



# THE Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2015

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

HIS NAME  
SHALL BE CALLED

# Wonderful

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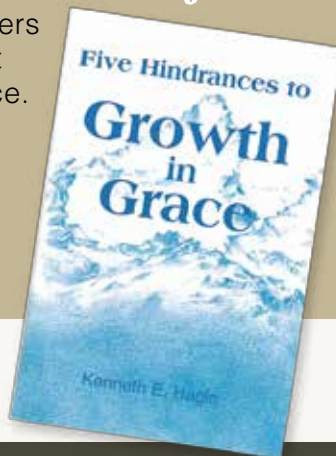
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# It's All About Jesus!

Over a billion greeting cards are sent during the Christmas season. That's a lot of cards! But did you know that the original Christmas greeting was sent by God to the shepherds and delivered by angels?

*"Then the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord'" (Luke 2:10-11 NKJV).*

Suddenly the heavenly choir began to sing with this angel, *"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Luke 2:14 NKJV).*

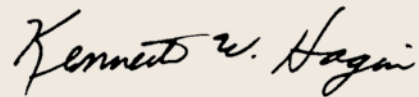
When the shepherds heard this message on the night Jesus was born, it calmed their fears, created hope, and called them to worship. I believe these words should do the same for us today.

You see, we live in a society where people fear many things. They fear for their safety and provision. "Will I be cold? Will I go hungry? Will I have enough to make ends meet?" Some people are confused and without hope. Sadly, many are not even concerned about their salvation.

That's why our message as believers is so important. It's only in Jesus that people can find true hope, help, and happiness. Our message the whole year through should be, "Do not be afraid. A Savior has been born. He is Christ the Lord! And He has made a way for you to be taken care of—not just in this life, but in the life to come."

Just like that first Christmas greeting spoken on the hillside so many years ago, our words should calm fears, create hope, and call others to join in worshipping Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. That's what this season is all about!

Merry Christmas from our family to yours! I pray you will experience God's peace, joy, and blessings as never before.



PS. Do you know Jesus as your Savior? If not, turn to page 7 and accept the best gift you'll ever receive.



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David and Inga Maxey are making an impact in the Russian Far East. Read their story.

HIS NAME  
SHALL BE CALLED

# Wonderful



Timeless  
Teachings  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

*“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”*

— ISAIAH 9:6

**IN THIS TEXT**, Isaiah, by the Spirit of God, is prophesying concerning the birth of Jesus, the coming Messiah.

We could preach a sermon or two on the phrase “his name shall be called Wonderful,” then preach several on “Counsellor” and “The mighty God.” In fact, we could almost preach forever on these phrases. In this article we’ll consider the phrase “his name shall be called Wonderful.”

Jesus was Wonderful in His conception and the announcing of His birth. All of the writers of the Gospel cover the story, but because Luke goes into a little more detail, I like his account best.

Luke begins by telling us the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto Nazareth, a city in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was espoused, or engaged, to a man named Joseph. When Gabriel greeted Mary and told her she was highly favored by God, she was troubled. She was not sure what manner of salutation this was. Let’s let the Word of God tell the rest.

#### **LUKE 1:30–33**

**30** And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

**31** And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

**32** He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

**33** And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

The announcement that Jesus was to be born was Wonderful—an angel came down to announce it!

Furthermore, His conception was Wonderful. Mary questioned how it could be possible that a virgin could conceive and bear a son. The angel replied, “*The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God*” (v. 35). Mary responded, “*Be it unto me according to thy word*” (v. 38).

Shortly afterward Mary went to visit her cousin Elisabeth, who was to have a baby in her old age. As Luke notes in chapter 2, Mary didn’t tell anybody about the angel’s visit; she just pondered his sayings in her heart. Therefore, her cousin Elisabeth didn’t know what had happened to Mary at the time she began to prophesy. Elisabeth was speaking by the Holy Spirit:

#### **LUKE 1:41–45**

**41** And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:

**42** And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.

**43** And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?

**44** For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy.

45 And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

We can readily see how the word *Wonderful* applies to the announcement that Jesus was to be born and how He would be conceived. Now we'll see how that word also applies to His actual birth.

Luke tells us that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed—each in his own city. Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, who was great with child. While they were there, Mary brought forth her firstborn son, wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

FAITH NUGGET

## Jesus Came to Give Us Life

The birth of Jesus by itself doesn't give us a complete picture of God's plan of redemption. If Jesus was just born and that was the end of it, we wouldn't have the Good News. But thank God, that wasn't all there was to it.

Jesus came to give us life abundantly. He was wonderful in His death and resurrection. He was made sin for us! He took our place! **HE BECAME WHAT WE WERE SPIRITUALLY, PRAISE GOD, THAT WE MIGHT BECOME WHAT HE IS.** God's gift to the world was eternal life (John 3:16). We receive this new life when we are born again. This is the complete Christmas story.

Luke continues his account of this wonderful birth:

### LUKE 2:8-9

8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. [Now notice:]

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

Not only did the angel appear to them, but it says the glory of the Lord shone round about them. That same glory of God was manifested all through the Old Testament: many times as a cloud; sometimes as a bright, shining light.

The angel of the Lord announced the Savior's birth to these shepherds in a wonderful way. So they went quickly to Bethlehem to see what the Lord had made known to them.

### LUKE 2:16-20

16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

19 But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

20 And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

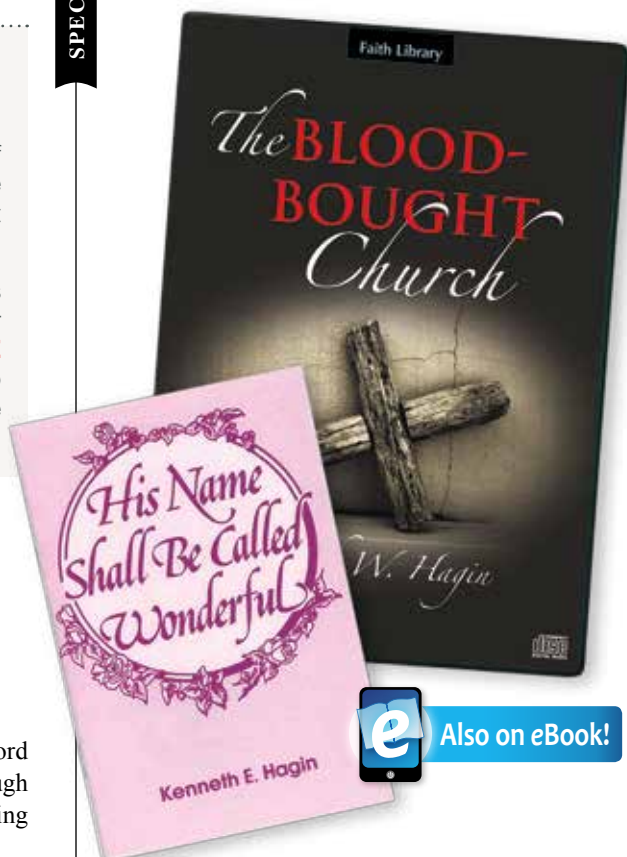
Isaiah's prophecy, inspired by the Spirit of God, was fulfilled when Jesus was born. And through Jesus, God wrought for us His great plan of redemption. As part of that plan, Jesus' birth was indeed wonderful! ♥

[Editor's note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's minibook *His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful*.]

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# God's Geese

AUTHOR UNKNOWN

A MAN BY THE NAME of Bob didn't believe much in God and was quick to let anyone know. His wife, however, was a believer and raised their children to have faith in God.

One snowy Christmas Eve, Bob's wife and children pleaded with him to go with them to church. He refused. "Christmas is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to earth as a man?" So his wife and children left, and Bob stayed home.

A while later, as the wind howled outside, Bob relaxed in front of the fireplace. Suddenly he heard loud honking noises. He looked out the window, but the blinding snow hindered his view, so he went outside to see what was going on.

In the field by the barn, Bob found several wild geese that had gotten separated from their flock. They had lost their bearings in the snow and were wandering around aimlessly.

Bob knew the geese wouldn't last long in the storm. They needed a shelter where they could stay until the wind and snow stopped. He opened the barn doors and waited for the geese to go in, but they stayed in the field.

Bob got behind the geese and tried to shoo them into the barn, but this only scared them. He then got grain

and laid a trail on the ground to the barn door. But the geese still would not go in.

All of Bob's efforts to help had failed. He realized the geese would never follow a man and thought, "If only I were a goose, I could save them." Then he had an idea. He went into the barn, picked up one of his geese, carried it outside, and set it down behind the wild geese. When he released his goose, it flew through the flock and straight into the barn. One by one the wild geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment, considering what he had just thought: "If only I were a goose, I could save them." Then he remembered what he had said earlier to his wife: **"WHY WOULD GOD LOWER HIMSELF TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN?"**

Suddenly, it all made sense. Mankind was like those geese: blind, lost, and perishing. **GOD SENT HIS SON TO BECOME LIKE US SO HE COULD SAVE US.** Now Bob understood what Christmas was all about and why Jesus Christ had come.

Bob fell to his knees in the snow and prayed, "Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of a storm of sin!"

Have the howling winds and storms of life caused you to lose your way? Are you struggling just to get

by? There is someone ready to help you. Receive God's wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. This Christmas, **GIVE YOURSELF THE BEST GIFT YOU HAVE EVER RECEIVED BY MAKING JESUS YOUR SAVIOR AND LORD.**

If you are ready to get out of the storm of sin, pray the following from your heart:

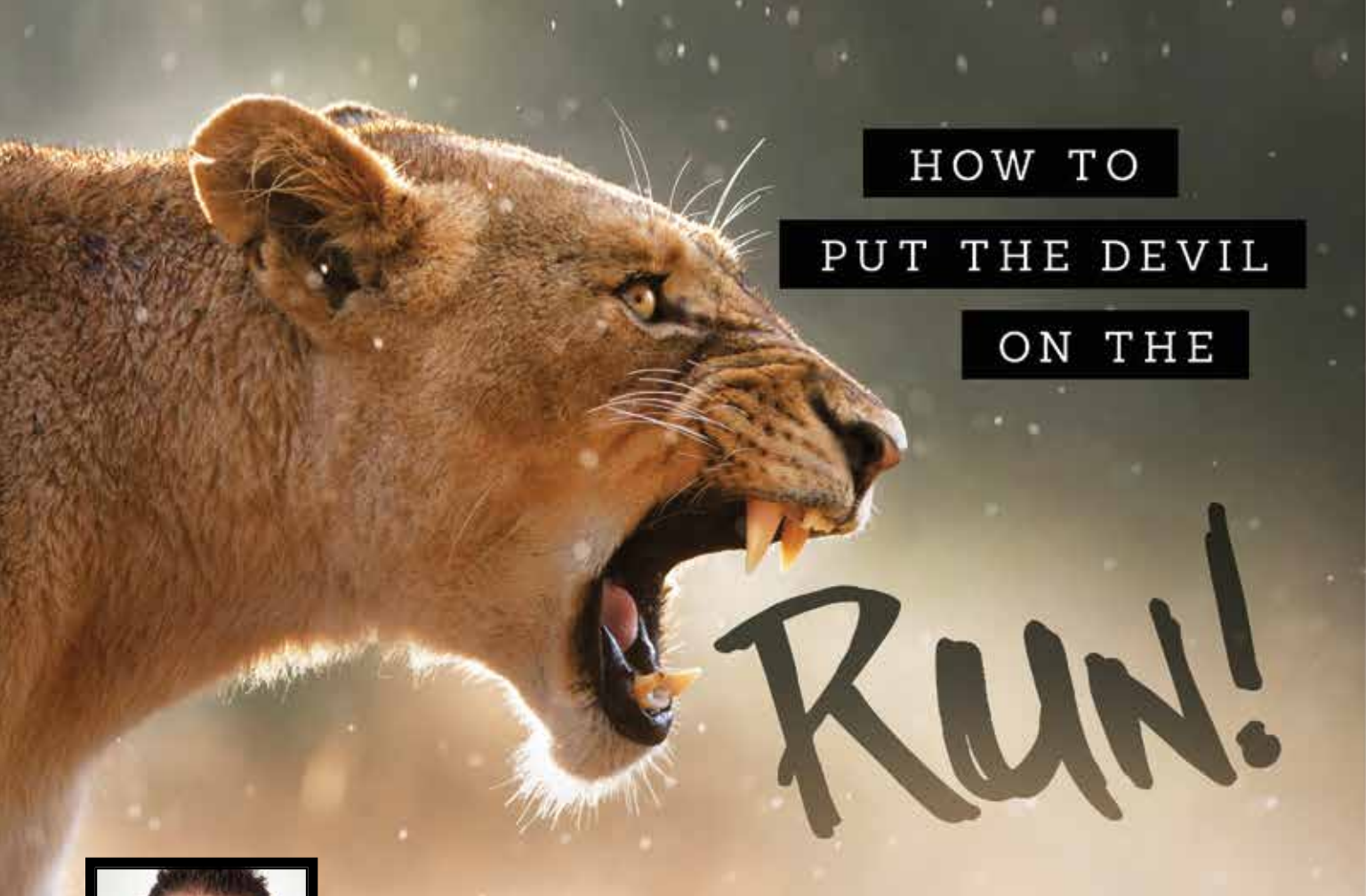
**God,**

I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I am not right with you. And I want to be right with You. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead, I will be saved (Rom. 10:9). I believe in my heart that You did raise Jesus from the dead, and I confess that He is my Lord and Savior. Thank You for the greatest Christmas ever!

---

If you prayed this for the first time, welcome to God's family! Email us at **PartnerService@rhema.org** or call us at **1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484)** and let us know about it. We'd love to send you some free materials to get you started in your new life as God's child!





HOW TO  
PUT THE DEVIL  
ON THE

Run!



CRAIG W. HAGIN

**JESUS CAME** so we could have an abundant life. That's what John 10:10 tells us. But just because He came and just because we accept Him as Savior doesn't mean we're going to have that

abundant life. Why? The other part of this verse tells us, "*The thief [Satan] does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy*" (NKJV). The devil is out to destroy us. And in order for us to live abundantly, in order for us to win in every battle he brings our way, there are a few things we have to understand.

### There Is a Thief

First of all, we must know who's responsible for what happens in our life. I've heard people blame God when things began to fall apart. But God is not out to steal, kill, and destroy us. John 3:16 says, "*For God so loved the world.*"

God sent His Son to redeem mankind. And if He "so loved the world" one day, why would He want to blow it apart the next day? We've got to realize that there is a thief—an enemy. His name is Satan. And he doesn't come to do anything else but steal, kill, and destroy. He wants to steal our God-given joy, dreams, and talents. He wants to wipe us out. And he is the one responsible when it seems as if everything is against us.

### Attacks Will Come

Second, we need to understand that attacks will come—and not just when we're doing something wrong. The more we're doing for God, the more Satan will try to attack us.

Remember the Apostle Paul? He was stoned, beaten, and even imprisoned—all while He was following God's will. How about Adam and Eve? They were living in the Garden of Eden—in perfection. And the thief was still there, trying to deceive them.

You see, Satan wanted to stop Paul. He wanted to stop Adam and Eve. And he wants to stop us too. He hasn't changed over the years. He knows his time is short, and he doesn't want us to follow God's plan for our lives. But when we understand this—when we know that attacks will come—we won't be thrown off course. We'll be able to keep moving forward with God.

### Resist the Devil

Last and most important, we must know what to do when we get attacked. Here in the United States, we've spent countless billions of dollars figuring out what to do if there's a natural disaster or if we get attacked. We have plans for all kinds of scenarios.

Sadly, many Christians don't have even one plan. They're getting eaten up by the devil day after day and doing nothing about it. They're struggling. It's as if they're standing in a boxing ring with their hands down, saying, "Devil, just keep punching me. It's OK." But it's not OK. Look at what First Peter chapter 5 tells us.



## Drop Those Problems!

The devil can't devour us—unless we let him. And one way we let him is by getting in fear. Fear gives the devil an opportunity to rule in our lives. It puts pressure on us and causes us to do things we might not normally do.

If you've ever watched a football game, you've seen this a lot. Three or four guys are running at the quarterback, and he throws the ball into a place where he shouldn't be throwing the ball! Why? Because whether he admits it or not, he was afraid. He was focusing on the hit that was about to happen instead of on the ball like he should have been.

In our lives, Jesus is the ball. If we'll stay focused on Him and our Heavenly Father, we will come through victorious—no matter how hard the devil hits us!

So next time you're tempted to worry or fear, just do what the Word says. Cast all of your cares—all of your anxieties, worries, and concerns—over on your Heavenly Father (1 Peter 5:7 Amplified). Just **PLAY HOT POTATO WITH YOUR PROBLEMS**. Every time the devil comes to try and steal, kill, and destroy you—every time he brings a new problem—give it to God as fast as you can. Even if it looks impossible, He can cool down that potato. All things are possible with Him!

### 1 PETER 5:8–9 (NKJV)

**8** Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he MAY devour.

**9** RESIST HIM, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.

If the devil is seeking those he may devour, then there's a class of people whom he *may not* devour. As believers, we are part of that class. But when things begin to get difficult, we must remember Who's on the inside. The same Spirit Who raised up Christ from the dead lives in us (Rom. 8:11). This is the same Spirit Who was with Jesus when He walked on water, fed the 5,000, and performed all those miracles. And that Spirit is in us!

*Stand strong and immovable  
in the authority  
that Jesus died to give you.*



#RhemaWOF

So when the devil comes against us, we can boldly stand up and say, "You may not devour me, Mr. Devil! You have no right. You have no authority. In the Name of Jesus, you have to leave me alone!"

You see, Jesus has already defeated the devil. And when we stand boldly in Him—when we believe in Him—we have the authority to put the devil on the run. One translation of James 4:7 says he will run from us in terror. Why? Because he's afraid of the Greater One in us.

No matter how many times Satan comes and tries to attack you, don't let him move you. Don't let him destroy your dream. Don't let him steal from you. Stand strong and immovable on the Word. Stand strong and immovable in the authority that Jesus died to give you. When you do, you'll live the abundant life John 10:10 talks about. You'll put that thief on the run, and everything will be OK!♥

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**ONE OF THE LAST STOPS** at the east end of Russia's Trans-Siberian Railway is Khabarovsk. Rich in libraries, theaters, museums, and universities, it's a center of learning that draws people from throughout the Russian Far East. In the winter months when average low temperatures drop to a bone-chilling -10 F, Khabarovsk's snow-covered central square turns into a winter fantasyland complete with snow forts, ice sculptures, and delighted youngsters. Khabarovsk is also home to Rhema Khabarovsk Russia and Fountain of Life Church, pastored by David and Inga Maxey.

David Maxey moved to Russia when he was 17. He lived first in Provideniya, a tiny, remote village surrounded by seemingly endless mountain ranges just across the Bering Strait from Nome, Alaska. David originally planned to stay for a year before going to college. Circumstances stretched that year into three. While there he met Inga and began attending a church pastored by 1988 Rhema Bible Training College graduates Joe and Mary Purcell.

Eventually, David and Inga attended RBTC, with David graduating in 1998. The Maxeys rejoined the Purcells, who by then had relocated to Khabarovsk to pastor Fountain of Life Church.

When the Purcells relocated to Singapore six years later, they turned leadership of the church over to David and Inga. The couple also serve as campus directors for Rhema Khabarovsk.

### Location, Location, Location

Eight years ago, Fountain of Life Church purchased a small house on prime property in the heart of Khabarovsk. Its location next to a major road and several public transportation lines made it easy for anyone to come to services. Because the building accommodated only 50 people, the Maxeys held several services each Sunday. Immediately after buying the property, David and Inga renovated the original structure and started planning an addition. Their building program is nothing short of miraculous.

In Khabarovsk, many public officials believe the Russian Orthodox Church is the only true church, and churches like Fountain of Life are cults. Often city officials do not want Protestant churches building anything, especially near the center of town. One official with authority to approve the Maxeys' project rose from his chair, pounded the table, and screamed at David, "You'll never build that building!" At every step, officials did everything possible to stop the work.

Today the addition is about 85 percent complete. "We never paid one bribe for a permit!" boasts David. "They tried to run us around in circles until we were exhausted and gave up. But we never did. We just ran around in circles until they finally let us build!"

Fountain of Life Church has a thriving children's and youth ministry, as well as solid ministry to the adults. Around 200 people, including a woman in her 90s, call the church home.

### Never Quit

God is moving mightily in Fountain of Life Church. Healings and testimonies of His goodness are shared weekly.

One testimony highlighting tenacious faith involves a young woman named Olga. Beautiful and petite, with finely chiseled facial features, Olga was on her way home after an evening church service. As she stepped into her apartment building elevator, she was brutally attacked.

Thankfully her screams drew the attention of her neighbors, and they ran to her aid. The assailant, however, escaped and was never caught. Olga was rushed to the hospital, and when David and Inga reached her bedside in the intensive care unit, she was unrecognizable.

# RUSSIA: GOD'S LOVE AT WORK

DAVID & INGA  
MAXEY & FAMILY



RHEMA KHABAROVSK GRADUATES WERE EAGER & HUNGRY TO LEARN. NOW THEY'RE IMPACTING THEIR WORLD.



**THE MAXEY'S ARE DEDICATED TO WINNING THE LOST & BUILDING STRONG BELIEVERS.**

The attacker had savagely pounded her face, which was badly bruised and blown up like a balloon. The whites of her eyes were blood red and her eyelids were so swollen that she could barely open them.

The doctors were very concerned about a large hematoma on her brain. They doubted she would see again and believed that if she did recover, she would be severely disabled.

Little by little Olga recovered. She completely regained her sight. Her face was just as beautiful as it was before the attack. But she had lost her senses of taste and smell.

“You can’t imagine what it’s like,” Olga lamented to David and Inga. “Everything I eat tastes like oatmeal. There’s nothing exciting in my life.” The only odor she sensed constantly was a chemical one that she said “was driving me crazy.”

David dedicated himself to believing for Olga’s complete healing. He told her to wait for him after service every Sunday so he could pray for her. This went on for an entire year with no visible results. But the Maxeys and Olga would not give up. Her healing was gradual and today her senses of taste and smell have returned!

## Rescuing the Children

Alcoholism is one of Russia’s biggest social issues. In the days of the Soviet Union, the villages had a purpose. Today that purpose has vanished and villages are like ghost towns. The only reason people still live in them is that they don’t have enough money to move. With nothing to do, they get drunk.

The Lord told David that to stop the vicious cycle of alcoholism, they should focus on the children. If they are reached at an early age and become strong Christians, they can grow up alcohol free. When they marry and have children, it’s likely their children will also grow up alcohol free.



**FOUNTAIN OF LIFE CHURCH**

With this goal in mind, two years ago a satellite church was started in Giorgievka, a village 1 1/2 hours south of Khabarovsk. David delegated all of the ministry responsibilities for the Fountain of Life congregation in Giorgievka to Rhema Khabarovsk graduates.

“I oversee the satellite church, but I purposely don’t touch it,” David says. “I want to give the Rhema Khabarovsk graduates an opportunity to minister and grow. They’ve been trained, and now it’s their time to do the ministry.”

Every other Saturday, the ministry team divides the children into two broad age groups: 0–12 and 12–16. Volunteers love the kids and help them develop confidence, study the Bible, and play games. They also talk to them about the importance of gaining an education to improve their quality of life.

The results have been tremendous. An inner light now shines in the young people. The love of Jesus is winning their hearts. The adult outreach in Giorgievka is also growing, with 13 to 15 attending.

## Moving Forward

David and Inga are focused on reaching the lost in Khabarovsk. While it’s illegal to pass out tracts, the Maxeys found that Alpha Course evangelism works in the Russian culture. Unbelievers are invited to church for food and fellowship and to hear thought-provoking lectures about Christianity.

God has moved mightily on David and Inga’s behalf over the past 17 years. As they have reached out into the community, many lives have been forever changed. They’re excited about completing their building program and seeing what God has planned for them next.

**REACHING THE YOUTH & CHILDREN. CHANGING RUSSIA'S FUTURE.**



## PRAYER FOCUS

» **FINANCES** for completing the Fountain of Life building project, including furnishings.

**TO LEARN MORE** about David and Inga Maxey, visit [davidmaxey.net](http://davidmaxey.net).

## RHEMA KHABAROVSK GRADUATES



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# Increase in Every Area

TAD GREGURICH



**WANT MORE?**  
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**THE LIFE OF** the Christian is one of increase. We're not supposed to be tomorrow what we are today. We need to be constantly growing in the things of God. Why? Because the greater our increase—the greater our capacity—the greater power we'll have available to us. And that means we'll be able to accomplish more for the Kingdom of God.

The Bible says we are to increase in several areas.

- 1 WE ARE TO INCREASE IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (COL. 1:10).** We are to know what the Word says about our Heavenly Father. What does this do? It increases our capacity to have faith. Remember, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17).
- 2 WE ARE TO INCREASE IN LOVE (PHIL. 1:9, 1 THESS. 3:12).** God doesn't have love—He is love. And He wants us to abound in His love. He wants us to love one another.
- 3 WE ARE TO INCREASE IN THE FRUIT OF OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (2 COR. 9:10).** The fact that we are the righteousness of God in Christ is life-changing. Jesus qualified us to stand before God as if we'd never sinned! But there's supposed to be fruit that comes from this revelation. We are supposed to see love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance grow in our lives. (See Galatians 5:22–23.)
- 4 WE ARE TO INCREASE IN OUR ABILITY TO BE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT (ROM. 8:14–16).** I know I desperately need this myself—not just for my job or ministry but in life.

God knows our future better than we know our past. And He will lead and guide us by His Spirit so that we stay in step with Him.

## What's So Great About Increase?

Increase in these areas—in the knowledge and love of God, in the fruit of our righteousness, and in being led by the Holy Spirit—will give us the ability to live the life God has for us. It enables us to do certain things we couldn't do on our own.

For example, increase gives us a greater capacity to handle the pressures that come our way. It enables us to grow beyond the level of struggle and lack. It enables us to embrace the plan of God for our lives and walk it out effectively.

*I don't want to know more of the Word so I can be puffed up with knowledge. I want to know more of the Word so I can accurately give others what they need when they need it.*

Most importantly, increase in these areas will enable us to better minister to and serve others. That's the reason we're on

this earth, isn't it? We're here to carry on the ministry of Jesus. And He said, "I came not to be served, but to serve" (Mark 10:45).

I don't know about you, but I don't want to know more of the Word so I can be puffed up with knowledge. I want to know more of the Word so I can accurately give others what they need when they need it. I want to be led by the Spirit of God so that when He says to help someone, I hear Him and do it.

You see, increase is not about you or me. It's not about how much we can get or how great we can be. It's about doing what God has called us to do and helping people. Because when we all do our part, the work of God is going to grow and we're going to reach this world with the Gospel. ♥

[Editor's Note: Tad Gregurich is dean of Rhema Bible Training College USA and an associate minister at Rhema Bible Church.]

# Together We Can Do More

CRAIG W. HAGIN



**MY FAMILY AND I** have always been huge auto racing fans. I got my love for racing from my dad. And that love has been passed down to my sons. One of the races we like to watch is the Daytona 500.

Something you always see in a NASCAR race is drafting. That's

when the cars speed down the raceway single file, and the trailing cars are within inches of the front car's rear bumper.

When the cars are lined up in this nose-to-tail formation, the front car creates a draft, which acts like a vacuum for the trailing cars. Since the cars are so close, the draft reduces air turbulence. The result: As long as the cars stay in the pack, they'll fly down the speedway faster than they would if each car was in its own lane.

The same thing will happen for Christians when we stay hooked up with God and each other. Take a look at what Jesus said.

#### JOHN 15:4-7 (NKJV)

4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

5 I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much

fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered. . . .

7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

From this passage of scripture, we see the importance of knowing who we are in Christ. In Christ we can do all things. Without Him, we can't do anything. Jesus told us to abide in Him and His Word. If we don't, according to verse 6, we'll wither away.

I've noticed that sometimes Christians haven't gotten away from the Word of God, but they've gotten away from their branch. For us, our branch is the word of faith camp.

I believe when Jesus said, "*I am the vine, you are the branches,*" He put the word of faith camp on one branch and other camps on different branches. That's not to say we shouldn't fellowship with anyone outside our camp. There's nothing wrong with that. But there's just something about getting together with people of like-minded faith. There's a camaraderie we have in our camp that we don't have with others.

Everyone needs encouragement at one time or another. What better way to get built up than to come back home to those who love you? In Acts

chapter 4, when Peter and John faced opposition, they returned "to their own company" (v. 23) to get the support they needed.

I believe this also applies to us today. In these last days, we need to come together and be a united branch.

Some people want to do their own thing. They've pulled away from their branch and are trying to run alone. But God didn't place anyone in a certain branch so they could go off and do something else.

When we abandon our branch, we not only harm ourselves, we also harm others because we're all running together. We may not be running the same race, but we're all going in the same direction. Together, everyone achieves more.

In car racing, drivers sometimes "bump draft." This is when the driver of a car bumps the car in front of him.

Spiritually speaking, this is when people get behind you and push you forward. They lift you up when you're discouraged. They encourage you to keep going when you want to quit. They help you get through the rough places.

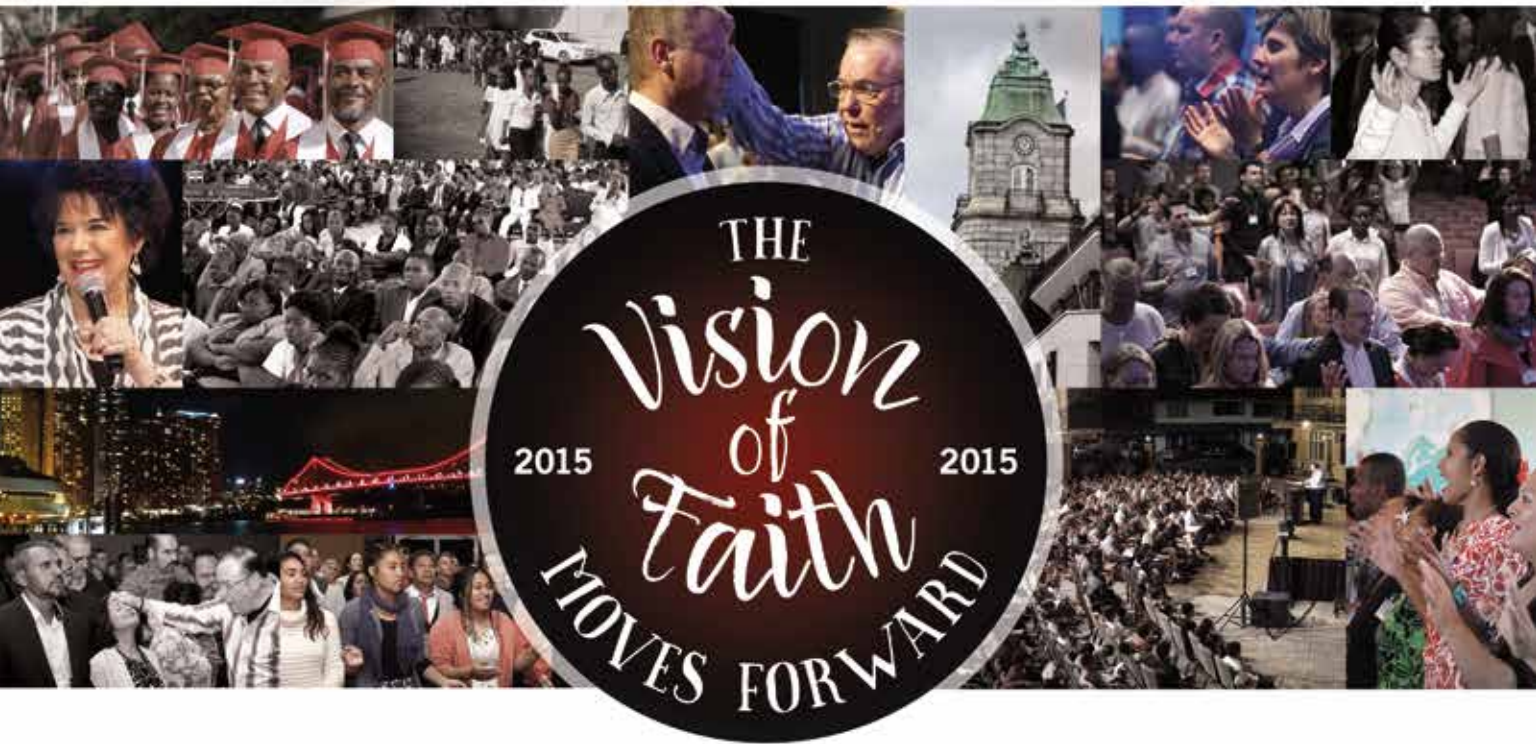
No one should be running alone or with the wrong camp. Today is the day to be united with the branch God called us to and stand with those of like faith. When we run closely with others in our branch, the spiritual draft will enable us to go faster and farther than we ever could on our own.♥

*What better way to get built up than to come back home to those who love you!*



#RhemaWOF

*The year just ending has been another remarkable one for Kenneth Hagin Ministries. Here are highlights of activities and accomplishments in 2015.*



### Carrying the Message of Faith

Kenneth and Lynette Hagin and the *Living Faith Crusade* team traveled to **11 CITIES** this year to minister the Gospel. At each meeting, the hearts of men and women were touched and changed by God's power and the teaching of His Word. **MANY WERE HEALED PHYSICALLY, SET FREE FROM BONDAGE, AND STRENGTHENED IN THEIR FAITH.** Others received answers to prayer.

One woman felt impressed by the Lord to get to the Hagins' *Living Faith Crusade* in Murrieta, California, and traveled for over an hour to attend. She said several of her family members needed healing from alcoholism, diabetes, cancer, and other problems. The Lord let her know that His anointing would be there to begin these healings as she stood in the gap for her family.

During one evening service in Murrieta, Rev. Hagin called forward for prayer those needing healing. The woman responded for her family. One by one, Rev. Hagin ministered God's healing power to those who needed it. The woman later testified that as Rev. Hagin laid hands on her, "God's anointing touched me, and since then manifestations are happening." Already her daughter and grandson have been delivered from alcoholism.

### 350 USA Graduates Ready to Make Their Mark

On May 15, Rhema Bible Training College USA sent out 350 on-fire graduates to proclaim the Good News of Jesus. They received their diplomas and symbolic runner's batons and are ready to reach those who are hopeless and in darkness. Keith Moore, pastor of Faith Life Church congregations in Branson, Missouri, and Sarasota, Florida, gave the commencement address. He reminded



the graduates that as they move through the phases of their lives, God will be faithful to help them finish their race for Him.



**FOR THE FIRST TIME THE RHEMA COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY WAS STREAMED LIVE ON THE INTERNET.** Over 7,000 people in 75 countries logged on to watch the celebration.

### 213 Campuses and Growing!

Rhema currently has **213 CAMPUSES** in **50 NATIONS**, and others are slated to open soon. Each month reports come in of what's happening at Rhema international campuses. Here are a couple of highlights.

In Oceania, Rhema Papua New Guinea's students traveled by motorboat to preach the Gospel in prisons and villages. Students held crusades and meetings through which many were born again, healed, and set free. One team prayed for the patients in the tuberculosis ward of a local hospital. They went back the next day and met with a woman who was totally healed. They followed up on the other patients and learned that everyone in the ward had been healed and had gone home!

In southern Africa, Rhema Zambia students taking a personal evangelism course carried their classroom training outside. They went into the community, led 104 people to the Lord, and helped 37 believers rededicate their lives.

## Remembering Brian McCallum

Beloved Rhema Bible Training College instructor Brian McCallum went home to be with the Lord on January 29, 2015, at the age of 82. Brian graduated from Rhema USA in 1980 and that same year began his career at Kenneth Hagin Ministries as a pilot. He taught at Rhema USA for over 30 years and served as dean from 1991 to 1996. He was a great blessing to the Rhema family and is missed. Until we meet again . . .



## Traveling Across the Globe

The Hagins set aside time each year to connect with the international Rhema family. This year Kenneth and Lynette traveled to **HAITI, NORWAY, AUSTRALIA, AND SAMOA** to visit Rhema campuses and churches, minister the Gospel, and share God's Word and love. As they ministered in Oslo, Norway, at *Faith! The Conference*, many people came forward to have garments prayed over for healing based on Acts 19:11–12. The humbling scene showed how many people in that part of the world have a **STRONG DESIRE TO SEE GOD MANIFEST HIS POWER.**

Kenneth and Lynette's son, Craig W. Hagin, along with Joe Hernandez, a 1993 Rhema USA grad, spent three days in **DUBAI**, United Arab Emirates, at the end of April. They met with pastors and announced that Rhema Dubai would open in 2016. Later Craig traveled to **HONG KONG** to give the commencement address at combined ceremonies for Rhema Hong Kong and Rhema China. And Denise Hagin Burns, Kenneth and Lynette's daughter, led a spring youth missions trip to **COLOMBIA**, touching the hearts and lives of children and teenagers there.



## A Light to the World

In Matthew 5:14 Jesus said, “*You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden*” (NKJV). And Rhema Bible Church held the light high through community outreaches such as the Rhema Christmas Lights display and the Rockets Over Rhema Independence Day celebration.

On Thanksgiving Eve, Kenneth and Lynette Hagin flipped the switch in Rhema Park, illuminating the 110-acre campus with more than two million colorful lights. Each year thousands of people from all over Oklahoma and surrounding states enjoy the Christmas display centered on the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

For July Fourth, the free *Rockets Over Rhema 2015* community outreach went off with a BANG, both literally and figuratively. Thousands of people blanketed the Rhema USA campus during the event, which was capped by a dazzling, thunderous, 20-minute fireworks display. It was the grand finale of a great day spent celebrating our nation's freedom.



Once again this year, *Campmeeting*, *Winter Bible Seminar*, and other conferences helped bring hope, help, and healing to many people. And through television and radio broadcasts, books, CDs, DVDs, MP3s, social media posts, websites, and other means, Rhema continued to reach millions of people around the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the message of faith.♥

## Will You Make a Difference?

CRAIG W. HAGIN WITH GRADUATES OF RHEMA THAILAND IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.



Because of the generous gifts of our Rhema Word Partners, Kenneth Hagin Ministries is able to carry the message of faith to the world. Men and women, boys and girls, are being healed, set free, and delivered in every corner of the earth. **THEY ARE LEARNING WHAT IT MEANS TO LIVE BY FAITH AND ARE DISCOVERING WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST.** Their lives will never be the same!

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# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

*"You can know and have studied the Word; yet, when you come here, you get a whole new meaning of the Scripture."*

—JEAN WILCOX

**JEAN WILCOX**

*Current 2nd-Year Student,  
Pastoral Ministry*



THINK ONE PERSON  
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD?

**JULIE BEEMER**

*Pastoral Ministry, '91*



MATT AND JULIE BEEMER HAVE MINISTERED TO SIX MILLION PEOPLE, PIONEERED EIGHT TRAINING CENTERS IN FIVE COUNTRIES, AND SUPPLIED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF BOOKS TO AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

GREG AND CHRISTI FINLEY ARE TODAY SERVING THE LORD AT KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES.

**CHRISTI FINLEY**  
*Helps, '09*



THESE PEOPLE ARE. YOU CAN TOO!



**MATT BEEMER**  
*Student Ministries, '92*



**GREG FINLEY**  
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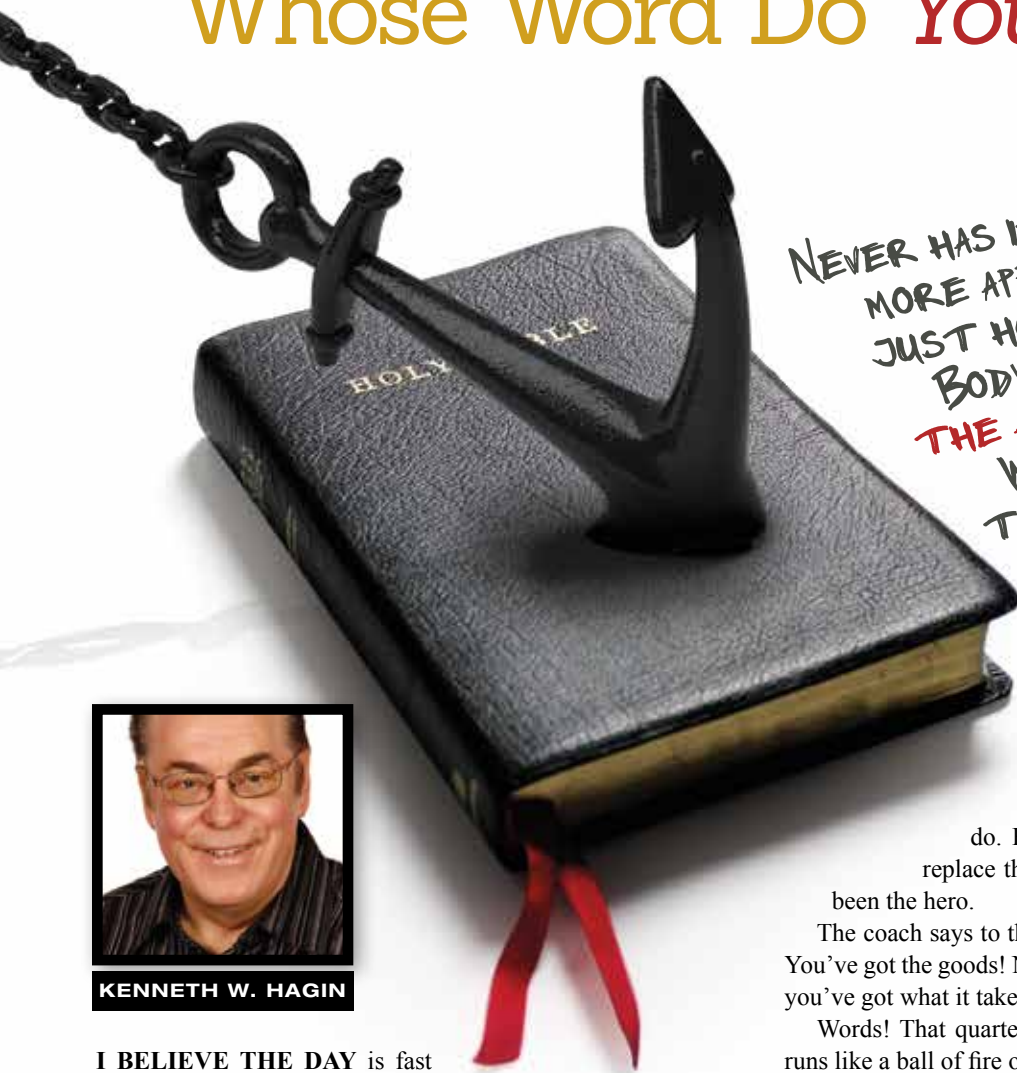
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# Whose Word Do *You* Trust?



NEVER HAS IT BEEN  
MORE APPARENT  
JUST HOW MUCH THE  
BODY OF CHRIST NEEDS  
**THE ANCHOR OF GODS WORD.**  
WE MUST LEARN  
TO TRUST IT WITH OUR  
WHOLE HEARTS.



**KENNETH W. HAGIN**

**I BELIEVE THE DAY** is fast approaching when God's Word will be our sole source, because everything that can be shaken upon the earth will soon be shaken. We need to come to a deeper understanding that God's Word will endure any amount of pressure we put on it.

We usually take people at their word. If our employer told us that we were getting a raise, we might immediately start planning how to spend the extra money!

We react like this in faith when we hear words we trust. Because we believe what we have heard, we act on what was said.

How much more should we believe the Word of the Holy One Who created the universe?

## Motivation From Coaches

How many young football players have heard their coach say, "You're going to start Friday night," and were thrilled by those words! They weren't even in the game yet, but those words created such an excitement that when game time came, they went wild on the field.

Picture this: In the middle of the game, the first-string quarterback gets hurt. The backup quarterback who's been sitting on the bench has been waiting for a chance to show what he can

do. But he's apprehensive because he has to replace the starting player—the guy who's always been the hero.

The coach says to the backup quarterback, "I believe in you! You've got the goods! Now go out there and show the people that you've got what it takes!"

Words! That quarterback grabs his helmet, straps it on, and runs like a ball of fire onto the field! He says to himself, "I know I can do it. Just give me that ball!"

Words of faith and confidence from a wise coach can energize a player and fill him with ability he didn't know he had! Yet some Christians have difficulty believing and acting on the Scriptures. The Word of God should create more excitement in us than a coach's words create in a football player.

We trust the words of others. How much more should we trust God's Word!

## Reasons Why

One reason Christians don't receive from God is that they don't take Him at His Word. Or they never really put any pressure on the Word. They try to do everything in their own strength. They have never learned how trustworthy the Word of God really is.

We see in Romans 4:21 (Amplified Classic) that Abraham was "fully satisfied and assured that God was able and mighty to keep His word and to do what He had promised." Hebrews 10:23 (NLT) tells us to "hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise."

Another reason many Christians do not receive from God is that they are not sure if He is willing to answer their prayers. They may believe He's *able*, but they're not convinced He's *willing*. Some aren't even sure the power of God is still in operation

today. It is a biblical principle that before you receive, you must believe God is willing *and* able to grant your petition. His Word declares that He is willing! Second Corinthians 1:20 (NKJV) says, “*All the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*”

### Acting On Our Beliefs

Even in our everyday lives, we must believe before we can receive. For example, most people today have bank accounts. We wouldn't try to make a purchase unless we believed there was money in our accounts.

Our actions are based on our *beliefs*. The same thing holds true in the supernatural realm. We believe God; therefore, we take Him at His Word.

Without exception, every time Jesus' words were believed and acted upon, the results were miraculous.

The disciples learned to believe and act on Jesus' words even in the face of contradictory circumstances. Notice this account in the Bible.

*Without exception, every time  
Jesus' words were believed and acted upon,  
the results were miraculous.*



#RhemaWOF

The disciples had fished all night and caught nothing. After they came ashore and were washing their nets, Jesus got in their boat and taught a large crowd that had been following Him. Afterward, He told the disciples, “*Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets*” (Luke 5:4). Peter protested, because it didn't seem reasonable for them to go back out onto the lake and start fishing again. Nevertheless, Peter recognized the authority in Jesus' words and acted on them, even though it seemed foolish to do so.

When the disciples obeyed Jesus' specific directions, they caught so many fish that their net began to break. And when they loaded the fish into their boats, they became so full that they started to sink (see Luke 5:4–9).

Jesus told the disciples exactly where to fish. When they followed His instructions, look at the results—God's miraculous abundance and provision! There is a biblical principle in this for us. As we obey the Word of God, we will experience abundant provision in our lives too.

If only God's people would put their trust in His infallible Word! What mighty exploits would be wrought on this earth to set people free—to get them saved, healed, and delivered to God's glory.

We need to get to the place in our walk with the Lord that when we see something in His Word or when that Word speaks to our hearts, we immediately respond, “*Lord, at Thy Word I will obey!*” Let's take our position with God's Word as our weapon and refuge, because His Word will never fail us!♥

#### FAITH IN ACTION

## Words Are Containers



What does a container do? It *holds* or *contains* something. Because the Word of God is holy and pure, it contains love, joy, peace, power, ability, and might. Whatever pertains to life and godliness is contained in God's Word. And that Word contains within itself the power to create whatever it says it will do.

Our words are containers too. But many people don't realize this. When they speak, they are pouring out the contents of their words all around them.

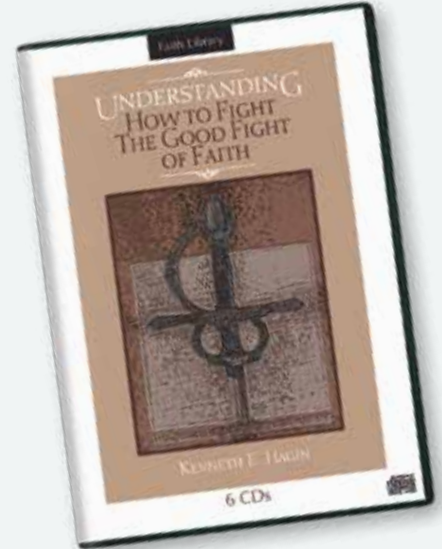
Our words can contain faith, happiness, joy, and peace—or unbelief, despair, hatred, and division. Words either pollute the listener or they build him up, add to him, and edify him.

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## Everything but Average

Lynette Hagin's 2015 *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference* was everything but average. Hundreds of ladies from around the world converged on the Rhema USA campus in September to spend three days investing in themselves and hearing from God. They enjoyed powerful messages, refreshing laughter, and encouraging new friendships.

During every service, the women sang sweet praises to the Lord, and He ministered mightily to their hearts. Each speaker shared a life-changing word. By the end of the conference, the women's inner fires had been stirred to reach their world for Christ.

### One Step at a Time // LYNETTE HAGIN

**HOW DO WE STAND STRONG** when circumstances come our way? How do we accomplish the plans God has for us with joy? We do it one step at a time.

Psalm 37:23–24 (NLT) says, "*The Lord directs the steps of the godly. He delights in every detail of their lives. Though they stumble, they will never fall, for the Lord holds them by the hand.*" Taking it one step at a time isn't always easy. If you're like me, you want God to give you the whole picture. But He is saying, "You must take baby steps."

Here are some steps He showed me that I believe will help you as well.

**STEP 1: STANDING ON PEACE** (Eph. 6:15). Circumstances will come, but we need to settle it in our hearts that we will have peace.

**STEP 2: CONSECRATING** (Rom. 12:1–2). We must renew our minds to the Word and follow His plan, not ours.

**STEP 3: TRUSTING** (Prov. 3:5–6; Heb. 11:1). Faith sometimes requires us to have unanswered questions. But we can trust that whatever God has planned for our lives, He's going to take care of it.

**STEP 4: PREPARING** (Joshua 1:8). Learn how to communicate with God. Get in His Word and pray. When we put Him first, He will help us.

**STEP 5: WAITING** (Ps. 27:14). None of us likes to wait. But when waiting seasons come, we need to look at them as searching times. We must make adjustments and get content with where He has us.

**STEP 6: TESTING.** Troubles will come our way—even when we're walking in God's perfect plan (James 1:2). But during the testing time, we can boldly shout in the devil's face, "I cannot be defeated, and I will not quit!"

**STEP 7: STRETCHING** (Joshua 1:9). We may not think we're qualified to accomplish what God asks us to do. But we can do all things through Christ Who gives us strength (Phil. 4:13).

When we climb these steps with God, we'll get a different perspective. Instead of looking down, we'll look up. And He will bring us through!



## Loving Yourself as God Loves You

// DENISE BURNS

**THE WORLD TELLS US** as women that we can have it all. We can have a thriving social life, an amazing career, a happy marriage, kids that are involved in every single activity, and a Pinterest-decorated home. But that's a lie. We can't. We can try to do all those things, but we'll sacrifice our happiness. **WE HAVE TO BE WHO GOD MADE US TO BE.** You have to just be you.

In order for us to be ourselves, we have to love ourselves. We have to love ourselves as God loves us. The key is seeing ourselves the way He sees us. It's thinking the thoughts that He thinks about us. Sometimes that can be hard to see when we look into the mirror. So we have to look into a different mirror—the Word of God.

God's Word tells us how important and valuable we are to Him. It says He knows the very hairs on our heads. In Matthew 6, He tells us not to worry about our everyday life. When we see ourselves as God sees us, we can love ourselves. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE IT ALL. YOU CAN JUST BE YOU.**

"The river that proceeds from the throne of God is called Life. We see in Revelation 22:17 that anyone who is thirsty can drink freely from the River of Life. **We are the ones who determine how much we drink.** If we just want to sip through a straw, that's what we'll get. The more we drink in, the more God's life will flow out of us. And that life will flush out all the toxins that are in us." // **PATSY CAMENETI**

"**Prayer is the central ingredient to everything we do in the Kingdom.** You want to get your children right? Pray first and ask God to give you direction. He'll tell you just what to do. You want to win that wayward husband? Pray. Don't fight with him. Talk to the Lord about him. Don't talk to your husband, because he's not going to hear you. Get in your prayer room and start praying. Then watch God turn it around." // **ERICKA MCCRUTCHEON**



### HEART TO HEART

Lynette Hagin, Denise Burns, and guest panelists discuss raising children as single mothers and mother-daughter relationships. The session ended with a "what not to wear" fashion show.



# 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)

**THE YEARS PASS** way too fast these days. You know that they are quickly going by when even children comment, "Is it December already?" When I was a child, it seemed that everything except summer lasted an eternity. Our lives have become so busy. You would think that with all of our advanced technology, our lives would be simplified. However, it appears that with so many of our daily tasks now automated, we don't let that make life easier. We simply try to cram more activities into our calendars.

As I reflected on what to write about this month, the word *joy* came to me. Over the past year I have encountered many people who are experiencing burnout. The Lord does not intend for us to either "rust out or burn out," as my father-in-law used to say.

My husband and I keep a rather busy schedule. I used to console myself by saying, "Next year things will slow down." However, it always seemed that the next year was busier than the year before. So I finally concluded that life for me was not going to slow down. I was going to have to accept the obvious: God had plans for me far beyond my ability or strength. So what did I do? I realized that I would have to rest in God's ability, not my own.

That year I looked frantically for a time when my husband and I could take a week off. I knew that we needed to follow Jesus' example. In Mark 6:31 (NLT) He said to His apostles, "Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile." He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and His apostles didn't even have time to eat.

Of course, we know that when they got to the quiet place, the people had followed them. And Jesus had compassion on them and ministered to them. However, I gleaned from this verse that Jesus Himself recognized the importance of taking time to rest. So I thumbed through my appointment calendar trying to find time for a vacation, and I realized that there was not a single week that year that we could take off. I had scheduled far too many things.

At first I wanted to panic and cry out in despair, "God, I can't make it through this year!" Obviously, God knew my thoughts and began to answer me before I had a chance to pour my heart out. What He said to me has echoed in my ears ever since. He said, "Lynette, My Word says, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor. 12:9 NKJV). Don't you just love it when God quotes His scriptures to you?

"I know that scripture," I replied. And then God spoke these profound words: "I only give you grace for today. You cannot draw upon tomorrow's grace. So if you will walk in the grace that I give you today and quit worrying about tomorrow, when tomorrow comes, there will be another day of grace."

I said, "OK, God. I receive that, and I will put it into practice." That year became the easiest one I had experienced in many years. Why? Though it was extremely busy, I walked in God's grace every day. And He supplied the strength, ability, and wisdom to navigate through every situation.

However, I learned another lesson that year. Since then, I have always placed our annual vacation time on our calendar before I schedule any other events. You see, God *does* want us to take time to rest. He wants us to relax our minds and take a break from our busy, scheduled life. He always wants us to live in joy. Nehemiah 8:10 (NKJV) says, "Do not sorrow, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

We need to draw continually upon the *joy* of the Lord. As you encounter the busy schedule that December always brings, I encourage you to draw upon the joy of the Lord. That joy will become your strength, and you will be able to navigate through your schedule with ease. Rather than dreading the season, you will actually enjoy it. And most of all, may we remember and celebrate the *reason* for the season: the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.♥



Lynette



# Kids' Page

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

## Name that Tune!

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

A.



B.



C.



D.

E.

1. ABCDEFGHIJK  
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

2. ABCDEFGHIJK  
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

**ANSWERS:**  
Name That Tune!  
A. O Holy Night (O Holy Knight)  
B. Silent Night (Silent Knight)  
C. Away in a Manger (A Manger)  
D. Angels We Have Heard on High (The First Noel (The First No. "L"))  
E. The First Noel (The First No. "L")  
**Word Scramble**  
1. Holy Spirit—Acts 2:38 says that we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
2. Righteousness—Romans 5:17 tells us that by the gift of righteousness we will reign in life through Jesus Christ.  
3. Eternal Life—Romans 6:23 says that the free gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.  
The Missing Piece • Answer: C

## The Best Christmas Gift of All!

Kids all around the world love Christmastime. They love to sing Christmas songs, watch Christmas plays, and eat Christmas goodies. They love the Christmas tree with its decorations and lights. Let's see . . . wasn't there something else? Oh yes! The presents! Christmas is a time when people exchange gifts with those they love. Of course, the first Christmas gift was given 2000 years ago when God gave the world His One and Only Son. If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you



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

## WORD SCRAMBLE

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

- lohy ripits
- sertinghouses
- neretal file



## The Missing Piece

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

## jokes & riddles



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

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

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

The letter "D".

What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations?

You get tinsel-itis.

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

Frostbite

What is Tarzan's favorite Christmas song?

Jungle Bells

What is never hungry at Christmas Dinner?

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

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

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

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

Harold (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)



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