

THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2014

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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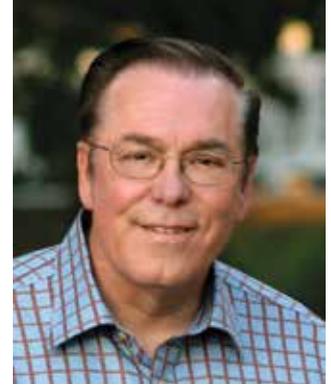
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Faith *Always* Brings the Answer

It's easy to make a statement of faith. It's another thing to live it, especially when circumstances start pushing in on us and even our close friends and relatives begin to question us. But if we want to stay fully persuaded, we must not become separated from our faith!

Really, we need to plunge into the promises of God with abandonment, like people who jump into the water to go swimming. When some people go swimming, they first test the water with their toes and then gradually slide in. That's the way many people are with God's promises. They just poke around the edges. But if we're going to receive what God has promised, we need to just jump in. We need to show that we are committed and mean business! If God said it, we believe it. There is no alternative—no ifs, ands, or buts. Receiving the promises of God depends upon our keeping His Word in front of us.

When the pressure's on, read the promises. If circumstances say, "It's not going to happen," begin to declare, "It *is* going to happen, because the Word of God says it is." When lack looms over you, read the promises. When sickness and pain pound your body, read the promises. When fear tries to invade your life, read and speak the promises. When impossibility is staring you in the face, stare at the promises instead!

That's not the time to look somewhere else. That's the time to stay focused on God's Word. Faith may not bring the answer right away, but faith will always (not maybe, but *always*) bring the answer. Galatians 6:9 (NIV) tells us not to grow weary. We will reap a harvest at the proper time if we don't give up.

Remember, Jesus died on the cross and arose victorious so you could have a new life. Now, all of God's promises are available to you. This Easter, focus on those promises. Don't allow anything else to come into your mind, and you *will* receive the answer you're seeking. Happy Resurrection Day!

Kenneth W. Hagin

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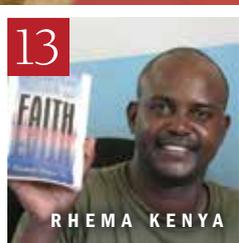
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KENNETH W. HAGIN

NEAR THE CROSS



IN OUR MODERN WORLD, the cross has become little more than an object or a piece of jewelry. But the scene on Golgotha's hill where Jesus Christ was crucified was bloody and gruesome. Once we understand that, it might be hard for us to grasp why anyone would want to witness Jesus' agonizing death. Isaiah 52:14 says His face was so marred He wasn't recognizable. He was so beaten, He hardly looked human.

But Scripture tells us there *were* a handful of people gathered to witness Jesus' death. They were Mary, Jesus' mother; Jesus' mother's sister; Mary, the wife of Clopas; Mary Magdalene; and John, the disciple Jesus loved (John 19:25–27).

What impact did Jesus make on the lives of these faithful few that they were willing to follow Him to the cross? What compelled them to stand there and witness the bloodshed? Why didn't they run and hide like the rest of Jesus' followers?

A PLACE OF REWARD

Mary, Jesus' mother, had suffered much to get to the cross. There was the obvious pain of childbirth, but also the shame and gossip that came with being an unwed mother. Then she must have endured terrible agony as she watched Jesus being beaten, rejected, and placed on the cross. I'm sure she was broken beyond measure as she watched the blood flow from her son's veins.

But Mary stayed near the cross. She stayed faithful, because she understood Who Jesus was. He was the Son of God—the Lamb Who would take away the sin of the world.

As she stood there, something amazing happened. Looking down from that cross, Jesus said to her, “*Dear woman, here is your son* [talking about John]” (John 19:26 NLT).

In the moment of her greatest agony, Jesus rewarded her. He gave her a son who would love her and take care of her. And Scripture tells us that from that time on, John took her into his home. Mary's faithfulness reaped a reward—at the cross.

A PLACE OF RESTORATION

What about John, then? Why did he follow Jesus to the cross? He had fled from the Garden of Gethsemane with the other disciples. He was nowhere to be found at Jesus' trial or beating. But he came back.

The cross probably wasn't the safest place for John to be as one of Jesus' followers. But he wasn't going to run or hide any longer. Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what happened with him, but somewhere along the line, he must have woken up to the truth that Jesus would forgive him. Yes, he'd run and forsaken his Lord, but Jesus would restore him.

It took courage for John to come back, because he knew he'd messed up. But he came anyway, and he found restoration. I think that's why he could later write with conviction, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9 NKJV). John had experienced forgiveness himself—near the cross.

A PLACE OF REDEMPTION

Mary Magdalene also followed Jesus all the way to the cross. Why? I think we're given a little insight in the Book of Luke.



LUKE 8:1-2 (NLT)

1 Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him, **2** along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

This passage tells us that Jesus traveled around proclaiming and teaching the Word of God. He took His 12 disciples and some women who had been cured of diseases and evil spirits. We're not told more about any of these women except Mary Magdalene. Verse two says she had seven demons!

Can you imagine the turmoil and agony Mary Magdalene experienced, and the sin she was into? But when Jesus miraculously delivered her, everything changed. She surrendered her life and gave up what she had to follow Jesus and help His ministry.

Why would she do this for Jesus, and why would she follow Him all the way to the cross? Why would she watch Him bleed and die? It's because Mary Magdalene understood the power of redemption.

She had been delivered from turmoil. She had been forgiven and set free from demonic bondage. Her life had gone from terrible darkness to amazing light—from misery to the wonder of knowing Jesus.

When she stood looking up at that cross—watching her Savior and Redeemer Who had been spat upon, laughed at, and pierced with thorns and nails—she understood the cost of her deliverance. She witnessed the price that was paid to buy her back from the grip of Satan. To Mary Magdalene, that cross was the price of redemption.

DRAW NEAR

That cross is also the place of our redemption. It's *our* place of reward and restoration.

ISAIAH 53:3-6 (NKJV)

3 He [Jesus] is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

.....
DRAW NEAR AND *find peace* THAT
PASSES ALL UNDERSTANDING AND *joy* AND
strength THAT ONLY THE LORD CAN GIVE.
.....

Jesus paid the price so we could be delivered and healed. He was punished in our place.

You see, we've all fallen short. Without Jesus, we're all sinners in need of God. But it's at the cross that we find everything we need. It's at the cross where we, just like John, find restoration when we mess up. It's at the cross where we, like Jesus' mother, realize there are rewards for serving God. And it's at the cross where we, like Mary Magdalene, find salvation and redemption.

Will you follow Jesus to the cross? Will you be faithful even when things don't go the way you want—when you're persecuted and misunderstood? I encourage you . . . draw near. Draw near and find peace that passes all understanding and joy and strength that only the Lord can give.♥

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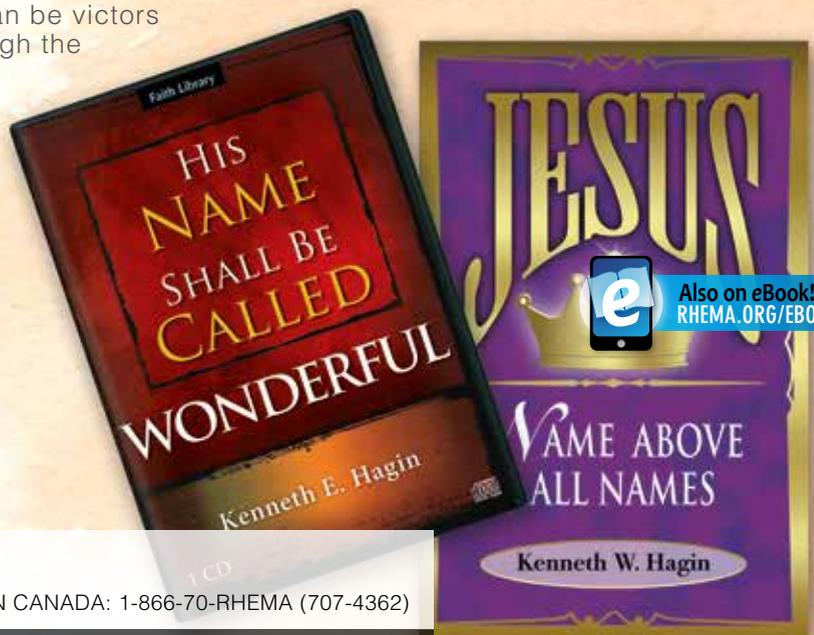
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Coming Home

KENNETH AND LYNETTE HAGIN are always encouraging Rhema graduates, partners, and friends to “come home.” They know how important it is to sit under the anointing and hear a timely word from the Lord. *Campmeeting* provides a great opportunity to come home. It’s a time to see old friends, hear plenty of good preaching, and allow God to touch your life in ways that only He can.

Bill McNeese, a 1982 Rhema Bible Training College graduate,

and his wife, Fredna, can attest to this. After he graduated, Bill worked at Kenneth Hagin Ministries for 10 years. Then in 1992 the Lord called the McNeeses back to their hometown of Montgomery, Alabama, where they pioneered Harvest Family Church. Although Bill and Fredna were now over 700 miles from Broken Arrow, they were determined never to unhook from Rhema.

“When God called us [to Rhema] and hooked us up with Brother Hagin and ultimately with Pastor Hagin, I knew that it was important for us to stay fully connected to Rhema and this ministry,” he says.

The McNeeses have been at every *Campmeeting* since 1980. That’s 34 *Campmeetings*! Coming home to Rhema has been a priority in their lives.

“The Holy Spirit ministered to me,” says Bill, “that my success in ministry and my success in my family will always

be tied to my commitment, my loyalty, and my honor of this ministry and staying connected to it spiritually and in every other way.

“We’re going to stay close to this ministry,” continues Bill. “We need it spiritually. We need the impartations, the wisdom, and the strength that comes from being here. We understand how important it is to let God speak into our lives through this ministry.”

David Larsson, a 1991 Rhema graduate, and his wife, Violeta, who graduated in 2011, are directors of Rhema Bolivia. They feel the same way. Although they are not from the U.S., they see coming to the States for *Campmeeting* as coming home. Getting here, however, hasn’t always been easy.

When the Larssons moved to Bolivia in 1996, they didn’t have a car and walked everywhere. David, Violeta, and their two children stood in faith for two years for a vehicle. Needless to say, when God supernaturally provided money for the car, the entire family was thrilled.

At that time they had been on the mission field for three years, but lack of finances had prevented them from coming

back to Rhema. In the midst of learning the language, adjusting to the culture, and waiting for their stomachs to get used to the food, they were feeling a bit down.

“We just knew we needed to come back home,” says David.

In 1999, without hesitation, the Larssons sold their car and bought plane tickets for the entire family to fly to Broken Arrow to attend *Campmeeting*. Spiritually refreshed, they returned to Bolivia and walked for two years before they were able to buy another car. But none of the family ever complained.

“We just knew we needed to sell the car,” says David. “It was the right thing to do. . . . It was well worth it.

“[Our children] have grown up under the faith message,” David adds. “They don’t have limits in their lives. They think everything is possible, as the Word says. And they have challenged us in that many times. They’ll probably do much more than Violeta and I ever thought they would do with their lives.”♥

We encourage all of our Rhema family members to come back home. Now more than ever, it’s vitally important to stay connected. We know you’ll be refreshed and encouraged by the Word that goes forth and the fellowship with others who attend. So start planning now to be here. You’ll be glad you did.



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THE MOST IMPORTANT QUALIFICATION FOR RECEIVING FROM GOD IS *abiding* IN HIM—GIVING HIM FIRST PLACE.



LYNETTE HAGIN

There's nothing like the Word of God to keep our minds and hearts

in peace. During troubled times—when worry and depression try to overtake us—we can always run to God's Word. His Word is our safety in the midst of harm! **His Word is our peace.**

THAT'S WHY it's more important today than ever before that we build a strong foundation in God's Word and make His Word a daily part of our lives. Sometimes our schedules are so busy that we think we don't have time to read and meditate on the Word. But we always seem to have time to do the things we *want* to do!

For example, we have time to read the news or watch our favorite television programs. We can always find time to do things that are important to us. But are we making time to do the things that will cause us to walk in God's peace? Are we learning to be grounded in the Word and not moved by what we see with our natural eyes? Are we learning to trust in the Lord and cast our cares on Him?

If we're not careful, we will find ourselves living a powerless life, a life without peace, simply because we've neglected the very thing that will give us God's power and His peace—the Word of God.

WHY SO LITTLE VICTORY?

So many verses in the Bible talk about the importance of God's Word. Deuteronomy 11:22–24 (NLT) says, “*Be careful to obey all these commands I am giving you. Show love to the Lord your God by walking in his ways and holding tightly to him. Then the Lord will drive*

RUN TO THE WORD



out all the nations ahead of you, though they are much greater and stronger than you, and you will take over their land. Wherever you set foot, that land will be yours.’ ”

What do these verses say God will do if we're “careful to obey” His commands [His Word]? First of all, He will drive the enemies out of our lives—enemies of sickness, financial lack, discouragement, depression, and fear.

Sometimes we wonder why we're not receiving the promises of God. We wonder why we're being battered by one crisis after another, with so little victory and no peace. We wonder why our world seems to be crumbling around us.

Yes, we're claiming God's promises. We're confessing His Word. But our confession is powerless. Why? Because we're not doing what these verses from the Book of Deuteronomy tell us to do. We're not obeying the rest of God's Word.

The Lord said if we would hide His Word in our hearts and continually do what that Word tells us to do, *then* every place we set our foot would be ours. But instead of grabbing hold of what is ours to possess, we've become disappointed and disillusioned. We've decided, “This faith stuff doesn't work!”

Yes, it does work! But it won't work for us personally if we're not meeting the conditions in God's Word!

In John 15:7 Jesus taught us how meet the conditions of His Word. He said, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you" (NKJV).

How do we abide in the Lord? We abide in Him by reading His Word, communing with Him in prayer, and keeping our hearts and minds focused on Him.

Notice that God says if we abide in Him we will have "what we desire." That means we will receive from Him whatever we need. But the most important qualification for receiving from God is abiding in Him—giving Him first place. Everything else should come after the Lord!

WALKING OVER CIRCUMSTANCES

You may wonder, "Why should I spend so much time meditating on God's Word?" I'll tell you why! When pressure comes or discouragement is clouding your mind, those verses you've hidden in your heart will start coming out of your mouth. And God's Word will give you peace in the middle of every storm!

Do you realize that when Peter stepped out on the water to walk toward Jesus, he wouldn't have started sinking if he had kept his eyes on the Savior? But what did he do? He let his circumstances—the wind rising and the storm brewing—cause fear to grip his heart. When he began to fear, he lost his peace. And when he lost his peace, he started to sink (Matt. 14:28–30).

The same thing is true in your life. When you keep your eyes focused on the Word of God, His Word will help you walk on top of the circumstances. But if you begin to focus on your problems and troubles, you're going to sink.

Of course, the waters of your life won't always be smooth. The winds may be howling and the waves may be crashing all around you. But don't let the enemy distract you with those things. Recognize that God is on your side. And because He is for you, no one can be against you (Rom. 8:31).

Don't let anything keep you from receiving what God has for you. If you're facing problems and heartaches right now—if you're struggling and cannot seem to find peace—set aside time to fill your mind and heart with God's Word. Remember that your Heavenly Father is watching over you. Look to Him! Grab hold of His hand. He will lead you safely to the other side!♥

FAITH IN ACTION

A Fasted Life

Do you truly want to make God's Word a daily part of your life? Consider fasting something that may be keeping you from spending time in the Word.

We usually think of fasting only in relation to food, but we can also fast other things. For example, we can fast some of the time we normally spend on the computer or phone, or watching television.

What does fasting accomplish? It helps us crucify the flesh—keep our flesh under control (Gal. 5:24). Of course, watching television or spending time on the phone or computer is not sin. But sometimes things consume too much of our time and become bondage, and we need to break loose from them. The Apostle Paul said, "Let us lay aside every weight . . . which doth so easily beset us" (Heb. 12:1).

In these last days, we need to be about the Father's business. To do that, we must set aside the weights that hinder us. We must seek first the Kingdom of God and give His Word first place.

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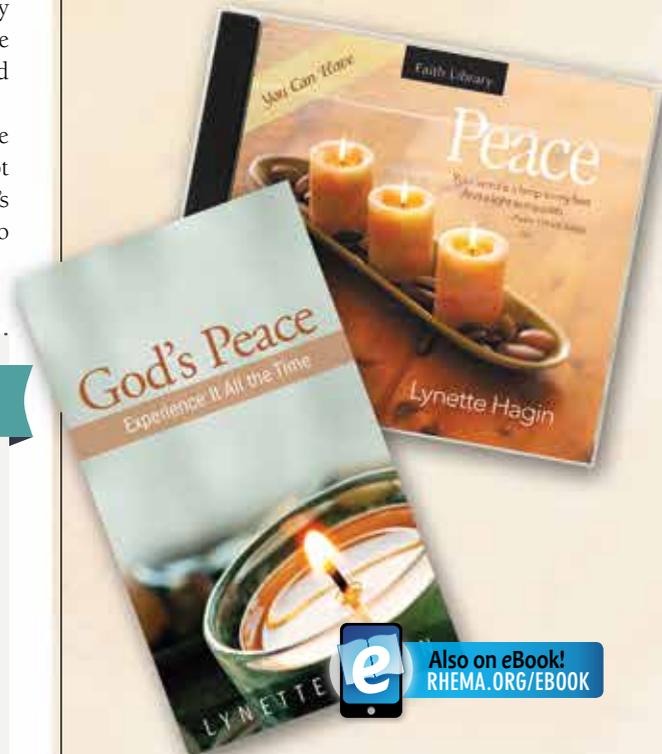
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Success Principles

From the Life of Joshua

BILL RAY



I'M GOING TO SHARE some principles for success from the life of a man whom God chose and used to lead Israel into the Promised Land. I'm talking about Joshua.

The Bible says that the experiences the Israelites went through are examples for us today (1 Cor. 10:11). Looking at Joshua's life will help us succeed at what God has given us to do.

Keep Your Eyes on the Good Report

The first principle we can learn from Joshua is that to succeed, we're going to have to keep our eyes focused on what God has promised. About 40 years before Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, Moses sent him and 11 other men to spy it out. God had promised them the land. He promised them success and prosperity.

When the spies reported back, they said, "The land flows with milk and honey just as God said," and they showed some of its fruit (Num. 13:26). Then 10 of the spies said, "There's a problem. We saw huge giants in the land!" Those 10 spies let the

giants they saw block the good report of what God had promised them.

Joshua kept his eyes on the good report (Num. 14:6-9), and because he did, he entered the Promised Land. We choose whether we will focus on the good report. If we focus on the "giants"—the problems we face—we'll let those problems talk us out of our blessing. But if we concentrate on God's good report, His promises, then His blessing will come upon us. To be successful like Joshua, we must learn to focus on God's good report.

Be a Good Follower

The second principle for success we can learn from Joshua is to be a good follower. Before Joshua was ever a good leader, he was a good follower. Numbers 11:28 (NLT) says Joshua "had been Moses' assistant since his youth." He was Moses' helper. When God said to Joshua, "Moses my servant is dead. Now you're going to lead the people," it shocked him. He was trembling in his boots! He had been happy and content serving Moses.

That's a key to why Joshua was such a good leader. **HOW WELL YOU FOLLOW NOW IS AN INDICATION OF HOW WELL YOU CAN LEAD LATER.** When you're asked to do something, how well are you following? If you'll learn how to be a good follower, God can bless you to lead and help someone else.

Have Courage

A third success principle we can learn from Joshua is to have courage. Joshua wasn't expecting to take over after Moses' death. When the Lord told him to lead His people, He said, "Be strong and of good courage" (Joshua 1:9 NKJV). God had prepared him a little by giving him some of Moses' authority. But Joshua had to be courageous to lead the children of Israel.

Courage is the ability to operate with the absence of fear. **TO ACCOMPLISH ANYTHING THAT GOD GIVES US TO DO, IT TAKES COURAGE.** People won't always agree with it. Things will challenge our integrity. The enemy will try to get us to lie, cheat, and take the easy way out. But when we stand our ground and hold firm in courage, God will see us through!

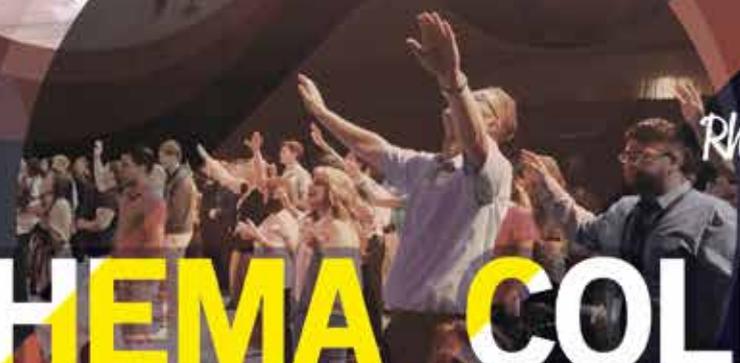
What can we learn from Joshua? We have to find and focus on the good report—God's promises—and not



on our circumstances. We need to be good followers, knowing that good followers become good leaders. And we need to have courage. If we'll practice these principles, they will help us succeed in what God is calling us to do.♥

[Editor's Note: Bill Ray is a Rhema Bible Training College instructor and an associate minister at Rhema Bible Church.]





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KENYA . . . STEPPING OFF the plane it's exactly as you'd imagine Africa to smell—earthy and smoky with a hint of spice. The larger cities mix new and old. Donkeys and foot carts mingle with cars in the shadows of high-rises. But wherever you go in this equatorial country, one thing remains consistent—people. They're everywhere. Men, women, and children . . . walking, sitting, and trying to sell their goods to earn a living. Seeing them, you know why Rhema Bible Training College has come.

One of our staff writers recently visited Rhema Kenya. The students and graduates she talked to all agree—nothing compares with Rhema's teachings! And those who hear them are taking them to their neighbors, their church members . . . anyone who will listen. They're impacting the people of Kenya for Jesus.

Here are just a few testimonies. . . .



▶ **PASTOR JUSTUS WITH
RHEMA KENYA DIRECTOR
VIDAR LIGARD**

TEN YEARS AGO Pastor Justus Kaloki was starting his church, working, and going to school! His church met in a small mud building. On a good Sunday, offerings averaged \$1 to \$2. After putting what he learned at Rhema into practice, Pastor Kaloki has seen a transformation. The church now has 250 members and a \$20,000 building. And his congregation just bought him a \$15,000 car! They and the church are prospering because they've learned about faith, prosperity, and a strong work ethic!

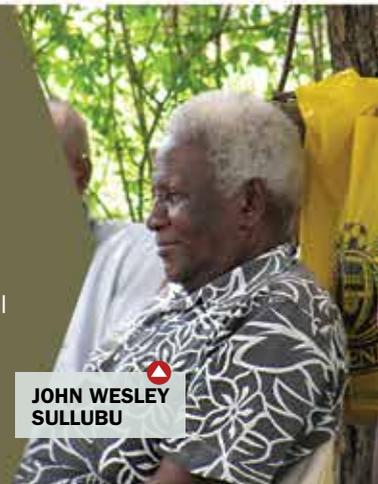
"I'm seeing things differently from the way I used to see them. I've learned how to truly believe, trust in God, and stand by faith."

PAMELA NGONGA



JOHN WESLEY SULLUBU calls himself "a very old man." And at 87 he is Rhema Kenya's oldest graduate. After nine years as a schoolteacher, six years as a social worker, 26 years as a government children's officer, and five years as a counselor, John answered the call. He became a pastor in Adu, Kenya, a coastal area so remote that transport is difficult and water scarce. Though his life is difficult and he admits he didn't want to be a preacher, Pastor Sullubu is thankful and happy to be where God has called him. And he's thankful to Rhema for what he has learned. "I am thankful I know how to preach and conduct myself as a preacher," he says.

▶ **JOHN WESLEY
SULLUBU**



"Being a pastor's wife, I thought it would be a good thing for me to get the same education as my husband. Rhema was really helping in his ministry life. I've learned how you can apply the Bible, teach people, and live as a Christian."

—SUSAN ANDREW





THE JASPERS' NEW CHURCH BUILDING.

ROSELINE JASPER and her husband pastor a 1,500-member church in Kisumu City. She says she used to preach like a wild tuk-tuk driver. [A tuk-tuk is a small, motorized, three-wheeled vehicle.] But Rhema changed all that. She now knows how to be a good spiritual leader. Pastor Roseline has also seen her marriage change. "The training I got about family life has really helped me a lot. I learned what a husband really needs, and I've tried to exercise that. And my marriage is turning to another level."



"When I heard about Rhema Kenya, I was jumping with joy," says **PASTOR DOUGLAS MWADZIWE**. "It's something I've had in my heart since 1988. I've seen a lot of growth by these teachings. And I'm being accepted because of the messages I'm teaching." In addition to pastoring, Pastor Douglas, 64, oversees 12 other pastors. "Every time I go to a place to minister, they always call me back. One thing they say is, 'Why are you an old man and you're so vibrant like this?' I tell them, 'Take this message and you'll have it in your own lives too!' I say may God bless Pastor Kenneth Hagin for having such an insight of revealing knowledge to the people who are in darkness. With this knowledge comes the light, and no darkness can come here anymore."



The class that most impacted **PASTOR EPHANTUS NJUGUNA** at Rhema was children's ministry. "I learned that when you change a child, you change a whole future. That child can change the nation many years later." After this class, he went immediately to the schools. (Kenya has a program allowing pastors to minister in primary schools.) "I now have three schools where the Lord has used me to transform and change children's lives," he says. "I just teach faith! Now they say, 'We don't want to hear anybody else. We just want to hear our pastor.'"

Since he began ministering in the schools, Pastor Njuguna has seen over 300 children saved. He says, "They have surrendered their lives to Jesus! They just want to continue in faith, and I just want to continue teaching them about faith!"

"I'm convinced that Rhema Kenya came at the right time. Without the knowledge Rhema brought, it would be quite a challenge to contain the revival that is yet to come. Rhema Kenya has a special place in this nation. I'm very grateful. It has done a lot of good in my life and in the lives of my fellow students."

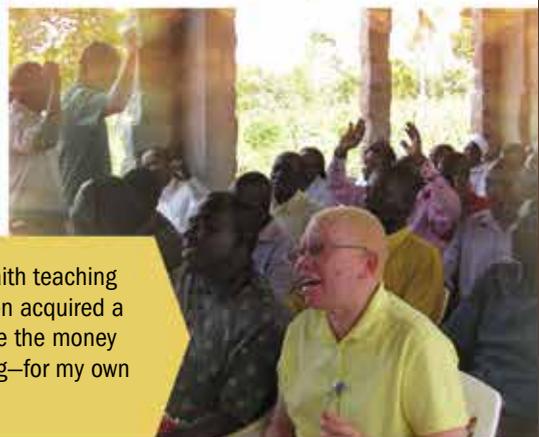


PASTOR MARSHAL MBARU

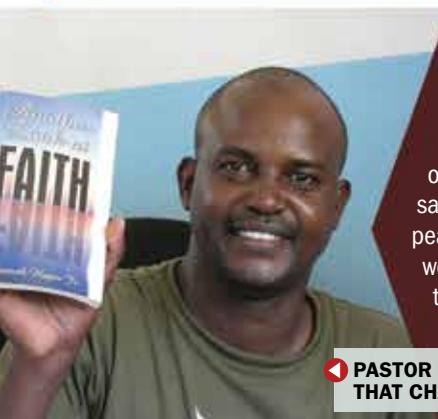


ISAAC WITH TWO RHEMA KENYA INSTRUCTORS

ISACK KITHEKA helps his local church any way he can—from running sound to teaching in Bible studies and meetings. At one fellowship he prayed for a young girl who had open sores from her fingertips to her forearms. Her sister had the same sores. When he returned the next week, both sisters were healed. "The family isn't born again," Isack says, "so this was a good way of testifying to them that Jesus is able and can change them."



ABIGAIL MKAYA was already an ordained pastor when she came to Rhema Kenya. But the faith teaching she received really taught her to trust God. In a country where land is everything, she has even acquired a small plot for herself. Her church is also currently building. She says, "I don't even know where the money will come from. But something within me just tells me to believe God. God has been providing—for my own self and for the church. I appreciate God for that!"



"Last August I went to the eastern part of Kenya to preach the Gospel, and 583 people got saved. One of these people was the son of a witch doctor. She's known in the area. This son of hers was supposed to inherit that job from her. She was preparing him. But he gave his life to Jesus and told his mother, 'I've decided to follow Jesus. I don't want to inherit your stuff. You either decide to follow Jesus or I'm not with you in business.' This woman had to take her stuff and go about 20 kilometers away. She said, 'When that pastor is finished with his crusade, I'll come back. I have no peace when they are preaching that Jesus!' I tell you, this Gospel is really doing wonders! We need to go to those remote places where people have never heard this Gospel. We need to go and take it to them!"

—PASTOR WILLIAM MENI

PASTOR MENI WITH THE BOOK THAT CHANGED HIS LIFE.

PASTOR MENI WITH A FORMER MUSLIM WITCH DOCTOR. THIS MAN WAS MIRACULOUSLY HEALED WHEN PASTOR MENI PRAYED FOR HIM IN JESUS' NAME. THEN HE WAS BORN AGAIN.



TRANSFORMING IMPRISONED HEARTS

Thank you for all you have done. I was in prison and you allowed me to receive your magazine. You also allowed me to receive many books from your ministry. It blessed me and many, many other men and even people outside the prison. I was released from prison in July of 2013 and am now receiving your magazine at home. I live with my mom and we support the local church I was born and raised in. Again, thank you so much!

Darren O.

Prisons are typically places of great darkness. But thanks to the prayers and generous support of Rhema's Word Partners, they're becoming places of great light. **PRISONERS JUST LIKE DARREN ARE RECEIVING FREE FAITH-BUILDING MAGAZINES, BOOKS, AND OTHER MATERIALS.** And they're discovering the joy and freedom that come from knowing and serving Jesus. Their lives will never be the same.

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**Timeless
Teachings**
of Kenneth E. Hagin

PRAYING ABOUT THE

UNKNOWN



THERE IS A REALM of prayer in the Spirit that many Christians know nothing about and others have barely touched. It is only in this realm that we can fulfill God's command, "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*" (Eph. 6:18). We don't know "all saints," so the only way we can pray for them is in the Spirit.

Many examples of operating in this realm of prayer stand out to me. One incident happened years ago when we had just started Prayer & Healing School at Rhema. One day as I ministered, I had a sudden, urgent burden to pray, but I didn't know what to pray about. I asked, "What is it, Lord?" Then I realized that someone's life was in danger.

.....
THERE IS *no distance*
IN THE SPIRIT.
.....

I told the congregation, "I have to pray, and I have to pray *now*. I don't know who it is, but someone's life is in danger." We all knelt down and I prayed hard and fast in other tongues for about 45 minutes. Then I had a note of victory that let me know I'd prayed through. I sang and laughed in the Spirit and the burden lifted.

That evening my wife and I invited some people to our house to pray about certain matters. As we prayed, the telephone rang. It was a young lady going to school in Tulsa. She and her family were personal friends of ours.

The young woman said to my wife, "Momma called and wants you to pray. There was an explosion this afternoon in the refinery in Port Arthur, Texas!"

The girl's stepfather worked at the refinery. Seventeen men were trapped inside, and the fire was so intense that no one could reach them. Rescue workers didn't know how many were injured or possibly dead.

When Oretha relayed what the young woman said, I told my wife, "Tell her we've already got the answer. The Holy Spirit alerted us this afternoon to pray. We prayed through and her stepfather's safe."

You may ask, "How did you know that this man and his co-workers were the people you prayed for?" The Holy Spirit let me know through the inward witness as soon as I heard what had happened.

That night Oretha and I got to bed after midnight. About 1:30, the young lady called again. She told us, "Momma just called. They finally got the fire out. When they went into the refinery, no one was hurt. Daddy's fine!"

Thank God, the Holy Ghost helps us pray for the unknown! These folks in Texas had been our friends for many years. When they had an urgent need, the Holy Spirit alerted us to pray many miles away. There is no distance in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help you pray about anyone, anywhere!

**SUPERNATURAL DELIVERANCE
ON THE MISSION FIELD**

I've read many testimonies in Pentecostal publications where missionaries found themselves in a crisis, but someone obeyed an urge to pray in other tongues. As a result, the missionary was delivered.

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Brother Boley was a missionary to Africa at the beginning of the 20th century. I heard him relate this experience.

Off the west coast of Africa was an island whose inhabitants had not yet been reached for Jesus. Brother Boley leased a sailboat and crew and went to this island each week to preach the Gospel.

Late one afternoon as Brother Boley and his companions were returning to the mainland, a storm suddenly arose. They wanted to get home before dark since their boat didn't have lights or navigation instruments. As the crew fought to stay afloat, night overtook them.

Hours passed and the storm continued to rage in the black darkness. Around midnight, the boat captain said to Boley, "I don't know where we are in relation to the harbor we have to enter. There is only one narrow channel that is safe. The rest is dangerous because of the reefs. If we make a run for it, we'll probably be dashed to pieces on the rocks. But if we stay in the open ocean, we're going to sink and everyone's life will be lost."

Brother Boley replied, "I don't know anything about navigation. You're the captain. What do you think we should do?"

"Our only chance is to try to make a run for it."

"Before we do," Boley said, "let's pray."

The captain and his crew got down on their knees with Brother Boley and committed their lives into the hands of God.

Brother Boley got up and said, "Well, just let the boat go!"

Then Brother Boley testified, "As God is my witness, the moment the captain pointed the sailboat toward the harbor and let it go, it took off in the air like an airplane and sailed right over the reefs, landing in the harbor where the water was calm!"

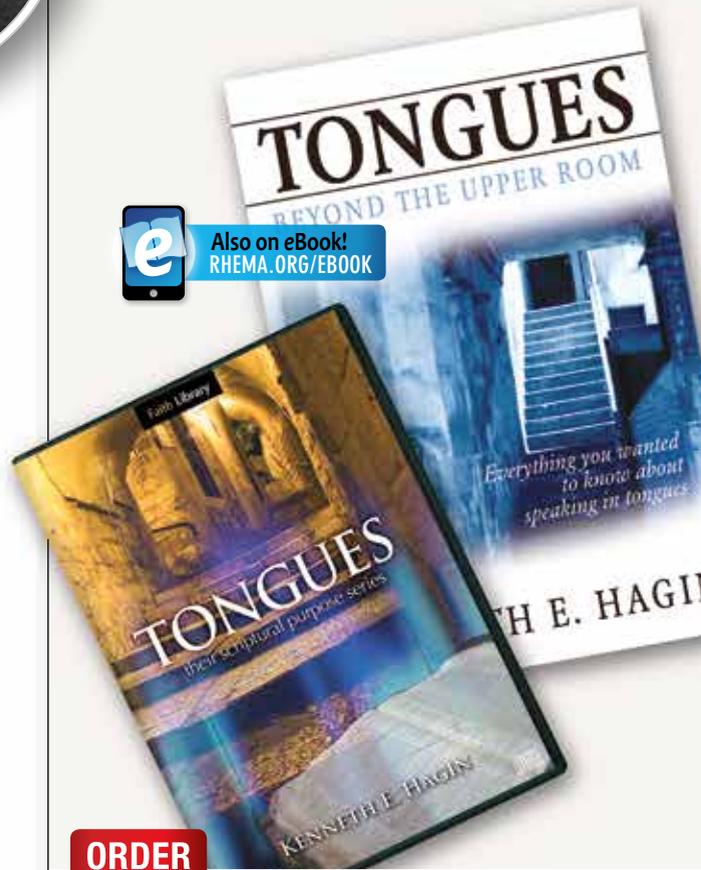
A few days later, Brother Boley visited a mission station he oversaw. During his visit, a woman asked, "Did anything happen to you last Monday night? I went to bed early but was awakened around 10 o'clock with a burden to pray. I prayed in other tongues for two hours. The burden lifted, and I knew I'd gotten the victory. Then your face flashed before me. I thought maybe I was praying for you. Did anything happen to you last Monday night around midnight?"

"Sister, midnight on Monday night was the very moment we were miraculously delivered from certain death!" Boley exclaimed.

Why don't we have more supernatural testimonies like this? *Because folks are not praying in other tongues.* They may pray a little in other tongues to keep themselves in basic fellowship with God. But they don't take extended amounts of time to wait in His presence. That's when the Holy Ghost can take hold with them to pray through on matters that desperately need prayer.

I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is continually searching for Christians He can use in prayer. When He finds believers willing to yield to Him and pray for as long as it takes, He helps them pray out God's perfect will in matters they often know nothing about.

The Holy Ghost knows what we should pray. Yet so many times when we get a burden to pray, we go right on about our daily business. If we would only yield more to Him and make ourselves available to pray in other tongues, we'd see more victories in our own lives. We'd also see more dramatic deliverances in the lives of those for whom we pray.♥



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The devil should take a risk every time he tries to test us.

QUIT

BLAMING GOD

TODD WHITE

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:4 says that it's God's will for all men to be *saved*. The word *saved* in this verse comes from the Greek word *sozo*. It means "healed; delivered; protected; made whole; kept safe and sound; do well; and to be kept safe from harm." This is what God wants every person on the planet to experience.

But because people have been taught that God is in control of everything, when Satan sneaks through the grass, bites someone, and slithers away, God often takes the rap for it. Contrary to what many believe, the Bible doesn't say that God is in control. You can't find that anywhere in Scripture. If God is in control, then everything bad that happens comes from Him. And that's not true.

Some people counter this by saying, "Well, God *allows* it." They say this because of teaching they've heard about Job. But nowhere in the Book of Job does it say that.

We see in the first chapter of Job that one day when the sons of God presented themselves before the Lord, Satan also came among them.

JOB 1:7-8 (NIV)

7 The Lord said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the Lord, "From roaming throughout the earth, going back and forth on it"

8 Then the Lord said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

The devil retorted, "The only reason Job loves You is because of what You give him and because of how You've blessed him." (See Job 1:9-11).

The devil counts on people loving things more than they love God. Satan is sure that Christians will seek God more for things than they will seek an intimate relationship with Him. So he goes about touching their "stuff" to get them to blame God for the bad things that happen to them.

People point to Job 1:12 as proof that God allows adversity to happen to them. This verse says, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger" (NIV).

Let me ask you this question. If Satan became god of this world when Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, why did he need permission from God to attack Job? The answer is, he didn't. It was already in his power to do so.

THE BIBLE TELLS US TO REIGN AS KINGS IN THIS LIFE THROUGH THE *abundance of grace* AND THE GIFT OF *righteousness*.

—ROM. 5:17

Satan doesn't need God's permission to kill this one or cause that one to be in an accident. He doesn't have to ask God if he can take the life of a little child. He just does it.

THINK ABOUT THIS

If a parent had a child who had asthma and refused to give the child his bronchodilator during an asthma attack, what would you think about that parent? You would think he was a bad parent. What would a court of law think of him? He would be charged with child abuse.

Yet both Christians and nonbelievers constantly blame God for the horrible things that happen on the earth and to people.

When people blame God for all of the bad things that have happened to them, there's no way they can really love Him. Oh sure, they say they love Him. But how can you trust God if you think He will put sickness on you? It's impossible to truly love God if you don't trust Him, because you never know when He might put sickness on you again.

John 10:10 says, "*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly*" (NKJV). This verse makes it clear that it's the devil who steals, kills, and destroys—not God. God never gives permission to the devil to attack anyone.

People have said, "God wants to build character in our lives through trials."

Scripture does say that trials bring perseverance, perseverance produces character, and character produces hope (Rom. 5:3-4). But if we think that God does this to us, our character can't be built, because our hope is deferred. And hope deferred makes the heart sick (Prov. 13:12).

HITTING TRIALS HEAD ON

The Bible tells us to reign as kings in this life through the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness (Rom. 5:17). So, if we're supposed to reign as kings, why are so many Christians praying for an escape hatch? They're praying for the rapture to hurry up and happen anytime they go through a rough time.

When we get hit with trials, we need to bring the power of Heaven into hell's circumstances. We need to make the devil wish that he never touched us!

When we get hit with trials, we need to bring the power of Heaven into hell's circumstances.

By thinking that God allows tribulation to come upon us or that He is trying to teach us something, we'll continually allow the devil to thump us.

The trials we experience, the mean things that people do and say, and the hard things that happen to us purify our faith. Anytime we are believing God for something and hardship comes our way, adversity of any kind should never stop our faith in God. Trials should actually intensify our faith and draw us closer to our King.

SATAN'S GOAL

What the devil really wants is to get us to blame God when we experience trials and tribulation. He was convinced Job would do this. (See Job 1:11 and 2:5.) But no matter what happened, Job never blamed God for his hardships or loss.

Satan hasn't changed. He can't kick God off His throne, so he's consumed with trying to dethrone God from the soul of man.

The devil wants to get us in a fluster and cause us to worry about everything. He tries to put our lives in a tailspin just so we'll put the blame on God.

I want to take the spirit of ugly off of God. Let's drop the theology and doctrines that compromise God's goodness. It's time to take the blame off of our Heavenly Father and put it on the devil where it belongs.

The devil should take a risk every time he tries to test us. When we know who we are in Christ and live out of our sonship, we'll thump the devil every time he comes near. ♡

[Editor's Note: Todd White spoke at Kenneth W. Hagin's *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* and Rhema Bible Church in November 2013.]

Oh, How He Loves You

KENNETH E. HAGIN

MANY PEOPLE have a difficult time comprehending God as a Father Who loves and cares for them. They have the idea that God is like a judge who sits up in Heaven and looks for a chance to punish them the moment they make a mistake.

But no, God is a loving Heavenly Father! The Bible says that He is love (1 John 4:8, 16).

In the Gospels Jesus always portrayed God as a *loving* Father.

JOHN 3:16 (NKJV)

16 "For GOD SO LOVED the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

JOHN 16:27 (NKJV)

27 "For THE FATHER Himself LOVES YOU, because you have loved Me, and have believed that I came forth from God."

Jesus presented the Fatherhood side of God. He presented the love nature of the Father, which is what Christianity is all about. Religion is harsh and cold, but Christianity is a relationship with a loving Father God—a Father Who always cares for the needs of His children. We see that again in these verses.

MATTHEW 6:8, 26 (NKJV)

8 "YOUR FATHER knows the things you have need of before you ask Him."

26 "Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?"



Notice the utter tenderness in this picture of the Father caring for His children. Our Heavenly Father knows our needs, and He desires to meet them before we even ask Him for help! God is a God of love, and His very love nature compels Him to care for and provide for His children.



SALVATION PRAYER

God loves you and wants to take care of you. In fact, the Bible says God loved you so much that He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for you and make a way for you to live forever with Him (Rom. 5:8;

John 3:16). God wants you to become His child.

Would you like to know this loving God as your Heavenly Father?

It's easy! Just pray the following prayer from your heart:

In Matthew chapter 6 Jesus says more about the Father's care for His children.

MATTHEW 6:31-33 (NKJV)

31 "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'"

32 "... For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Some people have been taught to read that last verse, "All these things shall be *taken away* from you." They think if they put God first, they won't ever have anything.

But that's not what Jesus said. He said the things we need will be *added* to us as we seek first the Kingdom of God. That promise proves our Father loves

God,

I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I am not right with You, and I want to be right with You. I want You to be my Heavenly Father. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth "Jesus is Lord" and believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead, I will be saved (Romans 10:9). I believe in my heart that You did raise Jesus from the dead, and I confess that He is my Savior and Lord. Thank You for saving me now and making me Your child. I trust You with my life. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for loving me. Amen.

Pray

If you prayed this prayer for the first time, welcome to God's family! Email us at partnerservice@rhema.org and let us know about it. We'd love to send you some free materials to get you started in your new life as God's child!

and cares for us. He doesn't want His children to worry or fret about anything, because He loves us and wants to meet our every need.

We can be sure of this one fact: As we trust God with our lives, He will take a Father's place and perform a Father's

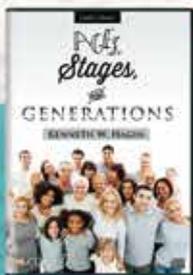
part in our lives. He is our Father, and Jeremiah 31:3 says He loves us and cares for us with an everlasting love.♥



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SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL."
— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

I LOVE SPRING. The flowers begin to bloom. The weather is warming up. Most of us are ready to come out of hibernation and experience the fresh air. It is time to enjoy a little outside recreation after the winter that many parts of our country have experienced this year.

I remember a few years back my husband and I decided to take up fishing for relaxation. It looked pretty simple to me. Just put your line in the water and pull it up. I thought, "Sure! That will produce fish!" I was able to catch some crappie that way. However, I soon realized that to catch larger fish, I would have to learn to cast.

It looked so easy! But after tangling myself up in the line and losing some lures in the rocks and debris, I realized that casting was not nearly as easy as it appeared. I had seen fishermen cast their lines so easily, never realizing that they hadn't learned to cast on their first day. It took practice.

Peter said, "Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you" (1 Peter 5:7). The Amplified version says, "Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully."

Then Psalm 55:22 (Amplified) reads, "Cast your burden on the Lord [releasing the weight of it] and He will sustain you; He will never allow the [consistently] righteous to be moved (made to slip, fall, or fail)."

To live the carefree life God desires for His children, we need to start practicing casting. To cast means "to throw with force, fling, hurl." The Lord wants us to be free from the cares of life. He does not want us to go around with a frown, our shoulders slumped with the weight of the world. He tells us in Matthew 11:28 (Amplified), "Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy-laden and overburdened, and I will cause you to rest. [I will ease and relieve and refresh your souls.]"

The Lord is concerned about every detail of your life. So cast all your concerns on Him and let Him work them out for you. So many times we think about casting only the big things on Him. But often it is the small things that cause us stress.

Years ago we ministered in South Africa. Our hosts wanted us to experience some of their country's sights. They arranged for us to go on a safari. We were to spend four days at a resort where celebrities stayed and then go to the bush for the remaining two nights. I'm not an outdoors person, but I thought I could handle this for a few days.

When we arrived at the resort, much to my surprise there was no electricity. That meant very little light, no plugs, and no air conditioning. I thought, "If this is the luxury part of the trip, I don't want to go to the bush." Needless to say, it was not my kind of holiday. I know you may be laughing at me right now, but I was raised in the city and I like city life.

Well, this was a care for me. I tried to convince my husband that this was bush enough. But he was pumped about being in an open Land Rover peering at wild animals. It was an adventure to him but it frightened me. I didn't like being just a few feet from a lion.

The guide had told us that one safari highlight was seeing at least one of the "Big Five" game animals: African elephant, black rhinoceros, Cape buffalo, lion, and leopard. He said people who take many safaris might see only one or two. Knowing my husband, I knew that he would not leave without seeing all five.

So I took my care to the Lord. I said, "Lord, You know my husband. He has to see all five of these animals. So please let our guide find all of them in the shortest time possible." You may think that prayer was silly, but I was serious.

Well, after a night tour and an early morning tour, we had seen all five. And praise the Lord, I only had to spend one night without electricity. We left the safari and spent the rest of our time enjoying other sights. It pays to cast your cares on the Father.

What are your concerns? Cast them on the Lord! He will work out all of them and turn them around for your good.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

RELATIONSHIPS



There are three important lessons you can learn about relationships by reading about three "ships" that are mentioned in the Bible.

Lesson #1—NOAH'S ARK: (Gen. 6:9-8:22) *Be careful who you get into a relationship with . . . you may be sailing with them for a LONG time.*

The eight people on Noah's Ark were together inside the ship for over 300 days . . . almost one full year! Can you imagine what kind of arguments they would have had if they did not know how to get along? Friends are people who should be willing to go the distance with you . . . make sure you're willing to do the same for them!

Lesson #2—JONAH: (Jonah 1:1-4:11) *Make sure the people you are in relationship with are going in the same direction that God has told you to go.*

Jonah got into a boat that was headed for Tarshish . . . the opposite direction from where God told him to go. Because he disobeyed God, a great storm came and threatened the ship, and Jonah was thrown overboard. Choose friends who are interested in following God's plans . . . they'll never throw you overboard!

Lesson #3—JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES: (Mark 4:35-41) *All relationships will go through a few storms!*

Even Jesus' friends had to ride through a storm with Him. A true friend will stick with you even when times get tough . . . and if they can't calm the storm for you, they'll ride it out with you!

Not in the 'Same Boat!'



Harry (the guy circled in the picture above) got separated from Terry, his identical twin brother. See how quickly you can find him in the crowd.

Search & Find

See if you can find all of the relationship words below in this puzzle.

b a d m a u r a u n t
 s r r e r e r f k u r
 i i o n h i w r y n i
 s c f t f e n i e c e
 t h a o h r u e i l h
 e f i r i e i n i e i
 r m o t h e r d w h w
 s l p a r t n e r s l

brother
 sister
 mother
 father
 friend
 niece
 uncle
 mentor
 aunt
 partner

THEY GO TOGETHER

Some things just go together . . . you can't say the name of one without thinking of the other. You know, like peanut butter and . . . Fill in the blanks below to finish the missing part of the relationship.

- BATMAN AND _____
- CHIP AND _____
- LEWIS AND _____
- CAKE AND _____
- JACK AND _____
- SAMSON AND _____
- TOM AND _____
- ROMEO AND _____
- BURT AND _____
- MILK AND _____

jokes & riddles



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

How did the barber get his work done so quickly?
He knew some short "cuts"

Why did the policeman refuse to get out of bed?
Because he was working "under cover"

What goes up but never comes down?
Your age

Why did the man fall asleep on top of a lamp?
He was a "light" sleeper

Why did the lion eat the tight-rope walker?
He wanted a balanced meal

Answers:

badmaurant
 srrererfkur
 iionhiwryni
 scftfeniece
 thaohrueilh
 efireieniiei
 rmotherdwhw
 slpartnersl

Ernie, Cookies
 Jerry, Juliet
 Jill, Delilah
 Clark, Ice Cream
 Robin, Dale



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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)



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