

BUILDING CHAMPIONS PAGE 16



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Fix Your Gaze

With the Promised Land before them, the children of Israel didn't have time to be indecisive followers of God, believing God one minute and complaining the next. Their fathers before them did that and died in the wilderness. The first generation of Israelites were not victims of the circumstances that opposed them; they were victims of their own unbelief.

Years later under the leadership of Joshua, the same opportunity for possessing the Promised Land awaited a new generation. God commanded them to believe His Word and obey it. Obe-

dience to God's Word would ensure their victory. As the second generation of Israelites trusted and obeyed God, they obtained their long-awaited inheritance.

We have an inheritance that was purchased by Jesus' blood on the cross. Whether we need healing, financial prosperity, or deliverance, obedience to God's Word is the key to possessing our inheritance.

I encourage you not to follow the example of the first-generation Israelites, who did not enter the Promised Land because of unbelief (Heb. 4:6, 11). Instead, follow the example of Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith, *"who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross . . . and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God"* (Heb. 12:2). Fix your gaze on the joy set before you—the promise of your inheritance in Christ.

Don't give up on your miracle! By looking to Jesus, you can march toward your promised land and overcome circumstances that try to oppose or distract you from your goal. If you will believe and hold fast to God's promises, you will receive your miracle.

I trust that this issue will strengthen your faith so you obtain all of God's promises. My dad's article on page four explains how you can whip the devil in every battle. And my article on page 14 will help you get up and move forward after experiencing a setback. You don't want to miss a single page of this issue!

Kennet 2. Hagai





Breaking the Power of the Devil KENNETH E. HAGIN

Discover the authority that belongs to every believer in Christ, and learn how to enforce Satan's defeat every time he tries to attack.

Conquering Fear CRAIG W. HAGIN

Fear is one of the biggest hindrances to our receiving from God. Find out how to overcome fear and receive everything God has for you.

14^F

Four Steps to a Fresh Start

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Breaking the Power of the Devil



THE WORD OF GOD teaches us that evil spirits are fallen angels that have been dethroned by Jesus Christ. Our contact with demons should be with the knowledge that Jesus defeated them (Col. 2:15). Therefore, we can reign over them.

God made the earth and everything in it. He then gave Adam dominion over all the works of His hands. In other words, Adam was the god of this world until he committed high treason against God and sold out to Satan. Adam didn't have the moral right to commit treason, but he had the legal right to do so.

Satan became the god of this world after Adam sinned. The devil has a right to be on the earth and be the god of this world until "Adam's lease" runs out. He has the right to rule over people until they became new creatures in Christ and become part of the Body of Christ.

Colossians 1:12–13 says, "Giving thanks unto the Father... Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." This is why Satan doesn't have the right to rule or dominate Christians. Yet the average believer has more faith in Satan's authority and power than in God's! All that Jesus did, He did for you and me. The trouble is that believers relegate everything to the future!

Many church people believe we will exercise our spiritual authority sometime in the Millennium. If that is so, why does the Bible say that Satan will be bound during the Millennium? There won't be any need to exercise authority then. There won't be anything on the earth that will hurt or destroy.

Authority Now

It's now—when there is something that will hurt and destroy that we have authority. But many Christians think we can't have much of anything now. They think Satan's running everything down here. We must remember that although we are *in* the world, we are not *of* the world. Satan is running a lot of what is on earth, but he's not running the Church. He's not dominating us. We can dominate him. We have authority over him!

Jesus said, "Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing [nothing, nothing] shall by any means hurt you" (Luke 10:19).

We need to build these truths in our lives by meditating on them until they become a part of our consciousness. All the authority that can be exercised on the earth has to be exercised through the Church. All too often, we have prayed, "Lord, You do this and that." Many believers want to leave everything up to Jesus. But He has conferred His authority on the earth to His Body, the Church.

THE *devil won't argue* WITH YOU ABOUT THE *Name of Jesus he's afraid of that Name*.

#RhemaWOF

As a result, many problems exist because we permit them to. We're the ones who are supposed to do something about them. But we try to get someone else, including God, to do something about them.

This became real to me years ago when I began to understand the authority we have. While praying for my older brother's salvation, in my spirit I heard the Lord challenge me. He said, "You do something about it!"

I had been praying for Dub's salvation for years. In spite of my prayers, he seemed to get worse instead of better. After the Lord showed me that I had authority, I said, "In the Name of Jesus, I break the power of the devil over my brother's life, and I claim his salvation!"

I gave the order. I didn't keep saying it or praying it. When a king gives an order, he knows it's going to be carried out. The devil tried to tell me my brother would never be saved. I said, "I don't think he'll be saved—I know it! I took the Name of Jesus and broke your power over him and claimed his deliverance and salvation." I went on my way and within ten days, my brother was saved!

How to Deal With the Devil

As long as Satan can keep you in unbelief or hold you in the arena of reason, he'll whip you in every battle. But if you'll hold him in the arena of faith and the Spirit, you'll whip him every time. The devil won't argue with you about the Name of Jesus—he's afraid of that Name.

Once you use your authority and speak in faith, you don't have to command devils to come out all day long. If you know your authority, they will obey you. They have to go once the command is given in faith.

Faith's Role in Authority

Faith is involved when exercising spiritual authority. There are times when evil spirits come out immediately. But if they don't, you don't need to get disturbed about it.

Some people's faith is based on a manifestation, not the Bible. They operate outside faith in the sense realm. If they get certain manifestations, they think the devil's gone. But he isn't gone just because you get a manifestation. He's still there, and you need to know that and exercise your authority.

When circumstances don't change immediately, some people become discouraged. They start talking unbelief and defeat themselves. They give the devil dominion over them. Don't be moved by what you see and feel. Stand your ground.

Enforce Satan's Defeat

In our battle against the enemy and his forces, know that Jesus has conquered them. We're above them and have authority over them. Our job is to enforce Christ's victory. His victory belongs to us, but we are to carry it out.

God made Christ to be the Head over all things to the Church. It is for our sake that He's the Head. This is so that we

would exercise our authority over all things through Him. When we understand what belongs to us, we will enjoy the victory Christ has for us. Satan will fight to keep us from getting there, but through stubborn faith in Christ, the victory can be ours. \checkmark

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from *The Believer's Authority: Legacy Edition* by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

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Don't Be a Jerk

DENISE HAGIN BURNS

THERE IS A LOT of negativity in our world today. People are angry, impatient, and rude. Say one wrong thing and they fly off the handle. Research shows that there's a new phenomenon called "internet anger." They've found that ANGER IS THE MOST VIRAL EMOTION ON SOCIAL MEDIA. If you want to get people riled up, put an angry post on social media and that anger will spread like a fire.

Sadly, many Christians have fallen into the anger trap. They are putting up mean posts and having full-blown arguments on social media and elsewhere. What happened to love?

1 JOHN 4:7-8 (AMP)

7 Beloved, let us [unselfishly] love and seek the best for one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves [others] is born of God and knows God [through personal experience].

8 The one who does not love has not become acquainted with God [does not and never did know Him], for God is love. [He is the originator of love, and it is an enduring attribute of His nature.]

God *is* love. He originated it and can't be anything but love. It's who He is. **AS CHILDREN OF GOD, WE'VE INHERITED OUR HEAVENLY FATHER'S LOVE NATURE.** Romans 5:5 (AMP) says, "Such hope [in God's promises] never disappoints us, because God's love has been abundantly poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us."

Love Is a Choice

The Holy Spirit lives in us, and God's love has been *abundantly* poured into our hearts. **GOD ALWAYS RESPONDS IN LOVE, AND IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT WE RESPOND IN LOVE TOO.** Our nature is love. We don't have to conjure it up or ask God for it. The moment we are born again, love was placed inside of us. Therefore, we don't have an excuse for not walking in love.

Some may say, "I'm just short tempered. I grew up in an angry family. It's who I am." Love is a choice, and you decide how you respond in any situation. You are who God says you are. God says you are patient and kind and full of His love.

Imitators of God

Scripture tells us to imitate our Heavenly Father. Ephesians 5:1–2 (AMP) says, "Therefore become imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]; and walk continually in love."

Love is empathetic, compassionate, and unselfish. It values people and doesn't criticize and belittle them. WE NEED TO THINK ABOUT HOW WHAT WE SAY OR DO AFFECTS OTHERS.

From reading the Word, it's clear that if we want to have a

GOD ALWAYS RESPONDS IN LOVE, AND IT SHOULD BE SAID THAT WE RESPOND IN LOVE TOO.

prosperous life, we need to imitate God. If we're not having the kind of results that we want in life, we need to check our love walk. If we're lonely, have emotional baggage, experience many bad relationships, and nothing ever seems to work out our way, it's time to check our love walk. Maybe the real issue is that we want our way all the time instead of preferring others.

It's Not About Us

Love goes beyond what's only good for our lives. It's not *just* about us. It's about others. It's about how our lives affect people. Did you ever think that walking in love could open the door to share the Gospel? It can help someone miss hell and make Heaven. It's amazing what a kind word will do.

Here's my challenge to you. Don't be a jerk. **MAKE IT YOUR MIS-SION TO WALK IN LOVE.** Not because of what it will do for you. Do it because it pleases your Heavenly Father. Do it for the people in your life that are lost and dying. Shoving Jesus down their throats is not the answer. But loving them will open a door.

Challenge yourself every day to live Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT): "Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you."



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LYNETTE HAGIN

THERE IS AN epidemic of people being unhappy with themselves! We concentrate on loving God and others, but what about ourselves? Jesus was once asked which of the Law's commandments was the most important. He replied:

MATTHEW 22:37-39 (NLT)

37 " 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

38 This is the first and greatest commandment.

39 A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' "

In the *Wuest* translation, verse 39 says, "You shall love your neighbor in the same manner as you do yourself." This is where it all begins. TO LOVE OTHERS, WE HAVE TO LOVE OURSELVES.

Everyone deals with self-esteem. What we feel about ourselves is how we view ourselves. If it's not a healthy view, the consequences can include anxiety, stress, loneliness, depression, and relationship problems.

Sometimes a thin person perceives him or herself as overweight. What we think about ourselves is often not how we really are! Our opinions are often based on things that have happened in our childhood with parents, peers, and those we look up to.

I was teased on the playground as a child. I couldn't catch a baseball, and I struck out when I went up to bat. My classmates laughed at me, so I wouldn't get involved in sports. Years later when Kenneth and I took up golf, it took a long time to get over the "failure" I felt as a child.

Because of the unrealistic and perfectionistic standards we place on ourselves, it's easy to go through life thinking that we don't measure up. BY WHOSE STANDARDS ARE WE JUDGING OURSELVES? We need to see ourselves the way God does!

PSALM 139:13-17 (NLT)

13 You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb.

14 Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous how well I know it.

15 You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.

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God wants you free from insecurity. He wants you whole. How?

1) Be honest with yourself and God about past hurts. Pour out your heart to Him. Let Him heal your scars so you can love yourself exactly as you are.

2) Self-talk reinforces how you view yourself. Say this out loud: **"I am marvelously made!"** God said you were (Psa. 139:14). If you don't believe it, keep saying it every day until you do.

16 You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

17 How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered!

Verse 14 in *The Message* says, "Body and soul, I am marvelously made!" Loving yourself means that YOU LOVE WHO YOU ARE—JUST AS YOU ARE. God made you. Be proud of who you are! Don't be ashamed of God's creation.

My grandson, Wesley, had cowlicks from the time he was born. Years ago, Denise was getting him ready for school. His hair was sticking out all over the place and Denise was trying to comb it. Wesley said, "Mommy, I don't want those cowlicks combed down. That's who I am!"

If you have straight or curly hair, enjoy it! If you're short or tall, be proud and hold back your shoulders. If you have an outgoing personality, don't squash it. Don't try to be someone else. Be the person God made. That's who you are!♥

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"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." —Mark 11:24



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CONQUERING



PEOPLE OFTEN BECOME fearful when diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Time and time again, I have seen fear grip people's hearts when doctors tell them that there is nothing more medical science can do for them.

CRAIG W. HAGIN

I understand what it is like to receive bad news from a doctor. When I was 13 years old, I was having se-

vere headaches. I found out that I had a brain tumor. It was about the size of my fist and was located at the base of my skull.

When the doctor talked to my parents and me, he told us he had to operate immediately. As he explained the surgery to us, he said he was concerned about how close the tumor was to my brain stem. If he touched my brain stem during surgery, I would die. The good news, however, was that the survival rate from this type of surgery was 80 percent.

As a 13-year-old, I didn't immediately focus on the 80 percent chance that everything was going to be OK. Thoughts of fear began bombarding my mind, and I focused on the 20 percent chance that I might die.

But I thank God that I was taught well. I took authority over the fear and cast it from my mind. I made myself think on the Word of God and the 80 percent chance of going through the surgery without complications. The operation was textbook perfect. The surgeon removed most of the tumor, and God removed the rest. I was completely healed.

The Enemy of Faith

Fear is an enemy of faith. It will stop the power of God from working in our lives. Faith is having an unquestioning belief in God. Fear, on the other hand, makes us question and ask things such as, "Will I make it?" Faith doesn't question. It has complete confidence and trust in God.

Second Timothy 1:7 says, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Fear is not from God; it's from the devil. And fear is one of the biggest hindrances to people receiving their healing. They may start out in faith, but when fear grabs hold of their hearts, their faith begins to sputter.

The devil often tries to put thoughts in our minds when we're alone. It's easy to become fearful when nobody is around to pray with us or encourage us. James the brother of Jesus told us that when we resist the devil, he will flee from us (James 4:7). One

FEAR IS ONE OF THE **biggest hindrances** to PEOPLE RECEIVING THEIR HEALING. way to resist him is by not allowing ourselves to think about things that are contrary to the Word of God. Or as Second Corinthians 10:5 says, "casting down" these types of thoughts.

When fear tries to come on us, we simply have to say, "Satan, you have no right or authority to put a spirit of fear on me. I command fear to leave now, in the Name of Jesus."

Praising God at Midnight

We then need to follow the example Paul and Silas gave us when they were thrown in jail. Scripture says that at midnight they began to pray and sing praises to God (Acts 16:25).

Although Paul and Silas were praising God at the midnight hour, "midnight" can happen at any time of the day. For example, we can learn of bad news in the middle of the day. Suddenly, things can seem to close in on us and it feels like midnight.

And like Paul and Silas, we need to sing praises to God during our midnight hour. You see, it's hard for us to feel bad when we are worshipping and praising God. That's because we're reminding ourselves of how good God is. We're remembering that God will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5) and that He is always there for us.

When Paul and Silas began to praise God, a great earthquake opened the prison doors and loosed the shackles that bound the prisoners (Acts 16:26).

Anytime we receive bad news from a doctor, let's remember that the Greater One dwells on the inside of us (1 John 4:4). No matter what the doctor says, the peace of God that passes all understanding can keep our hearts and minds (Phil. 4:7). Things that may be impossible with men are possible with God (Luke 18:27). We don't have to fear because God is on our side, and He will surely see us through.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was previously published in the *Word of Faith* magazine September 2010.]

FAITH NUGGET

Peace in the Midst of a Storm

The Book of Matthew records a time when Jesus and His disciples were in a ship when a violent storm arose. Although the disciples had already seen Jesus raise the dead, heal the sick, and cast out demons, they became fearful. They thought they were going to die. Jesus was sound asleep when the disciples woke Him saying, *"Lord, save us: we perish"* (Matt. 8:25).

When Jesus awoke, the disciples' alarming words didn't frighten Him. Instead, He rebuked His disciples for being afraid, and then He rebuked the storm: *"Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm"* (Matt. 8:26).

Today, Jesus lives inside us (Rom. 8:11). No matter where we go, He is with us. When the storms of life surround us, we can rebuke them in the Name of Jesus and expect a great calm to settle upon us.

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Overcoming the Pressures of Life

DAVID SHEARIN

JESUS SAID that in the world you would face pressure. This is because Satan is the god of this world, and he is always out to pressure, test, and tempt you. It might be health pressure, financial pressure, ministry pressure, or family pressure. What you do when the pressure is on makes all the difference in your outcome.

Count It All Joy

In times of testing, there's always an answer. There's always a word from God to help you. For instance, James 1:2 (NKJV) says, "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials."

COUNTING IT ALL JOY DURING TIMES OF PRESSURE SHOWS THAT YOU BELIEVE GOD'S WORD IS TRUE. It demonstrates that you believe God is for you, in you, and with you. It affirms that you know with full assurance that He will never leave nor forsake you. God is with you in the test and with you when it's over.

Temptations and tests come to all of us. But God is faithful to always provide a way out. First Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

The Holy Spirit will help you identify the promise of God that is appropriate for your situation so you have something to stand on during adversity. Applying that promise to the problem makes it give way, or move. Pressure from God's Word *always* supersedes pressure from a problem.

Get a Grip on Your Lip

The connection between your heart and mouth is key. **DURING TIMES OF PRESSURE, WHAT COMES**

OUT OF YOUR MOUTH IS A DETERMIN-ING FACTOR OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN

YOUR FUTURE. Jesus said you're going to have—mentally, emotionally, physically, financially, and relationally—what you say.

Speaking the Word of God that pertains to your situation is like throwing spiritual dynamite on it. The Word contains the power of God. It creates an explosion in your soul and gives you the ability to cast down imaginations, blow up, and root out every thought the enemy tries to build in your mind.

If you don't learn to get a grip on your lip and speak the Word instead of the situation, the enemy will get a grip on you! We have an example of how to do this by looking at how Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness.

MATTHEW 4:3-4 (NKJV)

3 Now when the tempter came to [Jesus], he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."

4 But [Jesus] answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'"

Jesus responded to and overcame the pressure of the test with the Word. God's Word in your heart and coming out of your mouth releases power to overcome the devil's attacks.

Don't Waver

After counting it all joy and speaking the Word, don't waver.

JAMES 1:6-7

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. **7** For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord."

God will get you to the other side of the test if you'll maintain a spirit of faith and refuse to waver. You *will* see the end to your faith. When you maintain your focus of faith and look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith, you will see yourself healed when you don't feel healed.

Satan turns up the heat because he wants you to give up. However, **THOUGH HELL WOULD COME AGAINST YOU, HEAVEN IS ON YOUR SIDE!** God will turn your darkness into light. He will turn things around for you and what He started He will finish.

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from David Shearin's *Campmeeting 2017* message.]



Campmeeting SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT



"Though hell would come against you, Heaven is on your side!"

FOUR STEPS TO A FRESH START



KENNETH W. HAGIN

chances!

Have you heard the story of "Wrong Way" Roy Riegels? On New Year's Day in 1929, Georgia Tech was playing the University of California in the Rose Bowl. Riegels recovered a fumble and started running *in the wrong direction*! He ran 65 yards before one of his teammates was able to overtake him—just before he scored for the other team.

LET'S FACE IT. No one is perfect.

When you make a mistake, the enemy often tries to tell you that it's

over! He wants you to throw in the towel. We *all* mess up. But it's not

the end. God said that if you ask

for forgiveness, it's yours, and you

can go on. Our Heavenly Father is

the God of second chances-and

third, and fourth, and fifth, and sixth

When the team went to their locker room during halftime, Riegels was devastated. He sat in a corner and cried like a baby. When it was time to go back on the field, the coach announced that the same men who played the first half would start the second. They all got up and headed out to the field—everyone except Roy Riegels.

Your relationship with God is the secret of your success.

The young player didn't want to play the second half. He was embarrassed and humiliated. He felt like he let everyone down the team, the coach, the fans, and himself.

The coach said to him, "Roy, get up, and go back. The game is only half over." $\ensuremath{^{11}}$

Roy Riegels went back in the game. He couldn't change what had happened in the first half, but he left his mistake behind him and amazed the crowd during the remainder of the game.

Always Press Forward

You have to remember that God can turn anything around. So never let your past define your future! Nothing you have done in the past will affect your tomorrow unless you let it. It's not what you've done—it's what you're *going to do* that is important.

Thank God for everything He brought you through. But Paul said, *"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on"* (Phil. 3:13–14 NIV). The lows and highs of the past are history. They won't do you any good tomorrow. Forget all of it—the good, the bad, the ugly—everything. Let it go.

The Importance of the Word

To lead a clean, courageous, strong life, it's important to **know what the Bible** says. Jesus Christ set the example for us to overcome temptation. When He was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, He countered each temptation by quoting scripture: "It is written." To get through the hardships and dangers of life, we need to know the Word and speak it.

Get a Bible, and **build your life on its principles**. Don't just read it every so often or glance at a quick passage in the morning as you run out the door. Take time to sit down and read the Word for meditation and study purposes. This is your own personal time, not a time to find things for others. The Holy Spirit will minister scriptures to *you* and *your* heart that reflect what *you* need.

Challenge yourself to **read through the Bible** every year. You might consider purchasing a one-year Bible that is already divided into daily readings. You will be surprised at how much you will get out of it! Every morning God will give you something that will minister to you. As you read, thoughts will jump out at you. The Holy Spirit is trying to help you with that day. Grab hold of it! You will need it before the day is over.

You can't change it. If you live in the past, it will hinder you from pressing on.

If you've messed up, get back up! No matter how young or old you are, Jesus has His arm out to you saying, "Come GET STRONGER Feed yourself the Word daily! rhema.org/faithfood

on! Let's go! Get back in the game. Play like you've never played before. There's a great future ahead!"

Four Simple Steps

Are you ready to experience the start of a new chapter in your life? These four steps will help you let go of the past, get up after your mistakes, and find success as you press on.



KEEP GOD FIRST. The basic formula for a fresh start is to put God first 365 days a year, not just when you go to church or are around other Christians. Keep Him number one every day in your home, in your business,

and in every step of the way. Your relationship with God is the secret of your success.



FORGET THE PAST. You can't have a fresh start by dwelling on the past! Everybody wants to be successful. Everybody makes mistakes. You can be a success or a failure. It's up to you. It doesn't depend on what you did

yesterday, last year, or the last five years. It depends on what you're going to do tomorrow.



DON'T TRY TO FIGURE OUT THE FUTURE. Just live for God day by day and do what He asks you to do. When you follow His guidance, you'll get to the end of where He is leading you, and you'll discover that you

were able to do a lot more than you thought you could!



SPECIAL OFFER

PUT GOD'S WORD FIRST. In every situation, find out what God says about it. Then go with what God says, not what somebody else says. You can't neglect the Bible and expect to find true prosperity and happi-

ness. The Bible must have a tremendous place in your life every day if you're going to be a success.

Tomorrow is yours. What you do with each new day is up to you. Whether it's a new year or a new life, you can point at yourself and say, "The future will be exactly what I make it." Ψ

¹ Lowitt, Bruce (1999-09-26). <u>"Wrong Way' Riegels takes off into history."</u> <u>St. Petersburg Times.</u> Retrieved 2017-11-07.

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Men's Conference

LAST MAN STANDING: BUILDING CHAMPIONS

Kenneth W. Hagin opened A Call to Arms Men's Conference with a strong exhortation for men to see themselves as champions. It was a powerful time of bonding, brotherhood, and breakthrough. For three days in November, men listened to messages on their identity in Christ, the power of praise and humility, and enduring to the end. The weak left strong, the sick left healed, and men were transformed from the inside out. They were equipped and empowered to be everything God called them to be in today's world. Mark your calendars for *A Call to Arms 2018*, November 1–3.



16 THE WORD OF FAITH // February/March '18



CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE KENNETH W. HAGIN

The devil tries to challenge us on our identity as men and who we are in Christ. If he is successful in doing this, Satan has inroads into our lives. We must be willing to fight for our identity and for what belongs to us. Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV) says, *"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*

If we're going to win against the devil, we have to be fighters. Some men may not be a natural fighter. But God will help them. Everybody likes a great victory, but there is never a great victory without a great battle. Jesus faced a tremendous battle when He went to the cross and redeemed mankind from the enemy. He triumphed over all the power of the enemy. Jesus was the last man standing, and His victory is our victory.

We have to realize who we are and fight to be the men God designed us to be. He created us to be absolutely amazing individuals. We are reflections of Him on the earth. We are God's masterpieces. We are men of God. We are in Christ. We are more than conquerors through Jesus.



ENDURE CRAIG W. HAGIN

Paul and Silas were arrested and beaten for preaching the Gospel. Their backs were bleeding, and they were thrown in the innermost prison and chained to the wall. At that point, these two New Testament saints were faced with a choice—either quit or preserve. They chose to endure and began singing praises to God. As a result, their chains were broken and God delivered them.

Whenever we're in a battle, we need to follow Paul and Silas' example and lift up our voices in praise to God. As we do, chains will be broken, doors will open, and a way of escape will be made. God will shine a light on our paths and deliver us. But we have to endure. If we don't endure, we can't win.

ANSWERING ALL THEIR QUESTIONS

Kenneth W. Hagin was both moderator and panelist at the first *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* panel discussion. The panel also featured Craig W. Hagin, David Crammer, Marcus Martinez, and Steve Yoder. During the 90 minutes of Q & A, the panelists imparted words of wisdom and good advice to the conference participants. The men talked honestly and directly about loving your wife, purity, managing finances, and balancing family, marriage, and ministry. Other topics included spiritual leadership in the home, overcoming addiction, good communication with your spouse, and dating.



"It doesn't matter what place you're in, God has a plan for you. There's nothing you have done that has gone so far that God can't reach you. There is hope. Don't let the enemy lie to you. Set your eyes like flint to finish the race God called you to. He is building champions, and champions

get back up. Embrace your identity in Christ. Take off the mask and be who God called you to be." // MARCUS MARTINEZ

"We need to humble ourselves to be able to honor. Walking in honor has a lot to do with our attitude and posture in the way we handle relationships. It's impossible to walk in love without honor and respect! We humble *ourselves*, not other people. Satan will tempt us with pride. But by humbling



ourselves, God will keep us on top!" // STEVE YODER



"I don't care what the devil has stolen from you or how bad it was. Today is a new day. You're in charge of your destiny . . . but it's up to you. Don't wait for someone to be your cheerleader to worship God. *You* worship God and watch the difference He will make in your life. To be the last man

standing, you have to have the presence of God." // DAVID CRAMMER

"With so much going on in my life, *Call to Arms* has been a refreshing that I needed." —Dusty

"I'm taking this home and being the man in the home that I'm supposed to be. I'm encouraged and excited as a husband and father for what's coming in my household for my wife and daughters." —John

"Being at *Call to Arms* as an usher has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Learning leadership while serving and being able to see men touched by the revelation that God imparted has transformed my life." —Danny



"THIS MEETING HAS DEFINITELY HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON MY LIFE TO THE POINT OF SEEING MY-Self the way that god sees me and acting as such. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have been a part of it." —Daniel



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|||DEATH KNOCKS

IN 1990, Kenneth Moore received the heartbreaking news that his father had died. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) had cut short his dad's life.

As Kenneth and his wife, Brenda, were leaving the church after the home going service, a thought passed through his mind, "You're going to go the same way."

Kenneth sloughed off the thought. After all, he graduated from Rhema Bible Training College in 1989 and was full of faith. In 2004, he even began teaching at Rhema's Prayer and Healing Center in the morning Healing School. Kenneth was passionate about imparting God's healing truths to others. And he saw God move in miraculous ways in their lives. So he wasn't moved when that thought tried to find lodging in his mind.

A year or two later, Kenneth's brother died of COPD. Then a couple years after his brother died, a second brother also died of lung failure. Once again, those same words rang loud and clear in Kenneth's ears, "You're going to go the same way." It seemed as though the writing was on the wall.

A Shaken Faith

In 2005, Kenneth began having breathing problems. He made an appointment to see his physician, and the report wasn't good.

> KENNETH TEACHING IN HEALING SCHOOL

"You have asthma," shared the doctor. "It also looks like you have a little bit of COPD coming in." The doctor's diagnosis rocked him. There is no cure for COPD, and it seemed as though the voice of death was knocking at his door.

The doctor sent Kenneth home with a sack of medications and inhalers. He faithfully took the medications and regularly used the inhaler. But it wasn't long before he could no longer lie in bed and sleep. He slept upright in a recliner for two years. At times, when he got up in the middle of the night, he passed out from lack of oxygen.

Ministering to the Sick

Kenneth continued ministering to the sick at Rhema Healing School in the mornings. There came a day, however, when he felt like he had to stop.

"I'm going to quit," he told Brenda.

"Why?"

"How can I stand before these people and tell them that by the stripes of Jesus Christ they are healed when I have to go in the back room and take a puff on my inhaler before I minister? I feel like a hypocrite."

"You're not going to quit."

He sat in his recliner and decided to stay there until he was healed!

SPECIAL REPORT

KENNETH PREACHES THE GOSPEL IN KENYA.

"HAD I NOT BEEN HERE," HE SAYS, "I WOULD PROBABLY be dead by now."

KENNETH & BRENDA MOORE

The spite of how he felt, Kenneth relented and stayed true to his commitment. He continued ministering to the sick, even though he, too, was sick.

The Great Physician

Finally, Kenneth had enough. He drew a line in the sand, so to speak. He was determined to get the victory over his breathing issues.

He sat in his recliner and decided to stay there until he was healed! He began meditating on Galatians 3:13—that he was redeemed from the curse of the law. He also listened to Kenneth E. Hagin's healing scriptures, as well as other tapes on healing.

At the end of the three days, he got out of the recliner healed! And 11 years later, 74-year-old Kenneth is still healed. His lungs are strong, and he can still inhale deep breaths of fresh air!

The disease has tried to come back on Kenneth many times, but he has firmly stood his ground and refused to let it get a foothold in his life. Both Brenda and he credit what they learned at Rhema for saving Kenneth's life. "Had I not been here," he says, "I would probably be dead by now. This ministry has impacted my life!"

Come and Be Healed

RHEMA HEALING SCHOOL

For 38 years, Rhema's Healing School has been teaching people how to receive and keep their healing. We've seen lumps and tumors dissolve, cancers disappear, and hearts return to normal. We've seen those given just a few weeks to live walk out healed and whole. But don't take our word for it.

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"Come and stay until you **get healed** and have your faith built up enough to **stay healed**." —KENNETH E. HAGIN

"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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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)

NAVIGATING CRISIS

DOES IT SEEM that your life is filled with crises? You handle one crisis, and just when you think you can catch your breath, another one crops up. I can totally identify! It seems that if I am not handling personal or ministry situations, I am supporting others that are fighting crises of their own.

What is the proper response to a crisis? As I was pondering this thought, several scriptures came to mind. Psalm 120:1 (NIV) says, *"I call on the Lord in my distress, and he answers me."* David was always experiencing crises in his life. As a shepherd, when he was protecting his sheep, he relied on God to give him the courage necessary to kill predators. I'm reminded also of when David fearlessly took on the task of confronting the Philistine.

It says in First Samuel 17:32–37 (NIV), "David said to Saul, 'Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.' Saul replied, 'You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a fighting warrior from his youth.' But David said to Saul, 'Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.'"

David always knew where to turn to for help in a crisis—his God. David was chosen by God to succeed Saul as King. Saul initially was impressed by David's skills after he killed Goliath. However, Saul became jealous of David and wanted to kill him. David was forced to live on the run, not knowing if Saul would succeed in his effort.

During this time, David began asking God tough questions. He was frustrated and wondered why his life had so much difficulty. He poured out his heart to God, honestly sharing his thoughts, struggles, and fears. But in the midst of his questioning, David always returned to his faith in God to deliver him out of every situation.

We see this so vividly in Psalm 121:1–8 (MSG) "I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains. He won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep. Not on your life! Israel's Guardian will never doze or sleep. God's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you—shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke. God guards you from every evil, he guards your very life. He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always."

Maybe you have been questioning God recently. Your thoughts may have been, "God I'm endeavoring to follow your plan for my life. Why do I have to fight so many battles?" Peter warned us in First Peter 5:8–9 (NLT) "Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are."

Know that the enemy will try to discourage you, cause you to lose your faith, and even destroy you. I encourage you to do as Peter admonishes us and "*stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith.*"

Often the enemy attacks when we are least expecting it. That is why we must continually stay on guard and keep our armor on as Paul tells us in Ephesians 6:10–18. I encourage you to read this passage of scripture on a daily basis. Look to the Lord, and He will give you the strength and wisdom to navigate through every crisis you encounter.♥

ypette

BIBLE VERSE SEARCH

One of the shortest verses in the Bible talks about remembering something from God's Word. See if you can find where the verse is located by following the clues below.

Open up your Bible, but it's not up in the front; To find this scripture verse, you'll really have to hunt. If you really want to find the verse, then here's a little clue: You won't find it in the OLD, so look within the NEW. There are 27 books that the NEW Testament contains; To find this little verse, you will have to use your brains. We'll narrow down the list, so adjust your attitude; Paul was not the writer, neither Peter, James, nor Jude. The writer's name is short—only four letters in all, But remember, we have told you that the writer isn't Paul. There are three writers left once you consider all these facts, But the one that we are looking for wrote the Book of Acts. If the last clue didn't help you, you can still find the way; The book does not begin with the letter M or J. By now you've found the right book; here's your final clue: Just turn to chapter 17, the verse is 32.

YOU'VE GOT IT!

If you are a Christian, then you have something very important that will help you remember God's Word. Fill the blanks in below with the letter that matches the symbol beneath the blank to discover the answer.



ANSWERS:

Don't Forget! 🦿

Do you think you'll ever forget what 2+2 equals? No! Because you **studied** it over and over again until you knew the answer without even counting on your fingers. The Bible says you should "**study** to show yourself approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15). When we study God's word and get it



ord and get it "in" us, then we remember it just as easily as we remember that

2+2 equals 4. But when we don't study God's Word, something happens. . . . We FORGET. James 1:25 tells us not to be FORGETFUL hearers of God's Word. Psalm 103:2 encourages us to FORGET NOT all of God's benefits. So, how do we overcome this problem we have of forgetting God's Word. Proverbs 4:20–21 gives us three keys for remembering God's Word: "My child, **①** pay attention to my words. **②** Listen closely to what I say. Don't ever forget my words. **③** Keep them deep within your heart." Study God's Word . . . pay attention to it . . . listen closely to it . . . and keep it deep within your heart!

Can you name all nine toys in the picture without looking?

What color was the dump truck? Can you remember all of

the letters that are shown in the picture above? Uncover

the picture and see if you are right!

STUDY CAREFULLY!

 STUDY the picture below carefully for 30 seconds. Then cover it with a piece of paper and answer the questions below the picture.

jokes & riddles

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



Q: What did the pig say when the butcher grabbed him by the tail?

A: That's the end of me....

I don't have lungs or a chest but I need air; I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have a mouth and I'm allergic to water. What am I? Fire

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floor?

It was just a stage he was going through.

What did the leopard say after eating his owner?

Man, that hit the "spot."

Why is it so hot after a ball game? Because all the fans leave.

Mom knocked on the door and said, "John, get up! You have to go to school."

John said, "Mom, I don't want to go to school, and I have two good reasons. I'm tired, and all the kids make fun of me."

Mom replied, "You have to go to school, and I'll give you two good reasons. You're a grown man, and you're the principal!"



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

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