



THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2017

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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"I Received My Healing"



"One evening my husband and I were watching a healing service on Rhema Praise. At the end of the service, Lynette said that someone had an ear, a leg and an eye problem. I had all three and had been believing for healing for quite some time! That night, I received my healing! I was also set free from fear and confusion! We love watching and listening to Rhema Praise and reading the Word of Faith magazine! We love you!"

—Jacqueline

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Word of Faith



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Let God Make the Most of Your Life!

The life God has given you is an invaluable gift. Are you making the most of it? Actually, nothing on earth is more important than making the most of your life. In fact, the greatest challenge each one of us faces is fulfilling God's plan for us.

Your success or failure can be answered by this question: What are you building your life on? A life that will stand up to God's glory can't be built on fame, fortune, or pleasure because those things alone are empty and shallow and will pass away.

Since we cannot build our lives on fame, pleasure, money, or power, then what can we build them on? Our lives must be built on God and His Word because God's Word will stand the test when everything else passes away and fails. If we'll let the light of the Word shine on us, we will become instruments of the power of God in our world.

What foundation you build your life on is up to you. If it's on the Rock—the Lord Jesus Christ—then the light and love of God will shine upon you, saturating you until it shines out of you to others.

You may think your life is unimportant or insignificant. But God can make something valuable of it, no matter what has happened to you in the past. Commit your life to God. Don't just sit still and do nothing for Him. Rise up in God and make an impact on your generation!

I encourage you to set aside time to really absorb this month's issue of *The Word of Faith*. Each article will inspire you to walk in the victory Christ has given you through the cross and help you to live and enjoy life in Him. We created this issue especially for you!

Have a blessed Easter as you build your life upon the Rock.

Kenneth W. Hagin

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Special Report:

Rhema USA graduates Bert and Lonke Vonkeman are committed to Kenneth E. Hagin's mandate, “Go teach my people faith.” Read about the miracles that are happening in Holland.



HAVE YOU EVER spent time reminiscing about something nice that someone did for you? Did you remind yourself how great it was and how good you felt? That's what we're supposed to do when we partake of Communion. We're to remember the wonderful thing Jesus did for us on the cross—the redemption He purchased for us and the divine healing and limitless provision He made available for us.

Every time we hold Communion elements in our hands we are not only looking back at what Jesus did, but we are also looking forward to when He will come again. Jesus made it very clear that He was coming again.

JOHN 14:1-3 (NKJV)

1 Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and receive you to myself*; that where I am, there you may be also.

Almost every time Jesus talked to His disciples about His upcoming death, He reassured them that He would return. While we wait for His glorious appearing, we partake of Communion to proclaim the Lord's death until He comes again.

First Corinthians 11:26 (NIV) says, "*For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*" We are supposed to proclaim Jesus' death until He returns. When we do, we are proclaiming the plan of salvation. It is our responsibility to proclaim it to as many people as possible.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

Now is the time for us to talk to the world about salvation, because today is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2). It's up to each believer to tell people about Jesus.

Communion is a very sacred and special time. It means so much to us—it touches our very core because of what God has done for us. When we partake of it, we thank God for salvation and healing. But is that as far as it's supposed to go? Is Communion supposed to stop with our enjoying its benefits? So many times that's where it

ends. But it shouldn't! Jesus commissioned us to go out into the world and proclaim His death to those who are hurting and dying with no hope of eternal life.

In the Great Commission, we have been assigned to proclaim Jesus' death to the entire world.

MARK 16:15

15 And he [Jesus] said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Many people read Mark 16:15 and think, "That's the preacher's job." No, it's not! It's *our* job! Preaching the Gospel is every believer's responsibility. We're all responsible for going into the world and proclaiming the Lord's death until He comes. That doesn't mean you have to leave your job and become a missionary. "All the world" includes your world, not just the global world. Your world consists of your family, friends, neighbors, the people you work with, and your community.

Who can you proclaim the death of the Lord Jesus Christ to? Who can you lead to salvation? Who can you pray for to be healed? Who can you lead from darkness and confusion to peace,

tranquility, and joy? Think about where you go on a regular basis. Does anyone there know that you're a Christian? Are you proclaiming the Gospel by conducting yourself in a manner that would make people say, "That's a godly person?" If someone observed you in your daily life, would he or she see Christ?

You have opportunities to proclaim the Lord's death to people in your world. You may be sitting in a restaurant when you notice someone. That's an opportunity. You've been drawn to them because they need something, and your spirit is reaching out to them saying, "I have the Answer. It's Jesus." So start up a conversation with that person. Many times, you'll start out talking about something else, and before you know it, you'll have an opportunity to share the Gospel.

*It's up to each believer
to tell people about Jesus.*



#RhemaWOF

We need to be more concerned about seeing people born again than we are about our own material needs. Thank God that He will provide for us. But we need a vision for the lost such as we've never had before, so that we will be about God's business and proclaim His Son's death until He comes.

I encourage you to believe God for His blessings in your life. But I also encourage you to use your faith to meet people that you can lead into His kingdom. When we partake of Communion, we can remember why Jesus came—to seek and save those who are lost. And as we continue His ministry on the earth, we show that we do remember Him, and we are busy about the Father's business.

FAITH IN ACTION

Proclaim Jesus as Your Lord and Savior

Before you can proclaim Jesus' death until He comes, you must first proclaim Him as Lord of your life. If you would like to receive Jesus as Lord and Savior, pray the following:

God, I come to you in Jesus' Name. I admit that I need you. 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 proclaim that Jesus is my Lord. Therefore, according to your Word, I am saved. I look to You to take care of me now. Thank You for giving me your joy and peace!

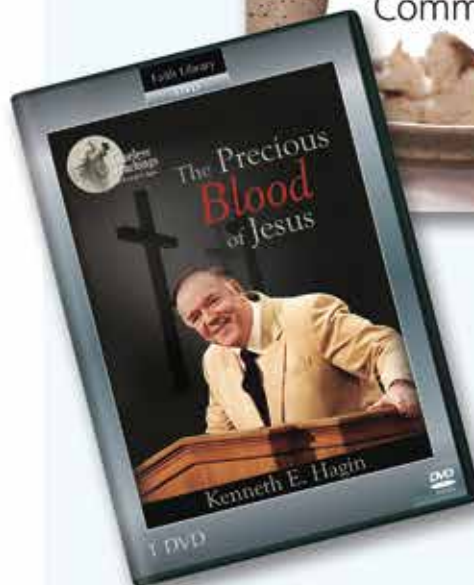
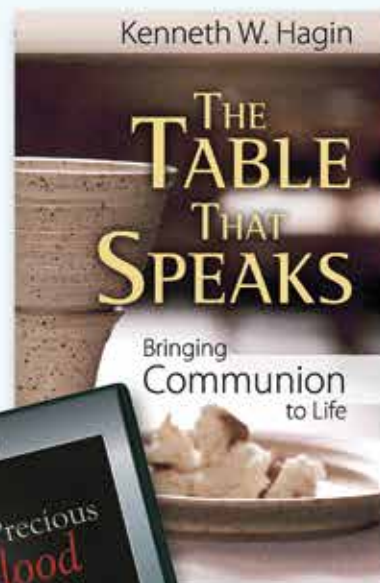
Are you going to be about the Father's business? The choice is yours. You can sit back and enjoy the benefits by yourself. Or you can enjoy the benefits while proclaiming the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to others so they, too, can enjoy them. Don't allow anyone to live and die in sin, sickness, or lack while you enjoy the benefits of the Savior. Go into your world and proclaim salvation, healing, deliverance, and prosperity to all who will receive.

As we partake of Communion, let us do so in remembrance of Jesus—in the joy of proclaiming what God has done for all mankind through Jesus. But let us also consecrate ourselves to go out into the field and help harvest a crop of souls by letting the world know Jesus Christ is the Answer for everything they need. It's time to go forth in remembrance of Jesus and proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. 🕊️

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The Lordship Principle of the Kingdom

EARL GLISSON

"Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom."

— LUKE 12:32 (NASB)

A KING HOLDS the ultimate source of authority in his kingdom. And it's through authority that his kingdom is established. There is also a kingdom domain principle. That means the domain of a king is the territory over which he exercises authority, control, and dominion. The word *kingdom* literally means "king domain."

applied to our lives, it *will* cost us something. We have to give up our way of living and allow Jesus to be Lord over our lives.

Romans 10:9 (NASB) says, "*If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.*" **SAVIOR IS WHAT JESUS DID. LORD IS WHO HE IS.**

leaving this planet my final destination is Heaven." **SUBMITTING OURSELVES TO GOD'S LORDSHIP IS SAYING, "I'M YOURS; WHAT'S MY NEXT STEP?"**

Jesus is the Word. When we accept Christ as our Lord, we are giving the Word supreme authority over our lives.

Some of us tend to think that salvation is a one-time experience. It's not. It's operating all the time. Salvation manifests itself in healing, prosperity, and restoration of our relationships. When we make a covenant that God's Word is supreme in authority, we will be saved from all kinds of trouble.

The kingdom of God is bigger than just our personal lives. Yes, God promises to provide for us. But it's so much more than saying, "I'm blessed and prosperous!" He wants us to touch the world! And if we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, all these things will be added unto us anyway (Matt. 6:33).

When we give God lordship over our lives, He will make the crooked places straight. His Word will be a lamp unto our feet and light unto our path. ♥

When we give God lordship over our lives, He will make the crooked places straight.

God has a kingdom that He wants us to operate in. Matthew 6:33 says, "*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*" To have these things "added unto" us, we first have to understand the principal of lordship.

Before anyone gains access into God's Kingdom, they must be born again. Jesus came to die for the world and make a way of salvation for everyone. Salvation is free. In context that means we couldn't do anything to deserve it. But make no mistake, for this *free* gift to be

In the Greek, the word *confess* means that with our mouths we are making a covenant that Jesus is our Lord. The word *lord* means "supreme in authority." It means "he to whom a person or a thing belongs." It also means that He makes decisions for us.

God's kingdom isn't a democracy. We don't get to pick or choose what we like and don't like. When we become born again, we are saying, "My life is not my own. I give Jesus full authority for the path of my life." It's so much more than saying, "Jesus, save me so after

Don't miss any of our exciting speakers at Campmeeting 2017! See **Page 13** for details.


SPEAKER
HIGHLIGHT



[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Earl Glisson's Friday afternoon message at Campmeeting 2016.]



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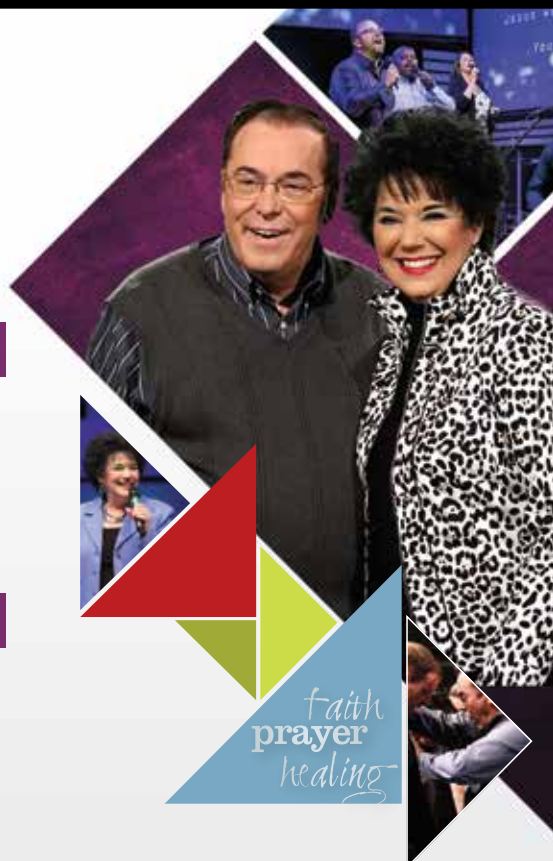
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CRAIG W. HAGIN

GET OUT
OF YOUR "STUPID" PLACE

I SEE PEOPLE all the time—young people especially—who have so much potential. Yet they're struggling. They've made choices they shouldn't have made and are in places they shouldn't be in. They've put themselves in their own little pigpen—not-so-pretty or messy situations.

Sadly, they won't come to themselves. They won't listen to wise counsel. They aren't following my number one rule: "Don't be stupid." I say that to be funny, but it's true. Why be stupid? Why stay in bondage in a pigpen when we can live in so much more?

It's because you've developed a mud-pit mentality. You're not thinking right. It's time to get out of your stupid place, get up, and move forward. In other words, get out of your own mind and get the mind of Christ. Philippians 2:5 says, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.*" What does that mean? It means you need to get in the Word and begin to think like Jesus. You have to let Him dominate you. Why? Because in Him, you have a lot of benefits you don't have on your own.

Use the Benefits

The benefits we have in Christ won't do us any good if we don't know about them or use them. Let me give you an example of what I mean. I was looking through my desk at work one day and found a gift card to a gas station. It had been there for awhile. I guessed that it probably had \$25 on it. But when I checked, there was \$100 on the card. I could have used it multiple times to buy fuel, but it was just sitting in my desk drawer.

As believers, we're the same way a lot of times. We don't realize how much God wants to bless us. We don't realize there

are benefits we have in Christ that are just sitting on the table unused. My grandfather Kenneth E. Hagin always said that the number one reason people don't get their needs met is that they don't know the Word. When we're facing trials—when we're depressed and going through bad stuff—we have to know what the Word says. We have to know that Jesus is the answer and that we have amazing benefits in Him.

What are these benefits? Let me list a few.

- In Christ all of our needs are met (Phil. 4:19).
- In Christ we're healed (1 Peter 2:24).
- In Christ we're more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37).
- In Christ we're victorious (1 Cor. 15:57).
- In Christ we have joy that other people don't have (John 16:24).
- In Christ we have peace that passes all understanding (John 14:27).
- In Christ there's nothing we can't accomplish (Phil. 4:13).

These are the benefits we have because Christ came, died, and rose again. Yet most of us just sit around and have pity parties for ourselves. We stay in the pigpen or in messy places because we're afraid to face certain situations or stand up to them.

There's no reason to be afraid. Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV) says, *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper."* This verse doesn't say we'll never have a weapon in our face. But it does say that weapon can't prosper when we know who we are in Christ.

And it's not about us anyway. It's about Christ on the inside. He died to take care of all our issues. And He's greater on the inside of us than anything in the world (1 John 4:4). Acts 17:28 says, *"In Him we live, and move, and have our being."*

Really, we have it easy. We just have to remember what's been provided.

You Can Be Free

So many people today are struggling in the battlefield of their minds. They struggle with doing the right thing—even though they know what to do. And they struggle because people are telling them, "It's about the rules. It's about this. It's about that."

The truth is, it's not about anything but a relationship with the living God. It's about knowing that if God is for you, no one can be against you (Rom. 8:31). It's about knowing that being in Christ makes you different from those who aren't. It's not about rules! Jesus didn't come to deliver rules. He came to deliver love, compassion, mercy, and freedom.

Second Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV) says, *"Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."* The New Living Translation says, *"there is freedom."*

Where is the Spirit of the Lord? On the inside of us. That means there's freedom on the inside of us. But if we don't understand this, we won't see that freedom on the outside. We'll stay in bondage to things that Christ has set us free from.

FAITH IN ACTION

Start Declaring

Confessions to Live By

- Nothing can separate me from God's love (Rom. 8:38–39).
- God made me alive with Christ (Eph. 2:5). Jesus took my punishment—what I deserved—and gave me His love, joy, health, and peace.
- I am more than a conqueror through Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:37). No situation can keep me down. He gives me strength and ability.

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) tells us, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty [or the freedom] by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."* This means that even when we open the door for Jesus to live in our hearts (Rev. 3:20), we still may not always do things right. We could still be in bondage. Why? Because we've also got to lean to the inside. We've got to listen to the Lord so we can truly live. We must choose to think like Christ. We must get in the Word and renew our minds—every day.

We can live victoriously when we do this. We have God's life-changing ability inside of us! And because Jesus died on the cross and took the stripes on His back—because He lives—we don't have to be afraid. When we get knocked down, we can jump back up in His Name!

Let me encourage you to get up. Don't get stuck having a pity party. Start to declare who you are in Christ, rise up from the mud or that messy situation, and live the life God wants you to have! You are more than a conqueror. 🏆

THINK IT OVER

What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?

SPECIAL OFFER

Live Like a Champion

We are not losers; we are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus! It's time to rise up and become the champions God created us to be!

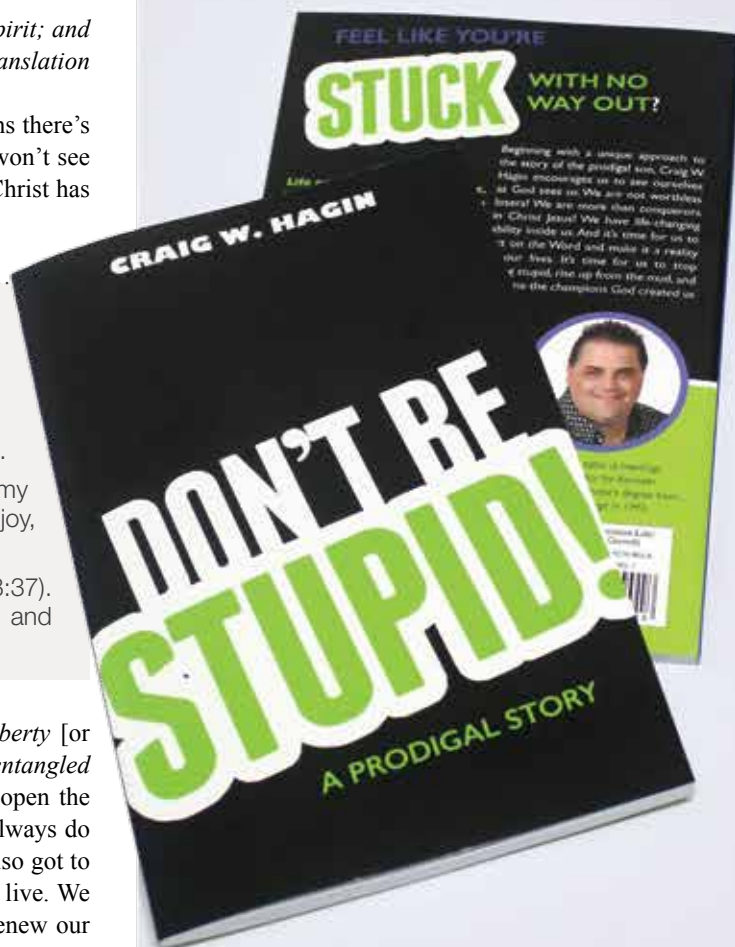
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(book, Craig W. Hagin)



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◀ *“Challenges make champions.*

We must see ourselves beyond our current status to become something different. We become champions in Christ on the inside before we see it on the outside.”

—COACH PERRY SHOCKLEY

PLAY HARD. MINISTER HARDER.

Did you know that 70 percent of former Rhema Bible Training College basketball players are in full-time ministry? The disciplines they learned on the court correlate with their success in ministry.

Likewise, what is learned in the classrooms brings success in life. Will RBTC be easy? No. But you'll learn to push through adversity. You'll press in and build endurance. You'll learn to persevere. And when it comes to the call of God—you'll be prepared.

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Fulfill Your Call

DO YOU SENSE the call of God on your life but aren't sure where to start? Chad Stewart, a 2008 RBTC USA graduate and pastor of Word of Life in Sand Springs, Oklahoma, uses the life of Joseph to help you fulfill that call: 1) *Be faithful*; 2) *Stay faithful*; and 3) *Don't forget family*. Find out how faithfulness and family impacted Chad's life.

The sweltering sun and a weed eater in hand was not what Chad Stewart envisioned when he helped pioneer a church in Kansas City, Missouri. Standing in the middle of a field, he cried out to God, "Why did You lead me here in the desert to die?"

He laughs now, but he was learning faithfulness then. He wanted to quit his grounds keeping job, but the Holy Spirit urged him to stay. When an opportunity came to manage the landscaping company, he reluctantly took it. But then he had an idea, and the business went from mom-and-pop mowing to commercial accounts throughout the city.

Little did Chad know that his faithfulness would open a door for him when he later attended Rhema Bible Training College. His experience qualified him to step into a grounds supervisor position at Kenneth Hagin Ministries. He was able to attend school, work for the ministry, and ultimately become connected to the spiritual family that would be crucial to his future calling.

Finding Family

When Chad attended RBTC, he played for the Eagles basketball team. After a game, he and Rev. Kenneth W. Hagin met in an unlikely place: the men's restroom. "It was a special moment in my life!" Chad recalls. "I had been divorced and wanted to go back into ministry. Pastor Hagin encouraged me and told me that God still had a plan for me."

During Rhema Bible Church's Harvest Carnival outreach, Rev. Hagin came by the booth where Chad was volunteering and asked how things were going. Chad confessed that he was sore from basketball practice. Rev. Hagin got down on the floor and began doing stretches. "This is what you need to do." When Chad just stood there, he exclaimed, "Well, get down here!" That night, Chad got to know him as "Dad" Hagin as they stretched among the thousands of people attending the event.

"Pastor Hagin invested in me. That's why I am preaching today. He took time in a bathroom to speak to me. He got down on the floor and did something my own father never did. He played and continues to play that part in my life."

Years later, Chad and his wife, Sarah (a third-year '07 RBTC USA graduate and former Lady Eagles basketball player), became senior



CHAD STEWART & FAMILY

pastors of a church after the founding pastor passed away. "I don't know what I would have done without my Rhema family," Chad shares. "I can't tell you the times I called and said, 'I'm stuck! What would you do?'"

From former instructors to "Dad" Hagin, no question went unanswered. The support was crucial not only to the Stewarts but also to the people they are called to serve.

What is your calling? What steps are you taking to pursue it? Rhema Bible Training College will not only train you, but like family, they are also there to support you long after your classes are over. ♥

GRADUATE HIGHLIGHT

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Called by God. Now what?

CHAD STEWART

Based on the life of Joseph (Genesis 37-50), here are three keys to fulfilling the call of God.

1 Be faithful.

Joseph was sold into slavery, served in Potiphar's home, and eventually was placed in charge of everything Potiphar owned. We need to learn to be faithful with another man's house/vision if we ever want our own.

2 Stay faithful.

When Joseph was in prison, he never gave up on his dream, even in the middle of horrible circumstances. Anyone can be faithful when life is good. Stay faithful to the call in the bad times.

3 Don't forget family.

When Joseph arrived at the palace, he did not forget about his family. It's important to stay connected to your spiritual family. They'll pray for you and stand with you through every season of life.

It's **All About** the Cross

CRAIG W. HAGIN



WHEN WE THINK about the Cross of Calvary, sometimes we only think of forgiveness and healing. But so much more happened. We see in Isaiah 53:4–5 (AMPC) that Jesus bore our griefs, sicknesses, weaknesses, distresses, sorrows, pains, punishments, transgressions, guilt, and iniquities. His blood was shed so we would have peace, well-being, healing, and wholeness.

No More Guilt or Fear!

Isaiah 53:5 (AMPC) says that Jesus was “*bruised for our guilt and iniquities.*” Think about that. Our Lord and Savior was bruised for our guilt. Do you realize that guilt can be part of depression? We don’t have to feel guilty! Jesus died for our emotional healing as well as our physical healing.

Verse 5 goes on to say, “*The chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him.*” Jesus was chastised so we could have peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7). Scripture clearly tells us that the world is going to get worse. But no matter what happens, we can live in peace when we know that we belong to Christ.

A Love Like No Other

Jesus demonstrated a love like no other in His life and on the cross. Even when people rejected Him, He still loved them and died for them. His commandment to us is that we love others the same way. “*This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends*” (John 15:12–13 NKJV).

Jesus didn’t look at the people who wanted Him crucified as enemies. He saw them as friends. We’re here to love people. And if we’re to be imitators of Christ, we have to refocus the way we look at others. We have to see them as God does.

Receiving Mercy and Forgiveness

While Jesus was on the cross, one of the two criminals said to Him, “*Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom*” (Luke 23:42 NKJV). This man probably didn’t think he would make it to Heaven. He knew he was being justly crucified for the crimes he committed. But Jesus said, “*Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise*” (vs. 43).

We see mercy and forgiveness operating here. When we call on the Lord, not only will He hear us, He will also save us. This man received salvation shortly before he died. What a comforting thought to know that it’s never too late to cry out to God—even on a deathbed.

Speak Up

But what if that criminal had never opened his mouth? Would the outcome still have been the same?

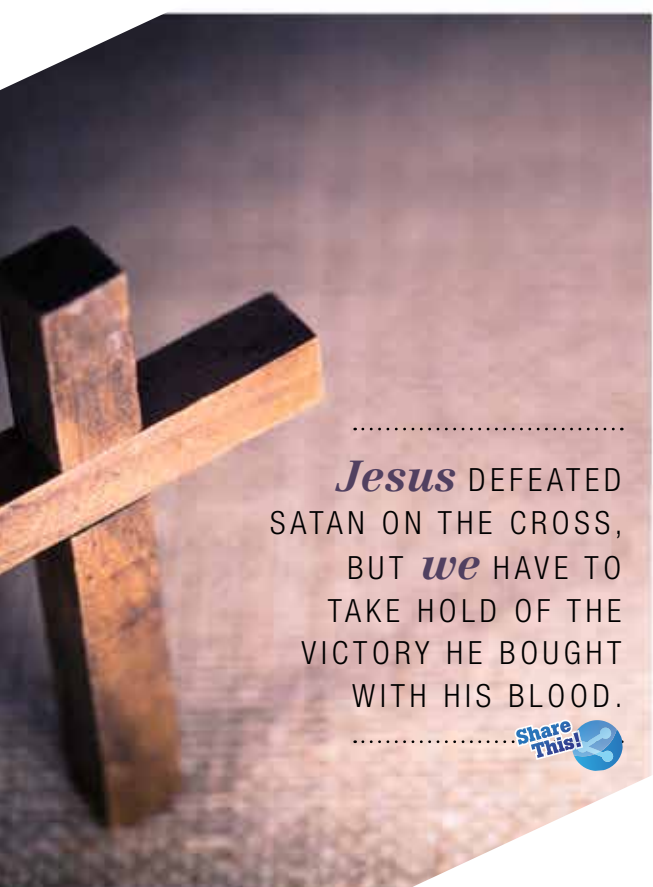
Sometimes as we’re going through tests and trials, we don’t ask the Lord to help us. People often think, “God knows what I’m going through.” Yes, but He can’t do anything unless we ask. If He could, all mankind would get saved!

We see in Matthew 18:18 (NKJV) that we have to make the first move. “*Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.*”

Sometimes Christians suffer because they don’t know the authority they have in Christ. Jesus defeated Satan on the cross, but we have to take hold of the victory He bought with His blood. We have to use our authority; we have to believe in our hearts; and we have to speak with our mouths.

Receiving All That God Has for Us

What happened on the cross is powerful. As we celebrate Easter, let’s remember what we have because of it. Yes, we have salvation and healing. But let’s not forget that Jesus also died so we can have an abundant life in every area—physically, spiritually, emotionally, socially, financially, and so forth. Everything we have in Christ is because of the cross.♥



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BERT AND LONNEKE VONKEMAN

TEACHING FAITH *in the* Netherlands

BERT AND LONNEKE VONKEMAN ('05 RBTC USA graduates) are changing the image of church in the Netherlands. Taking to heart Kenneth E. Hagin's mandate, "*Go teach my people faith*," they are seeing their church members firmly stand on the Word with miraculous results.

Although predominant denominations in Holland have been dwindling with many buildings sitting empty, Good News Church—which the Vonkemens started in 2007—is breaking that trend.

"Our church is one of only a few growing in this part of our country," says Bert. "Every year we see God take us to another level. More people come. Most of them stay. When they stay, they are really hooked up."

Modest Beginnings

To attend Rhema in 2003, Bert and Lonneke had to sell their home in the Netherlands and give up good jobs. Having three young children, it was quite a leap of faith to move to the U.S. But they can testify that the Word is true and God is faithful. "God took care of us," says Bert. "And when we returned to

Holland, He gave us everything back: a house, jobs—everything!"

After graduation, God led the Vonkemens to Enschede, which is near the German border. At that time it wasn't in their hearts to start a church, so they began helping others. In 2007, the Lord made a way for them to start Good News Church. Using a large room in their home, they began with eight people—their family of five and a young couple with a baby.

In the early days, news about the church spread through word of mouth. God told Bert and Lonneke, "I will exalt Myself, and I will bring the people to you." And He did. In a few months, they needed to rent a facility to accommodate all of the people!

The Lord showed Bert that there were Christians in Enschede who were searching for answers. Although many had left denominational churches, they had not left God. They were like sheep without a shepherd, and God brought these sheep to Good News Church. Men and women who had never heard the Gospel also found their way into this sheepfold.

From the beginning, Bert and Lonneke have poured everything they learned at RBTC into their church family. Once a month, the Vonkemens hold an informal class where their congregation learns faith, healing, how to be led by the Spirit, and more.

"Now we see this church arising with its own character and a strong faith foundation," says Bert. Today, over 150 people attend Good News Church. Although this may be small by U.S. standards, for the Netherlands, it's large.

Miracles

As members of Good News Church have learned to trust the Word of God, astounding things are

happening. Some who should have died from cancer are alive and well. Couples who could not conceive are having babies. Marriages and relationships that were hopeless or abusive are now mended and strong. And miracles, whether gradual or instantaneous, have become a normal part of life.

THE BABY THAT BREATHED

When baby Joab was born at home, he was not breathing. The midwife panicked, but his parents, Niek and Elise, immediately acted on their faith and declared that their fourth child would live and not die. Joab was rushed to the hospital with Niek. While Elise was still at home recovering from birth, she sent a message to the church before heading to the hospital.

As the church was praying, the Lord showed them how He breathed life into the child, just as He had done with Adam. At the same time, Niek was looking into the lifeless face of his baby and felt that he needed to breathe on the newborn, which he did in faith.

Suddenly air filled the baby's lungs! The doctors expected significant problems because of the lack of oxygen, but they found that Joab was regaining all of his vital functions.



COUPLES BRING THEIR YOUNG ONES TO BE DEDICATED TO THE LORD.

Miraculously, after just one night in the hospital, Niek and Elise were allowed to take Joab home. And today, despite the doctors' predictions, he is a very healthy, active 2-year-old boy!

ARM RESTORED

While playing with a neighbor, 8-year-old Joshua was pushed through a glass door and severely cut his arm. The neighbor called his mother, whose name is also Elise, and told her to come quickly. When Elise arrived, blood was everywhere. Before calling 911, she first called on the Lord and stepped into faith. She declared the Name of Jesus and said, "This is not going to happen." The bleeding immediately stopped.

As Joshua and Elise were rushed to the hospital, Elise alerted the church, and the leaders began to pray. During surgery, the doctors discovered a severed artery along with severed muscles, tendons, and nerves. They were amazed that the bleeding had stopped. Their prognosis, however, was not good. They said that Joshua would never be able to bend his fingers or use his arm.

After surgery, Joshua told his mother, "Do you remember when I was lying there and you began to pray? Jesus stood by me and put His arm on my shoulder!"

Through patience and faith, Joshua has regained full use of his hand and arm. "Everything I've learned over the last eight years in this church," says Elise, "I've had to use in this process—everything."

"Faith doesn't necessarily prevent disaster from coming," says Bert, "but it always helps us to overcome, as we've seen time and time again." Members

of Good News Church know this to be true. They overcome whatever comes their way. Some healings don't happen immediately, but they keep standing in faith until they receive what they're believing for.

Committed to Teaching Faith

One of the ways people are learning faith is from the Christian books Bert translates into the Dutch language—a few being *In Him* and *I Believe in Visions*, as well as *Christ the Healer* and *The Miracle of the Scarlet Thread*.

The Word is also being sown through song. God is inspiring Lonneke with songs that flow with the theme of her husband's messages. The Vonkemans have learned that these God-inspired songs stay with their church members and carry them throughout the week.

Good News Church has moved beyond its four walls to be a blessing in faraway places. Their support of an elementary school in the Dominican Republic ensures that 191 children daily receive food and a Christian education. They also support and stand in faith with a pastor in Sri Lanka who faces great opposition because of his Christian beliefs.

Bert and Lonneke are committed to teaching faith. "There's an anointing on the mandate," Bert says. Not only has the message of faith changed their lives, it's now changing the lives of the Dutch people and beyond. 🕊

PRAYER POINTS

- » To **STAY FOCUSED** on the call to "go teach my people faith"
- » A **CHURCH BUILDING**—finances and favor with the government
- » **FINANCES** for publishing translated books

TO LEARN MORE about Good News Church in Enschede, visit goednieuws gemeente.nl. (The website is in Dutch, but most browsers will translate the language.)



MINISTRY TO A YOUNG PERSON AT GOOD NEWS CHURCH.



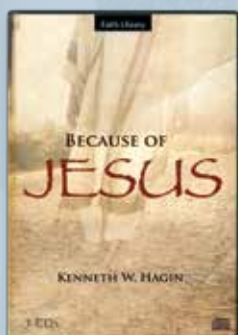
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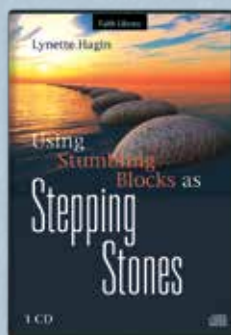
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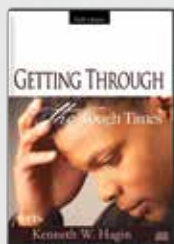
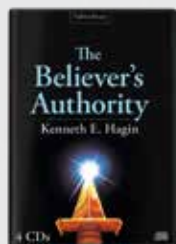
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How to Resolve Conflicts

KENNETH W. HAGIN

WHEN CONFLICT arises in your life, do you know how to handle it? Do your tactics lead to heated debate, strife, and more problems? Do you refuse to deal with adversity by pretending that it doesn't exist?

We need to learn how to handle conflicts when they arise. Situations that aren't dealt with become opportunities for strife, confusion, and offense.

Open Your Heart

Before conflict can be resolved, both parties must be willing to open their hearts and listen to one another. Oftentimes, the reason there is no resolution is that one or more parties have become close-minded. Those people aren't making room in their hearts for anyone; they're only making room for more offense and trouble! If resolving conflict is really the goal, part of the resolution should include openness, both when you're speaking and when you're listening! A "fair exchange" must be part of the process.

Deal Squarely With Issues

If you know you had a part to play in the situation, be accountable for your role in creating the disharmony. Face the issue squarely. It's still in good taste to say, "I'm sorry" when we miss it!

Have you ever noticed that people who don't deal squarely with issues can be mean and difficult to get along with? How much better to be open—to face the situation directly in the right spirit—rather than allow that conflict to fan into a raging fire of hatred and strife! If you choose to deal scripturally with conflict by meeting the issue head-on, there is no guarantee that the other person will participate

equally and with the same amount of enthusiasm. You can only decide for yourself how you will act. And if you handled the issue biblically, you can rest in the knowledge that you did the right thing.

Do Not Condemn

A person who sincerely desires to resolve disagreements will never condemn others but will approach the situation with kindness and gentleness. Whether the situation exists between employers and employees, husband and wives, parents and children, or among friends or co-workers, people have feelings—no matter who they are and regardless of their age or status in life. No one should ever criticize or condemn another person so that the person feels worthless and hopeless.

Value the People Involved

For conflicts to be resolved, the people involved must feel like they are loved and worthwhile. You must express confidence in the other party. If someone offended you, you need to say, "No matter what has happened, I still have confidence in

you. I still believe in you." Building another person's feelings of self-worth makes them more eager to resolve a conflict and solidify the relationship.

Resolution and Healing

Conflict resolution doesn't always happen overnight, especially if it has been going on for a long time or if it has been silenced, either through ignorance or willfulness. If you haven't spoken to a loved one in years, I encourage you to settle the issue today! Begin by forgiving the other person if you haven't already done so. Then try establishing some kind of openness. Many times, it only takes a small gesture on the part of one person to begin the process of reestablishing valuable relationships.

God knew that we would experience conflicts in life. The key is to be willing and ready to resolve it as it comes. We can do that by being open, direct, gentle, and non-critical; by desiring restoration and unity; and by valuing all the people in our lives as precious and as those for whom Christ died.♥



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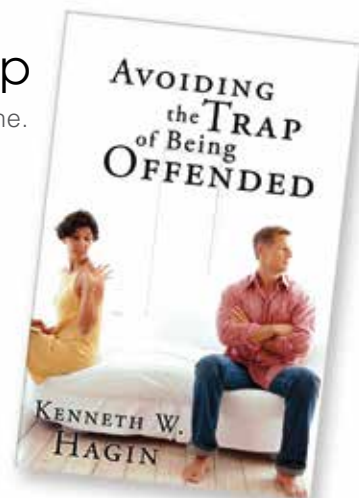
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RECEIVING ANSWERS

To Prayer



Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

THE PRAYER COMMONLY referred to as the Lord's Prayer (Matt. 6:9–13), begins with the words, *"Our Father which art in heaven."* In Matthew chapter 7, Jesus again taught on prayer and compared the earthly relationship between a father and son to the believer's relationship with the Heavenly Father.

MATTHEW 7:7–11

7 Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:

8 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

9 Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

10 Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

11 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

Jesus introduced God as a Father and suggested that He could be approached as one. To many, Christianity is just a religion about a faraway God. They haven't come to Him through Jesus Christ to know Him personally as their Father; so they approach Him in the wrong manner. But thank God, He is our Father and we can come to Him because we are His children!

Most Christians are aware that this verse is in the Bible: *"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you"* (Matt. 7:7). Too often, though, we fail to receive what we are asking for; we fail to find what we are seeking; and the door on which we are knocking is not opened. What is the reason for our failure?

I once read a book by a missionary who had spent 32 years in the Holy Land. In his book, the missionary commented on the passage of Scripture in Matthew chapter 7. He said, *"I thought as most Christians do, that when Jesus said, 'Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you,' He meant if you asked and didn't receive an immediate answer to keep on asking. However, after living in the Holy Land for many years and becoming familiar with the thinking of the Eastern mind, I learned that this was not what Jesus meant at all."*

"In those days, if someone came to the outer gate and knocked, seeking entrance, the wealthy would send their servant to call out and ask the name of the visitor. If it was someone who was known, they could enter immediately. If it was someone unknown, the servant would go to the master of the house and ask

***It is the persistence of faith,
not the persistence of unbelief
that gets results.***



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if he should let the visitor in. The thought here is that when you knock, if you are known, you gain immediate entrance. *'To him that knocketh it shall be opened.'*"

If when we ask we do not receive, if when we seek we do not find, if when we knock it is not opened to us, we should ask

ourselves if we are known by the Master of the house. If not, we should become acquainted personally and intimately with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. For as Jesus explained in Matthew 7:11, our Heavenly Father is eager to give good gifts unto His children. What earthly father wants his children to go through life poor and downtrodden, sick and suffering? So if you, being carnal—being human—want good things for your children, *“How much more shall your Father which is heaven give good things to them that ask him?”*

If we want happiness, health and material blessings for our children, how much more does God want the same for us. Luke’s account of the story gives us a few more details.

LUKE 11:5–8,13

5 And he said unto them, Which of you shall have a friend, and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me three loaves;

6 For a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I have nothing to set before him?

7 And he from within shall answer and say, Trouble me not: the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give thee.

8 I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth.

13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the **Holy Spirit** to them that ask him?

FAITH IN ACTION

Abiding in Christ

“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.”

—John 15:7

Jesus promised that when His Word dwells in us and we ask in faith, we will receive answers to our prayers! Here are three simple steps to follow that will assure answered prayer.

- 1** Find scripture that promises you what you are praying for.
- 2** Take time to meditate on these verses before you pray.
- 3** Take God’s Word with you in prayer by reminding Him of what He said.

In this account, which deals with the prayer of importunity (or persistence), many people have mistakenly had the idea that Jesus was teaching us to keep on asking in order to get results. However, Jesus was illustrating here that although the neighbor would not get out of bed to give the man bread just because he was a friend, he gave it to him because of his persistence. Jesus was saying *how much more* our heavenly Father will hear us and grant our requests.

The Holy Spirit had a purpose for inspiring Luke and Matthew to record as they did. The Holy Spirit, as He inspired

How to Pray Effectively

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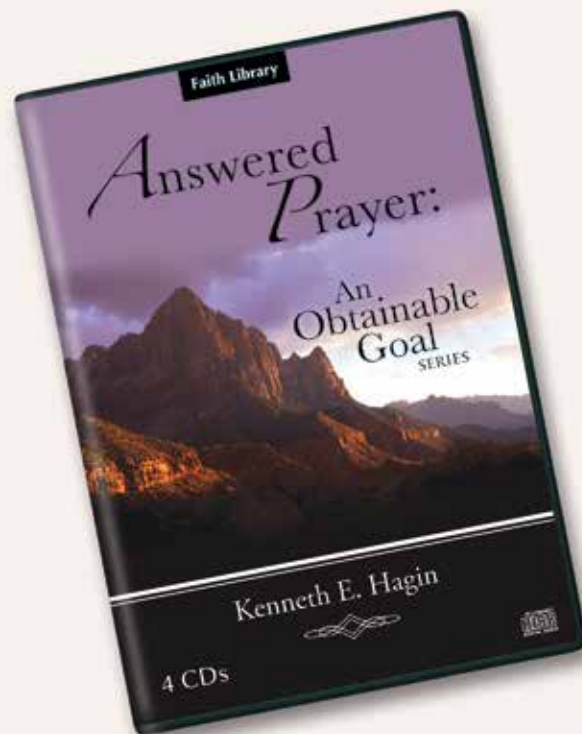


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Matthew, wanted to stress the good things of life. He inspired Luke to emphasize the spiritual things God has for us.

It is the persistence of faith, not the persistence of unbelief, that gets results. We can beg God all we want, but we will never get an answer if our prayer is in unbelief. Just remind God of your request. Remind Him of what He promised. Remind Him that you are expecting the answer and let this persistence be a persistence of faith. It will bring results. By asking, seeking, and knocking in faith, we can enjoy the abundant blessings God has for His children. ♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from a *Word of Faith* article previously published in July 1985.]

How to Get a Financial Breakthrough

KENNETH E. HAGIN



FROM MY EXPERIENCE of almost 70 years of preaching faith, I've concluded that more people fail when it comes to faith for finances than anything else.

That's because they're trying to exercise faith but haven't sown any seed! They want God to bless their finances even though they haven't planted anything. Even so, it's amazing how He'll have mercy on them and help them.

The Bible states, *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again"* (Luke 6:38).

The Bible also says, *"He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully"* (2 Cor. 9:6). If you want a bountiful crop, you have to sow bountifully.

We can't reap a crop without sowing seed. We can't say, "I'm going in the backyard to pick tomatoes" if the ground hasn't been prepared and the seed sown.

We can receive finances through two principal methods:

- 1 **BELIEVING AND OBEYING THE BIBLE.**
- 2 **A SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

An example of the second method was the widow in the Old Testament story found in First Kings chapter 17. Her cruse of oil kept pouring oil, and her meal barrel kept giving meal—which was just as good as money in those days. That was a supernatural manifestation. Supernatural manifestations often occur for us in the area of finances because we have obeyed God and have sown seed.

The first step toward getting our financial needs met is to obey the Bible. God said to Israel:

MALACHI 3:10

10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

God said we were to bring our tithes into the storehouses, and He would open up the windows of heaven. *"Prove me now herewith,"* He said.

Obedience is the key to receiving from God. If we'll learn to hear God's voice and obey Him in the area of our personal finances, it will open the door to further blessings in our own lives and will pave the way for Him to use us in greater ways to bless mankind. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the minibook *Obedience in Finances* by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

A Financial Testimony

"Put Your Faith in Neutral"

Kenneth and Brenda Moore, long-time members of Rhema Bible Church, believe that God will do what He says. And God promised to supply our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). So when the couple's income wasn't where it needed it to be, they asked God to increase their finances not once, but three times. God answered every time!

During a Sunday morning church service, Kenneth said to his wife, "I want you to put your faith in neutral. I'm believing God for \$200 over and above my current salary." They faithfully tithed according to Malachi 3:10 and gave monetary offerings. Within a month, Kenneth received a raise for \$200. God was faithful to His Word.

The Moores went to the Lord in prayer again. This time, they asked God to increase Kenneth's salary by \$500. A month later he received another raise for \$500.

Excited to see God answering their prayers, they then asked for an \$800 increase. The Lord answered again and they were overjoyed! God proved that He is faithful to His Word when you steadfastly stand in faith.



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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)

CONSECRATED AND COMMITTED

I AM REMINDED of the commitment and consecration of Jesus to fulfill His mission on this earth. I am always moved when I read how He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.

MATTHEW 26:36–44 (NKJV)

36 Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, "Sit here while I go and pray over there."

37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed.

38 Then He said to them, "My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me."

39 He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."

40 Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?"

41 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

42 Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done."

43 And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy.

44 So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words.

No matter how many times I read this passage, I am profoundly moved. I realize that although Jesus was the Son of God, it still took deep commitment and consecration for Him to obey the will of His Father.

Many people question why their prayers are not answered. I think the reason is often because they have not first prayed the prayer of consecration. Let's define consecrate: to devote or dedicate to

some purpose; to devote irrevocably to the worship of God.

The prayer of consecration—committing to live a holy life and committing to do the will of God—often seems to be difficult for people. It's not fun to die to our own will, our own ways, and our own desires.

There has never been a prayer to match how Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane. Although Jesus' most committed disciples were nearby, He had to carry His burden alone to the Father.

This prayer—with all its intensity—didn't just spring up in Jesus' heart at this one crucial time in His life. Although the Garden of Gethsemane experience was the ultimate test of His willingness to die to His own will, Jesus lived His entire life with an attitude of surrender to God.

John 6:38 (NLT) says, "*For I have come down from Heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will.*" John 4:34 (NLT) further confirms this: "*My nourishment comes from doing the will of God.*"

Isaiah 1:19–20 declares: "*If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword.*"

Willingness and obedience are important to God. If the children of Israel had faithfully followed the plan of God rather than their own plans and desires, they would not have had to experience some of the consequences they faced.

A prime example of consecration and commitment is Abraham. God told Him to leave the land he was inhabiting. God didn't even tell Abraham where he was going. He simply said, "Go and I will show you." But God added, "*I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing*" (Gen. 12:2). Abraham obeyed and was blessed.

When we accept Christ as our Saviour, our desire is to follow His will for our lives. However, if we are not careful, the longer we are saved, our own desires and will become stronger and the desire to do the will of the Father becomes weaker.

During the Easter season, I encourage you to review your consecration and commitment to the Father. And let David's words be yours as well. "*I delight to do your will, O my God, and your law is within my heart*" (Psalm 40:8 NKJV).♥



Lynette



Kids' Page

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

E

YES

A H O P

E U R I C

H E S A I N

T S G L O R Y

H T U N D E R S

T A N D I N G I N

H E R I T A N C E X

Y S C A L L I N G D K

Check Your Spiritual

Look closely at the **Vision** eye chart above and you will discover hidden words from Ephesians 1:18 contained in it. All words go horizontally but may be broken up between lines. Use the *King James Version* of the Bible if you need help.

Spiritual Health goes TO THE BONE!

Your spiritual health is so important that it can even affect your bones! Draw a line between the spiritual conditions in the left column and the way it affects your bones in the right column. If you need help, the answers can be found in Proverbs 3:7-8; 14:30; 16:24; and 17:22 (NKJV).

envy •
pleasant words •
broken spirit •
fear of the Lord •

strong bones •
healthy bones •
dry bones •
rotten bones •

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR

SPIRITUAL **checkup**

In the same way that you get regular physical checkups by your doctor, you also need to be getting regular SPIRITUAL checkups. See how healthy your SPIRIT is by checking the box that best fits your spiritual condition.



SPIRITUAL HEIGHT:

- ☐ GROWING in grace—2 Peter 3:18 (10 points)
- ☐ SHRINKING back—Heb. 10:38-39 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL WEIGHT:

- ☐ LIGHT burdens—Matt. 11:30 (10 points)
- ☐ HEAVY laden—Matt. 11:28 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE:

- ☐ HOT—Rev. 3:15 (10 points)
- ☐ COLD—Rev. 3:15 (5 points)
- ☐ LUKEWARM—Rev. 3:16 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL REFLEXES:

- ☐ QUICK to hear—James 1:19 (10 points)
- ☐ SLOW of heart to believe—Luke 24:25 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL HEARING:

- ☐ Can HEAR the Lord's voice speaking—John 10:27 (10 points)
- ☐ DULL of hearing—Heb. 5:11 (0 points)

SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT:

- ☐ EYES that are open—Eph. 1:18 (10 points)
- ☐ EYES that cannot see—Acts 28:27 (0 points)

SPIRITUAL DIAGNOSIS:

If you scored between 0-20 points on this Spiritual Checkup, then you need to take the following prescription: **Proverbs 4:20-22 (NASB)—“My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart: For they are life to those who find them And HEALTH [medicine] to all their body.”**

Check Your Spiritual Vision (All of the bold words in the following verse are contained in the chart.)
“The EYES of your UNDERSTANDING being enlightened: that ye may know what is the HOPE of his CALLING, and what the RICHES of the GLORY of his INHERITANCE in the SAINTS.”
pleasant words—healthy bones: Proverbs 16:24 (NKJV)—“Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and health to the bones.”
broken spirit—dry bones: Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)—“A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”
fear of the Lord—strong bones: Proverbs 3:7-8 (NKJV)—“Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”

ANSWERS:

jokes & riddles



“A merry heart does good, like medicine.”

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

If you don't feel well, what do you probably have?

A pair of gloves on your hands.

What do you have if your head is hot, your foot is cold, and you see spots in front of your eyes?

You probably have a polka-dotted sock over your head.

Why did the man tiptoe past the medicine cabinet?

He didn't want to wake up the sleeping pills.

DOCTOR, DOCTOR!

Doctor, Doctor! My son has swallowed my pen. What should I do?

Use a pencil until I get there.

Doctor, Doctor! I think I'm a bell.

Take two of these pills and if they don't help, give me a ring!

Doctor, Doctor! You have to help me out!

Certainly! Which way did you come in?

Doctor, Doctor! My little boy has just swallowed a roll of film.

Well, let's just wait and see if anything develops!



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



SUNDAY, MAY 7

**Supporting Rhema—
Reaching the World!**

Dear Friend,

Countless people still have not heard what Jesus Christ has done for them. Reaching all of them is too big to do alone. By working together, we can reach many more lives for Christ! International Rhema Day is on May 7. On that day, will you support Rhema Bible Training College with your prayers and financial gifts? Your gifts make it possible to train students to "go into all nations." Together, we are making a difference around the world.

Thank you for your generosity!

Kenneth W. Hagin

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