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50 Years in Ministry

Kenneth W. Hagin

HEART IO HF with KENNETH W. HAGIN

Jesus Is the Open Door!

During this wonderful time of year when we celebrate Easter, it's important for us to remember that Jesus is the Open Door through which mankind is able to reach God the Father. In John chapter 10, the Lord told His disciples, "... I am the door of the sheep.... If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (vv. 7, 9 NKJV). In other words, Jesus is the Door for us to enter into all the good things God has provided for us in His Word!

Jesus Christ opened the door between God and man when He went to the Cross at Calvary. Because Jesus shed His blood, we can step into righteousness. We can walk in redemption and forgiveness of sin. Because of the stripes that were laid upon Jesus' back, we can walk in healing. Jesus is the Open Door!

In the natural, if a door is closed and locked, you can't reach the provision that is on the other side of the door. But Jesus is the Open Door-not the closed door or the locked door. Jesus is the Open Door, giving you access to all of God's provisions!

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (NKJV). Jesus is the Way-the Open Door-to the Father. An open door says, "Yes, you may come in." Jesus Christ is the "Yes" for all mankind, the Open Door that enables us to possess the promises of the Father.

God is not withholding anything from you. He wants you to have everything He's provided for you as His child. Whatever you need from the Lord today, find a promise in the Word that covers your need and walk through the Open Door. Start claiming your promise!

Remember, Jesus is the Open Door that causes all of the possibilities of Heaven to become a reality in your life-big possibilities, amazing possibilities, greater-than-you'veever-imagined possibilities. What looks impossible without the Lord becomes possible with Him! It's time to walk through the Open Door into the wonderful blessings of God!

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Kenneth W. Hagin

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(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth W. Hagin's book The Table That Speaks.)

n the Old Testament, Passover commemorated the deliverance of the children of Israel, God's people, from Pharaoh's tyranny in Egypt. In the Bible, Egypt is a type, or symbol, of sin. The Israelites' deliverance required the blood of a lamb.

The Communion Table commemorates the Christian believer's spiritual deliverance from the bondage of sin through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Communion could be called a "New Testament Passover."

This so-called New Testament Passover was instituted when the Lord Jesus Christ shared His last meal before the Cross with His disciples. On the Cross, Jesus became the Sacrificial Lamb offered for mankind so that we could be delivered from the tyranny and rule of Satan! Just as the children of Israel observe the Passover to celebrate their deliverance from slavery in Egypt, Christians observe Communion to celebrate deliverance

from sin and its consequences. Communion is our "Passover"!

In the Old Testament God said, "... When I see the blood, I will pass over you . . ." (Exod. 12:13). In other words, when the death angel saw the blood applied to a house, he passed over the people in that house. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Savior, the blood of Jesus is applied to our lives. Therefore, when the judgment our sin deserves comes our way, it passes over us because of Jesus' blood!

Hundreds of years after Israel's release from bondage, Jesus and His disciples were in the Upper Room celebrating what had happened long ago in Egypt. That night with His disciples, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as an ordinance for the Church.

Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper the night of His arrest, and then taught the Apostle Paul about Communion many years later (1 Cor. 11:23).

Notice the importance of what Jesus did. He instituted Holy Communion not for the Jews or the Gentiles, but for the Church—the Body of Christ. Every Christian is a member of Christ's Body. The Lord's Supper is an ordinance for it and took the cup and drank from it, us to keep.

Paul said that he had received the ordinance of Communion from the Lord. And he preached it as part of the Gospel. In his letters, Paul testified that what he preached and taught was not from man.

GALATIANS 1:11-12 (NIV) 11 I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. 12 I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.

Jesus gave this revelation about Communion to Paul so that Paul would teach it to the Church. The fact that Jesus revealed this teaching to Paul shows how important Communion is for us today.

Communion could be called a **"New Testament** Passover."

In the Old Testament, the Passover was prophetic. Through the centuries, the prophecy had been passed down from generation to generation that there would come a great Deliverer-a Messiah-who would again free the Israelites from their slavery. But, unknown to them, the fulfillment of that prophecy required the death of the Lord Jesus Christ. And it was a spiritual slavery from which Christ set mankind free.

At the Last Supper, Jesus and His disciples celebrated their forefathers' freedom. Jesus picked up the cup and said, "'Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Matt. 26:27-28 NIV). He was referring to His own blood soon to be shed. Therefore, when we take Communion, we drink from the cup not only to indicate that His blood was shed but also to illustrate that the blood must be applied to our hearts. When the blood of Jesus is applied to our hearts, our sins are washed away and we are redeemed.

Now it is important that we understand what Jesus was doing. When Jesus personally took bread and broke *He* knew what He was doing. When Jesus instituted Communion with His disciples, I don't think *His disciples* fully understood the significance of His words and actions. It wasn't until later, after all the events of the Cross had unfolded, that they really grasped the significance of the Lord's Supper.

Jesus understood that His breaking the bread was a type, or shadow, of His offering His own body to be mutilated, beaten, and pierced. When Jesus offered His disciples the cup, it represented His blood being poured out.

As Jesus and His disciples ate the Passover meal, He told them, "I say unto

overcomer.



you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the kingdom of God" (Luke 22:16). After saying this about His death, Jesus looked at the men who had walked with Him and had been with Him through thick and thin. He saw the troubled looks on their faces, and I believe He understood their heartache.

Jesus tried to explain the coming events to His disciples, but they wouldn't receive what He was saying. Notice, however, that Jesus didn't get upset with them over their lack of understanding. But rather, He continued to encourage, minister to, and instruct them.

Jesus did His best to share with His disciples, to give them strength, encouragement, and hope that would sustain them through the coming hours. Jesus knew that His disciples would be tested to the limit. He understood that they were about to face the most trying three



days of their lives. According to the Scriptures, when Jesus was arrested, the disciples ran away (Matt. 26:56). Even Peter, who had said, "Even if I have to die with You, I will not deny You" (Matt. 26:35 NKJV), stood in the courtyard outside the high priest's house and said, "I don't even know who this man is!" (See Luke 22:54–62.)

Jesus was aware of the pain and sorrow the disciples were going to face. Yet He said, "I have eagerly desired to eat this Passover with you . . ." (Luke 22:15 NIV). Jesus anticipated this time with His disciples, and His death, with great expectation.

Why was Jesus so eager to eat this meal with His disciples? Because at the end of that Passover meal. He would institute a new "Passover" which we call the Lord's Supper, or Communion. And it would be a symbol of mankind's redemption from slavery to sin. Jesus looked forward to the future with expectation because He knew His death would deliver mankind from the chains of sin, sickness, and poverty forever!

FAITH IN ACTION

The Table That Speaks

The Communion Table preaches the *come that the Son of Man should be* Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ without saving a word. It delivers distinct messages about Who Jesus is, what He did for us, and His Gospel message.

• The Communion Table speaks of Jesus' life.

Through the taking of the elements-representing the broken body of Christ and His shed bloodwe are reminded that Jesus came to the earth to destroy the works of the devil. And through His teaching, preaching, healing, and performing of miracles, Jesus destroyed the devil's kingdom and ushered in the 1 John 3:8).

Jesus' death.

Jesus was not afraid to die. He told His disciples, "The hour has

glorified. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a arain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain" (John 12:23-24 NKJV).

When Jesus referred to a grain of wheat, He was talking about Himself. He was that Seed, and unless He was planted-unless He died-He could not be raised again and give life to the world.

Jesus died on the Cross and was buried. But He rose from the grave with new life! We can say then that He is the Incorruptible Seed. And Kingdom of God (Acts 10:38; because the Incorruptible Seed was planted, every man, woman, boy, • The Communion Table speaks of and girl can now receive eternal life in Heaven and abundant life on earth!

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"The natural and the supernatural coming together make an explosive force for God!"

-Kenneth W. Hagin

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Spring College Weekend April 17–19



limeless

(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Brother Hagin's minibook The Precious Blood of Jesus.)

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [your manner of life or conduct] received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. ...? -1 Peter 1:18-19

ircumstances can affect the value of anything. Differing circumstances can make the very same thing either worthless or extremely valuable. The reality of sin and its dire consequences make the blood of Jesus very precious. And the blood of Jesus is made infinitely more valuable and precious to us because of the power it has in our life.

I don't know whether you can fully realize how precious health is until you get sick. Or whether you can fully realize how precious it is to live without pain until you suffer pain-Hunger makes food precious; thirst makes water precious; and poverty makes riches precious.

Sin makes the blood of Jesus Christ precious.

Redeeming Power

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *redeeming* power.

The Bible teaches that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). As

we saw in our text from First Peter, God's Word teaches that the blood of Christ is precious. It is precious because of its redeeming power. We were not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.

Paul, in giving his farewell message to the elders of the Church at Ephesus, also talked about our being purchased with Christ's blood, saying, "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood" (Acts 20:28). Thank God we've been bought by the blood of the Lamb!

Cleansing Power

Not only is the blood of Jesus Christ precious because of its *redeeming* power, but it is also precious because of its *cleansing* power.

First John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the light, and how precious food is until you suffer hunger. as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another. AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN."

In the past, churches used to sing a lot of songs about the blood, and it would be good for us to sing them again-to be reminded of the wonderful power in the blood of Jesus. In 1876, Robert Lowry penned the words and music to "Nothing but the Blood," a Gospel hymn with these powerful words: "What can wash away my sin? Nothing

but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus."

Notice that the verse from First John said Christ's blood "cleanseth us from all sin." In Revelation 1:5 we read, "... Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood."

The Word of God teaches us that we have a better covenant, established on better promises (Heb. 8:6). Under the Old Testament law, the blood of innocent animals was shed. These animals were a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, for our text in First Peter speaks of Him as being "a lamb without blemish and without spot."

However, the blood of these sacrificial animals only covered the people's sins; it didn't cleanse the sins. That's why the Jews had to repeat these sacrifices at regularly-stated intervals. Their sins were merely *covered*, not cleansed.

For example, if I were to spill some black ink on a black leather Bible cover. the ink might blend into the leather so well that you wouldn't be able to see the ink. Yet, the ink spot still would be there. So it was under the Old Covenant. The sin nature was still in man. The people's sins were only covered.

One thing that makes our New Covenant so much better than the Old Covenant is that Jesus has washed us-cleansed us-from all sin by His own blood!

Pacifying Power

The blood of Jesus is precious because of its *redeeming* and *cleansing* power. It's also precious because of its *pacifying* power.

COLOSSIANS 1:20

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

First, the blood of Christ pacifies *the* broken law. We've all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Through the blood of Jesus, God has made peace, reconciling all things to Himself. God did it!

Second, the blood of Christ pacifies the guilty conscience. One reason many Christians go around feeling so guilty is because we have not magnified the blood of Jesus as we ought. If believers only knew about the power

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of the precious blood of Jesus Christ. they would no longer have a guilty conscience.

Reconciling Power

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *reconciling* power.

Ephesians 2:13 says, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." In and of our own selves, we couldn't do anything to reconcile ourselves to God. No amount of good works could enable us to enter into God's Presence. It's only through the blood of Jesus that we are reconciled to God.

Emboldening Power

The blood of Jesus Christ is also precious because of its *emboldening* power.

Let's examine Hebrews 10:19, which says, "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest *by the blood of Jesus.* . . . " No, we don't come by our own name, and we don't come by our own righteousness. I don't care how many good works or how much right conduct we have-we still have to come by the blood of Jesus.

One thing that makes our New Covenant so much better than the Old Covenant is that **Jesus has washed** us-cleansed us—from all sin by His own blood!

Many people want to get healed because they're "good Christians." We ought to be good Christians, but we're not going to be healed because we're good (or not healed because we're bad). We're going to be healed because we believe in Jesus and His blood!

Overcoming Power

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The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *overcoming* power.

Revelation 12:11 says. "And they [believers] overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony. . . . " "The word of their testimony" is another way of saying "their right confession." We've preached a lot about faith confessions, and a lot of people have made a lot of

One reason many Christians go around feeling so guilty is because we have not magnified the blood of Jesus as we ought.

confessions. But I don't think we know or preach as much as we should about the blood of the Lamb.

The Lord didn't say, "They overcame by the word of their testimony" or "the word of their confession" and end the verse there. No, He said, "They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony...."

I like another translation that uses the word "because" in this verse: "They overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of *their testimony*..." (NASB).

Thank God, there is overcoming power in the blood of Jesus-power to overcome the world, the fear of death, the power of the devil, and all evil. There is power in the blood—the precious blood of Jesus!

Song-Inspiring Power

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *song-inspiring* power.

Revelation 5:9 says, "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation. . . ." This is a new song for new souls in a new sphere. If you are a child of God, this is your song to sing! And it's all because of the blood of Jesus.

There is redeeming, cleansing, pacifying, reconciling, overcoming, emboldening, and song-inspiring power in the

blood of Jesus. Now you see why the blood of Jesus is so precious and valuable! And that precious blood was shed for *vou*.

The Cleansing Power of the Blood

We all make mistakes. It is a part of our human nature to make mistakes. This body is not redeemed yet (but, thank God, it's going to be one of these days). No one is perfect. Because there are imperfections in all of us, we all miss it from time to time.

First John 1:7 says, "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

The Apostle John didn't write this verse to sinners. He wrote it to the Church, because he said, "If we walk in the light...." Sinners are not walking in the light. That's the reason they need to come to Jesus and be born again.

But as long as you walk in the light, even though you may miss it, there is a continual cleansing from sin. When you know you've missed it, confess your sin to the Lord. He is faithful and just to forgive you and to cleanse you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).





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On May 3, 2009, you can be a part of a global family of believers uniting in prayer and support for RHEMA Bible Training Center USA, by joining us in International RHEMA Day.

The goal of International RHEMA Day is to create a global network of people who will pray for and support RHEMA Bible Training Center, where we train and equip ministers for tomorrow with sound biblical teaching and practical instruction in the field of ministry.

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The Secret Is Out— Healing Can Be Yours Today!

Cancer destroyed, tumors dissolved, and hearts repaired. Testimonies abound at RHEMA's Healing School, which is located on the RHEMA Bible Training Center campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. People arrive with sickness and disease, and they leave healed, delivered, and set free!

But what is it that makes RHEMA's Healing School so special? What sets it apart and why are miracles happening every day?

Someone might say, "I've had the best doctors try to help me," or, "I've had ministers lay hands on me before with no results. What makes you think RHEMA's Healing School can help me?"

Decide for yourself. Here is an inside look at what happens every day at RHEMA's Healing School—a place that's been called the best-kept secret in Broken Arrow. But the secret is out: *Healing can be yours today*!



8:30 a.m.

Even before they arrive for the morning session, attendees of Healing School have been surrounded with the faith and prayers of Healing Technicians. These are highly trained men and women who minister one-on-one to the sick under the guidance of Leigh Ann Merrell Soesbee, coordinator of RHEMA's Prayer and Healing Center. Every day, the Healing Technicians gather to pray for those who will be attending Healing School in order to create an atmosphere where God's glory is tangible and the healing power of God can flow freely.

As one technician prays, "We thank You, Father, that every person who comes in the door today will be touched by Your anointing. We thank You that Your anointing goes into each person's body and destroys every yoke. We speak life to their bodies in Jesus' Name."

In the face of sickness and disease, Healing Technicians see attendees as God sees them—healed and whole.



9:00 a.m.

"Welcome to Healing School. Did you come expecting? Because you're going to receive your healing today!" These words, spoken by a Healing Technician to each person who walks in the door, ignite hope in the hearts of those who need to be healed. For many attendees, Healing School is their last chance. Modern medicine offers them no cure, and doctors no longer know what to do. However, no matter the disease or circumstances, the Word of God promises an abundant life. Healing Technicians expect every person to be healed according to God's Word—not tomorrow or next month, *but today!*

9:30 a.m.

Every Monday through Friday, attendees gather in the Prayer and Healing Center auditorium for a time of ministry. On this particular day, Beth Dalton, one of the Healing Technicians, ministers health and peace to those attending. "We're all working together at Healing School," she says, "to see manifestations of healing in your body today. This is such an easy thing! Forget about everything else. See yourself entering the Throne Room where there is One Who is mighty and glorious seated on the Throne with light emanating from Him. That light is His life, glory, and healing power—the power He uses to eradicate anything that would come against you."

As the Presence of God tangibly fills the room, Beth encourages attendees, "You don't have to strive to get it. You've got it. Romans 4:17 says that God gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were. The Word says it, and the Word doesn't lie. If you've got something attacking your body right now, know that the same God Who gives life to the dead is living in you."

As God's Word is spoken, the Lord confirms it according to Mark 16:20, which says, *"They went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."* Throughout the message, various people are delivered from fear and pain. The Word works! Bible Church, Craig W. Hagin is often the speaker, as he is on this particular day. In ministering on healing, Rev. Hagin teaches that *faith is now*. Using Hebrews 11:1 as his foundational scripture, he



10:15 a.m.

According to attendees, one thing that makes RHEMA's Healing School unique is the personal ministry and attention. C. Harlan Jacobs, one of the Healing Technicians, explains, "The environment at morning Healing School is tailor-made for the individual. Attendees get an up-close, personal touch that they wouldn't receive in a larger setting. They can ask questions, and Healing Technicians, ministering by the Spirit, can address their specific needs."

Having been built up in God's Word and prayer in preparation, Healing Technicians minister God's Word to the attendees just as a doctor would prescribe treatment. They pray and lay hands on the sick expecting immediate results. One technician recalls, "Tve seen tumors shrink and pain disappear instantly. There is no sickness or disease too big for God."

2:15 p.m.

Held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, afternoon Healing School is open to the public but shares a common purpose with morning Healing School—to see the sick set free. Though afternoon Healing School offers a variety of speakers from RHEMA Bible Training Center and RHEMA



In ministering on healing, Rev. Hagin teaches that *faith is now*. Using Hebrews 11:1 as his foundational scripture, he declares, "Faith believes, even when what you want is something that doesn't yet exist in the natural. Faith believes beyond a shadow of a doubt that what you desire actually exists—even when you can't see it.

According to Hebrews 11:1, 'Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen' (NKJV). Faith in God and His Word enables us to take things from the unseen realm of hope and bring them into the realm of reality. One reason some people don't get healed is because they're not in faith. They're still hoping that something will happen—maybe down the road in the future.

But faith is now. It believes that what God's Word says is yours, is yours right now. And God's Word says that Jesus Christ took stripes on His back, and by His stripes you *were healed*. If you *were healed*, then you *are healed*."

The message is powerful, but the results speak for themselves. Gary Hennenfent, now a morning Healing Technician, formerly served as an usher in afternoon Healing School for two years. He recalls, "A lot of exciting things happen in Healing School. Just being in that environment sets you up to receive your healing. I was there to serve the people coming in, but sitting under the Word myself, I was healed of two chronic conditions. I haven't had a problem with either of them since I was healed."

You are healed. That's the message those who attend Healing School hear—the message Kenneth E. Hagin intended them to hear when the school began in 1979. Brother Hagin believed that people need the medicine of God's Word, and Healing School is a place where the Word is put into action on a daily basis. Healing School is a place, as Brother Hagin desired, where the sick can come and hear that God's power is available—now—for them to be healed and walk in health. It is a place where the oppressed are set free—a place where miracles happen every day!

> For more information about Healing School or to request a free booklet to help you plan a trip to Healing School, call (918) 258-1588, ext. 2280, e-mail partnerservice@rhema.org, or visit us online at www.rhema.org/healing.



Every year thousands of people are blessed by Kenneth Hagin Ministries' annual Campmeeting services. A week of teaching, preaching, demonstrations of the Holy Spirit, and anointed praise and worship ignites those in attendance to make a difference for Jesus Christ in this lost and dying world.

But Campmeeting is not just for adults! Hundreds of youth also visit the RHEMA campus to attend Summer Blitz, which is AXIS® Youth Ministries' annual event held in conjunction with Campmeeting. This powerful week of services is geared specifically toward young peoplecomplete with cutting-edge praise and worship, a concert with a national recording artist, and relevant, life-changing messages. Several churches bring their young people by the busload, and the youth groups leave changed as many teenagers are saved, healed, and filled with the Spirit during the week.

The following is a portion of Brent Bailey's message "Turn It Up" from Summer Blitz 2008.



There was a radio station in my hometown that had an ad that would play right before a new release would air. In his "radio voice" the guy would say, "Tune us in! Turn us up! And rip the knob off!"

I believe God is trying to tell us to do something similar this year-to tune Him in, turn Him up, and rip the knob off. In other words, we need to go all out for God with no backing down. We need to listen to what He says without tuning Him out in order to listen to something else. We need to connect ourselves to God and then rip the knob off, so to speak, so that we can stay hooked up to Him. There's nothing else for us to do-nothing else that will satisfy us-but to stay in tune with God, turn Him up, listen to what He says, and then do it.

Young people sometimes think that only Jesus could do great things on the earth. But when we're hooked up to God, we can do great things too. Acts chapter 3 tells the mighty things Jesus' followers did in the Name of Jesus. When we follow Christ and know the power in His Name, we, too, can do mighty things for God.

ACTS 3:1-6 (NKJV)

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us."

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

I want you to notice something. This story is about Peter and John, not about Jesus. Jesus came to be our someone else hear it. God is the answer the world is looking for, and He lives example of what *we* can do on the earth, and these guys followed that example. Peter and John didn't say, "Oh, I big in you. So tune in to His Spirit, turn up the volume, and can't help you, but I know this guy, Jesus, who can help rip the knob off!



HOSTS:

Nachbor Jr. High Youth Pasto







Brent Bailey Sr. High Youth Pastor

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you. Oh, wait a minute. He went to Heaven, so I guess vou're hopeless."

There was none of that! This story is about two guys who had turned up the volume and dared to do what God called them to do, and they made an impact on a guy who couldn't walk from the time he was born. Peter and John got hold of a word from God, and they turned it up loud in their lives.

Don't leave the business of changing the world to your pastor, youth pastor, or somebody famous you see on TV. God is calling *you* to stand up and change the world! He wants you to get involved in someone else's situation and help to turn it around. God doesn't want you telling your friend, "Well, um, my pastor could help you." He wants you to take what has been imparted to you, turn it up, and let

GUESTS







Jeff Bardel



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BY CRAIG W. HAGIN

tions-at school, in the

office, at sporting events, and even in the home. This phrase is a form of praise, often said to someone who has shown uncommon skill,

strength, or kindness. The Bible tells of someone who possessed uncommon power and compassion-"the Ultimate Man" in every way. His Name is Jesus.

In John chapter 5, we read the story of a man healed at the pool of Bethesda. We learn that this man had been an invalid for 38 years. He had lain by the pool every day, watching intently, because an angel of the Lord occasion-

ally stirred the water. The first person to enter the pool after the water stirred was healed.

One day Jesus passed by the pool and saw this man and had compassion on him. He asked the invalid if he wanted to be healed. Although the man

ou the man" is a popular slang phrase desperately wanted to be well again, he told Jesus in our culture. It's been heard on TV, that he had no man to help him into the water after in movies, and in everyday conversa- it was stirred. (See John 5:2–9.) Jesus replied, "Rise,

take up thy bed, and walk" (John 5:8). In effect, Jesus said, "I am 'your man'the One you've been waiting for and wanting to help you."

After the invalid was healed, the Pharisees and Sadducees—the keepers of the Law-asked him, "What man told you to carry your mat on the Sabbath day?" (John 5:12). These teachers of the Law were angry at what Jesus had done.

Although Jesus healed countless people during His ministry, not everyone knew Who He was. And not everyone who knew Him liked Him. Jesus was understood by some but misunderstood by many. This dislike for Jesus

was evident at the pool of Bethesda by the fact that some people became angry at Jesus for healing the invalid.

This same disapproval was evident in Capernaum, where Jesus healed another paralyzed man.

Jesus was teaching in a home that was filled with Pharisees and teachers of the Law who had come from Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. A desperate paralyzed man and his four friends wanted to get into the house and make their way to Jesus. The house was so packed with people that these men couldn't get near Jesus, so they devised a plan.

Creator. Jesus won the battle and we've been reconciled to God.

Everything Jesus did during His earthly ministry was in preparation for His ultimate fight on the Cross. Although He cast out many demons and healed multitudes during His time on the earth, Jesus had one last battle to win. But to face His final challenge, He had to willingly allow

Everything Jesus did during His earthly ministry was in preparation for His ultimate fight on the Cross.

The four able friends climbed on top of the house and hoisted their paralyzed friend to the rooftop. Then the friends tore the roof apart so they could lower the paralyzed man into the home. They weren't concerned about what the homeowner might think. Nor were they concerned about the damage they were doing to the roof of his house. They were only concerned with getting their friend in front of "the Man" Who could bring life back into a lifeless body.

When Jesus saw the paralyzed man being lowered into the room, He said, "... Thy sins are forgiven thee" (Luke 5:20). The religious leaders who filled the room wondered to themselves, Who is this man to think that he can forgive sins? Only God can forgive sins (v. 21).

The scribes and Pharisees didn't understand that "the Ultimate Man" was in their midst. Jesus perceived their thoughts and said, "What reason ve in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk?" (vv. 22-23). Jesus then spoke to the paralytic and said, "... Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house" (v. 24). This sick man knew *exactly* Who Jesus was.

The saddest part of this story is that the power of God was present to heal every person in that room (v. 17). But according to the Scriptures, no one else tapped into that power. No one else recognized that "the Man" was in their midst.

Jesus is *still* "the Man." He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Ultimate Warrior Who fought the ultimate battle. And the outcome of that battle determined whether mankind would be reconciled to God or destined to spend eternity separated from their Himself to be captured by His enemy, Satan.

A disciple from Jesus' own company betrayed this Man Who went about doing good. For 30 pieces of silver, Judas paved the way for the Son of God to be taken into custody by the jealous religious leaders.

After His arrest, Jesus was beaten. Thirty-nine stripes were laid upon His back with a cat-o'-nine-tails. His appearance was so marred by the brutality of His scourging that He was unrecognizable. The New International Version says, "... his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness" (Isa. 52:14).

Jesus' captors forced Him to carry the cross upon which He would be crucified. But in His weakened condition, Jesus could not bear the load. So soldiers seized a man called Simon from Cyrene and forced him to carry the heavy cross.

Finally, Jesus and his forced participant reached Golgotha's hill. The Roman soldiers pounded huge spikes into Jesus' hands and feet, nailing Him to the cross where He uttered His final words, "It is finished" (John 19:30).

It looked as though the battle was over. It looked as though the wrong team won. But when Jesus uttered, "It is finished," He was simply saying that His work on Earth had come to an end. He was then going to descend into hell and finish the fight.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees did not understand Who Jesus was, and in his own way, neither did the devil. Although Satan knew Jesus was the Son of God, Satan thought he had won when Jesus died. Had





Jesus didn't leave us defenseless. Instead, He obtained victory for us by shedding His blood on the Cross of Calvary, and then He gave us the power and authority vested in His Name. After He was raised from the dead, Jesus said to His disciples, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations . . ." (Matt. 28:18-20 NIV).

Jesus delegated His authority to you and me. He authorized us to use His Name and minister on the earth in the same way He did. In effect, we have been given a "power of attorney," or a legal right, to use Jesus' name.

We can use that Name when dealing with demons or in ministering healing. And when we pray and minister in the Name of Jesus, we can expect the same results that Jesus had!

the devil known what was about to happen, he would never "count it all joy" (James 1:2) because you have been guaranhave crucified the Lord of glory (1 Cor. 2:8).

It may have looked as though Jesus was down, but He was not out—"the Ultimate Man" made the ultimate comeback. In the three days that Jesus was in hell. He defeated Satan and took back the keys of death and hell (Rev. 1:18).

It really wasn't much of a battle. It had been prophesied

from the beginning of time that God would send a Savior. the One Who would redeem mankind from the bondage of Satan.

Jesus fought and won the battle against

our enemy. Jesus bore stripes on His back so we could be healed of all disease—no matter how common or rare. And Jesus shed His blood so we could be reconciled to God.

In your own life, you may feel down and out and that you have too much stacked against you. But realize that the Ultimate Comeback King is quarterbacking your team. The One Who can never and will never lose is leading you on to victory! The undisputed Champion of the World is on your side!

No matter what you are facing, you cannot be defeated. You are an overcomer and more than a conqueror through Christ (Rom. 8:37). When the battle looks tough, you can

teed victory!

Just remember to never try to fight the battle on your own. Your victory is *in Christ*. So regardless of what your circumstances look like, you can begin shouting now because in Christ you are always victorious!

People often like to drop names, which means they

Jesus fought and won the battle against our enemy.

casually name someone famous or powerful as being a friend of theirs in order to promote their own status. Jesus freely gave us the Ultimate Name to drop. His Name gives us the power and

authority to make demons stop in their tracks. His Name drives out sickness and disease. His Name brings victory in the face of defeat!

The Ultimate Man—Jesus Christ—fought the ultimate battle and won! And because Jesus won the fight, you're a winner too. Jesus is the same vesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). And the victory He won more than 2,000 years ago is still in force today. Now it's up to you to walk in the victory that Jesus obtained for you.



Incline Thine Ear

Teaching at RHEMA Healing School, Kenneth E. Hagin reveals how faith in Jesus' wonderful Name leads to victory, provision, and protection. This anointed instruction, a companion message to Incline Thine Ear, is rich with biblical insights and Rev. Hagin's personal experiences on how you can receive from God by exercising your faith in that mighty Name!

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"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." — Isajah 58:11 (NIV)

It seems that the trend with most people is to burn the candle at both ends. I constantly hear people say, "I am so tired." Granted, we live in a fast-paced world. It seems there is more to do than time in the day. I have noticed that many people have broken down their immune systems by over-obligating themselves. As a result, they constantly fight symptoms in their bodies. God does not desire that we live our lives in this fashion.

I used to hear ministers say. "I would rather burn out than rust out." The Lord does not want us to do either one. Each of us has a different stress-tolerance level. It is important that we listen to our bodies and not go beyond that level. We must take time to rest our minds and bodies.

I have been blessed with an abundance of energy. I do not take that for granted. I thank the Lord for it often. My body operates on less sleep than most. Even as a young child, I did not require a nap.

However, there was a time in my life when I was overstretching what my body could endure. I kept pushing to accomplish my agenda, unaware of the harm that it was doing to my body. Suddenly I realized that I had become completely exhausted. It was then that the Lord ministered to me the importance of setting aside some time to pull away from the busyness of life and simply rest.

My husband and I have very demanding schedules. Often we are asked, "How do you maintain your busy schedule and still stay sane?" We have learned several secrets that help us accomplish everything and still maintain our sanity. The foremost thing that we do is to rely on the Lord and His promises.

Isaiah 40:28-31 (NLT) says, "Have you never heard? Have you never understood? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth. He never grows weak or weary. No one can measure the depths of his understanding. He gives power to the weak and strength to the powerless. Even youths will become weak and tired. and young men will fall in exhaustion. But those who trust in the Lord will

find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint."

When our schedule is so busy that we are unable to set aside time to rest, we call upon these verses. We say, "Thank You, Lord, for giving us strength. Thank You for rejuvenating our bodies." We also quote Romans 8:11: "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also guicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."

However, we also plan time in the natural when we can just put our minds in "neutral" and not think about pending tasks or decisions. Sometimes we just get in the car and drive. We take the back roads through small Oklahoma towns, often stopping at a store just to look around or eating at a small local restaurant. We may spend only a few days away, or even just one day. But it is amazing how a short time of relaxation can refresh and rejuvenate your body and mind.

You may be thinking, "But I can't afford to take time off." You can't afford not to. None of us will ever finish everything on our to-do list. My husband and I found that we had to make ourselves take time off, even in the midst of looming deadlines. I had to practice forgetting about what had to be done in order to enjoy a moment of rest.

However, I've learned that as I take time to rest, my spirit can hear from God more easily. During such times of rest, my husband and I have often received answers to questions we had been pondering. So I encourage you this month-take some time off just to pamper yourself. rest. and relax. As you do, you will be renewed in your body and will be in a better frame of mind to tackle the tasks that lie ahead.

Synette

During Winter Bible

Commemorative DVD For a gift of \$5 or more, you will receive a Commemorative DVD of the 50 Years in Ministry celebration. This DVD is available only through this one-time offer.





If you could not join us for this special evening, you can still help us honor Rev. Hagin by posting your comments online or writing a note and by getting involved in "50 for 50."

Through "50 for 50," you can sow a gift of \$50, \$500, or \$5,000 toward paying off the ministry's aircraft that has flown over 1,093,000 miles to spread the Gospel. That's the equivalent of circling the globe almost 44 times! Your generous support has enabled Rev. Hagin to carry out the mandate the Lord gave Kenneth Hagin Ministries to "... go teach My people faith."

We realize that in today's economy, not everyone can give \$50. **Every** gift, no matter how small or large, will make a difference.

Seminar, we held a surprise celebration to honor Kenneth W. Hagin's 50 years in ministry. We wanted to tell you about this event sooner, but we didn't want to spoil the secret. Now, though, we can let you in on it and invite you to share in our celebration.

Years in Ministry

This memorable event will be covered in depth in the May issue of The Word of Faith!

Just a Click Away

To see highlights from the surprise celebration or donate to "50 for 50" log on to www.rhema.org, call 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484), or mail the enclosed envelope.



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