



THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2018

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



Facing Crossroads

PAGE 6

Living a
Fasted Life

PAGE 17

HOW TO MEASURE
Prophecy

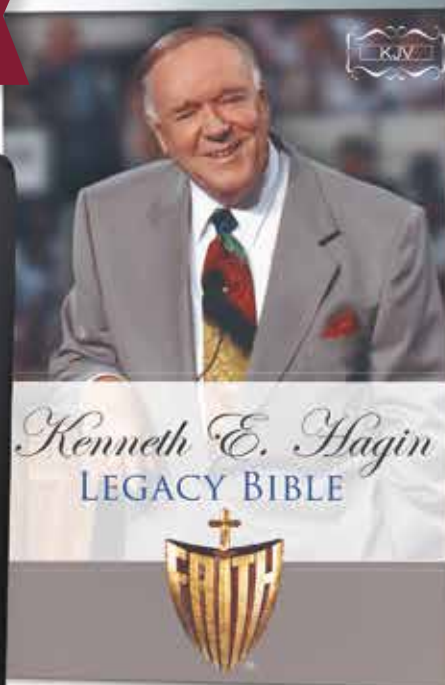
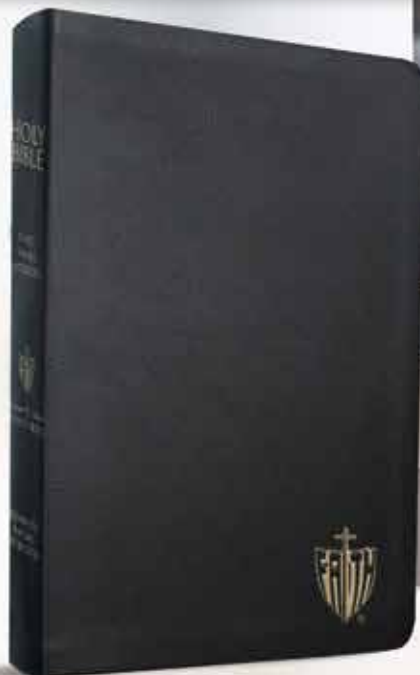
PAGE 20

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Draw Near to God

Did you know that you can experience God in your everyday walk with Him? James 4:8 (NIV) says, “Come near to God and he will come near to you.” As you read and study the Word, you will renew your mind to think as He thinks.

Some people live far from God in their thoughts and attitudes. They see Him as being in some distant place. But God wants you to live in close fellowship with Him. He wants you to experience living close to Him through the Word. He is saying, “Come near to Me.”

When you draw near to God, you will experience a place of protection. When you rest in the shadow of God Almighty, He rescues you from every trap, protects you from deadly diseases, covers you with His feathers, and promises a place of shelter under His wings (Ps. 91:3-4 NLT).

When I think of Psalm 91, I’m reminded of my grandpa’s farm back when I was a young boy. PaPa raised chickens, and I remember times when a hawk would fly overhead. Whenever the chickens were threatened in any way, the hens began clucking as if they were calling to the chicks. The chicks would run to the hens. As many as 10 or 12 chicks would squat down and hide under the hens’ wings. You wouldn’t see any chick alone in the barnyard! They were all safely hidden underneath the wings of those hens.

This year, I encourage you to draw close to God. Hide in Him, and find refuge under His wings. Spend time in the Word and in prayer. Take time to worship the Lord in all of His glory for His awesome goodness and love.

We’ve put together a great magazine to help you get off to a great start in 2018. Dive in! We want you to experience all that God has for you this year!

Kenneth W. Hagin

THIS ISSUE



4 Giving to a Better Living

KENNETH W. HAGIN

God designed giving as a way to gain entrance into an abundant life.

8 Pray for Your Nation

LYNETTE HAGIN

Prayer is powerful! Wherever you are, you have both the responsibility and the authority to pray for your nation and see change.

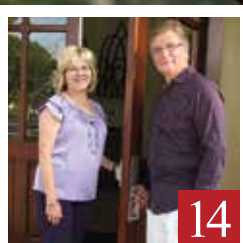
20 Prophets or Fortune Tellers? How to Measure Prophecy

KENNETH E. HAGIN

How do you know when a prophecy is genuine or false? Discover keys to being led by the Spirit of God, and learn to discern between fanaticism and true spirituality.

SEED THOUGHTS Page 22

FAITH ACADEMY Page 23



14

► Special Report: A Shelter From the Storm

Read how Carl and Belinda Benton, pastors of Living Glory Church, are making an impact in Lafayette, Louisiana.



Giving to a BETTER Living

AN IMPORTANT PART of experiencing financial success God's way is to be a giver. As the original Giver, our Heavenly Father set the example for us. He gave His only Son to redeem mankind. As a result, He received more sons and daughters in return. Romans 8:32 (NKJV) says, *"He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?"*

God creates avenues for blessings to flow into our lives when we operate in line with His Word. He designed giving as a way into the abundant life. And it's through our giving that we tap into the abundance that He wants us to have.

1 Giving, however, is more than just pulling money out of a wallet. First, we must have the right outlook about finances and live a godly lifestyle.

There are many passages in the Bible that talk about giving and receiving, and there are many reasons to be a giver. Giving causes us to live in line with God's blessings and unlocks Heaven's resources for our lives. It also enables us to outmaneuver the enemy who tries to put and keep us in poverty. And giving brings us favor with people.

2 Secondly, we should develop a plan to distribute a portion of our increase. Distributing a portion of the increase God has given us is essential for continued growth.

Have you ever seen a pond that's dried up? This happens when temperatures are hot and it hasn't rained. The water evaporates and eventually all that's left is stinky, stagnant pools of water. Whatever was living in the water begins to wither and die because there isn't an outlet. The same thing can happen with finances.

When you have an investment plan, if you don't keep investing on the increase, you won't receive any more than what came in. When we give, we're planting seed in the ground. And when we continually plant, we always have something growing.

3 Thirdly, we must identify avenues where we can distribute our resources. One avenue that God has set up is through tithes and offerings as we see in Malachi 3:10.

When Lynette and I first got married, we didn't have a big income. Sometimes it was pretty tight. But the first thing we did when we received a paycheck was to take out the tithe. We did this before we spent money on anything else. Many times it looked like we didn't have enough money to meet our monthly obligations.

One time we thought we wouldn't tithe that month, and we would catch up the next month. But it never works out that way. You're just in a bigger bind. So we tithed even though our financial situation didn't look good. And at the end of the month all of our bills were paid!

Another avenue is through sowing and reaping. Luke 6:38 (NLT) says *"Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."* Then in Galatians 6:7 (NKJV),



KENNETH W. HAGIN

Giving unlocks Heaven's RESOURCES FOR OUR LIVES.



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FAITH NUGGET

Investing God's Way

Kenneth E. Hagin

Beyond cooperating with God's laws concerning tithing and giving offerings, be open to giving to others. Be sensitive to the Holy Spirit Who will very often direct you specifically to give.

Now don't do something just because somebody else did. We never want to operate on someone else's experience. Operate on what you know the Bible says and on what the Holy Spirit directs you to do.

You don't have to have a "leading" to pay tithes and give offerings. You don't need to be led to give and sow. The Bible tells you to do those things. But it's when you go beyond that and obey the Spirit of God that things happen.

Start where you are. Be faithful to obey the Word by paying your tithes and giving offerings. And be obedient to the leading of the Holy Spirit when He directs you specifically to give. You can't out give God. If you sow seeds bountifully in faith and obedience, you will reap an abundant harvest of blessings!

[Editor's Note: This Faith Nugget was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's online article "Investing God's Way." Go to bit.do/investgodsway to read the article in its entirety.]

"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap."

Keep in mind that after you sow any kind of seed, there's a period of cultivation before harvest time. If you have a garden, this is when you pull weeds, aerate the soil, and water the seeds you have planted. When it comes to sowing finances, we cultivate the spiritual soil by thanking God that His Word is working on our behalf. We do this until the harvest comes.

4 Finally, giving should be as much a part of our spiritual life as praying and reading the Word. It's part of our worship and obedience. It's a way that we exercise our faith in what God said He would do. So let's purpose to be a pipeline—a distributor—for the blessings of God to flow through.

Here in Oklahoma we know about oil pipelines. If you shut off the flow of oil and look inside a pipe, you will see that it is coated with oil. In the same way, when God uses us as a pipeline that His blessings flow through, some of those blessings will stick to us. And that residue is more than enough to take care of us!

Some people may say, "If I had it, I would give it." You don't have to give beyond what you can do. Give out of what you have. And when you do, you will see the increase start to come.

Know that you will live in abundance if you become a giver. As you develop your thinking in line with the Word, you will receive the blessing at the level of your giving. God wants you to be blessed. He wants you to give, but in the right way and for reasons that are in line with His Word. ♥

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Facing Crossroads

KENNETH W. HAGIN



CROSSROADS. Everyone encounters them during their lifetime. **A CROSSROAD IS A PLACE OF DECISION THAT AFFECTS THE COURSE OF OUR LIVES.** North or south, east or west. Which path will we take—God’s will or our own ways? It’s up to us.

Jacob faced a crossroad when he wrestled with the angel at Peniel (Gen. 32:24). Jesus faced a crossroad when He struggled with His soul in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 26:36–42).

In Proverbs 3:5–6, King Solomon wrote: *“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”* When facing a crossroad, we need to wait on God until we can move forward with confidence that He is directing our path. The Bible says, *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death”* (Prov. 14:12 NKJV).

Just because a certain course of action seems right doesn’t guarantee that it *is* right. A path may seem unpleasant or contrary to what we would think is best. But that does not mean it is wrong. We must, therefore, trust in the Lord and not lean to our own understanding or insight. We must rest assured that God knows the end from the beginning. He will lead us in the way that is best for us.

Because of our finite nature, we are limited in our understanding. **EVEN WHAT WE SEE AND THINK WE KNOW CAN BE VERY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IS ACTUALLY TRUE.** Only an all-wise, all-knowing, and all-loving God can be trusted to provide the very best for us in every area of our lives.

We must ask ourselves one important question when facing a crossroad: Will the path we choose fulfill God’s plan for our lives? Or is it a path that follows our own reasoning for what we want out of life?

Deciding to obey God’s will puts us in a position to hear and receive His guidance for the course and direction of our lives. It keeps us calm in the midst of chaos. It brings us through to victory in the face of defeat. True obedience must be more than a one-time action; it must be a lifestyle.

In true obedience, the element of humility is always present. Not the false humility people “put on” to influence what others might think of them. Genuine humility is from the heart and is the result of true obedience. Humility keeps our heart tender and pliable before God so we are always willing to say, “Lord, not my will, but Your will be done.”

If we walk in obedience before God consistently, we will be sensitive to the Holy Spirit’s leading and instruction. **OBEEDIENCE INCREASES THE ANOINTING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** and expands the measure of God’s grace upon our lives. Disobedience decreases the anointing and limits the measure of grace we operate in.

When we stand at a crossroad in life and make the decision to obey God—no matter what we may see, think, or feel—we’ll be able to hear the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit say, *“This is the way, walk in it”* (Isa. 30:21 NKJV). 🕊

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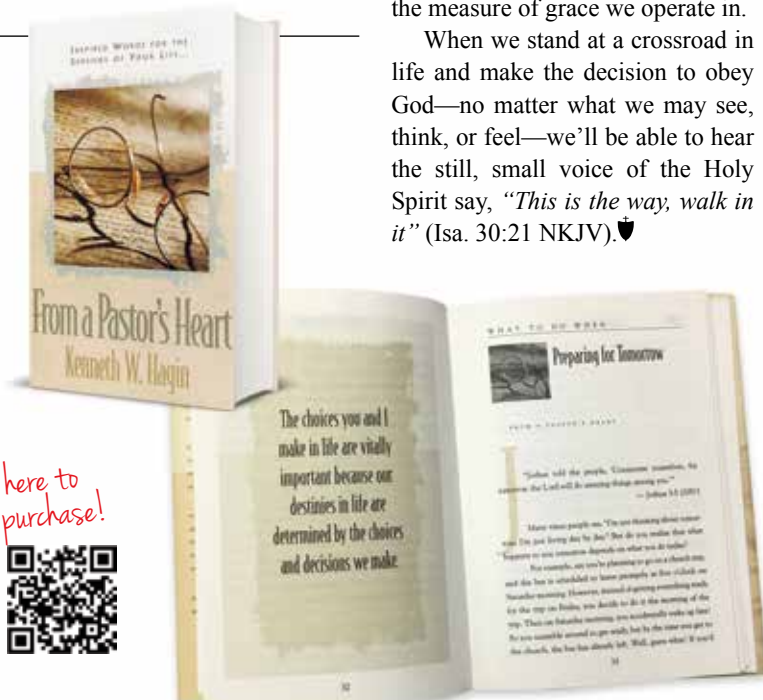
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God hears us when we pray. And we count it an honor to pray with you. Here are some testimonies of answered prayer!

"I called and **ASKED FOR PRAYER** that the father of my children would allow me to take them to a safe place during Hurricane Irma. He agreed. I took them out of Florida to avoid the hurricane and the worries associated with it. I also asked for prayer that my electricity and internet would be working when I returned to my home. Praise God, both were working! Thank you for your prayers!" // **SONIA**

"**THANK YOU PASTOR KEN** for your weekly broadcast in Chicago. You are such a blessing whenever I catch you on TV. I know that I am going to be blessed and charged up when you teach and preach!" // **TYRONE**

"A few months ago I asked for prayer for my cousins to prosper and be in good health, even as their souls prosper. **I JUST HEARD TODAY** that my cousin's business was awarded a \$1.45 million dollar contract with a major oil company. To God be the glory!" // **JOHN**

"I was **WATCHING RHEMA PRAISE** when Kenneth Hagin said there was a person with a breathing problem. I had been diagnosed with severe COPD. When he said to take a deep breath, I did and deeper than I had been able to before. I am breathing better and better, minute by minute." // **STEVE**

[Editor's Note: In addition to this testimony, three other people with breathing problems wrote in to say they were healed!]

"Thank you for praying and **STANDING IN AGREEMENT** with me. My mom came through her surgery great. The lymph nodes that were removed under her arms have no cancer in them at all. I give God all the honor, glory, and praise for not only bringing her through surgery, but for healing her from cancer altogether." // **KEVIN**

"While watching *Rhema Praise*, Lynette Hagin said someone needs prayer for a shoulder problem. I declared, 'That's for me!' **AFTER LYNETTE PRAYED**, she said, 'It's healed!' When she said the word healed my shoulder popped! When I had moved my shoulder, it no longer hurt! Praise God!" // **KENNY**

[Editor's Note: In addition to this testimony, five other people who had shoulder problems wrote in to say they were healed!]

**“Thank you
for praying and standing in agreement
with me.”**

TELL OF GOD'S GOODNESS

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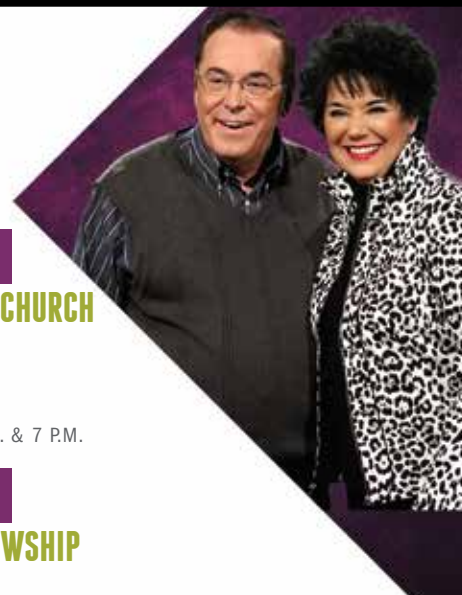
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Pray for Your Nation



LYNETTE HAGIN

PRAYER CHANGES the world around us! Our prayers don't change God, but He designed it so that He works through our prayers.

Jeremiah 33:3 says, "*Call unto me, and I will answer thee.*" That means we've got to call. Those are the rules of prayer that God has set down! Our prayers bring things to pass that wouldn't have come into

existence if we did not pray.

God is interested in the entire world and wants us to pray. But where we have the most authority is where we live—whatever nation that may be. So it's important that we each take our place in our own nation.

EZEKIEL 22:30

30 And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

It's time for us to stand in the gap! First Peter 4:7 (NLT) says, "*The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.*" We don't always become earnest in our prayers until it affects us. But it's so important that we get serious about our commitment and responsibility.

Are you willing to do that? Will you answer the call to stand in the gap? The enemy is on a warpath. We are in spiritual warfare! We must focus and fully intercede for our nation so God's will is accomplished. As we recognize that and do what God told us to do, we will see change!

Brother Hagin taught us about different kinds of prayers: supplication, intercession, and giving of thanks for all those who are in authority (1 Tim. 2:1–2). In the faith movement, we've been so

used to exercising the prayer of faith and speaking something into existence. We've tried to do that for our nation. But we have to use the prayer of intercession and the prayer of supplication for our country.

We can't pray for our nation one time and say, "Okay, it's done in the Name of Jesus!" Continue praying and giving thanks. In spite of what it looks like, even if it may seem hopeless, nothing is too hard for God. He will answer our prayers!

Don't get distracted by what the media says. Don't get distracted by anything—even your own thoughts! Pray what the Holy Spirit wants you to pray. Romans 8:26 says, "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*"

As we place our trust in God and pray as He commanded, every nation will be changed!♥

Want to know more about the Holy Spirit and praying in other tongues? Visit our online study center at rhema.org/studycenter or contact us directly at partnerservice@rhema.org or 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484).

Prayer Scriptures

MATTHEW 18:18–20

18 Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

19 Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

MATTHEW 18:18-20 (MSG)

18-20 "Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. 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. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-3

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour.

2 CHRONICLES 7:14-15

14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

15 Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent unto the prayer that is made in this place.

EPHESIANS 6:12

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

ROMANS 8:26

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Pray This!

Heavenly Father, we come in the Name of Jesus—not our name, not our power, not our holiness, not even our goodness—but we come in the Name of Jesus, washed in His blood, robed in His righteousness.

We come against the forces of evil that would try to dominate and rule in our own nation. We rise up against that darkness. We rise up against those spirits and dispel the darkness.

We pray for our leaders that divine wisdom and grace will be given unto them. And direction will be given unto them.

We pray for every politician, everyone that's in office, that they'll be concerned about our nation as a whole—and above all, put God first.

We pray for the economy of our nation. We pray that the nation will be prosperous as a whole and everyone that wants a job will find a job.

We pray for the domestic scene of our nation. We command you Satan: Stop in your maneuvers. May there be peace. May there be tranquility. May there be understanding from border to border.

Father, we pray with our understanding as best we know how. And we remember that Paul said *"If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth"* (1 Cor. 14:14). So my spirit, by the Holy Spirit within me prayeth. We pray and intercede and give thanks in the Spirit.

[Editor's Note: This was adapted from a prayer by Kenneth E. Hagin in 1983. Visit rhema.org/prayer to see the entire prayer.]

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'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 more of your books . . . and I treasure the monthly Word of Faith magazine. I have purchased several 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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The Power of Compassion

TONY MCKINNON

COMPASSION IS A VEHICLE for God's power to ride on. Whenever Jesus was moved with compassion, He did something miraculous! What does this mean for us? As His ambassadors, our understanding of compassion will affect how we allow the Holy Spirit to flow through us to others.

In the Gospels, we see this truth: compassion moved the Master to perform the miraculous. For example, we read in Luke 7 that Jesus walked up and wrecked a funeral!

LUKE 7:12-15 (NKJV)

12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

It says "*when the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her.*" What Jesus saw compelled Him to action.

WHAT IS COMPASSION? Sometimes the easiest way to understand something is to look at what it isn't. Compassion is not sympathy. In simple terms, sympathy means "to feel for" another. Aren't you glad the Bible didn't say, "For God so loved the world that He sent a sympathy card"? No! He *did* something. He saw us in our mess, stepped into the situation, and solved the problem.

COMPASSION IS NOT EMPATHY, which carries the idea of "to feel into" or "feel with." We see this in Galatians 6:2 and Romans 12:15. In these verses Paul talks about bearing one another's burdens or weeping with those who weep and rejoicing with those who rejoice. That's empathy, and it's good and right in its proper place. But if that's as far as we get, no one will be helped or healed.

Sympathy and empathy don't bring power on the scene. They are counterfeits of compassion. They *feel for* and *feel into*, but **COMPASSION ENTERS IN AND DOES FOR**.

Jesus set the standard on compassion. He was always willing and able to help. He leaned into people and into their messes. When the centurion came to Jesus about his servant, Jesus responded, "*I will come and heal him*" (Matt. 8:7). There was no hesitation.

Persistent prayer is not about overcoming God's reluctance or talking Him into doing something. It's about making a connection with His compassionate willingness. He's already inclined to show mercy. He has been since the world began.

How do we make a connection? Number one is faith. **FAITH TAKES HOLD OF WHAT GOD OFFERS**. The

centurion's servant was healed because of the centurion's great faith.

In Mark 9:22-23 (NKJV), when the father of a demon possessed boy asked Jesus for compassion and help, Jesus replied, "*If you can believe, all things are possible.*"

The second way we make a connection is through the gifts and manifestations of the Spirit. It is by the prompting of the Holy Spirit, which is not in response to an individual's faith. In the story of the widow, the dead boy obviously didn't exercise faith. And there's no indication that his mother was in faith either. She was crying and squalling! But Jesus was moved with compassion and did something.

What does compassion mean for you and me? As God's representatives, we need to love people. **COMPASSION HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH PERSONAL PREFERENCE**. Move past that and get to the heart of Jesus. He died for *all people*. It's about Him and them. Let's make ourselves available to the Spirit of God on behalf of others and expect God to do the unexpected!♥

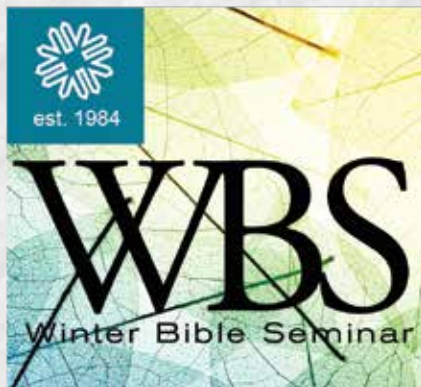
[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Tony McKinnon's message at Winter Bible Seminar 2017.]



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"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 (WBS 2017)



"On the last night of *Winter Bible Seminar*, I was healed. I had cataracts removed from both eyes and was experiencing trouble. I went forward to be prayed over. By the time Craig Hagin got to me, I could see the screen clearly! My ophthalmologist said the membranes had wrinkled. When the healing happened they stretched into perfect position."

—Nathan E.

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Kids & Youth Services



A SHELTER FROM THE STORM



CARL & BELINDA BENTON



CARL AND BELINDA BENTON returned home to Louisiana after graduating from Rhema Bible Training College in 1989. As they were preparing to pioneer a church in Lafayette, they gave business cards to everyone they met. Despite their best efforts, word of mouth advertising wasn't enough. The Bentons needed a bigger platform to get the word out about their new church. God provided the perfect way.

At that time, Kenneth E. Hagin's radio program, *Faith Seminar of the Air*, was broadcast every morning in Lafayette. The Bentons began airing an ad about their church immediately after Brother Hagin's program. The ad made the church known to the community and drew many people to their doors.

For the past 28 years, Carl and Belinda have pastored Living Glory Church and have ministered God's unconditional love to Louisianans. They have seen God restore and heal the lost and hurting and have watched Him bring people through the storms of life.

From Broke to Prosperity

Every week when the church doors open, Carl teaches his congregation how to place their trust wholeheartedly in God's Word in any situation they encounter.

One couple that came to Living Glory Church was in great financial distress. At one time, they couldn't buy gas for a scheduled out-of-town trip. Carl graciously loaned them money. He also began teaching them God's principals of sowing and reaping.

Not having much money to give, the couple sowed what little they had and volunteered at the church. Over time, their financial situation turned around. It changed so much that they are now able to help people who are in similar situations as they were.

This is only one of the many families that have grabbed a hold of the truths of God's Word. Men and women once struggling to make ends meet are now thriving financially! Some have even started their own businesses. The Bentons have seen financial turnaround in the lives of many of their church members. Being doers of the Word turned the curse of poverty and brought believers to a place of abundance!

Prayers Get Answered

Living Glory Church is a place of prayer and intercession. In March 2015, God moved on Belinda's heart to begin a time of corporate prayer and intercession for the United States, government leaders, and for the upcoming election. A group of people answered the call to join her, and they have been meeting every Saturday morning for nearly three years. They are excited as they watch God move in America and believe that the nation's best days are before it.

Healing for the Youngest

Carl prays daily for the health of his church members, from the oldest to the newborn. He stands on God's promise that no weapon formed against his flock will prosper.

One time a 9-month-old baby had a large tumor in its abdomen. The baby's parents and the Bentons trusted that God, Who promises to heal every disease, would heal the child.

At several praise and worship services, Carl simply held the infant in his arms as he sang praises to God. He just worshipped the Lord as he cradled the baby. When the couple later took their infant back to the doctor, the physician told them the tumor was gone!

Sometime later, a woman in their church delivered her baby prematurely. Madilyn Grace arrived at 24 weeks—16 weeks before the due date—and weighed 1 pound, 10 ounces.

The mother had baby Madilyn on a Sunday morning and was in church the following Sunday. While she monitored her daughter through a live camera feed on her phone, she fed her faith in church and stood on the uncompromising Word of God.

The Bentons and the church congregation asked God for a miracle and stood on His Word daily. They watched Madilyn's progress as she slowly gained weight, and her immature lungs developed enough that she no longer needed mechanical ventilation to help her breathe. Three months later, a healthy Madilyn came home.

"She's a miracle," shares Belinda. "She comes to church all dressed up, and she pays attention when pastor preaches!"

MINISTRY FACTS

- » Carl Benton is a Rhema Ministerial Association International (RMAI) **DISTRICT DIRECTOR** for Louisiana.
- » **LIVING GLORY CHURCH** holds various outreaches to the community, including a barbeque for local police departments and spring and fall family festivals.
- » **LIVING IN GOD'S BEST**, an outreach teaching ministry of Living Glory Church, is a weekly TV broadcast that airs Sunday mornings on the Acadiana Open Channel in Lafayette.

Pronouncing a Blessing

The Bentons want to see their church members blessed in everything they do. At the end of every service, Carl and Belinda pronounce a blessing over them. "We pronounce that God's favor will go before them and that His glory is their rear guard. They're protected by the blood of Jesus wherever they are. And everything they put their hands to will prosper."

The Bentons are thankful for their time at Rhema Bible Training College. "Everything we learned really prepared us," shares Belinda. "We wouldn't trade one day of being at Rhema. It was very valuable, not just for our lives but for helping other people as well."

Setting a Boundary Line for Hurricane Harvey

In August 2017, Category 4 Hurricane Harvey ravaged southeast Texas. Its boisterous winds and torrential rain destroyed homes, businesses, and schools. In some areas, rainfall was up to 60 inches. After Texas, the destructive storm headed toward Louisiana. News reports predicted that it would be just as severe in Louisiana as it was in Texas.

While meteorologists were watching the storm, the Bentons and their church members were meeting on Saturdays to pray against it. They stood on Psalm 104:9 (AMPC), "*You have set a boundary [for the waters] which they may not pass over; that they turn not again to deluge the earth.*" **THEY SET A BOUNDARY LINE FOR ONE OF THE WORST HURRICANES TO HIT THE U.S. BY THE TIME HURRICANE HARVEY REACHED LOUISIANA, FORECASTERS DOWNGRADED IT TO A TROPICAL DEPRESSION.**

"We speak to storms and send them to uninhabited areas," shares Belinda. "We had some church members that normally have flooding in their homes, but there was no flooding this time!"

The excitement Carl and Belinda experienced when they first pioneered Living Glory Church has never waned. Isaiah 4:5–6 (NKJV) is a pillar scripture for the church. "*For over all the glory, there will be a covering. And there will be a tabernacle for shade in the daytime from the heat, for a place of refuge, and for a shelter from the storm and rain.*" And in Lafayette, Living Glory Church is a safe refuge for many people. ♥



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TO LEARN MORE about Carl and Belinda Benton, go to thelivingglory.org.



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— JADE MATZINGER
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A Commonsense Approach to Fasting

KENNETH E. HAGIN

THERE IS NO Bible example of fasting before the time of Moses. But it is presumed that the patriarchs fasted until Moses' time. We think this because there was a great deal of mourning among people of the Old Covenant.

In the New Testament, people fasted to minister to the Lord, ordain men to the ministry, and seek God in times of crisis. **YOU MUST ALWAYS HAVE A PURPOSE FOR FASTING.** Don't fast just because someone tells you to.

It is good to fast when things are pressing in on you, and you need to wait on God prayerfully. The Lord may speak to you and lead you to fast. If He does, do it! However, it is important to remember that **FASTING DOES NOT CHANGE GOD.** He is the same before, during, and after you fast. But **FASTING WILL CHANGE YOU.** It will help you to keep the flesh under and become more sensitive to the Spirit of God.

The Fasted Life

When I first started out in the field ministry, I wasn't led of the Lord to do this, but I set aside two days a week to fast. Then I took the time that I would have been eating to pray and fellowship with God. Fasting will not do much good if you don't pray and wait on God.

After several years of fasting, God said to me, **"I WOULD BE MORE PLEASED IF YOU LIVED A FASTED LIFE."**

"What do you mean, a fasted life?" I asked.

"Never eat all you want," He said. "Keep your appetite under. That's all

a fast is going to do anyway—keep the body under."

I never had any more days of fasting after that, unless the Holy Spirit spoke to me. I found that I made greater spiritual strides—both personally and in ministry—by living a fasted life. I noticed that healings came more easily when I did this, and I started having more results. It helped my spirit become more sensitive to God's Spirit so He could manifest Himself through me.

Pushing to Extremes

Some people try to make a religion out of fasting. They push themselves to an extreme, thinking works will get the job done. Don't be like the pastor who broke down his body with fasting and became so sick he died. Did you ever notice that Jesus again and again departed from the crowd? His body was like ours. He got just as tired as anyone. The main thing is to be led by the Spirit of God. **FAST AND WAIT ON GOD AS THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS YOU.**

Different Kinds of Fasts

Remember how Daniel fasted 21 days? He ate no "pleasant bread" (Dan. 10:3). **THERE IS MORE THAN ONE WAY TO FAST.** There are no iron-clad rules. Daniel didn't eat anything he wanted, but he did eat something. That is harder to do sometimes. It's a matter of us dominating our flesh, not letting our flesh dominate us.

You can also fast things other than food, like television. Daniel gave up eating pleasant bread. So why wouldn't it be alright to give up things that might be pleasant to us?

A well-known evangelist gave God 10 percent of his time in prayer. He prayed 2 hours and 40 minutes each night. To do that he sacrificed his television time.

You might say, "I couldn't pray 2 hours and 40 minutes a day." But

It is good to fast when things are pressing in on you, and you need to wait on God prayerfully.

perhaps you could sacrifice television time or some other time that you're wasting to devote more time to prayer.

When Should You Fast?

The Bible doesn't give us specific instructions on when to fast. I believe this is because God wants us to learn to be led by His Spirit. That way we'll be prepared for whatever He has for us to do. We need the help of the Holy Spirit—and we have it—in this area, as in all others.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *A Commonsense Guide to Fasting*.]



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You're Not Alone, We All Make Mistakes

BRENDA THOMAS

THERE IS NOT a person alive who hasn't made more than one mistake. We've all said and done things that we have later regretted. I know sometimes I've said something and then I wanted to go back and say, **"OH, LET'S REWIND THAT TAPE. I DIDN'T REALLY MEAN THAT."** We'd all like to be able to go back in time and say, "Hey, let's wipe that out of our memories." Sometimes I think God allows our human side to take over just to get us to lighten up and stop taking ourselves so seriously and stop over-spiritualizing our mistakes.

We're all looking for someone else to blame. Who caused this? Was it the devil? Was it God? Most of the time we just need to look in the mirror and admit, "I blew it. I failed. I really messed up." The right response is to recognize our part in the situation, admit our wrongdoing, and tell those we may have hurt or offended that we are sorry. Then we need to **REPENT BEFORE GOD, RECEIVE HIS FORGIVENESS, FORGIVE OURSELVES, AND MOVE ON.**

Although the Bible tells us in Genesis 1:26 that God created man in His likeness and image, man is not infallible. We are going to have

moments of imperfection. We are going to:

- Forget the cookies are in the oven
- Leave the coffee pot on all day
- Forget to turn the curling iron off
- Leave the dog locked outside
- Forget to pick the kids up from soccer practice

The list could go on and on. What do we do on days like that? Sit down and have a pity party? "Why God, why? Why is this happening to me? I am such a victim of this unseen plot to destroy me."

I am not minimizing the fact that we have an enemy called the devil. He devises plots and plans to try and trip us up and lead us into temptation. But God has given us something very powerful called the human will. With God's help, we can make choices that will keep us on the path to enjoying the good life He's promised us in His Word. And **WE CAN ALSO LEARN TO CONTINUALLY LET GO OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE PAST.** When we have missed it, we must use our will and make a conscious decision to act on what the Word of God tells us to do.

One device the enemy uses to paralyze people and keep them from moving forward in life is condemnation. He tries to condemn us about the time we wasted before we knew the Lord or even after we were saved but weren't fully walking with Him. The Lord spoke to a good friend of mine as she was ministering one

God doesn't create any junk,

AND HE HAS NO UNUSABLE
MEMBERS IN HIS FAMILY.

time and said, "Many of My people are spending too much time crying over wasted years and mistakes they have made."

Romans 8:1 (NKJV) says, "*There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*" God is not so concerned about those 20, 30, or even 40 years that we weren't serving Him. He's not uptight about it. And He wants us to get over it! He wants us to let it go and make the next 40 years the best we possibly can.

REFUSE TO LIVE IN THE PAST AND IN REGRET. Put the past behind you, look to the future, and be useful in the Kingdom of God. God doesn't create any junk, and He has no unusable members in His family. He wants to use every single one of us!

God is so merciful and full of loving-kindness that He is not holding anything that you've ever done over your head. He doesn't have a stamp that says "unusable." He doesn't write that on anybody's forehead. Your mistakes are not greater than His grace. You are valuable and precious to Him, and He has an awesome plan in store for you! ♥



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Prophets or Fortune-Tellers?

HOW TO MEASURE PROPHECY



BELIEVERS WHO INQUIRE about God's direction in their lives through a prophet are on dangerous ground. Under the New Covenant, prophets are not placed in the Church to lead, guide, or direct people's lives. In fact, believers can wreak havoc in their lives by going to a prophet for guidance. Why? Because we are to be led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14), not prophets.

One time a wealthy businessman came to one of my meetings. The minute I saw him, the Lord spoke to me about him. He had started going to a so-called prophetess for direction before he would make any business deal. But it wasn't the Holy Spirit that was in operation through her. She was nothing more than a fortune teller.

I told this businessman what the Lord had told me to tell him—that he was going to lose everything if he didn't quit listening to that woman. But some people only hear what they want to hear. He kept going to her for direction until he went bankrupt. He was so deceived, he wouldn't make a business move without calling her.

First Thessalonians 5:20–21 says, "*Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good.*" We aren't to despise prophesying. On the other hand, we aren't supposed to believe everything everyone prophesies to us. The Bible tells us to prove all things to see if they are of God.

But just because some people get off into error doesn't mean that we do away with the legitimate prophetic ministry. A true prophet, however, doesn't try to run people's lives.

Holy Spirit or Familiar Spirits?

Because prophets weren't set in the Church to lead and guide people's lives, they will veer off course spiritually if they try to do so. They will open themselves up to occult powers and familiar spirits.

A man once inquired about a certain minister saying, "Our church helped sponsor this minister in a meeting here in town. Nearly every day he would come into my office, and we'd talk or go out to lunch. One day the minister said, 'You have a seven-carat diamond ring you inherited from your father. It's wrapped up in a handkerchief in the right-hand corner of the third drawer in your dresser. God said you are to get it, and give it to me.'"

That's supernatural knowledge, isn't it? It's not only supernatural knowledge but it's also spectacular knowledge. But remember that the devil also operates in the supernatural realm. Watch out for folks who prophesy rings off your fingers and money out of your pockets into theirs. Don't have anything to do with them.

Shortly after that incident, I was sitting behind that same minister on a platform as he addressed a congregation. Just as if someone were talking behind me, I heard the Holy Spirit say, "Occult powers. Familiar spirits." That's what was operating through him, enabling him to know about that heirloom diamond ring!

Familiar spirits are evil spirits that are familiar with people. They know facts about people—including believers—and those facts are often correct. For example, they could know how much money someone has in his billfold or what he has in his pocket.

The Holy Spirit knows those things, too. He could reveal that information through the gifts of the Spirit if He wanted to. But why would He want to? What purpose would it serve to know what someone has in his pocket? How would that glorify God? No, that's typically the work of familiar spirits.

The Holy Spirit reveals things that glorify God. For example, He could reveal a disease someone has and then heal the person! That would glorify God. But He doesn't very often demonstrate Himself like that unless it serves a definite purpose to help someone.

Sometimes there is a fine line between fanaticism and true spirituality and between false and genuine manifestations of spiritual gifts. Many are not able to distinguish the difference, but the Body of Christ needs to be able to do so. The Holy Spirit will always draw attention to God and exalt the Word and the Lord Jesus Christ—not man.

The Inward Witness

Believers are to be led by the inward witness, not by the office of the prophet. If we're not careful, we can reason things out and override the inward witness.

Years ago when everyone was holding tent meetings, time after time people prophesied to me that God wanted me to get a tent. But God had never told me to get a tent. So I'd just smile and say, "Well, when He tells me, I'll do it." I knew in my spirit what God wanted me to do.

WE ARE TO BE *led by the Spirit*
of God, NOT PROPHETS.

One time a Rhema student asked me about a person who was supposed to be a prophet. This person had prophesied that the student was called to Africa and would be there in so many months. But the thought of going to Africa had never entered the student's mind, nor did he ever have anything in his spirit about it. He said he had already knew what God wanted him to do through prayer and waiting before the Lord.

"Does it have anything to do with Africa?" I asked.

"No," he answered,

"Forget what that man told you then."

"Yes, but that fellow said he was a prophet."

"Just because he said he's a prophet doesn't make him one," I told the student. "Don't pay a bit of attention to what he said. You do what God told you in your heart to do."

The Bible says a man's gift makes room for him (Prov. 18:16). If a person is called to the office of the prophet, he shouldn't have to advertise it. People will know it sooner or later by the spiritual equipment that goes along with that office.

When you are grounded in the Word, you are not going to be moved by so-called prophets or their so-called prophecies. Those who are moved by them are still spiritual children tossed about with every wind of doctrine (Eph. 4:14).

God wants us to go down the middle of the road spiritually and enjoy the scriptural operation of the prophet's office. Don't allow people to run your life through prophecy. You can be led by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit in your spirit man. Get into the Word for yourself, and get ahold of God for yourself. After all, you are in contact with Him if you are a believer!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from *He Gave Gifts Unto Men* by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

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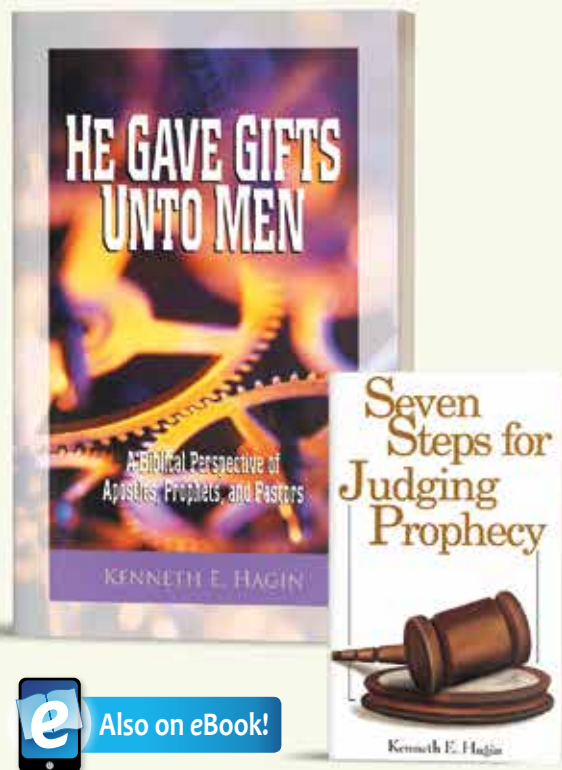
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— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

GOD HAS ASSIGNMENTS FOR YOU!

AT THE BEGINNING of the new year, I always ask the Lord what I need to concentrate on during that year. As I meditated on the Word and prayed, these words began to come, "Focus on listening to My voice in every step that you take and in every decision that you make."

We are living in one of the most trying and difficult times that I have ever experienced in my life. Every day we hear of another tragic situation. The Apostle Paul told Timothy that the last days would be very difficult times (2 Tim. 3:1). I believe we are in those days now.

This also presents great opportunities for us if we will listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. Psalm 37:23 reminds us that "*The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.*" The Lord will order our steps daily and give us opportunities to minister to people who are hurting if we will only recognize and obey His voice.

I recently experienced a divine appointment from God. My husband and I took a few days off to relax before the busy holiday season. Our biggest decision every day was deciding where to eat for our evening meal. That decision was certainly minor in comparison to the decisions we normally make on a daily basis. But one day as we were determining which restaurant to go to, we had no idea what a weighty decision we were making.

My husband suggested several types of food, and we both decided that Italian was the choice of the day. However, there were two Italian restaurants in the town we were in. I preferred one of them and Kenneth preferred the other. He was hungry for bruschetta and did not like the bruschetta at the restaurant of my choice. Although I liked my restaurant better, I said, "Okay honey, let's go to the restaurant that you like."

Once at the restaurant, we waited several minutes for a table. The hostess seated us and gave us a menu. As we scanned it, we did not see bruschetta. We had another decision to make: Do we stay or get up and go to the other Italian restaurant?

Just as we were about to discuss the matter, our waitress appeared. I was taken aback as this young, attractive girl only had one arm. I tried not to stare. Thoughts were whirling through my mind. How did this happen? How can she ever manage? I watched the other waiters swarm around with heavy trays and wondered how she was going to carry a tray with one arm?

I composed myself hoping that she didn't sense my thoughts and asked about the bruschetta. To our dismay, it had been taken off the menu.

I was curious as to what happened to her arm but didn't want to ask. I was overwhelmed by her positive attitude in spite of the handicap. Without my asking, she volunteered that she was in a car accident. Her children, ages 4 and 1, were not hurt. But the car rolled over on her arm, and it had to be amputated. She said that she went into depression, her husband left her, and she lost her job.

After taking our order, she left and went about her business. I asked God, "What can I do to encourage her?"

Suddenly I got the answer. I reached in my wallet and pulled out the amount the Lord told me to give her. When she came by again, I called her name and said, "This is not your tip. I will be leaving that when I pay the bill. This is for you personally."

She hugged me and started to cry. "I have been in dire financial need," she said. "What a blessing this is." I asked if I could pray for her. She quickly agreed.

I didn't particularly enjoy my meal. But the satisfaction of knowing that this was a "God assignment" was far more satisfying than any meal I could have eaten. Know that God wants to give you assignments this year, but you must recognize His voice and obey Him. ♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

WORD SEARCH

Philippians 4:8 tells us the things that we should be thinking about. Find the words in the scrambled letters below that fit the blanks in this verse from Philippians 4:8 (NASB).

Finally brethren,
whatever is _____,
whatever is _____,
whatever is _____, what-
ever is _____,
whatever is _____,
whatever is of _____
_____, if there is any
_____ and if
anything worthy of
_____, let your mind
dwell on these things.

S P T P D P O Q P F G
P A H P U R E D R R H
A E D O P S A B M S O
M V R I L G L Q S C N
E P I A P E O A E U O
T M G T V E V G U H R
U P H L H B E E B S A
P O T C C F L I S D B
E M I H L I Y E I N L
R I J V P P R A I S E
D N T I F E R S S I N
O D N S D F I U R R N
O Q I T A S S N S E H
G H R T T R U E G T S
B O K Q J I R E O E R
E X C E L L E N C E P

What's on Your Mind?

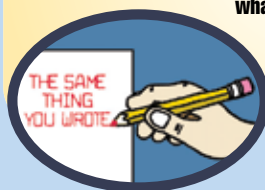


What do you think about when it's quiet and nobody is around? The things you think about can either help you or hurt you. The Bible tells us that the mind controlled by the flesh brings DEATH but the mind controlled by the Spirit brings LIFE and PEACE (Romans 8:6). Second Corinthians 10:5 says "We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ" (NCV). Have you been CAPTURING YOUR THOUGHTS? Below are some thoughts that might come into your mind. Find the wrong thoughts that need to be captured so you can make them "give up and obey Christ."

1. Everyone in my class has the flu. I'll probably get it too.
2. I'm afraid to try out for the school play. I can't act.
3. Math is a hard subject, but I can learn it.
4. Maybe if I cheat on the test, I'll get a better grade.
5. I'm so sad. Nothing good ever happens to me.
6. I have a lot of reasons to be happy and thankful.

"I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING"

Tell a friend that you know what they're thinking right now and you can prove it. Say to them, "Secretly write down on a piece of paper what you are thinking and I will write down on another piece of paper the same thing you wrote." As they write their thoughts on their piece of paper, you simply write the words "THE SAME THING YOU WROTE" on your piece of paper. When they tell you what they wrote, then you can tell them "I wrote THE SAME THING YOU WROTE." If they don't believe you, simply show them your piece of paper.



ANSWERS:

What's on Your Mind?
Wrong Thoughts—1, 2, 4, 5
Number 3 is not a wrong thought but it might have tricked you. There's nothing wrong with admitting something is difficult, but always remember that you can do all things through Christ who gives you strength!

Word Search
TRUE, HONORABLE, RIGHT, PURE, LOVELY, GOOD REPUTE, EXCELLENCE, PRAISE

S P T P D P O Q P F G
P A H P U R E D R R H
A E D O P S A B M S O
M V R I L G L Q S C N
E P I A P E O A E U O
T M G T V E V G U H R
U P H L H B E E B S A
P O T C C F L I S D B
E M I H L I Y E I N L
R I J V P P R A I S E
D N T I F E R S S I N
O D N S D F I U R R N
O Q I T A S S N S E H
G H R T T R U E G T S
B O K Q J I R E O E R
E X C E L L E N C E P

jokes & riddles



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

What book of the Bible should every math student know?
Numbers

What was Boaz before he met Ruth?
Ruthless

What's the difference between a jeweler and a jailer?
One sells watches and the other watches cells.

What do you give an elephant that's going to be sick?
Lots of space

Why did the pelican refuse to pay for his meal?
Because his "bill" was too big

What is at the end of everything?
The letter G

What has six eyes but cannot see?
The three blind mice

What nails do carpenters hate to hit?
Fingernails

John: Is Sam pretty strong?
Larry: No, but Sam's son is!
(Samson)

Can You Remember?

Can you remember two places in the Bible where an animal spoke with a human voice?

The serpent in Genesis 3:1 and Balaam's donkey in Numbers 22:28



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Dear Friend,
There's a very important day coming up and your participation will help train and equip tomorrow's ministers. International Rhema Day is on May 6, 2018. Countless people around the world still have not heard what Jesus Christ has done for them. But you can change that! On International Rhema Day, will you support Rhema Bible Training College USA through your prayers and financial gifts? You truly can make a difference in the world!
Thank you in advance for your support!

Kenneth W. Hagin



SUNDAY, MAY 6

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SUNDAY-FRIDAY

JULY 22-27

ON THE RHEMA USA CAMPUS IN BROKEN ARROW, OK

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