



THE Word of Faith

FEBRUARY 2009

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



Love Is . . .

HEART TO HEART

With KENNETH W. HAGIN

God Cares About You!

Did you know that God personally cares about *you*? Of course, God loves the world and He loves the Church, the corporate Body of Christ. But God also loves *you*—the person you see when you look in the mirror!

First Peter 5:7 says, “*Casting all your care upon [God]: for He cares for you*” (NKJV). The Phillips translation says, “*You are [his] personal concern.*” Oh, I like that! And *The Amplified Bible* says, “[He] *cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully.*”

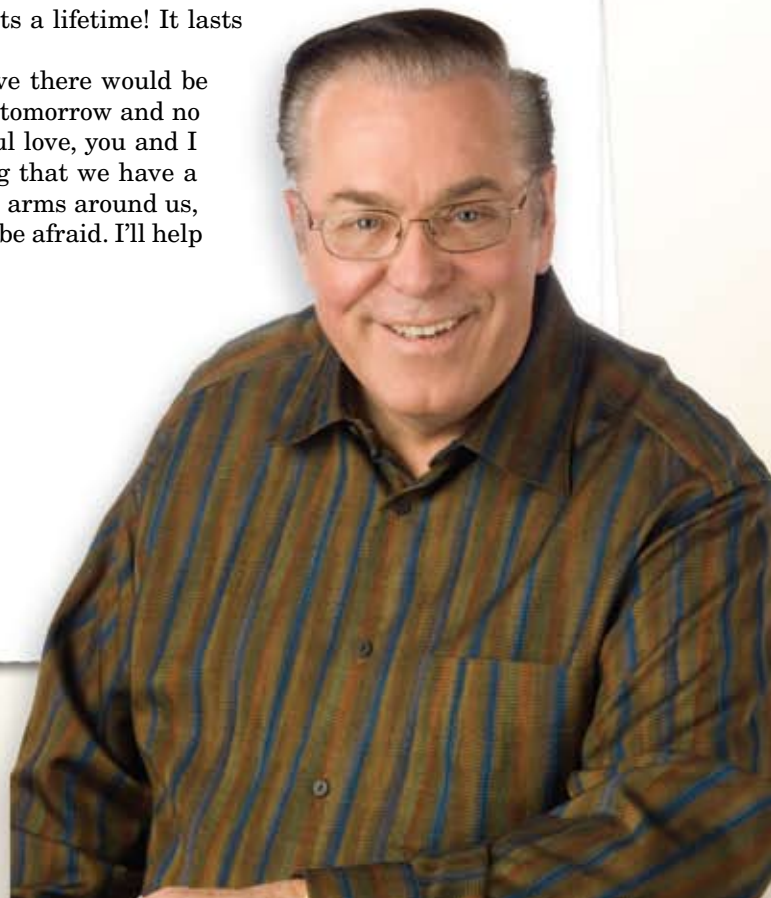
How much does God care about you? He cares about you so much that He sent you a Redeemer—the Lord Jesus Christ! He loves you so much that He sent His own Son to shed His blood that you might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). God cares for you so affectionately that not only did He give you a way of escape from the devil’s kingdom, but He also translated you into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13)!

Sometimes it’s hard for us to fully grasp the love of God. How far does His love reach? It reaches farther than a person can run or hide. It reaches to the depths of despair. It reaches into our hopeless situations and lifts us up above the hopelessness, trouble, and strife.

How long does the love of God last? It lasts a lifetime! It lasts an eternity!

I thank God for His love! Without His love there would be no hope. Without His love there would be no tomorrow and no reason to live. But because of God’s wonderful love, you and I can face any challenge or any crisis, knowing that we have a Heavenly Father Who loves us. He wraps His arms around us, holds us close, and says to us, “Don’t worry or be afraid. I’ll help you! Rest in My love.”

Kenneth W. Hagin
Kenneth W. Hagin



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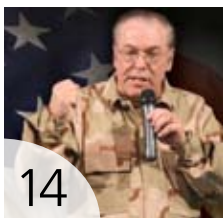


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(F-earless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy H-eirs of God) If you're a kid, this page is for you. We've included Bible lessons, puzzles, and riddles for you to enjoy. Have fun!



Each month, thousands of readers worldwide receive *The Word of Faith* free of charge. To share in this outreach of Kenneth Hagin Ministries, please check the box on Order Form I of the envelope and enclose your offering. **Thank you!**

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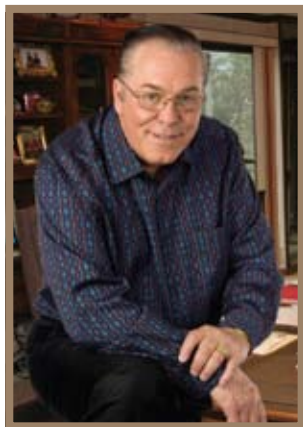


LOVE

kenneth w. hagin

TRIUMPHS OVER

OFFENSE



(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book Avoiding the Trap of Being Offended.)

People who operate in the God-kind of love conduct themselves in such a way that they don't give offense or take offense. Don't misunderstand me. I'm not saying that just because a person is walking in love, no one will ever become offended at him or her. For example, did Jesus walk in love during His earthly ministry? Of course He did. Yet many were offended at Him.

Sometimes people will become offended at you when you're doing something *right*. This happened to Jesus often. He wasn't giving an offense; He was simply doing what the Father told Him to do. And you are not better than Jesus your Master. If people became offended at Him as He obeyed God, people will also become offended at you as you obey God.

MARK 6:2-3

2 And when the Sabbath day was come, [Jesus] began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? And what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

3 Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at Him.

Allow me to paraphrase in modern-day language what these people were perhaps saying about Jesus: "Hey, we know this guy! We know his family and his background. None of his family is a preacher; they're all carpenters. His dad just helped So-and-so remodel his kitchen! Jesus can't just get up and speak the Word of God like he owns the place! Who does he think he is anyway?"

Some people
will become
offended when
they see you
fulfilling
the will of God for
your life.

Here is an important point you need to remember. Some people will become offended when they see you fulfilling the will of God for your life. Some of our RHEMA Bible Training Center students can attest to that fact. Many have graduated from the school and have gone back to their home churches only to have certain people take the following attitude toward them: *I remember him from 'back when.'* Who does he think he is, trying to tell me anything? Does he think he's better than me now?

I have experienced this kind of offense myself. Years ago after graduating from Bible college, I went back to visit my hometown in Texas. Some of my old friends said to me, "What! A preacher? Hagin, you're no preacher!"

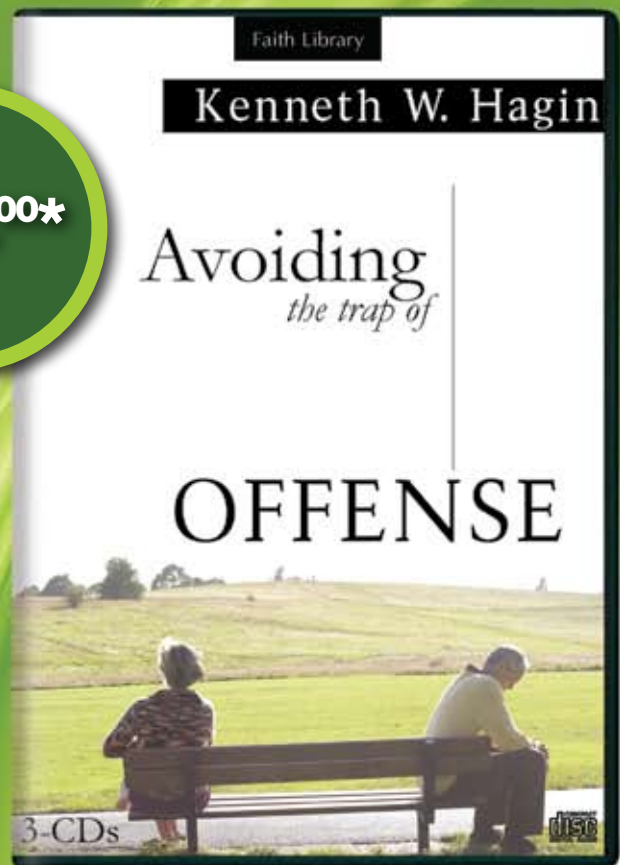
Some of my old friends taunted me because they were under conviction. They weren't fulfilling the call of God on their own lives, so they persecuted

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me because I *was* fulfilling God's call. When they saw that I was doing what God had called me to do, instead of repenting for their disobedience, they became offended.

When people become offended at you for doing what's right, be very careful not to allow them to influence you to take offense at their offense! If *you* become offended because *they're*

When people become offended at you for doing what's right, be very careful not to allow them to influence you to take offense at their offense!

offended, you'll *both* find yourselves in a ditch!

Offense is common and can happen many different ways. It's easy to recognize the ways other people have hurt us, but whenever I teach on the subject of offense, I often ask, "Are you offensive toward *others*?" Often, we spend so much time dealing with the wounds others have caused us that we can overlook the fact that we might be wounding others by being offensive ourselves.

There is a high cost that comes with taking offense and harboring a grudge. But there also is a price to pay for being insensitive to others when we say or do something that is hurtful.

If we habitually offend people, not only are we grieving the Holy Spirit and the heart of God, we may also experience loss due to broken relationships. The following scripture gives us some insight into the high cost of offending others.

PROVERBS 18:19 (NLT)

19 It's harder to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars.

Holding on to an offense can destroy you, but being offensive to others is equally dangerous. I'm not talking about when we offend others *unintentionally*. The Bible says, "*We all stumble in many ways. If anyone is never at fault in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to keep his whole body in check*" (James 3:2 NIV). However, I'm referring to believers who knowingly and callously offend

with their words or actions and then leave the person they wounded to "deal with it." I'm talking about people who don't even try to make amends. Jesus makes a stern reference to those who cause "little ones" to stumble into sin through offense (Matt. 18:6; Mark 9:42; Luke 17:2).

Many a relationship has been needlessly and carelessly destroyed through

offense. My goal is to help Christians avoid the trap of offense, or to help them free themselves from this potentially deadly snare if they've already allowed offenses to take root within.

Do you carry around baggage from the past? Have you taken account of

a suffered wrong when you should have forgiven the one who wronged you? Have you paid so much attention to the offense committed that it has consumed your life, weighed you down, and paralyzed you from moving forward toward your own happiness and dreams?

You cannot move forward with God if you're burdened down with offense. I have heard people testify that when they finally let go of the offense that had weighed them down, they began to feel better spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. Life seemed rosier. And eventually, even their circumstances began to turn around for the better. Why? Because they let go of the weight that had bound them. They stepped into the light and away from the shadows that had darkened their paths. So choose to let go of offenses that can weigh you down and choose to step into the freedom of God's marvelous light. ♥

The High Cost of Offense

Often a person doesn't see the great harm he does to himself when he bitterly holds on to a grudge. He doesn't see it because the effects of his sin don't manifest instantly or overnight. They begin slowly and subtly, and they build up inside him until he is overcome with bitterness and becomes almost a different person.

I sometimes liken holding a grudge to a person allowing cholesterol to build up in his arteries. Cholesterol builds in the arteries bit by bit until the arteries are completely blocked and blood ceases to flow through those vessels.

The person's arteries do not start out blocked. At first, there

is just a little bit of cholesterol attaching itself to the vessel walls, which "attracts" more and more cholesterol. By the time the blockage is discovered, the damage is often beyond repair.

Similarly, just a "little" grudge that you refuse or neglect to deal with can fester and become bigger and bigger until it cuts off the flow of the Spirit within. I'm not saying that a Christian who holds a grudge loses his salvation. I'm simply saying that he walks and lives as one who isn't born again because he cuts himself off from the flow of life, blessing, and favor that he should be enjoying.



(Editor's Note: The following are letters we received from readers like you. We share them to encourage you. They have been edited for content and clarity. Please contact us if you have been blessed by this ministry in any way.)

A Gift on the Ground

I'm writing to become a partner with this ministry. The Lord personally introduced me to this ministry around 1984. I was walking along the street and asking the Lord to teach me more about Him. I noticed a small book on the ground. I picked it up and saw that it was *You Can Have What You Say* by Kenneth E. Hagin. After reading that book, I was so surprised how it made my Bible come to life. The experiences recorded in the book were so powerful and real. I acted upon the faith principles in the book and received a miracle.

—J.L.
London

Blessed by Ministry Tapes

I just wanted to express my gratitude to you for making it possible for me to receive some of your tapes. Because you were willing to make them available, even to those with limited finances, I was blessed. They helped me out so much! Thank you! You've been a tremendous blessing many times over!

—K.G.
Pinellas Park, Florida

Healed of Terminal Cancer

In October 2007, I was told I had terminal cancer. I read and reread books by Kenneth Hagin Ministries and listened to your tapes over and over, standing on God's Word in faith. Praise God, I am now totally healed!

—D.Z.
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Truly a Miracle

I thank you for all of your books. Due to your teachings on faith, my mother has been healed from infirmities that had kept her in bed for nearly 10 years! My dad claims to not believe in God, but even he can't deny her newfound health. They are both 78 years old, and he said he has his wife back. It's wonderful for me to call her and hear her sound so well. She always used to be so down and negative. Your books gave me a new outlook and confidence in my prayer life and in my authority over the enemy. A one-time prayer for healing was all it took. From then on, I prayed with praise and thanksgiving. The next day my mom was out of bed with no pain and no medication. She's been that way ever since. It is truly a miracle!

—D.B.
London, Ohio

25 New Converts!

It's been a wonderful experience to read *The Word of Faith* magazine. I'm writing to express my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your ministry. I have the pleasure to inform you that your magazine has already imparted faith and hope in the lives of 25 new converts, and I am looking forward to more converts. You cannot imagine how enormous the impact of your magazine is. Please continue with your hard work. Your reward is great in Heaven.

—H.D.
Ghana

Completely Healed

Thank you so much for your magazine. I was ill for quite some time with breast cancer. The Lord healed me completely! Your prayers and television program, *RHEMA Praise*, helped me to stay encouraged during this time. God bless you and let His light forever shine on you.

—M.W.
Greensboro, North Carolina

From ICU to Out of the Hospital

In March 2007, my son had to be flown to a hospital an hour away for what they thought was going to be an emergency operation. Thanks be to God and the power of the Holy Spirit, he didn't have an operation and left the hospital in four days. He was kept in the Children's ICU and monitored very closely for three days. I was better able to pray for my son through the teaching I received by watching your DVD *Five Rules for a Successful Prayer Life*. God led me to watch and really take in that teaching. I just absorbed it. It came in handy the day I needed it. We took Communion before we raced to the Emergency Room, we spoke in tongues on the way so God could tell us what to do, speak, pray, and think. One of the doctors who saw my son in the Emergency Room on Saturday came in Sunday morning and said, "This is definitely not the little boy we treated yesterday."

—C.D.
Hudson, New York

THE GOD WHO IS MORE THAN ENOUGH

(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book El Shaddai: The God Who Is More Than Enough.)

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I AM THE ALMIGHTY GOD; walk before me, and be thou perfect" (Gen. 17:1).

When the Lord God revealed Himself to Abraham in Genesis 17:1, He used the Hebrew name *El Shaddai*, which the King James Version translates as "Almighty God."

El Shaddai is one of seven covenant names through which God revealed Himself to Israel. In Hebrew, *El Shaddai* means "the All-Sufficient One," or "the God Who is more than enough."

Throughout the Old Testament, Almighty God revealed and unveiled Himself as the God Who is more than enough.

He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He said to Abraham, ". . . thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance" (Gen. 15:13–14).

Four hundred thirty years went by. God came on the scene and spoke to a man by the name of Moses, who led the children of Israel out of Egypt.

As they were leaving, however, Pharaoh's heart was hardened. He went after them with his soldiers, intending to recapture them and make them his slaves again.



The children of Israel stood on the shore of the Red Sea crying, "What are we going to do?" The Egyptians were behind them, and the Red Sea was before them. On one side of them was wilderness, and on the other side were mountains.

The God Who is more than enough spoke to Moses and said, "Stretch forth thy rod." When Moses did so, the waters of the Red Sea parted long enough for the children of Israel to go across on dry ground. They were delivered!

When the Egyptian army attempted to follow, they were drowned in the depths of the sea.

One modern preacher wrote, "Well, that wasn't much of a miracle. The water was only *ankle deep* at the place they forded."

Throughout the Old Testament, Almighty God revealed and unveiled Himself as the God Who is **more than enough.**

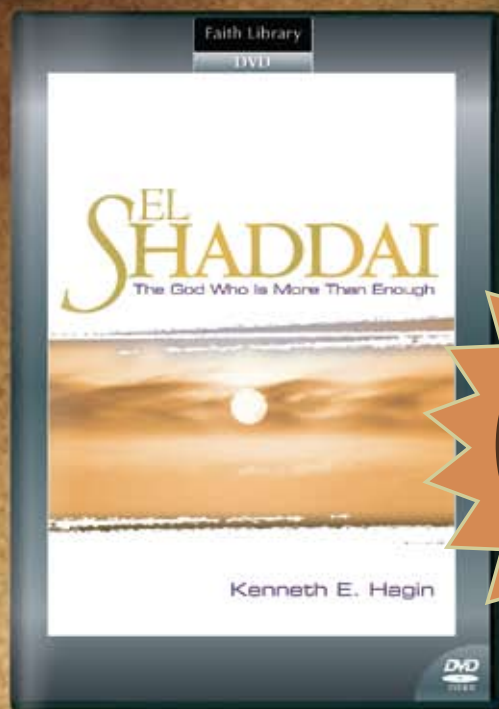
When I read that, I thought, *Dear Lord! That poor simpleton thinks an entire army drowned in ankle-deep water! It would have been a greater miracle than ever for an entire army to drown in ankle-deep water!*

The issue is not that they drowned in ankle-deep water; the issue is that God divided the waters and Israel crossed over on dry land. It happened just like the Bible says it happened: God divided the Red Sea.

When the children of Israel arrived safely on the other side, the women got out their musical instruments and began to sing and dance. The song the Spirit of God gave them said, ". . . the depths were congealed in the heart of the sea" (Exod. 15:8).

"Congealed" water is frozen water. God made the water stand up on both sides like a wall. He froze it. The

God IS MORE THAN ENOUGH



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children of Israel walked across the sea on dry ground. The Word was spoken, and the water came together again. God is more than enough!

Once the children of Israel had reached Canaan's land, they ran into other difficulties. One day they were fighting a crucial battle against their

I AM. Jesus was trying to tell the Jews, "I am that God. You are looking at God right now." The Lord Jesus Christ demonstrated in His earth walk that He is the great God *I AM*. He is more than enough!

We see Jesus attending a wedding with His mother in Cana of Galilee.

"You've saved the best till last!" *God is more than enough!*

So often we want to relegate everything to the past. We say, "Oh, it was wonderful way back when. God could do mighty things back in those days."

Or we want to skip over the present and talk about what it will be like when we all get to Heaven. "Someday it'll all be over," we say. "One of these days, I'm going to leave this vale of tears. Here I wander like a beggar through the heat and cold. . . ."

Things can be different *now* if we'll believe God. Things will be different *here* if we'll trust Him. He's the God Who *is*—not *was* or *will be*, but *IS*—more than enough!

God *is* the All-Sufficient One. He is not just the God of yesterday; He's the God of *now*. He didn't say, "I *was* El Shaddai." He didn't say, "Someday I will be the God Who is more than enough." No, He said, "*I AM*"—I *am* El Shaddai, the God Who *is* more than enough.

Thank God, He is the Almighty God. He is the All-Sufficient One. He is the God Who is more than enough!♥

Things can be different now if we'll believe God. Things will be different here if we'll trust Him. He's the God who is—not was or will be, but IS—more than enough!

enemies. It was getting dark. If night fell, they might lose the battle. Joshua, their leader, prayed that the sun and moon would stand still in the sky (Joshua 10:13).

God stopped the entire universe because a man of God prayed! God could do that because He is the Almighty God—the All-Sufficient One—the God Who is more than enough!

All through the Old Testament, we see this God Who is more than enough revealing Himself in the lives of men and women: leaders, prophets, priests, and kings.

We see Elijah praying on Mount Carmel and the fire of God falling from Heaven to consume the sacrifice. The prophets of Baal were defeated (1 Kings 1:18). Our God is the God Who is more than enough!

We read about David's mighty men of war and think we are reading the exploits of supermen. Although they did extraordinary feats, they themselves were not wounded or killed. They overcame their enemies because the power of God was upon them. He's the God Who is more than enough, even in the midst of war!

Coming over to the New Testament, we see Jesus appear on the scene and declare, ". . . he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). Jesus told the Jews, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56).

They answered, "Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?" (v. 57).

Jesus said, "Before Abraham was, I am" (v. 58).

God had revealed Himself to Moses in the Old Testament as the great God

Mary told Jesus the hosts had run out of wine, and she instructed the servants, "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" (John 2:5).

Jesus told them to fill the water pots with water and carry them to the governor of the feast. By the time they got there, the water had been turned into wine, and the governor exclaimed,

FAITH IN ACTION

Seven Things God Wants to Do for You

In Psalm 91, there are seven things *El Shaddai*—the God Who is more than enough—said He will do for the person who sets his love upon Him.

If you have set your love upon the Lord, the Lord will . . .

- 1) Deliver you
- 2) Set you on high
- 3) Answer you when you call on Him
- 4) Be with you in trouble and deliver you
- 5) Honor you
- 6) Satisfy you with long life
- 7) Show you His salvation

We need to understand the importance of the simple phrase "I will" or "I shall." P.C. Nelson, recognized

as the leading Greek and Hebrew scholar of his day, once addressed a group of ministerial students. He said, "There are some things in the Greek for which we have no idiom in the English language.

"For instance," he said, "in John 14:13, Jesus said, '*whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that WILL I do.*' The King James Version says, '*I will.*'"

"The translators felt they ought to use either 'I will' or 'I shall' because that is the strongest assertion you can make in the English language. However, the literal Greek translation of this verse is: '*If you will ask anything in My Name, if I don't have it, I'll make it for you!*'"

God is able to do this because He is *El Shaddai*—the God Who is more than enough!

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FOCUS ON HEALING

'He Still Performs Miracles'

Phil Billingslea's doctor told him he might have to amputate Phil's right foot. "That was a dark day in my life—my darkest year," Phil, now 64, recalls. "But the whole situation turned out to be an awesome miracle."



Phil Billingslea

The problems began in 2007 when Phil noticed that his right foot was starting to swell. Thinking he had simply sprained his foot, Phil ignored the pain and expected it to go away. But the pain steadily grew worse as did the swelling. His foot eventually became so swollen that he could barely slide his shoe on. It was then that Phil decided to go to the doctor.

After a series of X-rays, the doctors gave Phil the bad news. Phil had a cancerous tumor in his right foot, and the tumor was so big it had already broken five bones in his foot. The news got

worse as the doctors mentioned amputating Phil's foot.

Soon after the doctor's appointment, Phil's friend told him about Healing School on the RHEMA campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

"The first time I went to Healing School, I sat through a 45-minute teaching," Phil said. "After the teaching, three people took me into a separate room and prayed for me. While they were praying for me, I felt like something was moving in my foot. The pain started to leave."

Phil believed he was healed, but he didn't have an appointment with his doctor for another five days. So he went back to Healing School the following day and received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

When he finally met with the doctor, Phil received confirmation of what he knew had happened at Healing School. The tumor was gone and there was no sign of a single broken bone in his foot! When Phil heard the news, he could barely contain himself.

"I could have jumped up—literally—and started running around those halls," Phil explained. "I felt so wonderful. I *knew*

I was going to get a good report. I was overjoyed. God is so awesome. He still performs miracles!"

Even though Phil knew God had healed him, one of his doctors had a hard time understanding exactly what had happened.

Phil recalled, "My primary doctor hugged me and said, 'Phil, I am glad God healed you.' But my foot specialist is still scratching his head over it. He told me, 'I've got to find out where that tumor came from and where it went. Tumors just don't disappear like that.' He is still trying to figure it out."

Healings and miracles take place at RHEMA's Healing School on a regular basis. Phil is just one of a countless number of people who have had their hopeless situation turned around after attending Healing School. And Phil knows that what God did for him, He will do for anyone.

Phil encourages everyone who needs healing to go to Healing School. "If you need a miracle, you have to go to Healing School. God is still on the throne, and He is in the healing business. I've had a first-hand experience of being healed instantly. If I can get it, you can get it too. All you have to do is believe." 🙏



Before he visited Healing School, an X-ray of Phil's right foot reveals broken bones caused by a growing tumor.



After receiving his miracle, the X-ray confirms that there are no broken bones or tumors in Phil's right foot.

Contact Us

• Tell us how you have been healed through KHM or request a prayer cloth for yourself or a loved one. Call 1-800-54-FAITH, e-mail partnerservice@rhema.org, or mail to KHM, Attn. Focus on Healing, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150-0126. (Mention offer #5401.)

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Murrieta, CA << April 5–8, 2009

World Harvest Church

23109 Palomar St. << Murrieta, CA 92562
Pastors Ed and Nancy Dufresne << (951) 696-9258

Service Times:

Sun. 6:00 p.m. << Mon.–Wed. 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Las Vegas, NV << May 17–20, 2009

Word of Life Christian Center

3520 N. Buffalo Drive << Las Vegas, NV 89129
Pastors David and Vicki Shearin << (702) 645-1990

Service Times:

Sun. 6:30 p.m. << Mon.–Wed. 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.



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SAVE THE DATE



2009

Kenneth W. Hagin's



Men's Conference

ANSWERING THE CALL 2008



When they came from the Americas, Australia, and Europe to answer the call. More than 1,100 men converged on RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, November 6–8 to find their place in God's plan and learn how to take their stand and change their world.

God was calling those who attended Kenneth W. Hagin's *A Call to Arms*®



Men's Conference "to stand up and be the men of God that we're supposed to be in our generation," said Rev. Hagin on opening night. After "arriving" by video in an Army Blackhawk UH-60 helicop-



ter, he jogged to the podium dressed in camouflage fatigues. At stage left stood an Army tent with a sign identifying the unit he served in during the 1960s.

Thursday evening's guest speaker, John Bever, catapulted the conference into high gear right from the start as he challenged the men to live honorable lives. At the close of Rev. Bever's riveting message, the Holy Spirit's presence was very strong as he led the men in a prayer of commitment to a life of honor.

After a time of praise and worship on Friday morning, the men attended workshops on strengthening marriages, handling setbacks, and making the changes needed to become the men God intended. During the next general session, guest speaker Steve Houpe began with Psalm 1:3

and reminded the men that God's blessings come in their season. Then he powerfully exhorted them to "wait for your season, because it is coming." He vividly illustrated that "staying in the game," even in the face of apparent defeat, brings more results than not playing. His words brought the men to their feet shouting with enthusiasm.

After lunch, the men attended workshops on keys to promotion and the basics of being a great dad. Then many of the men attended off-campus workshops at the nearby Bass Pro Shop.

Attendees regathered Friday evening



for a powerful message from Kenneth W. Hagin. He began with Genesis 1:26: "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let



them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'

"God created man to have control . . . to speak for Him and reign for Him," said Rev. Hagin. God created men to have value. But if men reject God's valuation of them, they look for value in their work, money, possessions, and other areas. "They look for significance and value in all the wrong places," he said.

Rev. Hagin explained that in order for men to find out who God wants them to be, men first must find their place in God's plan. "Every man that is born has a place," he said. "I have to find my place as a man and in the Body of Christ. Until I find my place . . . I won't know who I am." And Rev. Hagin encouraged the men to be who God has made them and not to try to copy others.

Once a man has found God's place for him, he must take a stand for God and for what is right, said Rev. Hagin. More than once during the conference Rev. Hagin quoted First Corinthians 16:13-14: "*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love*" (NASB). He said that putting that verse into practice means taking a stand for manhood and God's Word, for the sanctity of biblical marriage, and for our families. "Take a stand for what's right," said Rev. Hagin. "Don't be a wimp. Don't backpedal. When I take a stand, I need to have the backbone of a sawlog. Take a stand and refuse to give in."



Once men have found their place and are standing for God and for what is right, they need to change their world, Rev. Hagin said. That involves changing their actions, attitudes, appearance, and associations—or "who I hang with," he explained.

Part of changing *our world* involves changing *our words*, Rev. Hagin continued. "I change my world with my words. The world I live in is created by my words. I need to talk about who I am in Christ and what I have in Christ."

After his message, Rev. Hagin opened the altar to men who wanted deliverance through the power of God from harmful habits, weakness, and fear. He then laid hands on the many men who responded.



Saturday, after an early morning breakfast, the men attended workshops on finances, blended families, and influencing their culture rather than being shaped by it. During the final general session, the men received Communion. Then Rev. Hagin and his son, Craig W. Hagin, laid hands on those who needed physical healing.

The conference ended with a prize giveaway and a reminder that *A Call to Arms 2009* will be held November 5-7. The men left encouraged, strengthened, and challenged to find God's place for them, stand firmly in that place, and be a force for godly change in their world.

TESTIMONIES

Kenneth W. Hagin's
A Call to ARMS
Men's Conference

During *A Call to Arms*, I received an emergency phone call from home. My two-year-old son had dropped a large, hard, plastic toy directly onto my baby daughter's head from three feet above. My daughter was screaming hysterically. As soon as I got the call, my pastor and I started praying. My wife later told me that at the time we started praying my baby girl suddenly started laughing and giggling. My sister-in-law is a nurse, and she went to the house to evaluate my daughter. The next day there wasn't even a bump, bruise, or red mark to show that anything had ever happened!

—G.P.
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma

I attended the *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* after the Lord spoke to me and told me to attend. I had tried to talk myself out of it. It was a 10-hour drive and I had to go it alone. I just wanted to let you know that the conference was a life-changing event! God wanted me there to hear several of the messages. When I got back home, I visited with my pastor for an hour. He called me later that evening and asked me to teach on a Wednesday night at my church. I have never done anything like this before. I know God will tell me what to share. I will bring more church members with me next year. God bless you, and thank you!

—L.N.
Johnson City, Texas



All true honor originates from the heart. That's why God said in Isaiah 29:13, ". . . these people draw near with their mouths and honor Me with their lips, but have removed their hearts far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the commandment of men" (NKJV). God said



the people had *the actions* of honor and *the words* of honor, but they didn't have *true honor* because true honor originates from the heart as an outflow of the reverential fear of the Lord. . . . I look at the way some husbands talk to their wives, and I'm appalled. The Bible says for husbands to honor their wives as the weaker vessel (1 Peter 3:7). "Weaker vessel" does not mean that your wife is beneath you. It only means she can't bench press as much as you. She is an heir together of the grace of life. The Bible says that if you don't honor your wife, Heaven will not even listen to your prayers. That is a miserable place to be!

—John Bevere
From "Honor's Reward"

God wants for all of us to do more than we're doing right now, but it begins with our seeing ourselves according to the image of God. When you look at yourself on the outside, you might see restrictions or the things that aren't possible in the natural. But when you look at yourself as being made in the image of God, you will see brand-new potential.

—Joe Hernandez
From "The Man in the Mirror"

Affairs don't just happen. Good guys who love God and love their wives fall into affairs. Falling into sin is the result of a Christian not knowing or not practicing Bible principles. You have a sin nature dwelling in your body. You must put spiritual principles into motion to overcome the sin in your body.

—Joe Cameneti
From "Affair-Proofing Your Marriage"

Don't quit. You're still in the game. It doesn't matter what you've done or how many mistakes you've made—you're still in the game! No matter how many times you've messed up or how many secret struggles you've had, you're still in the game. And as long as you're still in the game, you've got a chance to break free. The devil thinks he has you. The devil might tell you that you're never going to be anybody, but you're still in the game. Stay with it until your breakthrough comes. You might be down to your last out or your last strike, but you're still in the game!



—Steve Houpe
From "Wait for Your Season"

When you made Jesus the Lord of your life, something very significant happened. His very life and nature was placed on the inside of you. If you're going to have a significant impact in the last days, you're going to have to put off "self" and your desires and begin to operate according to the life and nature that dwells inside you—the love of God that has been shed abroad in your heart (Rom. 5:5). The opposite of the love of God is not hatred, it is human selfishness.

—Mark Bintliff
From "Men of the Last Days"

Who you are is infinitely more important than what you accomplish. If you commit to building your character, the accomplishments of your life are automatically going to



take care of themselves. Character is the will to do what is right even when it's hard. Do the right thing.

—Mike Kalstrup
From "Success Is Not an Accident"

God has put the makings of a great leader within you. When you miss it, when you fail, get back up on the Potter's wheel, because the Potter is going to mold you into the image He knows you can be. How do you stay on the Potter's wheel? You have to make a decision to live a life of worship.

—Joel Sims
From "The Basics of Being a Great Dad"

The primary key to handling adversity is this: You're going to have to get a positive attitude about the things you're facing. Because the thing that the enemy's designed to be a stumbling stone in your life can become—through your positive attitude about it—a stepping-stone to advancement in the Kingdom of God.

—Bill McNeese
From "How to Get Ahead After a Setback"



Bringing a bunch of hurting people together in a relationship is not an easy thing. You can't have an "us versus them" mentality. With blended families, the children become "*our* kids"—not "*your* kids" or "*my* kids." One thing to remember is that love never fails (1 Cor. 13:8).

—Craig Hagin
From "Blended Families, Mended Lives"

Most people view the world through the lens of scarcity. And when you have a scarcity mentality, you tend to be fearful, greedy, and need-oriented. But according to the Bible, God's plan is that we enjoy abundance, and when we do things God's way, we see God's plan carried out in our lives.

—Rob Wynne
From "Get a Grip Before It's Too Late!"

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What 'Good' Are You Doing?

CRAIG W. HAGIN



Most believers today are familiar with the story of the Good Samaritan that is recorded in Luke chapter 10. It is the tale of a man who was robbed and left for dead on the side of a road. Both a priest and a Levite who were traveling on the same road saw the man lying in the ditch. And both pretended not to see him. They left him battered, bruised, and bleeding on the side of the road.



But a Samaritan who was traveling on the same road saw the beaten man and had compassion on him. In Jesus' day, Samaritans and Jews did not get along. It would have been more likely for a Samaritan to leave the battered Jewish man

in a ditch instead of a priest and a Levite doing that. But when that Samaritan saw the wounded man, he didn't see a despised Jew. He saw a hurting human being.

The Samaritan immediately cleansed and bandaged the man's wounds. After bandaging the man, the Samaritan could have sent him on his way. But he didn't stop there. He put the wounded man on his donkey and took him to a place of lodging. He made sure the Jewish man had food to eat and a warm and safe place to recuperate.

The Samaritan was willing to use his own money for someone he was, according to custom, not supposed to like. He looked beyond prejudice and helped a hurting man.

In Luke 10:37, Jesus commanded you and me to "go and do likewise."

Earlier in the Book of Luke, while preaching to a multitude, Jesus told the people, ". . . *Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you, Bless them that curse you, and pray for them which despitefully use you*" (Luke 6:27-28).

In Luke 6:28, Jesus used the word "despitefully." He was not talking about people who "accidentally" hurt or use you. Jesus was talking about people who carefully plot against you to cause you harm. These are the people who will stab you in the back in order to get something they want.

It's easy to be kind and love people who are nice to you. Even sinners do this. But what should set Christians apart from others is that we love people who purposefully hurt us. Just before Jesus went to the

Cross, He gave this new command to His disciples to follow.

JOHN 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.

It might seem hard to imagine that Jesus would tell believers to love the unlovable and to do good to those who would harm them. How could our Lord and Savior command us to reach out to people who would purposefully try to harm us? Jesus could tell His followers to love the unlovable because *He* loved the unlovable. And Jesus could tell us to do good to those who hurt us, because *Jesus* reached out and did good to those who tried to harm *Him*.

ACTS 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

The Good Samaritan looked beyond prejudice and helped a hurting man.

It says in Matthew 9:36 that Jesus was “moved with compassion” when He saw the multitudes. And when Jesus was on the earth, He “did good” to *all* humanity. He went about healing *all* who were oppressed of the devil. Jesus’ goal was to help *all* hurting people.

When you are born again, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you (Rom. 8:11). And because the same Spirit of God dwells in you, you should also go about “doing good.”

Jesus went on to say in Matthew 9:37-38, “. . . *The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.*”

Doing Good PACKAGE

One way you can “do good” to others is to follow the example of the Good Samaritan and love your enemies. In two classic minibooks—*Faith Worketh by Love* and *Love Never Fails*—you will discover the importance of walking in love, especially to those who spitefully use you. You will also receive the slimline book *The Present Day Ministry of Jesus Christ* and discover the good works that Jesus is doing on your behalf!



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I believe that there is more to being a laborer than just telling people about Jesus and getting them saved. Those things are very important, but I believe that we should first of all just *help people*. When you first show people the love of God in very helpful and practical ways, getting them saved is then much easier to do.

Unfortunately, many people are like the priest and the Levite in the story of the Good Samaritan. They pass by the

another. Everyone wants to hear, “You’re doing good.” Or, “Regardless of how bad things look, you can make it.”

And if *you* need encouragement, don’t wait to *receive* encouragement before you start giving it to others. Remember, you reap what you sow (Gal. 6:7). If you encourage other people, you will reap the encouragement you need.

I remember being at a convenience store late one night in Chicago when a man came up to me and asked for money.

What should set us apart from others is that we love people who purposefully hurt us.

needy people around them. I’m sure that it’s not that they don’t want to help or don’t have the wherewithal to help. They’re just too busy. They don’t have time to stop and think about the people who are around them. Many Christians “walk by” opportunities to minister every day. Sometimes they don’t notice the hurting people around them because they’re too busy praying that God will help them and their own families!

We need to understand that we are here to touch the world. It doesn’t matter if the people we touch are Christians or non-Christians. Everyone needs a word of encouragement at one time or

He pulled out a paper and showed me that he had just been released from jail. He said he was hungry and just needed a little help.

I told him, “Sir, I’m not going to give you any money, but if you’re hungry, I will walk inside this convenience store with you and buy you some food. Would you be fine with that?”

“Yes, sir,” he replied.

We walked into the store, and I told him to get as many sandwiches as he wanted. I told him I’d buy him whatever he wanted to eat and drink, except I wouldn’t buy him any alcohol.

He picked up some sandwiches and some soda pop to drink. Then he asked me, “Why are you so nice?”

“I’m a Christian,” I told him. “I believe in being nice. I believe Christians should help people out.”

I don’t know what happened to the man afterward. But I’m glad I was able to share my faith with him. I was able to plant good seed. And he listened to what I had to say because I bought him food. I was able to “do good” to him.

That man wasn’t used to people being nice to him. In fact, most of the people in his life probably treated him like trash. That night, however, he *needed* someone to be nice to him and to do him good.

Take a moment to examine your life. Are you doing good to the people around you? Are you touching a hurting world? Or are you like the priest and Levite, walking by the hurting and dying people around you?

It’s not enough to see a need and pray that God will send laborers to fill the need. Realize that *you* are the laborer God wants to use. Take time each day to touch the people around you. As you become less focused on yourself and your needs, you will see plenty of opportunities to minister to others. So instead of “walking by” the lost and the hurting, allow the compassion of God to “do good” through you. ♥

FAITH IN ACTION

Walking in Love

The best way to “do good” to someone is to walk in love toward them. Here are some practical ways to “do good” to others.

- “Love covereth all sin” (Prov. 10:12). Love not only hides the sins and evil of others; it refuses to speak of them.
- “Love envieth not . . .” (1 Cor. 13:4). Love does not desire the position, honor, power, benefits, favor, esteem, or blessings that others have.
- “Love is not puffed up . . .” (1 Cor. 13:4). Love does not think more highly of itself than it should.
- “. . . In honour preferring one another” (Rom. 12:10). When you get so busy preferring everyone else and unselfishly helping them

obtain blessings that you forget about yourself, that’s when you will find honor, success, and promotion for yourself.

- “Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them” (Ps. 119:165). Love is not easily offended. Love is at peace.
- “Love endureth all things . . .” (1 Cor. 13:7). Love can go through all kinds of trying, hurtful, evil, and slanderous experiences calmly, sweetly, silently, lovingly, and uncomplainingly—the way Jesus endured hardship—knowing that there is a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to you (2 Tim. 4:8).



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Seed Thoughts

by Lynette



"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)

During the month of February, we set aside time to celebrate and express our love for one another. February 14 is one of the busiest days of the year for florists and restaurants as husbands and wives celebrate that day reminiscing about their courtship. In the midst of celebrating, it is easy to forget the true meaning of love as expressed in First Corinthians 13, which is known as "the love chapter."

First Corinthians 13:4-7 from *The Amplified Bible* says:

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily.

It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].

It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail.

Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening].

I am sure that all of us fall short of continuously practicing the God-kind of love. That love is patient and kind and does not act unbecomingly. Ask yourself, "How many times have I failed to exercise patience and kindness?" Love is ready to believe the best of every person. Often we look at our family members and see all of their faults rather than the good that is in them.

Our love tends to be selfish. We love only when something is going to benefit us. By contrast, the God-kind of love, *agape* love, loves even when someone is unlovable or doesn't deserve our love. The greatest act of love the world has ever known—Jesus dying on the cross for our sins—was love given to mankind who

did not deserve that gift. God loved us so much that He sent His one and only Son to redeem mankind.

We live in a self-centered, self-seeking society. Everyone is searching for love and affirmation, but few people want to demonstrate love by giving of themselves. Love is an act; it is something you do. I encourage you this month to find ways to express your love to your family members.

Often we take our family members for granted and fail to express to them our love and appreciation. As my dad used to say, it is important "to give people flowers while they can still smell them." In other words, express your feelings and gratitude while the person is still on this earth. It is very easy to take our spouses for granted. Oftentimes we do not praise our children when they do well; we only criticize them when they break the rules.

As adults, we can easily take for granted the sacrifices our parents made in raising us. Often we only remember the things we thought should have been done differently. It is important to spend time with our parents. They will not always be with us.

I still cherish the week I spent with my dad before he passed from this earth. I was with him almost continuously, caring for his needs. At times I became weary. However, I am so glad that I listened as he talked to me. When I said goodbye to him on a Saturday, little did I know that would be our last conversation. He passed from this life the following Wednesday.

My mother just celebrated her 93rd birthday. I brought her to my house and spent a month with her during the Christmas holidays. It was a great time making memories that I will cherish for years to come.

Perhaps you are the caretaker for your aged parent. That can be tiring and stressful at times. I encourage you during those stressful moments to dwell on the positive. I like The Message translation of Philippians 4:8-9: "*Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.*"

Lynette

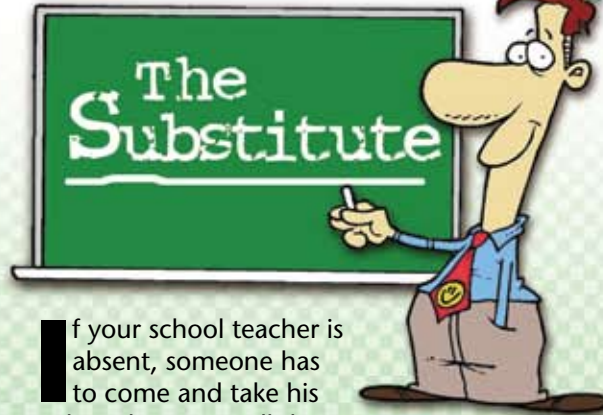
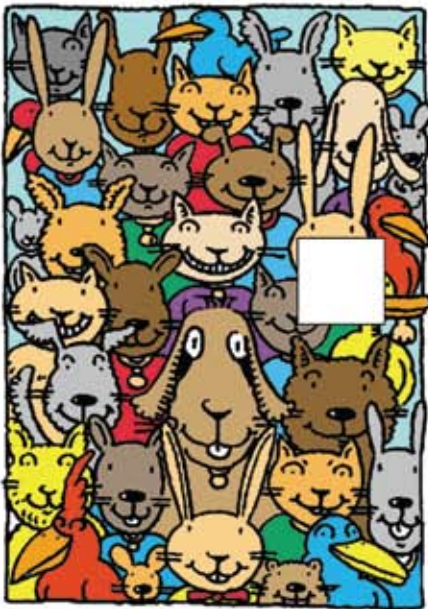
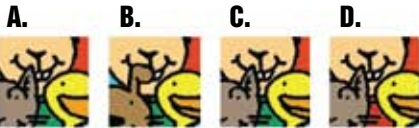


Kids' Page

Fearless, Anointed, Inward-led, Trustworthy Heirs of God

ONLY ONE!

There was **ONLY ONE** who could be the perfect substitute for us and that was **JESUS!** In the same way, **ONLY ONE** of the squares below can be substituted for the empty square in the picture. **ONLY ONE** will work perfectly. Can you figure out which one it is?



If your school teacher is absent, someone has to come and take his or her place. We call that person a **SUBSTITUTE**. A substitute is someone who takes the place of another. You may not know this, but **JESUS IS YOUR SUBSTITUTE**. No, not your substitute teacher . . . but **YOUR** substitute, the one who took **YOUR** place. But how did He take your place? Well, because you were a sinner, you were going to have to die for your sins and go to hell. But when Jesus died on the cross, God made Him your substitute . . . He died in your place. In fact, all the bad things Jesus went through were a part of being your **SUBSTITUTE**. Emphasize the capitalized words from the following verse (Isaiah 53:5):

HE was wounded for **OUR** transgressions,
HE was bruised for **OUR** iniquities;
the chastisement of **OUR** peace was upon **HIM**;
and with **HIS** stripes **WE** are healed.

All that **HE** did was for **US!** **HE** took **OUR** place!
HE was **OUR** substitute!

Jokes & Riddles



Why couldn't the slow boxer get a drink at the party?

Because everyone beat him to the punch!

Why was the archaeologist upset?

His job was in ruins!

Why do pens get sent to prison?

To do long sentences!

Why did the fly fly?

Because the spider spied her!

What's the moral of the story about Jonah and the whale?

You can't keep a good man down!

Mother: How did you do on your tests?

Johnny: I did what George Washington did!

Mother: What was that?

Johnny: I went down in history!

When a knight in armor was killed in battle, what sign did they put on his grave?

Rust in peace!

THE SUBSTITUTION DECODER

The secret message below tells another way Jesus was our substitute. Here's how to decode the message. Substitute every letter N with the letter T. Substitute every letter L with the letter H. Substitute every letter Z with the letter Y. Substitute every letter J with the letter B. And substitute every letter D with the letter M. All of the remaining letters stay the same. The first word has been decoded for you.

THOUGH
 NLOUGL LE WAS RICL, ZEN FOR ZOUR SAKE

LE JECADE POOR, NLAN ZOU NLROUGL LIS

POVERNZ DIGLN JECODE RICL.

ANSWERS:
 ONLY ONE—Answer: C.
 Substitution Decoder—Answer:
 THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR
 YOUR SAKE HE BECAME POOR.
 THAT YOU THROUGH HIS POVERTY
 MIGHT BECOME RICH.

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—Kenneth W. Hagin

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Note: RHEMA Bible Training Center and RHEMA Correspondence Bible School are two separate schools with different purposes. Credits are not transferable from one to the other. The training center is an intensive, on-campus school designed to prepare individuals for full-time ministry. The correspondence school is a home-study course intended to develop a strong foundation of Bible knowledge.

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