



THE Word of Faith

MAY 2016

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



Let It Go!

page 16

Faith Has an
ATTITUDE!

PAGE 4

GOD'S WORD = PRECIOUS SEED

PAGE 9

GOD DOES
EXCEEDINGLY
ABOVE

PAGE 14

POWER
IN YOUR
+ Shout!

PAGE 11

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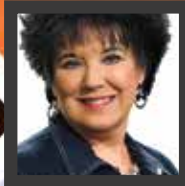
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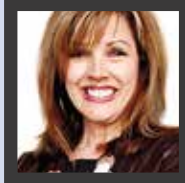
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God Is Faithful

This month as we celebrate the mothers in our lives, I can't help but think about my own mom, Oretha Hagin. It will be nine years ago next month that she left this earth and went to Heaven. Not a day goes by when something doesn't remind me of her.

You see, my dad began traveling and ministering when I was in the third grade. Mom stayed home with me and my sister. This wasn't an easy time. There were many hardships during those early years. But Mom's love and devotion never wavered. She never complained. She always said, "Don't despise the beginning. If you can't endure the beginning, you'll never last to the finish."

Mom taught me so much. But one of the most important things I learned from her is that nothing is more precious or sacred than doing God's will. Over and over again—through her words and actions—she taught me that the God Who calls us is indeed faithful.

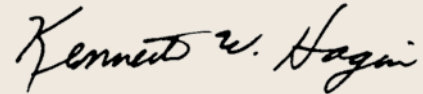
Faithfulness was one of Mom's hallmarks. I want to share an excerpt from her book, *The Price Is Not Greater Than God's Grace*, in which she talks about this very subject.

"Be patient as you fulfill God's plan for your life step-by-step. Even when things don't happen the way you think they should or *when* you think they should, faithfulness is what will bring you through to victory in God. . . . God never fails. And no matter how difficult the test or trial, faithfulness *always* reaps the reward."

Yes, it does. Thank you, Mom.

We have a great magazine for you this month that I believe will encourage and strengthen you. As you read it, be sure to share your favorite quotes with us on social media. Just **#RhemaWOF**.

Happy Mother's Day!



PS. For those of you who desire to be moms, I have a word for you. Stagger not! What God has promised, He is able to perform (Rom. 4:20-21). He is faithful. And He will give you the desires of your heart.



THIS ISSUE



4 Faith Has an Attitude!

KENNETH W. HAGIN

Develop an attitude of faith and watch God fulfill His promises to you.

9 Esteem God's Word

KENNETH E. HAGIN

Don't be robbed of your blessings! Learn how to plant and cultivate God's Word in your heart.

16 Let It Go!

CRAIG W. HAGIN

When you can't take it anymore, the best thing to do is stop taking it. Learn how to do that by casting your cares on the Lord.



SEED THOUGHTS Page 22

FAITH ACADEMY Page 23

Special Report:

Rhema graduate Johnathan Morin is a youth pastor and a contestant on NBC's American Ninja Warrior show. Read his story.



SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:13 (NKJV) says, “Since we have *the same spirit of faith*, according to what is written, ‘I believed and therefore I spoke,’ we also believe and therefore speak.”

Paul is not talking here about a literal spirit. He is talking about a spiritual attitude in a person. **This is the attitude of faith.** Paul was quoting what David said in Psalm 116:10, and Paul declared that he had the same spirit or attitude of faith that David had. Notice that Paul didn’t say I—he said we. We have the same spirit of faith. Paul was writing to the Church at Corinth, but that’s for us too. It’s for all believers. So this means that not only David and Paul could have this attitude of faith, but **every believer can have this same attitude.**

Kenneth Hagin Ministries is built on the cornerstone of faith. Kenneth E. Hagin, my dad, founded the ministry, and I grew up in his home. As far back as I remember, he always had the attitude of faith concerning healing, because he was raised off the bed of sickness through faith in God’s Word.* But in the beginning, he didn’t have the attitude of faith about finances.

You see, you can have an attitude of faith in one area and not have it in another area. When we were sick, we always got healed. But man, we were on the bottom of the barrel financially. In fact, we were actually *under* the barrel!

Developing an Attitude of Faith

I watched as Dad learned how to have an attitude of faith for finances, both for us personally and for the ministry. We went through some difficult times, but he never changed what he believed, and he never changed his confession of the Word of God.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

He developed what a lot of people called an **invincible attitude of faith**. But he just believed that God’s Word would prevail over anything and that we could have victory.

After watching Dad demonstrate this spirit of faith and listening to him teach the principles, I began to adopt the same attitude. **The attitude of faith believes that whatever God said in His Word will happen.**

We see the attitude of faith being demonstrated in Mark chapter 11. Jesus and His disciples were on the way to Jerusalem when Jesus saw a fig tree. When He looked for fruit on the tree, He found none. He said to the tree, “*Let no one eat fruit from you ever again*” (v. 14 NKJV). Let’s pick up the rest of the story in verse 20.

MARK 11:20–24 (NKJV)

20 Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.”

22 So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God.

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.”

Faith Believes and Speaks

Now, verse 22 says, “*Have faith in God,*” or “Have the God-kind of faith.” This is beyond normal thinking. A person with the attitude of faith believes in his heart and says with his mouth.

Jesus is not talking here about principles of faith—He is talking about an attitude. Faith is not a mechanical function of knowledge. It’s not operating some formula. It’s a spiritual operation in your heart. It’s an attitude in your heart that you express through your mouth.

Jesus had a spirit of faith—an attitude of faith. He didn’t doubt. He didn’t hide someplace and watch to see what would happen to the fig tree. He didn’t beg God to make what He said come to pass.

In verse 22, Jesus was telling His disciples, “I did this by faith. And you can have the same kind of faith.” And we can have that kind of faith too. It comes by hearing and hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). The attitude of faith comes from knowing God’s promises.

There *are* principles of faith. **But the attitude of faith is what drives you to get the job done.** The principles just give you the foundation on which to operate.

Luke 18:27 is my favorite verse. If anybody asks me to sign my name, I always add that reference. It says, “*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God*” (NKJV).

The attitude of faith looks at impossible situations the way God does. He sees every situation as possible! And we should

Faith in the Promises of God

To maintain an attitude of faith, do the following:

- F** > **FOCUS** continually on the promises of God.
- A** > **ACKNOWLEDGE** that God’s promises are possible for you all the time.
- I** > **INSIST** that God’s promises are coming to pass in your life.
- T** > **THINK** and **MEDITATE** on God’s promises.
- H** > **HOLD ON** to your confession of God’s promises.

never say something is impossible. We should say, “**It’s possible with God.**” That’s the attitude of faith.

God looks at things according to what His Word says and what His power is. He is never in a panic. He is never devastated by any earthly situation.

You see, we have to believe. We have to have the attitude of faith that Jesus demonstrated when He spoke to that fig tree. We have to have that same type of faith. When we do, we will see the hand of God manifest in our lives. Nothing can stand in our way. Our God is stronger. Our God is a Healer. Our God is a Provider. Hallelujah!♥

* Kenneth E. Hagin’s testimony of how God raised him off a deathbed is included in his book *I Believe in Visions*, available through Faith Library Publications.

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Act on God's Word!

KENNETH E. HAGIN



STOP TRYING to make God's Word work and **start acting on the Word**. If we know that the Word is true and if we act as though it is true, it becomes a reality in our lives.

Let me share with you the testimony of A.B. Simpson. He just acted like the Word is true and received his healing. I read his testimony years ago in a Christian magazine. Dr. Simpson, a Presbyterian minister at the time of his healing, later founded the Christian and Missionary Alliance. At the age of 46, he was told he was dying of a heart condition and was given only about six months to live.

Dr. Simpson said he had heard many testimonies of healing, even in his own church. He took a short leave of absence and went up to his farm, where he could spend a lot of time studying God's Word.

At the end of two weeks, Dr. Simpson took a piece of paper and a pencil and wrote, "After searching

the Word of God for two weeks, I am convinced the Bible teaches that divine healing is for us today. And I, this day, **accept Jesus Christ as my Healer** and declare that I am now healed from heart trouble and that I am well. And I promise God to use this new-found strength and life and

Up to this point, he had not really seen or felt his healing—he had just accepted it and declared it by faith.

As he climbed, **every time he got his mind off the Word of God, he would begin to feel the symptoms of his heart condition**. But as he claimed the Word again for his

How would you act if you really believed God's Word is true for you?



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energy entirely for His purpose and to further the Gospel. I promise God I will share this truth of healing with others and will help them."

After that time, Dr. Simpson went to a luncheon where he was to be the speaker. At the gathering he gave his testimony that he had searched the Bible and concluded that Jesus was still the Healer today. After the luncheon, he was invited to go mountain climbing by the men to whom he had spoken. The thought immediately came to him that he wouldn't be able to go because of his heart condition. But then he remembered he had declared his healing, so he accepted the invitation.

healing, all the symptoms would go away. He fought this battle all the way up the mountain. Once at the top, he walked about victorious, without any symptoms!

Real faith holds on to the blessings of God. Real faith is a child of the knowledge of God's Word. Dr. Simpson acted on the Word and got real faith from it. Instead of trying to believe, he just acted upon the Word. **He acted like the Word is true**. Whatever you're believing God for, act like His Word is true for you.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's *Bible Faith Study Course*.]

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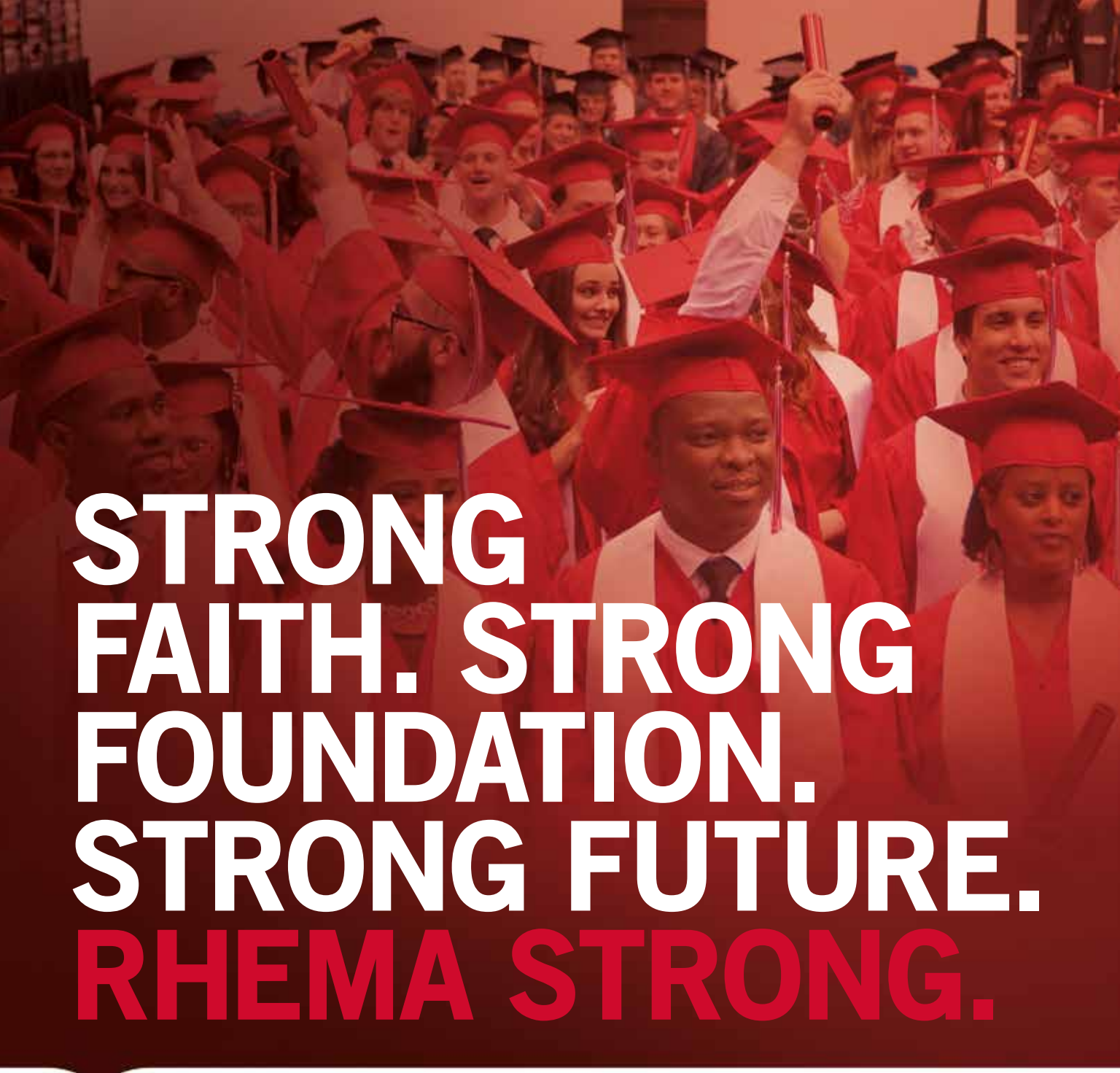
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TOGETHER to see men, women, and children saved, healed, and set free. It takes partnership.

You see, **SUPPORTING THE GOSPEL IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS DELIVERING THE GOSPEL.** We need partners to help us reach more people with the message of faith and accomplish all that God has called us to do. We need *you!*

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ESTEEM GOD'S WORD

*For we are labourers together with God:
ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.*

— 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9



**Timeless
Teachings**
of Kenneth E. Hagin

IN THIS VERSE, “*ye are God’s husbandry*” is a little blind to us. Moffatt’s translation says, “*You are God’s field to be planted.*” Another translation says, “*You are God’s garden.*” God wants us to bring forth abundant fruit to His glory! He never intended for us to suffer lack, sickness, or disease. He’s given us a full supply by furnishing us with His imperishable seed—His Word—to plant in the garden of our hearts and lives.

Because you are God’s husbandry, “*Ye are not your own*” (1 Cor. 6:19). Why? Verse 20 tells us: “*For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.*” You are not your own because a field or garden belongs to its owner—it doesn’t belong to itself. God holds the title deed to *you!*

God purchased us with the blood of His own dear Son so that we could be His garden. Therefore, every human being needs to know that he or she has been bought with a price to be God’s very own.

When we are born again, we become a part of God’s garden in which His imperishable seed, His Word, is to grow. God created us to produce abundant results in our lives—a supernatural harvest. In order to yield a crop like this, we, like a garden, must be planted, tilled, and cultivated.

The Incorruptible Seed

God is the husbandman—He gives us the seed. But we work in cooperation with Him to plant that seed in our hearts and lives.

1 PETER 1:23

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, BUT OF INCORRUPTIBLE [seed], by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

According to this verse, the Word of God is incorruptible seed. That means the seed of God’s Word is *imperishable, eternal, and undecaying*. It will not fade away, weaken, or become obsolete.

How highly you esteem the seed of God’s Word will determine the spiritual harvest you receive. If you place little or no value on the Word, you won’t take the necessary time to plant it in your heart and cultivate it. But if you value God’s Word greatly, you will put it first place in your life.

Jesus said to some of the Jewish religious leaders of His day, “*My word hath no place in you*” (John 8:37). Evidently, they didn’t value what Jesus had to say to them. They didn’t have ears to hear the Word that was preached, and it didn’t benefit them.

We need to ask ourselves, “*What value does the Word of God have in my heart?*” Have you taken time to cultivate the imperishable seed? Have you watered that seed by *praying, meditating, and speaking* His Word in faith?

A Place of Honor

God’s Word ought to occupy a place of honor in the heart and mind of every believer. His Word should have the place of final authority. When the Word has first place in your life, you are only half a step away from your harvest—no matter what harvest you need.

*God’s Word will bring forth
fruit anytime it is planted
in a believer’s heart.*

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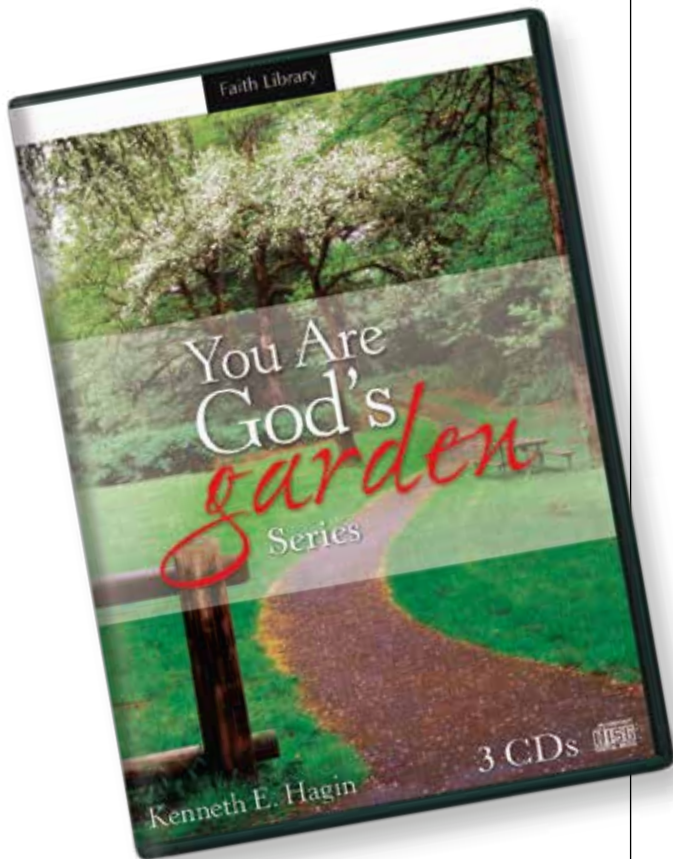
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The seed of God's Word contains all the exceedingly great and precious promises God has given to us. We should honor the Word. God Himself gives His Word a place of preeminence. Psalm 138:2 says, "Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." Jesus also gave His Word preeminence when He said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). **God's Word is a sure foundation!**

One way we receive the promises of God is to stand on His Word. Standing on the Word means appropriating the blessing each promise declares. It's taking God at His Word, believing that Word, and declaring His Word. That's our part and our responsibility as believers.

If we neglect to cultivate the seed by standing on God's promises, we will hinder their fulfillment in our lives. Many Christians never claim God's exceedingly great and precious promises because they are not precious *to them*.

God has given us His holy written Word to unveil to us the living Word—the Lord Jesus Christ. God's Word ought to have the same place in our hearts that Jesus does.

My Answer Was in the Bible

Years ago when I lay dying on the bed of sickness as a teenager, the doctors said they couldn't help me—I had to die. But something on the inside of me, just an inward intuition, told me there was help for me. That inward intuition told me that my answer was in the Bible.

I didn't take time for anything else except reading the Bible, because according to medical science I didn't have much time. I didn't read or even think about anything else besides the Word.

How highly you esteem the seed of God's Word will determine your spiritual harvest.



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God's Word is what brought me healing and health! How I revered that Word! I even slept with the Bible. When I was paralyzed, I used a small New Testament, and I slept with it under my pillow. When I could finally hold a big Bible, I'd sleep with it folded in my arms.

I kept planting the seed of God's Word in my heart. I kept watering it, and eventually it brought forth great results—I **stood beside my bed healed and whole**.

God's Word *will* bring forth fruit anytime it is planted in a believer's heart. But if that believer doesn't plant and water the seed, it won't produce a harvest. It's that simple.

What do you need from God? Find scriptures in His Word that promise you what you need. Then plant that seed from His Word in your heart, and water it by continually thinking and meditating upon it.

When God's Word becomes precious seed to you, then you'll reap a bountiful harvest of His blessings, and His promises will be fulfilled in your life.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's *You Are God's Garden Series* audio teaching.]

Jericho Power

ANDY THOMPSON

MANY OF US in the Church are looking for *Jericho power*. It's part of why we praise and worship God. Jericho power is praise with an expectation. It releases power for God to do what only He can do in our lives. It causes the walls that are keeping us from our blessings to come down.

just for the privilege of glorifying Your Name." But sometimes when we're praising and worshipping God, I can't help but say, "Lord, I want You to know that this is a Jericho shout. I'm shouting because I believe that as I praise You, walls around my personal Jericho are coming down." I shout because I

Him because we need this praise to mean something! We're not just playing church games. We need that wall to come down!

WHAT KIND OF "HALLELUJAH!" WOULD YOU GIVE IF YOU WERE ONE SHOUT AWAY FROM EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN BELIEVING GOD FOR? How would you praise Him if you were one shout away from receiving your healing or breakthrough, or from your business going to the next level? If your praise was the answer, would you praise differently?

We praise God not because we feel His presence or when everything is going our way. We praise Him as an act of our will. This means that we can praise Him in the good times and the bad. The scripture says, "I can do *all things* through Christ" (Phil. 4:13).

When the Israelites gave a shout, they saw the walls of the city of Jericho crumble. In the same way, our shout of praise will cause God to change our situation.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Andy Thompson's Tuesday evening message at *Campmeeting 2015*.]



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Jericho power is praise with an expectation.



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We learn about Jericho power in Joshua 6:5–20. The Lord tells Joshua that He will deliver the fortified city of Jericho into the hands of the Israelites. He orders Joshua to have the people march around the city once a day for six days. On the seventh day, the Israelites are to march around Jericho seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets the whole time. Then they are to shout.

So the Israelites carry out these instructions. And on the seventh day, when they hear the sound of the trumpets, they shout, the walls collapse, and they capture the city. The way through Jericho was the way to their blessing—Canaan.

Jericho power helps us understand that if we can shout, we can take the city—our personal Jericho. Praising God causes Him to move on our behalf. It causes Him to show up and change things.

To give a shout of praise, we don't have to have all the college degrees. We don't have to have it all together and be perfect. All we have to do is know how to holler.

We ought to be shouting because we know that when we worship and praise God, He shows up! Praise pays! I know we like to say, "I did not come to ask for anything, but

need something that only God can do for me.

I find that when we really need God, we live better—we're more holy. When we really need God, nobody has to tell us to have a prayer life. When we really need God—when we need a miracle—we don't cuss folks out. We forgive them real easily.

Even if God has met every need in our lives, we ought to be believing Him for somebody else's miracle. Doing this keeps us from just "kind of" worshipping. We shut our eyes and concentrate on

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BEYOND HIS DREAMS

Thousands of contestants have competed to conquer seemingly impossible obstacles to claim NBC's *American Ninja Warrior* title. Johnathan Morin, a 2008 Rhema graduate and youth pastor, is one of those competitors. Never did Johnathan imagine God would give him such a platform to share the Gospel.

Johnathan grew up in Greenville, South Carolina. In high school, he dreamed of playing college football. As a star varsity defensive end, he spent hours at the gym lifting weights to strengthen his upper and lower body. On the field, he competed hard. College recruiters were impressed with his athleticism and tenacity. One Big South school offered him a full-ride athletic scholarship. Johnathan was living the dream.

Over a school break, Johnathan visited some friends in Pennsylvania. There he attended a church service and God began to speak to his heart. "You're going to be in ministry," the Lord told him. "I want you to say no to college football. I want you to say no to the scholarship."

Johnathan was frustrated. He couldn't understand why God would tell him to turn down something he had worked so hard to obtain. All his coaches, friends, and teachers were on board for him to play college ball. He wrestled with the decision. But he knew the Lord had only good plans for his life, even if he couldn't see the full picture. His parents, both devoted Christians, had graduated from Rhema Bible Training College in 1979. And he had always sensed a call upon his life.

"Fine," Johnathan said in surrender. "I'll do it. I'm all in." His coaches and friends thought he was crazy to turn down a full scholarship. But Johnathan wanted God's plan more than his own reputation. He chose to follow Christ.



▲
JOHNATHAN & STEPHANIE MORIN & FAMILY

After graduating from high school in 2002, Johnathan spent a few years working in his uncle's church. In 2006 he stepped out in faith, packed his bags, and traveled to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, to attend Rhema Bible Training College.

Learning to Walk by Faith

At Rhema, Johnathan matured spiritually as instructors poured God's Word into him. A desire to reach youth with the Good News began stirring in his heart.

All the Word he received during his first year at Rhema prepared him for the sudden passing of his father. He was devastated. His dad had been his best friend, always encouraging and supporting him. Johnathan relied on God's strength to carry him through. Looking back, he's glad he chose to follow God's plan. His time at Rhema gave him a solid spiritual foundation.

“My life would’ve looked a whole lot different had I decided to go to one of the top party schools in America,” Johnathan shared. “I made a confident decision in my faith. It set me up to succeed a little further down in life.”

At Rhema, Johnathan met his wife, Stephanie. She graduated in 2007 and he followed a year later. After graduation the Morins led a young adults Sunday school class at Rhema Bible Church. And before long, God began speaking to Johnathan’s heart about taking another step of faith.

Outside the Box

Johnathan and Stephanie moved to Plano, Texas, to become youth pastors at Grace Outreach Center. They also began sharing the Gospel with unchurched teenagers in that area.

Twice a week Johnathan teaches relevant messages to hundreds of unchurched kids. His youth group, Student Impact, is out to change the world one teenager at a time. “The youth are the way to truly change the world,” shared Stephanie.

One day Johnathan took his youth group to Dallas to watch a live audition for NBC’s *American Ninja Warrior* show. He had no idea what was about to happen.



God Did Something Awesome

As he watched potential contestants try out, Johnathan wondered if he could audition. When he asked, the producers gave him the green light. Thankfully, he had a pair of shorts in his backpack. He saw strong men and women fail to complete the obstacle course and began to doubt. But a fighter at heart, he was determined to give it a shot.

With his youth group cheering him on, Johnathan overcame all six obstacles and moved on to the Regional Finals. He beat that course too. The producers were very impressed that a walk-on contestant had made it to the National Las Vegas Finals. Johnathan knew this was an opportunity for him to be a light for the Lord. He prayed, “God, through this show, do something cool.”

During that season, NBC brought a team to Plano, and a film crew followed Johnathan through his daily routine as a husband, father, and youth pastor. The TV crew filmed a Student Impact service, and that night 17 kids received salvation. When the segment was shown, over eight million people watched.

Shortly after that episode aired, Johnathan received an email from a family in Colorado who had seen it. The mother wrote

on behalf of her 8-year-old daughter. The girl was a fan of Johnathan’s and wanted to write him a letter. “She thinks you’re a hero,” her mother wrote. She also told Johnathan that her daughter had Stage 4 neuroblastoma, a form of cancer, and didn’t have long to live.

When he received the young girl’s letter and shared it with his wife, they both wept. They saw God’s hand at work through the program.

The girl wrote,

“I wish I could be brave like you, Mr. Johnathan. You are a hero. I’ve never been to church. I never had a Bible, and no one’s ever told me how to pray. I just try and talk to God with my heart. But I know God loves me, because I prayed for you and for Him to let me find you. . . .”

Johnathan knew this was a God encounter. He had asked Him to do something cool, but this was beyond what he ever thought.

**JOHNATHAN
MINISTERING AT
STUDENT IMPACT.**

Writing the mother back, he asked if it was OK to speak with her daughter over the phone, because she was *his* hero. A few days later, with the mother’s consent, Johnathan called.

Johnathan encouraged the girl and told her about Jesus. He also prayed with her to receive Christ. Eight days later she went to be with the Lord.

A Life of Surrender

When Johnathan said yes to God’s plan for his life, never did he imagine he would be where he is today. The Student Impact youth group is thriving. Many young people are coming to know Christ each week, and they are growing in their relationship with the Lord. He’s been on four seasons of *American Ninja Warrior*, and he is currently in line to be on season eight, which begins airing this month.

“My goal is to walk out every day taking Jesus to a dying world,” said Johnathan. “To turn students who don’t know Christ into ones who love Him and want to change the world for Him.”

Johnathan is enjoying following Christ. Though he doesn’t know the full road ahead, he has learned to trust the One leading him. As he does that, God does His part—exceedingly above all that he can ask or think.♥

.....
TO LEARN MORE about
Johnathan Morin, visit
GraceOutreachCenter.org.
.....

Let It Go!



CRAIG W. HAGIN

SHARE YOUR VICTORY

Have you ever cast a care on the Lord and left it with Him? Share your story on Facebook. [#RhemaWOF](#)

THERE ARE ALL KINDS of phobias today. Some common fears are walking across a bridge, being in a high place, and being in an enclosed space (claustrophobia). Unfortunately, far too many Christians are filled with fear.

Second Timothy 1:7 says, “*God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind*” (NKJV). If God hasn’t given us a spirit of fear, it should be obvious that fear comes from the devil.

As Christians, we should never allow fear into our lives. If we’re fearful of something, we’re giving place to the devil in that area. And if we’re fearful, it’s because we really don’t know our God. We don’t know how much He loves us—or that He is big enough and strong enough to take care of everything for us.

If we’re in a situation where we don’t know what to do, fear is not the correct response. God never wants us to panic. But He doesn’t want *us* to try and figure out what to do either. He wants us to trust Him.

What Fear Is

In looking up the definition of *fear*, some people go to the Greek and Hebrew. Me, I went to a thesaurus.

Synonyms of *fear* include “anxiety, despair, dismay, doubt, dread, panic, suspicion, uneasiness,” and “worry.”* These are things we experience when we’re fearful.

Fear’s Opposite

If God hasn’t given us a spirit of fear, then He’s given us the opposite of it. What is that? Some people would immediately say

faith. Although this is correct, faith is only one opposite of fear. Some other antonyms, or opposites, of *fear* include “assurance, calmness, confidence, contentment, trust, courage,” and “unconcern.”* God has not only given us faith, He’s given us the power to be confident. We can know that regardless of what we’re facing, we don’t have to be afraid. We can trust in God.

Power

Second Timothy 1:7 also says that God has given us a spirit of *power*. A lot of times people think about power in relation to a power plant. According to Thesaurus.com, synonyms of power include “capability, potential, skill, talent, effectiveness,” and “endowment.”* God has given us ability. He’s given us the ability to overcome the devil.

The devil whispers in our ears antonyms, or opposites, of the word *ability*. Satan will use words like “inability, incompetence, lack,” and “weakness.”* He’ll say things like, “You’re a failure,” “You’re a loser,” “You’re not good enough,” or “You’re not strong enough.” He tries to convince us that there’s no way we can make it.

We can never defeat the devil in our own strength. But God is strong, and through Christ *we’re* strong. God has given us the power, ability, and influence to go out and make it in life.

Love

The second thing God gave us in Second Timothy 1:7 is *love*. Love is the essence of Christianity. We’ve been given two rules to follow: Love God and love people. Scripture tells us if we don’t

love people, we can't love God. If God is love and we're made in His image, love should be something we always have.

Synonyms for *love* include "appreciation, devotion, fondness, friendship, respect," and "tenderness."* Words describing the opposite of *love* include "dislike, enmity, hatred, indifference, neglect, apathy," and "unhappiness."*

God wants us to love people. We may not like what someone does, but Scripture tells us to love *them*. They might be deceived when it comes to theology or life, but Jesus cares about them. Instead of hating them, we should feel sorry for them, because they're letting the devil dominate their lives.

A Sound Mind

The third thing Second Timothy 1:7 says that God gave us is "a sound mind." *Peace* is another word for *sound mind*. Synonyms for the word *peace* include "accord, friendship, love, reconciliation," and "unity."*

The opposite of *peace* is "disagreement, hatred, discord, distress, frustration, upset," and "worry."* A lot of times our minds are not filled with peace. We worry about everything. "How are we going to pay the bills?" "How are we going to do this or do that?"

We're always trying to figure out how *we're* going to get out of our dilemma. Peace comes when we trust God. Paul told Timothy in Second Timothy 1:6 to stir up the gift of God on the inside of him. You see, we already have the power and ability to come against whatever Satan's trying to do. When we stir up the gift on the inside of us, we can tap into love, peace, power, and everything else we need.

In the midst of adversity, we have to remind ourselves of what Christ did on the cross and what has been given to us. If we don't focus on what we have in Christ, our thoughts will be on what the devil is throwing at us. This is when we lose sight of what God can do for us.

Sometimes we get to the point where we can't take it anymore. My advice is to quit taking it and start trusting God.

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." I think we put too much emphasis on the "I" and forget about what God can do. Technically, we can do all things "because of God." I like to say this verse like this: "God can do all things through me because of Christ." This way, the emphasis is on God and not on me.

God has given us the power, ability, and influence to go out and make it in life.



#RhemaWOF

Peter tells us to "cast our cares on the Lord" (1 Peter 5:7). It's a good indication that we haven't done this if we're staying up all night thinking about a problem! Fear comes in when we hold on to stuff and try to figure out how we're going to make it through.

Decide to Let It Go

God wants to handle our cares, but He can't if we're holding on to them. Many of us are used to working things out ourselves. But Jesus didn't die on the cross so we would have to figure everything out. When it comes to God, we've got to let go. When *He* has all of our cares, we can enter into His rest and watch Him turn our situation around.♥

*Each word list comes from Thesaurus.com. *Roget's 21st Century Thesaurus, Third Edition*. Philip Lief Group 2009.

SPECIAL OFFER

Just Let Go!

As Christians, many of us don't want to give up control. We try to figure out how to make it through our dilemma. But we need to give our situation to God. When we do, He can step in and work things out for us.

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Stand in Victory

BRENDA THOMAS

HAVE YOU EVER considered that the first four letters of the word testimony spell t-e-s-t? You can't have a testimony without passing a test. The great news for believers is that every test we face is an open book test—all the answers are found in the Bible! **There isn't anything we face in life that Jesus has not already given us the ability to conquer and triumph over.**

One of my favorite scripture passages is Second Corinthians 2:14—*"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."* How often does God cause us to triumph? Always! In the Amplified Bible Classic Edition, that same verse says, *"But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident the fragrance of the knowledge of God everywhere."* God leads us where? Into triumph.

That verse didn't say that God leads us out into a dry, barren place. It didn't say that He leads us into traps, snares, and plots of the devil so Satan can beat up on us. No! God always leads us where? Into triumph. Into victory. How often does He cause us to triumph? Always!

Always is a great word. Sometimes it helps us to get the full impact of a word by looking at its definition. Two dictionary definitions of *always* are "at every instance"¹ and "for all time."² I like that! Jesus said, *"For all time* I'm going to cause you to triumph. *For all time* you are a trophy of My grace and goodness."

Isn't that good? We can always count on God. He is faithful and reliable. And He always brings us through to victory!

Stay Connected

According to the Bible, temptations, tests, and trials come to steal our faith and rob us of our joy. The devil loves to make us think that he has won and we are completely defeated by his attacks. But when he takes his best shot and throws his hardest blow and we continue to persevere and stand on the Word, he is the one who gets discouraged!

That's why it's so important for us to stay connected with God and in tune with His Spirit. We must keep our eyes on the Word and remain attentive to His voice. When we do, we cannot fail and we will not be defeated. Why? Because **the greatest Winner Who ever lived, lives on the inside of us.** And we are winners in Him!

You see, against all odds, Jesus Christ rose up victorious over death, hell, and the grave. Did He have opportunities to quit? Of course He

did. But His attitude gives us the example we should follow. Winners never quit and quitters never win!

I encourage you to act like Jesus today and refuse to quit. No matter what comes against you, no matter how many times you might get knocked down, just keep getting up! Remember, God always causes you to triumph in Christ. He always causes you to stand. You're going to stand on His promises. You're going to stand on your redemption. And you're going to rise up every single time.♥

1 David B. Guralnik, ed., Webster's New World Dictionary, 2nd college ed. (Cleveland: William Collins & World Publishing, 1974), 41.

2 always.Dictionary.com. *The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition.* Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/always>.

[Editor's Note: Brenda Thomas is a 1977 Rhema Bible Training College graduate. This article was adapted from her book *Making the Most of Your Meltdowns.*]



MORE HELP

For more encouragement to stand when tested, go to kfm.com/pressured and read Kenneth W. Hagin's article "How to Handle Pressure."

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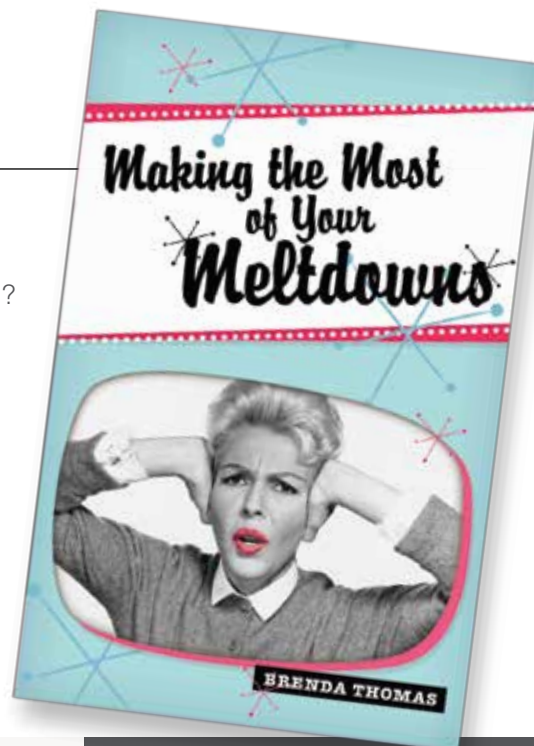
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Empowered by the Spirit

RHEMA'S REACH circles the globe. That truth was never clearer than at *Winter Bible Seminar & Rhema Worldwide Homecoming 2016*. The Rhema family from across the U.S. and around the world gathered in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, in February for a week of encouragement, instruction, and fellowship.

Key themes were:

- In these end times, God's Word is the only safe ground.
- We must take our places in prayer.
- The earth's harvest fields are ripe and much work remains.

Healings were wrought, hearts were strengthened, and thousands of believers left empowered by the Spirit to do what God has called them to do. Here are highlights.



Standing on the Rock

"THE WORD OF GOD IS THE ROCK WE STAND ON. Standing on the incorruptible, indestructible, ever living, all powerful Word of God takes the pressure off. So don't get under pressure—stand on the Word. You're not strong enough to take the pressure. But if you'll let the Word of God be what you stand on, then the Word will take the pressure. When you understand this, you can lean back and relax in the midst of the attacks of the enemy." // **KENNETH W. HAGIN**



There's Power in Agreement!

"Matthew 18:19 in *The Message Bible* says, *"When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action."* Woo! There is power in agreement! I think that's why the enemy tries so hard to get the Church into confusion. Because when we're in agreement, Heaven opens to answer our prayers and we bring God's power to earth. Hallelujah! **LET'S COME TOGETHER IN PRAYER—IN AGREEMENT—AND WATCH GOD GO TO WORK ON OUR BEHALF!**" // **LYNETTE HAGIN**



EXPERIENCE IT

Watch archived messages from *Winter Bible Seminar & Rhema Worldwide Homecoming 2016* online at vimeo.com/rhema/channels. Just click on Winter Bible Seminar 2016.



"God's Word will never become out-dated, superseded, or improved upon. Cultures and laws may change, and governments may come and go, but the Word of God never changes." // **DOUG JONES, USA**



"The message of faith is still working around the world. Some missionaries admitted trying others' messages. But it's the message they received from Rhema that has helped them overcome all obstacles." // **GARY CROWL, HONG KONG**



"The Gospel is not the Gospel of the new birth. It's the Gospel of the righteousness of God. Righteousness is the root; the new birth is the fruit." // **JIM ANDREWS, PERU**



"We are experiencing a population explosion and have the opportunity to reach a lot of people in a short amount of time. We are in a season to reap the last harvest." // **JOHN ROMICK, COLOMBIA**



"God is a good Father Who provides. *The Message Bible* [Matt. 6:30] says, 'He'll attend to you, take pride in you, and do His best for you.'" // **WALKER SCHURZ, ZAMBIA**



Rhema Kids

During *Winter Bible Seminar 2016*, the Rhema Kids went to the Winter Bible Olympics. They enjoyed exciting games and group competitions. Messages built around winter sports highlighted truths from God's Word. Gold, silver, and bronze medals were awarded each evening. The kids experienced powerful times in the Lord through praise, worship, and other ministry. Tuesday night six children were born again and 25 received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Throughout the week parents testified of their children being healed, set free from fear, and touched by God in other special ways. It was an amazing week!

Youth Winter Blitz

JV Youth's *Winter Blitz 2016* theme was "Guess Who?" Guest speaker and worship leader Beka White and JV directors D.K. and Emily Hall shared with the students about who they are in Christ. In Him they are children of God. They are chosen, worthy, and loved. And they have "swag"—strength, wholeness, acceptance, and grace!

Varsity

Varsity Youth experienced a dynamic week at *Winter Blitz 2016*! Young people came from around the country and the globe. Youth enjoyed exciting, elevating worship; powerful messages on what it means to be "in Christ"; and great fellowship. There was special ministry for calls to Christian service, healing, dealing with insecurities, and more.



"We must embrace God's plan, not look back, and decide to go all in for the Lord. Elisha slaughtered his oxen and burned his plow to follow Elijah." // **TAD GREGURICH, USA**

"The things of God should never be dry or boring to you. If they ever become dry or boring, that is a sign of spiritual apathy." // **DARREN WRAY, BRAZIL**

"The devil attacks because he's in fear of where you're going and what you're going to do for God. We need to have God's Word in our heart, ready to command the enemy to flee in Jesus' Name." // **CRAIG W. HAGIN, USA**

"The devil is always going to give you a name. But God says you are the sons and daughters of the Most High God. Your place in His Kingdom has been established." // **RHONDA ROGERS, MEXICO**

"Life is too short and eternity is too long not to do the will of God on this earth." // **KEN TAYLOR, CANADA**

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)

LAST MONTH I asked you a thought provoking question. Are you a pessimist or an optimist? I want to continue on the same subject this month. Do you see a glass with liquid in it as half full or half empty? When giving directions, do you describe a traffic light as a red or green light? Isn't it interesting that many people automatically go to the negative description?

If you have been depressed, lost your joy, or have been grumpy to those around you, I challenge you to change your focus. *Merriam-Webster Collegiate Dictionary* defines focus as: "to concentrate attention or effort." I want to encourage you to focus on positive things every day.

When I am tempted to become negative about my circumstances, I focus on the Apostle Paul. If anyone had a right to develop a negative attitude about life, Paul did. He was put in prison, whipped five times with 39 lashes, beaten three times with rods, and stoned once. He was shipwrecked three times and spent a night and a day adrift at sea.

And yet he declared, "*Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us*" (Romans 8:35–37).

Paul was saying that in spite of these circumstances, he kept a positive attitude because in Christ, we are not *just* conquerors, we are *more than* conquerors. Every time I read those verses, adrenaline begins to flow through me. I trust that as you are reading this, you are feeling the presence of the Lord Who is right beside you and ready to help you fight your battle and come out victorious.

I encourage you to focus on the Lord's ability and not on your insufficiencies. I'm reminded of when Moses fled to Midian after killing an Egyptian in an attempt to escape Pharaoh's wrath. Moses was tending his father-in-law's flock when an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush.

This got Moses' attention. He went closer to the bush to find out why it was not consumed by the fire. All of a sudden God called to him from the middle of the bush. He told Moses that He had seen the Israelites' affliction and was going to use Moses to deliver His people from the Egyptians.

Of course Moses gave God all kinds of excuses of why He needed to use someone else. Moses was focusing on his ability rather than God's. In Exodus 3:11–14 (NIV) we find this conversation between Moses and God, "*But Moses said to God, 'Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?' And God said, 'I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.' Moses said to God, 'Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' Then what shall I tell them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.' ' "*

When you focus on "I AM" and not on your ability, your attitude and circumstances will change. When God began to ask me to do things that were beyond my capabilities, I became like Moses and said, "Why don't you ask someone else?" God answered me the same way He did Moses. He said, "I AM THAT I AM" has sent you.

I said, "Okay God, but I need a Scripture to stand on." Thus I began to adopt the Scripture that He has given me in every situation: Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*" I challenge you to focus on God's ability. When you do, He will empower you and cause you to be successful in every area of your life.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

Fearless, Anointed, Inward-Led, Trustworthy, Heirs of God

D-I-S 3 Very Deadly Letters

jokes & riddles

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



What did one fish say to another?
If you keep your mouth closed, you won't get caught!

What is the longest word in the dictionary?

SMILES...because there's a MILE between the first "S" and the last "S."

Danny: *Teacher, would you yell at me for something that I didn't do?*

Teacher: *Well, of course not!*

Danny: *Good, because I didn't do my homework.*

What's the difference between a baseball player and a tired dog?

The baseball player wears an entire uniform but the dog only pants.

Police Officer: *Ma'am, I'm sorry, but I have to bring you in for driving 90 miles an hour.*

Lady: *But officer, that's impossible. I've only been driving for 10 minutes!*

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Cows.
Cows who?
No, Cows moo...Owls hoo!

WHAT AM I?

I am found in the sea and on land but I don't walk or swim. I travel by foot but I'm toeless and I'm never far from home. What am I?

A snail
#RhemaWOF rhema.org/wof 23

Take a Closer Look!

Maybe you haven't thought about just how important it is to obey. But if you'll take a closer look, you'll see how important obedience is in your everyday life. For instance, if your parents did not obey the signs below, what do you think would happen?

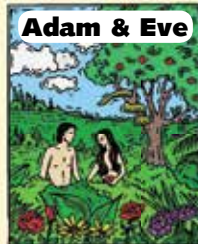


There are lots of good reasons to be obedient. But the most important reason can be discovered when you circle every third letter in the jumbled letters below. The answer is from Colossians 3:20. The first word has already been done for you.

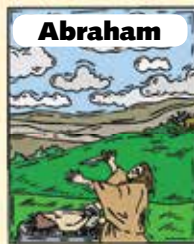
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easLtrokhrxmd.

"Why are these 3 letters so deadly?" you might ask. Because when you add them to the front of the word "obedience," you get the word "disobedience." Those 3 letters can mean the difference between being rewarded or being punished—between living a long life or having your years cut short. Ephesians 6 tells children to obey their parents so that "it may be well with you, and that you may *live long* on the earth." Those 3 letters can also mean the difference between living in a good place or living in a bad place. The Bible says in Isaiah 1:19, "If you be willing and *obedient*, you will eat the *best of the land*." But Psalm 68:6 says, "Only the rebellious [*disobedient*] live in a *parched land*." So, how do you know if you are obedient or disobedient? It's simple. **Obedience** does what it is told to do . . . **disobedience** does not.

Draw a line from the Bible characters below to the word that best fits how they responded to God when they were told to do something.



(Gen. 3)



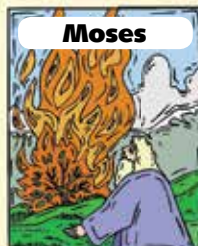
(Gen. 22)



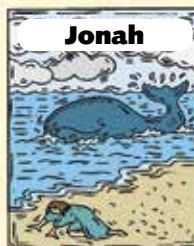
(Gen. 6)

OBEDIENCE

DISOBEDIENCE



(Exodus 3)



(Jonah 1)



(Gen. 19)

D-I-S 3 Very Deadly Letters
Adam and Eve-Disobedience; Abraham-Obedience; Noah-Obedience; Moses-Obedience; Jonah-Disobedience; Lot's Wife-Disobedience; Noah-Obedience.
Take a Closer Look!
For this is well pleasing to the Lord.
Who Am I?
The Rich Young Ruler

Who Am I?

Use the picture clues below to figure out the answer to this riddle. Then write your answer in the blanks below.

All God's commands I obeyed from my youth,
And I went to Jesus searching for truth.
What He told me to do was hard to obey,
So I left His presence very sad that day.



The _____

ANSWERS:



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