

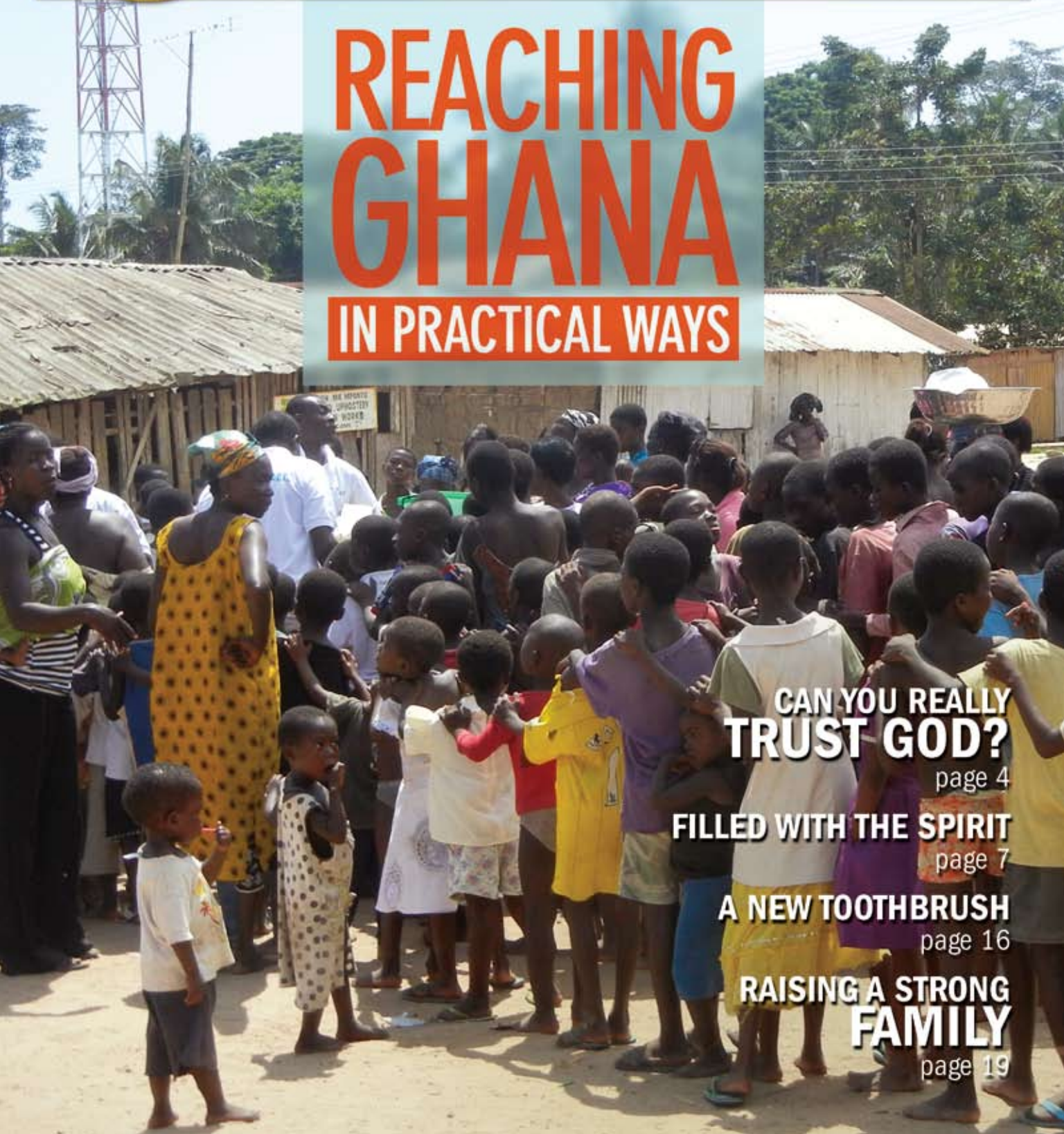


THE Word of Faith

MAY 2013

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

REACHING GHANA IN PRACTICAL WAYS



**CAN YOU REALLY
TRUST GOD?**

page 4

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

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A NEW TOOTHBRUSH

page 16

**RAISING A STRONG
FAMILY**

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the es•sen•tial piece



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the Word of Faith



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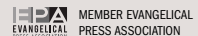
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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

God's Road . . . for You!



Sometimes in our lives we want to say, "God, what's going on?" That's what I said in 1962 when I got a letter from Uncle Sam telling me I was to be inducted into the U.S. Army. I was in Bible school, and I'd been involved in ministry since I was 18. It didn't seem logical!

In the Book of Exodus, we read that when the children of Israel left Egypt, God did not lead them on the shortest or easiest route. He did not take them on the road everyone else would have taken.

God took the Israelites on the route that would benefit them the most (Exod. 13:17-18). He took them on the route that would prepare them for the Promised Land. Likewise, looking back now, I see that the training I received working with Army security and communications prepared me for some of the things I do today.

You see, God's road may not be the one we want to take. It may not be the easiest. But it's the road He has chosen to get us to our destination successfully.

It's great to have an education and to have some idea of where we want to go in life and what we want to do. I believe God wants us to understand the road in front of us. But as opportunities come our way, we need to pray and read the Word—our road map—to find out if that's the road God wants us to go down at that particular time.

There are many roads we can travel. But God wants us to travel on His road of blessing. He wants us to travel on His road of faith, trust, healing, strength, and love. When we do, we will reach our destiny!

If you are graduating from high school or college this month, congratulations. Remember that God is on your side and He will guide you as you travel His road for you!

And as we celebrate Memorial Day this year, let's remember those who gave their lives so we could live free.

Kenneth W. Hagin

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HOLY BIBLE

AS WE **obey the Word** OF THE LIVING GOD, WE WILL EXPERIENCE ABUNDANT **provision** IN OUR LIVES.

I believe



TRUST



KENNETH W. HAGIN

Dare to Trust God

IF YOUR EMPLOYER told you that you were getting a raise of \$200 a week, you would be overjoyed. In fact, you might immediately call your wife or husband and say, “Honey, my boss raised my salary \$200 a week! Let’s go out and buy that car we’ve been wanting!”

Many of us react like that when we hear words we trust. We might not have the money in hand yet, but because we believe the words that were spoken to us, we operate in faith on them. Words such as these create excitement in us. And because we believe them, we act on them.

We trust other people’s words all the time. We trust people because of what they say or we mistrust them because of what they don’t say. But we usually take *people* at their word.

Numbers 23:19 (Amplified) says, “*God is not a man, that He should tell or act a lie, neither the son of man, that He should feel repentance or compunction [for what He has promised]. Has He said and shall He not do it? Or has He spoken and shall He not make it good?*” If we can put our trust in people, how much more should we believe and trust the Word of the One Who created the universe?

We also read in Isaiah 55:11 (NIV 1984), “*So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*” God’s Word is sure. If our Heavenly Father said it, we can count on it. God desires that His children have simple faith and trust in His Word.

One reason many Christians don’t receive from God is that they don’t take God at His Word! Or they never really put any pressure on His Word. By that I mean, they try to do things in their own strength. They haven’t learned just how trustworthy the Word of God really is.

The writer of the Book of Hebrews encourages us to “*hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep his promise*” (Heb. 10:23 NLT).

Jesus’ 12 disciples learned how reliable His Word was. They found out that they could believe and act upon His Word, even in the face of contradictory circumstances. Here’s an account in Luke chapter 5 of one time when Peter took Jesus at His word, even though what He said seemed to contradict what Peter believed to be true.

..... ”

God’s Word is sure.

IF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER SAID IT, WE CAN COUNT ON IT.

Peter and his partners had fished all night and caught nothing. Jesus asked to borrow Peter's boat so he could speak to the crowd. After He had finished, He said to Peter, "Now go out where it is deeper, and let down your nets to catch some fish" (v. 4 NLT). Peter protested because it didn't seem reasonable to go to all the trouble of lowering their nets again. Nevertheless, Peter recognized the authority in Jesus' words. He acted on them, even though it seemed like a foolish thing to do.

When Peter and his partners obeyed Jesus' words, they caught so many fish that their nets began to break. And the Bible says their boats were so full of fish that they were on the verge of sinking! (See Luke 5:4-9 NLT.) Jesus told Peter exactly where to fish, and when he followed His instructions, the result was God's miraculous abundance and provision!

There is a biblical principle in this for us: As we obey the Word of the Living God, we will experience abundant provision in our lives too.

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



FAITH NUGGET

The Centurion's Great Faith

Great faith is reliance on the Word of God apart from natural circumstances that contradict the Word. **THE WORDS YOU SPEAK DETERMINE WHETHER YOU WILL RECEIVE FROM GOD.** Why? Because your words indicate your faith.

In Matthew chapter 8, we see a marvelous example of faith. A centurion came to Jesus on behalf of his servant, saying, "Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented" (v. 6). Jesus immediately said to him, "I will come and heal him" (v. 7).

The centurion's answer was full of faith. His words demonstrated his faith. He said to Jesus, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed" (v. 8).

The centurion spoke words in line with Jesus' sayings. And Jesus called the words the centurion spoke *great faith* (v. 10)!

WHAT IS GREAT FAITH? It is simply faith in God's Word. **IT'S TAKING GOD AT HIS WORD.** It's speaking God's Word in faith and acting like it's so. God wants us to have the same great faith in His Word that the centurion had in Jesus' words. God wants us to have confidence in the authority and integrity of His Word.

Because of the centurion's great faith, Jesus said to him, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee" (v. 13). And the centurion's servant was healed in the same hour.

[Editor's Note: This has been adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *God's Word—A Never-Failing Remedy*.]

We need to get to the place in our spiritual walk with the Lord that when we see something in His Word or when the Word of God speaks to our hearts, we immediately respond, "Lord, at Your Word, I will obey!" Daring to take God at His Word and act upon it is the kind of faith that pleases Him!♥

» READ MORE

To learn more about God's infallible Word, go to www.khm.com/6vgm and read the article "Forget Not!" by Kenneth W. Hagin.

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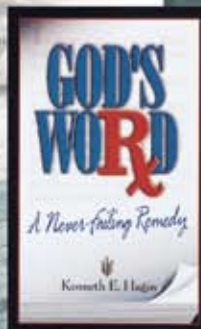
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Samantha Levy—Sam as she likes to be called—grew up shy and had a lot of insecurities and fears. So coming to RBTC was a huge step for her. She hadn't even heard of Rhema until 2007. But **COMING HERE CHANGED HER LIFE!**

“Rhema brought me out of a lot of fear. I realized that I’m capable of doing [what God has called me to do.] I no longer worry about the stuff I used to, and I’m happier. To know that people actually care is huge. And Rhema is really big on that . . . we’re there for each other.”

Sam had no idea that she’d end up as a missionary, but that’s exactly what God called her to do. She completed Rhema’s third-year missions program in May 2012, and in January 2013 she moved to Apia, Samoa, to intern at RBTC there. **THE GIRL WHO NEVER LIKED TO GET HER HANDS DIRTY FELL IN LOVE WITH THE MISSION FIELD.** She loves paperwork, organizing, and ministering one-on-one to those around her—encouraging them as the Lord leads. And she knows she’s exactly where God wants her to be!

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LEVY**

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**Timeless
Teachings**
of Kenneth E. Hagin

Maintaining the **GLOW**

MANY CHRISTIANS STRUGGLE, wondering what the will of God is for their lives. God does impart specific direction to His people concerning His plans and purposes for them. But even when God doesn't seem to be saying anything specific to them about His plan, believers can know and do the will of God in their everyday lives simply by being doers of the Word.

Paul wrote in Ephesians, “*Be ye not unwise, but UNDERSTANDING WHAT THE WILL OF THE LORD IS. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT*” (Eph. 5:17–18). These verses tell us that it is possible to know what the will of the Lord is for our lives. For one thing, God's will is that believers be filled to overflowing with His Spirit.

How can you tell if a person is filled with the Holy Ghost? Someone said, “I'm filled with the Holy Ghost because I spoke with tongues years ago.”

But Greek scholars tell us that in Ephesians 5:18, the Greek words for “*be filled with the Spirit*” mean *be being* filled with the Holy Spirit. In other words, we are to maintain a constant experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit. It's a continual, ongoing action, not something that occurred once sometime in the past. *The will of God for our lives is that we be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit.*

MAINTAINING A ***Spirit-filled life*** IS AS MUCH A PART OF FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE AS RECEIVING SPECIFIC DIRECTION FROM THE LORD ABOUT SOMETHING HE WANTS YOU TO DO.

Romans 12:11 tells us to be “*fervent in spirit*.” Another translation says, “*Be thoroughly warm-hearted*” (Weymouth). The *Revised Standard Version* says, “*Be aglow with the Spirit*.”

The Moffatt translation says, “*Maintain the spiritual glow*.” I like that one best. That's the will of the Lord for our lives. He wants us to maintain the glow of the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit and maintaining the glow is God's will for us because it's written in His *Word*. And we know that God's *Word* is God's will.

Maintaining a Spirit-filled life is as much a part of following God's plan for your life as receiving specific direction from the Lord about something He wants you to do. For example, you could receive specific direction from God about part of His plan for you, and you could obey it. But if you obeyed His direction strictly from a sense of duty, it still wouldn't be God's best for your life. There would be no fervency of spirit or glow about it, and it would be tough sledding! God's will for your life would be difficult to fulfill.

No, God wants you to be filled to overflowing with His Spirit and maintain the glow!

MAINTAINING THE GLOW IS RECOGNIZABLE

According to Ephesians 5:18–21, being filled with the Spirit or being fervent in spirit is recognizable. If it weren't, you wouldn't know whether you were aglow with the Holy Spirit. Certain characteristics accompany the Spirit-filled life.

The first characteristic is “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:19). If you're filled with the Spirit and maintaining the glow, you will have a song in your heart. And if you



GOD'S WILL IS THAT
BELIEVERS ***be filled*** TO
overflowing
WITH HIS SPIRIT.

do, you can't help but speak it out, because "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34; Luke 6:45). Speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is something you do from your own heart, to yourself and to God.

If you are filled with the Spirit, there will be a song in your heart whether you're at church, at home, or on the job—wherever you might be.

Another characteristic of a Spirit-filled life is a heart full of thanksgiving. Ephesians 5:20 says, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." It's easy to shout, jump, and dance in a church service. But when you're really filled with the Holy Spirit, you're motivated by Him, and you're fervent in spirit and aglow with God all the time. And you can thank God in the midst of any and all circumstances.

If you're going through a test or trial, you're not thanking God *because* of the test. But you can thank Him because you have another opportunity to exercise and develop your faith and to prove Him faithful to deliver you.

A third characteristic of a Spirit-filled life is humility. Ephesians 5:21 says, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God." The word *submit* simply means "to give in to one another." Some people have a difficult time submitting to others. But when we're aglow with the Holy Spirit, it's easy, because a fervent spirit makes it easier to keep the flesh under the dominion of our spirit.

We need to maintain a teachable attitude. Without humility and a teachable spirit, we hinder ourselves spiritually from fulfilling the plan of God.

God's will—His purpose—for our lives is for us to be continually aglow with His Spirit. Because He knows that when we do that, it will be much easier for us to successfully follow His plan for our lives. ♥

» FAITH IN ACTION

Maintain a Spirit-Filled Life

Maintaining a Spirit-filled life will greatly affect you in every area. You'll be sharper and clearer in your thinking and healthier in your body. Here are a few ways to do that.

- 1 BE A DOER OF THE WORD.** God's Word is His will. Put His Word into practice every day, even in the little things.
- 2 BE JOYFUL IN THE MIDST OF TRIALS.** Count it all joy when you fall into various tests and trials (James 1:2). Act like God's Word is true, because it is. Rejoice in faith, counting the victory won.
- 3 STAY IN CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD THROUGH PRAYER.** When the first disciples were in trouble, they prayed (Acts 4:13–31). And the Lord granted them boldness to speak His Word.



THE GIFT WITHIN

The Holy Spirit was sent to dwell within us and guide us through life. He comforts us in hard times and serves as our advocate in prayer. Discover what the Bible says about the benefits of living as a Spirit-filled believer.

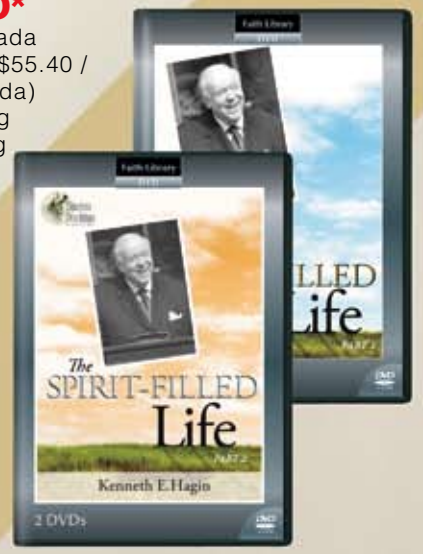
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They Came Expecting



“THIS IS GOING TO BE A GREAT WEEK,” Kenneth W. Hagin told the *Winter Bible Seminar & RBTC Homecoming 2013* crowd on the first night. And it was! People came expecting, and the services were filled with natural and supernatural demonstrations as the Holy Spirit moved. Here’s a sampling of what attendees heard.

Praying for the Nation

“First Timothy 2:1 says, *‘I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men.’* This is our model of praying for those in authority. Rhema Bible Church meets once a month to pray for the nation. We’re praying for all of our leaders—from the president on down. As we do, this nation will be changed! In 1983, Brother Hagin led us in a prayer for our country and we start with his prayer. Then we pray however the Holy Ghost leads us.” // **LYNETTE HAGIN**



Changing Your World

“You must believe that you are supernaturally equipped to change your world and those in your world. It makes no difference who you are, where you’ve come from, or what you’ve done. When God gets hold of you, you become qualified! If God puts you in a neighborhood, change the neighborhood. If God puts you in the business world, change the business world. If God sends you to the jungles, believe that you are God’s person for that hour and change it! God will never send you someplace unequipped.” // **KENNETH W. HAGIN**



“Faith is a firm persuasion—a conviction based on what you’ve heard. It’s what you believe. And it is to affect every area of your life—not just your ‘need’ life.” // **DOUG JONES** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



“The enemy will tempt you to take the easy way out. Stand your ground—hold firm in courage—and God will strengthen you and bring you through to the blessing!” // **BILL RAY** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



“The Name of Jesus is greater than lack, unemployment, relationship issues, and sickness. Start using it! Put it in your mouth. Because all that Jesus was, His Name is!” // **TAD GREGURICH** // RBTC USA DEAN



“God gave us His faith. And His faith works! We just have to trust that it will and hold fast to our positive, bold confession” (Heb. 10:23). // **RICK FERN** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



Power in the Name of Jesus

The wind blew and mist swirled as the children at *Winter Bible Seminar 2013* walked through the Red Sea. Through this and other vivid illustrations in the Rhema Kids auditorium, the little ones experienced firsthand the power of Jesus.

Messages and lessons all week for both children and youth focused on the Name of Jesus and the power that Name gives them to be more than conquerors in life. This year also marked the first *Winter Blitz*, with nightly services for Junior Varsity and Varsity youth.

God touched lives each night. JV youth enjoyed their own services with special times of worship and praise. Varsity youth heard great messages but also spent much time worshipping in the presence of the Lord. "It was almost like you didn't want to leave," said Denise Burns, Rhema Bible Church Student Ministries pastor. *Winter Blitz* ended with a combined JV-Varsity party at the Ninowski Recreation Center.



"Too many Christians are trying to understand. You're never going to understand the power of God. You have to come to the conclusion, 'My God works. God's power and God's ability always work.' " // **CRAIG W. HAGIN** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR

Miss Winter Bible Seminar 2013?

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"You're not trying to get healed on your own ability. The moment you were born again, God came into you. And everything He is, He is in you!" // **LEIGH ANN SOESBEE** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



"What is with God? He wants so much to be with His people. What is man that He is mindful of them? He loves them with an enduring love that requires nothing in return." // **JEANNE ORRISON** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



"This is the unique privilege of every believer now—we can receive the power of the Holy Ghost and be led by the Spirit and hear from Heaven." // **KIRK DUBOIS** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



"Knowing what encourages you is vastly important. Do whatever it takes to get away from the agitation in your life and build yourself up with what God has to say to you." // **KAREN JENSEN** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



"If you think freedom means nobody telling you what to do, you're missing what freedom in Christ is. You're trying to see what you can get away with that God will be OK with." // **JOE DUINICK** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR



"From the beginning of time, God's love for us has been so great that He has done everything He possibly could to get to us." // **BOB KEICH** // RBTC USA INSTRUCTOR

HEAR THE *word*.
EXPERIENCE THE *spirit*.
KNOW GOD.



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Reaching GHANA in Practical Ways

PRAYER POINTS:

» WISDOM

» BEING LED BY THE SPIRIT



UNLIKE BEACHFRONT PROPERTY in the U.S., many beaches in Ghana, West Africa, are part of fishing villages. Instead of multimillion-dollar condominiums, pristine sand, and upscale restaurants, Ghana's fishing communities are filled with brightly colored vessels, somewhat ragtag equipment, and the stench of fish lingering in the hot, humid air.

Against this backdrop, 8-year-old Daniel Ndede did whatever was needed to survive. "We would go to the beach when people would bring in the fish," recalls Ndede, an '05-'06 Rhema USA grad. "Sometimes we would steal some fish. If they caught you, you're in trouble. But most of the time they didn't."

Children usually focus on having fun while growing up. They never dream that their parents will abandon them. But the unthinkable happened to Daniel. While many kids complain about school and doing their homework, Daniel had to drop out of regular classroom studies to enroll in the school of survival. Forget reading, writing, and arithmetic. He had to figure out how to find food and shelter.

You see, Daniel's father followed in the footsteps of far too many men who don't want to accept the responsibility of a family—he left. Unable to bear the financial strain, Daniel's mother packed her bags and left too. She thought Daniel's dad would come back for him, and his dad assumed that his mother was taking care of him.

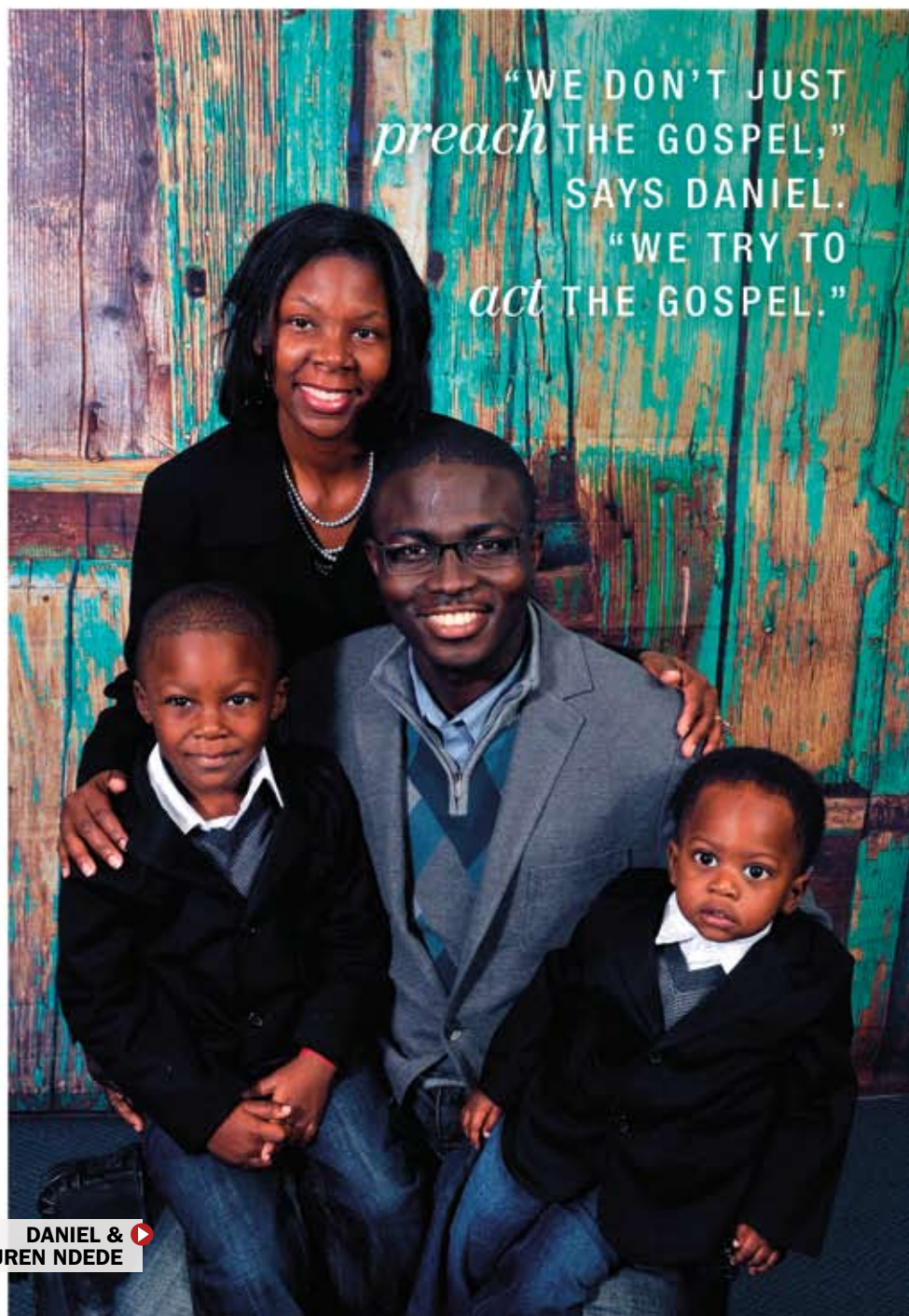
Of course, Daniel didn't have any money and was quickly thrown out of the apartment he once called home. At first he stayed with friends, but their parents soon tired of having him around and made him leave. So at a tender, young age, Daniel had nowhere to go but the streets and alleyways. Once there, he joined a gang.

While Daniel was on the streets, a man approached him and began sharing the Lord with him. "I wasn't interested in Jesus," he says. "I thought that maybe if I listened to him, he would give me something to eat."

For a time Daniel pretended to be a Christian. Whenever the doors of a particu-

lar church were open, he was there listening to the preacher. Not that he believed anything the minister said. He found that by doing this, he could get off the streets and have a safe place to sleep for the night.

One day Daniel stumbled across Kenneth E. Hagin's minibook "You Can Have What You Say!". "The book changed my life," he



"WE DON'T JUST
preach THE GOSPEL,"
SAYS DANIEL.
"WE TRY TO
act THE GOSPEL."

DANIEL & KAUREN NDEDE


**POWER OF FAITH
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COLLEGE GRADUATES**

**HUNGRY STUDENTS
SOAKING UP THE WORD.**

**MINISTERING TO
THE CHILDREN.**


says. “I didn’t have a good education, and Brother Hagin didn’t use big words. Some of the words, I didn’t understand. But the ones I did are what changed my life.”

Daniel began putting into practice the principles he read in the book. Eventually he met a Rhema missionary who was doing street evangelism and began translating for her. The missionary saw Daniel’s heart and knew that he needed to come to Rhema. She found sponsors who made it possible for him to attend Rhema USA.

It took several years to work out visa issues, but the day came in 2003 when Daniel finally boarded a plane bound for Tulsa, Oklahoma. To Daniel, coming to Rhema was like going to Heaven. “They flew me first class to come to Rhema,” he says. “They bought me a laptop computer. I’d never even used a desk computer before! The first time I had my own place to stay was in Rhema Student Housing!”

Along with soaking in the Word, Daniel met his wife, Kauren, while in school. They married in 2004, and they both graduated from Rhema’s third-year program in 2006—Daniel, from the School of Pastoral Ministry and Kauren, from the School of World Missions. After graduation, they left for Ghana.

With their feet firmly planted on Ghanaian soil, the Ndedes immediately started Power of Faith Bible Training College in Takoradi. Right from the start, they patterned all of their classes after Rhema. Twenty-eight eager students hungry to learn enrolled that first year. Today Power of Faith has come under the Rhema Bible Training College umbrella. Currently 27 students are enrolled in first- and second-year classes, and Rhema Ghana will graduate its first round of students in 2014.

“I’m not saying it was the will of God that I went through what I went through,” says Daniel. “But because of that, I have a heart for my people.

I reach out to the people who are what I used to be.”

One day while Daniel and Kauren were driving in their car, they saw a woman lying on the side of the road. They pulled over to help. She looked as though she had been beaten, and it was obvious that she needed hospital care. They helped her into their car and drove to the local hospital.

The hospital staff wouldn’t treat the woman because she was unable to pay for her medical care, which cost less than \$200. Without hesitation, the Ndedes paid for everything the woman needed. They then left her in the hospital’s care. Some time later they were walking on the street when this woman saw them. She fell at their feet, grabbed hold of their ankles and, through her sobs, thanked them again and again. Because of this one act of kindness, this woman and her entire family were born again and Spirit-filled!

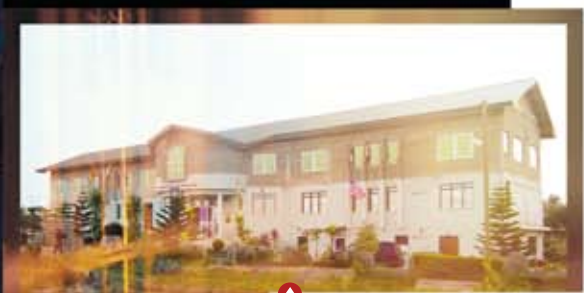
“We don’t just preach the Gospel,” says Daniel. “We try to act the Gospel.” The Ndedes are committed to bringing the Gospel to Africa in practical ways. In addition to teaching full-time at Rhema Ghana, they feed the poor and help new moms. Because the child mortality rate is high in this West African nation, Kauren visits maternity wards to pray with the new moms and bring them supplies for their babies.

Hepatitis B is Ghana’s number one killer disease. The Ndedes have become relentless in creating awareness about the simple ways to prevent Hepatitis B. They also vaccinate as many people as finances permit.

Daniel can’t remember how he happened on Brother Hagin’s minibook so long ago. Who would have thought that finding such a small book would make such a big impact? Not only did it transform Daniel’s life—it transformed the lives of his family members. His mother, father, brother, and sister are all born again and Spirit-filled. His father is currently enrolled in Rhema Ghana.

The impact did not stop with the Ndede family. It’s spilled over to the students of Rhema Ghana and the thousands of people the Ndedes minister to in their outreaches. Daniel and Kauren want to see all of Ghana come to the Lord. It’s fitting then that their ministry motto is, “It’s not over until all the souls are saved.”


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LYNETTE HAGIN

A New TOOTHBRUSH

CLEANING UP THE WORDS OF YOUR MOUTH



“CHRIST ALSO LOVED THE CHURCH, AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT; THAT HE MIGHT *sanctify* AND *cleanse it* WITH THE *washing of water by the word.*”

—EPHESIANS 5:25–26

SOME PEOPLE just naturally enjoy waking up early, but I’m not one of those people. I’m just not a morning person. My energy level actually increases around midnight! So it could be challenging for me to say anything positive before I get out of bed, especially words of praise and thanksgiving. I’d prefer to say, “Oh, it’s morning. I will not rejoice and be glad in it.” But I have learned the value of speaking the right kind of words throughout the day, beginning with when I first get up. So even before my feet hit the floor, I start saying Psalm 118:24, “This is the day the Lord has made; I will rejoice and be glad in it.” I do that because a lot can happen between the time you sit up in bed and when your feet hit the floor!

One day I was planning to go on a trip out of town for a speaking engagement. When I started to get up out of bed that morning, I didn’t realize that for some reason my foot was asleep. So when I put that foot on the ground, it wouldn’t hold me up, and I collapsed on the floor with all of my weight on my ankle! I immediately thought that I’d broken my ankle.

The pain was so excruciating that my husband had to pick me up off the floor and carry me because I couldn’t walk. He drove me to the doctor, and by the time we got there my ankle was

badly swollen. After the doctor examined me, his diagnosis was that I had severely twisted my ankle, tearing all the ligaments in it—and that it would never again be as small as it used to be.

As I sat there gripped with pain, it wasn’t easy to say, “My ankle will go down, it will be the same size as the other, and I won’t have to buy two sizes of shoes.” But I said it by faith and went throughout the rest of my day in the strength of the Lord. And no matter how much my ankle hurt, I kept declaring by faith, “This is the day the Lord has made. I will rejoice and be glad in it!”

The swelling in my ankle did go down eventually, and that ankle is now the same size as my other ankle. It went down because I know the power of speaking the right words—God’s words! Our words form our world. Speaking the wrong words is like carrying around an old toothbrush in an old, wrinkled handbag. That toothbrush represents our mouth and the words that come out of our mouth.

OUT WITH THE OLD

Any dental hygienist will tell you that you’re supposed to change your toothbrush every so often. An old, worn-out toothbrush probably won’t clean anything!

That old toothbrush represents how we can be so consumed with the negative words that have been coming out of our mouths that we don't even realize our mouths need to be cleaned up! Words of disappointment, words of "I can't make it," "I'm so tired," "I'm so stressed out," "I don't have enough"—all the negative words we've spoken—are affecting our lives in the wrong way. Is it time you cleaned up your mouth?

Having a good day doesn't just happen. I believe it begins with the words we speak. Words can devastate or edify; they can build up or tear down. Words can motivate us to accomplish an impossible task or cause us to give up in despair. We must be so careful what we say, because we are snared by the words of our mouths (Prov. 6:2)! How important are the words we speak? I believe that if I hadn't learned to speak positive, faith-filled words each day, I would have had a very different outcome with my ankle.

We speak many words each day, but how often do we really pay attention to the words themselves? It's very important to realize that we are creating our world by the words we speak.

Right now, take a moment and reflect upon the kind of words you have been allowing yourself to speak. Are they negative or positive words? Are they uplifting words or words of criticism? If things aren't going well for you and you have wondered why, you may find as you read on that you have created your situation by your own words and you need to put a watch over your lips. *The good news is that you can change your world by changing your words!*

A CLEAN MOUTH—A CLEAN HEART

According to the Bible, what comes out of our mouths "comes forth from the heart" (Matt. 15:18). This is what the Apostle Paul was referring to in Ephesians 5:26—"the washing of water by the word." Physical water only cleanses our outward bodies. It takes

the Word of God to cleanse our hearts and the words of our mouths.

You must be diligent to spend time daily meditating on the Word. As you do, it will become so much a part of you that it will be stronger in you than anything else. And you will choose to believe the Word rather than what you see, hear, or feel.

Perhaps the doctor has given you a gloomy report. You don't have to fear; instead, you can quote Psalm 118:17: "I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the Lord." If you are going through tough circumstances, look to Isaiah 43:2 for strength and say: "When I pass through these waters, God will be with me; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow me; when I walk through the fire, I shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon me."

Once you build up your trust in the Lord, fear can no longer dominate you. That's what meditating on and speaking the Word does—it builds up your faith and trust in God.♥

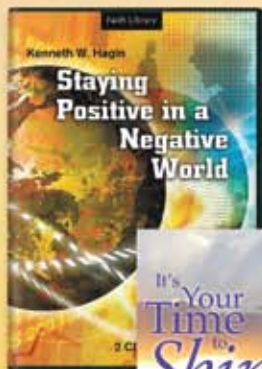


FAITH IN ACTION

Speak Positive Words

Speaking faith-filled words will help you make it through the circumstances of your life. Begin now by simply refusing to focus on your circumstances. Grab the Lord's hand and say, "Father, You said in Your Word that You would never leave me or forsake me. You promised to always be with me. I take Your hand by faith, and I expect You to lead me to victory!" (See Heb. 13:5; Ps. 73:23–24; 1 Cor. 15:57.)

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

Raising a Strong Family

ORETHA HAGIN



WHEN THE LORD told Kenneth to begin traveling in ministry, we decided that I would stay home and provide a proper home atmosphere for our children. Raising children is a calling in itself. And there are many challenges involved.

I had to be both mother and father while my husband was gone. I kept the children in school and provided them with a good home. I also made sure they had a good church family.

Even when Kenneth was away ministering, I took Ken Jr. and Pat to church practically every time the doors opened. We attended church faithfully, and our children never put up a fuss. They had been trained all of their lives that attending church was not an option!

The Right Company

My children weren't perfect, and I didn't know everything they did, but I did my best to see that they were keeping the right company.

If children begin socializing with the wrong crowd, they will start picking up bad habits that can be very harmful to them. That's why I made it a

point to know the friends my children were associating with. And I usually knew where my children were and what they were doing, because they would often invite their friends over to our house for fellowship!

There were many, many weekends and afternoons after school that our house was full of young people! But I liked it that way. I always told Ken Jr. and Pat, "Bring your friends here for fellowship. Anytime you want to have them over, the house is open."

That's what a home is for—to be lived in and enjoyed. After all, who was I making a home for if not for my family?

I also let Ken Jr. and Pat have fun when they brought their friends to our house. I wasn't afraid the house was going to get dirty, and I didn't constantly nag them about it. Yes, sometimes the house got a little messed up. But I taught my children how to clean up their messes, so that was never a problem!



Sacrifices

I never did bemoan the fact that we were in the ministry and that we had to make sacrifices. Yes, there were times when we had no money and very little food and the children didn't have many clothes to wear.

But we never failed to make it through the hard times. **THE HARD TIMES WERE NEVER GREATER THAN GOD'S GRACE FOR US.** And we taught our children that it is wonderful to serve God.

I never told our children we couldn't afford to buy them the things they needed. Kenneth and I continually told our children that God would meet our needs. So if I told them we

couldn't afford the things we needed, they would think God didn't come through for us. I didn't want them to think that way because God will always come through for us when we look to Him and trust Him. He is faithful.

Spiritual and Natural Training

We did our best to raise our children according to the Word of God, and from the time they were very young, we began teaching them about their Heavenly Father. I remember before our children ever started school, Kenneth would read Bible storybooks to them. Later, when he was away, the children and I never failed to read the Bible and pray each day before they went to school.

You see, children need to be taught how to live the Christian life, and they need to learn how to believe God's Word for themselves. They



don't learn those things automatically.

We also trained our children in natural things. For example, I taught Ken Jr. and Pat how to do housework when they were young. I would put them to work helping me wash and dry the dishes. Children should be taught how to handle responsibility because that builds confidence in them. And they need to be prepared to get out on their own when they grow up.

Set the Example

I think one reason some children are disobedient and rebellious is, they don't see the right example set in the home. They don't see the God-kind of love demonstrated by their parents.

If a husband and wife don't show love to each other, how can they expect their children to show love to others? And children need affection too. It's a sad thing for children to be raised in a home where no love and affection are shown.

Kenneth and I have always shown love to our children, and he and I have always been deeply in love with each other. The day we were married, the first thing Kenneth said to me after we left the church was, "We'll always be sweethearts." And it has been that way with us because we want it to be that way, and we work at it.

You Can Be Successful

Raising children is a big responsibility, but with the Lord to help you, you can be successful. There may be sacrifices you will have to make, but whatever you do, don't sacrifice the wellbeing of your children. Any sacrifice you make is not too great a price to pay to be sure they have the best life possible.

I have found that if you let Jesus guide your life, and walk closely with Him, you will set the right example for your children, and things will go well for you and your family. Even if you make a mistake and the circumstances don't look good, those circumstances will change if

"My mother showed me how to be a godly woman, wife, and mother. Because of her lifestyle, I knew God and His love were real."

—PAT HARRISON

"The most important thing I learned from Mom is that nothing is more precious or sacred than doing God's will. The God Who calls us is indeed faithful!"

—KENNETH W. HAGIN (KEN)

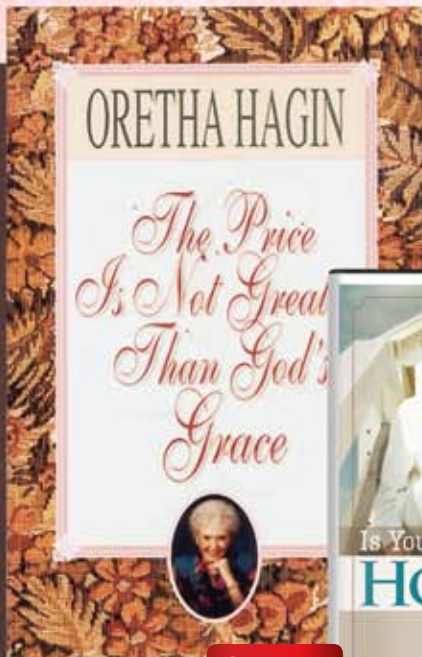


you will keep your attitude right and trust God to work things out for you.

I've also found that if your spiritual life isn't what it should be, then your physical life and your emotional life will sometimes suffer too. Your physical energy will be low when your spiritual life is low.

But life is just so much sweeter when you're walking closely with the Lord—loving Him and doing what He wants you to do. And life will be sweeter for your family too!♥

[Editor's Note: Oretha Hagin went home to be with the Lord in 2007. She and Kenneth E. Hagin were married for nearly 65 years. This article was adapted from her book *The Price Is Not Greater Than God's Grace*.]



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"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall."

—PSALM 18:28-29

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Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL."
— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV 1984)

DO YOU REMEMBER that at the beginning of every school year, the teacher would review what we had learned the previous year? I remember those times most in my math classes. We would especially review the addition and multiplication tables. Why? Because the teacher knew that for those to become automatic for us, we needed to review them again and again.

The Lord has recently been stirring my heart about the need to continuously review the foundational principles of His Word. I have been especially stirred concerning faith and confession of the Word. Of course, "Go teach My people faith" is the foundation of our ministry. God gave my father-in-law this mandate many years ago. He would often pray, "Lord, I'm only one man. How can I get this message out?" In 1974, when we began Rhema Bible Training College, we saw how that would happen.

My husband and I often say we did not understand why God directed us to work for his dad until Rhema was born. Then His purpose and plan for us began to unfold before our eyes. He used us to birth the training college.

What a joy and thrill it continues to be to train laborers for this end-time harvest—laborers who will "go teach My people faith"! Perhaps you have received the revelation of faith either through this ministry or as a graduate of Rhema.

However, if we are not careful, we can let that revelation wane and become dormant. Hebrews 11:6 plainly states, "Without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." And in Hebrews 10:23 we read, "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised.)"

To live a life that is pleasing to God, we need to continually renew our faith. We need to practice using our faith each day. If you do not use an arm or a leg, you will lose strength in that limb. It can become so weak that atrophy sets in. To rebuild strength in that limb, you must exercise it.

It is the same in our spiritual life. If we allow our faith to lie dormant, it will become weak and we could even lose it. We must exercise our faith to build it up again. My husband often says, "Believe God for something every day." Then, to be more explicit, he says, "Believe God for something that is possible to come to pass that day."

Some things we are believing God for may not manifest in a day. However, other things can appear quickly. For instance, I am continually believing God for a close parking space. My time is limited, and I need to get to places as quickly as possible.

Sometimes as I drive through a parking lot, I remind God of His promise. Shortly before He left the earth, Jesus said to His disciples, "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. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:23–24).

When it looks as though the Lord didn't hear my request, I quote this scripture to Him. I talk to Him as I would to my natural father. I say, "Father, You said in Your Word to ask of You, and that we would receive so that our joy would be full. A close parking place would make my joy full."

When I begin to claim that promise, believing it and confessing it, my faith becomes a reality, and that is exciting! Recently I was driving to the grocery store late at night. It was cold and raining. As I drove, I began to make my confession for a close parking place. I drove down one row, and four spaces from the door was an empty slot. I pulled in and began to thank the Lord for answering my prayer.

As I walked toward the store, I suddenly saw that the space next to the door was available. The car next to where I had parked had blocked my view. I quickly jumped back in the car and said, "Lord, I settled for second best. I'm not going to do that. I am going to get the very best parking space that You provided."

Realize that your Heavenly Father is ever ready to grant your requests. And He doesn't want you to have second best, but the very best. Dare to reach out in faith and possess what He has already promised.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Find the Differences

In the pictures below, Jesus calms a storm with the power of His spoken words. Now, see if you can find at least six differences between the two pictures.



The Power of Rhema!

Paul • Peter • God • Ezekiel • A Believer • Jesus

Perhaps you've looked through this magazine and noticed the word "Rhema" being used often. The word Rhema means "The spoken word." The spoken word is powerful! How powerful is it? Here are just a few facts about the power of "Rhema."

1. God's spoken word created the universe. (Hebrews 11:3 GNT)
2. Hearing the spoken word produces faith. (Romans 10:17)
3. The spoken word can get you saved. (Romans 10:9-10)
4. The spoken word can get you healed. (Luke 7:7 NIV)
5. The spoken word can bring life or death. (Proverbs 18:21)
6. The spoken word can heal bones. (Proverbs 16:24 NIV)
7. You'll be judged by the words you've spoken. (Matt. 12:37)

There's still more that can be done with the power of Rhema. Fill in the blanks in the poem below with the names of those listed to the left who have done incredible things with spoken words. You can use the same name more than once.

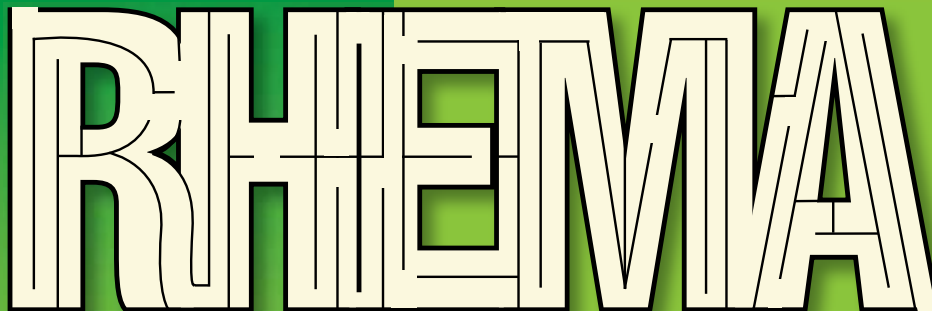
- _____ spoke words and creation came together,
- _____ spoke words that put an end to stormy weather.
- _____ spoke words and a demon was ejected,
- _____ spoke words and dry bones got connected.
- _____ spoke words and a dead man was raised,
- _____ sang words, chains were broken when he praised.
- _____ spoke words and a lame man jumped up shoutin'.
- _____ can speak words that can move a mountain.

Life imparted, blessing given, healing claimed, chains broken—
All this can be done when a Rhema word is spoken!

RHEMA MAZE

Use a pencil to find your way through the maze!

START HERE



FINISH HERE

jokes & riddles



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

What has more letters than a post office?
The Alphabet (it has all the letters)

What did the light bulb say to the switch?
You really turn me off!

What do you call a kangaroo from Scotland?
Hop Scotch

SOUND IT OUT!

Sometimes you have to "sound out" the words you see written down to figure out what the "spoken words" should be. The odd looking phrases below are actually Bible names that you will recognize when you "sound it out!"

- EASY KEY EEL**
- DILL LIE LAW**
- KEYING DAY BED**
- DREW'S A LAMB**
- THEY SAY "LOAN NEONS"**
- IS RAY ILL?**
- POND CHESS PILE IT**

Answers:
Power of Rhema!
God, Jesus, Jesus, Ezekiel, Jesus, Paul, Peter, A Believer
Find the Differences:
1. Jesus' hair is different 2. Mast pole in boat
3. Three disciples shown in first picture
4. Front of boat different 5. Gray cloud different
6. Splash on boat different
Sound It Out!
Ezekiel, Delilah, King David, Jerusalem, Thessalonians, Israel, Pontius Pilate





Kenneth Hagin Ministries

P.O. Box 50126 • Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



Sunday, May 5

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

—MARK 16:15 (BBE)

When you participate in International Rhema Day, you are helping Rhema Bible Training College prepare laborers for the end-time harvest. And their beautiful feet are going around the world preaching the Good News. Together, we are making a difference!

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