



# THE Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2012

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

# JOY *to the* WORLD!

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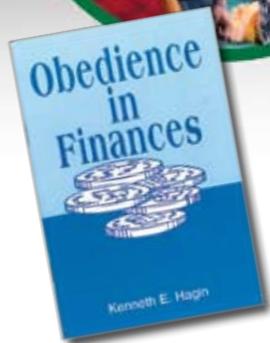
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## the Word of Faith



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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

# More Than a Story

This time of year it's a tradition with many families to read the Christmas story—the story of Jesus' birth. People get sentimental and begin to reminisce about mom or dad or somebody else reading that story. The problem is that for too many people, it's just a story. But there is significance in the Christ child—that baby lying in a manger.

Through that baby, God identified with us. Jesus, His son, became flesh and came to dwell on earth (John 1:14). He identified with our limitations and frailties by becoming a man—just like us. Because of that, He understands what we deal with and go through in life. Hebrews 4:15 says that He was *“in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin”* (NKJV). Jesus passed the test! That's why He could become the Lamb of God that was slain for us.

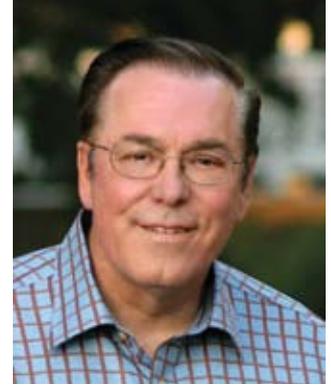
You see, God can take insignificant things—the things that man overlooks—and make them significant. Who would have thought that the baby in the manger would become a man who preached the Good News to the poor, healed the sick, and proclaimed freedom for the prisoners (Luke 4:18-19)?

Jesus may have started out as a babe in Bethlehem, but He died on the cross as the Son of God. He arose from the dead as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He became our substitute! The price we could not pay, He paid for all of us.

That's why He left the glories of Heaven and came to earth as a babe in a manger. He didn't come for His own gratification or to set up an earthly kingdom. He came to die so that mankind could live. He came to save us from being lost and to destroy the works of the devil!

Friend, that baby lying in the manger is more than just a story. He is a picture of God and man reunited. He is Emmanuel—God with us—our salvation!

If you haven't made Jesus your Lord, there's no better time to do so than right now. It's easy. Just pray the prayer on page 17 and accept the free gift that Jesus came to give you.



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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► **Special Report:** INTERNATIONAL RHEMA  
Kevin and Susan Fletcher are crisscrossing the U.K. to train leaders and help plant new churches. Read their story.



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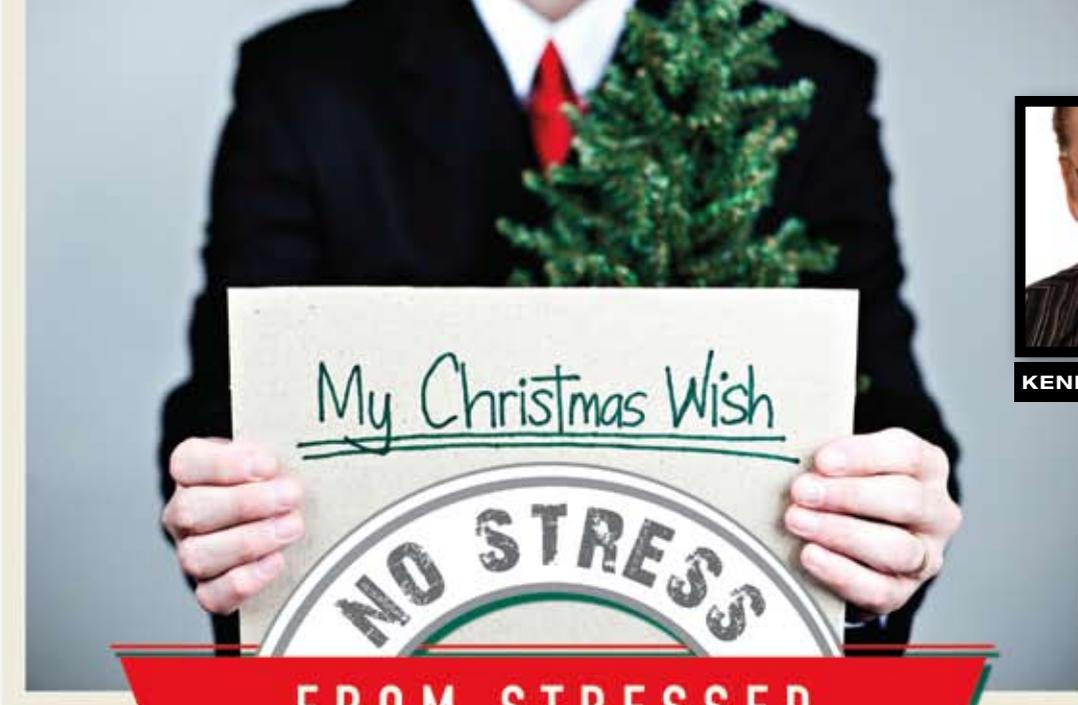
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KENNETH W. HAGIN

# FROM STRESSED TO BLESSED

**STRESS IS SOMETHING** we have to deal with continually. Actually, this time of year there seems to be more stress on people. But God wants to help us with our stress!

Psalm 40:4 says, “Blessed is that man who makes the Lord his trust” (NKJV). You could also read this verse, “Stressed is that man who does not make the Lord his trust.” Our Heavenly Father wants us to trust Him. He does not want us to live stressed out! So let’s look at a few things that can cause stress in our lives and consider some ways to handle them.

## CHANGE

One of the biggest causes of stress for us is change. Most people don’t like change, because it means dealing with the unexpected.

One time when my dad was pastoring a church, he made a change that didn’t amount to much. But on Monday morning, five or six people showed up at the parsonage to tell him, “We just don’t like the way you’re doing things.” People don’t like change!

Change happens in all of our lives, though. And we can deal with it if we have Christ—our Anchor—as the unchanging center of our lives. Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (NKJV). Malachi 3:6 says, “I am the Lord, I do not change” (NKJV). Jesus never changes, and with Him as our center, we’ll be all right. We won’t be stressed out at all!

## CONFLICT

Conflict can also bring stress on us. Confrontations are inevitable. They will

happen to each of us sooner or later. But we can still remain at peace!

Jesus said in John 14:27, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (NKJV). We need to realize that Christ is our peace! We may have conflict all around us, but if we learn to let the peace of God dwell in our hearts, we do not have to be uneasy.

## CRITICISM

Being criticized is another big cause of stress. When this happens, we can become defensive and start arguing, or we can realize that there’s no point in letting it bother us. Why? Because God has already told us that if we will look intently into His Word, it will give us freedom and we’ll be blessed (James 1:25).

People criticize me all the time. Really, some of the things they say are horrible. “Doesn’t that bother you?” you may ask. “That would upset me.”

I don’t even pay attention to it. I choose to live in the blessings of God, knowing that I don’t answer to them but to my Heavenly Father.

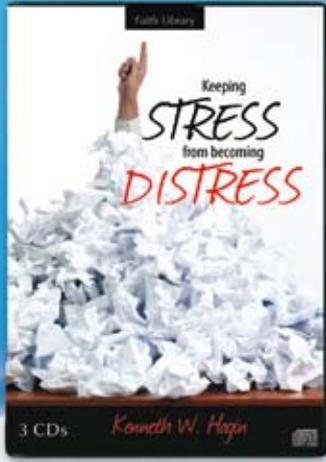
## CONCERN

It’s not wrong to be concerned. But it is wrong when those concerns crush us and cause us stress.

Mahalia Jackson, a great Gospel singer, said, “God can make you anything you want to be, but you have to put everything in His hands.” We have to do as

**ACTION NEEDED:** Is the Christmas season stressing you out? Make time to get alone with God and receive His peace.

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First Peter 5:7 tells us and “cast all our anxiety on Him because He cares for us.” Look at what Jesus said in Matthew chapter 11:

### **MATTHEW 11:28-29 (NIV)**

**28** “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

**29** Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”

There's no use in being upset or having anxiety. Cast your care on the Lord and let Him carry it. You may say, “That's a simplistic way of looking at it.” That's what the Bible says! And if we want to get out of stress, we've got to do what it says.

### **CONSCIENCE**

Letting your conscience bring past mistakes to your remembrance can be a real problem when it comes to stress. Around the holidays especially, some of our family members, or others, may try to remind us of things we don't want to remember. That's when we need to remind ourselves that Christ has forgiven us.

Certainly, if we have unresolved guilt we need to ask God for forgiveness. But we don't have to feel guilty about anything we've already asked Him to forgive us for.

First Corinthians 4:4 (NIV) says, “It is the Lord who judges me.” People may try to judge us, but if

we're walking with God, we shouldn't let anyone put a guilt trip on us and cause us stress.

### **COMPARISON**

We are who God made us, and we do ourselves a disservice when we compare ourselves with others. That only brings stress.

You see, if we're not careful we'll begin to compare what we're doing, where we're at, and what we're accomplishing with what other people are doing. Eventually, we'll erode our spirituality to the point where we think we're a nobody. And that's exactly what the devil wants.

But God doesn't look at us that way. He only looks to see if we are where He asked us to be, doing what He asked us to do. If we are, we should just enjoy it! We can accomplish more where He puts us than out somewhere else.

### **THROW IT ON HIM**

Stress is harmful—emotionally, physically, and spiritually. But God doesn't want us to live stressed out! Remember what Peter said? “Cast all your cares on Him.” To cast means to *throw over on*.

That's why I don't let anything bother me. I don't carry cares or get stressed out about them. I just throw everything over on Him, and you should too. Refuse to carry stress around. Instead, let the Word work in your life and live in God's peace and blessings. ♥



FAITH NUGGET

## **No More Stress!**

Here are five things you can do to move out of stress and into God's blessings.

- 1 HAVE ALONE TIME WITH GOD.** Make an appointment for just you and Him.
- 2 REVIEW YOUR PRIORITIES.** Commit to the Lord's priorities for you.
- 3 COMMIT TO SEEKING THE KINGDOM OF GOD FIRST,** and things second. When you're more interested in God's things than in other things, you'll have less stress.
- 4 EXAMINE YOUR GOALS.** If you don't have any, set some!
- 5 WORK ON ELIMINATING THE CAUSES.** Start removing things that cause stress from your life.

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# The Great Adventure



▲ KEVIN & SUSAN FLETCHER

LIFE FOR KEVIN AND SUSAN FLETCHER has been one great adventure. Shortly after they were married 33 years ago, they began their life together by answering the call of God. First, that meant moving from Florida to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in 1979 to attend Rhema Bible Training College. Immediately after graduating in 1980, they embarked on the race God had laid before them. Heading north to Minnesota, they joined Pastors Mac and Lynne Hammond at Living Word Christian Center, where they served as associate pastors for 22 years.

In 2001 the Fletchers began sensing a change in their ministry and felt drawn to England. They talked with the Hammonds about leaving Living Word, and Pastor Mac suggested they go to England to get their feet on the ground and get a better sense for

what they were feeling in their hearts.

The Fletchers were sure that moving to the United Kingdom was their next step in ministry. However, once in England, they did not have the Holy Spirit's witness that it was right. They left quite disheartened, really believing that God had dropped England into their hearts.

Back in the States, the Fletchers poured over a U.S. map and began praying for direction. They had said they would never move south, never move to a small town, and never take over an existing church. But through a series of circumstances, that's exactly what they did. In 2003 they left Minneapolis and moved to Alma, Arkansas, a town of just over 5,000, to take over an existing church.

It was while they were pastoring this church that they forged a strong relationship with Matt and Julie Beemer, 1992 Rhema USA grads. Matt and Julie had started World Harvest Bible Church and World Harvest Bible Training Centre in Manchester, England. Over the next eight years, Matt spoke many times at the Fletchers' church, and when in the States he would always join them for prayer. The Fletchers began supporting the Beemers' work in England with prayer and finances. Kevin and Susan also took several missions teams from their church to Manchester.

In 2009 Matt received approval from Kenneth Hagin Ministries to open Rhema campuses in Egypt and Nigeria. World Harvest Bible Training Centre in Manchester was

brought into the Rhema network of international campuses, and approval was given to open additional campuses in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and in Aylesbury and Coventry, England. As Matt and Julie prepared to move to Africa to start Rhema Nigeria, they asked Kevin and Susan to head up Rhema UK & Ireland.

Almost 10 years after the Fletchers first sensed God calling them to the UK, they began preparing to move. "We picked up on something a long time ago that was the Lord," says Susan. "But the timing was for now, not then."

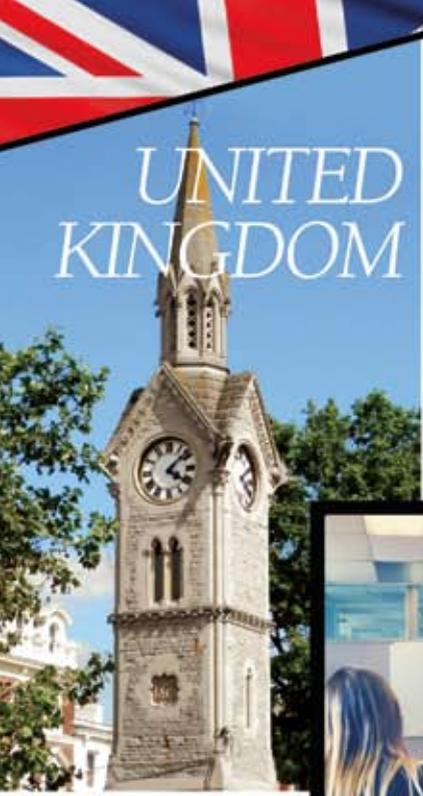
## IRELAND

FEATURE



KEVIN FLETCHER SPEAKS AT THE 2012 RHEMA UK & IRELAND GRADUATION





# UNITED KINGDOM

## CROSSING THE POND

When the Fletchers landed at Belfast International Airport on Thursday, January 6, 2011, with four bags and two carry-ons, they hit the ground running. They opened Rhema Belfast, Northern Ireland, the next day. Then on Saturday, they flew to England for the opening of Rhema Aylesbury. And even before their transatlantic move, they flew back and forth helping prepare for the official launch of the Manchester and Coventry campuses in September 2010.

## RHEMA UK & IRELAND

Students at Rhema UK & Ireland enroll for various reasons. Some feel a call to full-time ministry. Others attend for their own personal enrichment, to better serve their local church pastors.

One such couple—Lee and Lynsey—took a step of faith

to attend Rhema. They felt called to the school, but Lee was in the military and it looked like he would be transferred in six months. As they shared their situation with the Fletchers, Kevin and Susan prayed and agreed with them that God would make a way for them to continue with their studies. It wasn't long before Lee testified that his superiors had decided to leave him in place for the next three years!

The Fletchers hear one testimony again and again. Everyone says their decision to attend Rhema was the best they've ever made. As word of Rhema's presence in the UK continues to spread, there is much excitement among potential students, especially those in the London area who are believing God for a campus to open there soon.

In June Kenneth and Lynette Hagin joined the Fletchers to celebrate the graduation of 67 Rhema UK & Ireland students representing 17 nations!

## SENT TO THE SENT ONES

Kevin and Susan are actively working to establish a strong Rhema alumni network in the UK & Ireland. "We are 'sent ones to the sent ones,'" says Kevin. They are in the process of setting up continuing education programs for the alumni through regional meetings and conferences. And they are organizing times of corporate prayer.

The Fletchers are also moving forward with their vision to help equip pastors to successfully plant churches. To date, two churches have started—one in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and the other in Lincoln, England, both pastored by Rhema graduates. A third church is set to launch in January 2013 in Bradford, England, pastored by yet another Rhema graduate. Kevin and Susan say that according to statistics, the best way to reach unsaved people is to plant new churches. A church evangelizes the lost, disciples new believers, and develops leaders.

The Fletchers have an aggressive vision for Rhema UK & Ireland. Their goal is to train 5,000 leaders and facilitate the planting of 100 churches throughout the United Kingdom and Ireland by the year 2020. They're undaunted by the work that lies ahead. To them, it's one great adventure! 🇬🇧

## PRAYER FOCUS:

- » **MORE CAMPUSES**—the right places at the right times with the right leadership teams
- » The UK & Ireland Rhema **ALUMNI NETWORK**
- » **CHURCH PLANTING**—for pastors to catch the vision and for continued training to assist them
- » **EXISTING CAMPUSES**—for students (current and future), instructors, and support staff
- » **PROVISION** for the Vision

## TO LEARN MORE

about Kevin and Susan Fletcher, go to [www.BeyondInternational.org](http://www.BeyondInternational.org).



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"WE ARE *'sent ones*  
TO THE SENT ONES.'"

FEATURE



SUSAN FLETCHER LEADING  
PRAYER AT A CHURCH IN  
LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND



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LYNETTE HAGIN

# ARE WE DOING THE WORD?

IN 1972 my husband began working for his father, Kenneth E. Hagin, as crusade director. I knew I would be working at the book table during the crusades, so I thought I'd better read all of my father-in-law's books very thoroughly. That way I could tell anybody who asked what the books were about.

There were about 19 books then, and basically, all of them were on faith. As I read them, my faith just soared! I knew I could speak to any mountain and it would be removed!

About that same time, the Lord directed me to read the Book of James. As I began reading, I came to this verse: "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22). The New International Version puts it this way: "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says."

Through the years I've come to realize that many of us like to hear the Word, but we often forget about the doing part. Although we can quote the Word, many times we don't practice the Word.

We think our faith is strong in different areas. But when a test comes, we find out that the Word wasn't in our hearts as much as we thought.

Hearing alone isn't enough. It's doing what the Word says that will make us successful in life. Here are just a few areas where we need to be doers of God's Word.

## LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44, "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you." I've always been amazed at my husband in this area. It doesn't matter what somebody says to him or about him—he just loves them anyway.

I wasn't always like that. My flesh often wanted to retaliate. Many of us like to take up for ourselves. But guess what? That's not what the Word tells us to do. We're told to love our enemies, bless them, do good to them, and pray for them.

## FORGIVE OTHERS

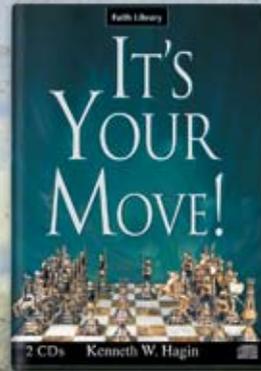
We also need to put God's Word into practice by forgiving others. I've heard umpteen sermons on Mark 11:22, 23, and 24. But Brother Hagin would always add verses 25 and 26: "When ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in

### » DIG DEEPER:

God's Word is the foundation for our faith. To learn more about building that foundation, go to [www.khm.com/fskj](http://www.khm.com/fskj) and read the article "Faith's Foundation" by Darrell Huffman.

# MOVE OUT *in Faith*

It's wonderful living by faith in God's Word and learning to flow in the current of His bountiful blessings. But have you ever been tempted to give up your faith fight? Don't let the enemy take advantage of you. **DON'T PITCH YOUR TENT IN THE CAMP OF DEFEAT.** You can get up and keep going with God—but it's your move!



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heaven forgive your trespasses.” Then Brother Hagin often added, “If you haven't forgotten, you haven't forgiven.”

Wives can be the worst at this. We keep remembering and make a list of all the things our husband didn't do. Didn't take out the trash. Didn't do this. Didn't do that. And all of a sudden, we get irritated at him and say, “I remember when. . . .” But we need to forget the “I remember when.”

Aren't you glad God forgives and forgets? Oh my, what would it be like if He didn't? We might cry out to Him for forgiveness and He'd say, “OK, I'll forgive you this time, but remember when you did all these other things.”

Thank goodness He never says that! When we ask for forgiveness, God not only forgives us, but He also doesn't remember our sin or hold it against us (Ps. 103:12; Isa. 43:25; Micah 7:19).

## CAST YOUR CARE ON GOD

Scripture also tells us not to worry about anything. First Peter 5:7 says, “Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for

you.” How many times have we cast our concerns on the Lord, only to pick them up again later?

When we try to help God fix our problems, guess what ends up happening? We just make a mess of things! We need to remember that no matter how messed up something may be, God can fix it. He's the only one who can unscramble scrambled eggs!

## BRING THE WHOLE TITHE INTO THE STOREHOUSE

We're a doer of the Word when we bring our tithes into God's storehouse. Scripture says that when we do this, God will open the windows of Heaven over us. He promises not only to rebuke the devourer but to pour out so many blessings upon us that we won't have room enough to receive them (Mal. 3:10)!

James went on to say that when we are doers of the Word and not forgetful hearers, we will be blessed in what we do (James 1:25). The more we practice the Word, the stronger our faith will be during the tests and trials of life. Our faith will be tested again and again. In every test that has come my way, I've gone to the Word of God, found His promises that covered my situation, and held on to those promises.

The Bible is filled with scriptures that cover every situation we will encounter. So let's be doers of God's Word and not hearers only. Let's stand on the Word and watch what God does in our lives!♥



# 'Christmas to Me Doesn't Mean a Baby in a Manger'

In the early 1980s, Kenneth E. Hagin and his son, Kenneth W. Hagin, discussed the meaning of Christmas during a television taping. The following has been adapted from that conversation.



**Kenneth W.** It seems that many people keep Jesus as a baby in a manger. They don't simply commemorate His birthday on Christmas. We celebrate our birthdays, and we don't try to keep our children babies. **WHY IS IT THAT SOME WANT TO KEEP THE SON OF GOD A BABY IN A MANGER?**

**Kenneth E.** I really think it may be a subtle device the devil created to have people worship a baby. The second chapter of Luke tells how Joseph and Mary went to the Temple to have the child circumcised and present offerings according to Jewish custom.

But the end of the chapter skips over the first 12 years of Jesus' life. We see Joseph and Mary going up to Jerusalem again, only this time Jesus is 12 years of age. We see Him discussing spiritual matters with teachers in the Temple. Scripture then skips over His life until He begins His ministry.

The four Gospels were not written to tell us about Jesus' birth, and we shouldn't stop there, because if Jesus was just born and that was the end of it, we wouldn't have the Good News.

Christmas to me doesn't mean a baby in a manger. Yes, we keep the traditional day of His birth, but we should think beyond that. **HE ISN'T JUST A MAN—HE IS THE SON OF GOD.**

The four Gospels contain the story of Jesus' birth, His life, His ministry, what He did, what He said, and finally, His death.

**IT WASN'T JESUS' BIRTH THAT SAVED US; IT WAS HIS DEATH—AND NOT ONLY THAT HE DIED, BUT ALSO THAT HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD.** You can't be saved just believing that Jesus died. You also must believe that God raised Him from the dead.

**Kenneth W.** That's right.

**Kenneth E.** Paul said in Romans 10:9, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Of course, we should see the overall view of God's plan of redemption, including that when Jesus was born, He took upon Himself a body. But that's just the beginning of that plan.

That plan of redemption had to be consummated in His death, burial, resurrection, and seating at the right hand of the Father, where He now is and where He ever liveth to make intercession for us (Heb. 7:25).

**WHEN I THINK OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, I THINK OF THE WHOLE PLAN OF REDEMPTION.** I don't just think of a baby in a manger.

**Kenneth W.** I do the same thing. And I think a lot of people today should begin to think along these lines.

John starts by saying, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. . . . All

"WHEN I THINK OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY, I THINK OF THE *whole plan* OF REDEMPTION."

**Kenneth E.** The second important thing to realize about Christmas is that God's gift to the world wasn't just a baby in a manger. It had to start there, but **GOD'S GIFT TO THE WORLD WAS ETERNAL LIFE!** "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Luke gives details about the birth of Jesus, but John doesn't deal with the physical and natural side of Jesus' life at all in his Gospel; he deals with the spiritual side.

things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. . . . And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (John 1:1, 3, 14). John also said, "In him was life; and the life was the light of men" (v. 4).

When I think about Christmas, I think about life—the gift of eternal, everlasting life. That promise belongs to us now. When I was born again, I received a new life into my spirit: the life and nature of God.♥





**Inspiring. Motivating. Energizing. Refreshing.**

THESE ARE JUST a few of the words ladies used to describe Lynette Hagin's 2012 *Kindle the Flame*® Women's Conference. Women from around the U.S. and the world gathered September 27–29 on the Rhema campus for some girl time and God time. And they weren't disappointed! Not only did they have fun fellowshiping with one another during luncheons and workshops, but they were built up in their walk with God during five unforgettable services. "God ministered in awesome ways—even during the announcements," Lynette Hagin exclaimed. "And we are more determined than ever to go light our world!"♥



REVIEW

"Unbelief is the road to missing God. The children of Israel watched God for 40 years in the wilderness and received His goodness. They didn't have to shop for clothes or food. But even after 40 years of this, God was grieved because of their unbelief and the Israelites could not enter into His rest (Heb. 3:7-11). God is looking for someone to believe Him and take Him at His Word. **YOU HAVE TO MIX FAITH WITH THE WORD OF GOD IN ORDER TO GET THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.** He can only bless you when you operate in belief." // **DONNA PICKENS**

"God has always moved in political arenas. In the Bible, Daniel was one of the three presidents of the whole region of Babylon. The other presidents and princes grew jealous of Daniel and made a law that no one could pray to anyone but the king for 30 days. Daniel knew the law, but kept talking to God, so they threw him in the lion's pit. But the Lord sent His angels and closed the mouths of the lions. **GOD IS STILL MOVING TODAY IN POLITICAL ARENAS.** He is raising up young people with excellent spirits—Daniels and Danielles in our generation." // **SUSAN RICH**

"There are some projects God gives that require perseverance in prayer. And if we don't have perseverance, we won't see the desired effect. We'll get to the middle of something, but we won't get to the end where the glory is. We have to just relentlessly go after it until we see His glory manifested in the nation. **THE GLORY OF GOD ON A NATION IS SEEN WHEN HIS WILL IS BEING DONE IN THE PEOPLE OF THE NATION.** That's our agenda—to pray for our cities and the people of our cities. We must relentlessly pray for a move of God." // **PATSY CAMENETI**

**LYNETTE HAGIN AND DENISE HAGIN BURNS SHARE THEIR HEARTS IN A SPECIAL "HEART TO HEART" SESSION.**



# Don't Stress

LYNETTE HAGIN

Stress and worry have become a way of life for many people. We've become so accustomed to absorbing stress that we don't realize how stressed we really are. Someone once said, "Worry is the interest you pay on troubles that seldom come." It's been estimated that 40 percent of what we worry about never happens.

You may not realize it, but worry is faith in the negative. It's belief in defeat. Worry actually breeds in an environment of insecurity and uncertainty. But when we eliminate the conditions of insecurity and uncertainty, faith will win out over worry.

So many times we worry about our needs being met. Jesus said if we would seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, then all of these other things would be added unto us. (See Matthew 6:25-34.) Instead of worrying, we need to seek the Lord.

The Apostle Paul is one of the greatest examples of someone who refused to worry. No matter what he went through, he said, "I always triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14). We can follow his example by doing the following:

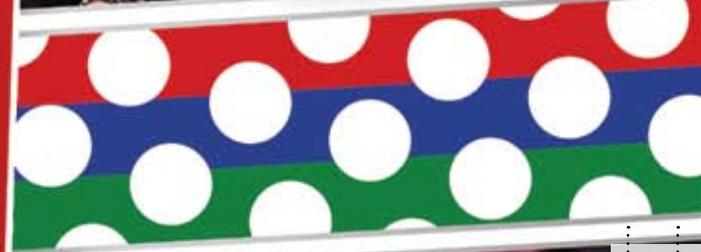
- 1 REJOICE IN THE LORD.** Sing songs of praise to your Deliverer. He will bring you out of every situation.
- 2 DEVELOP AN "UNANXIOUS" ATTITUDE.** Do not allow yourself to be anxious about anything.
- 3 DEVELOP A LIFESTYLE OF PRAYER.** Pray so much that worry has to take a number and stand in line.
- 4 LEARN TO CAST YOUR CARE ON THE LORD.** When the devil asks what you're going to do now, tell him, "I'm casting all my cares on the Lord. And I'm going to rejoice in Him!"
- 5 LEARN TO TRUST IN THE LORD.** Don't try to figure it out on your own. Trust, trust, trust God.

As we follow these five steps, we will drive fear out of our lives and our worries will become less and less. The peace of God will fill our hearts and minds and we'll walk on through to victory. 🕯️

KINDLE THE FLAME



"PRAY SO MUCH  
THAT WORRY HAS TO  
*take a number* AND  
STAND IN LINE."



REVIEW

🕯️ CANDLELIGHT PRAYER  
AND PRAISE



# Obeying God Doesn't Cost— IT PAYS!



Timeless  
Teachings  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

~~PAID~~  
Balance

ONCE MY WIFE AND I were traveling through Missouri, and we saw a large billboard on the turnpike that read, “It doesn’t cost, it pays.” The message on that billboard was referring to advertising, but I said to my wife, “You could apply that spiritually too. It doesn’t cost to surrender to God; it pays.”

Some Christians, bless their darling hearts, are always talking about what they had to give up and what it cost them to be a Christian. I’d just as soon hear a donkey bray at midnight in a tin barn as hear folks talk like that! It doesn’t cost to obey God and dedicate your life to Him. It pays! It will cost you not to obey God. It may cost you in dollars and cents. It may cost you sickness, disease, and premature death. It may cost you heartache and sorrow. But, oh, thank God, it’s so good over in the perfect

will of God, where you’re fully surrendered, fully dedicated, fully submitted to His will! It’s just so much better to obey God than to disobey Him.

A person can disobey something specific that God told him to do. That’s disobedience. But a person can disobey the Bible, God’s revealed will, and that’s disobedience too. And it will cost him. For example, I remember when God first began to deal with me about the sin of worry. I was on my deathbed, paralyzed because of a deformed heart

and an incurable blood disease. I had to deal with the sin of worry before I could receive healing for my body in faith, because worry and anxiety hinder a person’s faith.

After I was born again, I began to read the Scriptures, and I got bogged down in Matthew chapter 6:

## **MATTHEW 6:25, 27–28, 31**

**25** Therefore I say unto you, TAKE NO THOUGHT for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? . . .

**27** Which of you by TAKING THOUGHT can add one cubit unto his stature?

**28** And why TAKE YE THOUGHT for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin. . . .

**31** Therefore TAKE NO THOUGHT, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

A footnote on verse 25 in the Bible I was reading said, “Do not be anxious about tomorrow.” In other words, Jesus Himself was saying, “Do not worry!”

When I realized that, I said in astonishment, “Why, Lord, if I have to live like that, I’ll never make it as a Christian.” I thought I couldn’t live without worry or being anxious, so I shut my Bible. Up until then, everything in God’s Word had been all clear and light and a blessing to me.



FAITH IN ACTION

## Learn to Forget

When you’ve confessed your sin to God and received His forgiveness, the devil will invariably bring up your past as a photograph. The Bible says, “*I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake*” (Isa. 43:25). God forgets your sins for His sake, so He can bless you, help you, and demonstrate His great love and mercy on your behalf. We must learn to forget, too, or we won’t be able to successfully follow God’s plan for our lives.

Finally, I said to the Lord, “Forgive me for worrying and for being full of anxiety. I know You will forgive me, because First John 1:9 says if I confess my sin to You, You are faithful and just to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. I promise You, Lord, that I’ll never worry again the longest day I live.” God as my witness, many years have come and gone, and although I’ve been sorely tempted, I have not worried.

In surrendering to the Lord and letting Him have His way in our lives, sometimes it seems costly right at the moment, because there is often a price to pay on our part. But, thank God, in the long run it pays well and good to obey God.

The Lord's way is always best! The Lord's way is one of blessing, protection, and victory, even in the midst of life's greatest tests and trials. It doesn't cost to obey God and His Word; it *pays!*♥

## GOD'S FIRST STEP FOR YOU

If you haven't received Jesus Christ as your Savior, you can today. The Bible says, "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8 NKJV). God's plan for your life begins with your receiving His wonderful gift of grace, His Son. To accept Jesus into your heart, simply pray the following prayer:

### Dear God,

The Bible says, "If you **CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH** the Lord Jesus and **BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART** that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9 NKJV). I believe in my heart that Jesus is Your Son and that You raised Him from the dead. And I confess Jesus as my Lord. Therefore, I am saved! Thank You!

If you prayed this prayer, we have some materials we would like to give you. They will help you get started on your walk with God and follow His good plan for your life. Email us at [PartnerService@rhema.org](mailto:PartnerService@rhema.org) or call us at **1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484)**.

## RECOMMIT TO GOD'S PLAN

We all start out with God with good intentions. But somehow, over time, life happens, and we suddenly realize we're off track. We haven't just missed a turn; we've lost the map. Yet God is so merciful and faithful. His Word says, "He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9 NIV 1984). He will help us get back on the right path. Jesus said the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth (John 16:13). Our part is to recommit our lives to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. When we do, He will reignite His fire in our hearts and lead us in the way we should go.

If you are a believer who has lost your way in life, it's not too late! To get back on track with God, pray the following from your heart:

### Heavenly Father,

I come to You in Jesus' Name. **PLEASE FORGIVE ME** for going my own way. I don't want to do that anymore. I want to go Your way and follow Your plan for my life. I recommit my life to You. I say again, Jesus is my Savior and Lord. **RELIGHT A FIRE IN MY HEART** to live for Him. Guide me by Your Holy Spirit, and lead me in the way You want me to go. Amen.

### »» READ MORE:

For encouragement to walk with the Lord each day, go to [www.khm.com/sc\\_presence\\_of\\_god](http://www.khm.com/sc_presence_of_god) and read the article "Transformed by the Presence of God" by Jerry Weinzierl.

# Following God's Plan Brings GREAT REWARDS

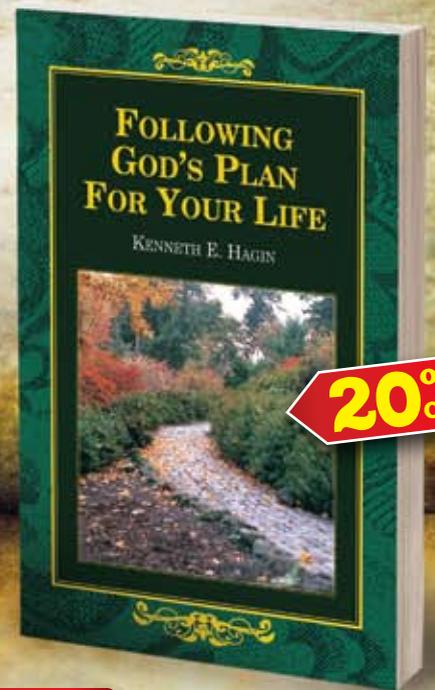
God wants you to succeed more than you want to. He wants every believer to run his own spiritual race and finish his course in life with joy. You *can* find and fulfill God's purpose for you!

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# Jesus Reigns in All the Earth

**TEARS ROLLED DOWN** Kenneth W. Hagin's cheeks as he looked out over the flags of all 50 U.S. states and many countries that have been touched by the Word of God carried by Rhema Bible Training College graduates.

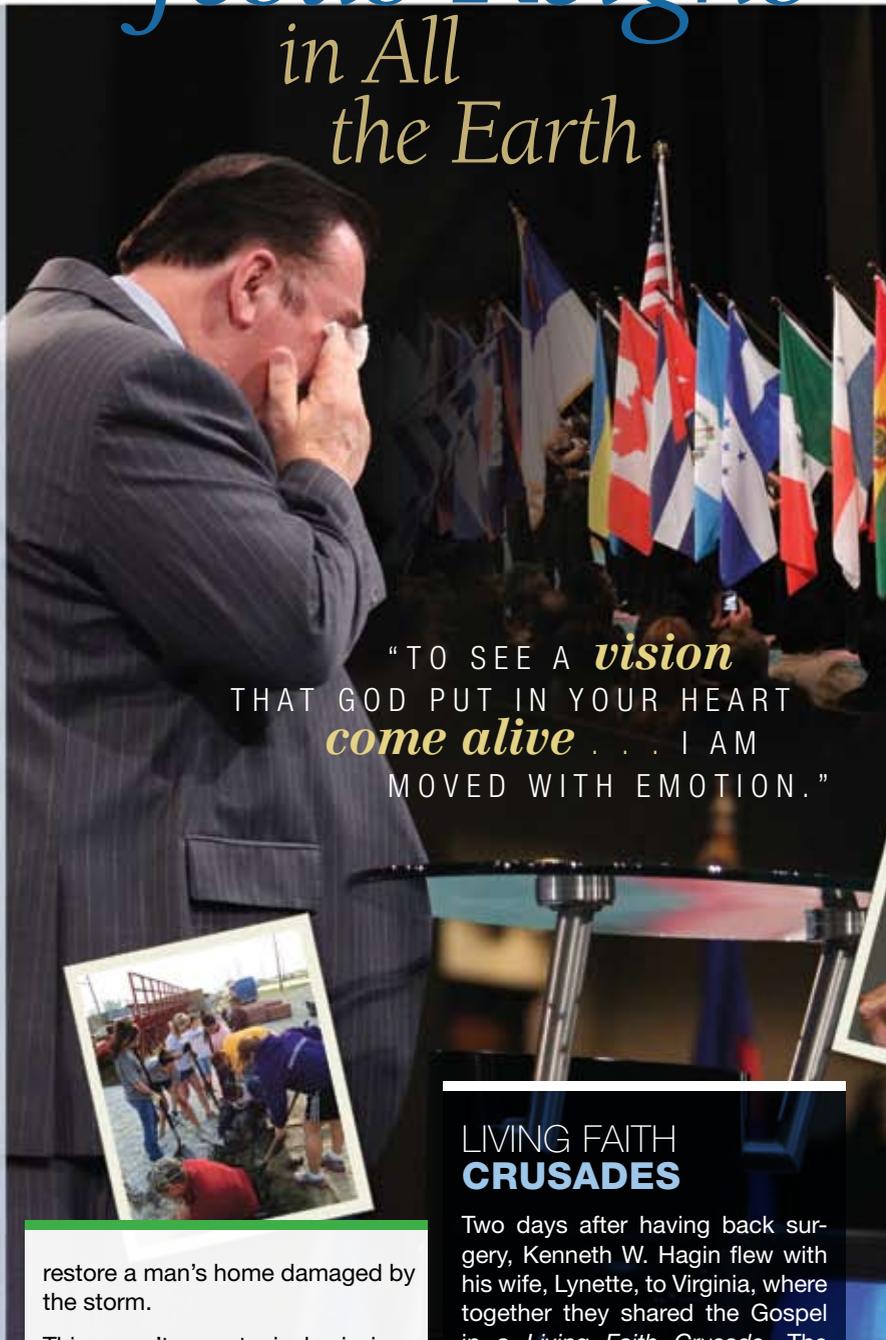
On this glorious night during *Winter Bible Seminar & Rhema Worldwide Homecoming 2012*, thousands gathered for the Rhema Parade of Nations celebration. As flags were held high, the choir sang "You reign in all the earth, O God. You reign in all the earth," and attendees joined in worshipping the One Who made it all possible.

His voice breaking, Rev. Hagin said, "To see a vision that God put in your heart come alive . . . I am moved with emotion."

## HE WASN'T ALONE.

Many in the crowd were overcome with tears as they saw the results of God's faithfulness to continue to fulfill the vision He gave to Rev. Hagin's late father, Kenneth E. Hagin, decades earlier. The Lord commissioned the elder Hagin to "go teach My people faith." In 1975, 58 students graduated in the Rhema Bible Training College charter class. Today, nearly 60,000 men and women have graduated from 143 Rhema campuses in 42 nations.

Rhema's influence has touched the lives of thousands around the world. Bonaventure Udu-mukwu of Rhema Nigeria was thankful for the school and the life-changing teaching he has received. "I understand the need for me to be the head of the family—the father," he said. "The relationship with my wife and my children has really increased. Rhema has taught me so much more what it really means to be a family." He is grateful that his pastor, a Rhema USA graduate, obeyed God's call to attend the school. "If he had not obeyed God, I wouldn't be here. A lot of us would not be here." 🏠



"TO SEE A *vision* THAT GOD PUT IN YOUR HEART *come alive* . . . I AM MOVED WITH EMOTION."

## LIVING FAITH CRUSADES

Two days after having back surgery, Kenneth W. Hagin flew with his wife, Lynette, to Virginia, where together they shared the Gospel in a *Living Faith Crusade*. The crusades held around the United States this year were filled with the glory of God and inspiring messages on prayer, faith, and healing. *Living Faith Crusades* were held in these cities:

- » NORTH MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA
- » MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA
- » GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA
- » LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
- » HIXSON, TENNESSEE
- » STAUNTON, VIRGINIA
- » GRANGER, INDIANA
- » SEEKONK, MASSACHUSETTS
- » HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

## MISSION TO JOPLIN

Rain pounded the pavement and dirt turned into mud. But despite the dreary weather, a dedicated group of Rhema Bible Church youth were laying concrete block. The young people were helping rebuild Sunny Jim Park, a little league ball field in Joplin, Missouri, destroyed by a tornado a year earlier. Across town, another group of teenagers replaced a roof while others worked inside repainting kitchen walls. They were helping



restore a man's home damaged by the storm.

This wasn't your typical missions trip. Instead of traveling overseas, 45 students and nine leaders drove several hours to reach out to a hurting community with the love of Jesus. Mark Henson, whose home the teenagers were restoring, was overwhelmed by the help. "You kind of feel like, 'Where are the good people in the world? Are they all bad?'" But to see these kids, it lets me know there's a good foundation being built. They are honest. They look you in the eye. It's overwhelming to come up here to see these kids."

REVIEW

## GRATITUDE BOTH WAYS

Nine people packed themselves into a small van to drive from Albania to Athens. One woman traveled 18 hours by train to get there. These and many others sacrificed their time to thank the Hagins for the teaching they had received through Kenneth Hagin Ministries.

Kenneth and Lynette Hagin's **2012 EURO GRADUATION TOUR** was about honoring and celebrating Rhema graduates in Geneva, **SWITZERLAND**; Athens, **GREECE**; Sumy, **UKRAINE**; and Aylesbury, **ENGLAND**. But along the way they found themselves being thanked by many other people whose lives have been impacted by the message of faith in Jesus Christ. And the Hagins were grateful to meet them.



## THE VISION CONTINUES TO GROW

The Rhema vision continues to expand. By the end of October, 143 Rhema campuses were in place around the world. This year **NEW CAMPUSES** opened in **BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, GHANA, HAITI, and MEXICO**, among other countries. To help graduates who want to pursue further education, Kenneth W. Hagin announced during *Campmeeting* in July that the school's name was changing. Founded as Rhema Bible Training Center, the school will now be **RHEMA BIBLE TRAINING COLLEGE**.

## RBC-OKC ANNIVERSARY

Kenneth W. Hagin had long desired to open a church in Oklahoma City, and that dream became reality in October 2011. By April, the OKC church had found a permanent home and today has 125 people attending weekly to hear the Word, worship, and fellowship. This year the congregation celebrated its first anniversary.



## LIGHTING UP THE SKY

A car show, inflatable games, a **FREE CONCERT**—and oh, who could forget the amazing display of dazzling **FIREWORKS** as more than 50,000 people packed the Rhema USA campus for the *Rockets over Rhema* Independence Day celebration. The free event was an expression of Rhema's love to the Broken Arrow and Tulsa communities. Many people responded by accepting Jesus as their Savior when the opportunity was given.

## EVENTS ARE US

Once again this year, a host of visitors converged on the Rhema USA campus to attend a conference or special event. Those included *Winter Bible Seminar and Rhema Worldwide Homecoming*, spring and fall *Rhema College Weekends*, the *Rhema Singles Conference*, the *Amplify Worship and Technology Conference*, *Campmeeting*, the *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference*, and the *A Call to Arms Men's Conference*. Sessions from several of those gatherings were streamed live over the Internet.

## GROWING DIGITALLY

Rhema's presence on the Internet continues to grow. This year Rhema created a channel for the popular **ROKU** set-top box for TVs. The **FREE RHEMA CHANNEL** can be found under the Spiritual category. Also, live Twitter and Facebook posts from some on-campus Rhema events have been added. And *Rhema Praise* (TV) and *Rhema for Today* (radio) are available through podcasts and Web streaming as well as over-the-air, cable, and satellite channels. In one exciting change, **RHEMA CORRESPONDENCE BIBLE SCHOOL WILL BE GOING ONLINE**. The program is being renamed the Rhema Bible Study Course and in the near future will be available through [www.StudyOfTheBible.com](http://www.StudyOfTheBible.com).

## A CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR

Every year the Rhema Christmas Lights shine brighter! For 2012 two new floodlights were added to the Rhema Park bridge, producing an amazing display of **16 MILLION VIBRANT COLORS**. Visitors also enjoyed the return of the colorful LED tubes, which make it appear as if light is dripping from the trees.



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Be an essential piece and make a difference today!

# Lifting Up Our Leaders

*“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,  
the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.”*

— PSALM 33:12 NKJV

J.C. HASH



**THIS NATION**—America the beautiful—was founded on the principle “In God we trust.” Psalm 33:12 mentions “the people He has chosen as His own inheritance.” We are God’s inheritance because we put our trust in the Lord. We don’t look to our president or to the various political parties to change America, because they’re just men. And they have limitations. We look to God, Who can do the impossible.

I don’t agree with everything government leaders do. But they are still our leaders, so I pray for them. I don’t criticize their

decisions. **YOU CAN GET INTO SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE CRITICIZING YOUR LEADERS. THE BIBLE TELLS US TO PRAY FOR THOSE IN AUTHORITY, THAT THEY COME INTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH** (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

It matters not what color our leaders are, or what race they are, or what party they are. The fact is, when people make decisions that are contrary to the Bible, the church must begin to pray.

#### **PRAYER IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SUCCESS.**

Daniel 9:9 says, *“To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him”* (NKJV). When Daniel saw how his nation, Israel, had turned away from God, he began to pray to Him on their behalf. And in his prayer he remembered

that God is merciful and forgiving.

When we see someone in error, the first thing we should do is say, “Lord, have mercy on them, and forgive them.” We don’t judge them.

Our responsibility is to pray. Pray for the senators, the representatives, and the judicial system. Those people make decisions that affect us. Pray for them, because God can change any situation.

Prayer for America, the church, and families for the restoration of God’s awesome, empowering presence is essential if our nation is going to survive. The answer to America’s dilemma is God. ♥

(Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from J.C. Hash’s message preached Friday night, July 27, during Campmeeting 2012.)



## **WATCHMEN FOR OUR NATION**

LYNETTE HAGIN

We need to make prayer for our country the priority for this time. If we as Christians bind together and do that, things will turn around. **WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

We are in a desperate place in our nation. It’s so important that we shake ourselves and do what is necessary to bring about what God wants for this country and the world—and that is a great spiritual renewal.

My heart is stirred for us as Christians to exercise our rights, use our authority, and see some wonderful changes in our land. God is calling us to be watchmen on the walls of our nation.

Isaiah 62:6-7 (Amplified) says, *“I have set watchmen upon your walls, O Jerusalem, who will never hold their peace day or night; you who [are His servants and by your prayers] put the Lord in remembrance [of His promises], keep not silence, and give Him no rest until He establishes Jerusalem and makes her a praise in the earth.”*

**WHETHER THINGS ARE PEACEFUL OR FULL OF TURMOIL, WE ALWAYS NEED TO PRAY.** We are the watchmen on the walls of our nation! We must put the Lord in remembrance of His promises and give Him no rest until He establishes the United States of America and makes her a praise in the earth.

We want America to be a God-fearing land. America’s future—our future—is in our prayers. Let’s take this country back to the foundation upon which it was established and believe for a great spiritual awakening to spread across our land!

**AMERICA’S FUTURE—OUR FUTURE—IS IN *our prayers.***



# SEED

## Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL."  
— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV 1984)

**IN OUR WORLD**, there is turmoil everywhere we turn. There are wars, earthquakes, tornadoes, hurricanes, and every other type of calamity around us. Violent crimes seem to be everyday occurrences. We are living in an age when man has made more discoveries than ever before. We have more conveniences and luxuries than previous generations. Yet many are experiencing a life of turmoil instead of peace.

John 14:27 tells us, "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (NKJV). These words which Jesus spoke to His disciples to prepare them for His departure from this earth still apply to us today.

We do not have to live in turmoil. We can experience the peace of God in our lives each day. Of course, there is no peace without knowing the Prince of Peace. In order to experience peace in our lives, we must first accept Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (NKJV). We would have no peace had Jesus not made the supreme sacrifice for our peace. There was a price to be paid for peace. Jesus bore our sin and He offers us His righteousness. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him" (NKJV).

God loved us so much that He was willing to send His only Son to redeem us. You may have accepted Christ as your Savior, but are you relying on Him to give you peace in life? Many people consistently rely on antidepressants to give them peace. Antidepressants may give you temporary peace—but God is able to give you continual peace.

How can you receive that peace? Isaiah 26:3-4 says, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." I like the Amplified version of these verses: "You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind [both its inclination and its character] is stayed on You, because he commits himself to You, leans on You, and hopes confidently in You. So trust in the Lord (commit yourself to Him, lean on Him, hope confidently in Him) forever; for the Lord God is an everlasting Rock [the Rock of Ages]."

Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary gives one definition of peace as "freedom from disquieting or oppressive thoughts or emotions." The Hebrew word *shalom* is translated "peace" in the verses above. *Shalom* includes the ideas of soundness and health—physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. God has offered us this kind of peace if we will keep our minds stayed on Him.

We need to surround ourselves continually with the Word of God. Serving God should be a way of life for us—not just a Sunday experience. When we accept Christ as our Savior, there should be a change in our lifestyle. There should be a change in the way we talk. There should be a change in what we watch and in what we do. Sometimes I think that some people have mechanically confessed Christ as their Lord, but it was merely mental assent—not a life-changing experience.

Matthew 7:17-20 (NLT) says, "A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. A good tree can't produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions."

In order for us to bear the fruit that God desires, we must stay close to Him. How do we do that? We must constantly surround ourselves with a godly environment. I surround myself with Christian music all the time. It plays continually in my home. I play it when I'm in the car and at work. This puts me in an atmosphere to meditate on the Lord continually. It keeps my mind on His love, strength, and peace.

If you want to live a peaceful life, you must meditate in the Word of God. Dwell on God's promises. Quit thinking about how big your problem is and start dwelling on how big your God is. Trust God unconditionally and you will experience His peace.♥

*Lynette*

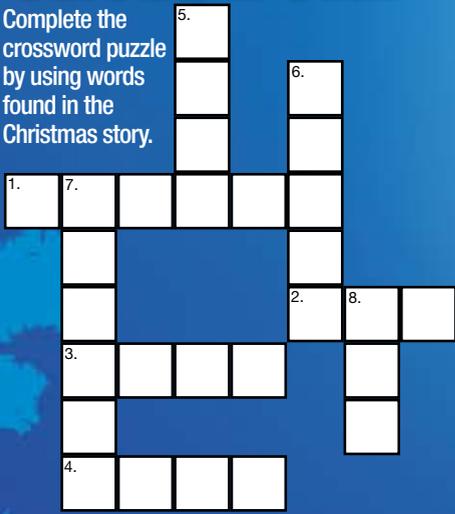


# Kids' Page

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

## CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword puzzle by using words found in the Christmas story.



1. What was baby Jesus laid in?
2. "We have seen his star in the east and have come to worship \_\_\_\_\_."
3. What direction did the wise men come from?
4. What the wise men were following
5. "Where is he who is born \_\_\_\_\_ of the Jews?"
6. One of the gifts given by the wise men
7. The very first Christmas carolers
8. Jesus was born in a stable because there was no room for them in the \_\_\_\_\_.

## The CHRISTmas Tree

Many people think that the true meaning of Christmas is lost among the Christmas trees, lights, and presents. But maybe after reading this poem, you'll see the deeper meaning of Christmas EVEN BETTER.

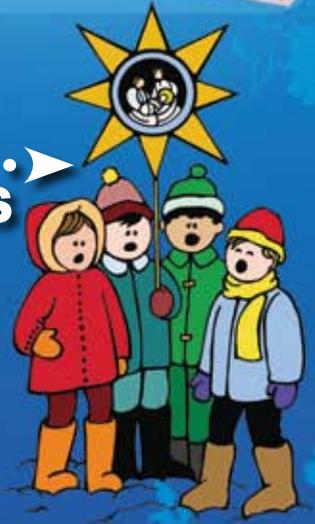
Hanging there upon the tree, ornaments of every size.  
 Glittering tinsel, dazzling lights, now they shine before my eyes.  
 And as I kneel beneath the tree, I find a gift that's just for me  
 Given by someone who cares, and my name is written there.  
 Christmas tree, O Christmas tree—O what joy you bring to me!  
 For in you I can see a glimpse of Him Who died for me.

For, hanging there upon the "tree," Son of God bleeds and dies.  
 Love and life abundantly, now they shine before my eyes.  
 And as I kneel beneath *that* tree, I find a gift that's just for me  
 Given by the One Who cares, and my name is written there.  
 Calvary, O Calvary—O what joy you bring to me!  
 For in you I can see the very first CHRISTmas tree. ©1994 Greg Lane



## Find the Differences

See if you can find at least 10 differences between these 2 pictures of Christmas carolers.



## jokes & riddles

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



What did one snowman say to the other snowman?  
 "Can you smell carrot?"

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?  
 The letter "D."

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?  
 "It's Christmas, Eve!"

What's the difference between the Christmas alphabet and the ordinary alphabet?  
 The Christmas alphabet has no "L" (Noel).

**Answers:**  
 CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD:  
 1. manger 2. him 3. east 4. star 5. king 6. myrrh 7. angels 8. inn  
 FIND THE DIFFERENCES:  
 1. girl's scarf missing 2. the girl's scarf missing 3. yellow dot on hat missing 4. boy with dark green jacket eyes different 5. light green jacket snap missing 6. yellow scarf missing 7. red hat top missing 8. bottom of pole missing 9. lines in star missing 10. hole missing over Mary and Joseph  
 NO TWO JUST ALIKE

## NO TWO JUST ALIKE?

They say no two snowflakes are alike. But two of the snowflakes below are exactly the same except for their size. Can you find them?





*Kenneth Hagin Ministries*

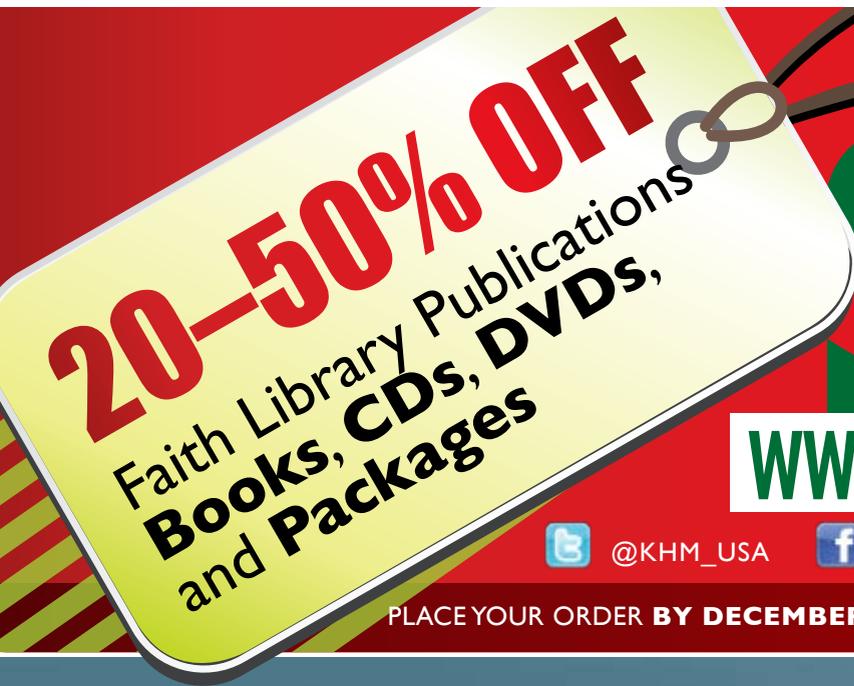
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