



THE Word of Faith

MAY 2017

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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"You, Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall."

—PSALM 18:28-29 (NIV)

the Word of Faith



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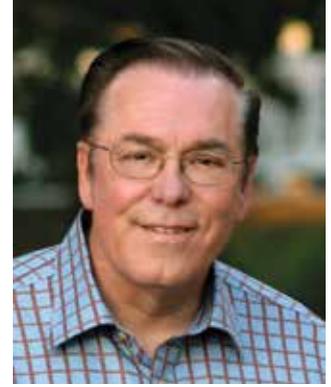
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We Must Never Forget

This month as we celebrate Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who gave their lives in service to our nation. Their blood was shed so the United States would be free and strong. This is also a time that we can reflect on what the Lord has done in our lives. The word memorial means “to remember.” But all too often, we only remember the bad times and not the good.

After the children of Israel crossed the Jordan River, the Lord instructed them to get 12 stones and build a memorial. God didn't want them to forget how He delivered them from the Egyptians. *“In the future your children will ask you, ‘What do these stones mean?’ Then you can tell them, ‘They remind us that the Jordan River stopped flowing when the Ark of the Lord’s Covenant went across.’ These stones will stand as a memorial among the people of Israel forever”* (Joshua 4:6-7 NLT).

We all have pivotal points—or moments—in our lives. We could call them our personal stones. When we remember these markers, we can see how God has saved, delivered, and set us free time and time again. We can see how He brought us through trials and tests. How He healed us from sickness and disease.

We should remind our children and grandchildren of these things as well. This way they can see that the Lord’s hand is powerful and that He fulfills His promises. It’s a way to share our faith and spiritual heritage with them.

I pray that as you reflect on the victories in your life, it will remind you of God’s faithfulness and unfailing love. I believe it will also encourage you to step into new beginnings, knowing that God is with you.

Don’t miss a single page of this issue! Each article will strengthen and encourage you in your faith! And don’t forget to share your favorite quotes on social media. Just #RhemaWOF.

Kenneth W. Hagin

THIS ISSUE



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LYNETTE HAGIN

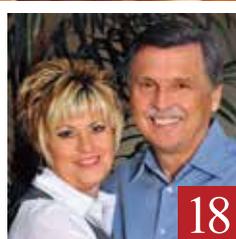
As you walk out God’s plan, the enemy will try to discourage and distract you. Your response must be, “None of these things move me!”

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Special Report:

Rhema graduates Mark and Brenda Thomas were led by an inward witness to move to California in 1982. Read how they are reaching the lost and healing the hurting in the Bay Area.



The Secret to Victory

"I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

— PSALM 34:1

HAVE YOU EVER met a Christian who always seems to be full of joy and gladness—someone who always exhibits the joy of the Lord both in the good times and the bad? A believer who is always full of joy has learned the secret of living a life of praise to God.

God's praises must continually be in your mouth if you want to have joy and walk in victory. If you don't have joy, you probably have not learned the valuable secret of praising God. Our praise life is closely connected to our faith life, because praise is an expression of faith. Walking by faith is something we are to do every day, not just occasionally. Second Corinthians 5:7 says, *"For we walk by faith, not by sight."* In other words, we are to always walk in the light of God's Word no matter what our circumstances may be. Praise should be our lifestyle.

Many Christians do not fully understand the place praise holds in receiving answers to prayer. They pray, yet fail to receive answers. Oftentimes, they're not missing it in their praying, their believing, or in their confession of God's Word. They're missing it because they don't understand that the secret of a victorious life comes through praise! Prayer has to be mixed with faith and praise in order to produce results.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

What is praise? Praising God is expressing gratitude to Him. It's thanking Him for what He has done and is doing in your life. You don't have to see your answer with your physical eyes to praise God in faith. But if you will praise Him because you believe He is working on your behalf according to His Word, it won't be long before His Word comes to pass in your life!

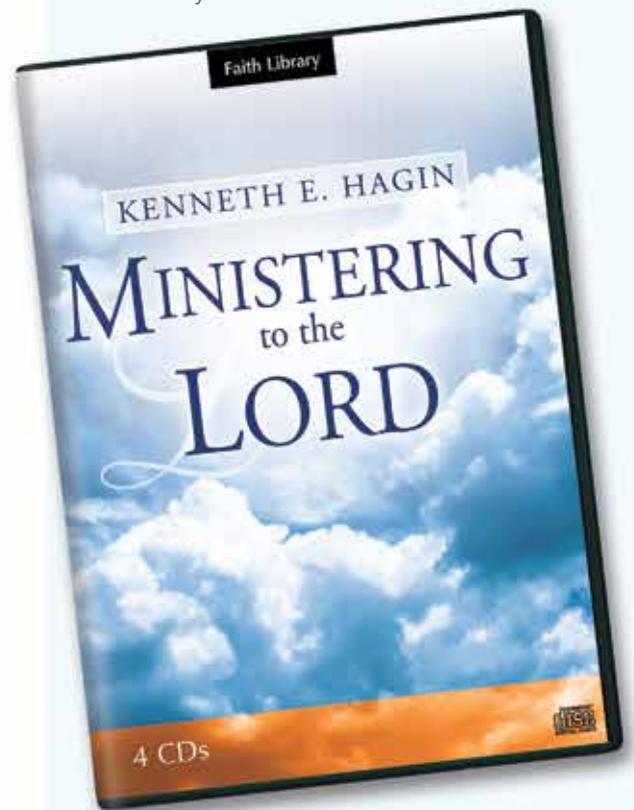
Praise is also expressed with enthusiasm and exuberance. I have never seen a child receive a new toy he or she really wanted and without any

emotion say, "Thank you." No, that child will usually jump up and down excitedly and exclaim, "It's just what I wanted! Thank you!" That is the way we should act when we believe God has heard and answered our prayers!

I once read a story about a missionary in China who had been experiencing defeat in his life instead of victory. He took a period of time to pray and seek God about it. He had decided that he would not stop praying until he got his answer. For many days, he sought God earnestly. Finally, the missionary traveled to a mission station, where he could pray without distractions. As he began praying, pacing the floor, he happened to look up at a sign on the wall that read, "Try praise." Suddenly it dawned on him that while prayer is important, he had to add praise to his prayers to see his prayers come to fruition.

Praise Your Way to Victory

God wants us to praise Him! Praise builds up our faith and sets us free from the power of circumstances. Kenneth E. Hagin discusses the place and purpose of praise and worship in our everyday lives and how we can praise ourselves to victory!



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Prayer *asks*, but praise *takes*. Praise is an expression of faith, and faith in God's Word produces results! Your prayers must be watered with praise before they will bear fruit. Yes, prayer has its place, and it's important to have faith in God's Word. But praise is an act of faith. It exclaims with gratitude and thanksgiving, "Thank you, Father, for the answer! It's mine—I have it now!"

Often, a lack of praise to God is the only thing that keeps people from receiving answers to their prayers. The praise life of many Christians has been neglected, except when they go to church. It's easy to shout and praise and thank God in a service where other believers are praising God and everyone is excited about the things of God. But the *best* time for praising God—for thanking Him that He has heard and answered your prayers—is in the midst of the storm when all the circumstances suggest you *don't* have your answer. If you never waver in your confession of the Word, and continually praise God in the midst of adversity, you can't help but win in every situation. You can walk in complete victory through praise!

Prayer asks, but praise takes.

The Christian who knows how to praise God regardless of the circumstances is a Christian who really knows God. Circumstances can't hurt you when you're really believing God. Jesus has already won the battle and has obtained victory for you in His death, burial, and resurrection. And He knows how to see you through any test or trial. The Bible says, "*Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ*" (2 Cor. 2:14). We will always come out on the other side of any test or trail victorious if we continue to believe God's Word and praise Him.

We may not always feel like praising God, but we shouldn't wait to praise Him until we *feel* like it. God is always worthy of our praise. This is why the Bible talks about *sacrificing* praise to God.

HEBREWS 13:15

15 By him therefore let us offer the **sacrifice of praise** to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

When the tests and trials of life try to discourage you, you can begin to say by faith, "By Jesus' stripes I am healed (1 Peter 2:24). God is supplying all of my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19).

Our praise life is closely connected to our faith life, because praise is an expression of faith.



#RhemaWOF

Thank you, Lord. My needs are met, and healing is mine. Hallelujah!" That is what it means to offer the sacrifice of praise to God. And we are to do this continually, no matter what our circumstances may be.

If we know what God's Word says, we can praise Him because we know the victory is ours. So determine to continually praise God for what He has done and for what He is doing in your life. There is a secret to having the joy of the Lord and experiencing victory. The secret is living a life of continual praise to God for His goodness and for His faithfulness to His Word.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from a *Word of Faith* article previously published in May 1992.]

Kenneth W. Hagin's

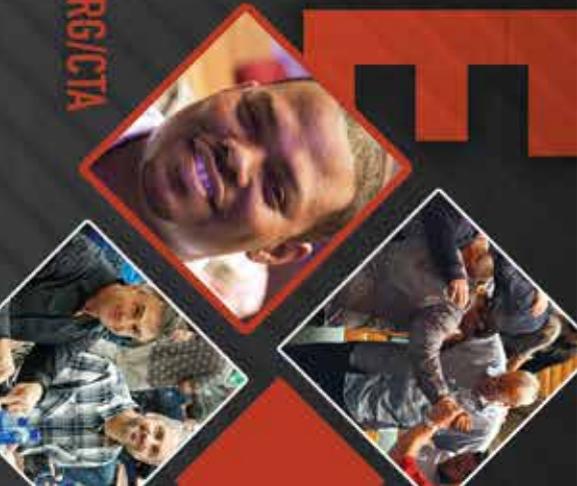


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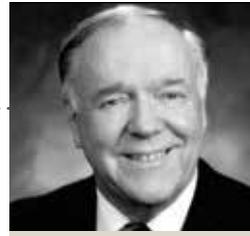


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Angels in Our Midst

KENNETH E. HAGIN



IN TEACHING ME about angels, the Lord pointed out the scripture, “*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?*” (Heb. 1:14). I always thought this verse said, “minister to them who shall be heirs of salvation.” But it says, “minister for them.” The word “minister” used here carries the thought of waiting on or serving. For instance, when you go into a restaurant, a waitress “ministers” to you by waiting on or serving you. In other words, she waits for your order.

Angels are ministering spirits who are sent to minister, not just to one, but for all who are heirs of salvation. Someone might ask, “Why haven’t they done anything?” Because they are waiting for you to give them the order, just as a waitress cannot do anything for you until you give her the order!

In August of 1963, the Lord appeared to me and began talking to me about my ministry. An angel stood about three feet behind Him. Every time I looked at the angel he looked back at me as if he were about to say something. But then I would look back to Jesus and the angel wouldn’t say anything. Finally I said to the Lord, “Who is this angel and what does he represent?”

“That’s your angel,” He replied. “My angel!”

“Yes, don’t you know, it is written in My Word where I said to My disciples, ‘*Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven*’ (Matt. 19:14). Then in another place I said, ‘[For] *their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven*’ (Matt. 18:10). You don’t lose your angel just because you grow up,” Jesus said.

Think about it. Why would we lose our angel just because we grow up?

“But Lord,” I said, “You are here. Why can’t You deliver the message?”

I wanted to be scriptural. We receive guidance from the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. I wasn’t sure about an angel giving me a message.

Jesus reminded me of when the angel of the Lord awakened Peter when he was in jail, and in answer to prayer, led him out of jail. And the times when the angel of the Lord appeared to others like Philip and Paul to give them direction and a message from God.

I repented for my ignorance. I thought I was being a stickler for the Word. I think many times dear people have been defeated by thinking they were sticklers for the Word, when they were really just being sticklers for what they *thought* the Word said. The Word may have

more to say on some subjects than they realized.

If we’re not careful, we can get so conscious of obeying the letter of the Word that we miss the Spirit of the Word and shut the door on God and on the move of the Holy Spirit.

From that day, I learned to order my ministering spirits to go and minister for me—an heir of salvation—and cause finances or whatever I needed to come, in Jesus’ Name.

BELIEVERS AREN’T TO PRAY AND SEEK FOR ANGELS TO APPEAR TO THEM; THE DEVIL MIGHT ACCOMMODATE THEM. The Bible says, “*For Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light*” (2 Cor. 11:14). Just stay faithful to God. If He sees fit, a believer may have a divinely granted appearance. If He doesn’t, that’s fine too. God is the One Who grants these things as He wills.♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *I Believe in Visions*.]

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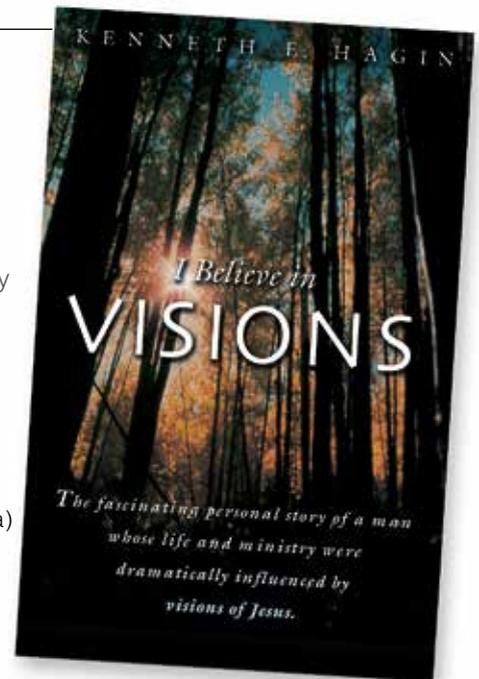
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NONE
OF THESE THINGS
MOVE ME



[Editor's Note: On May 19, the 43rd graduating class of Rhema Bible Training College received their diplomas. We thought you would enjoy reading how Mrs. Lynette Hagin encouraged the student body during her September 9, 2016, orientation address.]



AS I WAS growing up, my dad often said, “Lynette, take advantage of every learning experience. You may not think that you’re going to need something, but there’s a possibility that you will!”

I’ve discovered that the older we get, the more we realize how much more we need to learn. In fact, after being in ministry for 50 years, my late father-in-law, Kenneth E. Hagin, said “I think I know less now than I thought I knew when I was in ministry for 10 years.”

While you’re at Rhema, I encourage you to take advantage of the learning opportunities that are presented to you! Don’t question why; just absorb them. It may be that God is giving you instructions that you will need in the future.

I’m so thankful I listened to my dad’s advice. I never dreamed that God would lead me to where I am today. You may not know what God has in store for you, but He has a plan and a purpose.

The Book of Acts records the Apostle Paul’s missionary journeys. We can see from the following passage his attitude as he followed God’s plan.

ACTS 20:22-24

22 And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:

23 Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me.



LYNETTE HAGIN

24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.

As you prepare for ministry, you could put your name in verse 22! It doesn’t matter what God has called you to do. You may help a local ministry or travel across the world and pioneer a new work. One thing is certain, you really don’t

know what will befall you.

Wherever your call takes you, the first part of verse 24 will keep you steady in difficult times. “*None of these things move me.*”

Situations and circumstances *will* come your way—not *might*—they *will* come your way! No matter what you face, your response always needs to be, “None of these things are going to move me!”

God did not bring you to Rhema to *not* finish your course! You must finish. And not only that—as Paul says, “*that I might finish my course with joy.*” Regardless of the path God has for you, determine from this moment that you are going to negotiate every step of it with joy!

Will every step be joyous? No. Will God take you on the short route? Probably not.

SPECIAL OFFER

Called of God— Now What?

God has created you and chosen you to do something useful in the Body of Christ, whether in the pulpit or not. But how do you get from where you are to where God wants you to be? Whether you are called to preach or to help, the biblical principles in this book will help you along the road to success in your service to the Lord!

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We are all on a journey. None of us has passed this way before. The enemy will try to discourage us from continuing on. But remember, the devil is a liar and the father of lies.

At times, you will have to set your face like flint and say, “Devil, I don’t care what you bring. None of these things are going to move me. I am committed to following the plan that God has for me.”

As you’re walking that journey, you may take a wrong turn. There could be a detour. You may have chosen the scenic route. Or maybe you thought you knew a shortcut, but it ends up taking longer than expected. All these things delay His plan.

When circumstances and situations make it look bad all around, remember that God still has a plan!

I’ve been there. I know what it’s like to say, “God I’m following Your plan, but it looks really bad out there.” He always brings me to scripture and says, “Lynette, My plans are for good, and not for disaster” (Jer. 29:11 NLT).

When you know in your heart that God is leading in a certain direction, rest assured that it is the right way to go. He promises to direct your path (Prov. 3:5–6) and order your steps (Psalm 37:23).

The Apostle Paul experienced his share of adversity while following the plan God had for him. Yet, he wrote, *“Rejoice in the Lord always. . . . Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:4, 6–7 NKJV).

FAITH IN ACTION

Accepting God’s Call

When God’s call is upon your life, nothing else will ever satisfy you—no fame, no fortune, nothing. You’ll never find fulfillment until you accept God’s plan for your life.

As a young child, you may have known that you were called to the ministry. You may have questioned that call. You may have become distracted. You may have found success in other areas of life, but you’ve never found satisfaction.

If that is you, now is the time to set aside your desires and fully follow after God.

As you rejoice in the Lord and continue in prayer, the peace of God will come upon you. That peace will get you through every circumstance and situation that may befall you.

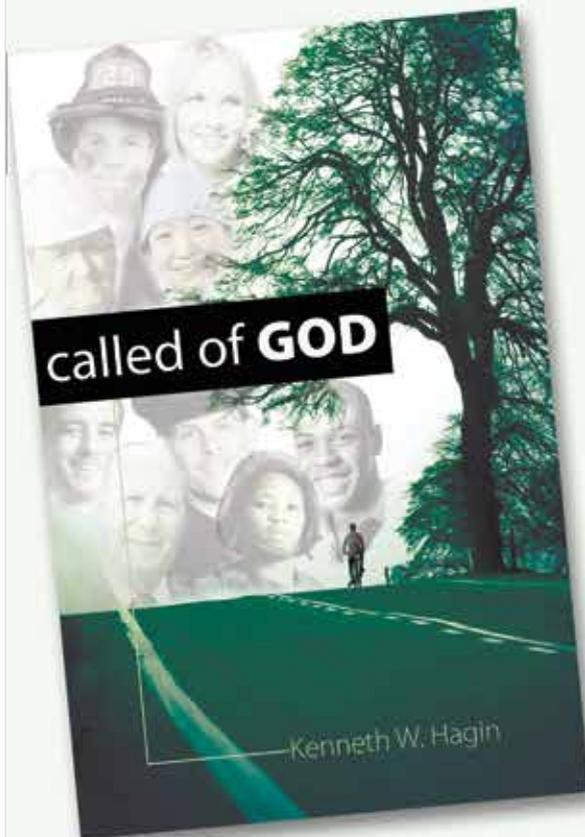
It’s time for us to get in our places! We are all members of the Body of Christ, and God has given each one of us talents. We all have a part to play in His plan. And if we are not where we are supposed to be, the Church is hampered.

I encourage you to commit to following God’s plan. Stay full of the Word, and communicate with your Heavenly Father. Above all, don’t let the enemy distract or discourage you.

Confess this today. “God, I know You have a plan for my life, and I commit to follow that plan. The devil may bring situations against me, but none of these things move me! And I’m going to finish my course with joy!”

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From Test to **Testimony**

ORETHA HAGIN

IN THE SUMMER OF 1938, the new minister, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin, came to pastor my church in Tom Bean, Texas. He was tall, slim, blonde, and handsome—and all the single girls in the church were after him!

When Kenneth and I met, I hadn't received the Holy Spirit, although secretly I had wanted to. During our courtship, Kenneth would always say to me, "I'd marry you tonight if you had the baptism of the Holy Ghost." I would just smile. He married me anyway. I didn't receive the Holy Spirit until *after* we were married!

On the fourth night after we were married, Kenneth and I were praying together with my parents in the living room. The Lord told Kenneth to lay his hand on my forehead, and I would receive the Holy Spirit.

The Lord had never said anything like that to Kenneth before. At first he was kind of hesitant. But after the third time the Lord had spoken to him, he lightly touched my forehead with his left hand. I instantly received the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues.

That same night, I sensed the Lord telling me that one day Kenneth would be gone. I thought it meant that he would die, so I pushed the thought aside. Ten years later when Kenneth went into the full-time traveling ministry, I finally realized what the Lord was saying to me that night.

I spent practically eight years all by myself while Kenneth was out ministering. The kids and I hardly ever got to see him during that time. When we did, it wasn't for very long. Traveling full time in the ministry was a big sacrifice to make.

Kenneth wasn't traveling out on the road just to be doing it. He

would rather have been at home with us. But God said, "Go," and he obeyed. He had to do what God had called him to do.

When you've got a message burning in your heart and you know what God has called you to do, you can't sit still in disobedience.

Yes, God is merciful, but He can't bless disobedience. We've got

for the ministry was to be a large part of Kenneth's vision to take the message of faith to the world. But at the time he obeyed the Lord and began the school, we were not at all aware of the magnitude of what the Lord was going to do through it.

When Rhema started, we never dreamed it would grow to the size it is today. But God had His own plan.

When you've got a message burning in your heart and you know what God has called you to do, you can't sit still in disobedience.

to be faithful to God's Word and His will for our individual lives.

When you walk with God, sometimes He may ask you to do things you don't want to do or that seem difficult or impossible. For example, Rhema Bible Training College became a reality in September 1974. But it was a project that both Kenneth and I hesitated to start.

The Lord had been dealing with Kenneth for some time to start the school. Training men and women

And He did it all. It wasn't Kenneth and me. We were only God's vessels. But starting Rhema was God's plan for us.

When you obey the Lord and fulfill His plans and purposes, your ministry—whatever it is—will grow beyond all that you could ask or think.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book *The Price Is Not Greater Than God's Grace* by Oretta Hagin.]



▼
TO READ MORE of Mrs. Oretta Hagin's warm and candid perspective of how God led her and Kenneth E. Hagin through ministry, visit rhema.org/oh0517 and order *The Price Is Not Greater Than God's Grace*.

Did you know?

TIMELINE

THE MANDATE

Kenneth E. Hagin was 32 years old when he received the mandate to,

"Go teach my people faith."

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FLASHBACK!

Remember these great moments from last year?

"The Word of the Lord that you speak will cause things to happen in your life. It will equip you to triumph over the devil every time!"
// Kenneth W. Hagin

"There is victory in your voice! If you can move your mouth, you can move your mountain."
// Mark Hankins

"Faith will never remain status quo. It will either grow or it will go." // Charles Cowan

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Essential Steps of Faith

MYNISTA



campmeeting
SPEAKER
HIGHLIGHT

Find out
more about
Campmeeting and
Summer Blitz on
pages 12-13.

GOD IS a faith God. And He has designed our Christian walk so that we live by faith. On this path of faith, there are steps to follow. It's necessary to walk out these steps because they will take us from

He likes and things that He really doesn't care much for. He does this because He wants His heart to become our heart. As we read our Bible, different scriptures will pop out at us. This is God revealing His

strengthens you. It also says that we're not beggars. God will take care of us. Do you believe Him?

Step Three: Act on God's Word

Speaking God's Word is one way to act on His Word. This is saying what God says about us. When we say what God says, we'll start seeing His Word come to pass in our lives.

I've witnessed this to be true in my life. When I first started writing music for the Lord, there was no one I knew who was rapping for Jesus. But I began to speak the promises of God over my life. As I did this, I started to see myself the way God sees me. And doors began to open for me to minister and share my music.

We hear God's voice when we fellowship with Him. Then, as we talk like God and speak His Word, it changes our scenery. If we don't act on this step, nothing will change in our lives. It's not because God doesn't want the best for us. It's a law of faith (Mark 11:23). We shape our world by our words.

By practicing these three steps: fellowshiping with God, believing His Word, and acting on the Word, we'll reach the destiny God has for us and do great exploits for Him. 🍀

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Mynista's Wednesday afternoon session at Summer Blitz 2016.]

The more time we spend reading our Bibles, the more we'll know what God said and what belongs to us.

where we are now to where God wants us to be. Below are three essential steps of faith that will help us live and walk in the fullness of God's plan for our lives.

Step One: Fellowship with God

Scripture says that if we draw near to God, He'll draw near to us. God made the first move. He opened the door to have a relationship with us when He gave us Jesus. He could have left us in darkness and spiritual death. But instead, Jesus came and died for our sins. And when we believe on Jesus, we have access to God's presence.

Spending time in God's Word is how we draw near to Him. As we read Scripture, we begin to learn who God is. He'll show us what

plan. He'll give us specific direction on our call and His purpose for our lives.

Step Two: Believe God

Although Christians are called believers, they don't necessarily believe everything that God says. They believe that Jesus is the Messiah, but some "believers" don't think that He heals. If we believe wrong things about God, our Christian walk won't be right, and we'll end up on a different path than the one He intended.

The more time we spend reading our Bibles, the more we'll know what God said and what belongs to us. When the Word says Jesus is the Healer, we'll believe Him. God's Word says that you can do all things through Christ Who

**SUMMER BLITZ 2017 IS
GOING TO BE A BLAST!**
You don't want to miss it!





Developing a Tender Conscience



Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

Does the Holy Spirit condemn you if you do wrong as a Christian? No. It is your spirit that condemns you. You need to learn that. It's a hard lesson to learn, however, because we have been taught incorrectly.

THE HOLY SPIRIT will not condemn you because God won't. The Holy Spirit through Paul asked: Who is it that condemns? Does God condemn? No, it is God that justifies. (See Romans 8:33–34.) Jesus said that the only sin the Holy Spirit will convict the world of is the sin of rejecting Jesus (John 16:7–9).

It is your own conscience—the voice of your own spirit—that knows when you have done wrong. I have found that even when I do wrong, though my spirit condemns me, the Holy Spirit is there to comfort me, help me, and show me the way back. You will never read in the Bible where the Holy Spirit is a condemner. Jesus called Him *the Comforter*. The seven-fold meaning of that word from the Greek is brought out in the *Amplified Bible*:

JOHN 14:16 (AMPC)

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners and Standby) that He may remain with you forever.

The Holy Spirit is all of those! He will stand by you when no one else will. He will help you. He is a helper! It is your own spirit that knows the moment you have done wrong.

I was barely saved, healed, and back in high school when the following incident occurred. I really don't know why it slipped out—no one in our family used profanity. But we had a neighbor who could—as we say in Texas—“cuss up a storm.” You could hear him all over our end of town. I suppose I picked it up from him.

Anyway, I simply said to one of the boys, “Hell, no.” The minute I said that I knew on the inside it was wrong. What was it that condemned me? The Holy Spirit? No. It was my spirit. This new creature, this new man doesn't talk that way. The Life and Nature of God doesn't talk that way.

Now the flesh, the outward man, may want to keep doing some things that he did before, and talking in ways he talked before, but you have to crucify the flesh. A good way to crucify the flesh—the outward man—is to bring your mistakes right out in the open. I did that immediately. I didn't wait until I was moved.

In my heart I said, “Dear God, forgive me for saying that.” I asked the young man to forgive me. He hadn’t noticed what I said, but I had to get it right.

My conscience was tender, and I didn’t want to violate it. Unless you keep a tender conscience, spiritual things will be indistinct to you. That’s because your conscience is the voice of your spirit, and it is your conscience that will relate to your mind what the Spirit of God is saying to you down in your heart. The Bible speaks about Christians even having their conscience seared:

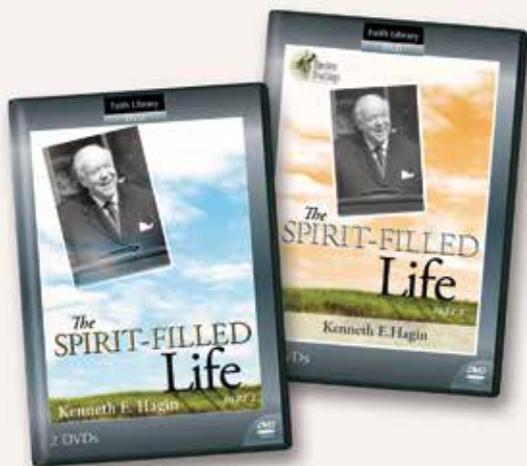
1 TIMOTHY 4:2

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with hot iron.

SPECIAL OFFER

Let God Live Big in You

The Holy Spirit was sent to dwell in us, guide us through life, and comfort us in hard times. As we develop our spirit man and become more sensitive to His leading, we will experience all the benefits that come with living a Spirit-filled life!



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The first church I pastored was a community church out in the country. I usually went out Saturday night and came back into town on Monday.

I stayed quite often in the home of a dear Methodist man. This fine spiritual man, was 89 years old. He and I didn’t get up as early as the others did on his farm. They would be out doing chores or be out working in the field when this older gentleman and I had breakfast together.

I didn’t drink coffee, but this gentleman did. Now you could hardly believe it unless you saw it, but he had one of those old-fashioned coffee pots—this was in the mid-30’s—sitting on an old-fashioned wood stove with coffee boiling in it.

I had seen him take that boiling coffee, pour it into a big thick mug, and while it was still hot, turn it up to his mouth and drink the whole cup. The first time I saw him do it, I hollered. I felt like my mouth and throat were burning!

How could he do that? I couldn’t. The tissues of my lips, the inside of my mouth, my throat and esophagus are so tender, just one teaspoonful would have burned all the way down. But he drank a whole mug without taking it away from his mouth. He couldn’t do that to begin with though. Through years of drinking coffee that hot, his lips, mouth, throat, and esophagus became seared. Eventually, he could drink it that hot, and it didn’t bother him.

FAITH NUGGET

Listen to Your Heart

“For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

—2 Corinthians 6:16

When you are born again, the Holy Spirit lives and abides in your spirit. The reason your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit is because your body is the temple of your spirit. The Spirit of God communicates with you through your spirit and passes that information on to your mind by an inward intuition.

We can avoid many mishaps if we would just wait on God. Instead of groaning and moaning about past failures, let’s take advantage of what is ours. We have yet to grasp the depth of what God is really saying: *“I will dwell in them, and walk in them.”* If God is dwelling in us, then that is where He will speak to us. Let’s begin to develop our spirits, and learn to listen to Him.

Spiritually, the same thing can happen. Learn to keep a tender conscience. The minute you miss it and your conscience condemns you, correct it right away. Don’t wait until you go to church. Immediately say, “Lord, forgive me. I missed it.” If you have to, if someone else saw or heard you, tell that person right away, “I did wrong. Please forgive me. I shouldn’t have said that.” You will have to keep your spirit tender if you are going to be led by the Spirit.♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *How You Can Be Led by the Spirit of God.*]

'Rhema Has Blessed Us So Much'

Five years ago I visited a church where a Rhema graduate was the guest speaker. I was awestruck because I had never heard the Word of God preached like that! This graduate prayed for my elbow and God miraculously healed it that afternoon. The graduate also gave me Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Healing Scriptures*, which opened up a whole new world for me. Two months later my daughter was miraculously healed of asthma after I prayed and confessed the scriptures in that book over her. I have repeated this story a hundred times over the past five years! I have purchased several more of your books . . . and I treasure the monthly Word of Faith magazine. I have recommended Rhema books and CDs to many. **RHEMA HAS BLESSED US SO MUCH AND IS VERY DEAR TO MY HEART.** I thank you for your prayers, and I thank you for your faithful work in Kenneth Hagin Ministries.

Marcie P.



Rhema Word Partners, thank you for helping us train laborers and send them out into the harvest to reach people like Marcie. Because of your faithful support and prayers, we can continue to share the message of God's healing, life, and love. And lives are being changed. You are making a tremendous difference.

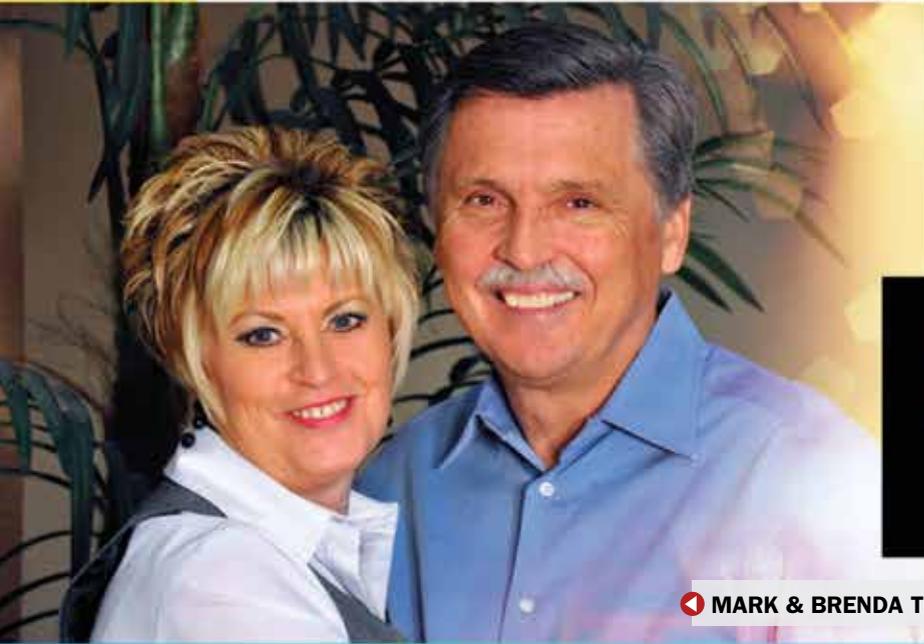
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*Reaching the lost,
healing the hurting,
and maturing the
believer . . .*



◀ MARK & BRENDA THOMAS

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE IN THE BAY

SPANNING THE STRAIT that connects the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay, the Golden Gate Bridge joins the city of San Francisco and Marin County. Green hills, hiking trails, and mountains lie in natural juxtaposition to the bustling city life of the San Francisco Bay Area. Centrally located in the heart of the Bay is Hayward, a city of more than 150,000 people.

Rhema graduates, Mark and Brenda Thomas, have been pastoring Heart of the Bay Christian Center in Hayward (HBCC) since 1982. Reaching the lost, healing the hurting, and maturing the believer is at the center of everything they do.

The Journey

Mark and Brenda met at Rhema Bible Training College, and married shortly after graduating in 1977. After a brief stay in Oklahoma, the couple relocated to Minnesota where they helped Rev. Jim Kaseman pioneer several churches. Mark felt this season coming to an end after pastoring in Willmar, Minnesota, for two years.

During this time, Mark was invited to minister in San Francisco. He spoke at several home Bible studies and at a small church in Hayward. Mark returned to Minnesota feeling called to the Bay Area.

Acting on a simple inward witness, Mark and Brenda began making preparations to move to California. First, they merged their congregation of 125 members with another small church. With most of their possessions in storage, they packed what was left in their Chevy Citation. Intending to start a church in San Francisco, they stepped out in faith and moved to the City by the Bay.

At first, the Thomases held Bible studies in the Bay Area. They also taught at various churches ministering the message of faith to hungry hearts. While driving home after speaking at a church in Oakland, Mark said to Brenda, "Let's visit that church I preached at when I first came here."

Little did Mark know when he first ministered there that the congregation was looking for a pastor. After he returned to Minnesota, the small body of believers thought he would be a great pastor for them. But they really felt their new pastor would be someone local. When they learned that Mark and Brenda had moved to California, they asked them to be their pastors. Their first official service was July 4, 1982.

"We thought we were going to pioneer a church in San Francisco," says Brenda, "but God gave us an amazing group of people. I'll never forget our first Sunday. We had 125 people—the same number of people we had in Minnesota."

KIDS RECEIVE BACKPACKS FULL OF SUPPLIES AT OPERATION OUTREACH. ▶



Overcoming Giants

Whatever path God has laid out before you, there are usually faith battles to fight. Through the years, the Thomases have learned that when they are in deep waters, faith in God will keep them from drowning.

Because real estate is so expensive in California, many churches there don't own their property. Mark and Brenda leased property from a school district for a number of years.

In 2002, they learned about an old movie theater that was coming on the market. The location couldn't be better—it was on one of the busiest thoroughfares in the East Bay. The process of purchasing the land, however, was not an easy move.

After Heart of the Bay Christian Center received a conditional use permit, the mayor of Hayward appealed the decision. The City of Hayward had a compelling interest to retain the property for commercial use. This would allow them to collect tax revenue.

Mark knew the Lord was leading them to purchase the land. He sought God's wisdom as he and Brenda prepared to go before the city council. The day of the hearing, HBCC church members filled the room. One by one they shared how the church had helped them. From children to teens to senior citizens, it was clearly evident that Heart of the Bay Christian Center had impacted many lives.

Before voting started, the mayor spoke up. "I motion that we give this church their permit," she said. The vote was unanimous in favor of HBCC. What looked like an impossible situation was suddenly turned around!

Sharing Christ's Love

Heart of the Bay Christian Center continues to touch people in the Bay Area. In addition to Sunday and Wednesday services, they hold a weekly healing clinic and distribute food to those who are in need. And they take the Gospel message outside the four walls of their church.

During the summer of 2015, over 50 church members went to one of the roughest neighborhoods in the San Francisco Bay Area. They joined other believers to participate in San Francisco City Impact, an outreach in the Tenderloin District—an area known for high crime, gang violence, drugs, and where homelessness abounds. Motivated by God's love, members from HBCC helped distribute food, give haircuts, manicures and pedicures, as well as provide medical attention. There were also games for the children and pet grooming for those who had dogs.

Before the start of school, HBCC holds Operation Outreach—a community event that provides school supplies for families in need. Church members donate backpacks and school supplies. This past August, over 200 backpacks filled with school

supplies were given to children in kindergarten through sixth grade. In addition, 110 bags of groceries were given out. There was also a booth where the Gospel of Christ was shared. That day, 135 adults and children received Jesus as Lord!

Christmas for Others is another outreach of HBCC. For the past 15 years, church members have purchased gifts for residents of Women on the Way, a live-in drug and alcohol recovery center. The women don't work while they're in the program, so they don't have finances to buy Christmas gifts for their children. Because of the goodness of God shown to them, many of the women visit Heart of the Bay.

Mark and Brenda and HBCC are reaching the Bay Area with God's love. They are the hands and feet of Jesus in their city and community. They are "[Going] *out into the highways and along the hedges, and [compelling] them to come in, so that my house may be filled [with guests]*" (Luke 14:23 AMP).♥

FAST FACTS

- » Through the years, Mark and Brenda have encouraged their congregation to attend **RHEMA BIBLE TRAINING COLLEGE**. Many have heeded the Thomases' advice and upon returning have started churches throughout California.
- » Many of the **FAMILIES** that started with the Thomases in 1982 are still with them.

TO LEARN MORE about Mark and Brenda Thomas visit heartofthebay.org.

San Francisco City Impact:

DISTRIBUTING FOOD TO THOSE IN NEED.



SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN THE TENDERLOIN DISTRICT.



Photo Credit:
San Francisco
City Impact





KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES'

Winter Bible Seminar & Rhema Homecoming 2017



Moves of the Spirit

LIVES WERE changed at *Winter Bible Seminar and Rhema Homecoming 2017*. Those who came or watched online were encouraged, challenged, and comforted. Words of knowledge and words of wisdom were given to men and women in attendance. Those needing answers received them. The sick were healed and the oppressed set free! It was a glorious week. Here's a sampling of what attendees heard.



EXPERIENCE IT

Watch archived messages from *Winter Bible Seminar* at vimeo.com/rhema/channels. Just click on *Winter Bible Seminar 2017*.



The Glorious Church

"RIGHT NOW IT SEEMS AS THOUGH THE CHURCH IS WEAK AND JUST MARKING TIME. Today is the day for the body of Christ to step out of its comfort zone, rise up, and be the glorious Church. The enemy knows his time is short and has turned loose every imp in hell to destroy believers. We must hook up with the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus, and demonstrate His power. Every believer needs to display the beauty of Christ's handiwork. We are all ministers. It doesn't matter if someone is a preacher behind the pulpit or a preacher on the job. God will do mighty things through each one of us. When we really learn who we are in Christ and that we're connected to the Head, the Church will be unstoppable." // **KENNETH W. HAGIN**



Taking Inventory of Our Lives

"For God to flow through the Church in the last days, **WE MUST GET OUR SPIRITUAL HOUSE IN ORDER.** As we renew our minds and guard our hearts, we will become vessels of honor for God to use. By taking inventory of our lives and making the necessary adjustments, we will be empowered to live a holy life. It's important that we stay ready, for Jesus is coming back for a glorious Church without spot or blemish." // **LYNETTE HAGIN**



The State of Today's Youth

"The Lord said to me, 'You need to advocate to the Church on behalf of this generation to step up and take their place in this generation's lives.' It's serious. Young people are dying, both physically and spiritually. If we don't take our place and use the authority we have in Christ, nobody else will. The youth of today need trustworthy people that are committed to being proactive. We need to speak up and be bold. We need to be the individuals they can trust." // **DENISE HAGIN BURNS**



Being at the Right Place to Run Your Race

"As we are running our race, sometimes things can get caught on us. Instead of relying on God, we can try too hard and get burned out. But if we keep our eyes on Jesus, we will always have the strength to keep moving forward. We have to understand that Jesus already finished our race, even before we started. So let's run our race from that perspective and finish our course with joy!" // **CRAIG W. HAGIN**



"Anything God asks you to do will never look like enough to handle the situation you're up against. Do not allow the size factor to hinder you." // **DOUG JONES**



"Sometimes the seasons we go through don't seem significant. But there is a purpose for each one. Seasons help us walk in God's plan." // **MARVIN YODER**



"It's time to get up and take your place in prayer. The world is waiting on the Church. Get back into the seat of your authority!" // **KIRK DUBOIS**





Rhema Kids

The “*Connected*” LEGO® theme built playful connections and a fun structure for learning! Kids were “*Connected*” through **Salvation** (adopted into God’s family); **the Name of Jesus** (power, rights, authority); **Obedience** (what it looks like, benefits); **Prayer** (talk to God anytime, anywhere, about anything, all the time); and **Faith** (trust God, He keeps promises).

Kids used glow sticks on the last night—*Connected to Be a Light*—to visually see how the light of Christ spreads as we love others and let our lights shine.

The power of God was strong during ministry time as kids addressed fear, healing, God’s love, and salvation. They were often on their knees in worship and prayer.

Being connected to God is not just about us—it’s about helping others get connected too!

Youth Winter Blitz

Young people experienced God at the first event in the new Varsity Youth Building! The anointing of God fell as Denise Hagin Burns spoke on being a light and opened the altar for the youth to stop hiding their light and shine for God.

Those dealing with depression were set free, and awesome times of praising God ensued. Throughout the week, students learned about being led by the Spirit, that we are spirits made in His image, and how to stay sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit by renewing the mind and living as a holy and pleasing sacrifice to God.



What began as a dream 15 years ago became a reality, as Rhema Bible Church celebrated the grand opening of its new \$2.5 million debt free, state-of-the-art Varsity Youth Building.



“God expects us to train our spirits so we can follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. When we need confirmation, His peace will guide us.” // **BILL RAY**



“Tormenting thoughts never come from God. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and a sound mind.” // **TAD GREGURICH**



“We should set the standards—moral life, good family values, commitment, consecration to a calling, peace, generosity, mercy—so people notice that we’ve been with Jesus.” // **JOE DUINICK**



“It’s not just about us being in the kingdom. We have a job to make sure that the kingdom is displayed in all the world.” // **DAN TAYLOR**



“Whenever Jesus was moved with compassion, He did something. It’s as though compassion was the vehicle that God’s power rode on.” // **TONY MCKINNON**

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)



A MOTHER'S INFLUENCE

THIS MONTH, May 14 is set aside to honor mothers. I was born on Mother's Day. I reminded my mother every year that she received the best Mother's Day present that year and no other present could ever surpass it! She and I both laughed about that. I sure do miss her laugh, but I am sure she is laughing in Heaven.

I believe the most beautiful words a mother can hear are recorded in Proverbs 31:28, "*Her children arise up, and call her blessed.*"

A child was once asked, "Where is your home?" The little boy replied, "Where mother is." There is a special place in the hearts of children for their mothers.

The most powerful influence in a child's life is his or her mother. This places an awesome responsibility on mothers to prepare their children for success in life. I would like to give you a few guidelines to help you do that.

First and foremost, acquaint your children with the Heavenly Father. The scripture that my parents' instilled in me—"*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you*" (Matt. 6:33)—has been the guiding force of my life.

I am so thankful this principle was emphasized to me over and over again. The repetition constantly reminded me that God must have first place. Many Christians get so wrapped up in their own work and life that they neglect their highest calling—the spiritual development of their children.

It's very important that a child's training begins at birth. Much of the foundation of spiritual and character development is laid during infancy. Fifty percent of a child's character and personality development is formed by age three, and 75 percent by age five. Those startling facts remind us that we must begin early to guide our children in their spiritual and character development.

Take time for family devotions. We had our family devotions every morning before school and read the

Faith Food devotional that our ministry publishes. It contains daily confessions, and after making those confessions, we asked our children, "What is something you desire to come to pass in your life?" We encouraged them to make their own personal confession.

Craig was involved in sports and would confess, "I can run fast." Denise had various projects she wanted to come to pass. It was exciting to see their confessions become realities.

Show your children love. Child specialists agree that the need for love in every human being is basic to proper development. A parent's love is more important to a child than wealth, education, or any form of material possession. It is most important when your child is least lovable.

You should never make good behavior a condition for your love. Have you ever heard someone say, "Mother won't love you if you're not good"? A child's willingness to please should never determine parental love.

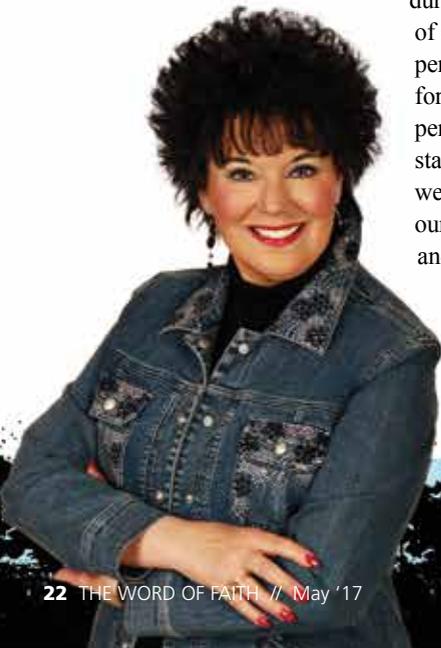
The God-kind of love is unconditional love. The most important thing is to love your child because they are yours—not because they play the trumpet well or are in the accelerated program at school.

It's unreasonable to demand perfection from your child. Children lose confidence in themselves when they consistently fail to meet their parents' expectation. Don't try to live your unfulfilled dreams through your children by demanding that they excel in an area you regret not applying yourself in. Do not compare children with their siblings. A child who grows up under the shadow of a brilliant sibling has a hard time with their self-image.

Lastly, prepare your children for their roles as adults. The only course on marriage most children take is the one taught at home. Children learn by imitation. Make sure that you are giving them the right thing to imitate. Teach your children how to make good decisions and train them in financial affairs. Believe in your children. Speak positive words into their lives. Remind them that with God they can become a success in life.

When a crisis involving your children comes, look to the Lord for direction. Trust Him to give you the right words to say and the right actions to take that will turn that situation into a victory in their lives.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Find the OPPOSITES!

In every situation that you UNDERGO, the Lord wants you to OVERCOME!

The two capitalized words above are "opposites." See if you can find all of the opposites in the story below. There are 11 in all.

There once was a young boy who tended sheep for his father. His name was David. His father was old and had many sons, but few of them could tend the sheep like David. David was strong and handsome but he was quite small. One day a very big man named Goliath came and challenged Israel to a fight. He said that the men of Israel were weak and cowardly. When the men of Israel saw how big, rough, and ugly Goliath was, they were all afraid. But David heard about the challenge and was very brave. He wanted to go up to fight Goliath. He went down to a creek and collected 5 smooth stones. He ran toward Goliath with a stone in his sling. Goliath laughed at David because he was so small. But David slung the stone and it came out of his sling and hit Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell down dead. When Goliath's friends saw it, they cried and ran away.

THE SIGN FOR VICTORY

The Bible tells us what it takes to overcome the world. The hand signs below spell out the answer. Can you figure it out? The answer is found in 1 John 5:4.



ARE YOU AN OVER-COMER?



What does it take to be an OVERCOMER?

Well, the very first thing it takes is SOMETHING TO OVERCOME! What would have happened if the great heroes of the Bible hadn't overcome? This is how some of the great stories of the Bible would have turned out if someone hadn't overcome in the situation.

1. THUS, ALL THE ISRAELITES BECAME SLAVES TO THE PHILISTINES BECAUSE NO ONE WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE PHILISTINE CHAMPION.

2. And all of the people bowed before Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold and worshipped, and he was very happy that all of the people obeyed his command.

3. The walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins, and so they remain to this very day.

4. And because the king's decree could not be changed, all of the Jews were put to death on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

5. And since the walls of the city were so tall and thick, the Israelites turned around and headed back to Egypt.

Thank God for overcomers!
Now, see if you can figure out which Bible heroes change the stories written above.

Are You an Overcomer?
1. David 2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego 3. Nehemiah 4. Esther 5. Joshua
Find the Opposites!
1. young—old 2. many—few 3. strong—weak 4. handsome—ugly
5. small—big 6. cowardly—brave 7. rough—smooth 8. up—down
9. toward—away 10. laughed—cried 11. in—out
The Sign for Victory • Answer: FAITH

ANSWERS:

jokes & riddles



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment, and never in a thousand years?

The letter "M."

Why do sharks only swim in salt water?

Because pepper water makes them sneeze.

Why did the cookie go to the doctor?

Because it was feeling crummy.

How many animals did Moses take on the ark?

None. Moses wasn't on the ark . . . it was Noah.

How much is a skunk worth?

One scent.

What's the difference between a train and a teacher?

A train says "Choo-Choo" and a teacher says "Spit out your gum."

A man left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

A catcher and an umpire . . . the man was a baseball player.



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

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"And he said to them, Go into all the world, and give the good news to everyone."

-MARK 16:15 (BBE)



SUNDAY, MAY 7

Supporting Rhema—Reaching the World!

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APRIL 30–MAY 2

ABUNDANT GRACE CHURCH

108 INDIAN HEAD ROAD (ROUTE 571)
TOMS RIVER, NJ 08753
PASTOR ANTHONY AND CAROL STORINO
(732) 914-2058
SUN. 7 P.M.
MON.–TUES. 10:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

MAY 3–5

ABOUNDING GRACE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

3060 HAMBURG ST.
SCHENECTADY, NY 12303
PASTOR JAY & PAMELA STILLINGER
(518) 355-4673
WED. 7 P.M.
THURS.–FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

AUGUST 20–22

NEW CREATION CHURCH

737 BROSS ST.
LONGMONT, CO 80501
PASTOR MARIO & STACY LATINI
(303) 776-4225
SUN. 6 P.M.
MON.–TUES. 10:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.

AUGUST 23–25

BREAK FORTH BIBLE CHURCH

38 S. STATE AVE.
DICKINSON, ND 58601
PASTOR LARRY & SALLY PHALEN
(701) 483-0720
WED. 7 P.M.
THURS.–FRI. 10:30 A.M. & 7 P.M.