



THE Word of Faith

MAY 2014

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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Think Big!

Many Christians are “natural” thinkers. They think according to how they feel and what they see, not according to the Word. But God wants us to be *supernatural* thinkers! He wants us to “lose our minds” to our old way of thinking and become successful in Him!

God is a big God. He does not think small or second best. Just look in the Old Testament at how He told the Israelites to build a tabernacle in the wilderness. They could have used a few old scrub oaks to make poles and some cow hides to form a shabby covering. But God told them, “Get the *best* wood. Then cover it with gold and silver” (Exod. 26:32). He had a bigger, better way!

We need to train ourselves with God’s Word (Joshua 1:8). We must “lose” our own thoughts of unbelief and take hold of the mind of Christ. How do we do this? By asking ourselves in every situation, “What does the Word say?”

Having this attitude will change how we think, talk, and act. It will keep us aware of God’s presence. Then we’ll be able to enjoy all of the blessings and benefits His Word promises!

If you’re ready to get rid of your old thinking, I encourage you to grab hold of everything this magazine has to offer! My article on page 4 will help you rise into God’s best for your life. And Craig’s article on page 14 makes faith easy to understand.

I also want to remind you about Memorial Day on May 26. Let’s take time to remember and thank God for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for this nation. It’s because of them that we can live free.

Kenneth W. Hagin

THIS ISSUE



4 Rise Into God’s Best

KENNETH W. HAGIN

God is calling us to a new level spiritually. Using the Israelites as an example, Kenneth W. Hagin shares how we, too, can boldly step into God’s blessings.

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CRAIG W. HAGIN

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God wants to work miracles today. If we’ll just preach His Word, He promises to confirm it with signs following!

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TG DESTA

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► **Special Report: MISSIONS**

TG Desta is a full-time missionary—to the world. And everywhere she goes, she’s seeing salvations and miracles. Read her story.



RISE

INTO
GOD'S BEST



KENNETH W. HAGIN

SOMETIMES when we begin to talk about God's desire for us to move to a new level in spiritual growth, people start asking questions. They say, "What's going to happen to us now? Is this new

level going to be better than what we already have?" Moses dealt with questions like this. Let's look at what he told the children of Israel when they were on their way to God's next level for them.

EXODUS 14:10-14 (NLT)

10 As Pharaoh approached, the people of Israel looked up and panicked when they saw the Egyptians overtaking them. They cried out to the Lord, **11** and they said to Moses, "Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren't there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt?"

12 Didn't we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, 'Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It's better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!'"

13 But Moses told the people, "Don't be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again.

14 The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm."

Moses had led the people of Israel out of Egypt, and they were headed for the Promised Land. They were excited because Moses had told them to rise up and get ready. They left a life of slavery rejoicing, and they were moving toward the better life God had for them. Then suddenly, they found themselves in a difficult situation. Pharaoh was behind them, pursuing them with his army. The Red Sea was in front of them. They had no way out, or so they thought.

RISE INTO GOD'S PLAN

God wanted the Israelites to rise to new a level in three areas, and He showed them exactly how to do it. What He revealed to them can also help us rise up into all His blessings for us.

First, we must be willing to rise up into the plan God has for us. As the Israelites moved out to follow God to the next level, they encountered hardship. They faced the Egyptian army and the Red Sea. And when we start out following God, we also will run into opposition.

God showed Moses how to handle the obstacles that were keeping the Israelites from rising to a new level. Moses stretched out his rod, the waters parted, and the seabed dried up. There was solid ground for the Israelites to walk on. As God reveals His plan and His will to us, He will show us how the obstacles we encounter can be removed.

RISE INTO GOD'S PLACE

To go to the next level with God, we must rise into the *place* He has for us. As we obey His Word and follow His plan as He unfolds it for us, we can step into our proper place. Sometimes people pray for God to take action in some area, but when He starts to move, they start backing up. They say, "Wait a minute. This isn't what I had in mind."

FAITH IN ACTION

You Have a Divine Destiny

Every Christian has a divine destiny. The Word of God says, "*'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future' "* (Jer. 29:11 NIV). God has a plan for your life.

TO DISCOVER AND FULFILL YOUR DIVINE DESTINY, YOU MUST KNOW WHAT GOD'S WORD SAYS. And the only way you will learn that is by reading it. The amount of attention you give to the Bible determines whether you will find and follow God's destiny for you. That doesn't mean grabbing your Bible for five minutes and finding a scripture nugget. God told Joshua to meditate in His Word day and night so Joshua could do what it said (Joshua 1:8).

I challenge you: Open your eyes wide to the truth of God's Word and then walk in it. Your divine destiny awaits you!

The Holy Spirit guides us in different ways. Some people want Him to move in the same way every time, but He doesn't do that. It's better to move with God on unfamiliar ground than to say no to God and stay with what is familiar. We can walk in the confidence that God's plans for us are good and that He is always ready to bless us.

RISE INTO GOD'S PROMISE

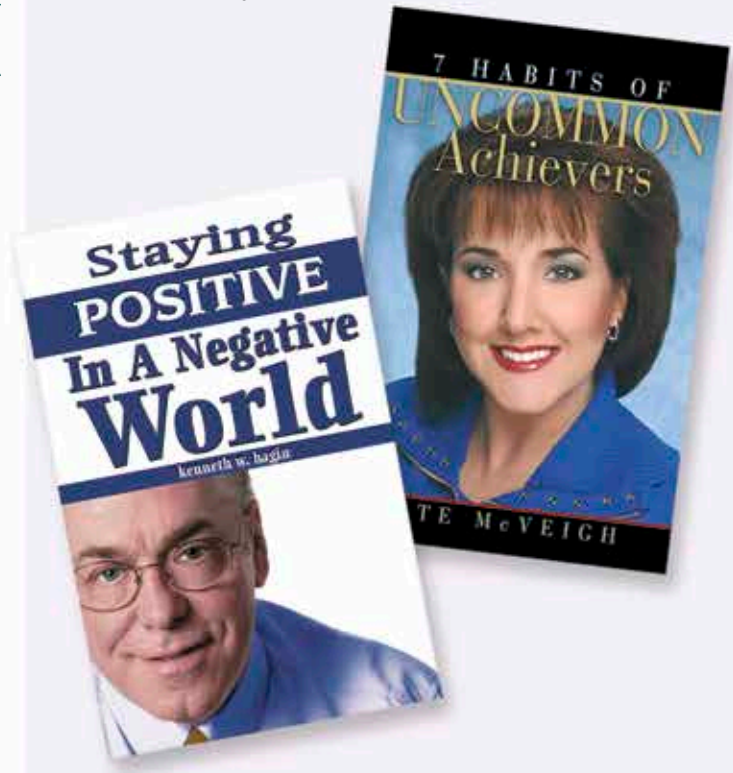
To move to the next level with God, we must rise into the promise that He has for us. In Exodus 14:15 (NLT) the Lord said to Moses, "*Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!*" If the Israelites hadn't moved forward, the enemy would never have been destroyed.

When the Red Sea parted, the Egyptians tried to follow the Israelites across on the dry land. But as the children of Israel moved forward into God's provision, the whole Egyptian army was destroyed. If the enemy is hounding you and breathing down your neck, get hold of God's promises and start going forward.

Let's let the experiences of the Israelites serve as examples for us. As we move forward with God and rise up into His plan, His place, and His promises, we will rise into His best!♥

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Quiet Time in the Chaos

LIVING A LIFE OF DEVOTION

DENISE BURNS



IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, you probably feel like you lead a crazy, hectic life. I'm a wife, a mom to two boys who play every sport imaginable, and I work full time.

Because things are so busy, I've had to come to terms with what it means to have a devotional life. I used to think it was just another one of those things I had to do. But when I looked up *devotion* in the dictionary, I discovered something really interesting. Devotion is not a verb; it's a noun. In other words, it's not just something we *do*; it's something we *are*!

That completely changed my perspective. By definition, *devotion* is "love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or a cause." As believers, that means we should be love, loyalty, and enthusiasm for the Lord. We need to be focused on Him—all the time. **DEVOTION IS A LIFESTYLE, NOT JUST A TIME WE SET ASIDE.**

You need to understand a few things about this life of devotion. First, there is no condemnation in it. You shouldn't feel horrible if you're not able to spend an hour in prayer every morning and two hours reading your Bible in the evening. Those things are good,

but there's no formula you have to follow. That's not what living a life of devotion is about!

Second, there is no cookie-cutter mold. **YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE.** God created you. He knows your personality and what makes you tick. You can't compare your life of devotion to another person's. You're *not* that person.

Third, your life of devotion doesn't stay the same. It will look different in different seasons of life—in the single season, in the kid season, in the empty-nest season. Be OK with it changing, because God is. He 100-percent understands.

Finally, your devotional life shouldn't be private. **EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW YOU LOVE JESUS AND YOU'RE ENTHUSIASTIC FOR GOD.**

If you have kids, they especially need to see your life of devotion. The Lord convicted me about this. He said, "Your children don't know you pray and spend time with Me. They need to know."

So I don't have a private devotional life anymore. And to be honest, it was frustrating at first. I'd be reading my Bible and every other verse my younger son would say, "Hey, Mom. What are you doing?" "Hey, Mom. Look at this!"

I thought this time was producing nothing good. But I learned that God's OK with interruptions. It's not really about us anyway.

*Happy
Mother's Day
to all you
moms out there.
You can do it!*



It's about living a constant life of devotion.

Before long I began to see what God had said to my heart. One day my younger son got curious and wanted to sit with me while I read my Bible. He asked what I was reading and then said, "How do you know what to read?"

with it! After a minute he said, "Mommy! Look how much God is speaking to me!"

Precious, right? My son learned something that will stick with him for the rest of his life. But this would never have happened if I'd kept my devotional life private.

Everyone SHOULD KNOW YOU LOVE JESUS AND YOU'RE **enthusiastic** FOR GOD.

Teachable moment! I was able to explain how I go about it. And he did his 6-year-old best to read his own Bible. Then he saw me pick up my highlighter. "I didn't know you colored when you read your Bible!"

Another teachable moment! I was able to explain that I highlight verses that speak to my heart—or ones I want to remember. So he ran and got a yellow crayon and just went to town

I want my children—and others around me—to know what I stand for and how I live. That's my devotion to God my Father. That's living a life of devotion. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Denise Burns' workshop at the 2013 *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference*. Denise is Kenneth and Lynette Hagin's daughter.]

TIPS

for Living a
Life of Devotion

- 1 PRAY CONTINUALLY** (Eph. 6:18). I pray at random times. I'm constantly aware that God is always with me.
- 2 WORSHIP.** When we praise God, He shows up in a big way (Ps. 22:3).
- 3 READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is God speaking directly to you. It's living and powerful.
- 4 JOURNAL.** I write down verses that stand out to me and what God's saying to me.
- 5 DEVOTIONAL BOOKS.** A good place to begin if you need a jump-start.

'THE UNIQUE ONE'

TG Desta was alone.
In Romania.

In a locked school room with a group of teenagers everyone else had given up on. Even the guard was standing *outside* the locked door. These were scary kids.

AS THEY STARED AT HER, she stared back. She thought, "I'm in trouble! It's not the first time; it won't be the last. Come on, Jesus! Let's do this!"

Undeterred, TG began sharing the message the Lord had given her. She explained that it didn't matter how they started out in life—God could turn everything around.

As her translator closed their time with prayer, TG watched as, one by one, the teens bowed their heads. Afterward, they followed her from the classroom. "Can we talk to you?" they begged. These troubled teens wanted help. And that same night, they got it. TG's translator, a local pastor, opened his church to all of them.

For TG, a 1998 Rhema Bible Training College graduate and traveling missionary, this is what it's all about. "This is the kind of ministry God has entrusted me with," she said. "It's not because I'm qualified, but because He qualified me."

BIG DREAMS

Ethiopian by birth, TG was born again at 13. Sensing the call of God upon her life, and not knowing what else to do, she thought she'd become a nun. Her parents refused that idea, but she still had a heart to help people. She dreamed of traveling the world.

Her dreams eventually landed her in Washington, D.C., where God hooked her up with a wonderful church. Hungry to learn, TG enrolled in every program they had. She volunteered—until one day someone handed her an application to Rhema. "I didn't know anything about Rhema," TG remembered. "But I knew I had to be trained."

She filled out the application. At the time, she didn't even know where Tulsa was. But three weeks later she packed her bags and made the move. She had no money, no job, and no school acceptance letter. But she knew God had called her.

THE RHEMA YEARS

"It was a big change for me," TG recalled. "I left behind everything I knew. But I never had time to dwell on that, because I was receiving so much revelation. I hardly wanted to leave the building!"

TG DESTA SPEAKS TO A NEWS STATION.



Argentina

TG's two years at Rhema were not without challenges. "I grew up having everything," she explained. "When I decided to totally give my life to serve God, I experienced hunger for the first time.

Everything came as a flood in my life." But God provided. In the beginning, as TG attempted to find a job, her tuition was supernaturally paid for. People gave her clothes and took her out to lunch when all she had in her refrigerator was water.

For TG, this was all part of her training—and it's training that has served her well. Four months after graduating from Rhema, she left the country to be a missionary and has never looked back.

"Ministry does not come without its challenges," she noted. "But that does not mean the challenges should take us down. If you've been hungry and without provision, and God has taken care of you, you know He will do it again. Those things don't have any grip on me. I just step on that challenge to go to a higher place."

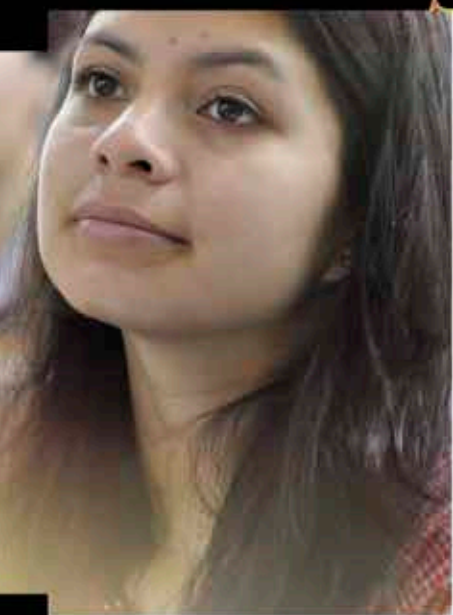
50 NATIONS . . . AND NOT COUNTING

This determination has carried TG to well over 50 nations. (She's stopped counting, because she doesn't want to focus on numbers but on the Lord.) As missionaries are traditionally called to stay in one place, this makes her calling unconventional. "I am the unique one," she laughs. "I used to struggle with this because all the missionaries I knew had an address overseas. But that wasn't God's plan for me. I live overseas, but I don't live in one place."

Each year, TG travels to eight or 10 nations, staying six weeks to three months in each place. She teaches endless hours in Bible schools and churches and holds leadership classes and conferences. God has also opened doors for her to share on the



Samoa



radio and in schools. And whenever she has the opportunity to hold a women's conference or visit an orphanage, she does. For her, it's about demonstrating the love of God. So whatever needs to be done, she does it.

"I know I am called to raise up laborers—to train servants for the Kingdom of God," she explained. "My heart is souls, so I encourage people to get out of their comfort zones and go!"

As she focuses on flowing with the Holy

Spirit, TG is getting results everywhere she goes. In one location, she held a young boy's leg in her hand and watched it shoot out to its proper length. He happily testified, "My leg was short, but my leg has grown out!" He also had problems with his ribs, but today he is healthy and whole.

In another nation, one of TG's students brought in a cloth to be prayed over for her daughter. The girl was 2 years old and couldn't turn over. She just lay there. TG prayed over the cloth and the mother took it home. That same day, the girl turned to one side. Two weeks later, she stood holding on to her bed. When TG saw the girl six months later, she was running—completely restored.

'STOP EATING!'

In Quito, Ecuador, TG prayed for a young couple who desperately wanted to have a baby. "The woman's womb was actually split, which prevented her from becoming pregnant," TG remembered. "I laid hands on both of them, and after I prayed,

Philippines

the words came out of my mouth, 'It's done!'"

A year went by before TG returned to see this couple. When she walked up their driveway, she saw a stroller. All she could think was, "Lord, all I wish is that this stroller is theirs." It was, and they had an amazing story to tell. For six months, the young woman did not realize she was pregnant. She'd finally gone to the doctor because she was gaining weight. In fact, her husband had told her to stop eating so much because she was getting fat!

When she went to the doctor, he examined her and they drew blood. After he came back into the examining room, his eyes were wide because he knew her history. He told her, "You're pregnant!" She said, "No, I'm not." But he insisted. They did an ultrasound and she was six months pregnant. Three months later she gave birth to a healthy child!

"We serve the God of the impossible," TG exclaimed. "I don't want people to credit me. I'm just a simple person with no formal education or background who still doesn't know how to speak. But I stood in His presence and He chose me. I said yes. It's about Him, and that's all I want it to be."♥



Ukraine

PRAYER FOCUS

- » Pray that I'll stay **HEALTHY** and strong. Travel is hard on your body.
- » Pray that I'll have the **HELP** I need. I no longer want to travel alone.

Ecuador

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Peru

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Be an essential piece and make a difference today!

Faith: Some Maintenance Required



CHARLES COWAN



I'VE HEARD IT SAID that faith will never remain status quo. It'll either grow or go. In other words, you can reach a level in your faith, but you won't be there forever. To maintain the level of faith you're on and progress to the next level, some faith maintenance is required.

You see, as born-again believers, we can't just give attention to feeding our spirits. That's important, but we also have a soul (mind, will, and emotions) and live in a body. To live a sanctified life of faith, we have to do something with them as well.

First Thessalonians 5:23 says, *"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* That word sanctify—in its simplest definition—means "to set apart." So you could say, "The very God of peace set you apart—wholly." **GOD DESIRES US TO SET OUR WHOLE BEING APART UNTO HIM!**

The second part of that verse continues, *"I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless."* Some commentaries and Bible dictionaries use the word *maintain* in place of *preserved*. I like that. "I pray your whole spirit, soul, and body be *maintained* together."

What exactly is Paul instructing us to do in this verse? He's saying that **OUR WHOLE SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY SHOULD BE MAINTAINED UNIFIED TOGETHER IN A FAITH LIFE**. Our soul should agree with our spirit, and our body should obey the instruction of the Word. That's putting it all together!

To see and experience the maximum of what the life of faith will do for us, this has to be our lifestyle. We've got to keep these three unified. Then we'll have the kind of power Jesus had when He walked the earth.

Remember, every time Jesus spoke, demons trembled. The wind and water obeyed, and the sick were healed. When words came out of Jesus' mouth, they were backed with the full power and life of God. Satan had no alternative but to bow his knee. That's the result of a sanctified life of faith!

So what kind of maintenance must we do? First, we've got to avail ourselves of reading and studying the Word. The Spirit of God is at work

when we read the Bible. We're feeding our inner man—our spirit—but we're also doing something where our soul is concerned. The Holy Spirit is taking the Word and changing our thinking. (There's some squirrely stuff going on in our mind that needs to get out of there!)

It doesn't matter whether we feel or sense something—or even understand completely what we're reading. Something is happening to our soul.

We must also do maintenance with our bodies. Romans 12:1 says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

We can't hide behind our flesh and say, "I just can't do that." No! We've got to bring our bodies in line with the Word. **WE HAVE TO SACRIFICE THE THINGS OUR BODY WANTS TO DO**—and would do—if we didn't present it to the Lord.

Some people may argue, "That's too hard." No, it's not. This verse says it's our "reasonable" service. It's not anything

DON'T MISS any of our faith-building *Campmeeting 2014* speakers. Check out **PAGES 12-13** for event details.

out of the question. And Philippians 4:13 says we can do all things through Christ Who gives us strength!

So what are we doing? We're unifying. We're feeding our spirit and bringing our soul and body in line with the Word to live a sanctified life of faith.

When we do this, we're following Jesus. **OUR LIFESTYLE OF FAITH WILL GIVE SUBSTANCE TO GOD'S PROMISES, AND THE LIGHT OF OUR LIFE WILL SHINE INTO THE DARKNESS.** We are more than conquerors!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Charles Cowan's Wednesday morning message at *Campmeeting 2013*.]

» GET MORE!

Need a faith boost? Go to khm.com/8trr and watch all of the messages from *Campmeeting 2013*.

“There's some **squirrely stuff** going on in our mind that needs to **get out of there!**”



Hear the Word.
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KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES'

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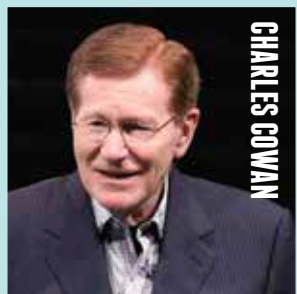
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FAITH. PLAIN AND SIMPLE

FAITH IS SIMPLE. SOME PEOPLE MAKE IT HARDER THAN IT REALLY IS. BUT WALKING AND LIVING BY FAITH IS NOT HARD.



CRAIG W. HAGIN

OFTEN WHEN I MINISTER on faith, I use scriptures that most of the congregation can already easily quote. I once asked the Lord to give me a fancy scripture—one that people would hear and say, “I didn’t know that was in the Bible!”

The Lord never gave me any new verses, though. He just said, “Once people actually understand

what they know, then we can move further. But until then, we can’t go any further.”

I’ve discovered that many Christians can quote a lot of scriptures on faith, but they don’t know how to use their faith. They start out in faith, but something happens along the way and they step out of faith.

THE STORY OF THE FIG TREE

Let’s look at how faith works. In Mark chapter 11 Jesus was on His way to Jerusalem when He saw a fig tree with leaves on it. I’m not a “figologist,” but according to what people say, if a fig tree has leaves, it should also have fruit.

Jesus was hungry, and thinking He could get something to eat, He and His disciples headed over to the tree. But it didn’t have any figs on it because, as scripture says, it wasn’t the season for figs (Mark 11:13). Jesus then said, “*No man eat fruit of thee here-after for ever*” (v. 14).

The next morning when Jesus and His disciples again passed by the fig tree, the disciples pointed out that it had dried up from the roots (vv. 20–21).

FROM THE INSIDE OUT

I want you to notice that when Jesus cursed the fig tree, as far as the disciples could tell, nothing happened. If they had seen the tree wither immediately, it wouldn’t have been a big deal the next day when they saw it. They would have already known it was dead and said, “There’s the tree that Jesus cursed.”

Contrary to what it initially looked like, something was happening. It’s just that no one could see what was going on inside the tree. The roots began to dry up immediately. It took time for

it to become evident on the outside. By the next morning, the fig tree was completely withered—both inside and out.

I’m mentioning this because people often get discouraged when they’re believing for something and don’t get immediate results. I blame this on our microwave society. People today want instant gratification. If they don’t see something happen right away, they don’t think their faith is working.

When people get in healing lines and hands are laid on them, the healing power of God goes into them. If they don’t see any changes right away, they shouldn’t get discouraged. Something is happening. God’s healing power was imparted into their bodies, and it’s working in them even if they don’t see or feel anything.

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

When the disciples mentioned to Jesus that the fig tree had dried up, His first words were, “*Have faith in God*” (Mark 11:22). Sometimes this verse is translated, “*Have the God-kind of faith.*” That sounds good, but what exactly is the God-kind of faith? The Bible is filled with stories of people who have had faith in God, and as a result they’ve had their needs met. But we can also look in the Bible and see God’s faith working.

In Genesis 1:3 God said, “*Let there be light.*” Notice that He didn’t fast and pray for 40 days and nights before light appeared. It immediately came into being.

Most of us have heard that verse so often, we don’t stop and consider what happened when God spoke. Let’s break it down.

1

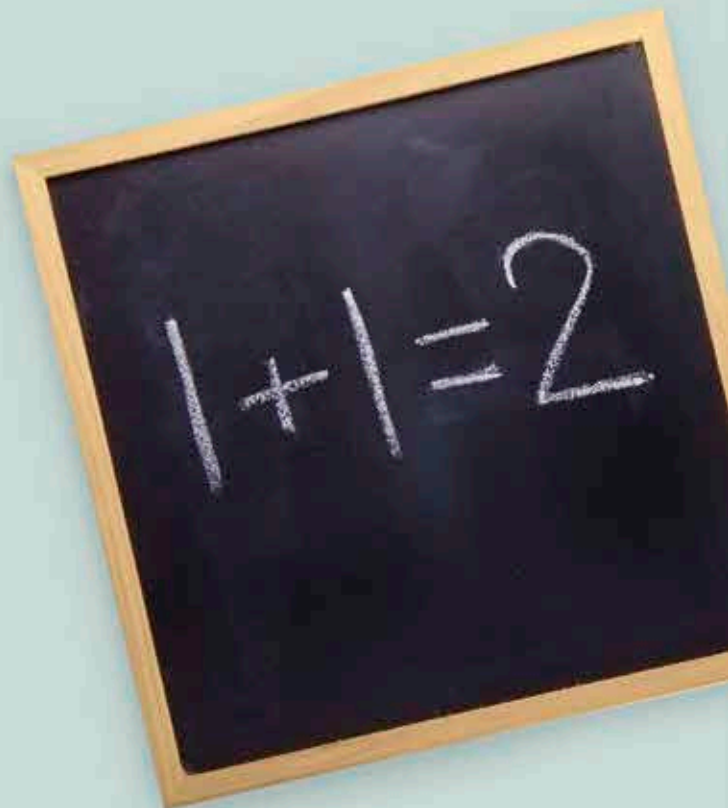
God said with His mouth.

2

He believed in His heart.

3

He had what He said.



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If you look closely at these three points, you'll see they are exactly what Jesus said in Mark 11:23–24. Right after Jesus told His disciples in verse 22 to have the God-kind of faith, He showed them how to do that.

MARK 11:23–24

23 Verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

WHOSOEVER MEANS YOU!

Notice in verse 23 that Jesus used the word *whosoever*. That tells us that Jesus' instructions weren't for the disciples alone. *Anybody* can do this!

This is what God wants us to do. Many Christians want their pastor to speak to their mountains for them. But it's up to each one of us to speak to the mountains in our lives. Sooner or later we all have to grow up and take responsibility for ourselves.

Parents gladly feed their infants. As the babies grow and develop, they're taught how to use forks and spoons. A time comes, however, when parents stop spoon-feeding their kids. They expect them to feed themselves.

FAITH NUGGET

The Love of God

It can be hard to have faith in God if you've never had a relationship with your earthly dad. Some dads abuse their kids. And some kids don't know who their dad is. Because of these things, it can be hard to believe that your Heavenly Father loves you.

Some fathers are never around; but God always is. He promises never to leave you nor forsake you. Although some fathers lie, God never does. You can count on whatever He said in the Bible. In spite of what your dad was like, never doubt God's love for you. He really loves you!

Unfortunately, a good number of Christians don't want to grow up. They say that faith is hard, and they want their pastor to keep spoon-feeding them. Instead of having faith in God, they place their faith in their pastor or someone else.

YOU HAVE WHAT YOU SAY

Jesus told us we could speak to our mountains. Are you doing that? If you're not saying anything, you won't receive anything. Or maybe you are saying things you really don't want—things like “I'm always sick” or “I never have enough money.”

Start saying the things you desire. And remember, if you don't see anything at first, know that your words have already started to change the situation. Be patient, and you *will* see it come to pass. ♥



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Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

man & MIRACLES

Man was created
by a supernatural
God and was
designed to
**live in God's
supernatural
realm** on this
earth.

IF YOU ARE A BELIEVER, your spirit was made a new creation supernaturally in the new birth. If you are Spirit-filled, you were supernaturally filled with the Holy Spirit and were given supernatural utterance in other tongues by that same Holy Ghost.

You can live a supernatural life in Christ by maintaining a supernatural prayer life. One way to develop your spirit is by praying much in other tongues.

Not only will praying in tongues develop your spirit, it will also help bring the supernatural power of God into manifestation.

YEARNING FOR THE MIRACULOUS

People have a deep-seated desire for the miraculous demonstration of God's power and glory. That's because mankind was created in the image of a supernatural, miracle-working God. And God has provided an entrance into the supernatural through the baptism in the Holy Spirit and by His Word.

Mankind yearns to see the miracle-working power of God in demonstration. But sin has blinded many and has kept them imprisoned in the natural realm. Thank God, though, that the hunger for the supernatural is within our hearts. If we seek after God, we can learn to live in the supernatural realm by the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Many churches have backed off from the supernatural workings of God. This is true even of churches that used to believe and operate regularly

in the supernatural. As a result, the supernatural has waned in those churches, and the miraculous is no longer in manifestation.

When churches keep the Holy Spirit from having His way in their services, they eventually become cold and dead spiritually. When any body of believers denies the supernatural, they begin following a dead religion of ethics instead of experiencing a supernatural relationship with a miracle-working God.

In Jesus' day people were drawn to Him because He was a miracle worker. If ministers today would preach the anointed Word and allow Jesus to work miracles in their midst, people would be drawn to come and witness the supernatural power of God!

RING THE DINNER BELL

As a young preacher, I heard Raymond T. Richey preach at the Texas District Council meetings of the Assemblies of God. He often said, "Divine healing is the dinner bell. Keep ringing that bell and people will come."

I went back to my church, which had a congregation of less than 100, and began ringing the dinner bell every Saturday night. I preached what the Word of God said about the power of the Gospel to save, deliver, and heal.

For six months nothing happened. But then we hit a gusher! The insane were delivered! The paralyzed were healed! People were raised up from

• miracles

deathbeds! And people from several neighboring counties came and filled the building every Saturday night.

I kept ringing the dinner bell, and God was faithful to manifest His supernatural delivering power.

MIRACLES ARE FOR TODAY

Jesus is as much a miracle worker today as He ever was. He has not changed. And man needs the miraculous power of God today just as much as he ever did.

Some people say, “We don’t need miracles anymore.” But we do! Thank God we can act upon God’s Word, and God’s power will manifest just as it did in the days when Jesus walked the earth.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). He has not changed. If He healed people when He walked upon this earth, He heals today. If He worked miracles then, He works miracles today.

We need to find out how to scripturally put a demand on Jesus’ miracle-working power. Then we can work *with* Him and see His miraculous power manifested in our lives.

PREACH THE WORD

What causes Jesus to demonstrate His power with signs and miracles? The answer is in Mark 16:20: “*And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.*” How did the Lord work? He worked with the disciples by *confirming the Word* they preached with *signs following*.

Jesus works with us today just as He worked with the Early Church. If we want to increase the manifestation of God’s miraculous power in our midst, we must do what those in the Early Church did—preach the Word!

God confirms His Word! He won’t confirm a particular *preacher*. He won’t confirm a *personality*. He will confirm the *Word* with signs following!

I was reading this passage in Mark chapter 16 one day when I was pastoring my last church, and I got stirred up about it. I began to fast and pray and wait on God.

“Lord,” I said, “things are comfortable in our church. The church is growing. It’s financially sound. A few people are getting saved and baptized in the Holy Ghost, and a few are being healed. But as I read Mark chapter 16, it seems to me that we ought to be experiencing more supernatural signs and demonstrations of Your power than we are.”

On the third day of my fast, the Lord spoke to my spirit, “I said I would confirm My Word with signs following.”

“I know that,” I said. “That’s what I’m praying and fasting about. I want to see You do it.”

The Lord said, “Do you think I’m a liar?”

“Oh, no. You’re not a liar.”

“You don’t have to pray that I will do it,” He said. “You don’t even have to fast to get Me to do it. If you will put the Word out, I *will* confirm My Word.”

I checked up on what I was preaching and I found out that 60 percent was Word, 35 percent was unbelief, and 5 percent was tradition! When I stopped preaching unbelief and religious tradition, we immediately began to see results. Signs followed the Word and the miraculous power of God began manifesting in our church.

The early Christians didn’t heal the sick and cast out devils without putting out any Word. *First* they preached the Word. *Then* the Lord confirmed the Word they preached with signs following.

The supernatural is man’s realm. It’s up to us whether we live our lives supernaturally in the power of the Holy Spirit. If we will educate our spirits by diligently studying the Word of God and praying in the Holy Ghost, the supernatural realm of God will become as natural to us as water is to fish. 🐟

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *Classic Sermons*.]

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—KENNETH E. HAGIN



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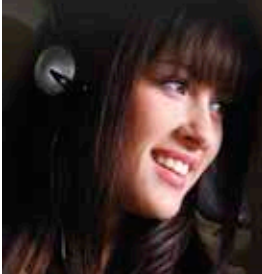
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*OFFER EXPIRES **AUGUST 31, 2014**



Love: The Secret to Strong Faith

"Faith is important. We need it. But if we want our faith to work, we've got to learn to walk in love. Faith works by love (Gal. 5:6) You see, we cannot violate the law of love and expect any of the promises of God to work in our lives. But when we, as children of God, begin to walk in this love, things will begin to happen. We won't have to worry about promotions. They'll come our way. We won't have to worry about our needs being met. They'll be met. **THE KIND OF LOVE I'M TALKING ABOUT WILL TAKE THE WORD OF GOD IN OUR MOUTHS AND MAKE IT POWERFUL.** Nothing will be able to stand against us!"

// **KENNETH W. HAGIN**



Heaven on Earth: The Greater Facts

"RECOGNIZING THE FACTS DOES NOT NEGATE YOUR FAITH. It's OK to say, 'Hey, you know, I've been pushed lately. I am a little tired. But over in Isaiah 40:29 (Message) [it says], *"He energizes those who get tired, gives fresh strength to dropouts. For even young people tire and drop out. . . . But those who wait upon God get fresh strength."* If you get tired, wait upon the Lord. We don't need to ignore the facts. But we can be equipped with the greater facts of God's Word." // **LYNETTE HAGIN**





"We have to decide how we'll conduct ourselves—how we'll represent our Lord and Savior. Will we be influenced, or be the influence? This is the time for firm resolve." // **BARRY JENSEN, UKRAINE**

"When God tells you to move, move! Somebody out there is waiting for you. You are the answer to somebody's prayers, and you need to be there on time with the message that changes their life." // **MIKE KEYES, PHILIPPINES**



"Our responsibility as ministers of the Gospel is not to compromise the truth, [but to] stand for the truth and to love the truth." // **KEVIN CASTRO, INDIA**

"Don't ever believe the lies of the enemy. He's trying to keep you little and tell you that you're not worth it. Do not believe those lies. Be willing to give your supply." // **MONIKA WAGNER, EUROPE**



"God has created you for a purpose. He has prepared good works for you before you were even born. Whatever we do, we need to remember He prepared it beforehand—He knows what He is doing." // **ROBERT TOMASCHEK, AUSTRIA/GERMANY**



"We're a mighty moving force. There aren't enough devils in hell to stop us. The devil is not big enough. Adversity is not big enough. Why? Our Father is greater than all." // **TOKS ADEJWON, NIGERIA**

"A lot of people say yes to God if He asks them to do what they want to do. We must say yes without conditions. No ifs, ands, or buts. Just, 'yes.'" // **JOHN MADAN, FRANCE**



"Stay connected to the Word of God. Despise the devil and his works—he's small. It's time for you to celebrate what God's going to do in your future!" // **GUTO EMERY, BRAZIL**

"Jesus had nations in His heart when He was on that cross. He did His part; then He turned over and said, 'Now Church, you go and do your part.'" // **MATT BEEMER, NIGERIA**



"We are designed to be a pipeline of God's power and life. When you put yourself in a position to bless others, you will experience God in a greater way than ever before." // **GARY CROWL, HONG KONG**



"Desperate, determined, and full of faith, the woman with the issue of blood received what she needed from Jesus. Are you ready to be healed? **YOUR FAITH IS THE TRIGGER THAT WILL RELEASE GOD'S POWER INTO YOUR BODY.**" // **CRAIG W. HAGIN**

Youth Winter Blitz

Winter Blitz was all about growing closer to God and getting saturated with Him in His presence. Messages focused on the three parts of man—spirit, soul, and body. Speakers encouraged JV and Varsity youth to pray in tongues to better recognize God's voice and follow His plan for their lives. Through his testimony, guest speaker Fabian McCune taught the youth how to hear God's voice more clearly.



Rhema Kids



The Winter Bible Olympics at Winter Bible Seminar 2014 was a blast! "Countries" competed against each other and received medals each night. The kids sang praises to the Lord and were taught that they were part of God's team, the Body of Christ, and that each team member mattered. One night many kids dealing with fear came forward to be prayed for. Another night, kids responded to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.



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)

THIS MONTH we in the United States set aside a day to honor mothers. I was born on Mother's Day. I would always tell my mother that she got the best mother's day present that year. She would just smile and agree. A mother's job is to watch over, nourish, and train her children. This job starts the day she finds that she has conceived. It seems that it is just a built-in mechanism from the Lord. I have referred to the Proverbs 31 woman many times, but it is always important to review those things. This year let's look at some of those verses in the Message Bible. For lack of space, I will not include the whole passage.

PROVERBS 31:10-12, 15-21, 25-31

A good woman is hard to find, and worth far more than diamonds. Her husband trusts her without reserve, and never has reason to regret it. Never spiteful, she treats him generously all her life long. . . . She's up before dawn, preparing breakfast for her family and organizing her day. She looks over a field and buys it, then, with money she's put aside, plants a garden. First thing in the morning, she dresses for work, rolls up her sleeves, eager to get started.

She senses the worth of her work, is in no hurry to call it quits for the day. She's skilled in the crafts of home and hearth, diligent in homemaking. She's quick to assist anyone in need, reaches out to help the poor. She doesn't worry about her family when it snows; their winter clothes are all mended and ready to wear. . . .

Her clothes are well-made and elegant, and she always faces tomorrow with a smile. When she speaks she has something worthwhile to say, and she always says it kindly. She keeps an eye on everyone in her household, and keeps them all busy and productive.

Her children respect and bless her; her husband joins in with words of praise: "Many women have done wonderful things, but you've outclassed them all!" Charm can mislead and beauty soon fades.

The woman to be
admired and praised
is the woman who
lives in the Fear-of-God.
Give her everything she
deserves! Festoon her life
with praises!

Looking at this description, I would say that a mother is not a person; she is a miracle! She can turn into anything she needs to be in an instant. At the sight of a scrape or scratch, she turns into a nurse. Whether it is a fever, a cut, or a broken tooth, she knows how to fix it. When a young child gets a "bad boo-boo," the mother's kiss calms that child and makes everything all right.

A mother must be a cook, a maid, a taxi driver, and a referee—all in just a few minutes. She is the timekeeper. Children don't watch the clock; they listen to mom. She knows everyone's schedule. Whatever has a time attached to it, be assured that mother has that time recorded in her time clock—her head. Of course she always has a back-up system. The schedule is probably also on the refrigerator or her smartphone.

A mother is a mender. She mends clothes, broken toys, broken bike chains, and other things that come loose in life. But most often she mends a child's broken heart. She brushes away the tears. She assures her child that tomorrow will be a better day. A mother feels every happiness and sorrow as though it were her own. You know her shoulder is always there to lean on, even while she helps you become strong enough to stand by yourself.

A mother is an encourager. She makes you feel like you can do anything, yet she reminds you that you are loved without having to do anything at all. She believes in you when everyone else has given up. Her smile of approval is worth a thousand words. She encourages you to strive for your dreams.

As you can see, motherhood is an awesome responsibility with many tasks. God has promised us, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6 NKJV). If you were not brought up in a Christian home, decide today to begin creating a godly pattern for your children to follow. If your mother is still alive, tell her you love her and appreciate her. You will not always have that opportunity. Sometimes we get busy in life's routine and lose sight of the most important aspect—loving our family and expressing that love. And mother happens to be where the family began. ♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Can a Kid Make a Difference?

Many adult Christians are making a difference in their world. So, the question is, "Can a kid make a difference, too?"

SOME KIDS IN THE BIBLE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

If you don't think a kid can make a difference, maybe you should read your Bible again! Each poem below refers to a kid in the Bible who made a difference in his day. See if you can figure out who each poem refers to.



The disciples wanted to send all the people away.
But Jesus took what I had and began to pray.
And the little that I had fed a great multitude.
I made a difference when I gave Him my food! Who am I? (John 6)

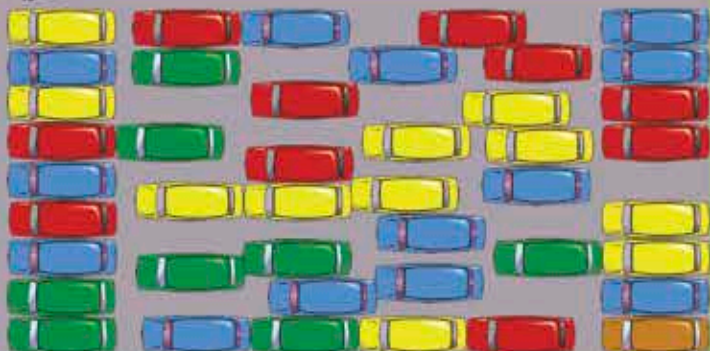
When I was a child, the smallest and the least,
God spoke to me instead of to the priest.
Yes, He spoke to me, but still I had a choice.
I made a difference 'cause I obeyed His voice. Who am I? (1 Samuel 3)

I was only 8 years old when I became the king.
A kid ruling a kingdom? Who's heard of such a thing!
But I followed God's laws and so He blessed my throne.
I made a difference 'cause I served God alone! Who am I? (2 Kings 22)

Many Ways to Make a Difference



The little boy wants to "make a difference" by helping the older man get to his car. See how many different ways you can find to get between the parked cars below to the man's orange car on the bottom right.



A PUZZLING situation!

The puzzle above is missing just one piece . . . but only one of the pieces on the right will fit correctly. Don't forget the details of the story about the boy who gave his five loaves and two fish to the Lord or you may choose the wrong piece.

jokes & riddles

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



What do you get when you cross a snowman with a wild dog?
Frostbite

Why did the banana go to the hospital?
It wasn't "peeling" well

What is so fragile that even saying its name will break it?
Silence

What did the duck put in its soup?
Quackers

What gets wetter the more that it dries?
A Towel

Answers:
1. The boy who gave Jesus his lunch to feed the 5,000.
2. Samuel
3. Josiah
A PUZZLING SITUATION:
D.



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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

“AND HE SAID TO THEM, **GO**
INTO ALL THE WORLD, AND GIVE
THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE.”
— MARK 16:15 (BBE)

SUNDAY, MAY 4



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