Finding Strength in God

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The Believer’s Authority Regarding Finances // KENNETH E. HAGIN

Have Faith in God // CRAIG W. HAGIN
Let Him Work Out the Details

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Christmas Savings!
SEE INSIDE!
In First Timothy 6:12, the Apostle Paul told Timothy, “Fight the good fight of faith.” And for as long as I can remember, my dad, Kenneth E. Hagin, taught me through example how to do that. I remember times when I was growing up and things were tough financially. Sometimes we didn’t have food in our kitchen cupboards. But never once did I see my father tell anyone we were in need. He always trusted the Lord to meet our needs, and God always came through for us.

Dad never quit fighting the good fight of faith, though he faced many hardships. We need to cultivate that same kind of tenacity in our faith walk. When the enemy tries to put pressure on us, we must look him square in the face and say, “Mr. Devil, we’ve just begun to fight!”

The great American naval officer John Paul Jones is credited with saying similar words as he faced what seemed to be certain defeat during the Revolutionary War. During a major sea battle, Jones’ ship sustained heavy damage and looked as if it would sink any minute. Thinking his victory was assured, the British commander sent Jones the message, “Are you ready to give up?”

But John Paul Jones sent back the courageous reply, “I have not yet begun to fight!” Despite the damage inflicted on his ship, Jones went on to capture the British warship and win the battle.

The devil will try to buffet us until it looks as though we are about to sink. When this happens, we have to take a courageous stand on God’s Word. Instead of giving up, we can raise our victory flag high and say, “Devil, you can’t defeat us! We have not yet begun to fight!”

The good fight of faith is the only fight God has called us to. We can never take a vacation from that fight, because our enemy never does. We won’t be able to let our guard down. Satan is always prowling about, looking for someone to devour. But he does not have to devour us!

The Lord once said to me, “If you learn how to follow Me, troubles and afflictions . . . will only mean greater victories.” So let’s determine never to back down when the devil attacks. When we stand strong, we will see some of our greatest victories!

Kenneth W. Hagin
In this issue...

Articles

Finding Strength in God
Kenneth W. Hagin
King David had more than his share of trouble. We can learn from his example and discover how to always triumph in adversity.

The Believer’s Authority Regarding Finances
Kenneth E. Hagin
Find out how to use your authority in Christ concerning finances so you can experience the blessings God promised in His Word.

Have Faith in God
Craig W. Hagin
Are you receiving what you are believing God for? Discover how exercising faith in Him will open the floodgates of Heaven for you.

‘God, Let This Be a Testimony for You!’

Read the amazing testimony of Larry Bjorklund who was told by doctors he needed a heart transplant after losing 88 percent of his heart muscle. Your faith will be encouraged as you read of the awesome miracle God performed in his body.

Seed Thoughts

When life gets difficult, we can start wondering how we are going to make it. And we often try to solve our problems ourselves. This month, Lynette Hagin encourages us to place our trust in the Lord and know that He will see us through.

F.A.I.T.H. Academy Kids’ Page

(Fea-less, 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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As long as we live on this earth, at one time or another we are going to encounter trouble. Although adversity comes to all of us, people react differently to it. Some people try to solve the problem on their own. Others look to friends or family for help. Still others rely on the Lord. A good example of someone who always triumphed in adversity is David. And by looking at his life, we can learn how to come out of trouble victoriously every time.

David had more than his share of problems. King Saul was jealous of him and repeatedly tried to kill him. On several occasions, David escaped death by hiding in the wilderness. One time David’s entire family was kidnapped. He suffered the shame of adultery and murder. His son Amnon raped his daughter Tamar. Two years later, David’s son Absalom killed Amnon because of what was done to Tamar. Absalom later tried to overthrow King David but was killed in battle.

In many ways, David was not much different from us. He experienced temptation, had a lot of problems, and was extremely grieved by the things that were happening to him. But in spite of his shortcomings and difficulties, he survived. The Lord called David a man after His own heart (1 Sam. 13:14; Acts 13:22). How could this be? Because David constantly looked to God and relied on Him in every situation. We see an example of this in the Book of First Samuel.

At this time in David’s life, he and his men had gone to live with the Philistines to escape King Saul. However, the Philistine army commanders didn’t trust David. They believed that David and his men would turn against them in the midst of a battle. David and his men were ordered to leave. So they returned to Ziklag where they were living. As David and his men approached Ziklag, they discovered that the Amalekites had kidnapped their wives and children and destroyed their town (see 1 Sam. 29:1–30:6).

David was deeply distressed when he realized what had happened. And his men were so upset that they spoke of stoning him. David, however, “…found strength in the Lord his God” (1 Sam. 30:6 NIV). The Amplified Bible says, “David encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord his God.” And through the Lord, the situation was turned around.

This is only one example of how David looked to God in times of trouble. Every time he sought God, he was strengthened and found the answer to his problem. David wrote many of the psalms as he found strength in God during troubled times.

When David was being pursued by Saul, he wrote Psalm 59. When he was in prison in Gath, he wrote Psalm 56. When David was fleeing Absalom, he wrote Psalm 3. When he was hiding in the wilderness of Judea, he wrote Psalm 63. Over and over, we see David gain strength as he poured his heart out to God in a psalm.

David wrote these psalms when men were coming against him. However, as David directed his thoughts toward God, he realized that mere men could not harm him.

PSALM 56:3–4 (NIV)
3 When I am afraid, I will trust in you.
4 In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?
David began his day by singing about the power of God.

PSALM 59:16–17 (NIV)
16 But I will sing of your strength, in the morning I will sing of your love; for you are my fortress, my refuge in times of trouble.
17 O my Strength, I sing praise to you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God.

Many people don’t want to sing in the morning. But as David sang, he reminded himself that God was his place of refuge—a safe haven where nobody could harm him. David remembered that God was his fortress—a place he could flee to when he needed protection.

Many times we wait until our lives are completely out of control before we turn to God. But we have to remember that God is interested in us, and He wants to help us no matter how big or small the situation is. The Holy Spirit, however, is a Gentleman, and He won’t barge in where He has not been asked. David said in Psalm 63:8, “My soul clings to you . . .” (NIV). He trusted God with every detail of his life. And this was how he overcame everything he faced.

When we follow David’s example of communing with God and trusting in Him, we will also find strength in the Lord. It’s as we fellowship with the Greater One that we will realize that we don’t have to try to make things work out on our own. We can be confident that God has us in the palm of His hand, and He will move on our behalf. We can maintain peace, joy, and happiness in the midst of a storm, because we know that God will always take care of us.

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<th>Rate</th>
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### EVENT SCHEDULE

#### Thursday
- 3:00–7:00 p.m.: Registration
- 7:00 p.m.: Opening Session—Mark Hankins

#### Friday
- 8:30–8:50 a.m.: Worship
- 9:00–9:50 a.m.: Workshops
- 9:50–10:10 a.m.: Fellowship
- 10:10–10:30 a.m.: Worship
- 10:30–11:45 a.m.: General Session
- Noon: Luncheon
- 1:30–2:20 p.m.: Workshops
- 2:30 p.m.: Free Time (optional bonus sessions)*
- 7:00 p.m.: General Session—Kenneth W. Hagin

#### Saturday
- 7:15–8:15 a.m.: Pancake Breakfast
- 8:30–8:50 a.m.: Worship
- 9:00–9:50 a.m.: Workshops
- 10:00 a.m.: Prayer & Communion Service—Kenneth W. Hagin
- 11:30 a.m.: Drawing and Giveaway
- Noon: Dismissal

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*Don’t miss the special bonus sessions at Bass Pro Shops on Friday from 2:30–5:30 p.m.!
Colossians 2:15 says, “And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

Jesus spoiled principalities and powers! The margin of a good reference Bible will tell you, “He put to nought principalities and powers.” He reduced them to nothing. In other words, He took away their ability to dominate us. Therefore, principalities and powers can’t dominate us in any area, including the financial area.

Since these principalities and powers are dethroned, why then are they still ruling in the world? Because the world doesn’t know that they’re dethroned. They don’t know about it, and therefore, they can’t act upon it!

1 John 4:4

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

“Well, I’m trying to overcome them,” someone may say.

No, you don’t try. You just accept by faith what Jesus did. What He did, He did for you! Christ’s victory is your victory!

That’s why when the Lord told me to claim the money I needed, I understood what he meant. He was telling me

(Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Brother Hagin’s book Biblical Keys to Financial Prosperity.)
Believing and Saying Get the Job Done

For the Word to work for you, it has to be in both your mouth and heart. Folks can say things, but if they don’t really mean them—if their heart doesn’t agree with what they’re saying—it won’t work.

Or they can believe something in their heart, but if they don’t vocalize it—if they don’t say it—it won’t come to pass. Faith that receives the promises of God will only work by believing and saying.

Second Corinthians 4:13 says, “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.”

If you talk about your lack of finances, it will stop money from coming in. But if you will believe in your heart what God’s Word says concerning finances and confess it with your mouth, you’ll get results.

to believe and exercise my spiritual authority in the area of finances.

The Lord had said to me, “The money you need is not up here in Heaven. I don’t have any money up here. The money you need is down there. It’s Satan who’s keeping it from coming, not Me.

“Don’t pray about money in the way you have been,” the Lord said. “Whatever you need, claim it in Jesus’ Name. And then say, Satan, take your hands off my money.” And then say, ‘Go, ministering spirits, and cause the money to come.’” This was back in 1950. And from that day forward, I have never prayed about money for myself personally.

At that time, when I began to see how faith worked in the area of finances, it was all new to me.

In fact, I said to the Lord, “What do you mean? I can understand the part about how we can exercise authority over the enemy, claim the finances we need, and tell Satan, ‘Take your hands off my money.’ But, what do you mean about the part, ‘Go, ministering spirits, and cause the money to come?”’

The Lord said, “ Didn’t you read in My Word where it says that angels are ministering spirits sent to minister for those who shall be heirs of salvation?” (Heb. 1:14).

“Because I thought it said “minister to those,” I had to get my Bible and read it. It’s strange how we can read Scripture for years and read right over things and not get what the Word says. These angels are ministering spirits that are sent forth to minister for us. “For” us means they were sent to do something for us!

Once, I was holding a series of meetings at a church and staying in the parsonage. And I was in a bedroom in the parsonage when the Lord showed me this. I walked over to the empty church and stood on the platform. I’ll be honest with you—since this was a new revelation to me, my knees were shaking. I had never heard anybody say anything like this, yet I could see it because I had Scripture for it.

I was trembling, not because I was afraid in the way someone would be afraid of a rattlesnake or a bad storm. I’m talking about a holy, reverential fear. Remember the Apostle Paul said, “And I was with you in . . . fear, and in much trembling” (1 Cor. 2:3). What I experienced was a different thing entirely from tormenting fear. It was a holy fear.

What the Lord had shown me was new to me, and my head was telling me, “That’s not going to work.” I stood on the platform in the empty church and pictured the little crowd of about 70 that had been coming to the meetings. I said, “Well, let’s see. It takes one hundred and fifty dollars a week to meet my budget.” (That was big back then.)

I said, “In Jesus’ Name, I claim one hundred and fifty dollars this week. Satan, take your hands off my money in Jesus’ Name.” Then I also said, “Go, ministering spirits, and cause the money to come.” That’s it—that’s all I did.

In the process of time, the pastor persuaded me to stay on through Wednesday night of the following week, which gave us about a ten-day meeting. So I changed the amount I had claimed to meet my budget. Instead of $150, now I was claiming $200. When the ten-day meeting ended, I had the $200 plus $40-odd dollars over that amount!

Having faith in God and acting on His Word will bring results every time. When you walk in the light of the Word, your faith will bring into manifestation what God has provided for you in His great plan of redemption.

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GOD

It doesn’t matter what the need is—healing, finances, salvation of loved ones, deliverance, peace, or anything else—faith in God is the answer. Some Christians, however, are not seeing the manifestation of their faith. Over the years, I’ve heard people say, “I just don’t have enough faith.” When I hear this, I am reminded of Mark 11:22 where the Bible instructs us to “...Have faith in God.”

Although some Christians are saying and believing the right thing, their faith really isn’t in God. They’ve moved away from simple faith and trust in their Heavenly Father, and they are trying to convince God to move on their behalf because of the things they do and say. They’ll make loud confessions and pray long and hard. They’ll stomp and even do somersaults if they have to. But what these Christians don’t realize is that they have left God out of the picture. You can make faith confessions and pray in your own strength all day long. But it’s through God’s power that our answers come.

According to Webster’s New World Dictionary, faith means “unquestioning belief.” And having faith in God
means that we don’t question His willingness or ability to move on our behalf. We don’t have to try to move mountains in our own strength and ability. We just have to believe that God will move them.

Many of us today are facing financial mountains. And one way we can tell if we are truly relying on God is by how well we sleep at night. Are we sleeping soundly, or do we toss and turn all night long?

In my own life, I have found that the devil usually bombards my mind with thoughts of doubt and fear in the nighttime. When my wife and children are sound asleep, the devil says things like, “You’re not going to make it. What are you going to do? There’s no way out of this problem. Look at all these bills. How are you ever going to pay them?”

If we can’t sleep because we are worried and fearful, then we’re not fully trusting God. Instead of tossing and turning, we need to get out of bed, open our Bibles, and meditate on the Word.

Some Christians have more faith in the faith of others than in their own faith. Although they say they are believing God, they are really believing in their pastor’s faith. Or in believing in the faith of others than in their own faith.

We need to take ourselves out of the equation and simply have faith in God. The Worrell New Testament translates Mark 11:22 as “have the faith of God.” We could also say, “have the kind of faith that God has.” What kind of faith is that?

When God spoke, it happened. When He said, “let there be light” (Gen. 1:3), light immediately came into existence. God didn’t have to wait for an hour for light to appear. He didn’t have to fast, pray, or cry before light manifested. It appeared immediately after He spoke.

When we try to figure out how God will move or how a situation will work out, we immediately limit Him. Our part of faith is to believe that God will move them.

When we face adversity, we can make the mistake of putting man’s limitations on God. We can look at the situation and say, “I can’t see how this will ever work out.” And because we can’t figure it out, we don’t think that God will be able to, either.

We can limit God in the same way when it comes to healing. It shouldn’t be hard for us to believe that God can heal incurable diseases. How far medical science has advanced doesn’t have any bearing on what He can do. God is not bound by mankind’s limitations. Remember that whatever is impossible with man is possible with God (Luke 18:27).

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When we try to figure out how God will move or how a situation will work out, we immediately limit Him. Our part of faith is to believe that God will move them. It’s up to Him to work out the details. We don’t have to know the steps He will take to get us out of our situations. We just have to believe that He will work it out.

When we’re assured that God is working on the problem, we won’t be moved by what we see when things don’t look so good. Everything may appear to be falling apart around us, but we can rest in a peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7) when our trust is in God.

God is good. He wants us healed, prosperous, living in freedom, and filled with peace and joy. He is able to turn any situation around. And because of His great love for us, He is more than willing to work on our behalf. It’s not up to us to try to figure things out. We simply need to have faith in God. ◊
When his doctor told him those words, Larry Bjorklund was floored. Larry had struggled sleeping for a few weeks—his lungs burning so intensely that he would wake up often throughout the night. His symptoms finally worsened to such a degree that he had to see a doctor.

Upon receiving the news that he had had a heart attack, Larry and his wife, Judy, drove to the emergency room. After nine hours of tests, Larry was admitted to the hospital. The test results showed his heart was enlarged with one valve continuously open.

“At this point, we were asking all kinds of questions,” Larry said. “We wanted to know how this happened and what caused it.” There was no heart disease on either side of his family. Because Larry was otherwise in excellent physical condition, he never would have suspected heart disease. “We were already praying and believing for my complete healing,” he said.

Larry was in the hospital for four days. After all the tests, he was told that he had lost 80 percent of his heart muscle function. The doctor also found a goiter on Larry’s thyroid. A virus might have attacked his heart, Larry was told, or the thyroid could have short-circuited his heart and caused it to become enlarged. To get his physical condition under control, Larry was given a nuclear iodine pill that killed his thyroid.

Larry went from taking no medications to taking 20 pills a day consisting of 13 different medications. He went home, rested, and continued to take the medicine, but he grew steadily worse. “I got to the point where I could not eat or sleep, and I was literally wasting away. But during this whole time my wife and I were crying out, ‘God, let this be a testimony for You!’”

The following month, Larry was readmitted to the hospital. More tests showed that he had now lost 88 percent of his heart muscle. The doctor told Larry that he was losing his kidney and liver function and that he would probably need a heart transplant.

Larry told the doctor, “Get me to where I can eat and sleep. Then I’ll go home, turn my face to the wall just like Hezekiah, and I will get my healing” (see Isa. 38:1–8). One month later, Larry found himself in the hospital again. Doctors inserted a Swan-Ganz catheter into his heart to monitor its function and blood flow. They placed a defibrillator next to his heart, because they were concerned his heart would go into arrhythmia. They also inserted a Hickman catheter and connected it to an IV pump to inject medication 24 hours a day.

After being in the hospital for nine days, Larry was told again he needed a heart transplant. After another series of tests, Larry was told doctors wanted to put him on a transplant list immediately.

“I had been confessing all along that the Lord is the strength of my heart, it shall not fail,” Larry said. “I did not have peace about being on a transplant list, so I asked if I could wait until I saw the doctor face-to-face.”

With only 17 days until his next appointment, Larry prayed, “Okay, God, we
have 17 days. We need to be able to show them improvement.”

Larry felt led to have a specific person pray for him. At the same time, he received a prayer cloth from Kenneth Hagin Ministries. “From the moment I received the cloth, I kept it with me all the time,” he said. “I wore shirts that had a pocket over my heart, and I would wear it over my heart and at night put it under my pillow. This cloth was a point of focus to help me continue to stay in faith. I hung on to that prayer cloth and kept the switch of faith turned on.”

At Larry’s next appointment, his wife told the doctor she had seen a noticeable change in her husband and asked that his heart be retested. The doctor said, “I would test him if he was doing more exercise or cutting the lawn, but he isn’t. So we’re not going to test his heart right now.” The doctor told Larry to go home and get ready for the heart transplant.

Determined he wasn’t going to need a heart transplant, Larry went home and immediately cut his lawn. “It was a chore just to get the riding lawn mower out and cut a little bit of the back yard,” he said. “Then I got out the push mower just to prove I could do it. I took the push mower to the front and mowed for a short amount of time, and I was totally spent. At least it was a start. I did something. From that day on, I started to walk some every day.”

Larry had put action to his faith. Two months later, the doctors retested his heart. Previously his heart had been working at only 12 percent of what it should have been. The test showed it was working at 25 percent, to the amazement of his doctor. “This just doesn’t happen,” the doctor said. “It was too late. You needed to have a heart transplant. This is not normal.”

Larry also scheduled an appointment to see another doctor about his thyroid. Again, his doctor was amazed. “We killed your thyroid and now it is working perfectly,” she said. “I am taking you off the thyroid medication. We will check again in three months and adjust the meds accordingly.” They checked his thyroid three months later and it continued to work perfectly.

Four months later, Larry went skiing in Colorado with his wife and son. One year after feeling the first symptoms, he was told by an internist, “I cannot wait until they do an echocardiogram on you. You have the heart of an athlete.”

For You!

I hung on to that prayer cloth and kept the switch of faith turned on.”

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This has certainly been a year of turmoil for many. Some have lost jobs. Others have experienced family problems, health issues, or the loss of family members. During difficult times we all ask, “How are we going to survive in this challenging situation?” We begin to look at what we can do to recover.

With things falling apart around us, we can find ourselves sinking into despair and depression. It can seem that the harder we try to figure things out for ourselves, the worse things get.

Even as a child I was always a very independent person. I wanted to figure everything out for myself. I did not want to have to depend upon anyone else for my resources. It is very easy for those natural traits to be transferred into the spiritual realm.

Although my relationship with my Heavenly Father has always been one of my most precious possessions, I used to pray, “Lord, show me what to do and I’ll take care of this for You.” Suddenly one day, the Lord ministered to me a most valuable lesson that changed my life.

He said, “Lynette, that’s your problem. You’re always trying to take care of things yourself. You want to be Ms. Fix-It. Don’t you realize that is My job—to fix it for you?” Suddenly one day, the Lord ministered to me a most valuable lesson that changed my life.

He said, “Lynette, that’s your problem. You’re always trying to take care of things yourself. You want to be Ms. Fix-It. Don’t you realize that is My job—to fix it for you?” Then He brought me to Luke 12:22–31, and it revolutionized my life: “Turning to his disciples, Jesus said, ‘That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds!’ Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can’t accomplish a little thing like that, what’s the use of worrying over bigger things?

“Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

“And don’t be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don’t worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need” (NLT).

The 24th verse just stood out in bold to me: “Look at the ravens. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds!” I began to cling to the fact that we are far more valuable than the birds, flowers, and grass that He created. And if He provides for them, how much more will He provide for us if we will place our trust in His Word? Look at it this way: we are God’s favorite creation.

We place our trust in natural man every day. If your employer tells you that he is going to give you a raise, you trust his word. In fact, you may go out and purchase an item based on the promise that you are receiving a raise. You may not have physically received the additional income, but you accept the word of your employer.

When our grandchildren were younger, they loved to go to the edge of our church stage after service and jump and let their Poppy catch them. We were always close to the stage talking to our church members. Our grandchildren would holler “Poppy!” and my husband would turn around and catch them. They got such a thrill out of that. Never once did they doubt that their Poppy would catch them. Even though he might be conversing with someone, they were confident that he would interrupt that conversation and keep them from falling. They trusted him to save them from a possibly dangerous situation.

Our Heavenly Father is always there to save us from any fall. Whatever your situation, the Lord is saying, “put your trust in Me and I will see you through.” Psalm 18:2 (NLT) says, “The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my savior; my God is my rock, in whom I find protection. He is my shield, the power that saves me, and my place of safety.” Place your trust in the Lord and He will bring you out of every situation.
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“...keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.”
—Psalm 18:28–29 (NIV)

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