



THE Word of Faith

SEPTEMBER 2014

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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Rejoice No Matter What

Our circumstances are constantly changing. As we are caught in these changes, it can be easy to get in fear rather than faith. But it doesn't matter how bad things get—God is still God. He does not change (Mal. 3:6). Even when things get tough, He's still on the throne. And that's why we need to rejoice in spite of what we're going through.

Habakkuk 3:18 (NIV) says, "Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior." Verse 19 in *The Message* translation says, "Counting on God's Rule to prevail, I take heart and gain strength."

You see, we're not rejoicing for the trouble. We're rejoicing because we know the trouble is temporary. We count on God's rule to prevail—not what someone else has ruled and not what the devil has ruled. The deliverance of God is eternal!

That means we can stand on the brink of what looks like disaster and not be afraid. God is our strength. And as we stand firm on His Word, His plan *will* come to pass—no question about it. He will take care of us and see us through. He will enable us to do what we need to do.

If you're facing a difficult situation in your life right now, begin to rejoice. God will strengthen you in the midst of the storm. He will lift you up and set your feet on a higher place. You have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). And you will come out in victory on the other side!

This month's magazine is a great tool to help you stay on that road of rejoicing. Lynette's article on page 10 explains the importance of thinking right. And my article on page 5 will help you learn to receive from God. Plus, there's a great article from Rhema USA instructor and Rhema Peru director Jim Andrews on page 15. He'll show you how important it is to lay hold of Christ in every area of your life.

Keep rejoicing!

Kenneth W. Hagin

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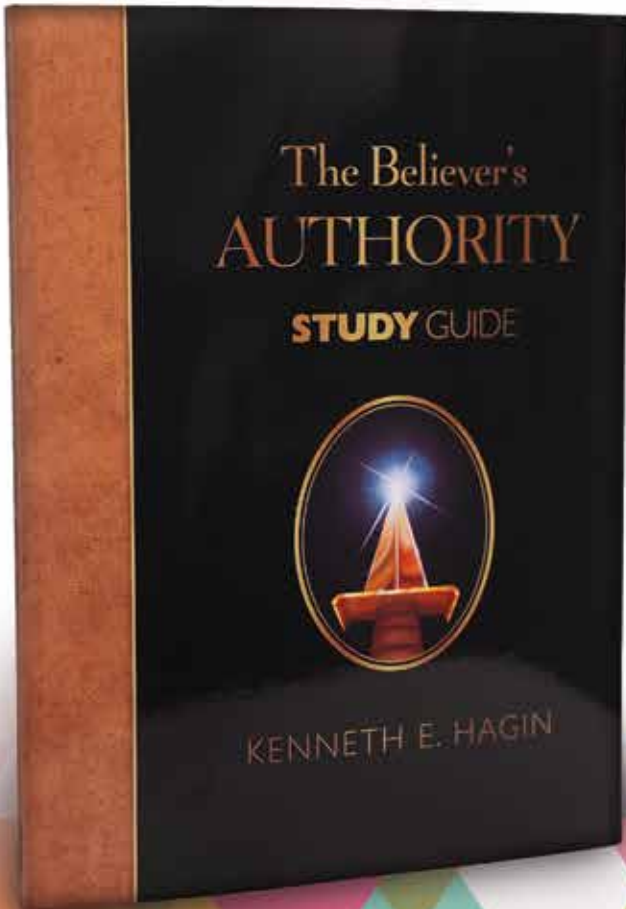
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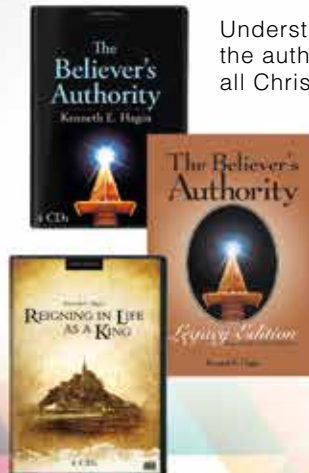
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WHERE'S YOUR FOCUS?



KENNETH W. HAGIN

AT TIMES we all face seemingly impossible situations and we don't know how things can be turned around. But in the life of Abraham, we can see how his faith made the impossible possible. As we follow his example, we can use our faith to move any mountain we face.

Abraham was old when God promised to make him into a great nation. At that time it seemed impossible that his wife, Sarah, could have a child. But 15 to 25 years later, she bore their son, Isaac. Scripture tells us that Abraham never once doubted God during that time.

Romans 4:20 (NIV) says that Abraham “*did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God.*” Many years ago my father, Kenneth E. Hagin, wrote in the flyleaf of his Bible, “God said it; I believe it; and that settles it.” Abraham had this same attitude, and we need to grab hold of it too. No matter how bad our situation looks, our victory is found in God's promises and in never letting go of what our Heavenly Father has said.

DON'T BE DOUBLE-MINDED

Often today believers affirm their faith publicly, but when they are by themselves, they begin to question God. They wonder if He can really help them. The moment they start doubting, they begin wavering in their faith.

The Bible is very clear about the danger of wavering.

JAMES 1:6-7 (NIV)

6 When you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind.

7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Faith does not look at circumstances, and it doesn't regard feelings. It stays completely focused on God's Word. Unfortunately, some people allow their situations and feelings to “speak” louder than Scripture.

Some people lose their healing because they stop looking at the Word and focus on what's going on in their body. It's dangerous to do this, because before long they will start talking wrong. They'll begin to say things like, “I thought I was healed. I guess I lost my healing.”

When we start talking like that, we throw out our healing and open the door for the devil and all of his junk to come back in. If we would just stand strong on the Word, every symptom would leave.

LOOK TO THE WORD

Anytime the enemy bombards your mind with his lies, you must counter those lies with the Word of God. When lack rears its ugly head, read what God said about prosperity. When sickness impacts your body, meditate on healing scriptures. When fear invades your life, find peace scriptures to read. When impossibilities stare you in the face, the Word holds your answer.

Reading God's promises keeps us focused on them instead of on the distractions that are sent to prevent us from receiving what God has for us. When facing the impossible, we can't afford to look at whatever is coming against us.

START TALKING

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was his confession. His words never veered from the Word. Knox's translation of Romans 4:20 says that Abraham "*shewed no hesitation or doubt at God's promise, but drew strength from his faith, CONFESSING GOD'S POWER.*"

Some people think they only have to mentally agree with the Word. But it takes more than that. We have to talk our faith. We have to proclaim with our mouths what we believe.

If we're having trouble maintaining our confession, it's probably because we've lost our focus on the Word. When we're constantly reading and meditating on Scripture, it will come out in our words. On the other hand, it's impossible to have a clear and specific confession of faith when we don't know what the Word says. We can't confess our faith in God's promise if we don't know what He has promised.



*Counter the devil's lies
with the
Word of God.*

Hebrews 10:23 (NKJV) tells us to "*hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering.*" Our life is made up of the words we speak. I learned the importance of words when I was just starting school.

My first-grade teacher, Miss Fowler, often wrote on the chalkboard, "Don't ever say 'I can't.' If you say you can't, you won't. If you say you can, you will." Miss Fowler taught our class that we could have what we said. "I can" was instilled in me from an early age.

Staying focused on the Word of God helps us with our "I cans." It causes us to say what we can do even when it looks as if we can't. We'll call ourselves healed when we don't feel well. We'll call ourselves blessed when we don't see any finances. When we say what the Word says, God's promises will come into existence in our lives.

GOD IS FAITHFUL

The last thing Abraham zeroed in on in order to receive from God was His faithfulness. Romans 4:21 (NIV) says that Abraham was "*FULLY PERSUADED that God had power to do what he had promised.*" Abraham was completely convinced that God would do what He said He would do.

When I was a teenager, my mother would tell me to do chores. At times I'd say, "OK, Momma," but I wouldn't move off the couch. Before long, she'd tell me again. I'd say, "OK, Momma, OK," but I still wouldn't get up and do anything. But whenever she'd say, "*Kenneth Wayne . . .*," I was fully convinced she meant business! I didn't wait for her to say my full name. I was up off that couch doing what she told me to do!

Are you fully persuaded that God will do for you what He has promised? Abraham was.

Abraham stayed focused on what God had promised him. He kept his words in line with God's words. And he was completely convinced that God would do what He said He would do. It didn't matter that it took years for the promise to manifest. Abraham stood firm until he received what God had promised.

The same is true for us. When we stay focused on God's promise, say what He says, and remain fully convinced that He will keep His word, we will receive *everything* God has for us!♥

Christ Has Given Us a Full Supply

KENNETH E. HAGIN

CHRIST HAS REDEEMED US from the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13). What is the curse of the Law? The only way to find out is to go back to the Law. The expression “the Law” as found in the New Testament usually refers to the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. As we go back to these books—or the Law—we find that the curse, or punishment, for breaking God’s law is threefold: poverty, sickness, and spiritual death.

1 TIMOTHY 4:8

8 Bodily exercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Some people would have us believe that we don’t have any promise in this life of any blessing, material or otherwise, but this scripture emphatically declares that we do.

According to Deuteronomy 28:15–17 and 38–40, the curse of poverty was to come upon God’s children if they

disobeyed Him. It was a curse that would come upon them because they failed to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes.

In writing to the Church, Paul said, “*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus*” (Phil. 4:19). All your needs would include financial, material, and other needs. In fact, here Paul is talking about financial and material things.

Jesus Himself said, “*Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*” (Matt. 6:33). These things that shall be added unto you are material things in life—something to eat, something to wear, and so on.

Some people seem to have the idea that if a person is a Christian, a believer in God, it is a mark of humility—a mark of godliness—for him to live in poverty and not have anything. They think you ought to go through life with the top of your hat out, the soles of

your shoes out, and the seat of your pants worn out—just barely able to get along.

But that isn’t what Jesus said. He said to seek God’s Kingdom and His righteousness first, and then “*all these things shall be added unto you.*” Not taken from you; He said they shall be added unto you!

Abraham’s Blessing Belongs to Us

Almost every time you get something good from the Word of God, or the promise of something good and a scripture to stand on, someone pops up and says, “That’s just for the Jews. That’s not for us today.”

I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT ABRAHAM’S BLESSING BELONGS TO US. IT DOESN’T BELONG ONLY TO THE PHYSICAL DESCENDANTS OF ABRAHAM; IT BELONGS TO US!

Galatians 3:14 and 29 read, “*That the blessing of Abraham*



DID YOU KNOW?

There is a law of sowing and reaping in both the natural and the spiritual realms. And it works! To learn how it works, go to khm.com/investing and read Kenneth E. Hagin’s article *Investing God’s Way*.

might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ. . . . And if ye be Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

Abraham’s blessing is ours through Jesus Christ. And the first thing God promised Abraham was that He would make him rich.

“Do you mean God is going to make us all rich?” Yes, that’s what I mean.

“Do you mean He’s going to make us all millionaires?” No, I didn’t say that.

But He is going to make us rich. You may not understand what the word rich means. The dictionary says it means “a full supply” or “abundantly provided for.” Praise God, there is a full supply in Christ!

GOD DID NOT PROMISE WE WOULD HAVE A LEAN SUPPLY, BUT A RICH SUPPLY. We’re abundantly provided for! Praise God forevermore! 🙏

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s slimline book *Redeemed From Poverty, Sickness, and Spiritual Death*.]

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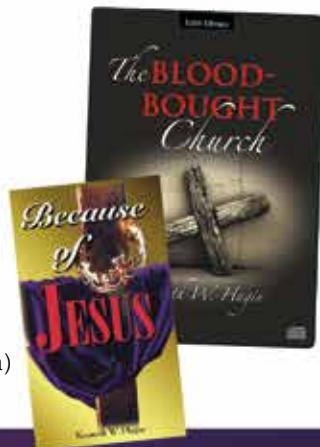
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LATIN AMERICA 2014

A TIME TO CELEBRATE AND REJOICE

The audience . . . began to laugh, dance, and rejoice.

LATIN AMERICA. From the towering Andes mountain range to the winding Amazon River, it is an area teeming with history and rich cultural traditions. But it is also an area filled with people. These people are the reason that Rhema Bible Training College campuses are strategically placed across the region.

At the end of May, Kenneth and Lynette Hagin visited Rhema campuses across Latin America. They stopped in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Colombia, and Mexico. In 14 days, they traveled 12,441 air miles, spent 30 hours in the aircraft, crossed three time zones, underwent 13 customs inspections, and ministered around 17 times. Here are some of the exciting things that happened in each location. (Rhema is truly exploding around the world!)

Brazil

CAMPINA GRANDE AND SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

The Brazilian believers Kenneth and Lynette Hagin met in Campina Grande and São Paulo came to every service expecting to receive from God. As Mrs. Lynette noted, they just pulled the “preach” right out of them.

During their time here, the Hagins spoke at three services each. In the mornings, Mrs. Lynette taught on the importance of knowing our Heavenly Father. In São Paulo, she encouraged the people to laugh at the devil. “He is already defeated,” she explained. “And we’re going to laugh at him!” The audience—some with tears streaming down their faces—began to laugh, dance, and rejoice.

Kenneth W. Hagin kicked off the evening services in Campina Grande by reminding the people to hold fast to their foundation—the Word. “Faith in God’s Word will cause you to do what you can’t do in the natural,” he taught.

As rejoicing broke out across the auditorium, the Lord began to move. Rev. Hagin called forward those having difficulty breathing. One young woman testified that she’d suffered from asthma since she was a small child. But after prayer she could breathe deeply!

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Even before leaving Tulsa, Kenneth W. Hagin was excited about his visit to Argentina. And while the Hagins were only there for a day and a half, they

still taught at three services in two churches.

At the first service, the auditorium was filled to capacity. Chairs flowed into the entrance hall and 300 people filled a separate room where they could watch the service on a big video screen. A church from Uruguay also joined the service live via the Internet. So many people tried to watch online that the church Web page crashed!

“It was a big-time event. To have the Hagins with us was such a big honor,” said Sebastian Crudo, one of the Hagins’ hosts in Argentina. “It was a dream come true. Something changed in the spiritual atmosphere. The simplicity of the message, but also the depth of it . . . for us, it was the homecoming of our spiritual fathers in the faith.”

LIMA, PERU

Touchable. That’s how Rhema alumni and ministers from all over Peru, Chile, and Spain described Kenneth and Lynette Hagin after their visit to Lima. The Hagins were the featured guest speakers at a four-day seminar hosted by Jim and Faye Andrews, directors of Rhema Bible Training College Peru. And their day in Lima was packed full of ministry.

Mrs. Lynette opened the morning session sharing on Working Together in Ministry. An alumni luncheon followed. Those at the luncheon were invited to stand and march together, symbolically taking the message of

Argentina

Peru



Mexico



faith to the world. Faye Andrews noted, “The Holy Spirit filled the room in a mighty way as we marched. We were all in tears as the anointing came on us.”

That evening, Kenneth W. Hagin preached a healing message based on Mark chapter 5. Hundreds came forward to have hands laid on them. A number of people reported growths disappearing. One older man came forward using a walker. Later, he walked forward on his own. He’d been healed of broken hips!

“I think the vision of being a family and working together to reach the world with the message of the finished work of Jesus was impacting for all,” Faye concluded.

BOGOTÁ, COLOMBIA

Eager attendees filled the auditorium and overflow areas at the church in Bogotá. They couldn’t wait to hear from the Hagins in back-to-back services.

In the first service, Mrs. Lynette shared with ministers, students, and graduates. Kenneth W. Hagin followed that up with a healing service, laying hands on at least 1,800 people. “It was a huge crowd,” he recalled. “I had to sit down and recoup in the middle just to be able to continue praying for people.”

“It was a very special time of ministry,” said John and Alba Romick, directors of Rhema Bible Training College Colombia. “The preaching was with a tremendous authority in the Word of God. It was a time to strengthen our hearts to carry this Gospel into all the world. Everyone was very blessed and edified.”

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO

Rhema Bible Training College Mexico was one of the first international Rhema campuses to be established. And Kenneth and Lynette Hagin couldn’t have been more thrilled to attend the school’s 2014 graduation ceremony. This year’s graduates came from seven campuses across Mexico—and they were so excited to meet the Hagins and celebrate with them.

Following graduation, Kenneth W. Hagin held an evening healing crusade. People were saved, ears were opened, and backs were restored. Eighty percent of the people stood up at the end of the night to testify that they had already received total restoration. One gentleman who had just been diagnosed with cancer accepted Jesus that night. He also reported that his ear opened up just after being prayed for at the altar!

“We want to say thank you to all of Rhema’s partners for allowing us to be able to have Pastor and Mrs. Lynette come down to Mexico,” said Rhema Bible Training College Mexico directors Tim and Rhonda Rogers. “It was an awesome, awesome weekend. It’s just been such a blessing for us to be hooked up with such a great Rhema family!”



Colombia



People were saved, ears were opened, and backs were restored.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE—TODAY!

“Our Latin America trip was a fast-moving one. There wasn’t any lag time. But everyone was so grateful we came—and **great things** happened! I want to say **thank you to our partners**. You’re the rock that keeps the Rhema campuses going around the world.”

—KENNETH W. HAGIN

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LYNETTE HAGIN

“And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding,

shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.”

— PHILIPPIANS 4:7



THINK ABOUT THE GOOD THINGS OF GOD

THE MIND can be a powerful ally or an awesome enemy. The trouble so many of us experience in life is in our minds—we let our thoughts run wild! If we want to live peaceful lives, we must guard our minds and control our thought lives. We must do something about it!

Of course, we live in a negative society. If it's not bad news, it's usually not considered newsworthy. If you listen to the news reports for very long, you might not even want to leave your house!

Even in the Christian world, so many times all we hear is bad news. We hear the latest gossip, or people rush to tell us reports of trouble and strife.

Meanwhile, Satan is playing havoc with our minds. He constantly bombards us with negative thoughts. He brings all kinds of imaginations to our minds, trying to fill us with anxiety so he can keep us from having the peace we can experience with God. He is trying to destroy us (1 Peter 5:8).



WE CANNOT *think* THOUGHTS OF DEFEAT AND *expect* VICTORY.

How is Satan doing this? First of all, he specializes in fear. He tries to torment us with fearful, worrisome thoughts. The devil, unlike the Holy Spirit, is not a gentleman. If we open the door to Satan even a tiny crack, he'll kick it wide open!

That's why the Bible says, "Neither give place to the devil" (Eph. 4:27). We cannot allow the enemy to dominate our thought lives no matter how hard he tries. He will try to dog our

tracks. But if we give in and begin to meditate on those negative thoughts, we'll be defeated. Fear is a spirit, and it will get a grip on us if we allow it to.

Thank goodness, we don't have to fear. We don't have to worry. We don't have to let our minds be cluttered with troublesome thoughts. If we will keep our thoughts focused on the right things, our Heavenly Father will deliver us and keep us in perfect peace.

THOUGHTS MAY COME BUT THOUGHTS MUST GO!

In Philippians chapter 4, the Apostle Paul tells us how to deal with worrisome thoughts.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

God is saying in these verses that He doesn't want us to have any worries or anxious thoughts about our needs. When a problem strikes, He doesn't want us to panic; He wants us to pray—to

make our requests known to Him. We can say to Him, "Father, this is what I need," and He will be right there to help us!

THINK ON THESE THINGS

After Paul told us to "be careful for nothing" but to make our requests known to the Lord, he gave us specific instructions on what God wants us to think about.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Of course, things aren't always lovely. Things aren't always true, honest, or of a good report. But Paul is saying here, "Don't focus on the negative things. Think about the things that will build you up and not tear you down. Think about all the good things God has done for you—all the promises He's given you in His Word. Focus on the positive things in life."

Are those things—the good things of God—consuming your thoughts today? Or are you thinking about the difficulties that lie ahead of you, the challenges and obstacles that are blocking your path?

Some people constantly dwell on their own faults and weaknesses. They think about all their past mistakes. They always ponder the "what ifs" of life.

When we think about those things, we're focusing on the wrong reality. We cannot think thoughts of defeat and expect victory. We cannot think thoughts of weakness and expect strength. And we cannot think thoughts of confusion and fear and expect peace!

What are some of the thoughts we should be thinking?

HEBREWS 12:2-3

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 . . . Consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

When the enemy tries to fill our minds with distressing thoughts, these verses encourage us to look to Jesus and think about how much He loves us and what He endured for us—the shame of the cross. When we focus on these things, we will not grow weary and faint in our minds.

Besides, if we're meditating on God's promises and thinking about His good things, we won't have time to worry and complain or get discouraged and depressed. We will always be filled with a good report—the report of God's Word.

What does God's report say? His report says, "All things are working together for my good" (Rom. 8:28). His report says, "Nothing can separate me from the love of Christ" (Rom. 8:35-39). His report says, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13)!

» WANT MORE ON THIS SUBJECT?

Visit rhema.org/store and check out Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Right and Wrong Thinking*.

His report also says—and these words are found throughout the Bible—"It shall come to pass." Now think about that for a moment. That means this trouble, this trial, this problem you've been struggling with, hasn't come to *stay*. It's come to *pass*—because we always triumph in Christ (2 Cor. 2:14)!

Every time you're troubled with distressing thoughts, don't wrestle with them in the mental realm. Just begin to draw upon the Word of God on the inside of you, and keep your thoughts focused on what God says. You'll be surprised at how quickly you'll be surrounded with His presence, and your heart and mind will be filled with His wonderful peace!♥

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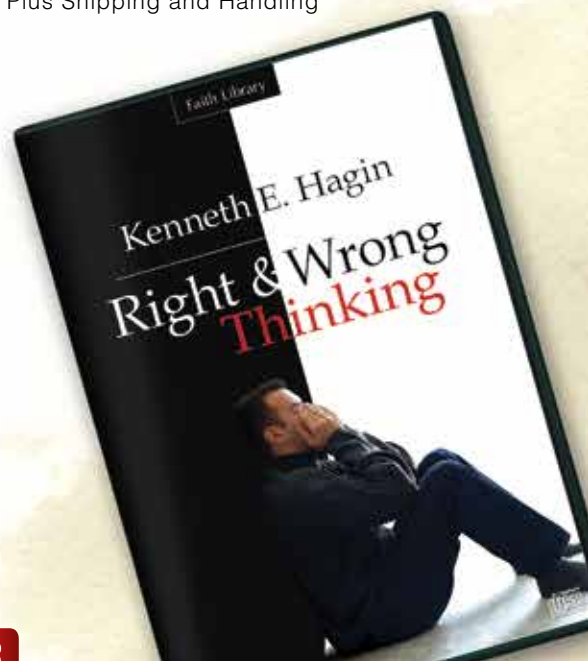
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Life Is **Not** a Box of Chocolates

ANDY THOMPSON



MY WIFE AND I have triplets—three boys who just turned 14. So pray for us. They are great young men. They just love to eat. We literally have to hide food. Recently my sons discovered the movie *Forrest Gump*. I happened to walk into the room where they were watching it just as Forrest's mother said to him, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get." I couldn't help myself. I quickly said, "Pause it!" And then I told them, "Your life is *not* a box of chocolates! **GET GOD AND YOU WILL GET VISION!**"

It is amazing how we can be so entertained by something that we miss the subtle, worldly, even demonic message that has been communicated. I guess I always knew this was the concept behind *Forrest Gump*—his whole life was an accident, like that feather floating in the breeze.

But allow me to remind you—your life is *not* a box of chocolates! Absolutely refuse to live a life without meaning, a life without direction. The Word teaches us how dangerous and

harmful an unintentional life can be. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." **SIMPLY STATED, WITHOUT VISION OR INTENTION, YOUR LIFE IS AT STAKE.** We all want to live; we all want abundant life. Divine guidance, or direction from God, can literally save your life.

Proverbs 29:18 in the NIV reads, "Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint." Did you ever play a game with a child and they kept changing the rules? A life without bare minimums, expectations, and restraint is a life that you don't want to live. I know we live in a world that seems to want to erase what God and His Word expect. But we know this is a very dangerous idea. Once you start to move the lines, where does it end?

Revelation—vision and the power of intention—keeps you from sinning. It keeps you reined in. It isn't just fear of punishment that should keep you holy. It also ought to be the knowledge of the promise. You should remember what God has promised you and keep in mind the blessing He has revealed to you, because without that goal, you may cast off restraint.

Proverbs 29:18 in *Young's Literal Translation* reads, "Without a Vision is a people made naked." Aren't you glad for clothes? Would you go to work tomorrow naked? We all love the beach. The only problem is, people get to see the real me. Clothes hide my Oreo addiction.

Without intention, you can be exposed. When there is no vision, we get to see the real, flawed you. I pastor a very large congregation, but I often wonder if anyone would follow the Andy not covered in vision and intention. With a vision, this Andy is a pretty cool guy. But I don't think anyone would follow me across the street if I was just living my life for myself. Without this Kingdom vision, you would be exposed. His Kingdom has made you so much more than you would be.

God Is Intentional

When God created Adam and Eve in the Garden, it was not an accident. God moves intentionally. God had you in mind before the foundation of the world. **HE DECIDED TO SEND YOU AT THIS TIME, IN THIS PLACE, FOR JUST SUCH A MOMENT AS THIS.**



Since God is intentional, you are going to have to live intentionally to be in a relationship with Him!

.....
Say this to yourself:

- **I refuse to take action without prayerful consideration.**
 - **I cannot live an accidental life with an intentional God.**
-

We serve an intentional God with plans for us—plans not to harm us but to give us hope and a future (Jer. 29:11 NIV). Seek His Kingdom first, and everything else will be added unto you! 🍀



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Laying Hold of Christ

JIM ANDREWS



THE GREATEST BATTLE I've fought hasn't been with financial needs or sickness and disease. The greatest battle I have fought has been to maintain my hold on Christ as my everything. Why? Because the tendency is for us to substitute something else for Christ. It could be our confession of the Word, our prayer life, or reading the Bible. Those things are good, but when we begin to substitute them for what Christ has already done, we're getting into trouble.

You see, God is a just, holy God. He could not come close to man simply on the basis of His love and mercy. Something had to take place that would satisfy His holiness—His just demands.

Christ was the answer! He took upon Himself the sin of the world, and paid the price and full penalty for all people (2 Cor. 5:19). I believe God looked down from Heaven, saw the sufferings of Christ, and said, "That is enough! My holiness is sustained, My righteousness is fulfilled, and My just demands have been met."

Now, as believers, we have a positive position we can stand in for victory. And that position is in Christ. But it's

not just in the sense of being in Christ. There's something about laying hold of Christ.

Everything Else Is Dung!

The Apostle Paul made this statement in Philippians chapter three: "If anyone can boast, if anyone can have confidence in the flesh, I more so. I was circumcised the eighth day. I'm from the tribe of Benjamin. I'm a Pharisee according to the Law. I'm a Hebrew of Hebrews" (vv. 4–6).

Why did Paul say this? Because none of these things really matter! Racial background has nothing to do with it. Circumcision has nothing to do with it. Look at what Paul says in verse 8:

PHILIPPIANS 3:8 (MESSAGE)

8 Yes, all the things I once thought were so important are gone from my life. Compared to the high privilege of knowing Christ Jesus as my Master, firsthand, everything I once thought I had going for me is insignificant—dog dung. I've dumped it all in the trash so that I could embrace Christ.

What Paul is saying is that compared to laying hold of Christ as his everything, everything else is dung! That's pretty strong language, isn't it? But it's true.

When all those "other" things become the conditions that regulate our blessings, we've missed it. It's good to be a follower of Christ and to do things for the Kingdom. But

we must never put our relationship with God on the line with something we have done. Instead, we must always—with both hands—grasp hold of Christ.

See, when we lay hold of Him, He becomes our everything. He doesn't just give us healing; He is our healing. He doesn't just give us righteousness; He is our righteousness. The gift is Christ Himself, and that's not a gift we can divorce ourselves from. If we do, the only thing that's left is self-righteousness. And I've come to realize that all of my self-righteousness after Christ is no less filthy rags than it was before I received Christ (Isa. 64:6).

I want to ask you, what are you holding on to today instead of Christ? How big is your pile of "dung"? Remember, Christ has given you an extravagant, life-giving gift. It doesn't matter what you've done right or wrong. Lay hold of Him. Trust fully in Him. *He is your everything.* ♥

[Editor's Note: Jim Andrews is the director of Rhema Bible Training College Peru and an instructor at Rhema USA.]





Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin



THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT . . . OR DID HE?

SOME THINGS that folks attribute to the devil are really nothing more than works of the flesh. It is important to realize that everything that's wrong in life is not directly the work of an evil spirit.

When the Bible talks about keeping the flesh under the dominion of the spirit, too many times folks think that only refers to keeping sexual desires under control. Well, it's true you'll have to keep your body under subjection in that area. But did you ever notice what else the Bible lists as works of the flesh or the old-man nature?

THE WORKS OF THE FLESH

Galatians chapter 5 lists the works of the flesh.

GALATIANS 5:17, 19-21

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

19 Now the WORKS OF THE FLESH are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like.

What many folks call works of “the devil,” the Bible calls the works of the flesh. In Ephesians 4:25–32, Paul lists some of the

traits of the “old man”—the flesh or man’s unregenerated nature: lying, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and malice. And he also describes some of the traits of the new man in Christ: truthfulness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness.

You can see that keeping the flesh under control or under the dominion of the new man in Christ involves more than just keeping sexual desires under control. It involves keeping *all* the evil tendencies of the flesh in check and under the dominion of the recreated spirit.

‘PUT OFF’ THE FLESH

The Bible tells us how to deal with the body and soul—man’s carnal, fleshly nature. We are to “put off” the old man with his fleshly lusts. And we are to “put on” the new man in Christ.

EPHESIANS 4:22-24

22 THAT YE PUT OFF concerning the former conversation [lifestyle] THE OLD MAN, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be RENEWED in the spirit of your MIND;

24 And that YE PUT ON THE NEW MAN, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Who is to put off the nature of the old man or the works of the flesh? *You* are! “You” is the subject of verse 22. God is not going to “put off the old man” for you. You will have to *put off* the old man

with his envy, bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking. You aren't dealing with evil spirits when you put off those evil tendencies; you are just dealing with your *flesh*.

All too often believers try to take the easy way out and call these evil tendencies of the flesh a "demon" or an "evil spirit." That way they don't have any responsibility; they can blame everything on Satan. But the Bible just calls these evil tendencies man's fleshly nature, and the believer has to do something about that *himself*.

The only way you can put on "the new man" is to renew your mind with the Word of God. Putting off the old man and putting on the new man is part of your "reasonable service" or your "spiritual worship" (Rom. 12:1-2).

You've got to keep those evil tendencies and attitudes under the dominion of your spirit—the man on the inside—and let the new creature in Christ dominate. As you "put on" Christ, you'll be able to walk in the Spirit of God and not in the flesh where you are an easy prey for Satan.

PUT ON LOVE

In Colossians chapter 3 we see how the new creature in Christ acts and what we are commanded to "put on."

COLOSSIANS 3:12-14

12 PUT ON therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, BOWELS OF MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMBLENESS OF MIND, MEEKNESS, LONGSUFFERING;

13 FORBEARING ONE ANOTHER, and FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things PUT ON CHARITY, which is the bond of perfectness.

In verse 13 the phrase "forbearing one another" means putting up with one another. When we begin to get agitated and impatient with one another, it isn't necessarily a devil at work. We just need to exercise forbearance and forgive one another, even as Christ forgave us (v. 13).

The Greek word translated in verse 14 as "charity" is *agape*—the God-kind of love. We are to put on love. Putting on love is a protection against the enemy, because then we don't give the devil any place in us (Eph. 4:27).

When we're born again, the love of God has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost (Rom. 5:5). But we're going to have to take the love that's in our hearts and put it on our outward man, because the love of God hasn't been shed abroad in our *flesh*. If we don't put the love of God on our outward man, Satan can have a heyday in our lives through our flesh.

Much of the time we think the devil or an evil spirit is causing problems in our lives, but it's really our flesh. As we practice keeping our carnal, fleshly nature—our body and soul—under the dominion of our recreated spirit, we'll walk in righteousness and true holiness. And that will eliminate many of life's problems.♥

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

..... FAITH IN ACTION

Close the Door to Satan in Your Thought Life

In order to crucify your flesh, you'll have to learn to close the door to Satan in your thoughts. If you fail in that area, you will always have problems with the devil, because you're giving him an open door to attack you.

Satan will always try to enter into a person, saved and unsaved alike, through thoughts if the person will yield and listen to him.

The Bible talks about girding up the loins of your mind (1 Peter 1:13). Here are two ways you can do that:

- **RENEW YOUR MIND WITH THE WORD OF GOD.** This will strengthen your mind and help you resist Satan's thoughts and suggestions.
- **WATCH WHAT YOU FEED YOUR MIND.** Someone has said that the mind is the gateway into the soul. It's vitally important what you allow your mind to dwell on.

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NO TIME TO RETIRE



AFTER 35 YEARS in ministry, 74-year-old Kathie Fleming is still going strong. “I’ve come to the decision,” she says, “that I’m not going to retire. I feel so good. I believe the life of God is so big in us that it keeps us young!”

Traveling 45,000 miles a year wasn’t something Kathie planned on doing after graduating from Rhema Bible Training College in 1979 with her husband, Dave. The Flemings first worked in local churches. In 1981, when an opportunity to pioneer a church in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, opened up, they jumped on it.

However, eight short years after the church started, Dave was diagnosed with advanced renal cell carcinoma. Kathie’s world was suddenly rocked when a few weeks later, he died.

At the time Kathie also worked full time in Rhema’s alumni office. After her husband’s death, she took time off to seek the Lord. She considered going back to school, since she was now the sole provider for her children. But as she prayed, God told her to stay in ministry and begin traveling and teaching.

Soon afterward Kathie quit her job at Rhema. “I did everything I told others not to do. I’d say, ‘Whatever you do, don’t quit your job. Just go a little bit at a time.’ But I just went for it!”

Leaving Rhema five months after Dave’s passing made it financially difficult for Kathie. In looking back though, she doesn’t have any regrets. “I loved working at Rhema,” she says. But if she had stepped out into ministry more slowly, “I don’t know if I would have accomplished everything I’ve done.”

While in the alumni office, Kathie headed up the ministerial opportunities program, so she knew many pastors

across the U.S. Doors to teach in those churches opened up right away. Calling on pastors who didn’t know her was a little different.

In the late ’80s, pastors were hesitant to open their pulpits to women. But many of these pastors would let Kathie speak at ladies meetings in their churches. The meetings went so well that she was often asked to come back and minister to the entire congregation.

A LOVE FOR RHEMA’S ALUMNI

Rhema students often have an idealistic view of what ministry will be like. Once they graduate, however, they find ministry to be a lot different from what they thought.

Some grads have to work full time to support themselves while pastoring. Others minister year after year to a handful of people and don’t understand why their church isn’t growing. Some have battled life-threatening diseases while simultaneously pouring themselves into their congregation. It’s easy for couples who are pastoring to feel alone in ministry, especially since they can’t share their frustrations with their church members.

Kathie has always had a heart for Rhema’s alumni. Once she began traveling, she immediately saw she could continue ministering to the grads. It’s not uncommon for her to drive all day just to see how a couple is doing and offer a word of encouragement.

Many times when Kathie arrives, she becomes the confidante the pastors and their wives pour out their hearts to. On more than one occasion, they have confessed their desire to quit! Ever sensitive to the Holy Spirit, Kathie sometimes just listens. Other times, she boldly tells them it’s too soon to leave. Regardless of

IT’S NOT UNCOMMON FOR HER TO DRIVE ALL DAY JUST TO SEE HOW A COUPLE IS DOING AND OFFER A WORD OF *encouragement*.

how the Holy Spirit leads, the results are the same. The pastors are encouraged and strengthened to complete the race God called them to.

WHY? WHY? WHY?

Kathie often finds herself ministering to people who have gone through a situation similar to hers. When tragedy strikes, especially the death of a loved one, the first question most of us ask is *why*.

When Dave found out he had cancer, a lot of people throughout Tulsa immediately began praying for him. Many people were standing in faith with the Flemings for Dave's healing.

YOU HAVE TO SPEND TIME
WITH THE LORD *every day* FOR
PERSONAL STUDY AND PRAYER.
IT HAS TO BE A *priority* IN YOUR LIFE.

"We'd go to sleep at night quoting faith and healing scriptures," says Kathie. "But nothing would change. I couldn't understand."

After Dave's death, Kathie knew she needed to wait on the Lord to answer the questions that were swirling in her mind. She says, "Brother Hagin taught us, 'If the Lord wants you to know something, He'll let you know.'"

So Kathie waited. Although the answer to everybody's why is different, here is what the Lord showed Kathie: both she and her husband had become so busy that they did not have time to study the Word for themselves.

"We only picked up our Bibles to study for our services," says Kathie. "Dave was working full time; I was working full time. We had three children living at home. The Lord showed me that we spoke the Word, but it wasn't in our hearts."

"Today, this is a big message I have when ministering. You have to spend time with the Lord every day for personal study and prayer. It has to be a priority in your life. We spoke the Word and spoke the Word but nothing happened. The answer to my why was that the Word wasn't in our hearts."

And with Dave so focused on the cares of ministry, when he caught a glimpse of a glorious eternity, it was easy for him to let go of this life.

A DAY OF MIRACLES

Throughout Kathie's ministry, she has always made room for the Holy Spirit to move. She commonly operates in the gifts of the Spirit and has seen many healed of various diseases.

During *Winter Bible Seminar 2013*, Kenneth W. Hagin prophesied that healings, miracles, and demonstrations of the Spirit will flow like rivers of water in the last days. Kathie grabbed hold of that Word and now senses a stronger healing anointing upon her.

While ministering in Canada, she prayed for an 85-year-old woman in a wheelchair. Kathie encouraged the woman to act on her faith and do something she couldn't do before. Kathie then helped her to stand up. The woman began to walk and a little bit later started to dance. That night, she also got filled with the Holy Ghost!

This woman's healing set off a series of healings in the service. The woman sitting next to her had a leg grow out. Then a lady who watched the leg grow out had her back healed!

In another meeting in New York, the entire church was slain in the Spirit. The peace of God filled the sanctuary and absolutely no one got up or moved. Everyone lay on the floor for an hour! These are only a few of the wonderful things the Holy Spirit is doing in Kathie's ministry.

MOVING FORWARD

No one expects a marriage to be cut short by the early death of a spouse. When this happened to Kathie, the foundation she received from Rhema enabled her to rise up from tragedy and follow God in ways she never dreamed. She's done things she never expected to do and gone places she never expected to go. Kathie's life offers hope that no matter what calamity strikes, all of us can rise above adversity and be mightily used in the Kingdom of God!♥

TO LEARN MORE

about Kathie Fleming, go to FlemingMinistries.org.



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Happy reading!

ROCKETS OVER RHEMA

An Unforgettable Patriotic Celebration

MORE THAN 60,000 people came out to *Rockets Over Rhema* this year to celebrate America's freedom.

The festivities opened with an original patriotic musical, *Route 66: The Red, White, and Blue Tour*, staged in the Rhema Bible Church auditorium. The audience followed the adventures of three musical acts "touring" America by bus in the 1950s. Toes tapped along as the cast sang songs honoring the United States and sharing a bit of its history. The cast and their audience made several stops along the historic highway. One was at the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, marking America's western expansion. Another was at a Civil War cemetery to honor the brave soldiers who fought in that terrible conflict.

The musical had a spiritual message too. One character experienced God's healing mercy when his injured hand and ankle were restored. Another character, suffering with a broken heart, found that God can heal that too.

Outdoors, the beautiful sunshine and warm but bearable temperature made for a perfect June 29th. Kids smiled, laughed, and squealed with delight as they played on the giant inflatable games. And children of all ages enjoyed face painting, playing in a video game trailer, and riding a mechanical bull.

Nearby, hundreds strolled through a car show featuring antique vehicles, custom-built hot rods, and race cars. And there was plenty of delicious

food, with the smell of grilled hamburgers, sizzling hot dogs, and sweet funnel cakes filling the air.

God was exalted throughout the day. On the outdoor stage, Christian artists Plumb, The Vespers, About The Author, and Rhema's own Synergy Band brought their energy to the huge crowd. Families sat on blankets and lawn chairs enjoying the live music.

Finally at dusk, it was time for the fireworks. With campus lights turned off and patriotic music playing, the rockets of the dazzling aerial display lit up the night sky.

The multicolored, 20-minute, eye-popping barrage brought plenty of oohs and aahs. As the final boom sounded, the crowd broke into applause. *Rockets Over Rhema* had once again been an unforgettable patriotic celebration. ♡



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)

SEPTEMBER is the start of the year in our household. I am sure the same occurs with many whose children begin their school year in September. After celebrating Labor Day weekend—which means the end of summer break and the beginning of a year packed full of projects and activities—my mind can go tilt.

Have you ever awakened in the morning and dreaded getting up because of everything that lies ahead of you? Have you been tempted to stay in bed simply because you had too much to do and decided the best solution was to do nothing at all?

Do you ever go through the day in neutral, never quite getting into gear? Just thinking about all of my responsibilities and commitments for the day can fatigue me. Sometimes I get frustrated because I've agreed to do something I should have said no to, all because I didn't want to hurt the person's feelings.

I've often committed to something that I thought I would have the time to do. But when the time came for the job to be accomplished, all of a sudden my calendar become full of unexpected emergencies. I found myself burning the midnight oil to get the task accomplished.

Then I find that I'm grumbling to myself, grumbling to my husband, being cranky with everyone I come in contact with, and thinking that it would be great to have one day where I could get caught up, organized, and rested without any interruptions!

Regardless of our age or stage in life, time management is a very essential element. One person said, "Time management? You must be crazy. I don't need that. I don't have any time of my own to manage. Everybody else has a piece of it, and there's nothing left for me!"

Sometimes I feel like a baseball player. The day delivers a hard, fast pitch. It curves into my life. I bunt and begin to dash from place to place. Out of breath, I skid between this and that. At the end of the day, nearly falling down, I slide into home.

Many times I don't want to look at what I have to do the next day, much less the next week or month. Sometimes I feel literally breathless as I go from one project to another. Maybe you've felt as I have—if breathing took any time out of my day it would have to be eliminated!

Many years ago the above thoughts were constantly in my mind. I would often console myself by saying, "Let's get through this year. Next year will be slower." Every year I would say this until finally I realized that life was not getting slower. It was speeding up. I knew if I didn't do something, I was going to live a very stressful and miserable life.

God does not want us to live that kind of life. He told us in Matthew 11:28–30 (NLT) "*Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.*"

The Lord is ready, willing, and able to get our lives and our time under control. The tough news is that we must choose to implement the advice He gave us in His Word. God will not force us to organize our time according to His will. He has given us the power of choice. So in this column and in next month's column, I want to share some things the Lord gave me at a very frustrating time in my life.

The steps He spoke to me have been a guideline for my life ever since. I follow them on a daily basis. They have allowed me to have peace in the midst of a very busy schedule.

Step One—Pray About Every Single Thing

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take" (Prov. 3:5–6 NLT).

Begin practicing this step this month. Next month, I will continue sharing the principles the Lord gave me.♥

Lynette





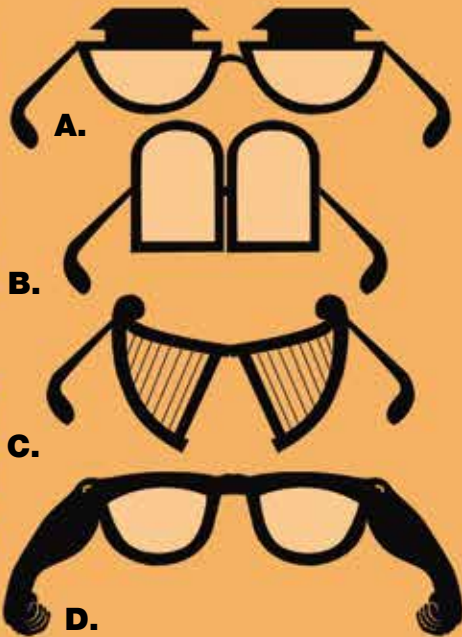
Kids' Page

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

DESIGNER FRAMES!

If some of our favorite Bible characters had to wear glasses, perhaps the custom-made frames below would be what they wore. Unscramble the Bible names on either side of the glasses pictured below and then put the name with the designer frames that go with their name.

vidad
somes
vidad



hond
masson
hond

Keeping Your



When things appear blurry to your eyes we say that they are "out of focus." The Bible tells us that there are only a couple of things that we really need to keep our focus on, even if everything else is blurry and uncertain. There are two Scripture verses below that tell us exactly what we should keep in focus at all times . . . the problem is, the verses are blurry. See if you can figure out what the verses say.

"Let us keep looking to Jesus
the only source of life!"
(Col. 3:1 NASB)

"Keep seeking the things above,
which Christ is, seated at the right
hand of God" (Col. 3:1 NASB)

jokes & riddles



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

What do you throw out when you need it and take in when you don't need it?

An anchor!

What happened when the lion ate the comedian?

He felt "funny."

Teacher: Why didn't Noah do much fishing when he was on the ark?
Student: **He only had two worms!**

What kind of coat can you put on that doesn't have any buttons, zippers, or sleeves?

A "coat" of paint.

Answers:
KEEPING YOUR FOCUS: "Let us keep looking to Jesus. Our faith comes from Him" (Heb. 12:1 NASB).
THE EYE CHART: "Keep seeking the things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God" (Col. 3:1 NASB).
DESIGNER FRAMES: A. NOAH B. MOSES C. DAVID D. SAMSON
Two things to seek: KINGDOM OF GOD, RIGHTEOUSNESS
Three things not to seek: FOOD, DRINK, CLOTHING



The Eye Chart

Jesus tells us in Matthew 6:25–33 three things we should not seek and two things we should seek. The Eye Chart above contains all five of the words. Circle the two things we should seek and put a square around the three things we should not seek.



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ADVANCE AGAINST A TROOP; WITH MY GOD I CAN SCALE A WALL."**

—PSALM 18:28-29 (NIV)