



# THE Word of Faith

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2017

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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# the Word of Faith



**KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES**  
*Working Together to Reach the World!*

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## Praying for Our Leaders

The Apostle Paul exhorts us to pray for those in authority. *“I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty”* (1 Tim. 2:1-2).

It's important that we pray for our leaders. Considering the unprecedented decisions that are made every day, we should pray for men and women in leadership on every level—national, state, and local.

We must never underestimate the power that we have in prayer. God delights in answering our prayers, but we have to ask first. John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, is credited to having said, “It seems God is limited by our prayer life—that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him.”

Our prayers do avail much. When we pray, God promises that He will do exceedingly above all that we can ask or think. Situations may look like they will never change, but when we stand in faith, all things are possible.

It's easy to get caught up in our everyday lives. But let's not get so busy that we don't take time to pray for our leaders in government. We that call ourselves by the name of the Lord hold the key to the future of our land. If we will boldly take our place in prayer, we can change our nation for the better. Today, I encourage you to do that—to take your place in prayer.

We have put together an amazing magazine for you this month. It's packed full of Bible truths that will build your faith and help you enjoy God's abundant life! Don't miss a single page of this issue. And be sure to share your favorite quotes on social media. Just #RhemaWOF.



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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### ► Special Report:

The 2016 *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* was nothing short of amazing! Read the highlights.



**THE WORLD TODAY** is spinning at such a frantic pace that it's easy to drift away from our first love for the Lord. It's easy to be distracted by things. I believe God is calling His people back to their first love.

If we want to experience the victory God intends for us, we must have an intimate relationship with Him. We must ask ourselves, "Is my love for the Lord growing stronger every day?" It should be! Our love for God should grow stronger and more precious every day, just as love for a spouse should.

When I first married my husband, I really didn't know what love was at the time. The love I felt for him then was just a smidgen of the love I feel for him now.

We've been married since 1965, and we love each other more today than when we said, "I do." Our love for our Heavenly Father should be the same way.

## Delighting in God

One of the most powerful ways to deepen our love for God is to delight ourselves in His Word. Psalm 37:4 says, "*Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart*" (NIV).

Psalm 1:1–3 also tells us, "*Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. BUT HIS DELIGHT is in the law of the Lord [God's word]; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And . . . whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.*"



LYNETTE HAGIN

I learned at an early age that if I delighted in the Lord and in His Word, He would be pleased with me and whatever I did would prosper. I began going to the altar with the adults to pray at church services. Such a deep hunger for God was stirred in me during those times! Why? Because I sensed my Heavenly Father's presence and that made me want more of Him.

In these stressful and challenging times, we need a burning desire for God. Why is that so important? Because only a strong relationship with the Lord will get us through these last days. But the world is so chaotic that we forget sometimes.

## When Doing Good Turns Into a Distraction

Satan is subtle. If he can't get us off track by luring us into sin, he'll dominate our time by getting us to do good deeds. He'll do anything to keep us from having time in the Word or prayer, where we develop our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

A passage in Luke describes this.

### LUKE 10:38–42

**38** Now it came to pass, as they went, that he entered into a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha received him into her house.

**39** And she had a sister called Mary, which also sat at Jesus' feet, and heard his word.

**40** But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my

sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.

**41** And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

**42** But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

Mary had chosen the good part! So many times in dealing with the nitty-gritty of life, we get trapped in “the Martha Syndrome.” We become so busy that we forget about communing with our Heavenly Father.

While we’re busy being “Martha,” we feel like we’re the ones doing all the work while the “Marys” are enjoying themselves in the Lord. The enemy has us so occupied doing busywork for God that we’ve neglected the most important thing—delighting ourselves in the Lord by sitting at His feet.

We then try to triple up on the “Mary” part by saying, “Oh we love You, Lord! We praise You, Father!” God in His mercy always comes through for us. But how much better would it be if we learned how to balance the roles of “Mary” and “Martha” by spending more time basking in the presence of the Lord?

It’s so important not to let even *good* things rob us of our time with our Heavenly Father. We need to set aside time regularly to study the Word, be in the presence of the Lord, worship Him, and pray.

## Hunger and Thirst for God

Matthew 5:6 says, “*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*” And the psalmist expressed his hunger for the Lord in Psalm 42:1–2 when he said, “*As the deer pants for water; so I long for you, O God. I thirst for God, the living God. Where can I find him to come and stand before him?*” (TLB).

Our Heavenly Father desires so much for us to hunger and thirst for things of God. Spiritual things should never become stale or commonplace.

We all have our favorite types of food. We probably could eat them several times a week. However, sometimes our favorite meal can be extremely filling, and it may be a couple days before we’re hungry for that type of food again.

That’s not the way it should be concerning our hunger for the Word and the things of the Spirit. God wants us to hunger and thirst for Him continually.

## No More Complacency

Even in the church today people haven’t been as hungry for things of God as they once were. But I sense in my spirit a fresh, new hunger for the Lord rising up in people’s hearts!

We must shake ourselves out of complacency. It’s time we draw closer to God than ever before. He has specific assignments for us in these last days. The only way we’re going to clearly understand those assignments is to develop a closer relationship to our Heavenly Father by getting back to our first love.

As we earnestly open our hearts, He will make Himself real to us. We will experience divine visitations and a new wave of His power—a new outpouring of the Spirit.

When we who are His people begin to stir up that first love again in ourselves, we’ll see those who don’t know the Lord experience their first love for Him too. And the convicting power of the Holy Spirit will cause the lost to come streaming in. ♥

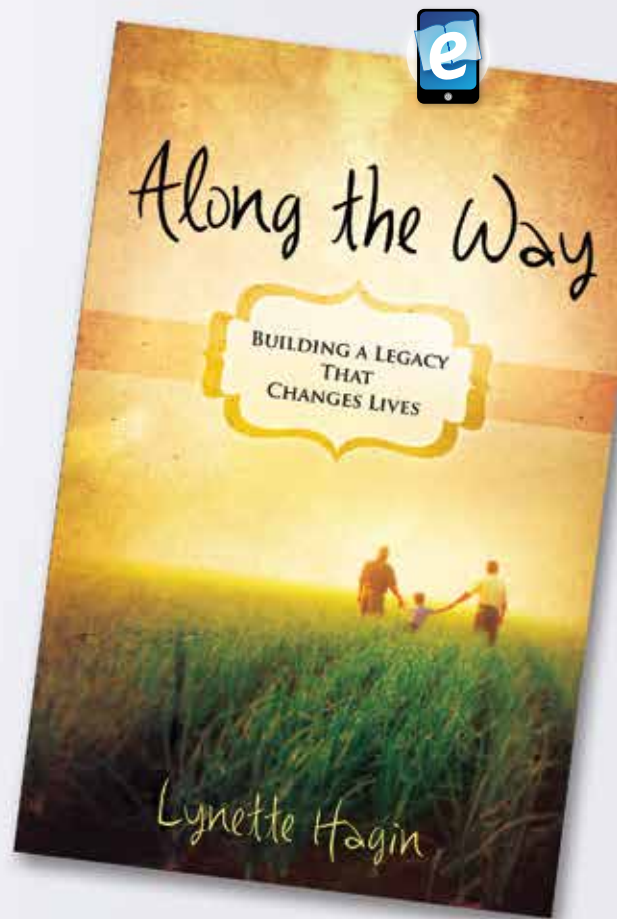
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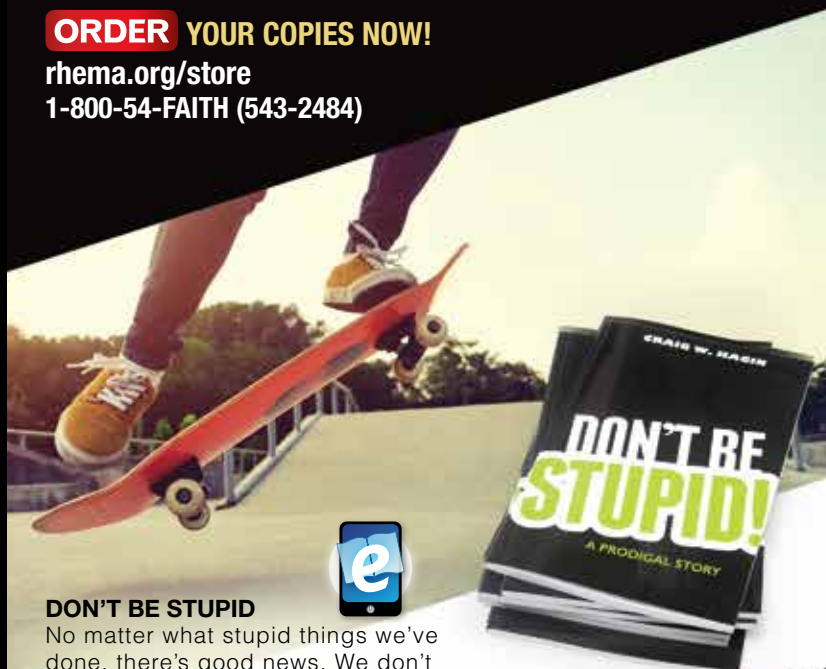
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# The Cinderella Seven

KENNETH W. HAGIN

I'VE BEEN INTERESTED in track and field since my school days. From the time I was in grade school, I can remember running races with every kid in town. As a youngster, I dreamed of running in track meets.

In my junior year in high school I went to a Christian boarding school. Soon after enrolling, I discovered that the school didn't have a track team. It seemed like my dream was gone.

But I talked it over with some of the other boys, and we gathered together a few guys who were interested in running track. We tried to get the basketball coach to be our coach. He didn't know anything about track so he said no. Our history teacher liked sports, so he coached us.

I'll never forget that pitiful assemblage of 13 boys and one history teacher. We looked like a circus. No one had on the same kind of running shorts. Our jerseys were blue and gold. Some boys had red shorts on. We didn't look too good.

Can you imagine this ragtag bunch of kids out on the field with all the other teams in their classy uniforms!

One time at a meet, we started practicing our relay hand-offs for the 880 relay. Everybody else had nice, hollow batons. We were passing back and forth a broomstick I had cut up. That's all we had.

The thirteen of us had a dream. We dreamed of running, and we wanted a team. At first our dream was just running races. It wasn't long before we started winning!

That's when our dream got bigger. We dreamed of running in the state track meet.

Everybody knows that a team without an experienced coach or the right equipment should not make

it to the state track meet. That just shouldn't happen. But seven out of our 13-man track team went to state. The newspaper called us "The Cinderella Seven."

Our dream was fulfilled on May 18, 1957. The starting gun cracked at 9 o'clock sharp. One minute and 37 seconds later, the 880 relay was over. I will never forget it as long as long as I live.

I was 20 yards from the fellow I was to hand the baton off to, and I started seeing white spots in front of my eyes. My lungs were burning from lack of oxygen, and my legs felt like rubber.

**BUT SOMEWHERE DOWN ON THE INSIDE OF ME WAS A DREAM: A DREAM OF WINNING.** When the white spots began to appear, an incident from the past flashed through my mind. I went back to the only day my dad was able to see me compete in a track meet.

I imagined I was coming off that curve, churning with everything I had, when down by the finish line I saw my dad reach out. I heard him holler, "Come on, boy! Come on, boy!"

With his words ringing in my ears, I reached back, got strength from somewhere deep within, and finished. Our team won the meet that day!

I want to encourage everyone whose dream seems to have been obliterated by circumstances: *The finish line is just a little further ahead!*

*The time for your victory is now!*

**DARE TO BELIEVE YOUR DREAM.** When it seems like the devil has shattered it, reach down, pick up the pieces, put the dream back together, and continue driving for success. **NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO QUIT. KEEP STANDING AND DREAMING YOUR DREAMS.**

I can see Jesus Christ leaning out across the finish line hollering, "Come on, man! Come on, woman! Just a few more steps and you've got it made! Don't lose your dream now! Run to victory!"

It's time to take your impossible dream and with God turn it into something possible. The time for your victory is *now!* 🏆







**Timeless  
Teachings**  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

**EFFECTIVE PRAYER** involves boldness. We come to God's throne with boldness. Where do we get boldness? In Jesus!

#### **EPHESIANS 3:11-12**

**11** According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord:

**12** In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him.

There are many things we do not need to pray for. For example, the Bible says, *"Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17). Faith is increased by feeding it on God's Word and exercising it. We do not need to pray for faith. But the Bible does show us that we can pray for boldness. In fact, we should.

### **Boldly Using Jesus' Name**

Peter and John were bold when they used the Name of Jesus to minister to the lame man at the gate called Beautiful. They were bold when they proclaimed the Name of Jesus to the crowd that gathered.

The Jewish authorities noticed their boldness and took them in for questioning (Acts 4:13). Then they commanded the apostles not to preach or teach anymore in the Name of Jesus.

Being let go, Peter and John went to their own company and reported everything the chief priests and elders had said to them.

The entire company of believers then lifted up their voices with one accord in prayer to God. They prayed the following prayer:

#### **ACTS 4:29-30**

**29** And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

**30** By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

That prayer was immediately answered!

#### **ACTS 4:31**

**31** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Like Peter and John, Paul asked the church at Ephesus to pray for him. This great man of God, this apostle of faith who wrote half of the New Testament, said, *"Praying always . . . for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth BOLDLY, to make known the mystery of the gospel, For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak BOLDLY, as I ought to speak"* (Eph. 6:18-20).

Even Paul wanted boldness and prayed for it.



## We Need Boldness to Act on Our Faith

We may not know how to pray, but thank God, the Holy Spirit does. We need boldness to act on God's Word. We need boldness to act on what the Spirit of God may say to us.

I can sense the Holy Spirit searching through the Church trying to find those He can trust to pray and act with boldness. He needs them. Don't throw off that burden to pray when it comes. Be bold to act on it.

One day while I was still pastoring, I was driving along attending to some business and visiting people. Suddenly, I had an urge to pray for my younger brother. He was backslidden at the time and was not walking with the Lord. An alarm went off within me.

So I went along praying on the inside of me, even while I was talking to other people—on the inside of me something was reaching out to God on his behalf. I carried that burden around two or three days until it lifted. I didn't know what it concerned.

Later on, my brother said to me, "I'll tell you one thing, the Lord sure helped me the other day."

At the time, he owned a ranch. He told me that he was holding a 5-gallon can of gasoline and somehow it exploded in his hand. But he was not in the least bit hurt. Everyone who saw what happened was amazed.

The ranch manager said, "That beats anything I ever saw in my life. I can't believe what I just saw."

But three days before it happened, I was praying. I am satisfied that if I had not yielded to the burden to pray, my brother could have been severely burned and perhaps killed. God didn't want him to leave this earth in a backslidden condition. But what if I had not prayed?

## Boldness Before the Throne of God

The believer has covenant rights in prayer, as well as other covenant rights. Yet there is one outstanding problem that defeats believers in their prayer life. When we come to God, we have a feeling of inferiority, a sense of sin-consciousness.

Some Christians begin their prayers with, "I'm so weak and unworthy," and then harp on their weaknesses and unworthiness throughout the prayer.

WE NEED BOLDNESS TO **act on**  
GOD'S WORD. WE NEED BOLDNESS  
TO ACT ON WHAT THE SPIRIT OF GOD  
MAY SAY TO US. #RhemaWOF

When they come into the Presence of God telling Him that, they talk themselves out of faith and into condemnation. They don't know whether God hears them or not. But look what God said: "*I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins*" (Isaiah 43:25).

God said He would blot out our transgressions for His own sake—so He could bless us. He couldn't have blessed us without it.

When we know that He blotted out our sin and that He doesn't remember we did something wrong, we can come to Him with

confidence. We can come with faith. We lose sin-consciousness and instead have Son-consciousness!

We don't have to sit on the curb in front of our heavenly mansion begging for favors. We can go boldly through the front door and enter the throne room to fellowship with God.

We are sons and daughters of God, joint-heirs with Jesus Christ. We are covenant people. And we have a legal right—a Body of Christ right—to go into the Presence of God the Father with the same confidence and assurance that Jesus has. And we can do it boldly!♥

## Effective Prayer Changes Lives

The Bible tells us that the effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous person avails much (James 5:16). The good news is, you can learn how to pray effectively—in faith, with boldness—and receive the results that God promises you in His Word.

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**THERE'S NO QUESTION** about it, the world is a crazy place right now. When we look around, it's easy to see that things going on today are just like it was told in the Bible. In Second Timothy 3:1, the Apostle Paul wrote, *"In the last days there will be very difficult times"* (NLT). He goes on to say that people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God (vs. 2 NLT). Paul's description sounds a lot like today.

Because of what's happening in the world, many Christians are living in fear. We have to realize that we can't be in faith and fear at the same time. If we're in fear, we're really allowing the devil to control that area of our life.

When we identify where fear comes from and how to stand against it, we can live in peace and enjoy life.

### The True Source of Fear

Before Paul talked about the difficulties that would occur in the last days he said, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind"* (2 Tim. 1:7 NKJV). Fear does not come from God. It comes from the devil. Jesus said in John 10:10 that it's the devil who "comes to steal, kill, and destroy." The devil uses fear as a tool to rob us of what belongs to us in Christ.



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**

The Bible tells us that we can resist the devil, and he will flee from us (James 4:7). Satan is not afraid of us, but he is afraid of the power and authority that we have in the Name of Jesus.

Instead of fear we should have power. God gives us power to overcome and move forward. Second Timothy 1:7 also says that God has given us His love. Love never fails. It's the way to combat the hate that is so prevalent today.

### God Is on Our Side

Everywhere we go, God is with us. He's with us 24/7/365. That alone can give us peace in the midst of turmoil. When we call upon God, He will help us and guide us. Since God is on our side, we should brush off fear when it tries to come on us.

Jesus went on to say in John 10:10, *"I have come that you might have life, and have it more abundantly."* Basically, Jesus is saying that even though the thief (Satan) is trying to steal from us, we should still enjoy our lives regardless of what he does.

God has given us the answer of how to stand against the devil. In Ephesians chapter 6, we are told to put on the God's full armor to stand against him.

#### **EPHESIANS 6:12-13 (NKJV)**

**12** For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers



of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.

**13** Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

No matter what happens around us, we are told to keep standing. The devil is a bad guy, and he's out to destroy us. But he can't because God is with us. God is also for us and because He is, we can live in peace when the world is in turmoil.

#### FAITH NUGGET

### Our Prince of Peace

*"You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you,  
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!"*  
—Isaiah 26:3 (NLT)

If we constantly look at how bad a situation is, peace will elude us. If we always wonder, "What are we going to do?" or "How are we going to make it?", fear will grip our hearts.

Peace comes when our eyes are fixed on the Lord. So let's make up our minds to always keep our focus on Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. That's where our peace comes from.

### A Promise of His Protection

There are many promises in the Bible of God's protection. They are given so we don't have to be afraid of anything.

From a young age my mother taught my sister and me Psalm 91. We've prayed it over our family for as long as I can remember. I believe this psalm needs to be big in every believer's life because it provides protection.

Psalm 91:1 says, *"Those who live in the shelter of the Most High will find rest in the shadow of the Almighty"* (NLT).

Every time we go somewhere, we can be assured that we're being overshadowed. God has placed a hedge of protection around us. He is in control and we don't have to worry.



*We can "walk through  
the valley of the shadow of death and  
fear no evil" because God is  
overshadowing us.*

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This is why we can "walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil" (Ps. 23:4). It's not about death's shadow. It's about God Who is overshadowing us. Wherever we go and whatever we do, God is there. We find protection under His shadow. We don't have to fear when we know that He is always there.

No matter what happens in the world, we can live without fear. We can enjoy life for we have been given a spirit of love, power, and a sound mind.♥

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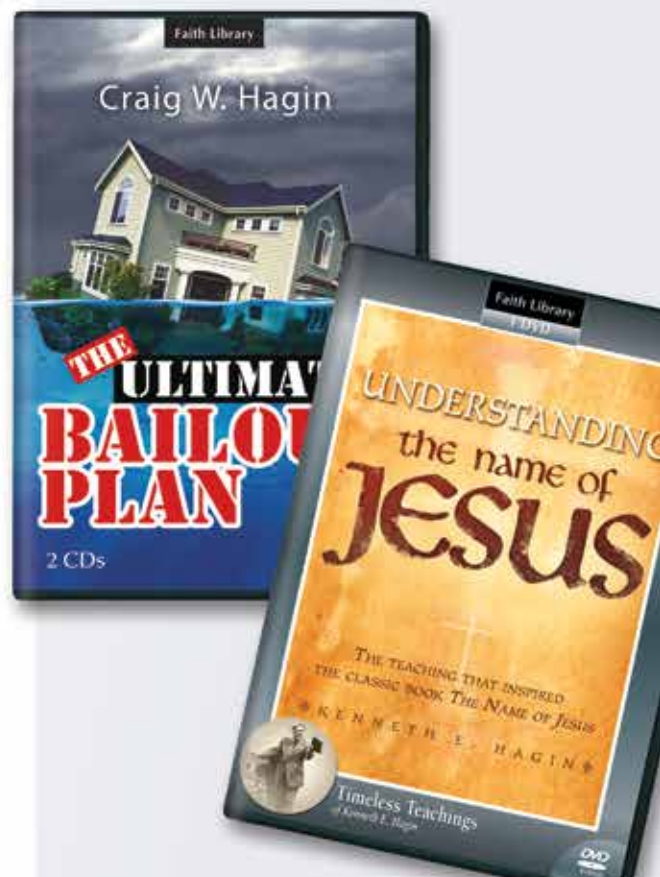
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# Finding Truth

DAN TAYLOR



**SPRING  
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HIGHLIGHT**

**WE ARE LIVING** in a day where truth is being challenged. Society wants Christians to believe in a certain way. They try to tell us that some things are true when they are not. If we're not careful, we can be easily deceived. As Christians, we have to determine what we believe. **GOD'S WORD IS THE MEASUREMENT WE HAVE TO USE WHEN DECIDING WHAT TRUTH IS** in everything we hear.

## Our Presentation

In Second Timothy 2:15, Paul wrote to Timothy, *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (NKJV).

To know what truth is, we must first walk in it ourselves. And to

We won't act one way with Christians and another way with others.

Once we decide that we always want to make the right presentation—a godly presentation—we're on the path to finding truth.

## Being Unashamed

The middle part of Second Timothy 2:15 says, *"a worker who does not need to be ashamed."* Timothy by nature was a little bashful and shy. Now he was working for the Lord at Ephesus, and Paul was encouraging him on what to do. He was telling Timothy not to be ashamed in his stand for Christ and in doing what God asked of him.

When we make ourselves presentable to God, we won't be ashamed about living out our faith. We won't be concerned about what

***If we want to get closer to the truth, we can't move truth closer to us. We have to move closer to truth.***

walk in truth means we must make ourselves presentable to God.

Before leaving the house, most people look in the mirror to see if they are presentable. They may ask someone, "How do I look?" Oftentimes, however, we care more about how we look to others than how we look to God. "How do I look spiritually?" is the question that should be asked.

Every area of our lives needs to be presentable to God. Do we look and act differently in front of our Christian friends than we do when we are at work?

Remember, God sees everything. He knows what is done in hidden places. When we're serious about presenting ourselves to God, we won't lead a double lifestyle.

others think of us. Instead, we can boldly share the Gospel, because we know we are walking in truth.

Jesus is the best example of someone not being ashamed. He presented the truth of God's Word to others without any hesitation. Those who accepted His Words experienced changed lives. And the people who worried about what others thought had a hard time with what Jesus said.

We can be like Jesus. We don't have to be a quiet Christian who stands off in the corner. **WHEN WE KNOW THE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD, WE CAN BE BOLD.**

## Rightly Divide

Finally, Paul told Timothy to "rightly divide the word of truth." The *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* defines *rightly divide* as "straightway." In other words, it's the quickest point from A to the truth. It's when we knock everything out of the way that's not truth and go straight for the truth.

The way we rightly divide everything we see or hear is to line it up to the truth of God's Word. His Word is what determines what is truth and what is not.

**TRUTH IS UNMOVABLE. WE CAN'T MOVE TRUTH TO MAKE SOMETHING MORE CONVENIENT FOR US.** Facts can change. Opinions are movable. But the truth doesn't change or move. If we want to get closer to the truth, we can't move truth closer to us. We have to move closer to truth. And the closer we get to the truth of God's Word, the more we change.

When people try to tell us the correct way to think and live, our guide is God's Word. Does what they say line up with Scripture? With the Word as our plumb line, we will know how to speak and act in every situation. And we will never be misled into doing things that do not please God.♥

[Editor's Note: Dan Taylor is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College.]







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# Be Ready!

CHARLES COWAN

**IT'S A KNOWN FACT** that when you decide to get closer to God, trials come at you from all directions. The way you look at tests and trials and the way you see yourself in them, will determine your outcome.

An illustration of this is found in Daniel chapter 3. The three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused to bow to King Nebuchadnezzar's command to worship his golden statue.

When the king confronted them, they replied, "*King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you*" (vs. 16 NIV). They were saying, "We are prepared for whatever we are about to face."

## A Position of Readiness

All of us should be in a position of readiness when a trial knocks on the door. But you can't wait until adversity knocks and *then* try to get ready. You will find it difficult, if not impossible, to get ready for adversity in the middle of a problem. Yet sometimes people do this. When everything is moving along smoothly in their lives, they tend to relax. This leaves them unprepared to answer a fiery trial.

**BEING READY MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE.** If you are not ready when the problem arrives, you will have difficulty seeing yourself coming out of the trial victoriously.

The three Hebrews boys never saw themselves dying in the flames. They saw themselves coming out of the fiery furnace. They told the king that if he *did* throw them in the furnace, they believed their God would deliver them (vs. 17). Then they flipped the coin and said if the king

*did not* throw them into the flames, they still would not bow down to the golden image (vs. 18).

They answered the king fearlessly. Their confidence was in God, and their courageous statement meant that they would not compromise.

## Don't See the Flames

Although it *looked like* the three Hebrew boys were caught between a rock and a hard place, that really was not the way it was for them. They gave us a good example to follow when it looks like we have no choice but to compromise.

King Nebuchadnezzar asked, "*Who is the god who will deliver you from my hands?*" (vs. 15 NKJV). Notice the Hebrew children didn't ask each other, "I wonder if God will help us? What if He doesn't come through?"

Sometimes you may find yourself between a rock and a hard place. Thoughts will come and try to get you to doubt God. Just remember, the devil is trying to silence your faith.

When the threat came from the king, the three Hebrew boys only saw their God. They didn't see the flames. They had already made up their minds that they would not worship the idol. And they would not let what faced them become a care in their minds.

## Crispy Critters?

Let me ask you a question: If a furnace seven times hotter than normal was waiting for you, what would you think? Some people would say, "I'm a crispy critter!"

Has the devil ever told you that you were fried? He may not have threatened you in these words, but he has threatened all of us.

In contrast to the Hebrew boys' not bowing to the king's image, when you let cares occupy your mind, you have bowed your knee to Satan's image. Throughout your life, you will have many opportunities to bow to the devil's images, but you must refuse to do so.

When the opportunity to become worried and fearful comes your way, **WHAT YOU SEE WILL DETERMINE YOUR OUTCOME.** You can come out of the trial like a crispy critter, or you can come out victoriously. It's up to you.

When the three Hebrew boys came out of the furnace, their clothes weren't burned, their hair wasn't singed, and there wasn't any smell of smoke on them. When you follow their example, your outcome will be the same. ♥

[Editor's Note: Charles Cowan is a regular speaker at Campmeeting.]



  
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**ALL OF US  
SHOULD BE IN A POSITION  
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## Navigating the Adventure of Life

*A Call to Arms 2016 Men's Conference* was nothing short of amazing! For three days, men from around the world heard life-changing truths and experienced powerful times of worship. They gained tools to help them successfully sail the ocean of life and handle the wind and waves of adversity.

The men left better equipped to guide their marriages, children, finances, and careers. They also learned how to be a godly voice in government. Be sure to join us next year for *A Call to Arms 2017*, to be held November 2–4 on the Rhema USA campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.



### The Holy Spirit Is the Best Navigator

// Kenneth W. Hagin

**AS MEN**, it's important to learn how to navigate through life with the Holy Spirit at the helm. To do this we must learn to listen

to His voice. Each of us needs to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying to us individually. We should never rely on others to learn how the Holy Spirit is directing us.

Romans 8:14–15 says, *“There are things to do and places to go! This resurrection life you received from God is not a*

*timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike ‘What's next, Papa?’”* (MSG).

God has great things planned for us. He will take us places we never thought we would go and open doors for us to do things we never imagined. He will guide our steps so we intersect with people we never thought we would meet.

The Holy Spirit will tell us what to do in every situation. He'll show us when to move forward and when to stay put. When we choose to follow the Holy Spirit's leading, we will experience a fantastic adventure.

It's up to us to rise up and be all we can be for the Lord. I want to challenge you to do this by following the Holy Spirit every day. He is the best navigator and knows the way to victory. Even when the path doesn't look like it's the right way to go, if we continue following Him, we will always come out on top. He always leads us to success.



"This was my first time to attend the conference! Most people think of it as a time to be empowered, but to me it was a time to build a foundation. It was a good reminder of what needs to be done and a good reminder of who we are as men. It was powerful!"

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—Don Burns  
(Navigating Finances in Today's Climate)



"Our wives need us; our children need us. We are not created in the image and likeness of Homer Simpson; we are created in the image and likeness of God."

—Tony Cooke  
(Navigating Families: The Captain and Crew)



"We navigate government by meeting with our elected officials and pointing them to Jesus. Then we pray that laborers will cross their paths. Lastly, we pray for more godly leaders to be raised up."

—Nathan Dahm  
(Navigating Politics as a Believer)



"We have got to be the men who lead this generation [of youth]—not just direct them, but lead them to Jesus to show them a safe harbor."

—Johnathan Morin  
(Navigating Youth to Safe Harbors)



"Leaders are healers. There are situations waiting for you to show up with your gentle strength. You're a mighty man of valor. Go and lead and set the captives free."

—Tim Redmond  
(Navigating Life as a Leader)



"[Restoration] takes two people who want to submit to the will and Word of God. And at the same time, who are willing to do the hard work."

—Jerry Weinzierl  
(Navigating Marriage: The Adventure of Love)



## Peace

// Craig W. Hagin

In Mark chapter 4, Jesus and His disciples were in a boat when a fierce windstorm arose. The waves began crashing into the boat and filling it with water. Through all of this, Jesus was sound asleep in the stern. The

disciples were afraid they were going to die, so they frantically woke Him. Jesus rebuked the winds and said to the sea, "*Peace, be still*" (Mark 4:39). Then He asked His disciples, "*Why are ye so fearful?*" (vs. 40).

Jesus is in our "boat of life." He promises never to leave nor forsake us. He is with us 24/7/365, and if it happens to be a leap year, 366 days. Because Jesus is with us, we can have peace in the midst of any storm.

We should never be fearful when we encounter storms. Jesus never freaks out, so why should we? In the midst of a storm or trial, He is saying to us, "You're going to get through this. Keep doing what I've called you to do. You're going to make it to the other side."



"Snipers and sharp shooters are now taught 'one shot, one kill.' It used to be 'spray and pray.' When it comes to confession, which are you? Are you just spraying and praying confessions and hoping one hits? Or are you dialed in? It's time we are covenant-minded. Is covenant on your mind right now? Does it come out of your mouth every day, every time you pray, every time you speak to God? Dial it in. Get your heads up. Come on, champions, know who you are in Christ! Let's get that mentality back." —Chip Brim



"We're at a serious moment in time in this nation if we don't get a real move of God—not in the world, but in the church. We have to repent, and it has to start in the church. We have to have purity of heart. What does it mean when we're standing behind the pulpit and we don't love everybody? We've got to get it right. I believe it starts with men of God. There has to be purity—there has to be honesty that flows from the house of God and touches the world. We are the light of the world." —Steve Houpe



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*“Come and stay until you get healed and have your faith built up enough to stay healed.”*

—KENNETH E. HAGIN





# OVERCOMING OUR SPIRITUAL JERICHO'S

**GOD TOLD JOSHUA** to command all the Israelites to cross the Jordan River and possess the Promised Land. Immediately after they dealt with that impossibility, they were confronted by another impossible barrier. The city of Jericho loomed before them as a mighty impenetrable fortress.

Jericho was a stronghold of the enemy and a fortress no one had been able to defeat. Many battles and sieges had been fought against Jericho as enemies tried to conquer it. But no one had ever succeeded. It's interesting how God told the Israelites to conquer this city.

Joshua was a fighting man. He knew a lot about warfare and military strategy. But Joshua was also a man of faith. God gave him a battle plan that didn't make any sense according to sound military strategy. Because Joshua was a man of faith, he trusted the Lord and followed God's plan exactly.

## The Battle Plan Is Not Natural—It's Spiritual

Normally in the Old Testament, when one army wanted to conquer a city, they'd have to fight the enemy for it. But in this battle, the Lord told the Israelites that *He* was going to *give* them the city.

Here was God's plan. The Israelites were supposed to march around the city once each day for six days. Then on the seventh day, the priests were to blow a trumpet as the people shouted with a great shout (Joshua 6:1–5).

Just by following God's battle plan, the Lord said the walls of Jericho would fall down. When you study Old Testament history, you can see how impossible that battle plan was. For one thing, many of these cities were walled and heavily fortified.



**KENNETH W. HAGIN**

For another thing, what good was a shout going to do? It didn't make any sense that strong fortified walls would fall down just because a bunch of people shouted!

But here God told Israel to take that well-fortified city effortlessly with a shout. You see, *His* power was in the shout! It was a shout of faith and a shout of victory.

## Stay in Faith, Even When You Don't Understand the Plan

Can you imagine the commander in chief of an army telling his troops to go into battle but forbidding them to fight! Imagine the generals getting together at the Israelite pentagon tent, saying, "Our boss has lost his mind. Joshua's gotten soft since he became a leader."

But some of those Israelites were old enough to remember what had happened in the past when they did not fully follow God. So regardless of their *opinion* of God's plan, they obeyed without question and marched around those walls.

Can you also imagine what the people of Jericho thought as they looked down from the city walls and watched the Israelites marching around their city for six days without uttering a word! They probably said, "What are they up to? What do they think they're going to accomplish by walking around Jericho like that?"

In the meantime, the Israelites continued to march, wearing down a big pathway around the city.

We don't always understand everything God tells us to do. But if we'll just obey Him, we'll see the triumph of our obedience.

*We don't always understand  
everything God tells us to do.  
But if we'll just obey Him,  
we'll see the triumph of our obedience.*



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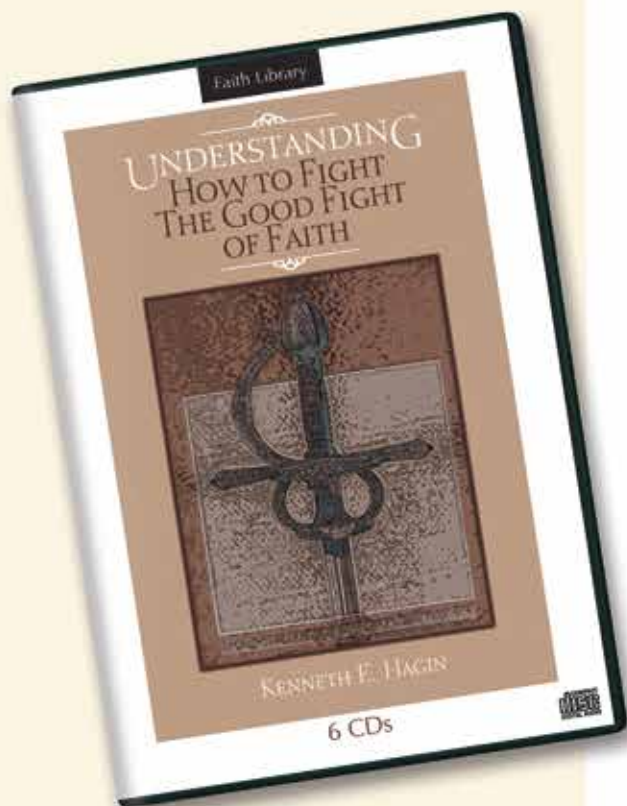
# Take Hold of What Is Yours

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When God tells us to do something, we just have to start out in simple faith, trusting Him regardless of the circumstances. Then God makes a way when there is no way. We possess our promised land with step-by-step obedience.

## God's Word Is the Key

God never promised that you wouldn't encounter spiritual Jerichos in your life as you live for Christ. But He did tell you that as you trust His Word, He would conquer every one of them for you. And He promised to give you the victory in every circumstance in life.

### FAITH IN ACTION

## Say It Until You See It

God's Word will knock down any impenetrable barriers or impossible obstacles in your life. Your responsibility is to quote what God says about the situation. Once you've spoken the Word over the situation, you need to praise Him in faith for the answer.

Make this your declaration right now:

Greater is He who is in me  
than he that's in the world  
(1 John 4:4).

I can do all things through  
Christ who strengthens me  
(Phil. 4:13).

By His stripes, I am healed  
(Isa. 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24).

In all things, I am more than  
a conqueror through Jesus  
Christ who loves me  
(Rom. 8:37).

God always promises me the  
victory in every circumstance  
(1 Cor. 15:57).

No weapon formed against  
me shall prosper (Isa. 54:17).

All my needs are met  
according to His riches in  
glory through Christ Jesus  
(Phil. 4:19).

If God is for me, who can be  
against me? (Rom. 8:31).

Thanks be to God who  
always causes me to triumph  
in Christ (2 Cor. 2:14).

I shall possess what belongs  
to me in God!

However, when you come up against your spiritual Jerichos, you've got to have the Word of God in your heart. Without it, marching around Jericho won't do any good. But with the Word in your heart and in your mouth, you can march around impossible barriers quoting God's Word. Those walls have to come down.

## Press in Spiritually for Your Victory

In the New Testament, we fight spiritual battles with spiritual giants. We don't fight or wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers (Eph. 6:12). As we're marching through our promised land, the enemy will throw up one barrier after another. But that doesn't mean we're supposed to stop marching.

When Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, gives you marching orders about possessing something that belongs to you in His Word, just start marching. If you come up against a spiritual barrier, just march right up to it and stand there quoting the Word.

Eventually, that barrier has to get out of the way! As you quote the Word, you'll begin to hear the wall crack as the Word demolishes it piece by piece. Finally the wall will totally crumble under the power of the Word. Then you can take off marching again because Jesus has already told you, "Go possess the land that belongs to you. It's yours!" ♥



# 'WHEN I WAS IN PRISON, YOU VISITED ME.'



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# 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)



### THE CIRCLE OF LOVE

**WHEN YOU HEAR** the word "love," what are your first thoughts? As I was meditating on what to write this month, the word "love" dropped in my heart. The next thing that came to me was the first scripture that probably most of us were taught and memorized, *"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).

Honestly, that scripture had not come to my mind in a while. But as I recited it over and over, I got "chill bumps" thinking about the vast love God has for humanity. When man messed up so badly, God loved His creation so much that He said, "I will send My one and only Son as a sacrifice to redeem mankind." God does not love just certain groups, races, or nations. And His love is not exclusively for Christians. Our Heavenly Father loves everybody.

Romans 5:7-8 (NLT) says, *"Now, most people would not be willing to die for an upright person, though someone might perhaps be willing to die for a person who is especially good. But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners."*

How could anyone doubt God's love for them? How could anyone not desire to accept Christ as their Savior? God's love provided a bridge from death to life. If you have never accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, I encourage you to do as Romans 10:9-10 (NLT '07) tells us, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."*

Just pray this simple prayer: *Heavenly Father, I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus is your Son and that He died on the cross for my sins. I ask you to come into my life and be my Lord and Saviour. In Jesus Name I pray, Amen.*

God wants us to live a good life, an abundant life. In fact, Jesus declared in John 10:10 (NLT), *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."* Satan is the destroyer of life; Christ is the deliverer.

Unfortunately when things do not go as expected, instead of realizing the enemy's ploy, Christians sometime question God's love for them. Some even blame Him for the circumstances they are experiencing. Peter warned us to *"Stay alert! Watch out for your enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith"* (1 Peter 5:8-9 NLT).

We should return the love that God has shown us by placing Him first in our lives. One time a Pharisee asked Jesus, *"Teacher, which is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?" Jesus replied, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: Love your neighbor as yourself'"* (Matt. 22:36-39 NLT).

When you love someone you want to be around them all the time. In marriage, our love for our spouse should increase over the years. The same should be true with the Lord. Our love for Him should increase the longer we have been saved.

I am saddened by the fact that God can take a back burner to everything we have going on in our lives. If time permits, we go to church. If time permits, we pray and read our Bible. Those are the wrong thoughts. Going to church, praying, and reading our Bible should be our number one priority.

I encourage you to stir up the love you had for the Lord when you first accepted Him as your Lord and Savior. When you do, you will find that it will be well for you, and life will have a new meaning.♥

*Lynette*





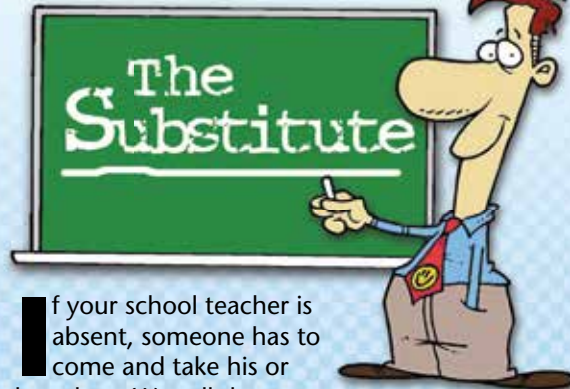
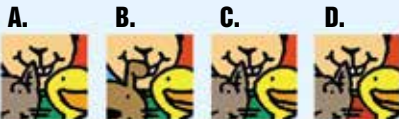


# Kids' Page

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

## ONLY ONE!

There was **ONLY ONE** who could be the perfect substitute for us and that was **JESUS**! In the same way, **ONLY ONE** of the squares below can be substituted for the empty square in the picture. **ONLY ONE** will work perfectly. Can you figure out which one it is?



If your school teacher is absent, someone has to come and take his or her place. We call that person a **SUBSTITUTE**. A substitute is someone who takes the place of another. You may not know this, but **JESUS IS YOUR SUBSTITUTE**. No, not your substitute teacher . . . but **YOUR** substitute, the one who took **YOUR** place. But how did He take your place? Well, because you were a sinner, you were going to have to die for your sins and go to hell. But when Jesus died on the cross, God made Him your substitute . . . He died in your place. In fact, all the bad things Jesus went through were a part of being your **SUBSTITUTE**. Emphasize the capitalized words from the following verse (Isaiah 53:5):

**HE** was wounded for **OUR** transgressions,  
**HE** was bruised for **OUR** iniquities;  
the chastisement of **OUR** peace was upon **HIM**;  
and with **HIS** stripes **WE** are healed.

All that **HE** did was for **US**! **HE** took **OUR** place!  
**HE** was **OUR** substitute!

## jokes & riddles



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

Why couldn't the slow boxer get a drink at the party?

**Because everyone beat him to the punch!**

Why was the archaeologist upset?

**His job was in ruins!**

Why do pens get sent to prison?

**To do long sentences!**

Why did the fly fly?

**Because the spider spied her!**

What's the moral of the story about Jonah and the whale?

**You can't keep a good man down!**

**Mother:** How did you do on your tests?

**Johnny:** I did what George Washington did!

**Mother:** What was that?

**Johnny:** I went down in history!

When a knight in armor was killed in battle, what sign did they put on his grave?

**Rust in peace!**

## THE SUBSTITUTION DECODER

The secret message below tells another way Jesus was our substitute. Here's how to decode the message. Substitute every letter **N** with the letter **T**. Substitute every letter **L** with the letter **H**. Substitute every letter **Z** with the letter **Y**. Substitute every letter **J** with the letter **B**. And substitute every letter **D** with the letter **M**. All of the remaining letters stay the same. The first word has been decoded for you.

THOUGH  
NLOUGL LE WAS RICL, ZEN FOR ZOUR SAKE  
LE JECODE POOR, NLAN ZOU NLROUGL LIS  
POVERNZ DIGLN JECODE RICL.

ONLY ONE! • Answer: C  
The Substitution Decoder  
THOUGH HE WAS RICH, YET FOR YOUR SAKE HE BECAME POOR, THAT YOU THROUGH HIS POVERTY MIGHT BECOME RICH.

ANSWERS:



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