



THE Word of Faith

MAY 2009

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

Winter BIBLE Seminar AND Worldwide HOMECOMING

Featuring the first-ever
Parade of Nations
Flag Ceremony!
see page 14

Celebrating
50 YEARS
in Ministry
see page 16



HEART TO HEART



With KENNETH W. HAGIN

Not Just Another Holiday

May is the month when we celebrate Memorial Day—a day that was originally set aside to honor and remember those who died in the Civil War. Now the holiday is intended to honor and remember those who have lost their lives in any war or military conflict in our nation's history. Sadly, many people today view Memorial Day as just another holiday, a vacation day from work. But for those who have lost someone in war or military action, Memorial Day is more than just a day off!

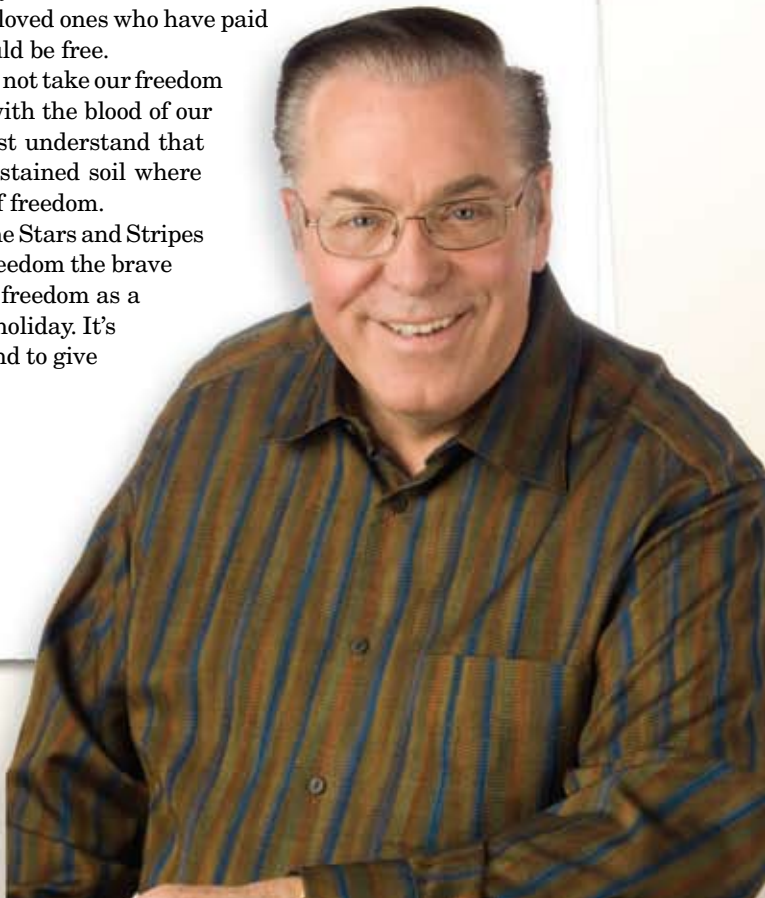
I believe it's important for us to recognize this special day and to honor those who have spilled their blood to make America the country she is today. I thank God for the brave men and women of the armed forces. I thank God for the United States of America—and that she's a country worth fighting for!

I'm proud to be an American and am also proud that I took the oath to serve in the United States Army. Many of the friends I trained with in the Army did not come home after serving this country in the Vietnam War. Many of my family members and friends fought bravely in World War II and the Korean War, and some of them lost their lives for the cause of freedom.

This Memorial Day, let's uphold our troops in prayer and honor those who have given their lives so that we could be free. Among our troops and those who have fallen are fathers and mothers, husbands and wives, sons and daughters. You may have friends or loved ones serving in the armed forces today. Maybe you have loved ones who have paid the ultimate price—who died so that you and I could be free.

We must not take their sacrifice lightly. We must not take our freedom lightly! The history of America has been written with the blood of our valiant soldiers who have fallen in battle. We must understand that the blood they shed still speaks today. The blood-stained soil where American troops have died gives us our heritage of freedom.

Let's honor those who have given their lives so the Stars and Stripes can freely wave over this land. Let's speak of the freedom the brave warriors bought with their blood. Let's honor that freedom as a legacy to them. Memorial Day is not just another holiday. It's a time to remember the high cost of our freedom and to give thanks to God that we live in a nation that is free.



Kenneth W. Hagin

Kenneth W. Hagin

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Kenneth W. Hagin

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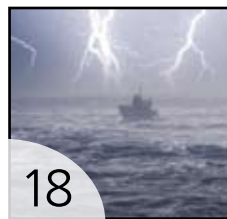
For six days in February, the RHEMA USA Campus became the focal point for a mighty outpouring of God's power. Read about this exciting week.



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Kenneth E. Hagin

It's good to learn from the mistakes of others in order to keep from making them yourself. Learn from the Apostle Peter's mistake—how he began to walk in the supernatural but then allowed doubt to cut short the power of God.

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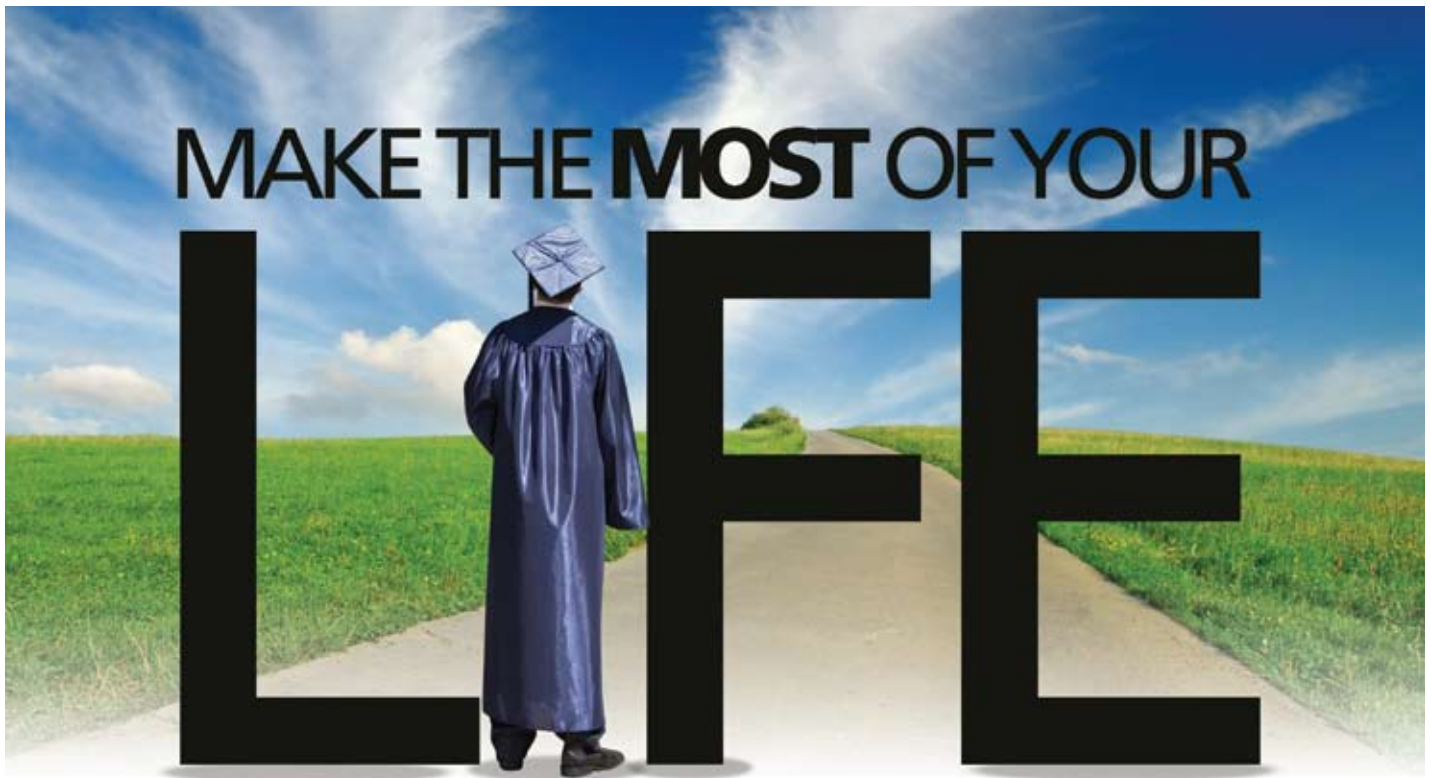
Children are a precious gift from God. This month, Lynette Hagin exhorts and encourages mothers and fathers not to miss the joys and responsibilities of parenthood.

23 F.A.I.T.H. Academy Kids' Page

(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!



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MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR

LIFE

K E N N E T H W. H A G I N

(Editor's Note: Graduation is upon us, and congratulations to those who have completed their schooling. Whether you recently graduated or are far removed from commencement day, this powerful message will impact your life and enable you to impact the lives of those around you.)

Few people have blessed humanity as much as Thomas Alva Edison. His many inventions include the incandescent light bulb, a motion picture machine (first for silent movies and then for talking ones), a mimeograph machine, the phonograph, and a carbon telephone transmitter, which paved the way for our modern telephone. There is no doubt that Edison made the most of his life.

It is vitally important to make the most of what God has given you. One day you will stand before the Lord and answer the question: "What did you do with the life I gave you?" And no one can answer that question except you.

The book of Acts records the story of a woman who made the most of her life.

ACTS 9:36-39 (NIV)

36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor.

37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room.

38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!"

39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them.

We do not know a lot about Dorcas. Except for these verses of Scripture, she is never mentioned again in the Bible. We do know that she was a prominent disciple in Joppa. Although her words were never recorded, we know she left a powerful testimony.

Dorcas was a humble, simple, devout, and committed follower of Jesus Christ. She devoted her life to doing good and helping the poor. There are others like her in recorded history—those who did good during their lifetime. But there are also those throughout history who built their lives on money, fame, pleasure, and power.

It's interesting to note some of the things people, who were perhaps envied and admired in the natural, have said as their lives drew to an end.

When American financier Jay Gould died in 1892, his fortune was an estimated \$72 million. Yet, on his deathbed, he said, "I suppose I am the most miserable devil on earth."¹

Benjamin Disraeli, Prime Minister of England in the late 1800s wrote, "Youth is a blunder; Manhood a struggle; Old Age a regret."²

Lord Byron, the great European poet, wrote:
My days are in the yellow leaf;

The flowers and fruits of love are gone;
The worm, the canker, and the grief
Are mine alone!³



As Napoleon Bonaparte sat imprisoned on the isle of St. Helen, he said these words, “Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of men would die for him.”⁴

Dorcas discovered the secret to enjoying life to its fullest. She didn’t seek fulfillment through money, fame, pleasure, or power. She found meaning in life through following Christ.

The American sculptor Lorado Taft was placing some lights around the statue of a boy that had been sculpted by the Italian sculptor Donatello. At first, Taft placed the lights on the floor so they would shine upward on the boy’s face. After stepping back to observe how the statue looked, he noted that the shadows caused the face to look disfigured.

Taft changed the lights around in every possible arrangement. Finally, he decided to light the statue from above. When he stepped back to view the statue, the boy’s face looked like the face of an angel.

What light are you using to illuminate your path through life? If you’ve chosen light from below, your life will be cast in dark shadows. But if you allow the light of God to shine down on your life, you can become a brilliant reflection of the Lord. When you allow the love and the light of God to shine on you and saturate you, it will eventually shine *through you* and help light the world around you.

In looking at Dorcas’ life, we see how the light of God shone through her. Scripture says that Dorcas “. . . *was always doing good and helping the poor*” (Acts 9:36 NIV). Dorcas reflected the love of God in everything she did.

The Bible records another story of a relatively unknown woman. Before Jesus went to the Cross, a woman with an alabaster jar of expensive perfume poured the perfume on Jesus’ head. Those who were with Jesus were indignant that this woman would use the perfume in this way. They thought Jesus should have sold the perfume and given the money to the poor. Instead of condemning the woman, Jesus praised her and rebuked His disciples.

The Power of One

Nobody’s life is insignificant. Never allow yourself to think that your voice doesn’t mean anything or that your vote doesn’t count. The individual votes combine to become the will of the people. And the small voices combine to become a rising crescendo that can be heard around the world.

What can the power of one do? Take a look:

Thomas Jefferson became the President of the United States by one vote.

In a contested Senatorial election, Lyndon B. Johnson won by one vote.

Texas, California, and Oregon were admitted to the Union by a margin of one vote.

One vote kept President Andrew Johnson from being impeached in 1868.

So many people today are content with being followers instead of leaders. It’s time for all of God’s children to break out of the status quo and make a mark in their world. Here are a few ways you can make a difference:

Set a goal to win one person to the Lord every week.

Visit your elderly neighbors. Get to know them and see how you can be a blessing to them.

Volunteer to tutor at your neighborhood school.

Become a big brother or sister to a child of a single parent.

There are countless ways to get involved in your local church and neighborhood. God gave you talents and abilities so that you could bless others. And there’s no better time to get out and get involved than right now!



Knowing the Father

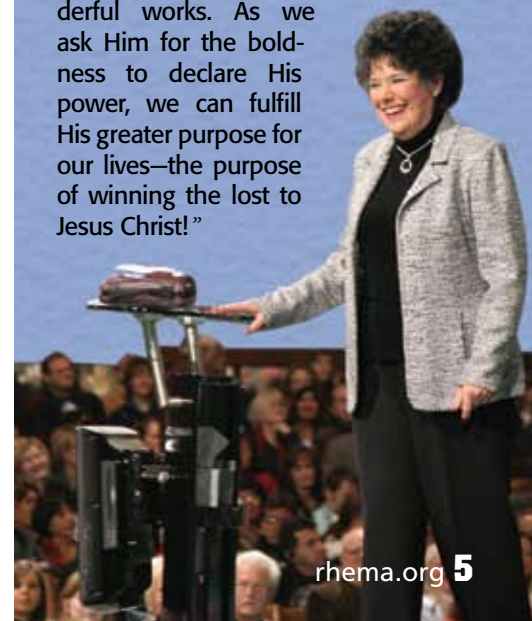
Why is Lynette Hagin so passionate about encouraging people to pray? As she shared during the powerful morning sessions of *Winter Bible Seminar 2009*, “Prayer is how we get to know our Heavenly Father.

“The greatest desire we should have in life is knowing the Father. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:8, *‘I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord . . .’* (NIV).

“Some only know God as their Creator. Others only know Him as their Savior and Healer. But our Heavenly Father wants us to know Him as our Friend—a Friend who never betrays us. He wants us to know Him as our Provider. His highest desire is for us to know Him more!

“If we really know our Father, when we encounter difficult situations, we will have complete confidence that He will do what He said He will do. Then we can do what Paul did when he encountered difficulties in life. He didn’t complain about the circumstances. Instead, he declared the power of God. The reason he could do that was because he knew the Lord!

“That has to be our greatest passion in life—to know our Heavenly Father. Not so we can ask Him for something, but so we can declare His wonderful works. As we ask Him for the boldness to declare His power, we can fulfill His greater purpose for our lives—the purpose of winning the lost to Jesus Christ!”



MARK 14:6-8 (NIV)

6 "Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me."
7 The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me.
8 She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial."

This is the real test of life. Are you doing everything you can?

Notice that Jesus said in verse 8, "She did what she could." This is the real test of life. Are you doing everything you can? Are you using your talents to the best of your ability?

You may think that what you do and say is unimportant—that you are just one small voice. But this is a wrong way to think. God is counting on you, and you can't sit still any longer. You must get up and impact the lives of those around you!

It doesn't matter how old or young you are. The important thing is to be *willing*. There's a lot you can do, should do, and must do. So get started doing something!

We can see what Dorcas did. When Peter arrived in Joppa, the widows showed him all of the clothing Dorcas had made for them while she was alive (Acts 9:39). What motivated her to be such a blessing to so many? Love. And love should be our motivating force today. Everything we do for others should be motivated by love.

William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, wanted to send a Christmas greeting to all of his workers around the world. He didn't have much money, so he had to keep his message short. After thinking for a moment, he knew exactly what to say. He sent a one-word telegram that simply said, "Others."

William Booth didn't want his workers to think of themselves. He wanted them to think of others. Dorcas had this same attitude. Her priority in life was not herself, but others.

Cain lived for himself, and his name became a byword. King Herod lived for himself, and his memory is wretched. Jezebel and Ahab lived for themselves, and their names burned on the tongues of people.

Remember, there is a part of you that will never die. Your body may go to the grave, but your influence will never die. Make it count—make it good.

Thomas Edison lives on in every light bulb that illuminates a dark room. Alexander Graham Bell lives on in every telephone that rings. William Pasteur lives on in every immunization shot that is given. Galileo lives on in every new star that is discovered.

What you do during your lifetime will live on after you as either a testimony or a curse. I challenge you to make a positive mark in this life. I would be lying if I told you that making such a mark is easy to do. But as I often told my son and daughter when they were growing up, "You and God together make a team that can do anything."

By ourselves we are nothing and will likely be defeated. But with God,

we can make a lasting difference in this world.

Remember, if you try something and fail, what have you lost? But if you never try, you have already failed and are sure to never gain anything. ♥

¹ William E. Sangster, "The Home Sickness of the Soul" in *Classic Sermons on Heaven and Hell*, Warren W. Wiersbe, ed. (Grand Rapids, Kregel Publications, 1994), 48, <http://books.google.com/books?id=yD43gM78O1UC&dq>.

² *The Columbia World of Quotations*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1996, www.bartleby.com/66/80/16780.html.

³ *English Poetry II: From Collins to Fitzgerald*. Vol. XLI. The Harvard Classics. New York: P.F. Collier & Son, 1909-14; Bartleby.com, 2001. www.bartleby.com/41/483.html.

⁴ Frank S. Mead, ed., *The Encyclopedia of Religious Quotations* (Fleming H. Revell, 1965), 56.

Triumph Over Adversity

Like it or not, trouble comes to all of us—whether we cause it ourselves or find it thrust upon us. But trouble need not defeat us! God has given us everything we need to survive and even thrive when trouble arrives. In Kenneth W. Hagin's book *You Can Make It!*, you will:

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Words From Winter Bible Seminar 2009 Speakers



God's plans and intentions for us are good—to give us a future and a hope. We can have confidence in knowing that our future is good. It doesn't matter what is happening in the world. It doesn't matter what is happening in the economy. If we will hook up with God and learn His thoughts, He will lead us into that good future He has prepared for us.

—Keith Higginbotham, Director of RBTC Thailand

The Bible tells us that we will receive power when the Holy Ghost comes upon us. I can't understand why ministers limit the Holy Ghost by "putting Him in a box." He is our best asset for soul-winning. Ministering without the power of the Holy Spirit is like harvesting a field with a pair of scissors when we have a combine available to use. We should do everything in the power of the Spirit.



—John Romick, Director of RBTC Colombia



Why does a dog chase his tail? He is trying to catch something that already belongs to him. And a lot of Christians are trying to do the same thing—get something they already have. With their confession, they are trying to receive something God has already given to them. God has already moved on their behalf. Possession brings confession. Confession brings manifestation.

—Jim Andrews, Director of RBTC Peru



For more information visit
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HOMECOMING 09

Words From Winter Bible Seminar 2009 Speakers



We have to yield to the righteousness of God. The carnal man is flesh-minded. He is mindful of his own abilities and mistakes. The spiritually-minded man is mindful of who he is in Christ. He is more Christ-inside minded than flesh-outside minded. If we are spiritual, we are more mindful of how Jesus succeeded than of how we failed.

—Joe Purcell, Director of RBTC Singapore

We need to take our mind off of the future—off of “what might happen”—and start focusing on the now. If we will open our mouth and allow God to fill it, He will fill it to overflowing. He will speak through us. He will give us words in due season. He will give us fresh revelation.



—Tim Rogers, Director of RBTC Mexico



If you had a conversation with Jesus today and asked Him what His passion was, I promise part of His answer would be, “Building the Church.” Whatever you and I do for the rest of our lives here on the earth, if it doesn’t include building the Church—adding people to the Body of Christ, we are missing what God is doing on this planet.

—John Grunewald, Director of RBTC Germany





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 Thank You From Africa**

It is my pleasure to write this letter and express my gratitude to you for the great things you are doing in your ministry and for preaching the uncompromised Word of God. I attended the leadership conference you held in Lusaka, Zambia, in March 2006. I want to say thank you for reviving us. I have been going over the teaching materials of the conference and have been blessed from listening to the tapes. I have also been watching you on television as well. Thank you so much, and may God bless you abundantly.

—C.A.
Zambia

✦ **Granddaughter Is Cancer Free**

We called your prayer line two weeks ago. A young lady prayed with me. Our granddaughter had been diagnosed with cancer. She was retested and the results came back negative! Thank you for your faithfulness. Praise the Lord!

—M.D. & J.D.
Calverton, New York

✦ **Deaf Grandson Healed**

I am incarcerated in Ocala, Florida. I have written to you for the past several months requesting Bible material, studies, and books. You have never failed to deliver what I've asked for. Last month I wrote and asked for a prayer cloth to send to my grandson who was diagnosed as being deaf. I asked you to pray for him, for a few others, and for my release.

When you sent the prayer cloth, I divided it into four pieces. I kept one piece and mailed out the other three. My grandson now has full hearing. A woman with a blood disorder and another with diabetes were both hospitalized with a poor prognosis, but they both walked out of the hospital after receiving their cloths. And three of my major charges have been dropped.

I want to thank you for providing me with study material and the prayer cloth, but most of all I want to thank

you for your prayers. I share your books with others, and we study the Scriptures every night. You and your ministry have been an incredible blessing. You have inspired and encouraged me to share the Word of the Lord with others. I have grown in faith because of what I have learned from you. Thank you, and may God bless you.

—R.S.
Ocala, Florida

✦ **Heart Back to Normal**

I just wanted to share my gratitude for sending me the prayer cloth and study materials. I am getting better and am praising the Lord for my complete victory. My heart is normal now! And I am so thrilled to read the teachings and ministry news in *The Word of Faith* magazine. Thank you!

—W.M.
Mesquite, Nevada

✦ **Tremendous Recovery From Cerebral Palsy**

A year ago, we spent six weeks in Tulsa while our little daughter went through treatments for cerebral palsy. We wanted to send you an update on our progress since that time. Our daughter continues to make tremendous progress in her recovery from cerebral palsy. Almost every day we see something new. Our faith was soaring when we left RHEMA, bolstered by all the powerful teaching. We haven't gone back to fear, heaviness, and depression. Instead, we meditate on the Scriptures. We are also happy to now be partners with your ministry and to help provide such wonderful care for others who might be in need as we were. God bless you all tremendously, and thank you so much for being there for us.

—B.W & J.W.
Vicksburg, Mississippi

✦ **Pain Reduced Immediately**

My wife was in bad pain with rheumatoid arthritis. Last Thursday I called the prayer line, and the pain was reduced right away. Ten thousand thank-you's! We appreciate the prayers of your ministry—Kenneth W. Hagin prayed for my wife in 1992, and she was healed from the effects of a stroke at that time! God bless you.

—P.W.
Reno, Nevada

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Words From Winter Bible Seminar 2009 Speakers



Faithfulness starts by making right choices. Because of disobedience, sin came into this world, and mankind was separated from God. But Jesus made the choice to redeem us by His precious blood. Sometimes we make the wrong decisions in order to satisfy our flesh. If you want to make a positive difference in this world, you have to make right choices.

—Nahari Thorat, Director of RBTC India

We are *in* the world, but not of the world. We are of Christ. In Christ there is no lack. In Christ there is no crisis. In Christ there is no shortage. God is not looking to lay off workers—He is looking to hire more! God doesn't wake up in the morning worrying. God is rich, and He is more than enough.



—Fred Lambert, Director of RBTC Austria



If you will put everything that you do in line with God's Word, He can bless whatever you do. If you will put your marriage in line with God's Word, He can bless it. If you put your job or ministry in line with God's Word, He can bless it.

—Bud Wright, Director of RBTC Brazil

Walking by faith does not mean ignoring problems. If we try to pretend a problem does not exist when it actually does, we could get into trouble. Walking by faith is not calling things *that are* as though *they are not*. It's calling things that *are not* as though *they were*. Don't say, "I don't have a backache." Say, "Thank God, I'm healed!"



—Mauro Girgenti, Director of RBTC Italy

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Leadership



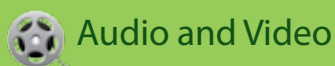
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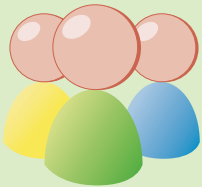


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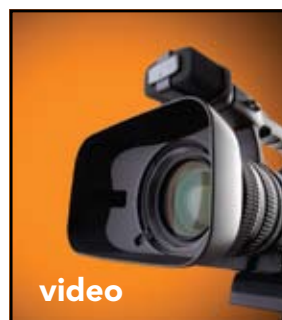
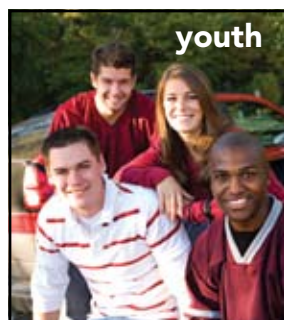
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Get Connected • Be Inspired • Leave Revived!

The End-Time Revival Has Begun—Take the Fire Home With You!

A palpable excitement filled the air. Those attending *Winter Bible Seminar 2009* could sense it the moment they entered the packed RHEMA Bible Church auditorium. A loud hum filled the room as RHEMA graduates and attendees from across the United States and around the world fellowshiped together and spoke with anticipation of what the week would hold.

Old school friends caught up on what they have been doing since graduation. Itinerant ministers and missionaries connected with pastors. International RBTC graduates marveled at finally being on the RHEMA USA campus. And some people met each other for the first time, rejoicing in all the great things God was doing in their lives.

Craig W. Hagin kicked off *Winter Bible Seminar 2009* and the first-ever *Worldwide Homecoming* by welcoming everyone home. After announcements, former members of the RHEMA Singers and Band took center stage to thunderous applause.

During the joyous praise and worship, some in the congregation danced by their seats. Others jumped up and down, and on several occasions, hundreds of people took off running around the sanctuary.

When the time came for Kenneth W. Hagin to take the microphone, he didn't walk but half-danced, half-skipped to the podium! "This is just the first night," he began, as the crowd

erupted in a thunderous roar of praise to God. Rev. Hagin took a step away from the podium and joined in as the congregation shouted praise to the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Rev. Hagin opened *Winter Bible Seminar 2009* by beginning a series on the power of God. That first night, he exhorted the congregation to become known as "Generation P—the generation of believers who manifest the *power* of God in their lives."

Rev. Hagin went on to explain that the Church has largely become satisfied with being powerless. And it has become the exception rather than the norm for a church to rise up and embrace the power of God. But in the world in which we live—a world filled with violence, economic disaster, and prevalent sin—only the power of God will see us through. It is evident that if we want to see this generation won for God, people of faith *must* stand up and demonstrate God's great power.

Rev. Hagin declared, "God is raising up a group of people who will not have 'church as usual.' He is raising up a people who will go to the highways and byways and not *ask* the lost but *compel* them to come into the Kingdom. God is seeking a people who will take His miracle-working power to a sick and dying generation.

"Mark 16:18 doesn't say that *preachers* are the ones to lay hands on the sick. It says that *believers* shall lay hands on the





sick and see them recover—not *might*, but *shall*. We are here for such a time as this. Each one of us! This is our hour, our opportunity. This is our time to preach the Gospel with the power of God in manifestation.”

On Monday night, Rev. Hagin taught on the spirit realm and stressed how important it is to be aware of spiritual activity. He reminded the congregation of the two opposing forces that constantly battle each other. On one side are God and the angelic host. On the other side are Satan and the demonic forces.

Rev. Hagin reminded the congregation of the necessity to become more conscious of the spirit realm than the natural realm. By doing this, they will be aware of the spiritual forces that are at work both for and against them.

Rev. Hagin also stressed the importance of knowing that we are seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:6) and that we have been given the power and authority to trample over all the power of the enemy.



Tuesday evening, the RHEMA Singers and Band ended the worship portion of the service by singing “The Blood Bought Church.” Although they didn’t know Rev. Hagin planned to preach on the blood of Jesus, they set the stage for a powerful evangelistic anointing that culminated in an invitation for the sick to have hands laid on them. The

response was so great that Rev. Hagin and his wife, Lynette, asked their son and daughter-in-law to help them pray for the sick.

During his Tuesday evening sermon, Rev. Hagin gave a mandate to all the RHEMA family—graduates and those who have followed this ministry through books and tapes—to rise up and take the power of God that is available through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ to this generation.

During a Parade of Flags on Thursday evening, attendees witnessed a remarkable display of the worldwide impact that RHEMA has made. Since the first graduating class in 1975, RHEMA Bible



Training Center has produced more than 25,000 alumni. In addition, 1,500 churches have been established in the U.S. alone, and graduates now minister in all 50 states.

But RHEMA Bible Training Center’s impact does not end in the United States. RHEMA USA graduates serving as missionaries on the foreign field and countless graduates from 14 international RHEMA Bible Training Centers have established ministries in 61 different nations around the world. Thirty-five years ago, God gave the mandate to Kenneth E. Hagin to “go teach My people faith.” Since that time, not only has the message of faith been taken to six continents but to the islands of the sea as well. It’s easy to see how the sun never sets on a RHEMA graduate.

Friday evening can best be described as a “Holy Spirit Fest.” When it was time for Rev. Hagin to take the podium, he told the RHEMA Singers & Band to keep singing and sat back down in his chair. But before long, Rev. Hagin was in the crowd laying hands on as many people as possible. He even went into the balcony! The moment he stepped off



the platform, rejoicing in the Holy Ghost erupted throughout the sanctuary!

The place went wild as people laughed, ran, jumped, danced, sang, and shouted! When Rev. Hagin finally climbed the steps back to the podium, he proclaimed, “By the Spirit of God, I say to you: The revival is beginning!” He encouraged everyone not to allow the spirit of Pentecost to die down in their souls after they leave.

“In 2007 while I was ministering in Australia,” Rev. Hagin continued, “the Holy Spirit prompted me to announce a worldwide homecoming in 2009. I believe the reason God wanted this was to bring together as many people from the RHEMA family as possible, so that when they all went back to their respective homelands and cities, they would take the revival with them!”



Winter Bible Seminar and Worldwide Homecoming 2009 was a life-changing experience for everyone who attended. For one week in February, the city of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, became the focal point for a mighty outpouring of God’s power. Only time will tell the great and lasting impact this meeting will have across the world. But one thing is certain, it marked the beginning of the final revival that will result in a harvest of souls and usher in the return of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! ♥



Celebrating 50 Years in Ministry!



“You can forget about your sermon. Tonight we’re going to celebrate.” These were the words a very surprised Kenneth W. Hagin heard from his children, Craig and Denise, as they took over the RHEMA Bible Church stage during the Wednesday evening service of *Winter Bible Seminar* and *Worldwide Homecoming*.

“Dad, we just want to honor you,” Denise said. “Tonight, we’re having the first and last ‘Extree Awards’ in honor of your 50 years in ministry.” (The awards were named for something Rev. Hagin, who grew up in north Texas, asks his congregation to do each week—reach into their pockets and purses at offering time and give “a little extree,” meaning “a little extra.”) As decorations highlighting Rev. Hagin’s 50 years in ministry dressed the stage, Rev. Hagin and Mrs. Lynette Hagin were escorted to their seats for a night of fun, laughter, and reminiscing.





Kenneth E. Hagin. On the video, Brother Hagin said of his son, "He's been in the ministry all his life. He was on the platform at 19 months of age." Other videos throughout the evening emphasized Rev. Hagin's time in the military and ministerial training years, the beginning of RHEMA Bible Training Center, the many hats Rev. Hagin has worn throughout the years,

taught presented him with the Ping Pong Award, representing all the times he had to tell them to quit playing ping pong and get to class. The children of RHEMA Bible Church gave Pastor Hagin booklets of letters and pictures honoring him, and the youth group presented him with a Kenneth W. Hagin bobblehead that repeats one of his famous sayings, "I cannot be defeated, and I will not quit."

Other awards included the We Appreciate You Award from the ushers of RHEMA Bible Church, the Eagle Award from Rev. Hagin's pastoral staff, and a Racing Award presented by a friend who rededicated his life to Christ after seeing Rev. Hagin's example on the race track. Rev. Hagin's five grandsons presented him with the Coach Award because

the crowd, saying, "I'm so thankful that God allowed me to have a little part in His great work. There's nothing great about me—God is the One Who is great." As he gathered his wife, son, and daughter to his side, he made a pledge from the Hagin family: "As long as there's one of us here, this place will preach and teach faith, and the vision will be the same as it was with the founder." ♣



and Rev. Hagin's heart for people. Family, friends, and congregation members shared personal insights and stories from their time spent with Rev. Hagin.

The various "Extree Awards" were given throughout the evening and ranged from the hilarious to the sentimental. Members of the first RBTC class Rev. Hagin ever

he never misses one of their games or races. The final award of the evening was the actual "Extree Award," given in honor of Rev. Hagin's commitment to his call and his dedication to go above and beyond in all that he does.

At the end of the evening, Rev. Hagin—who was visibly overwhelmed by the show of love and support—addressed



JOIN THE CELEBRATION!

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." **Every gift, no matter how small or large, will make a difference.** To thank you for your gift of at least \$5, we will send you a special commemorative DVD of the surprise celebration.

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Peter's Mistake



Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Brother Hagin's 2-CD series Doubt: The Thief of God's Greater Blessings.)

"And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith" (Mark 11:22–23).

I would like to draw your attention to verse 23. Notice in the middle of the verse it says, ". . . and shall not doubt in his heart. . . ." We talk a lot about faith, but let's focus on the other side of the coin, so to speak, and consider how doubt affects your faith.

MATTHEW 14:25–31

25 And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea.

26 And when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, It is a spirit; and they cried out for fear.

27 But straightway Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid.

28 And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water.

29 And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus.

30 But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me.

31 And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?

In His great mercy, Jesus reached out and caught Peter when he cried for help. Although it is miraculous that Peter walked on water for a short distance, he still missed out on God's best. How do we know that? Because Jesus rebuked Peter instead of commending him for the distance he did walk on water, saying, "*O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?*" (v. 31).

Peter was one of Jesus' closest followers—he was a part of Jesus' inner circle. Yet, doubt robbed him—and everyone who was present—of a greater blessing. God's best was for Peter to walk to Jesus and for the two of them to return to the ship together.

Peter is often criticized for his lack of faith, but no one has the right to criticize him—unless, of course, he or she can walk on water! We can all

Peter was one of Jesus' closest followers—he was a part of Jesus' inner circle. Yet, doubt robbed him—and everyone who was present—of a **greater blessing**.

admire the fact that Peter actually did walk on water. He made it close enough to Jesus that when he started to sink, Jesus only had to reach out and catch him.

Peter was able to walk on water because he believed what Jesus said. He acted on one word: "Come" (v. 29). On that word, Peter jumped out of a boat on rough seas and began to walk toward Jesus. And as long as he continued acting on Jesus' word, he continued walking.

We see, though, that Peter began to doubt "*when he saw the wind boisterous*" (v. 30). He made a mistake by taking his eyes off of Jesus and focusing on what surrounded him. That's when he felt the strong wind and saw the rough waves. That's when he became fearful. And the moment Peter became afraid, he began to sink. He quit walking by faith and began walking by sight.

If you will examine your own experiences, you'll find that when you looked at the symptoms in your body or at your dire situation, you began to waver and doubt God's Word. Walking by sight—paying more attention to the pain in your body, the lack of money in your checking account, or whatever the situation may be—causes you to fear. And fear will cause you to sink.

The only way to not be fearful is to keep your eyes on Jesus. You may ask, "How can I keep my eyes on Jesus? I can't see Him." God gave us the written Word to unveil the Living Word. John 1:1 says, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" You can't know Jesus in the way you should without knowing the written Word of God.

Peter took his eyes off of the Word—or Jesus—and saw the wind and the waves. Likewise, when you begin to look at the circumstances of life, the symptoms in your body, or at whatever is coming against you, you will begin to sink.

Miraculously, Peter started to walk on water, but his doubt stopped the flow of God's power. The supernatural power of God began on Peter's behalf, but Peter failed to continue acting on the Word so the power of God never reached its full potential in the situation.

I have seen people with terminal cases of disease have hands laid

on them and start to get better. They began to walk on the water, so to speak. Unfortunately, they lost their healing because they focused their eyes on something else—such as the symptoms or the doctor's report.

Sometimes people have the idea that the miraculous happens with the snap of a finger. They think that once the power of God has touched their body—that is the beginning and end of it. But it's not. Many people experience the beginnings of the miraculous only to short circuit the power of God through doubt.

God's Word is true: you *will* have whatever you believe in your heart (Mark 11:22–23). You can believe what God's Word says about your situation, or you can believe what the doubt and fear say. Doubt is actually a belief in itself. The trouble is, it's the wrong belief! Doubt believes that God's Word might not be true—or that God's power

might not work for you in your situation. But the good news is, if you can believe the *wrong* thing, you can also believe the *right* thing! Your "believer" works—you've just got to meditate on God's Word and start believing the Truth!

In this account of Peter's failure to fully trust Jesus, we see that the Lord intervened by His right of Divine Sovereignty and saved Peter from drowning. Unfortunately, this is an area where many people miss it. They fail to trust in the Lord, get themselves into dire situations, and then hope for the intervention of Divine Sovereignty which manifests only occasionally—and as the Lord wills. We can all think of situations where the Lord did not intervene and the person sank, so to speak. Rather than rely on divine intervention, we should keep our eyes on Jesus—and on God's Word—so that God's power is able to flow continuously in every area of our life.

God's highest and best is for His children to receive according to their faith and not by His divine intervention. God's power is always present. You can receive the miraculous in your life by reaching out with the hand of faith, and taking hold of that which belongs to you in Christ Jesus according to God's Word. ♡

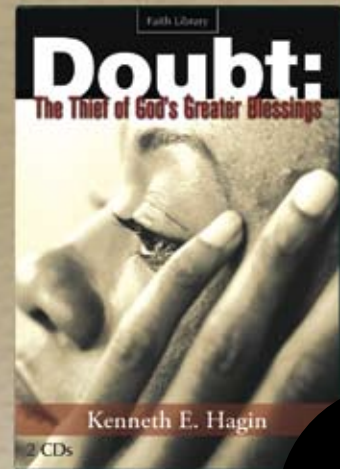
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SeedThoughts

BY LYNETTE

This month in *Seed Thoughts* I want to address the role of parenthood. Children are the most precious gift that we can receive. Psalm 127:3 says it this way: “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord; and the fruit of the womb is his reward.” Children satisfy a normal desire, bring deep joy, and help parents themselves grow and mature.

My husband and I cherish the precious time that we spent with our children during their formative years. We often reminisce about the wonderful experiences we had visiting amusement parks, riding four-wheelers, participating in sporting events, and just enjoying family nights of watching movies or going out to eat. Those moments pass fast, and you can miss them if you do not take the time to make memories together.

I enjoy listening to people talk about their childhood days. But the two complaints I hear consistently are “my parents were too busy to spend time with me” and “I never felt that I could live up to my parents’ expectations.” Amazingly, the main complaints are not about money and what parents did not buy for their children—they are about time and affirmation.

Many times we concentrate so much on providing financially for our children that we fail to realize that spending time with them is just as valuable. Eating a meal together is important. My husband and I purposed to always eat our evening meal as a family. It was a time when we connected with the children. We had our devotions then and caught up on the events of the day. We let the children talk about what went on in their lives that day—their accomplishments and recognitions as well as their challenges.

Affirmation is so important to a child. In the obituary of a very successful and wealthy businessman in this country, I was appalled to read, “He lived his life feeling that he never lived up to his father’s expectations.” Even though he had great success, he still lacked and desired affirmation from his father.

Proverbs 22:6 tells us, “Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it.” Sometimes we are so focused on that command that we neglect to give a little praise along the way. I have always been a perfectionist, constantly looking at what needs to be improved. As I do that, I often overlook what is being done

right. My husband has to remind me to praise people for the good things they are doing.

We need to practice the same philosophy with our children. Praise your teenagers when they come in on time instead of saying something to them only when they miss curfew. Tell them they are a success. We told our children, “Put God first and you will always be a success in life.”

Say the words *I’m proud of you*, often. Children need to hear that. They also need to hear *I love you* frequently. Nearly all psychologists and child specialists agree that meeting the basic need for love in every human being is vital to proper development. A parent’s love is more important to a child than wealth, education, or any material possession. When a child basks in the security of his parents’ love, he gradually develops a wholesome outlook toward life.

Speak positive words over your children. I have overheard parents tell their children, “You’ll never amount to anything; you always get into trouble.” That makes me cringe. Many adults are still bothered by the words that a parent spoke to them in their childhood. Many of their adult actions are a result of the words spoken over them as children.

Parenthood is a total responsibility—not just a biological process. As a parent, you are responsible for a child’s well-being and development. It is your responsibility to nurture him spiritually as well as mentally and socially. Psychological development enables a child to live in society and earn a living, but spiritual development enables him to understand the meaning of life. Many Christians have become so wrapped up in their work that they have neglected their highest calling—the spiritual development of their children.

When it comes to training your children, you are their prime example. They will become what you are. The old adage “what you are doing speaks so loudly that I can’t hear what you are saying” is never truer than in the parent-child relationship. The best sermons your children will ever hear are the ones they see you live. Endeavor to live in such a way that your life will point them to the One Who gives life, and that more abundantly.



Lynette



Kids' Page

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

Find the OPPOSITES!

In every situation that you UNDERGO, the Lord wants you to OVERCOME! The two capitalized words above are "opposites." See if you can find all of the opposites in the story below. There are 11 in all.

There once was a young boy who tended sheep for his father. His name was David. His father was old and had many sons, but few of them could tend the sheep like David. David was strong and handsome but he was quite small. One day a very big man named Goliath came and challenged Israel to a fight. He said that the men of Israel were weak and cowardly. When the men of Israel saw how big, rough, and ugly Goliath was, they were all afraid. But David heard about the challenge and was very brave. He wanted to go up to fight Goliath. He went down to a creek and collected 5 smooth stones. He ran toward Goliath with a stone in his sling. Goliath laughed at David because he was so small. But David slung the stone and it came out of his sling and hit Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell down dead. When Goliath's friends saw it, they cried and ran away.

THE SIGN FOR VICTORY

The Bible tells us what it takes to overcome the world. The hand signs below spell out the answer. Can you figure it out? The answer is found in 1 John 5:4.



ARE YOU AN OVER-COMER?



What does it take to be an OVERCOMER? Well, the very first thing it takes is SOMETHING TO OVERCOME! What would have happened if the great heroes of the Bible hadn't overcome? This is how some of the great stories of the Bible would have turned out if someone hadn't overcome in the situation.

1. THUS, ALL THE ISRAELITES BECAME SLAVES TO THE PHILISTINES BECAUSE NO ONE WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE PHILISTINE CHAMPION.

2. And all of the people bowed before Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold and worshipped, and he was very happy that all of the people obeyed his command.

3. The walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins, and so they remain to this very day.

4. And because the king's decree could not be changed, all of the Jews were put to death on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

5. And since the walls of the city were so tall and thick, the Israelites turned around and headed back to Egypt.

Thank God for overcomers! Now, see if you can figure out which Bible heroes change the stories written above.

Jokes & Riddles



What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in a thousand years?
The letter "M."

Why do sharks only swim in salt water?
Because pepper water makes them sneeze.

Why did the cookie go to the doctor?
Because it was feeling crummy.

How many animals did Moses take on the ark?
None. Moses wasn't on the ark . . . it was Noah.

How much is a skunk worth?
One scent.

What's the difference between a train and a teacher?
A train says "Choo-Choo" and a teacher says "Spit out your gum."

A man left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?
A catcher and an umpire . . . the man was a baseball player.

ANSWERS:

Are You an Overcomer?—ANSWERS:
1. David 2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego 3. Nehemiah 4. Esther 5. Joshua
Find the Opposites—ANSWERS:
1. young—old 2. many—few 3. strong—weak 4. handsome—ugly 5. small—big 6. cowardly—brave 7. rough—smooth 8. up—down 9. toward—away 10. laughed—cried 11. in—out
The Sign for Victory—ANSWER:
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