



# THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2019

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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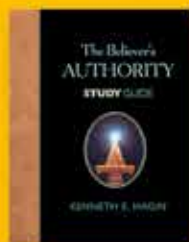
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1025 W. KENOSHA  
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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Patty Harrison

SENIOR EDITOR Janet Wagner

EDITORIAL STAFF Danielle Burnside  
Yvette Lanier  
Cheryl Piper  
Ingrid Williams

GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kristen Cook  
Jeanne Hoover  
Lisa Moore  
Rose Wenning

PHOTOGRAPHER Phil Anglin

PROJECT MANAGERS Jeremiah Harris  
Elizabeth Johnson  
Andrew McKinney  
Kris Taylor  
Karianne White

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**WRITE:**

US: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150-0126

CANADA: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. Box 335, Station D, Etobicoke (Toronto), Ontario, Canada M9A 4X3

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# God's Ready—Are You?

What has God called you to do? Not everyone is called to full-time ministry. God's plan for some is to work in secular business or some other field. Wherever you are, you are called to make an impact. What are you expecting Him to do for you and through you?

God is always there ready to help. The Holy Spirit is waiting to move on your behalf when you trust Him. The Holy Spirit is the power of God moving in your life. Expectant faith is the trigger that causes God to move.

Don't ever think that God will do less than what He has said in His Word. If He said it, He is going to do it. He will bring it to pass!

Now is the hour to expect a great God to do great things. This is the time to step out and do great things with Him and for Him. He will meet you at your level of expectation and do what He has promised in His Word.

The degree of your expectation often determines the degree of power that is manifested. If you think nothing much will happen, nothing much will. But if you're expecting a lot, then great things take place. Charles F. Kettering, the inventor of the electric starter, said, "High achievement always takes place in the framework of high expectation."\*

I encourage you to boldly make this confession of faith: *"God is for me and not against me. He is in me, and He will never leave me nor forsake me. Therefore, I will push harder, go further, and do more because I know God will move on my behalf."*

I expect God to perform great things in your life this year. As you trust Him, you'll step into all He has for you.

This issue of the *Word of Faith* is one you'll want to dive into. Each article will build your faith and challenge you to pursue God more. May this be your best year ever as you delight yourself in Him!

\*[brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/c/charles\\_kettering.html](http://brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/c/charles_kettering.html)



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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### Special Report

When adversity rears its ugly head, it's easy to quit. But your decision affects people you don't know yet.

# KEEP THE FIRE BURNING



IT NEEDS TO BECOME A COLOSSAL TRUTH,  
ONE THAT YOU INCORPORATE INTO  
YOUR LIFE DAILY—

*you can speak God's Word of  
power and anointing.*

**IF YOU WANT** to see mighty things happen in your life and the lives of others, the fire of the Holy Spirit must burn strong. Keeping the anointing burning brightly is like stoking a fire, so it continually burns hot.

A fire can die down until it's a bed of faintly glowing embers. You have to get close to it before you can feel any evidence of heat. Eventually, it will go out if no one adds fuel. However, if you put kindling wood on a bed of glowing embers, you will soon have a roaring fire and feel the warmth once again.

The same thing can happen in your life. The anointing "fire" of the Holy Spirit can die down like a bed of embers without fuel. The Holy Spirit doesn't leave you, but the anointing isn't as strong as it was. When you allow the fire to wane in your life, it means you've probably neglected to fuel yourself with prayer and meditation in the Word.

If the anointing of God is no longer evident, you can speak all day long, and nothing will happen. But if you begin to fan the flame, it will grow and consume you once again. Then when you speak God's Word, things will start to happen in your life. It depends on how much you fuel the fire inside of you so it can grow and glow to the glory of God.

## Are You on Fire?

In the crises of life, it's easy to tell who has the Word abiding in them. Those who speak the Word without any anointing on it are usually the ones who give mental assent to it. They agree with the Word, but they have not taken the time to put it in their hearts. When they speak, power is not released. There is power in the *anointed* Word of God!

I will never forget the evening my family stood around my grandmother's bed as she lay dying. We watched as she drew her last breath and went to be with the Lord. The entire family began to cry in grief at her passing.

I began to hear a rumbling as someone spoke—slowly and quietly at first, and then it started to get louder. I realized that my dad was quoting the Word of God. Scriptures began to flow out of him: "*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*" "*Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints*" (1 Cor. 15:55; Ps. 116:15).



**KENNETH W. HAGIN**



Of course the family was sad—we were going to miss my grandmother. But as those words came forth, the sweet Presence of the Holy Spirit came into that room and calmed everyone's grief. Even the nurses commented, "There is a different atmosphere in this room than we've ever experienced when someone has just died."

What made the difference? God's anointed Word. That Word has the power to bring comfort and help in times of stress and difficulty. The right and privilege to speak God's Word with authority to effect change—whatever that situation might be—belongs to every member of the Body of Christ. If you are born again, that privilege belongs to you.

## Staying in the Spirit

Many times during the tests and trials of life, you tend to rely on your "natural thinking." But if you'll keep your mind renewed by God's Word, you'll be able to stay in the Spirit during those difficult times. Don't feel guilty or let the devil condemn you if you get over on the natural side. We have all experienced that.

When you realize that you're thinking, talking, and reacting out of the natural man, do not remain there. Get back in the Spirit—that's where you win and maintain your victory. If you will meditate on the Word and take the time to hide it in your heart, things that used to cause you problems will begin to fade away.

God's Word has power and authority that cannot be resisted. Joy and happiness can fill your life. You can receive everything He has promised in scripture. All the promises of God already belong to you through your inheritance in Christ.

## The Love Secret

Another secret to speaking the Word with power is to be full of the love of God—that is practicing a lifestyle of His love on a daily basis. Sometimes it requires sacrificial giving or loving, even when it hurts. "*God so loved the world, that he gave*" (John 3:16). He also "so loved" that He *forgave*.

When you allow God's love to operate in you, you can freely forgive others too. It can be difficult! Loving someone when there's no apparent change in circumstances tests your love walk. As you practice walking in love, you learn to forgive those who have wronged you or who continually mistreat you. When you learn how to let God's love flow to others through forgiveness, you can pray for them and be a godly witness.

It needs to become a colossal truth, one that you incorporate into your life daily—you can speak God's Word of power and anointing. What is it that you need from God? Dare to put His Word to work in your situation. Nothing on earth can resist God's anointed Word!

Maintain the anointing through prayer and meditation. Stay in the spirit. Walk in love. It will bring you into a new arena of living! As you continue to put God's Word inside your heart, you will be able to rise and speak words that will unravel and demolish the problems in your life. ♥

Visit [rhema.org/studycenter](http://rhema.org/studycenter) to feed on the Word and keep the fire burning!

## Pay It Sideways

If you've heard of *paying it forward*, you know it's the opposite of *payback*. It is "an unexpected, undeserved kindness." As you walk in victory, "pay it sideways"—share it with those around you.

You don't have to live a life dictated by circumstance. God gave you the authority to speak His Word with power so you can *experience for yourself* that the Word works. Now go out and set other people free!

## Maintain the Anointing

Jesus is our example. He maintained the anointing and spoke words of power. As the Body of Christ, we too can keep the fire of the Holy Spirit burning and maintain God's anointing upon our lives!



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# Just Know God

TOKS ADEJUWON

**WHEN I WAS** in sixth grade, I received Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Peace and joy came into my heart in a way I had never known. It thrilled me to be in God's family. That day changed everything for me.

There's nothing better than having a personal relationship with the Lord. **WALKING IN INTIMATE FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR HEAVENLY FATHER FORTIFIES US WHEN TESTS COME.** It strengthens us to overcome adversity.

The way we learn about God is by reading the Bible. John 1:1 says, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."* Jesus is the living Word. **THE WRITTEN WORD UNVEILS THE LIVING WORD.** God is one with His Word. We don't know Him any better than we understand His Word. And we don't love Him any more than we honor His commands.

**THE WORD HAS THE POWER TO TRANSFORM OUR LIVES.** When we receive the gift of eternal life, God imparts His life, nature, and substance into our spirits. We become new creatures in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17), and we were made the righteousness of God (2 Cor. 5:21). Although we are changed on the inside, we still have the same mind and body we had before.

If you had the mindset that you're not good enough and that nobody loves you, before giving your life to Christ, you would think the same way after you are born again. The same is true with your body. If you used to drink or smoke, you would have those same cravings. Thankfully, the Word can liberate you.

In John 8:31–32, Jesus said, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."* God's Word sets us free. And it's through the Word that our minds are renewed. **AS WE APPLY OURSELVES TO THE WORD, IT CHANGES THE WAY WE THINK.**

Romans 12:2 tells us not to be *"conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind."* Meditating on Scripture keeps us from being conformed to this world. The more we renew our minds with truth, the greater our lives will be transformed into the image of Christ. That's when we express the life and nature of God in us and exemplify Daniel 11:32: *"The people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits."*

The Word makes us strong Christians. So when tests, trials, temptations, and pressures come our way, we can rise

*There's nothing better than having a personal relationship with the Lord.*

up and say, "No, I am not going to do that. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in this world (1 John 4:4). I am more than a conqueror through Him that loved me (Rom. 8:37)."♥

[Editor's Note: Tokunbo (Toks) Adejuwon is the National Director of Rhema Nigeria. This article was adapted from Rev. Adejuwon's Winter Blitz 2017 message.]

FAITH NUGGET

## A Prayer for You

God loves you and wants to have a personal relationship with you. If you would like to know Him as your Heavenly Father, simply pray the following prayer:

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 ask You to forgive me of 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 (Rom. 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.

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

### Draw Near to God

*"Come close to God, and God will come close to you."*

—James 4:8 (NLT)

Make it a goal to begin every day with your Heavenly Father in prayer.



# ON THE OTHER SIDE OF YES



PATTIE DUINICK-AH KUI

IN JANUARY 2009, Pattie Duinick-Ah Kui and her two children boarded a plane to Apia, Samoa. This time without Pattie's first husband, Kelly Duinick, who had died from Lou Gehrig's disease. Although she had made this trip at least 50 times before, she had butterflies in her stomach. Pattie felt as though she was stepping out on her own for the first time in 20 years.

After Kelly's death, Pattie didn't spend much time wondering what she should do. She knew she had to return to Samoa. While flying over the South Pacific, she heard God's gentle voice saying, "Thank you." He was thanking her for not quitting.

It's easy to quit in the midst of adversity. Nobody would have faulted Pattie if she remained in the States. But oh the fruit that blossomed because of her obedience.

Today, Rhema South Pacific is expanding and thriving! Believers from 20 nations, representing over 100 churches and more than 25 denominations have attended the four-year accredited college. The school also opened campuses

JAMES AH KUI

in Vanuatu and Suva Fiji.

In 2014, Pattie married James Ah Kui. Together they are reaching the remote islands of the South Pacific on the ministry's 100-foot ship, the Uttermost Witness. Since 1997, men and women from all walks of life have trained at Rhema South Pacific. They are taking what they learned and telling their families, communities, and nations.



*"I believe the decisions you make in your life to quit or keep going will affect the future of a lot of people."*

—PATTIE DUINICK-AH KUI

Here are testimonies of people whose lives were changed on the other side of Pattie's yes.

## A MOTHER HEALED



NERU PASE had just graduated from Rhema South Pacific when he received a phone call from his dad asking him to come home. His mother was ill.

When he got there, his father directed Neru to a room where his mom groaned in pain. Her breathing was weak, and she had a blank stare. His dad was massaging her head with Samoan leaves, trying anything to help her feel better.

Neru's training at Rhema kicked in. He learned that it is still God's will to heal. Healing scriptures rose inside him. *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen"* (2 Cor. 1:20 NKJV). *"They will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover"* (Mark 16:18 NKJV).

Neru laid his hands on his mother and prayed. She immediately felt better. Life came back into her eyes. The change was dramatic. His father asked, "What did you do?"

"It wasn't me," Neru replied. "It was God."

After graduating the second-year program, Neru is on staff at Rhema South Pacific.



## A SOUL RESTORED



**KAWEHI PASE** was broken. Although she was born again and filled with the Holy Spirit, she was depressed and had no direction for her life. There was no peace or joy, and she had low self-esteem.

While her sister was training at Rhema South Pacific, God led Kawehi to study there in 2011. While she was at school, God healed her soul.

“My life has never been the same,” Kawehi shares. “When I came to Rhema, I got to know God. And in knowing Him, I got to know who I am in Christ. As a result, I became a better wife, sibling, auntie—and soon I will become a better mom!”

Kawehi and Neru were married in December 2016. After graduating second year, she began working at Rhema South Pacific.

## A REASON TO REJOICE



**TAU HUNKIN** and her husband, Henry, are prominent leaders in the Apia community. Tau’s mother has owned a bakery and shops for over 60 years. Tau was supposed to follow in her mother’s footsteps. When the Duinicks first arrived in Samoa, Tau and Henry showed Kelly and Pattie different properties in the community. Kelly encouraged the couple to attend Rhema South Pacific. He told them they didn’t have to give up their business to go to Bible school. He shared how the Lord would use them in the business world to share the Gospel. When Tau and Henry enrolled in Rhema South Pacific, it changed their lives.

The couple encourages other business owners in Apia. They share that by seeking God’s Kingdom first, they will see God increase their finances, land, and resources. Tau also serves on a government board. They now call her pastor.

Tau serves as a board member on the Rhema South Pacific Alumni Association.

## A NEW LIFESTYLE



**LAGOLASI FONOTI** and his wife moved from New Zealand to attend Rhema South Pacific. “It was one of the best decisions we ever made as a family and for me as a man,” he shares. “They taught me the Word—to come up to the standard God intended for me to be, the standard He wants a brother to be, and the standard God created me to be toward my friends.”

Another change in Lagolasi’s life involves relationships. He used to enjoy being alone and live away from people. But he learned he could have good relationships with people. Rhema taught him how to be led by the Spirit of God, even in doing simple things like parking cars and planning activities with his wife.

Lagolasi is a third-year student.



### WATCH THIS!

Hear Rhema South Pacific graduates inspiring stories at <http://bit.do/southpacific>.

## THE LIFE OF FAITH



**FAILO CRICHTON** is young in the Lord. Since attending Rhema South Pacific, his favorite passage of scripture is Mark 11:22–24. He is learning faith and how to believe and receive. At one time, he wanted to study law. But when a friend told him about Rhema, it was as though God said, “That is where you are to study.”

Failo is a first-year student.

## A FAR-REACHING INFLUENCE



**AGNES KERSLAKE** calls Rhema South Pacific a beacon of light to the uttermost parts of the world. She says that although 100 students may attend each school term, the impact is much greater because everyone has different roles and can influence many lives. For example, Agnes is a mother of three. She is a daughter and a sister. She is a village chief and an elder at her church. “Rhema has made me a much better version of the many hats I wear,” says Agnes. Her light shines brightly on every person she meets.

Agnes is a third-year student.

## Stay in the Fight

When the trials of life come, God is right there to lead you through. “If I can do this,” says Pattie, “then you can do this.” Whatever confronts or challenges you to quit on God’s plan, push through! Stay faithful and trust God. Your decision to finish your race will affect countless lives! 🏆



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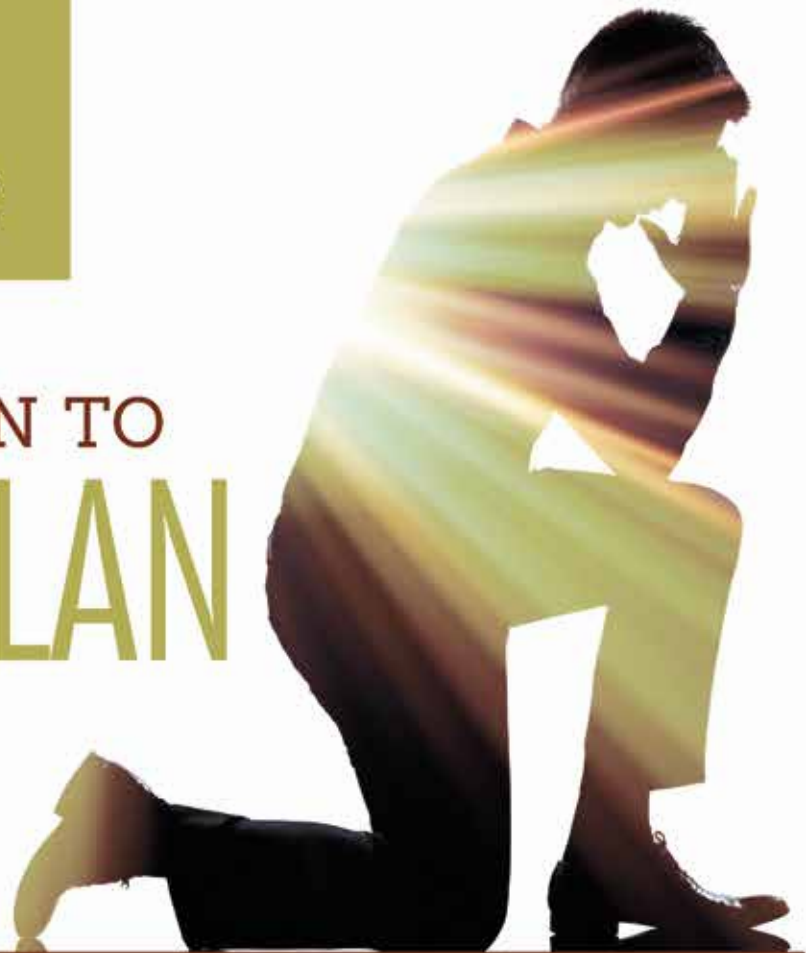


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# CONSECRATION TO GOD'S PLAN

**IN MATTHEW 26**, we see Jesus praying the prayer of dedication. These verses give us an example of His devotion to consecrate Himself to do the Father's will.

## **MATTHEW 26:36, 39**

**36** Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder.

**39** And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

What was Jesus talking about when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane? He knew the cross was before Him. He knew He was about to be made the sacrifice for sin on our behalf (Heb. 9:26). Jesus battled the temptation to draw back from what was to come and prayed, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from Me!"

It wasn't easy for Jesus to fulfill the Father's plan. But He knew the outcome of redemption meant salvation for mankind. So for the joy set before Him, He surrendered to His Father's will (Heb. 12:2). Jesus' prayer of consecration was "*O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, **thy will be done***" (Matt. 26:42).

God is looking for believers who will consecrate themselves entirely to Him to carry out His plan for their lives, just as Jesus did at Gethsemane and throughout His earthly ministry. God is looking for believers who will say as Jesus did, "Not *my* will, Father, but *Your* will be done."

GOD IS LOOKING FOR BELIEVERS WHO WILL SAY AS JESUS DID, "NOT *MY* WILL, FATHER, BUT *YOUR* WILL BE DONE."

The prayer of consecration is not a one-time prayer. Jesus virtually prayed the same prayer three times (Matt. 26:39, 42, 44). It is a prayer we pray throughout our lives. We will only be able to follow God's plan if we always maintain an attitude of consecration and surrender to His will, whatever it might be.

## **Lack of Consecration in Believers**

There seems to be a lack of deep consecration to do God's will among Christians today. One time I was thinking about the difference between my experiences in Full Gospel circles 50 years ago and now. As I compared the two, I realized there wasn't nearly as much sickness among Spirit-filled Christians then as there is today. The move of the Holy Spirit was also much greater then than it is today. As I was thinking about it, the Spirit of God said to my spirit, "Yes, and the consecration of My people was greater too."

It seems that many believers today are willing to lay *some* things on the altar, but not *all*! God's plan for their lives is hindered. Many of His blessings are withheld because they haven't wholly consecrated themselves to do His will instead of their own.

Let's consider how consecrated we are to the Lord. Let's consider whether we're able to say from our hearts, "I'll do whatever You ask of me. I'll go anywhere You send me. I'll stay wherever You want me. No matter where You lead me, I'll carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to others."



## A Prayer of Commitment

Pray the following from your heart:

Lord, I present myself to You. May Your will be done in my life. May I never forget that I have surrendered all I am to You.

I commit myself to be one whom You can use—consecrated and separated to Your purposes. I will pay the price by denying the flesh. If You call me in the nighttime, I'll get on my knees and pray. If people never see me and if I am always behind the scenes, I will be faithful.

I lay aside all personal ambition. I *will* walk in the Spirit and in Your perfect will. In Jesus' Name, Your will shall be done in my heart, in my life, and in my ministry.

## Be Willing to Do Anything for God

It's important to be willing to do *anything* God asks. We need to commit ourselves to obey Him and do His will every day for the rest of our lives. Unwillingness to obey God can hinder or delay His plan for us from being fulfilled.

We will only experience the fullness of God's plan and the full measure of His anointing and blessing on us if we are willing to obey Him in every area of our lives. We've all had to "drink some cups" that we would rather have passed up. But when we know that the cup is God's will, we can rest assured the outcome will be for our good and to God's glory.

Many Christians have never surrendered everything to the Lord. They only are willing to make Jesus Lord of *part* of their lives. But sometimes they aren't willing to give up control of certain areas their carnal nature holds dear.

It's critical to make a quality decision to follow God's plan for our lives. That decision becomes an anchor to our souls that keeps us in His perfect will when the devil brings temptations to distract us from the plans of God. If we're never fully surrendered to Him, we stand in danger of being persuaded by the devil's temptations to pursue our will and desires. As a result, we lose out on God's best.

## The Crossroad of Decision

Many Christians are at a crossroad. They face decisions that will influence the course of their lives. The road of obedience is what we must choose if we want to follow God's plan.

Although it seems hard to say no to our will and plans, the result of obedience will cause our spirits to rejoice. We will make our way prosperous and be fulfilled beyond anything we can imagine.

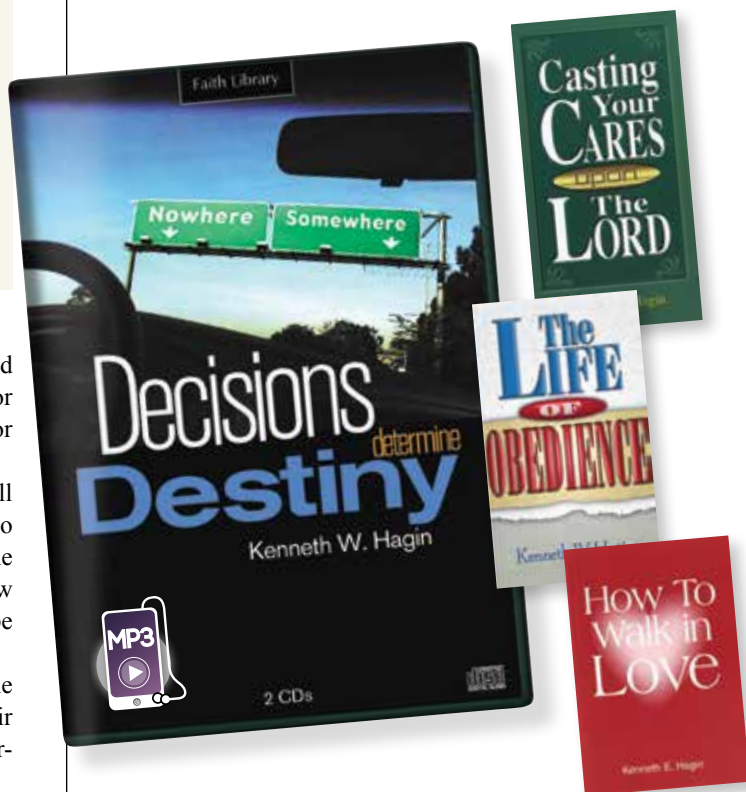
No comparison can be made between a life of walking in the flesh and one of living according to God's perfect plan! As we choose daily to obey the Lord's will, we will be a blessing to many. And God will lead us to places of abundance in every area of our lives!♥

Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Following God's Plan for Your Life*.]

SPECIAL OFFER

# Obeying God Doesn't Cost—It Pays!

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—JON, NEBRASKA



# Living on Fire for God

DARREN WRAY



IT IS POSSIBLE to be a Christian who is not zealous for God. You see this in believers who are serving the Lord but aren't happy. They don't have any enthusiasm, joy, or passion. Their service to God is burdensome, and their attitude is indifferent.

**A PERSON WHO LACKS ZEAL IS SPIRITUALLY APATHETIC.** The word *apathy* means "a state of indifference, or the suppression of emotions such as concern, excitement, motivation, and passion."

An apathetic person goes through the motions without the emotions. They have an "I couldn't care less" attitude. The things of God are boring to them.

The Apostle Paul warned the Church against this. He told them to "*never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord*" (Rom. 12:11 NIV). This is similar to what Jesus said to the Laodiceans in the Book of Revelation. What He said to the Laodicean Christians then is what He is still saying to believers now!

## REVELATION 3:15-16, 19 (NKJV)

**15** I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

**16** So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.

**19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

For a long time, I didn't understand these verses. It seemed that being lukewarm was better than being cold. But Jesus said He preferred Christians either to be hot or cold over being lukewarm! Have

you ever heard someone say, "That makes me want to puke?" That's basically what Jesus said about apathetic Christians.

The Church in Laodicea was dull to the things of God and God Himself. They were doing religious activities, but they weren't connected to their Heavenly Father. In verse 19, Jesus told them to repent of their lack of zeal. We too need to repent if we fall into that category.

It's possible to be involved in church activities and be lukewarm. Just because you go to church and kneel in prayer or because you serve as an usher or music minister doesn't necessarily mean you're intimate with the Lord. In other words, you don't have to be backslidden to be apathetic.

**PEOPLE WHO ARE INDIFFERENT TO THE THINGS OF GOD ARE IN A STATE OF SPIRITUAL SLEEP.** God may be speaking to them, and His anointing may be on or around them. However, they don't perceive it because they're disconnected.

This isn't acceptable to God. He wants His people to serve Him with fervency. The word *fervent* comes from the Greek word *zeo*. It means "to be hot to the point of boiling." How do we become on fire for God? By allowing Him to burn inside us. That won't happen if we only speak to Him periodically or read a Bible verse occasionally.

**SOME CHRISTIANS ARE NOT FERVENT BECAUSE THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS SUPERFICIAL.** They jump in the fire for a short time and then jump out. Nothing much happens because they don't spend enough time in the fire.

Becoming fervent is not a complicated process. You just have to spend enough time with Jesus. When you put a pot of water on the stove, nothing happens immediately. Over time, the flame causes the water to boil.

Being fervent is not so much about what you do. It's more about how long and where you position yourself. Like the pot of water, if you sit on God's flame long enough, the things of God will begin to bubble up. The passion, zeal, and excitement for God will start to flow in you and ultimately pour out of you.

Whether you've been born again for one day or 30 years, you need to be on fire for God! Decide that you're not going to be spiritually apathetic. Allow God to boil your water and stir you up. Then serve Him every day with excitement and passion! 🔥

[Editor's Note: Darren Wray is a 1996 RBTC graduate. He currently pastors Verbo da Vida Church in Aracaju, Sergipe, Brazil. This article was adapted from Darren's 2016 Winter Bible Seminar message.]

HOW DO WE  
BECOME ON  
FIRE FOR GOD?

*By allowing Him  
to burn inside  
of us.*



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# DON'T HAVE A CRUMMY YEAR!



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**

**A NEW YEAR** can bring new beginnings. But when the calendar changes, sometimes nothing much has changed in your life. It's common to hear people say, "I'm so ready for this year to be over!" But you decide how your year goes. It's up to you! By the time December arrives, I hope you can say you were glad for 2019.

At the end of one year, some people I know seemed unusually upset and ready for a new beginning. I didn't think it had been a bad year! I thought about what had happened to me. That year I struggled physically. Day after day I woke not feeling well. I spent time in the hospital. Thoughts of never feeling good again bombarded my mind. Even my dog died that year!

It could have been a crummy 12 months. However, when it was over, I didn't think it was crummy at all. Why? It was because of what I dwelt on. I focused on how good God was. Yes, situations challenged me, but I didn't let them bother me. It wasn't about how bad I felt. My prayers often ended with, "Thank You, Father, I will feel good again." By the end of the year, I had a clean bill of health. That was a good year.

When adversity shows up, you can throw a pity party or rely on a big God. Are you dwelling on what you're going through? Or are you thinking about God's goodness?

My grandfather always said life's challenges are just another opportunity to see how good God is. So whenever you face hardships, don't let them ruin your year.

## Which Purpose?

Jesus said in John 10:10 (NLT), "*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy.*" The devil wants to put things on you in 2019 just as he did in 2018. If you let him steal, kill, and destroy, he will. But the Bible says if you resist the devil, he will flee from you (James 4:7).

You decide. Will you have a pity party? Or will you have faith in God? What will change your year is what you do with what comes at you.

IT'S NOT ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE  
*going through,*  
BUT WHAT YOU'RE *going to.*



#RhemaWOF

Jesus goes on to say in John 10:10 (NLT), "*My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*" He didn't die on the cross for you to have another crummy year! Tough times happen, but it's not the end of the world. Adversity doesn't have to define



## No More Crummy Years!

Be determined all year long. Be ready. Be loaded up in the Word. Get started by saying these often:

"I can do all things through Christ" (Phil. 4:13).

"No weapon formed against me succeeds" (Isa. 54:17 NLT).

"I enjoy the rich, satisfying life Jesus gave to me" (John 10:10 NLT).

"I'm the head, not the tail. I'm on top, not the bottom" (Deut. 28:13 NLT).

"I am not condemned. God is for me. Nothing separates me from His love" (Rom. 8:31–39).

"It doesn't matter what I've gone through. I will finish my course with joy" (Acts 20:24).

"I wholeheartedly trust the Lord. He shows me which path to take" (Prov. 3:5–6).

your life. What defines it is when you know who you are in Christ Jesus and that you can make it!

Too many Christians lose their joy when something bad happens. The devil is out to make bad things happen. That's what he does. He puts obstacles in your way and even uses people as roadblocks, but you can go over or around them. You are an overcomer!

Remember when Jesus told His disciples, "*Let's cross to the other side of the lake*" (Mark 4:35 NLT), and then the storm came? Have you ever felt as though you were in the middle of a lake and everything was falling apart? The same Jesus who told the disciples to cross over is telling you to go to the other side as well.

### Your Purpose

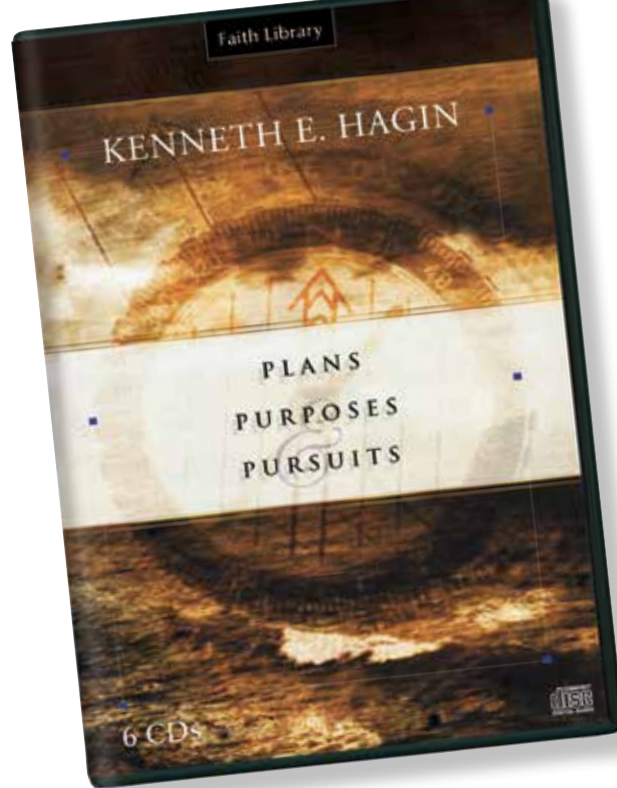
I believe it's essential to recognize your purpose so you can focus on where you are going. It's not about what you're *going through*, but what you're *going to*. It's not about what you *have done*, but what you *will do* with Jesus Christ. Philippians 4:13 says we can do all things through Christ. God sees your potential, and you should too.

You decide if your life is awesome or terrible. In church, it's easy to shout and dance. But at home when you get unexpected bills or bad news from the doctor, what do you believe then? Whom are you putting your faith in? Where is your trust?

Ask yourself, "Do I *really* trust God?" If so, you won't have a crummy year when something bad happens. It won't ruin your day or your life. Instead, you will respond by thinking, "My trust is in Jesus. He wants me to have a good life. I will succeed in whatever God wants me to do. He equips me in every way—financially, physically, spiritually, and emotionally. He's a good God, and He's helping me through this situation!"

*God sees your potential, and you should too.*

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## Stay on God's Side

Sometimes you can be too hard on yourself. If you belittle yourself, the devil doesn't need to! If you don't see your true worth and don't realize who you are in Christ, you can be your own worst nightmare. Yes, people go through stuff. But you have an advantage if you know Jesus. With Him, there's nothing you can't accomplish!

Quit saying it's tough, and start saying it's easy. Why? Matthew 11:30 (NLT) says His yoke is easy and His burden is light. It's not a hard thing to trust in God. It's easy to let Him work in your life. What's hard is figuring it out on your own! You don't know everything, but God does. Together you're a team! You and God can make 2019 the best year yet!♥

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# D.R.A.W. Nearer to God

KENNETH W. HAGIN



**AS WE ENTER** a new year, let's set a clear goal of knowing God better by drawing nearer to Him. A simple biblical principle to follow is "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8 NKJV).

What does it mean to draw near? I'll illustrate it this way. By sitting in the back of a room, we miss all the action. However, if we sit in the front row, we won't miss anything! **WHEN IT COMES TO THE THINGS OF GOD, WE NEED TO BE "IN THE FRONT," BECAUSE THE FURTHER AWAY WE ARE, THE MORE WE WILL MISS!**

The more intimately we know God—the more time we spend with Him and the nearer we draw to Him on a daily basis—the more involved He will be in our lives. We will "get in on the action" and not miss what God is doing in these last days.

How do we draw near to God? We can find direction in the letters of the word "draw."

## D=Delight

According to Psalm 37:4, we are to *delight* ourselves in the Lord.

Some Christians continually talk about war, natural disasters, economic conditions, and so forth. In a sense, they are delighting in the problem. But if we are living close to God and delighting in Him, we are confident of His protection amidst the problems of this world.

**WE DELIGHT IN THE LORD BY SPENDING TIME WITH HIM ON A DAILY BASIS**—by reading the Word and praying, by speaking in tongues and building ourselves up "on our most holy faith" (Jude 20), and by speaking in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19). The nearer we draw to God, the bigger He becomes in our sight. The bigger God becomes to us, the smaller the problems of this world seem.

## R=Rely

Proverbs 3:5 says, "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.*" Part of drawing near to God involves *relying* on Him. Trust Him to take care of you!

Many Christians try to be self-sufficient and figure their way out of problems. For example, if they need finances, they think of people they can borrow money from. Instead of trusting in our strength and wisdom, we should rely on God and trust in Him to solve our problems.

**DRAW NEAR TO GOD AND RELY ON HIM FOR YOUR STRENGTH.** Rely on the Spirit of God within you. The same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us (Rom. 8:11)! He will quicken our mortal bodies, give us wisdom, bring us peace, comfort us in times of trouble, and help us in every situation!

## A=Achieve

*Achieve* means "to attain a goal or to succeed." To become successful in God, we must do more than sit in church after getting saved. We need to go to work doing whatever God leads us to do. As we follow God's plan for our lives, whatever

we put our hands to will prosper (Ps. 1:3).

Remember Jesus' parable of the talents? **DON'T HIDE YOUR TALENT—DO SOMETHING WITH IT!** Let's become as qualified as we can and depend on the Holy Spirit for everything else. We can achieve things even when it doesn't seem as though we should be able to attain them. Philippians 4:13 says that we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us!

## W=Wait

Psalm 40:1 says, "*I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.*" We fail to *wait* on the Lord when we demand that everything happen in *our* appointed time.

Isaiah 40:31 tells us that those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. **HIS TIMING IS PERFECT.** God may not act according to our schedule, but He is always right on time.

I pray that the Holy Spirit will specially minister to you and give you the wisdom, knowledge, and guidance you need to **Delight, Rely, Achieve, and Wait.** **DRAW** nearer to God this year!♥

*The nearer we draw to God, the bigger He becomes in our sight.*



# Navigating Seasons of Change

MARVIN YODER

**GOD WORKS** according to patterns and principles. Seasons are part of the pattern, and there is a purpose for each one. A season's length is often determined by how long it takes to accomplish its objective. Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11 (NKJV) says, *"To everything there is a season, a time to every purpose under the heaven . . . He has made everything beautiful in its time."*

A flower is beautiful in full bloom. But before it reaches that point, it has to go through a series of changes. First, it is an ugly bulb or insignificant looking seed. The seed germinates, roots grow, and a seedling pushes through the soil. Spiritually speaking, there are seasons of change God takes us through to develop and bring us into His full plan.

## *Change is a part of life.*

IT HAPPENS WHETHER OR NOT WE LIKE IT,  
SO WE MUST LEARN TO EMBRACE IT.



## Transition Must Be God's Idea

Change is a part of life. It happens whether or not we like it, so we must learn to embrace it. Sometimes the seasons we go through don't seem significant, and we wonder why we are there. But times of change are necessary to make us who we need to be. They bring us to the place where we have the capacity and strength to embrace the plan of God. When we understand this, it will be easier to stand when times get hard.

In my early years of ministry, I never wanted to be in the season I was in. I didn't want to be a preacher. I wanted to be a businessman. When God called me, I said, "Oh, God, please leave me alone! I'll be a businessman and write big checks!" I discovered it's hard to impress a God who has streets of gold. So I embraced the plan to be a minister.

When God told my wife and me to start a church in Mattoon, Illinois, we had 115 people on the opening day. The next Sunday, we had 68. It went down from there until we only had about 30 people. Needless to say, it was a struggle.

I asked the Lord, "Which way are you growing this church? Is this all you can do?"

"Just remember," He said, "this was My idea. You just preach the Word." That day, we had 50 people, and from there the church grew.

Transition must be God's idea and not something we want to do. God is leading you to a specific place in a certain way. By following Him, you grow into the person He created you to be.

David spent a season in the wilderness—it developed him to be the king of Israel. Moses spent a season in the desert—it developed him into a leader. Jesus spent a season in the wilderness—it enabled Him to fulfill His ministry. When you allow God to work on you, you will develop the characteristics you need to succeed.

## Making the Transition

Successful transitions don't come by happenstance. They follow biblical principles that enable you to develop into the person God wants you to be, doing what He wants you to do.

Here are some principles that will help you go through seasons of change.

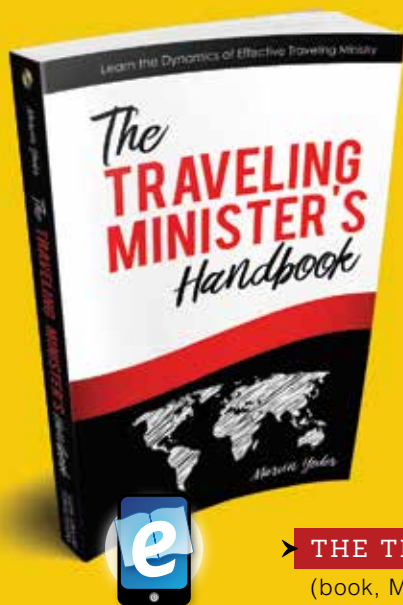
**1 LET TWO OR THREE WITNESSES CONFIRM WHAT GOD HAS SAID** (2 Cor. 13:1). One witness is peace. You should not have any internal conflict but have an inner sense that what you're hearing is right. A second witness is the Word. Does what you're hearing violate scripture? Or does it line up with the whole counsel of the Word of God? A third witness is spiritual peers. Share what God has told you with a few people you trust, friends who will give wise counsel. They may know something you don't.

**2 DON'T GET IN A HURRY** (Isa. 28:16). If you believe God called you to something, you don't have to rush to accomplish it. It will still be there tomorrow. Let God open doors and cooperate with Him.

I've seen car accidents almost happen because people took off at the green light without first making sure the intersection was clear. They had the right to go, but that didn't mean it was safe to start driving. Spiritually speaking, people have accidents when they don't wait to receive an "all clear" signal in their spirit before making a move.



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**3 PRAY THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION DAILY** (Matt. 26:39, 42, 44). "Lord, not My will but Your will be done." Jesus prayed that three times in the Garden of Gethsemane. If He prayed three times, we would have to pray *at least* that many times.

It's easy to get our focus off of building the Kingdom of God and instead concentrate on building our own empires. But we're children of God for a reason and that is to build our Heavenly Father's kingdom! Submit your will, your "want-to's," your dreams, and your desires to God.

**4 PRAY OUT THE WILL OF GOD** (Col. 4:12). God told me that His plan for my life would not happen unless I prayed. Some Christians are frustrated because they're trying to walk in something they've never prayed about. Prayer helps you to discern God's will. It arranges things in the spirit realm and moves them in the right direction. Pray it out before you walk it out!

**5 AT THE RIGHT TIME, STEP OUT IN FAITH, BELIEVING ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD** (Mark 10:27). It's critical to be in the right place at the right time with God. When you walk in step with Him—being where He's told you to be—you can believe God for all things to be possible.

You may think you've made a mess of your life, but God never gives up on you! Ask for His help. Making transitions God's way puts you in His will. And that causes you to bear fruit and fulfill His plan. 🙏

*Transition must be  
God's idea and not  
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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)

### RUNNING OUR RACE

**IT'S A NEW DAY** and a New Year! The year 2018 is behind us, and 2019 is in front of us. Last year may have been a great year for you while others experienced difficult circumstances. Regardless of what kind of year you had, it is important to "let it go."

Paul wrote about this in Philippians 3:13–14 (NKJV) *"Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."*

Paul never looked back—he was always going forward. Paul had failures and successes he could reflect on. However, to run his God-ordained race, it meant never looking back. We are all running the "race of life." It is important to run successfully.

My husband ran track. The cardinal rule of running track is to keep your eyes on the finish line all the time. Who or what is beside or behind you cannot concern you. To win—you must not take your eyes off the goal. Ken tells how he lost a race by 1/100 of a second because he glanced at the runner beside him. That glance caused him to lose his stride, and he lost the race.

I'm concerned that many people are losing their race in life—the life God planned for them. They are taking their eyes off their Heavenly Father. Jesus said in John 10:10 (NKJV) *"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."*

The Heavenly Father desires that we live an abundant life. However, one reason we aren't experiencing abundance is because of the decisions we make. Making the right decision is vitally important. Decisions determine your direction, and direction determines your destiny.

At a young age, my father gave me some great advice about decision making. He said, "Lynette, before you make a decision, consider all the consequences that could arise from that decision. Be prepared to live with them."

Those words of wisdom made me realize that every life decision was important and should not be made flippantly. I have endeavored to consider that advice in every decision I face.

When God created mankind, He gave us the right to make our own choices. Those decisions make us. God wants us to look to Him for help in making the right choices.

Two of my favorite scriptures are verses 5–6 in Proverbs chapter 3, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

God knows the future better than we know the past. Consulting Him in every decision is essential. He wants to help us in small decisions as well as the important ones. Never make a decision based on today's difficulties without thinking about how it will affect your future. Often when decisions are made in the midst of adversity, they prove to be unwise.

My father-in-law was a great example to follow in learning how to make proper decisions. He never made a decision until he had prayed about it and asked for God's direction and divine will. Deadlines never forced him to make a decision. When we would press him because of a looming deadline, he would say, "When God gives me the answer, I will let you know. A deadline will not move me. Things can wait until I get the answer."

At first, his answer frustrated me. However, since I had no choice but to wait patiently, I found the wisdom of waiting for God's perfect plan. It's always the successful way to go. And it doesn't include the obstacles we encountered when we tried to do things our way instead of God's way.

Be encouraged to consult with God on every decision you make this year. Life will go so much smoother when you allow Him to lead, guide, and direct your life. You may not understand the answer He gives you. But if you will follow Him, the Lord will work everything out for your good.♥

Lynette



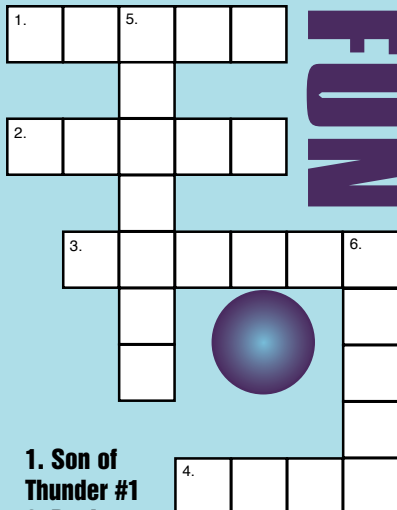




# Kids' Page

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

Write the names of Jesus' disciples in the blanks by following the clues below.

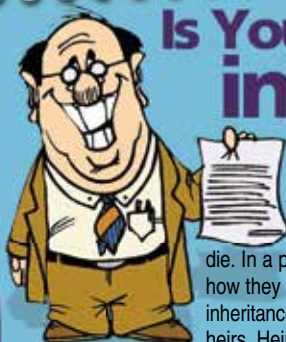


1. Son of Thunder #1
2. Rock
3. I doubt it!

4. Son of Thunder #2
5. Tax man
6. The zealot

**FUN**  
**CROSSWORD**

## Is Your Name in the Will?



Most people usually have a will written before they die. In a person's will they describe how they want their possessions (the inheritance) to be divided among their heirs. Heirs are the people in the will

who receive a portion of the inheritance. According to Romans 8:17, if you've been born again, **you are an heir of God!** That means that He has possessions that He wants you to receive. Of course, before an heir can receive anything somebody has to die first. When Jesus died on the cross He made it possible for all people to become sons and daughters of God and to become **Heirs of God**. Below is a list of things that you inherited when you became a child of God . . . but the words have been scrambled. Unscramble the words to find out some of the things you've inherited from God!

**DONGKIM**  
Matthew 25:34

**BUSTCANES**  
Proverbs 8:21

**SIBLENGS**  
1 Peter 3:9

**RATHE**  
Matthew 5:5

**ROLGY**  
Proverbs 3:35

**SMORPIES**  
Hebrews 6:12

## Bible Mysteries

You have an inheritance,  
Hear God's Word declare it,  
But these are the people  
With whom you will share it!

Who are they?

Fill in the blanks by substituting the symbol below the blank with the letter that it matches in the box below.

▲ ❁ ❁ ❁ ▼ ▼ ▲ ❁ ▼ ★ ❁

● ❁ ❁ ★ ▼

A=❁ - D=❁ - E=★ - G=❖ - H=★  
I=❁ - L=● - M=○ - N=■ - O=□  
R=❁ - S=▲ - T=▼ - U=❁ - W=►

## The Missing Piece

Only one of the puzzle pieces below will fit in the empty space. Can you figure out which one it is?



## jokes & riddles



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

Why did the lawyer get wet when he signed his paperwork?  
**He was using a FOUNTAIN pen.**

What does a snowman eat for breakfast?  
**FROSTED Snow FLAKES**

What is something that you can hold but you cannot see?  
**Your Breath.**

What do a river and an umbrella have in common?  
**They both rise when it rains.**

What is the biggest pain that can be experienced in the animal kingdom.  
**When a giraffe has a "pain in the neck."**

What did one computer mouse say to the other?  
**Do you want to come over to my pad sometime?**

**ANSWERS:**  
IS YOUR NAME IN THE WILL?  
KINGDOM, SUBSTANCE, BLESSING, EARTH, GLORY, PROMISES  
BIBLE MYSTERIES • Answer:  
SAINTS IN THE LIGHT—COLOSSIANS 1:12  
THE MISSING PIECE • Answer: B  
CROSSWORD FUN  
1. JAMES 2. PETER 3. THOMAS 4. JOHN 5. MATTHEW 6. SIMON



*Kenneth Hagin Ministries*

P.O. Box 50126 • Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

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KENNETH E. HAGIN  
EVANGELISTIC ASSOC.

# SUNDAY, MAY 5

***Supporting Rhema—Reaching the World!***

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Thank you for your support!

*Kenneth E. Hagin*

