lock & Load: Hitting the Target”

SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN



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

I ENJOY GETTING up each morning listening to praise and worship music, spending time with God, and receiving His instructions as I get ready in the natural. I was carrying on my daily routine recently when I was abruptly interrupted. Just as I finished putting on my makeup, the lights in our house flickered and went off. That wasn't unusual, and at first it didn't alarm me. "They will come on quickly," I thought. But after waiting five minutes in the dark, I realized this wasn't just a flicker; it was a power outage.

I had to teach a class at Rhema in less than an hour, and I still had to comb my hair, brush my teeth, and so forth. It was a cloudy day, so there was no sunlight to navigate by. As I meditated on how I would finish getting ready, I began to realize the power outage had affected other things.

Our house has well water, and the pump runs on electricity. Therefore, I had no water. My car was in the garage, and the garage door had an electric opener. The gate by the street operates electrically, so I was unable to get out of our driveway. My husband had already gone to work, so he could not help me manually operate these things.

My first thought was to panic. I was clueless as to how to deal with this issue. My next thought was to say, "Let there be electricity!" I expected it to appear suddenly, but it didn't. So I had to come up with some solutions quickly to meet my obligations. I frantically called a staff member to help me get the garage and the gate open. I then found flashlights to hold up to a mirror while I combed my hair. I brushed my teeth with bottled water and was on my way to class with a few minutes to spare. On the drive to the campus, I said to God, "There has to be an illustration I can get from all of this inconvenience. Tell me what it is."

Suddenly the words began flowing. He said, "The functions of the Holy Spirit in your life can be likened to electricity. Electricity produces power, just as the gift of the Holy Spirit produces power in lives." I began to recall Jesus' instructions to His disciples before He left this earth. He said, "I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive him, because it isn't

looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you know him, because he lives with you now and later will be in you" (John 14:16–17 NLT).

Then in Acts Jesus gave the disciples more specific instructions concerning the Holy Spirit: "Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, 'Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit'" (Acts 1:4–5 NLT).

Then in Acts 1:8 we read, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (NLT).

The disciples did as Jesus instructed. They stayed in Jerusalem, united in prayer, waiting for the Holy Spirit. They didn't know how long it would be before He came. But they waited faithfully and patiently. In our culture we want everything now! Our microwave ovens, computers, and phone devices become too slow for us, so we trade them in for newer models.

But look what the disciples' waiting produced: "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. . . . And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire. . . . And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:2–4). Each of them was transformed to declare the Gospel of the Lord Jesus with boldness as never before.

Have you allowed the electricity of the Holy Spirit to stop flowing in your life? I encourage you to renew that power gift. Practice praying in the Spirit each day. Ephesians 6:18 (NLT) instructs us to "pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion." If you have never received the gift of the Holy Spirit, I encourage you to do so. Oh, it will make such a difference in your life!♥

Lynette

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS BY KENNETH E. HAGIN.



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Kids' Page

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

Fix the Broken Heart!

The heart below has been broken and only one of the hearts on the right will fix it perfectly. See if you can fix the broken heart.



A.



B.



C.



He Loves Me . . . He Loves Me Not?

Pick the first petal off the daisy saying "He Loves Me." Pick the next petal and say "He Loves Me Not." Continue this same pattern picking petals in your mind until you have one petal left. Does He Love You?

jokes & riddles



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

What did the worm say to the giraffe?
What's Up!

What do you get if you cross a T-Rex with Miss Piggy?
Jurassic Pork

Harry: Hey Joe, I heard that you went ice fishing in Antarctica. Did you catch anything?
Joe: Yeah, a cold!

What do you call a crying camel?
A Humpback WAIL

Answers:
FIX THE BROKEN HEART: A.
WHAT I DID FOR LOVE: A.
RUTH B. JACOB C. ESTHER D. GOD
HE LOVES ME . . . HE LOVES ME NOT: HE LOVES ME!
HE LOVES ME!
TAKE AWAY THE "LOVE": CHRIST

What I Did for Love!

The Bible is full of people who showed their love in many different ways. Read the following clues, then unscramble the names below to match the person with the thing that they "did for love."

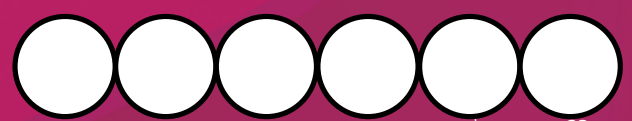
- A** I left my homeland to help my mother-in-law in her homeland.
- B** I worked seven years for my father-in-law so I could marry the woman I loved.
- C** I put my life at risk for my people by approaching the king unannounced.
- D** I sent My one and only Son to Earth to die for the people I loved.

ogd bojac thru
theres

Take Away the 'LOVE'

All of the words below contain the letters to the word LOVE. If you take the "LOVE" out of these words you will be left with six letters. Put the letters in the blank circles below and then unscramble them to discover Someone you will never be able to "take away the LOVE" from.

SHOVEL REVOLT
CLOVE OLIVE





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