



# THE Word of Faith

MAY 2018

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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Difficulties

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DIFFERENCE!

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# “Guess what mommy? My warps found out they’re healed.”



My four-year-old daughter Lylah had a wart on her hand. It slowly spread over her hands and feet. I counted once and she had 22 warts! I told her we have to go to the doctor. “Mommy,” Lylah said, “I don’t want to go to the doctor. Can you find a healing center?”

I was new to Rhema Bible Church and found out that Rhema had a Prayer and Healing Center. Lylah and I went to a morning session. **A healing technician taught us about healing, prayed for my daughter, and gave us a prayer cloth.** I attached the prayer cloth to one of Lylah’s Beanie Babies. She took it to day care and sometimes slept with it.

“Mommy,” Lylah would say, “my warps are not coming off.”

“Those warts are healed.” I said. “They just don’t know it yet.” I told her to touch each one and tell it, “You’re healed in Jesus’ Name!”

One day, Lylah came to me and said, “Guess what mommy? My warps found out they’re healed. I can’t find them, not even on the floor or in my bed! They distapeered!”

**Thank you for your dedication in the Prayer and Healing Center. Lylah is forever changed!**

—Shawna

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LYLAH THAT HEALING BELONGS TO HER.**

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# Honoring Real Heroes

Memorial Day is a time where we recognize the fallen heroes of our land—men and women who gave their lives so others could live in freedom.

The online *Merriam-Webster's Dictionary* defines the word *hero* as “an illustrious warrior; a person admired for achievements and noble qualities; one who shows great courage.” The world has many heroes. Some are famous; others are unknown. We’re thankful for everyone who has served in our military, but this month we are honoring those who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their country.

Men and women have died in battle so their loved ones might live in freedom. Their sacrifice is matched only by the sacrifice of grieving parents whose children did not return, of spouses who will face the future alone, and of children who will grow up without a father or mother.

There is one Hero, however, who towers above the rest. And we must honor and recognize the Hero of heroes, the One Who gave His life so everyone might have life: Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus died for the sins of all mankind! He bore the punishment for all humanity! He knew suffering and agony so that we could have victory, peace, healing, mercy, joy, and love. When heroes are honored, usually Jesus’ Name is not mentioned. Yet His Name should be at the top of the list! No hero on earth compares with Him.

I thank God that we can live free in this country because of the heroes who gave their lives. And I thank God that we can live in spiritual freedom because Jesus shed His blood on the cross.

Let’s not forget those who have died serving our country. But let us never forget Jesus Christ, the Hero of heroes. He is our real Hero—on Memorial Day and every day.

We have a great magazine for you this month. I believe it will encourage you. Be sure to share your favorite quotes from the magazine on social media. #RhemaWOF



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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Reaching up, out, and beyond. Read how Pastors Fabian and Bethany McCune are shining a light and building community in this traditional southern town.

# FACING THE FIRE

*God cannot  
and will not fail.*

**HAVE YOU EVER** faced a hopeless situation where there appeared to be no way out? You may have felt overwhelmed and did not know what to do. In the middle of a fiery trial, we do not have to be afraid or discouraged. We can stand strong as we walk through adversity. More importantly, we can come out of any trial victoriously. God's Word shows us how to get through difficulties. It starts with trust. We see how to do this from Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV).



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**

## Trust in the Lord With All Your Heart

We can count on God in any situation. Jesus said in Mark 11:22 to *"Have faith in God."* In other words, the first step is to trust God with everything we've got. There should never be a Plan B.

Think about it. Our trust is in the God Who created the earth and made man from the dust of the ground. If the God Who formed the world from nothing can't take care of our problems, then no one else can. He is saying to us, "Just trust Me. Let Me work it out for you."

## Lean Not to Your Own Understanding

Sometimes we have learned so much that our intellect hinders us from fully trusting God. We've seen how other things have worked out. And when we look at our situation, it doesn't seem to be good.

But there isn't any place in the Bible where it tells us to make something happen. We are simply told to believe. In fact, *"All things are possible to him who believes"* (Mark 9:23 NKJV).

Whenever our brains begin to wonder how our situation is going to turn around, we need to remember that it is above our "pay grade" to know the answer! In other words, it's God's job to work it out.

## In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him

One thing is certain: God cannot and will not fail. Because of this, we can lift our voices and praise Him. In the middle of hardship, we need to remind ourselves of what God has already done for us. He's gotten us through adversity in the past, and He'll do it again. We can thank Him because we know that *"he shall direct [our] paths"* (Prov. 3:6b NKJV). He will guide us to victory.

## Bow or Burn

The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego is an example of how to trust God when facing the “fire.” At that time, the Israelites were in captivity in Babylon. And King Nebuchadnezzar—let’s call him King Neb—ruled Babylon. (See Daniel chapter 3 NKJV.)

*We can stand strong as we walk through adversity. More importantly, we can come out of any trial victoriously.*



#RhemaWOF

One day King Neb made an image of gold that was around 90 feet tall and nine feet wide. The people were supposed to worship the idol. At the sound of music, everyone was to bow and worship the gold image. If they didn’t, they would be thrown into a burning fiery furnace.

All the people obeyed the king’s orders except Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Some tattletales in the crowd quickly reported this. Although King Neb liked the three young men, when he heard this, he was furious. He commanded them to be brought before him.

*“Is it true, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, that you do not serve my gods or worship the gold image which I have set up?”* (v. 14 NKJV), the king asked. He gave them a second chance to worship the gold image but warned, *“If you do not worship, you shall be cast immediately into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. And who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?”* (vs. 15 NKJV).

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego answered. *“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If that is the case, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up”* (vv. 16–18 NKJV).

King Neb became more enraged. He commanded the furnace to be heated seven times hotter than usual. His officers bound and cast the young men into the fiery furnace. When they fell into the furnace, all the onlookers thought they had died.

But a surprised king said, *“I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God”* (v. 25 NKJV).

The fire did not harm Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. Scripture says, *“The hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them”* (vs. 27 NKJV).

As a result of these young men getting thrown into the fiery furnace, King Neb recognized that their God saved them. It took the fire for him to realize this! Although it looked like Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego were destined to die, in the end, the king promoted them.

## God Is With Us

Many times when we are facing a fiery furnace, we fervently pray that God would keep us out of it. Praying this way shows that we’re focused on the wrong thing. The fire that we see appears bigger than Jesus Whom we don’t see!

Our mindset needs to be that *“greater is He that is in [us], than he that is in the world”* (1 John 4:4). The power in us is greater than any power coming against us.

Know that God is with us in every fiery trial. As we trust Him, stand on His promises, and give Him thanks, He will direct our paths to victory. And others will marvel and see what an awesome God we serve.♥



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# WHERE DO I GO FROM HERE?



KENNETH W. HAGIN

**EVERY PERSON** has a divine destiny. If you want to fulfill your destiny, you must first realize that you have a God-designed purpose and plan. You can't achieve what you don't know you have!

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says, “*For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*”

The devil may have destined you for pain and sorrow, but God has already done everything you need for a way of escape. You hold the key to your future.

## Two Choices

You and I have two choices: succumb to circumstances or fulfill destiny. Every day we face these choices. It's easy to unconsciously choose the first one. But once you know that God has a future for you, follow His way!

The Bible is full of examples of people who faced the same two choices. Circumstances had determined a particular future for them, but they called on the Lord in faith and changed their destiny. As we look at a few situations, imagine each person asking this question: Where do I go from here?



## THE BLIND BEGGAR MARK 10:46–52

Bartimaeus was blind. In that day, there was no welfare fund, no vocational training for the visually challenged, and no Braille system. Circumstances had relegated him to begging on the roadside.

Imagine Bartimaeus as people and animals pass by on the road from Jericho. The dirt and dust settle on his clothes. He smells the food some are eating, and his stomach cries out for a morsel. Still, he sits there hoping to make it another day when he hears a commotion. A large crowd seems to be approaching. There is a great stir, and he learns it is Jesus of Nazareth.

Bartimaeus realizes that this is his opportunity! What he does from this moment on does not rest in the hands of God. It does not rest in the hands of religious leaders. It rests solely with blind Bartimaeus himself.

Where does he go from here? Does he let the crowd go by and accumulate a few coins? Or does he turn to the only real help mankind has ever known? It doesn't take him long to make up his mind and respond. Jumping to his feet, he yells, “*Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me*” (vs. 47). And Jesus healed him!

In faith Bartimaeus called on Jesus and chose a new destiny—he received sight.

***You and I have two choices: succumb to circumstances or fulfill destiny.***



## THE OUTCASTS LUKE 17:11-19

Ten lepers, outcasts from society, lived outside the town. They were bound with a loathsome disease mutilating them and taking them to their graves. One day they saw Jesus entering their town and asked themselves, “Where do we go from here?”

They decide to go to Jesus. As He passes by, the lepers cried out, “*Jesus, Master, have mercy on us*” (vs. 13). Jesus sees them and tells them to show themselves to the priests. He didn’t say, “Be healed.” There was no physical change in their condition yet.

Under Jewish law, the priests were the only ones who could pronounce lepers clean. The lepers did not question for a moment if they should go to the priests. Verse 14 tells us that as they went, they were cleansed.

The lepers called out to Jesus and chose a new destiny—they became whole.

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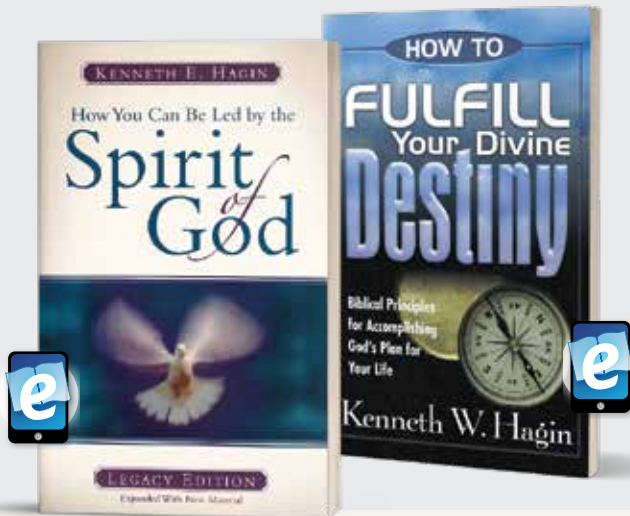
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## THE SICK WOMAN MARK 5:25-34

A woman who had been bleeding for 12 years spent all she had on doctors. She didn’t get better and instead grew worse. She heard about Jesus and answered the question: Where do I go from here? She said, “*If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole*” (vs. 28).

She finds Jesus with a crowd surrounding Him. She must decide if it is worth the struggle of pushing and shoving her way through the crowd.

How many times have we been in her position when the thing we wanted was out of reach? We could respond to circumstance and decide, “It’s not worth it. I’ll get it later.”

But the woman chose to press through. She reached out to Jesus and changed her destiny—she was instantly healed.



## THE LEADER MARK 5:21-43

While this is going on with the woman with the issue of blood, Jairus, the synagogue leader, is waiting. Jesus had been accompanying Jairus to his home, where his daughter lay sick. Immediately after the woman’s miracle, a messenger comes to tell Jairus his daughter had died and not to bother the Master any longer.

As those words were spoken, it was as if Jesus read Jairus’ thoughts. Jesus says, “*Be not afraid, only believe*” (vs. 36). At that moment, Jairus has a choice to make: Do I run home to my family, or do I continue to walk along leisurely with Jesus because He said not to fear?

Jairus chose to take Jesus at His Word. He continued with Jesus and changed the destiny of his family—his daughter came back to life.

## Circumstance or Destiny?

Where will you go from here? The answer is up to you. Will you choose to stay in the situations of life that you have perhaps always been in and may even seem secure? Or will you move in the direction God has for you? His path leads to your divine destiny!

I’m not saying it will be easy or that things will happen overnight. It’s a *fight* of faith (1 Tim. 6:12). And it’s by faith and *patience* that we inherit the promises of God (Heb. 6:12). As you learn how to walk with God, you become stronger. Continue to ask Him, “Where do You want me to go from here?”


You will fulfill your divine destiny if you boldly press on with God. Don’t turn and run! Stop trying to put *your* plan into action. Find out what God has waiting for you and put *His* plan into action. Receive His best for your life and don’t let anything get in the way. Your divine destiny belongs to you. ♥

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—PSALM 18:28-29 (NIV)

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# Start **Having Fun** Again

**DARRELL HUFFMAN**

**IS YOUR FAITH** working or has frustration crept in? You can't be in faith and frustration at the same time! So where are you? One of the easiest ways to check is to listen to what you are continually saying. **FAITH SPEAKS THE VISION. FRUSTRATION SPEAKS THE PROBLEM.**

## Bitter Battles

I don't know about you, but I've gone through some battles! People have done me wrong, projects have gone sour, and persecution has come through the years. In those times, I found myself in frustration, not in faith. Without faith, the struggles made me bitter.

During a particularly difficult time, I asked the Lord what was wrong. He asked me one question in return, "Where's your hope?" My answer showed where I was living: "To serve you today!" I was looking at one 24-hour period at a time. I couldn't even see tomorrow.

I had lost my vision. The things of God were not motivating me. Instead, the difficult circumstances around me were controlling me—my words, actions, and attitudes—and affecting others. **FRUSTRATION WILL BREED FRUSTRATION, JUST AS FAITH WILL PRODUCE FAITH AND VISION WILL BRING FORTH VISION.**

## Return to Passion

Many of us live in a strange mix of blessing and dissatisfaction. We have lost our vision and are going through the motions of faith. Often, we don't anticipate that God is moving. We are distracted. We are not experiencing faith in all of its creative power!

Great men and women of old had a passion that we need today. Their passion caused them to get up before sunrise and intercede. It

enabled them to stand up to criticism. Passion got them through tough times because their faith was full of hope and vision.

This one thing I know: We can't stand around and wait for passion to return. Seek the face of the Father and ask Him to burn His Word, His revelation, and His plan into your heart. We won't get passion from television or the latest book. **WE MUST WAIT UPON THE LORD. HE IS THE ONLY ONE WITH THE ANSWERS WE SEEK.**

If you are living in the land of frustration, the move of faith happens from the inside out. You must get back to a place where you are no longer moved by what you see. When the vision motivates you, it will cause an amazing transformation!

## Refocus and Refresh

You didn't lose your hope overnight, so it may take a while before you can stand strong again. When you focus on the Lord instead of the circumstances, He promises to refresh you (Acts 3:19). You will be given the desires of your heart if you delight in the Lord (Ps. 37:4).

Enjoy your time with the Lord and the life He has given you! When you choose to make the most of every day and have fun doing it, you can receive the "secret petitions" of your heart (Ps. 37:4 AMPC).

**START HAVING FUN AGAIN!** Develop your faith in the Lord by sharing *yourself* with Him, not just your problems. Your faith will reach out, grab your hope, speak the vision, and then bring it to reality. Stand your ground and only consider what God has said to you. When you do, **YOU WILL TASTE THE SWEETNESS OF VICTORY!** 🏆

[Editor's Note: Darrell Huffman is pastor of New Life Church in Huntington, West Virginia. He is a regular *Campmeeting* speaker.]

## FAITH IN ACTION

### Search Your Heart

Are you experiencing victory? If not, be honest before the Father and say, "My frustrations are not getting me anywhere. I realize I need to stay in faith and be motivated by Your vision. Help me, Lord. I want to see Your plans and desires come to pass."



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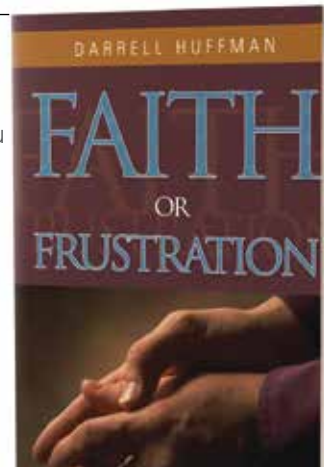
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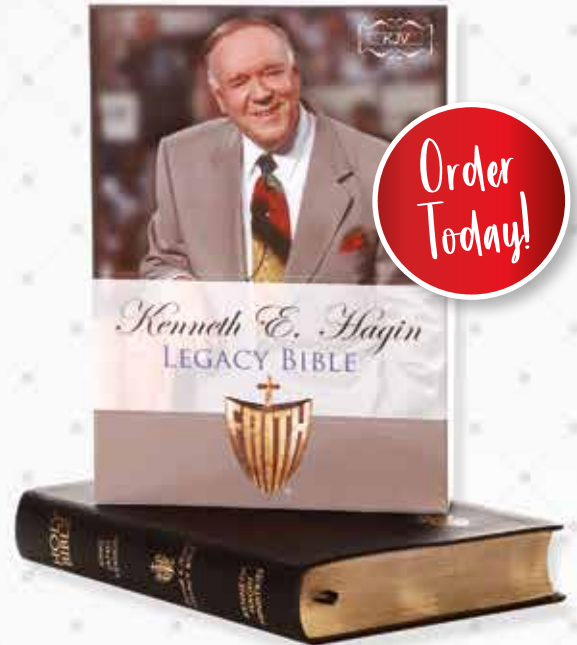


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# A Mother's INFLUENCE

*For many of us,*

Mother's Day is a wonderful celebration. For others, it can bring sadness or pain. Maybe your mother is not here on earth with you, or perhaps you don't have the best relationship with your mother. Regardless of our situations, we can all say that our mothers gave us life. And *that* is something to be thankful for! Let's honor and appreciate our moms and mother figures in our lives—whether by word or memory. They influence us like no one else!



## Mom-Influenced Miracle

CRAIG W. HAGIN

Moms are very special people. If you watch sporting events, you'll see TV cameras capturing players and fans saying, "Hi, Mom!" Not that dads aren't important—there's just something special about moms.

It's interesting that Jesus' first miracle was because of His mom. At a wedding in Cana, the family ran out of wine—an embarrassment in that day. Jesus' mom brought it to His attention. He said it wasn't their problem to solve or His time for miracles. She didn't listen! She overrode Him and told the servants to do whatever Jesus said. (See John 2:1–11 NLT.)

Jesus' mom is the one who influenced Him even when He said His time had not yet come. If Jesus' mom had that much significance in His life, our moms are probably just as influential.

## My Mom's Impact

I know my mom has a lot of influence on me! Every time she wants something, I do whatever I can to make it happen. Over the years, when I've told her we couldn't do something, she'd tell me there's a scripture that says we can. "*For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength*" (Phil. 4:13 NLT). As a result, her biggest influence is teaching me that I can.

The globe in the Rhema Church Auditorium is one project where I first said, "We can't." She wanted it to descend from the ceiling and slowly spin. At the time, no one had done anything like it. We checked with everyone we could think of including theme parks. But Mom said, "We can do it." I had to change and say, "Okay!" And we did!

My mom taught me it's not about *me* doing all things; it's about doing all things *through Christ*. She helped me learn to give things to Jesus—to let Him guide. Then God can give us the strength and ideas.

## Your Mom-Spiration

Mothers are the inspiration for many testimonies. I don't know how many times I've heard people say, "Thank God for a praying mom!" Maybe you have one of those moms, but you haven't been the kind of person you need to be. Today might be a good day to make some changes in your life. Even if you and your mom don't have a good relationship, don't take her for granted. Take this opportunity to turn to God and ask Him to help.



## A Prayer From Kenneth W. Hagin

*Heavenly Father, thank You for every mother and the difference they have made. I pray they know Your blessings spiritually, physically, mentally, socially, and financially. If anyone has a broken heart today, I pray You would minister to that and lift them up. I honor them and pray they may be blessed, in Jesus' Name. Amen.*

Even if you're not a mother, you can be like a mother to somebody in your life. You have the power to make a difference in lives all around you!

## Lessons of Love

DENISE HAGIN BURNS

Mothers teach us some of the most valuable lessons in life. I don't think my mom planned to teach me specific things. Half the time she probably didn't know I was watching! But she was one of the greatest teachers I ever had.

The first lesson my mother taught me was about love. There's nothing quite like a mother's love. No matter what a child does, a mother's love goes beyond that. Something happens in her heart—she will do anything for her child.

My mother graciously hosted a slumber party for my junior high cheerleading squad—15 girls—and made 15 penguins (our mascot). I was so excited! She is a very busy lady, but she stayed up late night after night sewing. I still have my penguin, and when I look at it, I don't see a stuffed animal—I see my mother's love.

My mother taught me about unselfish love—the God-kind of love. He gave the ultimate sacrifice for us when He gave His Son. Sometimes you have to give to your own hurt, but it is so important to love others as Christ loved us.

I watched when people hurt my mom. Time after time she forgave them. Growing up, I'd get mad and say, "Why do people do that?" She would smile and say, "Denise, we have to forgive as Christ forgave us. Unforgiveness just hurts us."

She modeled forgiveness, and it stayed with me! People will cause hurt, and it's easy to hold a grudge. But I always hear my mother's voice saying, "No sweetie, you have to forgive." My mom is probably the most forgiving person I know.

Mom was patient and listened to what I had to say. She practiced James 1:19: "*be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry*" (NLT).

She had many opportunities to be impatient, upset, yell, lose her cool, or say harsh words. Instead, she listened, and we worked it out.

Patience with others can be a hard lesson to learn. Growing up in a minister's home, I had to share my parents. Everywhere we went, people wanted to talk. Mom would say, "Denise, we have to be patient. That's what ministry is about—helping others and meeting their needs." Little did I know that I would need that lesson for a lifetime!



My mother taught me to be committed to the things of God. I watched her serve God, pray, use her faith, read her Bible, and I saw God come through time and again. She also made sure *our family* was committed to God. My brother and I would pretend we were asleep, thinking our parents wouldn't have the heart to wake us for church. It never worked—not one time! God was our priority. I am so thankful for that heritage.

In looking back, school didn't teach me what was most important—my mother did! The lessons I've learned have taken me through some of the hardest things in my life, and I am forever grateful.♥



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# A VITAL ASSET IN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA



BETHANY & FABIAN MCCUNE

AFTER ATTENDING community college for two years, Fabian McCune was frustrated and discouraged. He had just failed an exam in a subject he was proficient in. But while sitting in class, he heard the Lord say, “This is not where you’re supposed to be.” At that moment, he knew he was supposed to attend Rhema Bible Training College.

Fabian left the college in Michigan. Within two months, he was accepted to RBTC and living in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Having attended Word of Faith International Christian Center in Southfield, Michigan, Fabian was familiar with Kenneth E. Hagin and Rhema. The pictures he had seen in *The Word of Faith* magazines growing up were now a reality. “I felt like I had reached the Promised Land. I felt at peace,” says Fabian.

Bethany McCune was also familiar with Rhema while growing up. At eight years old, she moved from Texas to Broken Arrow so her mother could attend the school.

When Bethany was five years old, she was called to full-time ministry. But she fell away from God during her teen years. She blamed God for allowing all the seemingly unfair circumstances in her life up to that point. Her anger turned into hatred, and she became an agnostic.

She was headed on a downward spiral, but in July 2010, at the age of 19, a Rhema graduate and his wife invited her to *Campmeeting*. She accepted the invitation and rededicated her life to Christ that week. But there was more. God told her she was supposed to go to Rhema.

Not knowing what the Lord had spoken to Bethany, the couple who took her to *Campmeeting* offered to pay her tuition. “My life completely transformed within a matter of a month,” she says.

## A Season of Testing

After graduating second year, God directed Fabian to stay in Tulsa. Music was always the center of his life, so naturally, he thought he would be a worship leader. But in 2008, God told Fabian that he was called to pastor. The Lord instructed him to enroll in the Rhema School of Pastoral Ministry. A passion for Columbus, Geor-

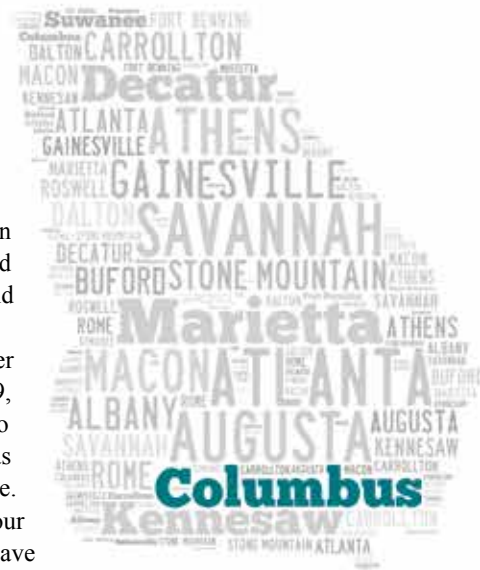
gia, began to grow in his heart, and the Lord showed him he would start a church there.

Immediately after graduating in 2009, Fabian was ready to go! But the vision was for an appointed time. It would be another four years before God gave him the green light. During that time, he traveled with the Hagins on crusades, taught in Sunday school, and led worship for Synergy and Prayer School.

Hard times came knocking, and his faith was tested in this season. For three months Fabian was without a car or his own apartment. At night, he slept on a friend’s couch. “In those hard times, I was able to seek God, grow, and allow the Holy Spirit to lead me and build my character for what I’m doing today—pastoring a church!” he shares.

## God Qualifies the Called

Fabian and Bethany met at Rhema. They became friends, began dating, and eventually were married.



### DEMONSTRATING THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF COMMUNITY.



EASTER EGG HUNT



TRUNK OR TREAT HALLOWEEN OUTREACH



Fabian revealed his plans to Bethany to start a church in Georgia. She felt being in a leadership role over people spiritually—after only having served God for three years—was a huge stretch. Although her preparation at RBTC had equipped her, she admits, “It wasn’t something I felt qualified for at all. But one of the biggest things I’ve learned with pastoring is that God doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.”

That mantra has been the foundation for the McCunes’ ministry. In 2013, only six days after they were married, they moved to Columbus with a small team to start Vital Church where they serve as lead pastors. Five years later, the growing congregation is a light to this southern town.

### Making a Vital Difference

The vision for Vital Church is taken from Acts 2:42–47: to prope unity, build community, and be vital. Fabian and Bethany do this by bringing together people of every race, denomination, and background to build a solid community that does life together the way the early Church did in the Book of Acts.

One way Vital Church makes this happen is by hosting community events as a way to show the love of God to the people in the surrounding neighborhoods. The events are well received with hundreds attending. As a result, the church has established a positive presence in the community.

They also have Bible studies where church members learn who they are in Christ by going through books such as *The Believer’s Authority*. And people are taking what they’ve learned back to their communities. “We’re emphasizing that you *are* the church,” says Bethany. “You can be vital in your community and workplace. You can represent Christ wherever you go.”

The McCunes are seeing a difference in the lives of the people in their congregation. There are testimonies of restored marriages. Some members had wanted nothing to do with church. But now they are giving it a chance because of what they’re seeing and learning at Vital.

One woman’s heart was hardened towards church of any kind. But because her husband and daughter had been attending Vital, she decided to visit. One Sunday after service, she met Pastor Fabian and very frankly told him “I think you’re a fake.” But she kept coming back.

Eventually, her heart began to soften. She went from hating church to loving it. But even with a new attitude, she decided to leave. Three weeks later she came back and tearfully acknowledged that Vital Church was the real deal and there was nothing else like it in the city.

The McCunes are committed to following God. Part of that for them means staying connected to Rhema, which they describe as their home and family. They come “home” for every conference that Rhema has to offer.

As they continue to grow in their roles as pastors, they are expecting God to do big things in their community and city. Their dream is to see the different denominations in Columbus come together. “We are giving, loving, and reaching out to affect those around us,” says Bethany. “And because we are stronger together, we will be *vital* in our city, our nation, and our world!”

### PRAYER FOCUS



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.....  
**TO LEARN MORE** about Fabian and Bethany McCune, go to [vitalchurchcolumbus.com](http://vitalchurchcolumbus.com).  
 .....



VITAL KIDS



Timeless  
Teachings  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

# Why Jesus Had to Die

**THE BIBLE IS** a mystery book until we find the key that opens it. Then it stops being a mystery and becomes a message. Two words open the Bible to our understanding, and they are *life* and *death*.

Death has been a mystery in all ages. Science stands mute in its presence, unable to explain it. Philosophy turns poetic when it meets this dreaded enemy of man. Theology has dealt only in generalities when attempting to explain it.

Death—that bloodhound-like foe—began its work at the cradle of humanity and has followed the human race through the centuries until the present. Death was not part of the creation or God’s original plan. Physical death is an enemy of God and man. The Bible says in First Corinthians 15:26 that physical death is the last enemy that shall be destroyed.

THE NEW BIRTH DOES NOT TAKE PLACE GRADUALLY. ***It is instantaneous!***

IT IS A GIFT FROM GOD THAT IS RECEIVED THE MOMENT WE BELIEVE.

Before we can understand the nature of death, we must understand the nature of man. Man is not a physical being. Man is a *spirit*, who possesses a *soul*, and lives a *body* (1 Thess. 5:23).

When Jesus told Nicodemus, “*Except a man be born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God*” (John 3:3), the puzzled Pharisee

asked, “*How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?*” (vs. 4). Jesus explained, “*That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit*” (vs. 6).

## The New Birth Is the Rebirth of the Human Spirit

The real man is a spirit. The spirit operates through the soul (man’s intellect, emotions, and will). The soul, in turn, operates through the physical body.

Now the man (who is spirit) and his soul live in a body. At physical death, the spirit and soul leave the physical body and go to their eternal home.

Several kinds of deaths are spoken of in the Bible, but there are three kinds that we need to familiarize ourselves with: (1) spiritual death, (2) physical death, (3) eternal death or the Second Death, which is being cast into the lake that burns with fire and brimstone.

Spiritual death came to the earth first and manifested itself in the physical body by destroying it. Physical death is a manifestation of “*the law of sin and death*” (Rom. 8:2).

When God said to Adam, “*In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*” (Gen. 2:17), He was referring to spiritual death. If man had never died spiritually, he would not have died physically.

## Spiritual Death Means Separation from God

Adam became separated from God the moment he sinned. It was God's custom to walk and talk with Adam. When God came down in the cool of the day, He called, "Adam, where art thou?" Adam said, "I hid myself" (Gen. 3:9-10). He was separated from God.

Man is now united with the devil. He is an outcast, driven from the garden with no legal ground to approach God. He no longer responds to the call of God. He responds only to his new nature, or to his new master. Man is more than a transgressor. He is more than a lawbreaker and a sinner. Man is spiritually a child of the devil and partakes of his father's nature.

This explains why man cannot be saved by conduct. He has to be born again. If man were not a child of the devil, he could just begin to act the right way, and he'd be all right. But even if he puts on right conduct, he's still a child of the devil and will go to hell when he dies.

Man cannot stand in the presence of God as he is because he has the nature of his father, the devil, in him. If man is ever saved, he has to be saved by someone paying the penalty for his sins and by someone giving him a new nature.

### *Jesus came to redeem us from spiritual death!*

Man, however, who is a spirit living in a body, can be reborn. His nature can be changed. He can become a new creature in Christ Jesus.

Jesus Christ took upon Himself our sin nature. Hebrews 9:26 says He, "*put away sin [not sins] by the sacrifice of himself.*" He

#### FAITH IN ACTION

### Receiving Christ as Savior

In the New Birth, you become a new creation. Your spirit being is completely changed when you repent and turn to God. If you are not born again, and would like a new beginning, pray this prayer from your heart:

God, I come to You in Jesus' Name. I admit that I have sinned and have come short of Your standard. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price for my sins. Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. I ask You to be my Savior and Lord. I trust You to be my Good Shepherd and provide everything I need. Through You, I receive God's free gift of eternal life. Thank You for saving me!

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

took upon Himself the nature of spiritual death so we might have Eternal Life.

Jesus said, "*The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly*" (John 10:10).

Jesus came to redeem us from spiritual death! Adam was banished from the Tree of Life through rejecting God's Word. According to Revelation 2:7, all who now accept and obey the Word of God are brought back to the Tree of Life.

The New Birth does not take place gradually. It is instantaneous! It is a gift from God that is received the moment we believe.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the minibook, *The New Birth*, by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

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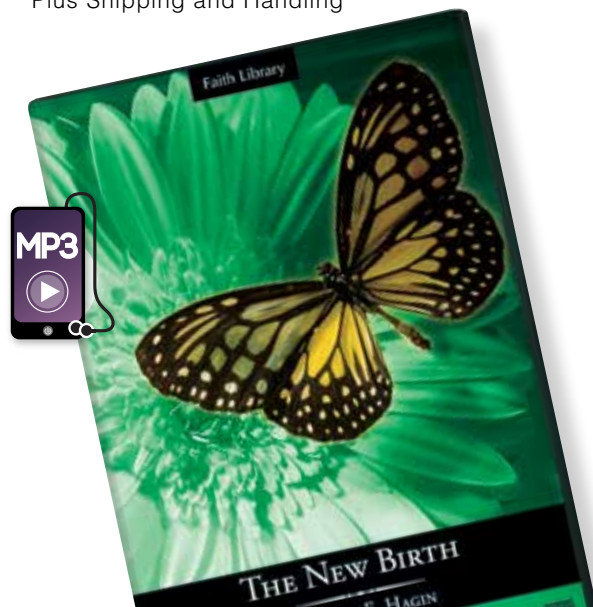
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KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES'

# Winter Bible Seminar

## & Rhema Homecoming 2018



### IT'S ABOUT FAMILY

**THOUSANDS GATHERED** for *Winter Bible Seminar* and *Rhema Homecoming 2018*. Despite the recurring wind, rain, and even a little ice, there was constant warmth throughout the week as the Rhema family mixed and mingled. Events for various groups from Word Partner members to RBTC alumni strengthened bonds. Invigorating messages, timely words of wisdom, and powerful prayer refreshed the international crowd. Whether online or on land, people participated in the services, salvations, rededications, infillings of the Holy Spirit, and healings. It was truly a family of believers reconnecting, caring, and growing together. Here's a sampling of what attendees heard.♥



#### What Does the Covenant Say?

"In our western culture, we don't understand covenants as much as other cultures do. We use contracts—signed legal documents. A contract can be broken, but a covenant cannot. **WE NEED TO REALIZE THAT WE HAVE A COVENANT!** I don't care what the enemy is doing to disrupt it—he cannot break the covenant we have with God through Jesus Christ. Too many

people are living far below their covenant rights. They are trying to get by the best way they can. That's not our covenant. If we don't know anything about the covenant, we won't live in the full rights and privileges of it. We must rise up, begin to understand our covenant, and walk in it. We are covenant people!" // **KENNETH W. HAGIN**



#### EXPERIENCE IT

Watch archived messages at

[vimeo.com/rhema/collections](https://vimeo.com/rhema/collections).

Just click on *Winter Bible Seminar 2018*.

#### Are You Ready for a Mighty Revival?

"Before Jesus returns, there will be a mighty revival. But **FOR REVIVAL TO COME INTO ITS FULLNESS, WE HAVE TO GET READY BY LIVING HOLY, CONSECRATED LIVES.** We have to reject the things of this world that contaminate us. How do we do this? By polishing ourselves with the Word of God. By communing with our Heavenly Father and living godly. We are not slaves to sin but to the resurrection power of God! We are to be slaves to righteous living so that we will be holy." // **LYNETTE HAGIN**



#### The Bible Is Your Game Plan for Life

"A coach prepares by finding the opponent's tendencies, strengths, and weaknesses. He's not surprised when he goes into the game, and they do what they normally do. You have to be prepared for your enemy, the devil. **JOHN 10:10 IS LIKE A SCOUTING REPORT.** Jesus is letting

you know there's a real enemy, and he's mean. He steals, kills, and destroys. Don't be shocked. Do something about it! **YOU'VE GOT THE BIBLE, THE PLAYBOOK, THE GAME PLAN.**"

// **CRAIG W. HAGIN**



#### The Lifestyle of Peace

"Peace is a choice. Psalm 34:14 (NIV) tells us to, *'seek peace and pursue it.'* Experiencing peace is not passive. We have an active part to play in experiencing it every day. **LIVING IN CONTINUAL PEACE HAS MORE TO DO WITH US THAN WITH THE LORD.** It's up to us to take our

thoughts captive and not allow ourselves to live in the 'what-ifs.' Pursuing peace never stops—it's a life-long process."

// **DENISE HAGIN BURNS**



"Many people think they are in faith, but they are *trying* not *trusting*. The fight of faith is resting in what God has done." // **KIRK DUBOIS**



"Life and death are in the power of the tongue. Our tongue can be our greatest ally on the planet. What we say is important. Let's not get casual with our mouths." // **JOE DUINICK**



"When the storms of life come, what you've been consistently saying will automatically come out. It's the words that we say and believe every day that bring victory." // **TAD GREGURICH**



"Righteousness is a free gift. Once it's obtained, it must be maintained. It is possible for your righteousness to deteriorate to the point that it doesn't function to the fullest potential." // **DOUG JONES**



"The enemy tries to stir up opposition and persecution when God opens doors of opportunity. Never allow opposition to be a determining factor to know whether open doors are from God." // **TONY MCKINNON**



"Some Christians make decisions by taking a chance. God has not called us to walk by chance. He has called us to walk by faith, guided by the Word." // **BILL RAY**



"God hasn't started a work in you so He can set you on a shelf. He is doing a work in you because He wants to do a work through you." // **DAN TAYLOR**



"Your thoughts should always be on the Word. Why? Because faith—an ability to believe and reach out and grab the promises of God—is developed on the inside of you." // **MARVIN YODER**

"Rhema USA is like our home. We come here to get refreshed, get our marching orders, and be able to continue in the power of the Holy Ghost and the fire of God." // **TANYA, CRIMEA**

"We have made it our aim to always come back for *Winter Bible Seminar*. It creates due north for our compass." // **ADRIANNE, UKRAINE**



### Rhema Kids

The theme "Superheroes" for Rhema Kids brought powerful worship and ministry. Kids learned the following: 1) they are "superheroes" through Christ because of the cross; 2) Satan, the villain is defeated; 3) they can use the sword of the Spirit; and 4) there's nothing greater than the power of love.

On the final night, the kids broke out in spontaneous worship. The power of God was strong as the Lord ministered to each one individually. Many were on their knees or standing with eyes closed and hands raised, lost in the presence of God. There were testimonies of salvations, healings, and deliverance from fear. It was a super week in Rhema Kids!



### Winter Blitz

JV and Varsity Youth combined for a dynamic week at *Winter Blitz 2018!* D.K. Hall, Varsity director, and Chris Campbell, JV director, spoke to the youth about faith—what it is, the importance of speaking faith, how faith works by love, and their authority and position in Christ. A special altar call was given for the students to speak boldly to the mountains in their lives. As a result, many were instantly healed and set free. It was a powerful and miraculous week of forgiveness, repentance, faith, and healing for both students and leaders alike.

# SEED

## Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

### HONORING MOTHERS

**MOTHER'S DAY** IN the U.S. has been an official holiday on the second Sunday in May since 1914. Certainly, it is fitting to set aside a day to honor the person who was responsible for us being on the earth. The Bible honors wives and mothers in Proverbs 31:10–30. I particularly like two of the verses in the *New Living Translation*. Verse 11 says, "Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life." Verse 28 states, "Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her."

Mothers are one of the most important individuals in our lives. A survey conducted among children said they would choose the love and approval of their mother over money, fame, or possessions.

When asked who the most influential person in his life was, Winston Churchill replied, "My mother."

George Washington said, "My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."

Motherhood is an awesome responsibility. Unfortunately, there aren't any courses you can take that will prepare you for the joys, challenges, heartache, and laughter that motherhood brings. God created the father as the *head* of the home. However, the mother is the *heart* of the home.

A child was asked, "Where is your home?" The little fellow replied, "Where Mother is." As keeper of the home, God has endowed mothers with special traits that qualify her for strenuous and honorable tasks.

She sets the atmosphere of the home, filling it with joy, music, and laughter. Without Mom, no one knows what to wear. She

knows what each child needs to wear each day and has it washed and mended.

I'm reminded of an incident that happened years ago after our children were grown. I have always laid out my husband's clothes each night. One week I was out of town, and in the midst of

trying to get everything done, I forgot to pick out his clothes. I got a phone call from my daughter.

"Mother," she said, "did you not pick out Dad's clothes before you left?"

"Denise, I was in such a hurry that I forgot."

"Mother, Dad looks like a clown today."

I laughed so hard. "Denise," I said, "I won't forget again." Since that day, I have always picked out my husband's clothes!

When Mom's not there, a proper diet is never followed. Dads just ask the kids where they want to go. Of course, it is never healthy food. Mom is the only person on earth who can divide her love among many children and still give each child all her love.

Mothers need to recognize the powerful influence they have on their children. They will learn more about God in the home than any other place. Our attitudes and the values we live by are teaching our children how important or unimportant God is.

Children usually come to mothers to solve their problems. When my children came to me with issues, I often did not have an answer. However, I knew where to find it. I would pray to the Heavenly Father and ask Him for the answer.

I relied on John 14:16–17 many times. The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever. The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you."

On many occasions, I have called upon the Holy Spirit as my Counselor in handling issues for my children. I would ask Him for the right words to comfort or guide them. Then I would teach them how to listen to the Holy Spirit for themselves.

Mothers are special. Is your Mother still living? If so, express your love for the gift that she gave to you—your life. We often do not take the time to tell those who mean the most to us how much we love and appreciate them. I encourage you to do this frequently.♥

Lynette





# Kids' Page

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



## Who Has More Authority?

One of the police officers pictured above has more authority than the other. Based on what you learned in the lesson to the right, which of these two officers has more authority and why?

## You Have AUTHORITY



Have you ever seen a police officer directing traffic in the middle of a busy street? If so, did you notice that even the biggest trucks on the road obey his instructions when he holds up his hand to stop the traffic? Is it because the police officer is strong and powerful that the traffic stops for him? NO! It's because he has **AUTHORITY**! When people see the badge that he wears, they realize that he has power, or authority, to enforce the law and to arrest those who disobey it.

Did you know that, just like that police officer, *you* have authority? Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10:19, "Behold, I give you the authority . . . over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (NKJV). So the next time you see the devil at work, just do like the police officer: Hold up your hand and say "STOP!" But be sure to show your badge! "What badge?" you ask! **The Name of JESUS is your badge!** Jesus told His disciples in Mark 16:17, "In MY NAME they will cast out demons" (NKJV). The devil knows that there is authority in JESUS' Name, so use it often as your badge of authority!

## The Badge Scramble

Unscramble the letters in the badges below to reveal one of the things Jesus told his disciples they had authority over. (Luke 10:19)



## A Little Riddle

We knew the authority in Jesus' Name.  
We used it to heal a man who was lame.  
Who were we?

(Answer found in Acts 3:1)

## jokes & riddles



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

What has four wheels and flies?

A garbage truck

**Johnny:** Were you long in the hospital?

**George:** No, I was the same size that I am right now.

How did the farmer fix the hole in his pants?

With a cabbage patch.

Why did the policeman have a blanket over his head?

He was working under-cover.

What happened when the lion ate the comedian?

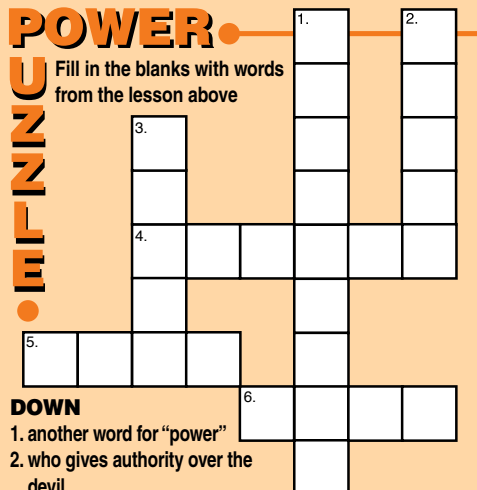
He started feeling "funny."

What do a bad boy and a canoe have in common?

They both get paddled.

## POWER

Fill in the blanks with words from the lesson above



### DOWN

- another word for "power"
- who gives authority over the devil
- a symbol of authority that police officers wear

### ACROSS

- what the disciples cast out in Jesus' name
- what you should do when police officers give instructions
- what you should say when you see the devil at work

**ANSWERS:**  
Who Has More Authority? • Answer: B. Because he is wearing his badge.  
POWER PUZZLE  
1. AUTHORITY 2. JESUS 3. BADGE 4. DEMONS 5. OBEY 6. STOP  
THE BADGE SCRAMBLE • Answer: SERPENTS  
A LITTLE RIDDLE  
Peter and John



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*"And he said to them,  
Go into all the world, and give  
the good news to everyone."*

**-MARK 16:15 (BBE)**



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