

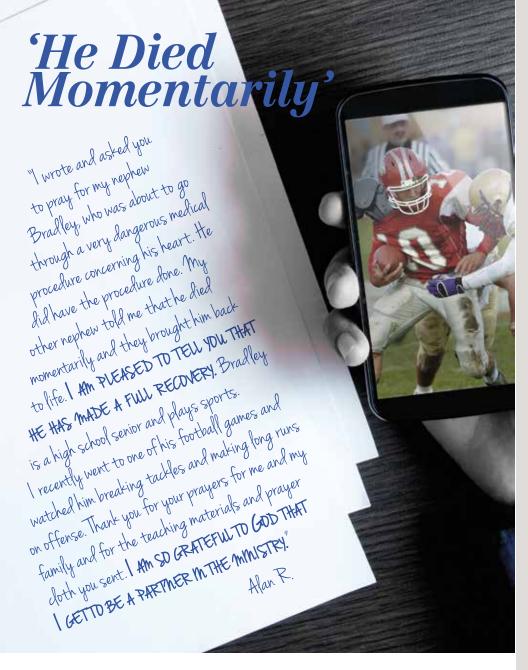
THE 'UNTIL' CLUB

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TO ANSWERED PRAYER page 8



Rhema Word Partners, it's because of your faithful support that we were able to pray for and support Alan and Bradley when they needed help the most. Thank you for making a difference in their lives and in the lives of people like them around the world. You are such an important part of what we do!

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# Word of Faith



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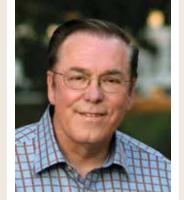




PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE

# Tomorrow Begins Today

Many people say, "If I can just make it until tomorrow, my problems will all be over." No, they won't. If you don't do anything today about your problems, they will still be with you tomorrow. If you want to change your tomorrows, then change your todays. Tomorrow—your future—starts right now.



What is the first step toward a successful tomorrow? We find the answer in Joshua chapter 3. Joshua told the people, "'Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you'" (v. 5 NIV). Consecration. For the Israelites, this meant getting themselves physically pure in order to be able to move with God. For us, it means that we set ourselves apart from the world's system and ways of doing things. We give every area of our lives over to the Lord.

You see, if we want a successful future, we must be consecrated to God and His Word in the face of any obstacle that comes along. It's easy to consecrate or commit ourselves to something when life is going great. It's another thing to be consecrated when everything is going wrong and it looks as though we're going backward instead of forward. As we say in my home state of Texas, we must be submitted *lock*, *stock*, and *barrel*. Because it's when we're submitted wholly and completely that God is able to use us.

Begin to do something about your tomorrow—today! Who you are today determines who you are tomorrow. What you do today determines where you're able to go tomorrow. What you think and say today determines your attitude tomorrow. That's why it's so important to consecrate yourself to the Lord. Your tomorrow begins today!

If you're ready to change your tomorrow and make 2015 your best year ever, don't miss a single page of this month's magazine. My dad's mini-article on page 19 will help you get your finances in order. And my article on page 4 will help you receive all God has for you—today. Happy new year!

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SEED THOUGHTS

FAITH ACADEMY

The 'Until' Club

There's a club every believer should be a member of. Learn the importance of trusting God's promises *until* they come to pass.

Kennet W. Hagai

8 Four Steps to Answered Prayer KENNETH E. HAGIN

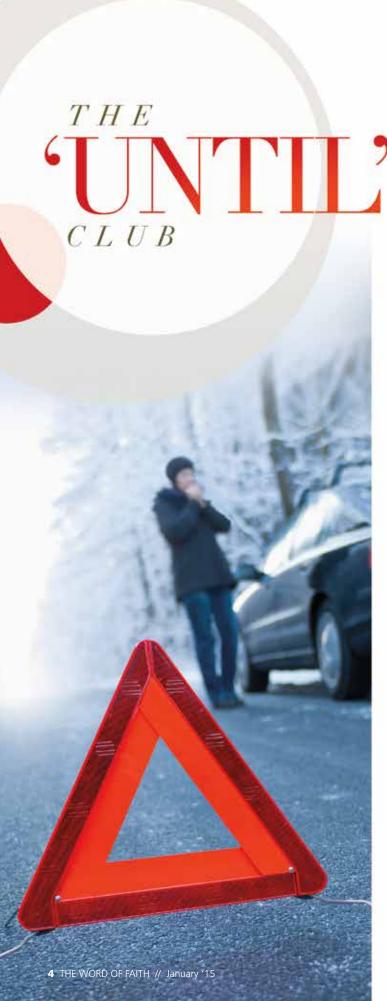
Discover four biblical steps all believers can take in order to receive answers to their prayers.

20 No More Excuses CRAIG W. HAGIN

Jesus has given us everything we need to succeed in life. So let's drop the excuses and act on God's Word to receive what is ours.

## Special Report:

God is moving mightily in Omaha, Nebraska. Find out how Rhema grads Tony & Jeannette Finley have impacted this city!





KENNETH W. HAGIN

HAVE YOU EVER gotten something in the mail that read, "You have been chosen to be a part of this club"? I get those invitations all the time. I might look at them to see if there are benefits. But most of the time, there's nothing much to them.

Today, I would like to invite you to join a club. This is a club we all need to join. I've been a member for many years. It's called The Until Club. Its motto is "I cannot be defeated, and I will not quit." This club has been around a long time. David wrote about it in Psalm 57.

#### PSALM 57:1-2 (NKJV)

- 1 Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me! For my soul trusts in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will make my refuge, Until these calamities have passed by.
- 2 I will cry out to God Most High, To God who performs all things for me.

The psalmist David is showing us here that God will have mercy upon us when we call on Him. He is saying that God is bigger than our mistakes, troubles, and circumstances. He is our refuge, even when we are not perfect!

God will perform everything He has promised us in His Word, but it doesn't always happen immediately. A period of time may go by *until* the calamities have passed. But if we will stay in the *until* mode, we will see God's promises come to pass.

#### **REST IN THE PROMISES OF GOD**

Our flesh doesn't like to wait. Whatever it is, we want to have it right now. How can we tell whether we're following after the flesh or after the Spirit? The flesh is always in a hurry. If we're in a hurry, we're not in faith. But if we have the *until* attitude—believing God and trusting Him *until* His promises come to pass in our lives—we're in faith.

The amount of time it takes for God's promises to come to pass can vary. God promised Abraham that he would have a son and become the father of many nations (Gen. 17:5). And it took 17 to 25 years, depending on which report you go by, for that promise to come to pass. But Abraham never backed down. Every time he said his name, he was declaring, "I am the father of many," even though he didn't have any children. He was in the *until* mode. He was a member of the *until* club.

At the other extreme, we see an incident in the life of Peter. He let Jesus teach from his boat because the crowd on the shore of the Sea of Galilee was so large. (See Luke 5:1–11.) When Jesus had finished teaching, He said to Peter, "Launch out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch" (Luke 5:4 NKJV). When Peter did this, he caught so many fish that he had to call his friends to help, and the catch almost sank two boats.

Now, Peter's *until* happened right then! For us today, our answer could come now, or it could be a while before we receive it. We have to believe God *until* it happens.

A lot of people think God is moved by our needs, emotions, or tears. But He's not. *Faith* moves God to perform His Word.

#### MY OWN UNTIL EXPERIENCE

When I was 16 years old, I traveled all over California with my sister, my mom, and my dad, Kenneth E. Hagin, as he preached the Word. We lived in a travel trailer. Once we pulled into a town where Dad was going to preach for several days in a church. We had enough food for one meal, and we ate that Saturday night. Sunday after church the pastor took us out for dinner, and after that, we had no more food.

My dad said, "Don't tell anybody. God will provide. Until then, we're just going to keep believing what the Word says." He was in The Until Club.

GOD IS **bigger** than our mistakes, troubles, and circumstances. He is our refuge,



even when we are not perfect!

Monday came and went, and we didn't eat. Tuesday went by, and we didn't eat. He told us, "I don't want anybody to act hungry or tell anybody." Wednesday morning he left to teach at the church, and we stayed home studying our correspondence school lessons. When Dad came back, he lay down to rest as he always did. I was sitting in the living room when a pickup truck pulled up. The whole back end was loaded with grocery sacks. I jumped up, woke up Dad, and told him.

A man knocked on the door and said, "Brother Hagin, since Sunday the Lord's been dealing with me that you needed groceries, but I knew you didn't need any. Finally it got so bad today I couldn't stand it, so I just went and bought a whole pickup truck load of groceries. Here they are."

All Dad said was, "Well, praise the Lord, brother. Thank you that you listened to God." The man didn't know that we didn't have any food. But I started carrying those groceries in. You never saw a kid carry groceries into a trailer so fast in all of your life!

Sometimes God has to line some circumstances up for certain things to take place. But the key is to stay in the *until* mode. We must decide to believe God's promises *until* they become a reality.

Keep speaking the promises of God *until* you see them come to pass. Don't quit believing. Don't allow yourself to speak words of defeat. Keep believing *until* you receive! Cancel your membership in the quitter's club, and join The Until Club!  $\dot{\Psi}$ 

FAITH CONFESSION

# Steadfast in Faith

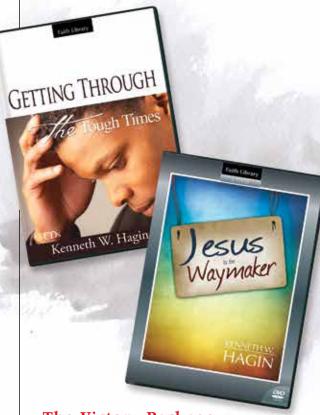
Confess the following about yourself. Get it down into your spirit. It will help you remain steadfast as you believe the promises of God.

I will not cast away my confidence, for it has a great reward (Heb. 10:35). I will keep believing the promises of God until they become a reality in my life. No matter what obstacle comes my way, I cannot be defeated, and I will not quit *until* every promise in God's Word comes to pass!

# GOD WILL MAKE A WAY!

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# Need **Direction** for the New Year?

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN driving or walking somewhere and found yourself completely lost? No matter which way you turned, nothing looked familiar and you had no idea where you were. Do you remember the feeling of relief when you finally found the right way?

PERHAPS YOU'RE FEELING LOST IN LIFE AS THIS NEW YEAR BEGINS. Maybe you don't know where you're going or what you're supposed

to do. But there is Someone Who does know. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, "I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out-plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for" (Message).

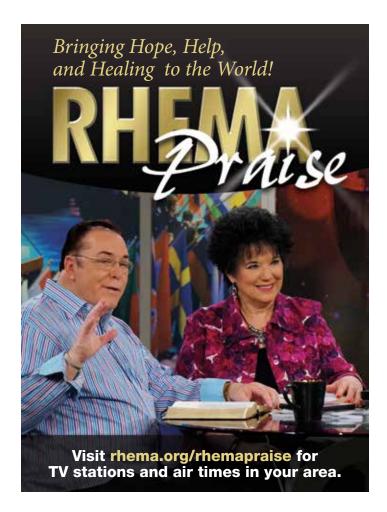
If you're lost and need to find your way (and you haven't made Jesus your Savior and Lord), simply pray the following prayer. It's time for a new start in life!

#### God.

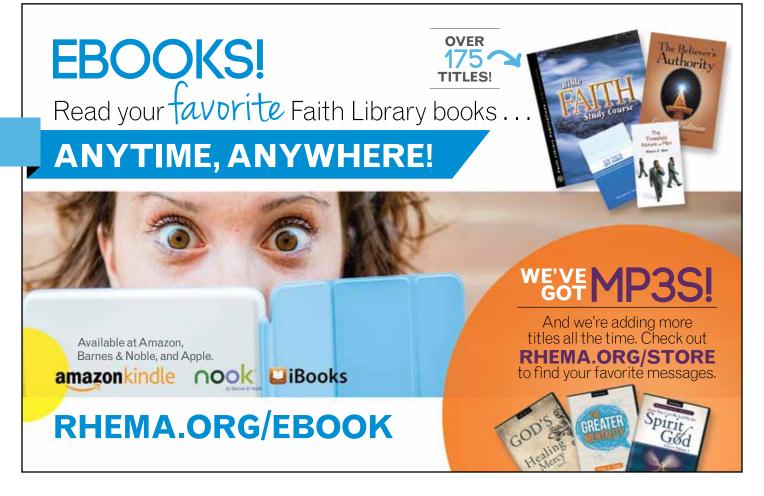
I come to You in Jesus' Name. I admit that I'm lost and need help in life. The Bible says, "If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9 NLT). I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus, Your Son, from the dead. And I openly declare and confess Jesus to be my Lord. Therefore, according to Your Word, I am saved. I look to You to take care of me. Show me where to go and what to do. In Jesus'

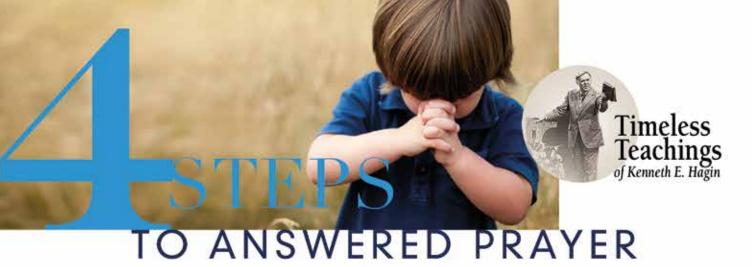
If you prayed this prayer, welcome to God's family! The Bible says, "When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!" (2 Cor. 5:17 TLB). This is











**Learning how to pray effectively** is one of the most important things believers can ever do in their Christian walk. Really, we cannot be successful in fulfilling God's purpose in our lives if we do not know how to pray according to biblical principles.

**OUR PRAYER LIFE** should be based and built upon the Word of God. In this article I will mention four of the many principles of prayer found in His Word. As you learn these principles, determine to get them into your heart so you can put them into practice in your own private prayer life. I began doing this as a young man and I have been receiving answers to my prayers ever since. These steps will help all believers receive answers to their prayers.

BE SPECIFIC AND STAND ON GOD'S PROMISES

Here is one step to answered prayer: decide what you want from God and find the scripture or scriptures that promise you these things.

So many times we are indefinite in our praying. I would rather folks pray two or three minutes and know what they're praying about than pray two or three hours and not know.

Sometimes when I ask people what they are praying about, they say they don't know. I asked one person what he was praying about, and he said he was praying just to be praying!

I realize there is one kind of prayer whereby we pray to have fellowship with God. But I am talking about praying to God specifically to receive an *answer* to prayer. If we are not careful, the first kind of praying I talked about—praying to have fellowship with God—will spill over into the realm of praying specifically in order to receive an answer.

One time a certain minister asked me to pray for him. I asked him what he wanted me to pray for, and he said he didn't know. Now if you went to a grocery store and pushed your cart up and down the aisles, but didn't buy anything, people would think something was wrong with you!

On the other hand, if someone went to the store to buy a few things, and he bought just those things, you wouldn't think anything was wrong. In fact, you could say he was being definite in what he was doing. In the same way, decide what you want from God and be definite about it. Then find scriptures from the Word that promise you whatever it is you want. Be specific in your praying.

#### YOU MUST ASK GOD FOR WHAT YOU WANT

A second step to answered prayer is to ask God for the things you want and believe that you receive them.

Certainly, God knows what we need even before we ask. The Bible says, "Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things" (Matt. 6:32). But we're also told to ask for what we need. To say that we're leaving it up to God and that we know He will automatically do whatever is best is unscriptural. Jesus Himself said we are to ask God for what we need.

#### JOHN 16:23-24

**23** And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

**24** Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

#### **MATTHEW 7:7-8**

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

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

#### **MARK 11:24**

**24** Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

So ask God for the things you want and need, and then believe that you have them.

# BE POSITIVE IN YOUR THINKING

A third step to answered prayer is to let every thought affirm that you have what you asked for.

After you pray in faith according to God's Word, never permit a picture of failure to remain in your mind. Once you've prayed and asked God for something, never doubt that you have the answer. If doubts persist, rebuke them. Get your mind on the answer. To do that, you will have to get your mind on the Word. The Bible says, "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). Doubt is from the devil.

To receive answers to your prayers, you must eradicate every image, suggestion, vision, and all other thoughts that do not contribute to your faith. You have to stay positive in your thinking.

#### **GUARD YOUR MIND**

A fourth step to answered prayer is this: guard against every evil thought that comes into your mind to try to make you doubt God's Word.

Thoughts are governed by observation, association, and teaching. So this step is closely associated with step number three. The Bible says we are to cast down every imagination that exalts itself against the knowledge of God (2 Cor. 10:5). That's why you should stay away from all places and things that do not support your affirmation that God has answered your prayer.

The Bible tells us in Philippians chapter 4 exactly what to think on.

#### **PHILIPPIANS 4:8**

**8** Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are TRUE, whatsoever things are HONEST, whatsoever things are JUST, whatsoever things are PURE, whatsoever things are LOVELY, whatsoever things are OF GOOD REPORT; if there be ANY VIRTURE, and if there be ANY PRAISE, think on these things.

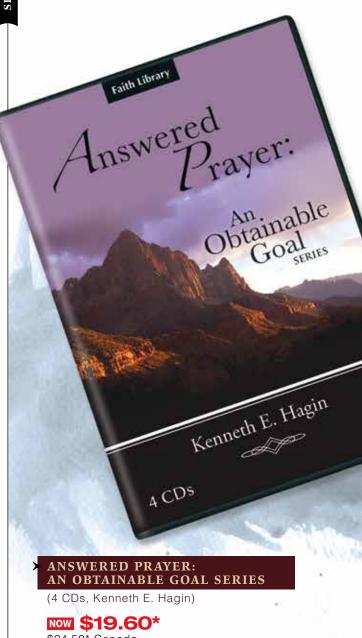
Many people are thinking on the wrong things, and they're defeated in life as a result. But guard against every evil thought and think only on those things which affirm that God has heard and answered your prayers. If you will do that, you will be cooperating with God in faith. You will have to guard your mind in order to develop in faith. And as you stand your ground firm in faith, your faith will see you through to victory!

To receive answers to your prayers, decide what you want from God and find scriptures for what you need. Ask God for those things, and when you pray, believe that you receive them. Let every thought affirm that you have what you've asked for. And guard your mind against every evil thought. Faithfully following these steps will move you along the path to answered prayer.

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's *Bible Prayer Study Course*.]

# GOD HAS YOUR ANSWER

If we pray but rarely receive answers, the problem isn't on God's end; it's on ours. When we learn how to pray in line with His Word, our prayers will always be effective.



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# Adjusting to a New Reality

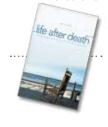






#### **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

on how to move forward after the death of a loved one, go to rhema.org/store and purchase Tony Cooke's book Life After Death: Rediscovering Life After the Loss of a Loved One.



WHENEVER WE LOSE a loved one, we are forced to make many adjustments. While some adjustments are practical and external, others are emotional and internal. Some may seem trivial—others monumental. Any and every adjustment can be difficult to make, simply because change itself is difficult.

Human beings are creatures of habit. We prefer to live in our comfort zone. We arrange our life until we're comfortable; then we want everything to stay put.

#### **Everything Changes**

We must realize that everything pertaining to this earthly realm is subject to change whether we like it or not. None of our relationships are permanent because some of us will leave this earth sooner than others.

Some transitions are easier to handle than others. When a loved one dies, there is usually so much more involved than just the person no longer being with us. The added issues can make the transition very difficult.

## Dependency Issues

How much did we depend upon that person? What role did he or she play in our life? Perhaps we found a great sense of self-worth in caring for that person. Will we find a sense of worth and purpose elsewhere, or will we feel as though we no longer have value?

#### Identity Issues

Perhaps our goals and dreams were wrapped up in our loved one and now that person is gone! Will our hopes and aspirations also die, or will we be able to discover new purpose and direction in life?

#### Companionship Issues

Loneliness is commonly encountered when a loved one dies, and these feelings can be intense. Don't be alarmed if you have strong feelings of loneliness. Just as God gave you the gift of being able to give love to and receive love from that person, He will also give you strength and resiliency to move forward.

### A Look at King David's Recovery

King David experienced numerous losses throughout his life. One of them involved the death of his child. The story is recorded in Second Samuel 12:16-23. Let us recognize what his example might mean for us when we experience the loss of a loved one.

#### David prayed, fasted, wept, and sought God in the situation (vv. 16-18).

David did everything he could to try to turn the situation around for his son. In the final analysis, however, he did not receive the outcome he wanted.

#### David forced himself to accept news he did not want to hear. He arose from the ground, washed, and anointed himself (vv. 19-20).

Sometimes in life we get knocked down. But we are the ones who decide if we are going to stay down. Washing has to do with getting rid of yesterday's grime and receiving a fresh start today. It has to do with embracing a new beginning. In Bible days, oil was a lotion that brought comfort, refreshing, and relief to a person.

#### David changed his clothes (v. 20).

In Bible times, clothes spoke volumes about the wearer and what he was experiencing. A king's robe, a beggar's rags, and a mourner's sackcloth all told a story about the ones who wore them.

#### David went to the house of the Lord and worshiped (v. 20).

In spite of the pain David experienced, he turned to God and honored Him in worship.

#### David went back to his home and ate (v. 20).

Life was going to continue. David went back to his normal surroundings and returned to his regular activities.

HE WILL ALSO GIVE YOU **strength** AND RESILIENCY TO MOVE FORWARD.

After the death of a loved one, adjusting to a new reality will be different for each person. For most people, recovery from significant loss is a lengthy process. Be assured that God is with you every step of the way.

Missing someone you love is a tribute to that person and his or her influence in your life. Moving forward, making the necessary adjustments, and finding new purpose for yourself is a tribute to God and His influence in your life.





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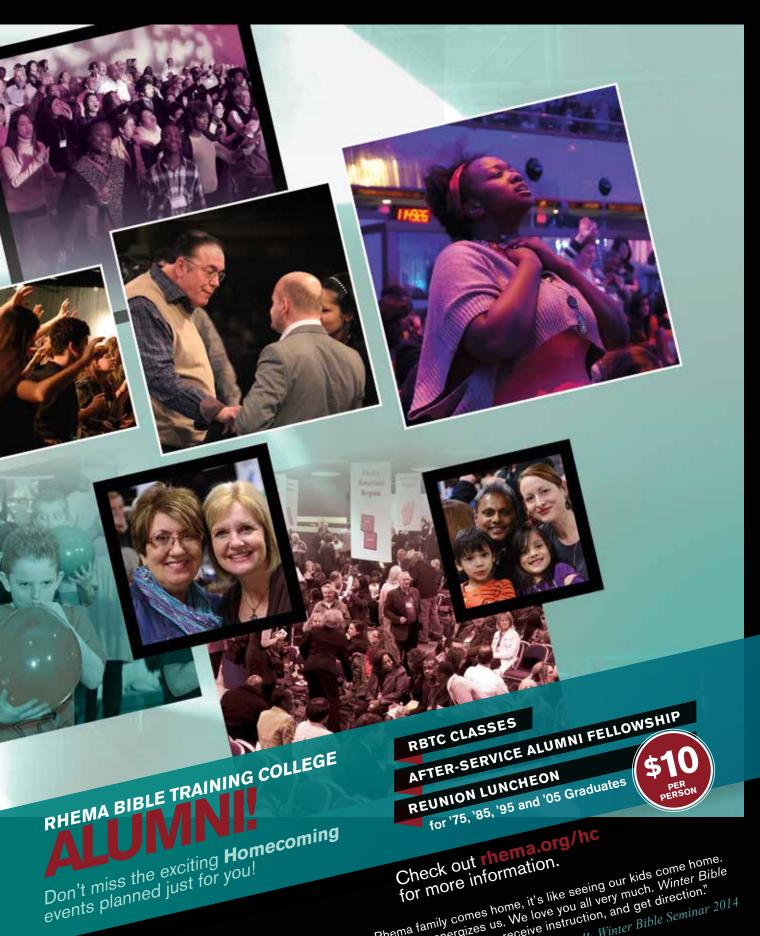
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"When the Rhema family comes home, it's like seeing our kids come home. Winter Bible It strengthens and re-energizes us. We love you all very much. It strengthens and re-energizes us. We love journal of the come home, receive instruction, and get direction."

Seminar is a time to come home, receive instruction, and get direction. 11 LYNETTE HAGIN 11 Winter Bible Seminar 2014

# **Trusting God** in Uncomfortable Places

Don't miss anv of our exciting speakers this year! See **Pages 12-13** for details.

#### LYNETTE HAGIN

IT'S AMAZING how God gets us out of our comfort zone. He often puts us in places where we are not comfortable. Why? So we can rely on His comfort, wisdom, and strength.

Years ago when Rhema Bible Training College began, I asked God, "Where is my place?" I'd always been involved in ministry, but at that point in my life I didn't know where my place was. So I began to seek God diligently. I said, "God, show me where Your plan for me is in this whole picture."

At that time my husband began overseeing building construction on the Rhema campus. As the first building was going up, Ken came to me and said, "We need somebody to choose carpet, paint colors, wallpaper, and furniture. I guess you're going to have to do that."

Now, I had never been interested in doing that. But I was so happy to be doing something that I just jumped in I never thought about the fact that I didn't know how to do it!

As we built more buildings, the project got bigger and bigger. It finally got so big that it was scary, because I thought, "God, I don't know what I am doing. I don't know how to do this." I had nightmares of huge crowds of people seeing the campus and frowning. I would hear the people say, "Who on earth decorated this?"

ways. It can be an impression, an inner witness, or an inward audible voice. Sometimes He speaks through His Word. He will speak to us in prayer. We must keep our ears tuned all the time for an answer.

I will never forget the answer I received from the Lord. He spoke to me in a booming, audible voice. He said, "I will teach you supernaturally how to decorate this campus so that you will learn how to listen to My

IN ORDER FOR US TO BE IN THE PLACE GOD HAS FOR EACH OF US, WE HAVE TO  $oldsymbol{be}$  willing TO **step beyond** what we're familiar with.

.....

Because I felt so uncomfortable in an interior designer's role, I started complaining to God. I said, "Why are You using me in this? This place needs to be organized. I'm good at that. I can do that." I wanted Him to let someone else do the decorating. Then I asked, "God, why?" I needed

> to know why He had put me in a place where I didn't feel qualified.

If we will be open to hear God's answers. He will answer any question we have. Sometimes we don't want to receive His answer. Too many times, we don't want to listen if He says something contrary to what we want to do. But I came to Him sincerely, with an open heart. I wanted to know His answer.

> God can speak to us in different

voice." He also said, "You're going to need to listen to My voice in order to accomplish what I have for you to do." Well, I successfully decorated the campus.

**GOD WANTS EACH OF US TO STEP INTO OUR PLACE.** This is a time and season when He is getting us out of our comfort zone. As we trust His plan, He will take us to new depths and heights. But we must rely on Him. We must be open to hear His answers and follow His plan.

I've learned there's no way we can do the things God has called us to do in our own ability. In order for us to be in the place God has for each of us, we have to be willing to step beyond what we're familiar with. As we do, we can trust God to give us everything we need to succeed in our place.

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Lynette Hagin's Tuesday morning message at Winter Bible Seminar 2014.]





WHEN TONY AND JEANNETTE FINLEY moved to Omaha, Nebraska, in 2003, Tony, a 1994 Rhema Bible Training College graduate, knew in his heart that he and Jeannette were supposed to pioneer a church there.

Omaha is Nebraska's largest city, and most churchgoers attend mainline denominational churches. Although many of those churches were opposed to the word of faith message, the Finleys believed that the Lord would open a door for that message to spread in this vibrant city.

"We loved the people," says Tony. "We didn't jam anything down their throats. If somebody said, 'I believe this,' or 'theologian so-and-so says this,' we'd say, 'That's great, but where is that in the Bible?'

When Faith Family Church began on January 7, 2007, Tony preached the Word in an environment of love. As the people continued hearing the Word, their lives began to change. And they started bringing their friends to church.

"Yes, we're in an environment where you would say you're going to have a very hard time building an independent, Full Gospel, word of faith church," Tony says, "but we have fruit. God placed us [in Omaha], and He's bringing the increase."

#### GOD IS GOOD ... ALL THE TIME!

That fruit is seen in the lives of Faith Family Church's people. As they sit under the Word and put into practice the truths they've learned, they are clearly flourishing. People are experiencing true victory, not just victory in theory.

Dave and Mary are one example. When they began attending Faith Family Church, Mary didn't like hearing Tony say, "God is good all the time." When she was younger, one of her children, an infant daughter, died, and she believed that God "took" her. Although Tony's talk about God's goodness irritated Mary, she didn't want to leave the church. Her husband was growing in the Lord, and she liked that.

After Mary had attended Faith Family Church for three years, her daughter Nicole became pregnant. The pregnancy was filled

with problems. But Mary had grown in the Lord, and she began standing in faith for her grandchild's safe delivery.

When Mary's granddaughter was born, the doctor discovered that the umbilical

"ONE THING I
KNOW—*God is good*ALL THE TIME!"

cord was shredded. No one could understand how the baby received any nutrition during the pregnancy. But the little girl was born without complications, and today Hallie is a very active and healthy 2-year-old. Mary now says, "One thing I know—God is good all the time!"

#### MAKING GOD IRRESISTIBLE

The night before the Finleys' first church service, the Lord said to Tony, "I am irresistible. If you'll allow My Spirit to create an environment of My presence and you'll allow Me to move and flow with Me, I'll draw people to Me."



From the beginning, Tony and Jeannette and their leadership team have done just that. "We put the Word of God above everything, but in an atmosphere that is saturated with the love of God," says Tony.

When Faith Family Church started, hardly anybody brought a Bible to the services. Today, from the youngest to the oldest, the congregation has a passion for the Word.

The college and career group is on fire for the Lord. They constantly share the Word with each other, texting scriptures

back and forth through a popular cellphone app. The fruit is seen in many new people getting saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Tony and Jeannette teach their church family that life and ministry flow out of the overflow of their personal walk with the Lord. They encourage them to come to Faith Family Church full and be led by the Spirit on ways to minister to each other. This has created a wonderful dynamic among members. Both young and old freely speak encouraging words to one another.





- That Faith Family Church MEMBERS would be raised up to help propel the church's vision forward
- FINANCES to renovate and pay off the church building
- » WISDOM

#### **LIVING TO GIVE**

Tony and Jeannette want the church members to minister beyond the four walls of their building. They promote a lifestyle of outreach—urging the congregation to minister to others in their daily lives. As a result, unsaved and unchurched people in the community have been touched by God's love. For example,

on more than one occasion, as they are led, church members have paid for people's groceries, meals, gas, and so forth.

One time the college and career group found out that a waiter didn't get tipped at a Christian event. So they collected \$300 among themselves and gave it to him. They said, "Listen, nobody's perfect. We want to bless you, because we want to make sure you know the Lord isn't that way."

Members of the men's Bible study have taken it upon themselves to be a blessing to those in need. They've painted houses, installed windows, helped people move, and given food and other assistance on a regular basis.

#### **FAITH IN ACTION**

When Faith Family Church held its first women's conference, Breanna, a member of the college and career group, planned on going. She also felt led to pay for three of her friends to go.

TO LEARN MORE
about Tony and
Jeannette Finley, go to
FaithFamilyOmaha.com.

A recent high school graduate, she didn't have much money. Besides, she was saving for college and to buy a car. She dipped into her savings to pay the \$180 in registration fees. For her, this was a huge amount of money. But not long afterward, her aunt in California bought a new car and wanted to give Breanna her old car. Then, in one week, people randomly gave her \$1,500! Without a doubt, this 18-year-old knows that when you follow God's leading to bless others, He will make sure your needs are abundantly met!

#### A MIRACLE TESTIMONY

Kenneth and Lynette Hagin held a Living Faith Crusade at the Finleys' church in April. After Lynette ministered the morning of the last day, Tony came to the platform with a church member's prayer request. The woman's 14-month-old great nephew, Jackson, had recently undergone surgery. While operating, the doctor accidentally cut off his epiglottis, which keeps food and liquids out of the windpipe, and the top part of his esophagus.

A team of surgeons was called in to fix the damage. But after the second surgery, the prognosis was that Jackson probably wouldn't be able to swallow, eat, or drink for the rest of his life. Tony led the congregation in prayer for Jackson's total healing and complete restoration. Before the service that evening, Tony and Jeannette received word that the toddler was standing up in his crib talking! At first, he continued to be fed through a tube. But by June 1, a little less than two months later, he was eating whole food. His vocal chords were miraculously doing the work of the epiglottis! The doctors had never seen this and wanted to publish this miracle in a medical periodical.

God is moving mightily in Omaha. These are only a few of the many good things He is doing in and through Faith Family Church. There is still much work to do. But as the Lord grows and develops His congregation, church members are transforming their community for His glory.

Tony, Jeannette, and their leadership team are committed to growing the church to 600 members. And with the forward momentum already evident, it won't be long before Faith Family Church reaches that point and has a greater impact on Omaha for the Lord.

# COME EXPECTING!

Anytime Kenneth and Lynette Hagin hold a *Living Faith Crusade*, they come ready for the miracle-working power of God to flow through them.

Have you ever wondered how to get that power to manifest in your life?

It's not hard. Two simple things will do it.

Honor the ministry gifts and expect.

The more you **honor** the gift, the more you'll receive. And, you also need to **expect** that God will move on your behalf.

Look what happened in April 2014 when Kenneth and Lynette Hagin held a *Living Faith Crusade* at Faith Family Church in Omaha, Nebraska.

At the end of the Wednesday morning service, Lynette Hagin spoke "breakthrough" over the church and laid hands on many people in the congregation.

After the crusade, Faith Family Church saw an immediate increase in visitors. One couple in the congregation received a large, unexpected inheritance. Several people had new business ideas that resulted in them increasing financially.

# WHAT ARE YOU EXPECTING IN 2015?

To add the miracle-working power of God to your faith, you'll want to get to the nearest *Living Faith Crusade* and come ready to receive!

"I'VE BEEN DOING THIS FOR 24 YEARS.

IT'S THE **strongest** anointing i've felt."

-RICH KING



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# crusade

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Jean, a Gulf War vet, was accepted for fall enrollment. But her house didn't sell in time. Because Rhema Bible Training College offers spring enrollment, she didn't have to wait an entire year to start school. Jean was able to start her training in January 2014.



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# **Love + Prosperity**

#### KENNETH E. HAGIN

THE EPISTLES are written specifically to the Church—to born-again believers. They are of great help to us as we try to live our daily lives according to the teachings of the Lord. These letters provide specific teaching that we need to understand. They give us guidance, direction, and correction we can use in our own situations. As we read the Epistles, we can get the feeling that the author, moved by the Holy Spirit, looked down through the centuries and saw our struggles and said, "Go this direction. Follow this example."

Here are several principles found in the Epistles that show us how our love walk is connected to our giving and that it is God's will that we prosper.

# 1 Love must motivate the believer's giving.

#### 1 CORINTHIANS 13:3

**3** And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

The New Berkeley Version says, "And though I give all my belongings to feed the hungry and surrender my body to be burned, but I have no love, I am not in the least benefited."

2 Paul and John encouraged Christian charity among the brethren.

#### **GALATIANS 6:10**

**10** As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

#### 1 JOHN 3:17-18

- 17 But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?
- **18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

3 Believers are not to love or trust in money.

#### 1 TIMOTHY 6:6-10, 17-18

- **6** But godliness with contentment is great gain.
- **7** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.
- **8** And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.
- **9** But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.
- **10** For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. . . .
- 17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;
- **18** That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate.

# 4 God wants His children to prosper.

#### **3 JOHN 2**

**2** Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

Some have argued that the phrase "that thou mayest prosper" does not refer to *financial* prosperity. However, the Greek word translated "prosper" and "prospereth" is *euodoo*, which means "a good road" or "a good journey." At the very least, this phrase means to have a good and prosperous journey.

No one can have a good and prosperous journey if he is broke and in want every step of the way. Wouldn't the wish for someone to have a prosperous journey include his having enough resources to travel safely and comfortably?

Besides, the word translated "prosper" here is the same Greek word Paul used in First Corinthians 16:2 where he instructed believers to set aside money each week "as God hath prospered him." So the word prosper can certainly and without doubt be used—and is used—in reference to financial prosperity.

I believe this verse clearly means that God wants His children to prosper materially, physically, and spiritually.  $\dot{\overline{\Psi}}$ 

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



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Kenneth E. Hagin





**CRAIG W. HAGIN** 

WATER PARKS are always fun. With the water slides, tube rides, and splash pools, there's something for everyone to enjoy. It's fun watching people around the wave pool. They can be lying by the pool soaking up the sun. But when the bell goes off signaling the next wave, they'll quickly jump up and run into the pool.

This reminds me of a story recorded in John chapter 5. It's also about a pool—the Pool of Bethesda. Scripture tells us that a multitude of sick people were lying on the five porches surrounding the pool. There was no bell to give them warning, but every so often an angel stirred the water. And the first person to get into the pool was healed of whatever disease he had. (See John 5:1–15 NKJV.)

A man who had been sick for 38 years was lying by the Pool of Bethesda. One day Jesus showed up and asked him, "Do you want to be made well?" (v. 6.)

When you really think about it, that seems like an odd question. Why else would the man be lying there? *Of course* he wanted to be well. But instead of saying, "Yes, I want to be healed," he replied, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool" (v. 7).

From his answer we can see that the sick man wasn't looking to God for his healing. He was looking for a man to help him. Really, he was just coming up with an excuse.

Jesus didn't pay any attention to the man's excuse. Basically He said, "Get up and walk" (v. 8), and the man did.

Scripture doesn't say that Jesus laid His hands on his head. The man didn't make any faith confessions. He didn't fast for 40 days and nights. He just acted on what Jesus said.

#### **WHAT'S YOUR EXCUSE?**

The story of the man at the Pool of Bethesda parallels what is happening in people's lives today. Instead of standing in faith and confessing the Word of God for themselves, they are waiting on others to help them.

They want their pastor to pray for them. Or they'll call every

prayer line across the country hoping that someone will pray just the right prayer to get their needs met. Sometimes it seems like everyone is praying except them!

WE'VE BEEN **given**EVERYTHING WE NEED
TO SUCCEED.



We must learn that our needs aren't met by counting on somebody else to pray and stand in faith for us. We can ask what we will and it shall be done for us when we pray (John 15:7).

Christians today are not in the same situation as the man by the Pool of Bethesda. We're not stuck on the side of the pool waiting for a special manifestation. We have the Word of God.

Our days of excuses are over. We can't ever say, "I don't have a man to help me." We do have a man. His name is Jesus Christ.

Through Jesus' death on the cross, burial, and resurrection, we've been set free from the devil's grip. Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly" (John 10:10 NKJV). Jesus didn't die on the cross so we could have an abundant life in one area but not in another area. We can experience an abundant life financially, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally—in every area of our lives.

God gave us His Word to act on. And just like the man at the Pool of Bethesda, we need to act on that Word and get up. So let's be doers of the Word. We've been given everything we need to succeed.

# WE CAN ask what we will and it $shall\ be$ done for us when we pray.

The same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwells in us. Everywhere we walk, we take "the Man," the mighty Holy Spirit, with us. He's our Counselor, our Advocate, and our Healer. He helps us in any situation we are in. We may make some really stupid choices that land us in bad places. Even so, there's nothing we can get ourselves into that God can't take care of. Nothing can separate us from His love.

Quit waiting around for the water to move, and drop the excuses. It's time to decide that enough is enough and to start acting on God's Word. It's time to get up and move forward. When you do, you'll see yourself healed and with all of your needs met.

FAITH NUGGET

# Be a Doer of the Word

As a 17-year-old on the bed of sickness, Kenneth E. Hagin didn't have anyone to encourage him in his faith. In fact, the only pastor who came to visit him said, "Be patient, my boy. In a few days it'll all be over."

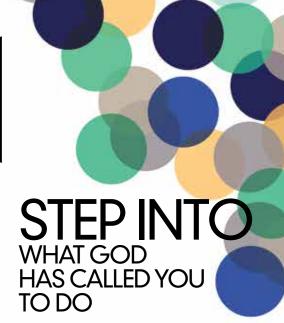
Brother Hagin's only encouragement was the Word of God. After seeing in Mark 11:24 that he could have the things he desired, he said to himself, "I desire a well body more than anything else."

On the inside, he heard a voice say, "What do well people do at 10:30 in the morning?"

"They get up," he answered.

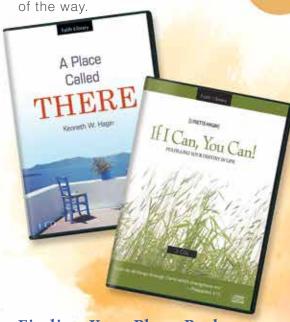
So Brother Hagin threw his legs over the side of the bed, grabbed hold of the bedpost, and pulled himself up. That's when God's healing power flowed through his body.

His healing didn't manifest in bed. It manifested when he acted on God's Word.



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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."

**2015 IS HERE!** In January I like to reflect on the previous year and take inventory of what I excelled in and what I would do differently. However, the past cannot be changed. What we accomplished or did not accomplish in 2014 is forever written in the history of our lives. Before us lies another year—another blank book to be written in. How will your history book read this year?

I encourage you to rekindle the dreams that might have been in your heart for many years. I believe that when we make God the center of our lives, His thoughts and plans for us are wrapped up in our dreams and desires. Even when I was a young child, I dreamed of being married, and that I would marry a minister.

That dream was very important to me. I knew that my destiny was wrapped up in that dream. I was so consumed with it that as I looked for a mate, I never allowed myself to get emotionally attached to someone who was not pursuing ministry. I stayed focused on the dream until it became a reality in my life.

What dreams of yours have not been fulfilled? Whatever Godgiven dreams you have, it is time to kindle or rekindle them. The word kindle means "to stir up; arouse; to cause to glow; ignite." Paul reminded Timothy, "Stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination]" (2 Tim. 1:6 Amplified).

One of the greatest dreamers in the Bible was Joseph. I love to read his story. I've read it many times. I encourage you to read his entire story in Genesis chapters 37–50. Briefly, Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons because he had been born

to him in his old age. He made Joseph a coat of many colors. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him.

To make matters worse, Joseph had dreams. And when he told them to his brothers, they hated him even more. He dreamed that they were binding sheaves of grain in the field and their sheaves bowed down to his. Then he dreamed that the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to him.

As you read Joseph's story, you find that many things occurred, both good and bad, before the dreams became reality. In following your dreams, be careful who you share them with. God may drop a dream in your heart, but very seldom does He give you the details of how it will come to pass. Joseph would have been wiser to have kept his dreams to himself.

My dreams have not come to pass as I expected they would nor when I would have preferred. Although I knew I would marry a minister, I had no idea how big God's plan for me was. I did not expect that my husband and I would eventually lead a worldwide ministry. Those thoughts would have frightened me. It was better that God allowed me to simply walk out the journey one step at a time.

As we follow God's dreams for us, sometimes the road is not like we thought it would be. A story is told about a little boy leading his sister up a mountain path. The way was very rough. The little girl said to her big brother, "Why, this isn't a path at all! It's rocky and bumpy." Her brother replied, "Of course! The bumps are what you climb on."

My husband and I and our two children rode four-wheelers. One trail we would take had what we called "whoop-de-dos." It was one bump after another, and as we rode over them we would all say "whoop-de-do!" Sometimes going over the whoop-de-dos would literally shake my insides.

That might be your life right now. As you follow your dreams, you may be experiencing a lot of whoop-de-dos. But as you go over those whoop-de-dos, the most important thing you must do is hold on to the hand of the Lord. Know that at the end of the trail, the path will become smooth.

I know that God has placed dreams in your heart. You did not hear Him wrong. The ride has been a little rough. But the Lord is saying, "Just hold on—it's about to smooth out." ♥





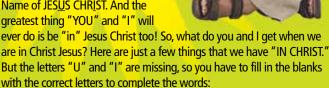
# Stand Out From the Rest



When you choose to live "IN CHRIST," you really stand out from the rest of the crowd! Many of the children below look exactly the same, but there is only one little girl that • looks exactly like this one. Can you find her?



The greatest thing the letters "U" and "I" will ever do is be in the Name of JESUS CHRIST. And the greatest thing "YOU" and "I" will



**N\_111** (Eph. 4:3)

2. R\_GHTEO\_SNESS (2 Cor. 5:21)

3. J\_ST\_F\_CAT\_ON (Rom. 4:25)

4. A\_THOR\_TY (Luke 9:1)

It's wonderful to know that we have all of these things "IN CHRIST." But, we must also remember that before we can be "IN CHRIST" there is first something "U" and "I" must be "WITH CHRIST"—

5. CR<u>C F</u>ED



What did Chief Running Water name his two sons?

werbs 17:22 (NKJV)

**Hot and Cold** 

Why did the orange stop rolling down the hill?

Because it ran out of juice!

What did the traffic light say to the car?

Don't look now, I'm changing!

What happens when a duck flies upside down?

It "quacks up"!

The mort blids that the awob swor T Stand Out From the Rest!:

γικο, λιτός, κοσές, ιέςλ, ιέςλος (bnuot ad nes that can be foun) WHAT'S IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST?

1. UNITY 2. RIGHTEOUSNESS 3. JUSTIFICATION 4. AUTHORITY 5. CRUCIFIED "U" and "I" Belong in Jesus Christ:

**HUSWELS:** 

# WHAT'S IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST?

You can make up plenty of words using the letters in the Name of JESUS CHRIST. See how many words you can find

15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.



