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WHO'S IN YOUR BOAT?

A LIGHT IN BOTSWANA PAGE 16





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Snatching Victory From Defeat

Have you ever noticed in the Word of God that some of the greatest victories came out of what looked like utter defeat? That's what God in His almighty power can do!

Of all the people mentioned in the Word, the greatest man of faith of all time Who snatched victory from defeat is Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus was falsely accused and sentenced to death. He was alone and forsaken, rejected of men. As He hung on the cross at Calvary, He breathed His last and said, "It is finished!"

When Jesus' body was taken down from that cross and put in a grave, it was a dark day. All hope seemed lost. The kingdom He had preached about establishing seemed impossible of fulfillment.

But on the third day, God snatched supreme victory from ultimate defeat! Jesus Christ arose and then ascended on High to sit and reign in glory at the Father's right hand.

There was no defeat for Jesus! And as long as we remain in Him, there is no real defeat for us either.

Oh, sometimes it might look like defeat. It might even smell like defeat! It might seem as if defeat is all around. You may be facing a situation right now that's so dark, it seems as if the enemy has ganged up on you. He may be trying to steal your joy and your triumph. But you don't have to let him get away with your victory. If you'll abide in God's Word and trust Him, He will take every test or trial that is in your life right now and turn it around. You can snatch victory from defeat!

I encourage you this glorious Easter season to walk in victory. This month's magazine will help you get started. Dad's article on page 18 gives us solid, scriptural instruction about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And Craig's article on page 10 teaches us that we don't have to be afraid of any storm.

Have a happy, blessed Resurrection Day!

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Kennet 2. Hagai



KENNETH W. HAGIN Find out how one of history's darkest days became glorious for mankind!

Who's in Your Boat? CRAIG W. HAGIN

Do the storms of life have you worried? Discover the key to making it safely to the 'other side.'

The Initial Evidence **KENNETH E. HAGIN**

Is speaking in tongues the first sign that someone has been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Find out what the Bible says.

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THE EASTER

AS WE LOOK down the long corridor of human history, we see many dark days. One of the darkest days recorded was the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. It may sound like a paradox, but this day was also a bright day.

It was a dark day for Mary, the mother of Jesus, and the disciples who walked closely with Him. The disciples had just eaten the Passover meal with Jesus, and now He was gone. Why didn't He use His power to get out of that situation? If He was dead, could everything He said be true?

Could they have hope for the future if Jesus was in the grave?

On the other hand, **His death on the cross redeemed mankind from sin and death.** The darkness of His death brought the light of redemption for us today.

Have you ever tried to comprehend the feelings of the people who closely followed Jesus? They witnessed His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane. They watched in horror as He was beaten and whipped with a cat-o'-nine-tails. They saw the crown of thorns placed upon His head and a purple robe thrown over His bleeding back. They heard the Roman soldiers mock His supposed kingship.

Jesus' followers watched in agony as He carried the cross up the Via Dolorosa to Golgotha's hill. **They watched as He**

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ing a word. They grimaced in pain as the long nails were driven through His hands and feet.There Jesus hung, suspended between

Heaven and earth. His visage was so marred that He was unrecognizable as a man. With that cross of two boards and three nails, God built a bridge over which mankind could pass from the degradation of sin to the glory of life in Christ Jesus.

willingly lay down on the cross, never utter-

As He neared the end of His life, Jesus said, "I thirst" (John 19:28). "A jar of wine vinegar was

there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips" (v. 29 NIV).

With His last breath, Jesus uttered His final words, **"It is** *finished*" (v. 30). His head slumped to His chest in death.

Can you imagine how Jesus' followers must have felt? Feelings of utter failure, hopelessness, and defeat must have engulfed them. They stood at a distance when Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus removed Jesus' body from the cross and laid it in a tomb. It probably felt like their very life was being pulled from their bodies.

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene rose early in the morning while it was still dark and went to the tomb. **The stone** had been rolled away and Jesus was gone! Where could His

with that cross of two boards and three nails, **God built a bridge** over which mankind could pass from the degradation of sin to the **glory of life** in christ jesus.



He Isn't Here!

"DON'T BE AFRAID!" he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn't here! He is risen from the dead, just as he said would happen" (Matt. 28:5–6 NLT).

An angel spoke these words to two women at Jesus' empty tomb. Under the Old Covenant, the Jewish people had to offer the blood of lambs and other animals for their sins. They would place that blood on the altar each year to cover over those sins. But through His death on the cross, Jesus paid the penalty for the sins of all mankind once and for all. He was the supreme sacrifice . . . the Lamb that was slain. His blood did not cover sins—it did away with them. In God's eyes, the sins of every person on earth are paid for.

But nothing Jesus did will do us any good unless we accept Him as our Savior and Lord. To do this, simply pray the following prayer:

God,

I come to You in the Name of Jesus. The Bible says, *"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Rom. 10:9 NLT). I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead. And I confess Him as my Lord. Therefore, I am saved! **Thank you!**

If you prayed this prayer, welcome to God's family! We have some materials we would like to give you to get you started on your walk with God. Email us at **PartnerService@rhema.org** or call us at **1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484)**. body be? She quickly ran to Peter and John. The two disciples ran to the tomb and found it just as Mary had said. Bewildered, they returned to where they were staying.

Mary remained at the tomb, sobbing, overwhelmed with grief. It was only a moment, however, before **her tears of sor-row turned to tears of joy.** Jesus was standing outside the tomb. He called her name. Now the life that had seemingly been sucked out of her at His death was suddenly ignited. She realized that He was alive! **The tomb was empty because Jesus hadrisen from the dead!** (See John 20:1–18.)

Jesus was with His followers for another 40 days. He explained to them the scriptures concerning His birth, death, and resurrection. Before He ascended into Heaven, He told them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the gift His Father had promised. And He added, **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you"** (Acts 1:8 NIV).

After Jesus spoke these words, He was caught up into Heaven and a cloud hid Him from their sight (v. 9). As they looked, suddenly two angels appeared to them and said, "Men of Galilee . . . why do you stand here looking into the sky? **This same Jesus**, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back in the same** way you have seen him go into heaven" (v. 11 NIV).

We only have to look at world events to realize that **Jesus' return is soon**. Every Bible prophecy concerning that day is quickly being fulfilled. The Apostle Paul said:

1 THESSALONIANS 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Jesus is alive and He is coming again. His return is fast approaching. Now, more than ever, we must be ready for that day. \checkmark



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What's So Great About Being Born Again?

BEING BORN AGAIN—accepting Jesus as Savior—is the key that unlocks all the promises of God. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, *"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature* [creation]: *old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."* Believers, here are some Bible facts about the *new creation* you are in Christ.

1 You Are a Child of God

No truth in all the Bible is as far-reaching as the blessed fact that when you are born again, *God the Father is your Father*. And if He is your Father, you can be assured He will take a father's place and perform a father's part. He cares for you! He's interested in you and He loves you. (See John 14:23; 16:23, 27; Matt. 6:8–9, 26, 30–34; 7:11.)

2 You Are a New Creature—A New Creation—A New Species

I'm glad I'm a new creature. I was only 15 when I was born again, but I remember when it happened. Something took place inside of me. It seemed as if a two-ton load rolled of my chest. Not only did something depart from me, but something came into me. I was not the same person. There was a change inside.

In the New Birth, our spirits are recreated. (Our bodies are not. It is in our spirit where all things have become new. We still have the same bodies we always had.) There is a man who lives inside the body. Paul calls him the inward man (2 Cor. 4:16).Peter calls this inner man *the hidden man of the heart* (1 Peter 3:4). This man is the real you. And it is this inward man who becomes a new man in Christ—a new creation.

All Things Are Possible to You

No one argues with the scripture which says, "With God all things are possible" (Matt. 19:26). Yet the same New Testament also says, "All things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

Are these scriptures equally true? Could one be a statement of fact and the other a misconception? No! Both statements are fact. All things are possible to him that believeth.

It helps me as I drive down the road to say that. It helps me when I face a seemingly impossible situation to say aloud, "All things are possible to him that believeth. And I believe!"

The Greater One Is in You

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.

John is telling us here that we are born of God. We have been born again. *Our spirits have been recreated*. We are of *God*.

Sadly, many Christians don't know they are born of God and have

received eternal life (the life and nature of God). They think eternal life is something they are "going to have" when they get to Heaven. Many think they have received simply forgiveness of sins. And because of this, sin and Satan continue to reign over them.

But thank God, greater is He that is *in us* than any force we may come against! He's greater than Satan and evil spirits. He's greater than sickness and disease. When we know that the Life-Giver indwells us, our very beings shall radiate *life*!

You are of God. You are born from above. The same mighty Spirit Who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you. It's no wonder the Bible says, "All things are possible to him that believeth." It is because the God with Whom all things are possible lives within you!♥

> "ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO HIM THAT BELIEVETH. AND **I believe!**"



KENNETH E. HAGIN

ARE YOU BORN

AGAIN? Do you know Jesus as your Savior and God as your Heavenly Father? If not, see page 6 and find out how you can. It's easy, and your life will never be the same!



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A New Garment THE POWER OF PRAISE

ONE WEDNESDAY NIGHT many years ago, I did not want to go to church. I'd had a bad day and was depressed. I'm usually not depressed, so if *I'm* depressed, it's really bad.

That night I just wanted to stay at home. I didn't tell anybody how I felt because the Word says we're snared by the words of our mouth (Prov. 6:2). I have learned to keep my mouth shut when I'm having a bad day.

But I also knew that "the thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (John 10:10), so I told the enemy, "I'm going to church in spite of how I feel!"

At the service that evening, I thought, "Oh God, just don't let anybody talk to me. I want to be left alone!" When the worship service began, every song ministered to me. I joined in praising and worshipping the Lord and my spirit lifted.

By the time my husband started preaching the Word, I was receptive to the message and was blessed. When church ended I left rejoicing, strengthened in the Lord.

What happened to me during that service? I changed my garment. I'm not talking about a physical garment. I exchanged the "spirit of heaviness" weighing me down for the garment of praise (Isa. 61:3).

WHEN WE PUT ON THE GARMENT OF PRAISE, THE JOY OF THE LORD COVERS US LIKE NEW CLOTHING. As we come to Him with praise, He gives us joy.

But if we're not careful, the circumstances in life can cause us to revert back to that old garment of heaviness. The Lord may bless us, but we take His blessings for granted and forget to thank Him for what He has done for us. Or we begin to have some kind of trouble and worry about it. We stop praising God. Before we know it, we've lost our joy.

At those times we need to get down on our knees and have a prayer meeting—just us and the Lord. We need to start praising Him. We'll come out joyful because we will receive into our spirits what I call "spiritual vitamins" that will energize us. We'll have a new spring in our step because we're charged up with the power of God.

Are you worn out by the cares of this world? Has it been a long time since you expressed your appreciation to the Lord for all He's done for you? God wants to give you a new garment—the garment of praise—for that heavy spirit!

I DETERMINED A LONG TIME AGO THAT I WASN'T GOING TO LOSE MY JOY ANYMORE. I'm so stirred up about praising God that it has to come out or I'm going to burst!

We are coming into an era when it will take intense prayer and reaching the heart of God for us to live victoriously in this world. How do we do that?

We begin by putting on our garment of praise giving praise and worship to the Lord. We may praise God with heartfelt words of thanks, or we may sing or play worship music. Either way, praise is the vehicle that ultimately puts us in touch with our Heavenly Father.

There's an old saying that "when the praises go up, the blessings come down." Yet more than that, through praise we enter into the very throne room of God!

Don't let your Christianity become just a way of life. God wants it to be a joyful experience! He is saying in Isaiah 61:3, "My child, I have given you a new garment, the garment of praise. Put it on and rejoice in Me!"♥

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Who's in your Boat?

"LIFE IS A JOURNEY, so enjoy the ride." Have you ever heard that saying before? I think it holds a lot of truth. God has a journey that He wants each of us to go on. He has a plan and a purpose that He expects us to fulfill. He didn't put us on this earth just to sit around, eat Cheerios, and do nothing. But the deal is, we've got to stop worrying about the storms that arise on our journey and start enjoying the ride. We should not make the storms our storms.



CRAIG W. HAGIN

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and

there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!"

When Jesus spoke the words, "*Let us cross over to the other side*," I believe that both He and His disciples expected to go to the other side. Jesus went to the back of the boat and fell asleep. He wasn't worried, because He knew what He had spoken. Even when water began filling the boat, Jesus didn't wake up. He knew they were going to the other side, no matter what.

Remember what Jesus' disciples did in Acts chapter 4? They became fearful when a storm arose while they were out on the water.

MARK 4:35-41 (NKJV)

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

Unfortunately, I think the disciples expected to go to the other side without any opposition. So when the storm arose, they became fearful.

A lot of Christians are the same way. When something unexpected comes up, they begin to worry about the situation more than they think about Jesus.

We can't focus on Jesus when we're thinking about the waves and the storms around us. And that's what the devil wants. Jesus told us in John 10:10 that the thief—the storm maker—is here to form storms in our lives every day. He's here to steal from us, kill us, and destroy us.

But praise God! It doesn't matter how stormy the seas and the winds in our lives seem. It doesn't matter if our boat's already sunk and we're floating in the water. It doesn't matter how bad our situation has gotten. It's not about the situation or the storm. It's about Jesus Who is in our boat. The Bible says He will never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). He doesn't jump out of our boat whenever we face a storm.

OUR STORM CAN ONLY AFFECT OUR *future* IF WE LET IT MESS UP OUR *present*.

Certainly, Jesus was upset with His disciples in Mark chapter 4. He couldn't figure out why they didn't have enough faith to either get rid of the storm or not worry about it. But He didn't cast them out. And He won't cast us out either. He's with us—even when we feel like we're going under and there's no way we can make it.

LET GO AND LET GOD

A great example in the New Testament of someone who faced a lot of storms is the Apostle Paul. He was put in jail, stoned and left for dead, and even shipwrecked, but Jesus never left him. And nothing fazed Paul either. Why? He knew who he was in Christ Jesus. That's why he was able to finish his course with joy (Acts 20:24). He wasn't looking at the storm; he was looking to what God had for him to do in the future.

We should have the same focus. You see, God didn't bring us this far to let us down. He didn't bring us to this point just to drop us off and forget about us. Our storm can only affect our future if we let it mess up our present.

You may say, "But things didn't happen the way I thought they were going to." So what! It's not about your circumstance. Let go and let God. As long as you're trying to figure out how you are going to solve your problem, you're not letting Him take care of it.

You have to decide that it's not about your strength. It's not about your ability to navigate the storm. Jesus is in your boat, and He came to give you an abundant life (John 10:10). In His Name, waves have to calm down. In His Name, situations have to change. In His Name, there's no weapon formed against you that shall prosper. In the Name of Jesus, everything's going to be OK.

Whatever kind of storm you're facing, Jesus is still in your boat. All you've got to do is quit paddling—quit worrying and looking at the obstacles. Instead, look to Him. Lean on Him. He'll never let you down. He'll never stop helping you, no matter how many storms arise. It's time for you to sit back and enjoy the ride!

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Principles of Faith

MANY PEOPLE in faith circles have the misconception that all faith does is believe that it receives. This, however, is a narrow view as to what faith is all about. Faith is so much more than getting our needs and desires met.

We please God by faith. We live and walk by faith. We receive protection through faith. Ephesians 6:16 says, "Above all, taking the shield of faith." Now, for Christians to "take" the shield of faith, they first have to recognize it when they see it.

Years ago I was trying to fix a leak in a bathroom sink. My son was just a little tyke at the time. "Son," I said, "I need a crescent wrench." He was so happy to go to my toolbox. You could hear tools flying everywhere as he looked for the wrench.

He came running into the bathroom asking, "Daddy, is this it?"

"No son, that's a pair of channel-locks."

He ran back to the toolbox tools are flying everywhere. He came running into the bathroom again. "Daddy, is this it?"

"No son, that's my pair of vice-grips."

During the nine years I taught in Rhema's Healing School, people often came to me the same way my son did.

What Is Faith?

In Healing School, people would ask about faith. "Brother Doug,"

they'd ask, "is this faith? No? What about this—is this faith?"

When I saw they had difficulty recognizing what faith was, I realized we had a definition issue.

According to Strong's concordance, *faith* is simply "a persuasion." Vine's dictionary goes one step further. It says that faith is "a firm persuasion; a conviction based on what you have heard."

Based on Vine's definition, we could quote Hebrews 10:38 as "the just shall live by their *convictions*." We all have convictions and persuasions on how to conduct our lives.

We're all persuaded about how we should conduct ourselves on our jobs. We're persuaded that we should work as unto the Lord and not as unto men. We have *convictions* that we're to work not only when the boss's eyes are upon us, but also when they're not. Isn't that right?

This is faith. It has nothing to do with a need or desire. It has to do with life. It has to do with "walking by our convictions and not by what we see" (2 Cor. 5:7).

Receiving the End of Our Faith

If change and blessings are going to come into our lives, we must act on our faith—our convictions and persuasions. James 2:18 says, "A man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith [your convictions and persuasions] without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith [my convictions and persuasions] by my works." Verse 20 goes on to say that "faith without works is dead."

The word *dead* here means "unproductive, inactive, idle." Although we have faith, it's not doing us any good because it's idle. Friend, a lot of us have more faith that is lying inactive than we have faith that is active.

I stated earlier that we believe we ought to work on our jobs as unto the Lord and not as unto men. But if



INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

FAITH IS SO **much more** THAN GETTING OUR NEEDS AND DESIRES MET.

we're not releasing our faith through corresponding actions, then our faith in that area is dead. As a result, we shouldn't expect to be promoted or receive a raise. We shouldn't expect blessings to come to us through our place of employment.

To receive what we're standing in faith for, there's a team that needs to work together. It's the team of faith persuasions, convictions—and corresponding actions. If this team doesn't work together, then our faith becomes dead—inactive, idle, and unproductive.

Let's put our faith to work. **LET'S PUT ACTION TO OUR CONVICTIONS AND PERSUASIONS.** Let's live by our faith.♥

[Editor's Note: Doug Jones is a Rhema Bible Training College instructor and national director of the Rhema Alumni Association and Rhema Ministerial Association International.]

DEMONSTRATING GOD'S LOVE IN BOTSWANA

"TO SEE PEOPLE WALK THROUGH ADVERSITY AND **apply their faith**—THERE IS NOTHING MORE **rewarding**."

-KRISTIN BUCKLEY

MATTHEW & KRISTIN BUCKLEY

AS HE TRAVELED through the ruggedly beautiful countryside of Botswana on his way from Johannesburg to Zimbabwe, Matthew Buckley sensed the Lord telling him that one day he would return to this African nation. A year after Matthew's 1987 graduation from Rhema Bible Training College USA, the Lord had led him to go to Africa for five months to hold crusades and do other missions work.

Back at home in the United States, Kristin, Matthew's fiancée, was finishing up her last year at RBTC. While Matthew was in Africa, the Lord began dealing with Kristin to be willing to leave everything and go anywhere to share the message of faith.

When Matthew returned to the U.S., he knew that he was called to reach the lost in Africa. But he hadn't yet shared that with Kristin, and he was nervous about telling her. He loved her, but he wasn't sure she was ready to follow him halfway around the world.

Finally the day came for them to talk about their future. Testing the waters, Matthew began, "Well . . . I really liked Africa a lot."

"Yeah?" Kristin asked curiously.

"Maybe we'll go back there," he continued. "Maybe for more than five months."

He examined her face to gauge her reaction. Kristin seemed good with that, so he got to the point: "Like, maybe, to live there?"

"I would love to go to Africa," she responded.

Matthew and Kristin married in November of 1988. Before the year was out, they sold all their be-



MR. & MRS. MOTSWAISO EXPERIENCED GOD'S FAITHFULNESS WHEN HE TURNED THEIR FINANCIAL SITUATION AROUND.

longings and placed their wedding gifts in storage. Then, with suitcases packed and not much money, they boarded a plane for Botswana to proclaim the message of faith.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD MINISTRIES

Today the Buckleys' Light of the World Ministries is thriving in Francistown, Botswana's second-largest city. The ministry has three facets. Light of the World Church is a prospering, Spirit-filled congregation with two branch churches in nearby villages. Light of the World Academy is a Christian preschool that gives children a Bible-based education. And Light of the World Bible Training Centre equips men and women to help reap the end-time harvest.

GOD IS FAITHFUL!

Every Sunday morning about 200 members fill the seats at Light of the World Church to hear God's Word. The Buckleys are committed to giving their congregation balanced teaching so they can live victoriously. They are imparting faith, righteousness, and the knowledge of who they are in Christ. And the Word of God has changed many lives.

During a church prayer meeting, the Buckleys shared how God had turned a situation around for them after they decided to stop complaining about it. They had ordered a much-needed car. It was supposed to come in six weeks, but after a year they still had no car. Then they remembered one of their RBTC USA in-



structors saying, "If you're complaining, you're not reigning." So they stopped complaining, and in two weeks they had the car keys in hand.

After hearing that testimony, a married couple in the church stopped complaining about a business partner who had caused them financial difficulties. Instead, they began praying for favor and blessings for that person. And God was faithful! On her job, the wife received a promotion, a new contract, and a bonus so large that it paid off everything they owed from the bad business deal!

"To see people walk through adversity and apply their faith—there is nothing more rewarding," says Kristin. "You can get blessings yourself. But to teach others and then watch them experience it—there is nothing like that."

REACHING THE KIDS

The children in their church are experiencing God's goodness too. During one children's church service, 47 kids received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They didn't laugh or giggle at the mysterious sounds they were uttering. Kristin walked down each row where the kids were seated and listened to their voices. She could hear them all quietly praying to their Heavenly Father and was moved by their heartfelt worship. "It was beautiful," she says.

ANSWERING A NATION'S CRY

The Buckleys' church motto is "Reaching Upward—Reaching Outward." As their congregation experiences God's goodness, faithfulness, and presence, they are able to go out and be a great light in their nation. One way they are doing that is by bringing God's life and light to people affected by HIV.

Botswana has one of the highest HIV rates in the world. In 2013 an estimated 310,000 people aged 15 and up—more than 21 percent of that age group—were living with the virus. For the past two years, Light of the World has been working to change

that statistic through God's Word and teaching on natural topics such as dating, sexual behavior, and how the virus is transmitted. Kristin has a deep passion for arming the young people of Botswana with the truth of God's Word. "We are raising up a generation that will not be touched by the virus," she says. "We are raising them up to know Who their God is and where their dignity comes from. We are teaching them that they have been set apart for God's purpose."

During the first year of the outreach, Matthew and Kristin had the HIV test themselves to help their congregation feel more at ease about the experience. The Buckleys each had their fingers pricked to draw blood and answered a series of questions. In Botswana, marriages are few and promiscuity is common. The man administering the test

was so touched by the Buckleys' high standard of marriage and loyalty to each other that he came to church the next day and gave his life to the Lord.

In September the church held

their second HIV test day. The ministry presented morning and afternoon workshops and a Christian agency administered the tests. Many came to the event and were blessed by the church members' compassion.

THE VISION GROWS

The Buckleys' vision continues to expand. The government gave them 11 acres, and they are using it to build larger facilities for the church, academy, and training center. They currently are in the first phase of a building project.

Matthew and Kristin are looking forward to reaching more people with God's love and compassion. For them, it is a privilege to serve the Lord in Botswana.

"I love what we do," says Matthew. "I wouldn't trade it for anything." $\dot{\Psi}$

"I love what we do. I wouldn't trade it for Anything."

-MATTHEW BUCKLEY

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CHILDREN FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT





THE INITIAL Timeless Teachings of Kenneth E. Hagin

IN STUDYING the Book of Acts, you'll see that when folks were filled with the Holy Ghost, they began to speak with other tongues. From this we can gather that tongues are the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are other evidences that follow. But this is the *initial* evidence that someone has received the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

The Book of Acts records five instances where people were baptized in the Holy Spirit. On the Day of Pentecost, *"They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"* (Acts 2:4).

Notice that when they were filled with the Holy Ghost, they spoke with other tongues. If that had happened just once, we might think it was related only to when He first came. But this phenomenon didn't happen just once.

PHILIP AND THE SAMARITANS

In Acts chapter 8, Philip the evangelist went to the city of Samaria and preached Christ. When the apostles heard that the Samaritans had received the Word of God, Peter and John went to Samaria and prayed that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 8:17

17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Someone might say, "Well, it doesn't say that the Samaritans spoke with tongues. That must mean a person can receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit without speaking with tongues."

If you read on in chapter 8, you'll learn something very significant about a fellow named Simon. Once called "Simon the sorcerer," Simon had supposedly come to believe in Jesus under Philip's ministry in Samaria. Let's find out what happened next.

ACTS 8:18-19

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money.

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

If speaking in tongues did not accompany the baptism in the Holy Spirit, how would Simon know that the Samaritans received the Holy Ghost? No, Simon saw something. There had to be some outward evidence for Simon to know that the people had been filled with the Holy Spirit.

SAUL OF TARSUS

Let's look in Acts chapter 9 at what happened to Saul of Tarsus, soon to be called Paul, when he was saved and later in a separate experience received the Holy Spirit.

Saul was approaching the city of Damascus carrying letters that gave him the authority to imprison Christians. Suddenly a bright light shone around him, and he fell to the earth, blinded by that light.

In a vision, Saul saw Jesus, and he changed immediately. He was born again. He confessed with his mouth that Jesus is Lord, and he certainly believed that God raised Jesus from the dead. After all, Saul was talking to a resurrected Jesus Christ.

Then in Acts 9:6 Saul asked, "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Jesus answered, "Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do." After Saul arrived in Damascus, Ananias came to the house where Saul was staying.

ACTS 9:17-18

17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightiest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.

Notice this passage doesn't say anything about Paul speaking with tongues. Yet later we read where Paul said, *"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all"* (1 Cor. 14:18).

When do you suppose Paul began speaking with tongues? The most logical conclusion is that Paul started speaking in tongues when he was filled with the Holy Ghost!

CORNELIUS AND HIS HOUSEHOLD

Ten years after the Day of Pentecost, the household of Cornelius, a devout Roman centurion, was saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Cornelius was praying when an angel appeared to him and told him to send someone to Joppa to inquire at the house of Simon the tanner for a man named Peter. Meanwhile in Joppa, during a time of prayer, Peter fell into a trance and had a vision.

While Peter pondered the meaning of the vision, the Holy Spirit spoke to him, saying that three men had come to see him and he was to go with them. Peter and several Jewish brethren left with the men for Cornelius' house. When they arrived, Peter preached the Gospel to Cornelius and his entire household.

ACTS 10:44

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

The believing Jews were astonished that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles. Up to that moment, the church had been strictly Jewish. These Jewish believers thought no one

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could get in on this New Covenant *except* the Jews.

What convinced the Jewish brethren who were present that the door of salvation had been opened to the Gentiles? Verse 46 tells us, *"They heard them*



speak with tongues, and magnify God."

THE DISCIPLES AT EPHESUS

The last recorded instance where folks received the Holy Spirit is found in Acts chapter 19. This incident in the city of Ephesus happened about 20 years after the Day of Pentecost.

When the Apostle Paul arrived in Ephesus, he met some disciples. He asked them, *"Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"* (Acts 19:2). These believers didn't know there was a Holy Spirit until they met Paul.

ACTS 19:6

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

In three of the five recorded instances in Acts where people received the Holy Ghost, the Bible definitely states they spoke with other tongues. The majority of evidence would be on the side of tongues as the initial evidence of this experience. As for the other two instances, the Bible infers that the believers spoke with tongues.

I believe it's safe to say we have proven that five times out of five recorded instances in the Book of Acts, believers who were filled with the Holy Ghost experienced the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues. This would lead us to believe that any person today who desires to be filled with the Holy Ghost will speak with other tongues as well.



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Healing Is for Today!

PROBABLY the paramount question believers ask today is whether it is God's will to heal. The question is not whether God *is able* to heal sickness and disease but whether He *is willing* to heal.

Is it God's will to heal? The answer is *most assuredly, yes!* The Bible tells us that healing is the will of God.

ISAIAH 53:4-5 (NKJV)

4 Surely He has borne our griefs [sicknesses or diseases] and carried our sorrows [pains]; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

1 PETER 2:24 (NKJV)

24 Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—BY WHOSE STRIPES YOU WERE HEALED.

The Bible does not say we *might* be healed or we *are going to be healed* at some future time. The Bible says we *were* healed and we are healed! That means healing is a reality right now. And we can lay hold of it for ourselves—anytime, anywhere.

Check out these wonderful testimonies from people who found out that healing is still for today. And remember, God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). What He did for them, He will do for you! \checkmark

"I contacted KENNETH HAGIN MINIS-TRIES requesting prayer. A pathology report showed I had cancer of the uterus. I chose to have a hysterectomy. I listened to Brother Hagin reading healing scriptures on CD. My only real concern about the surgery was pain control. After surgery, the pathology report showed no spread of the cancer, so I will not have to have chemotherapy and/or radiation therapy. I am also glad to report that the surgery was two weeks ago and I have had a very quick recovery with NO PAIN! The nurses and doctors at the hospital were amazed. I experienced soreness, but I have not had to take even a Tylenol since coming out of surgery! Praise God!" // DEBRA

"I broke my left arm in a freak accident. The **PRAYER PARTNERS** at Rhema prayed for a quick healing. I was fully restored in only three months! Doctors said it should have taken over six months. Awesome God!" // ROXANNE

"I had an eye infection and the pressure was high in my eyes. I attended **RHEMA HEALING SCHOOL**, and now I have no eye infection and the pressure is normal! I learned I didn't have to work to get my healing." // ELIZABETH "I had a tumor in my chest the size of a golf ball. After I attended Rhema's morning **HEALING SCHOOL** and sat under the teaching of the Word, **a chest x-ray showed no tumor.**" // JOHN

"I attended a LIVING FAITH CRUSADE and Pastor Hagin laid his hands on me in the healing line. I was instantly healed in my right arm. I am 71 years old, and all the pain left immediately." // ROSET

"I had surgery for stage IV breast cancer in March 2014. After four months I found a lump under my right arm that started to get bigger. I agreed to do chemotherapy, remembering what Pastor Hagin always says: 'The natural and the supernatural coming together make the explosive force for God.' After starting chemo I got weak right away and had a chronic headache. At the end of October, Pastor Hagin called a healing line at RHEMA BIBLE CHURCH in Broken Arrow. He prayed for me, and 50 percent of the lump immediately disappeared. When I left, I began confessing what Mrs. Lynette said: 'Thank God, the healing power of God is working in my body.' The lump and the chronic headache are now all gone! Praise God! Thank God for my Spirit-led pastors, and thank God for Rhema." // MITSLAL

"In July 2014 my 3-year-old son slammed his bedroom door on my 9-month-old baby's hand, causing her index fingertip to fall off. It was cut all the way down to her top knuckle. She had surgery to have it sewn back on. At her first follow-up appointment, her finger was looking great and there was no infection. Quickly, the enemy stole our joy. Her fingertip blackened and began to smell horrible. The doctor told us her finger was dead.

"My faith was shaken, but I knew I couldn't let the devil win this battle. On August 17 I came to **RHEMA BIBLE CHURCH** for my friend's baby dedication. It was backto-school Sunday, and I had brought my daughter's bear from the hospital to be prayed over. **The kids on stage prayed over the bear for my daughter's finger.** I was so excited to get home and give her the bear. She slept with it and it went everywhere with us.

"The following Tuesday my daughter was crying. I thought she may have hurt her finger so I picked her up and took a glance at it through her Band-Aid. I was shocked, because what had been black just a few days earlier was pink! When we took her Band-Aid off, there was a black fingertip inside which had fallen off. And she had a healed, fully-attached fingertip where she had once been missing one! Doctors may say that that's just what happens, but I know that what was dead was brought back to life by the miracle-working hand of my God! Thank you for prayers! He is faithful!" // NICOLE







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such // 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)

I BELIEVE that we are living in the last days. The Apostle Paul warned Timothy that these days would be difficult. Second Timothy 3:1 (Amplified) says, "But understand this, that in the last days will come (set in) perilous times of great stress and trouble [hard to deal with and hard to bear]." It is imperative, even for our own safety, to be led by our spirit daily in these times.

My father-in-law did a lot of teaching on how to be led by your spirit. However, I believe that we have not emphasized this as much as we should have over the past few years. Although I practice this every day, I have been impressed to once again review this subject with others.

Romans 8:14 says, "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." In John 16:13 we read, "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

Today's world is hectic. Our lives are filled with sounds, images, and lots of noise, all fighting for our attention. Unfortunately, all of these natural distractions can get our focus off of God and the voice of the Spirit. We must fine-tune our ear to hear His voice.

I read a story about two men who were walking along a crowded city sidewalk. Suddenly one remarked, "Listen to the lovely sound of that cricket." But the other man could not hear the sound at all. He asked his friend, "How can you hear a cricket amid the roar of traffic and the sounds of people?"

The first man was a zoologist. He had trained himself to hear the sounds of nature. Instead of explaining how he could hear them, he reached into his pocket, pulled out some coins, and dropped them on the sidewalk. Suddenly, dozens of people were looking for those coins. The first man turned to his friend and said, "We hear what we listen for."

Many voices vie for our attention. And many of them would sway us away from our foundation—God's Word. Some voices tear down. Others may discourage us. Our kids hear conflicting voices. Homes are being filled with unnatural voices from Hollywood. These voices can confuse and ultimately destroy us. We cannot listen to them without being affected.

God desires to direct our lives through the Holy Spirit. He is there to communicate with us. He is always speaking, but are we tuned to His frequency? When we are driving, my husband and I listen to the radio. Often he tries to listen to a ballgame. Sometimes the signal is so weak that we can barely hear it. Other times there is so much static that we cannot understand the commentators.

God desires to communicate with us, but we must tune our ears to His frequency and remove outside interference. He is ever present to be our Guide and Comforter, to give us wisdom, and to provide whatever else we need at the moment.

Recently I could not find an item that I needed to conduct some business. I knew that it was somewhere in my house, but it was not where I usually kept it. I looked in all the places where I thought it could be. After not finding it, I prayed, "Father, You know where this item is. Holy Spirit, reveal its whereabouts to me." Then I began listening intently to hear His voice to direct my steps.

I searched for three hours. Even though I was listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit, my own spirit was getting a little anxious about not finding this item. Needing to get to the office, I decided to finish getting ready and delay the search until evening. As I brushed my teeth, suddenly the Holy Spirit said, "Look in that bag you took with you when you went out of town last week."

I ran to the bag, opened it and, praise the Lord, there was the lost item! You see, when I completely quieted my spirit, the Holy Spirit was able to speak to me and direct me right to the item. I encourage you to remove the outside voices in your life and allow the Holy

Spette

Spirit to direct your every step.♥

F-earless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy, H-eirs of Gou

FIND THE DIFFERENCES

Search and find the eight differences between the two pictures below.





Find the Differences

WHAT'S HIDDEN IN GOD?

According to Colossians 2:3, there is something very precious that is HIDDEN in God that only the diligent SEEKER will find. Using the number replacement system below, replace the numbers with letters to fill in the blanks. A=1, B=2, C=3, D=4 and so on to Z=26

1 1	2 12	20	8	5	2) 18	5	1	19	21	18	5	19		
15 6	23	9	19	4	15	13	1	14	4						
11 1	4 15	23	12 5	4	7	5									
tokes &															
What did the teddy bear say when he was offered dessert? No thanks, I'm stuffed!											le				
"A morry heart does good, like medicine." —Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)							What did the policeman say when the spider ran down his back? You're under a vest.								
Why was the broom late? It over swept!						shoes 6. Ruming girl's shoes different color 7. Garage window 8. Garage door missing lines What's Hidden in God? ALL THE TREASURES OF WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE									
What kind of car does Luke Skywalker drive? A Toy-Yoda!						2. Blue circles on boy's 2. Blue circles on boy's 3. Blue circles on boy's 3. Blue circles on boy's 4. Blue circles on boy's 5. Blue circles on									

There are a lot of people who don't like to play the game of "Hide and Seek." They don't like looking for hidden things. They prefer that everything that they need in life be in plain view. So, it might interest you to know that God DOES like Hide and Seek! Sure, there are some things that He puts in plain view for everyone to find. But the Bible tells us that there are HIDDEN and DEEP things of God that most people don't take time to SEEK (1 Cor. 2:7-10). Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is just like a HIDDEN treasure buried in a field (Matt. 13:44). It takes some work, some searching, and some digging to find HIDDEN treasure. In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said that we should "SEEK first the kingdom of God" as you would for a HIDDEN treasure. Isaiah 45:15 says, "Truly, you are a God who HIDES Himself...." But the good news is that He really wants to be found! In Jeremiah 29:13 God says "And you shall SEEK me, and find me, when you search for me with all of your heart." So, spend some time today SEEKING God and His kingdom and remember that "He is a rewarder

STAR WID WE SHALL FIND

of those who SEEK Him diligently" (Heb. 11:6).

Here are some things that the Bible tells us to SEEK in order to FIND. See if you can find these things hidden in the word puzzle below.

THINGS	THINGS ABOVE KINGDOM OF GOD				OUSN	IESS		HE LO Ods F			STRENGTH			
R I G		P E A	K I N	H	I	I	T H I	H	0	I	0	I	S T R	
T E		I K	N E	G P	S E	A I	Y B M	0 R	V E	E A	T E	H T	E E P	
O U S N	O P S T	P E R N		C	D S	U	O U E I	0	U	E S	U	G N E R	E A D N	
E S S	K K	I S P	E G	E O	G D	E S	K F A	O A	P C	E E	E S	T S	K S O	



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

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