



# THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2019

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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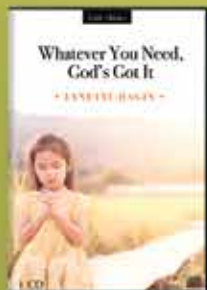
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## How Big Is Your God?

When we read scripture, we see that God is so big, it's mind-boggling! Not only did He create the universe but He also created you and me. Psalm 139:14 says we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

Although God is big, miraculous, and stupendous, He still knows when a sparrow falls from the sky (Matt. 10:29). He knows when a tear falls from our eyes and the number of hairs on our heads (Luke 12:7).

However, it's one thing to believe God is big. It's another thing to know firsthand that *your God* is big. The question to ask yourself is, "How big is *my God*?"

The truth is, in some areas God seems huge and in others small. The size of God and the size of our problems are determined by the way we view them. If we focus on our circumstances and choose to magnify the problem, it will grow bigger in our eyes. If we choose to magnify the Lord, we can triumph over any problem.

God cares about you! He left the palaces of Heaven to have a relationship with you. He has an open-door policy for all His children. You don't have to go through a receptionist and two secretaries to get to your Heavenly Father. You can go straight to the Lord anytime you desire!

How big is your God? That depends on what you can believe for! If you can find a verse of scripture to stand on, He is big enough to bring it to pass. So don't allow the problems and challenges of life to intimidate you. No person or problem is big enough or bad enough to cut you off from your God!

We've put together a great magazine especially for you this month. Over Easter, I encourage you to reflect on the vastness of your God and allow your faith to soar to a new level in Him.

Have a happy, blessed Resurrection Day!

*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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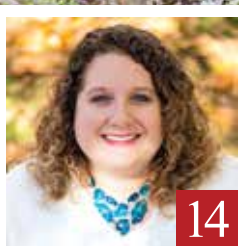
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### Special Report

What do you do when it looks as though your faith isn't working? Read how Gwen Mullins trusted God when diagnosed with cancer.



# Jesus Is Alive!



KENNETH W. HAGIN

**WE CELEBRATE JESUS'** resurrection on Easter, but it is far more than a historical observation. We should be celebrating Easter every day! The central truth of scripture is that Jesus rose from the dead. Everything we believe revolves around His death, burial, and resurrection. Don't discount this great event! Both historically and spiritually, it is the greatest moment that has ever taken place. Because Jesus lives, we can have new lives in Him.

Atheists and agnostics want to deny that possibility. Humanists and philosophers scoff at the idea. Liberal educators give reasons why it is not feasible. But it is true. The grave is empty. There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that some religious leaders have ever lived!

All the leaders of religious sects have tombs that followers visit and worship. But Jesus has an empty tomb! It is proof of His resurrection. Acts 1:3 (NKJV) tells us that Jesus *"presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by [the apostles] during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."* Even the historian Flavius Josephus recorded that Jesus appeared alive again.

Numerous appearances of Jesus after He died and rose again are recorded in scripture. Who did He appear to? Here are ten of them:

1. Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9–11)
2. Women returning to the tomb (Matt. 28:1–10)
3. Peter (Luke 24:34)
4. Two disciples on the Emmaus Road (Mark 16:12)

5. All the disciples except Thomas (Mark 16:14)
6. The disciples with Thomas present (John 20:26)
7. Seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1–2)
8. Over 500 brethren (1 Cor. 15:6)
9. James, His brother (1 Cor. 15:7)
10. The disciples at His ascension (Acts 1:1–9)

## You Are A-L-I-V-E

All evidence points to Jesus being raised from the dead. He is alive! And whoever believes in Him finds new life in Christ. Ephesians 2:5 (NLT) tells us that God *"gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead."* It goes on to say that we also have been raised from the dead and seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (v. 6)!

We have life because of Christ! We are seated with Him and have the same authority. We have the same standing with God as Christ does. We hold the same privileges. This is why it is essential to understand that He is alive! Without the resurrection, there would be no hope. We were dead in our sin. But now we are alive forevermore!

Because Jesus lives, we live also. Romans 8:11 (NLT) says, *"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. And just as God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, he will give life to your mortal bodies by this same Spirit living within you."* Our life comes from the life of God.

When it comes to our spiritual lives, Jesus did not come to remodel. He came to make us *brand new*. He did not come to restore, but to *recreate*. Jesus came to make us A-L-I-V-E!

## A—Adopted

We are **adopted** into the family of God.

JESUS DID NOT COME TO REMODEL.  
HE CAME TO MAKE US *brand new*.



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## Power of Communion

We have no greater way of celebrating Easter than at the Communion Table. Without saying one word, that table speaks of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection. The elements—the bread and the cup—that represent His broken body and shed blood also represent our salvation. Without the empty tomb, these would be empty traditions. This is not tradition! The same Savior who died and rose is coming again. We do this in remembrance of Him until He returns (1 Cor. 11:23–26).

The bread and cup are symbols, or reminders. Remember what Jesus did for you. Remember what His body and blood bought for you: salvation, redemption, protection, healing, and deliverance. As you eat and drink these symbols, you partake of something in the natural realm to remind you of what you do by faith in the spiritual realm. Then release your faith with boldness and declare, "Everything that Christ bought at Calvary belongs to me, and in the name of Jesus Christ, I take what I need now!"

### EPHESIANS 1:5 (TLB)

**5** His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by sending Jesus Christ to die for us. And he did this because he wanted to!

### L—Loved

We are **loved** unconditionally.

### EPHESIANS 2:4–6 (NLT)

**4** But God is so rich in mercy, and he loved us so much,  
**5** that even though we were dead because of our sins, he gave us life when he raised Christ from the dead. (It is only by God's grace that you have been saved!)

**6** For he raised us from the dead along with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ Jesus.

### I—Ingrafted

We are **ingrafted** into the Body of Christ.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17 (AMPC)

**17** Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

### V—Victorious

We are **victorious** because Jesus rose in victory!

### ROMANS 8:37 (AMP)

**37** Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors and gain an overwhelming victory through Him who loved us [so much that He died for us].

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### E—Empowered

We are **empowered** by the Holy Spirit who can now live within us!

### ROMANS 8:11 (VOICE)

**11** If the Spirit of the One who resurrected Jesus from the dead lives inside of you, then you can be sure that He who raised Him will cast the light of life into your mortal bodies through the life-giving power of the Spirit residing in you.

Jesus defeated death, the devil, and all his forces. The curtain in the temple where the power and presence of God resided was torn. No longer would God live in a house of stone but in you and me—a house made of flesh. Jesus made that possible when He rose triumphantly from the grave.

Never forget who you are! You are alive—adopted, loved, ingrafted, victorious, and empowered—in Jesus Christ. 🕊️



# Divine Summons

TAD GREGURICH



INSTRUCTOR  
HIGHLIGHT

A CALLING FROM God is a divine summons. Think of it as being summoned to stand before a king. It is an invitation in a sense, but there's no way out of it. God has given you a divine invitation, and He's not taking it back! He has a purpose for your life.

## Hope of His Calling

In Ephesians 1:18, Paul prayed *"that ye may know what is the hope of his calling."* Whose calling? God's calling on your life. **CALLINGS CARRY HOPE AND SPEAK OF THE FUTURE.** In other words, something is planned! Bible hope is not a wish. If you look up *hope* in the Greek, it means *"to expect something and anticipate it with joy!"* Why? Because it's good!

What is God expecting and joyfully anticipating from His divine invitation to you? Verse 18 says that you are to know! But for you to find out, you have to spend time in prayer. In Ephesians 1:16–18, Paul shows you how to pray for wisdom, revelation, and understanding. When you know what God has called you to do, you can run with it!

## High Calling

In Philippians 3:13–14, Paul says, *"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."* The *English Standard Version* calls it the "upward call." This calling will lift you out of whatever you've been in. **IT RAISES YOU TO A NEW LEVEL, GIVES YOU A GREATER PURPOSE, AND BRINGS YOU HIGHER INTO GOD'S THOUGHTS AND WAYS.**

*You should enjoy your calling!  
It enables you to step out of natural  
limitations over into heavenly ability that  
comes by God's Spirit.*

What did Paul do with the upward call of God? He forgot what was behind. If it worked for him, it will work for you! God knows everything you have done, but He still has a calling and a plan for your life. Your call is not dependent on your past. So don't live there. Let it go and move forward.

## Holy Calling

Holiness is more than clean living. It involves God's presence. Holy means that something is set aside and considered sacred. Your calling is not casual. You didn't come up with it. It is holy. It demands attention. Second Timothy 1:9 (TPT) says, *"He gave us resurrection life and drew us to himself by his holy calling on our lives. And it wasn't because of any good we have done, but by his divine pleasure and marvelous grace."*

The devil will use fear to keep you from fulfilling your call. But you don't have to be afraid. Every time you have a fearful thought, get rid of it! You bring nothing into this equation! You don't do it—God has to do it. God takes your calling seriously. It's holy to Him, and it should be holy to you.

## Heavenly Calling

Hebrews 3:1 begins by saying, *"Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling."* This is a heavenly calling—not just calling us to Heaven, but it is of Heaven.

**THE CALL OF GOD IS OF THE SUPER-NATURAL REALM.** It did not originate in your mind. There's very little natural about it other than your obedience to walk in it.

Imagine if someone prepared your favorite meal and placed it in front of you. Are you only going to look at it? No. You're going to partake! If you do nothing, there isn't any benefit or enjoyment. You should enjoy your calling! It enables you to step out of natural limitations over into heavenly ability that comes by God's Spirit.

**GOD HAS GIVEN YOU AN ENDOWMENT OF GRACE—HIS ABILITY AND POWER.** In and of yourself, you can't fulfill your call. It is from Heaven, so you need heavenly resources to fulfill it. When you partake of those heavenly resources, it causes all the natural resources you need to come your way. Know this: God has invested everything you will ever need to fulfill your call. Look to Him and step into it! ♥

[Editor's Note: Tag Gregurich has been the dean of Rhema Bible Training College since 2008. He is also an associate pastor at Rhema Bible Church.]

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// **STACEY, 3RD-YEAR STUDENT**



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# Facing Suicide

TONY COOKE

People are suffering from broken hearts. Even when surrounded by godly people, it is possible to reach a place with so much pressure and pain that you cannot help yourself—you need the Body of Christ to reach out. Instead of casual advice like, “Believe God,” you need someone gracious enough to put an arm around you and say, “We’re standing with you.”

Let’s minister lovingly to hurting people—especially during times of trial, weariness, or grief. We need to realize that insensitive words minister to no one. Such words do not bring life. Let’s pray for and strengthen one another with compassion and fulfill Jesus’ commission to heal the brokenhearted!

—Kenneth W. Hagin



**HAVING A LOVED** one commit suicide is extremely difficult. Surviving family members deal with intensified forms of normal grief (guilt, anger, confusion, and so forth) and frequently feel isolated from others. They may feel shame about the manner of their loved one’s death and not know how to explain it.

Those who would normally offer support to the family may also feel uncomfortable. They may keep their distance due to their awkward feelings and difficulty of not knowing what to say.

Early in my ministry, I was approached by a man who asked my opinion about an ongoing debate with his friend: What happens to the spirit of a Christian who commits suicide? Taking his question at face value, I stressed the mercy of God in my answer.

Little did I know that this active church member would soon take his life. I answered him entirely from an *after-the-fact* perspective, never realizing his hidden despair. What he needed to hear was information from a *preventative* perspective.

Had this man revealed his challenges, intervention could have happened. Prayer, counsel, medical help, or other needed forms of support and ministry could have been marshaled to help him overcome the sense of hopelessness and helplessness that plagued him. Support could have made a difference. Instead, his life was cut short, and many people were left hurting and confused.

## Choose Life

Even with intervention, anyone in this situation is still faced with the decision to live. If there is still an opportunity to *prevent* a suicide from taking place, I strongly believe we should stress God’s will in the matter—life, love, blessing, hope, and purpose. (See the sidebar for helpful scriptures.)

## Choose Mercy

Those who have already lost a loved one to suicide have legitimate and sincere concerns. There is no doubt that suicide does not reflect God’s intentions, but those left behind can still look to God for mercy and grace.

## Father, Forgive Them

Years ago, I was asked to conduct a funeral in which the family requested me to address suicide. While preparing, I came across a fascinating statement that Jesus

made on the cross. He prayed, “*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do*” (Luke 23:34 NKJV). Consider this: **IF JESUS COULD EXTEND MERCY AND FORGIVENESS TOWARD THOSE WHO DIDN’T KNOW WHAT THEY WERE DOING 2,000 YEARS AGO, COULDN’T HE ALSO EXTEND MERCY TODAY?**

Ultimately, we must leave each person’s eternal destiny in God’s hands. You are not the Judge, and neither am I. We don’t know all that goes on within a person—their pressures, pain, or perceptions. Only God knows. As with any death, we commit the spirit of an individual into the hands of an all-knowing, righteous, and merciful God. ♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from the book *Life After Death* by Tony Cooke. Visit [rhema.org](http://rhema.org) to purchase a copy.]



## Helpful Scriptures

**These scriptures are a starting place to help you or someone you know see God’s will concerning suicide and choosing life.**

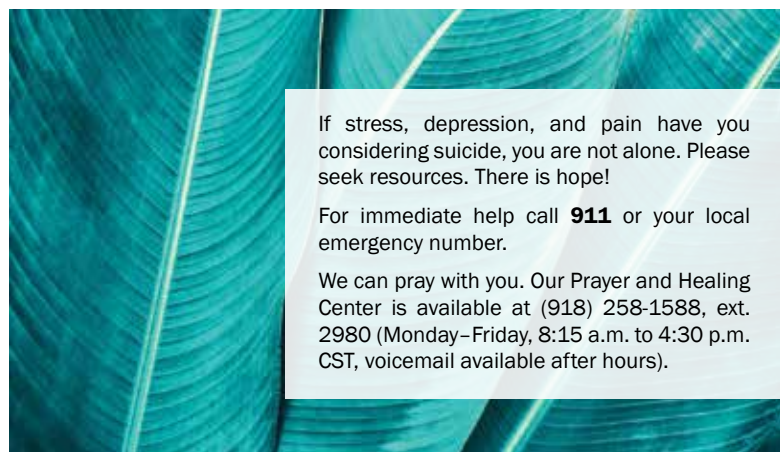
Jeremiah 29:11—God thinks *good thoughts* about you.

Romans 13:10—Love does not harm others (or self).

First Corinthians 6:19–20—Your body is the “temple” of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 22:37–39—Love God. Love your neighbor. Love yourself.

Exodus 20:13—Do not kill (others or self).



If stress, depression, and pain have you considering suicide, you are not alone. Please seek resources. There is hope!

For immediate help call **911** or your local emergency number.

We can pray with you. Our Prayer and Healing Center is available at (918) 258-1588, ext. 2980 (Monday–Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST, voicemail available after hours).

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# What You **Do** Have

KENNETH W. HAGIN

**NO ONE HAS** everything they need. This applies to both the natural and spiritual realms. No one is perfect yet. We all have problems and experience lack in some way. Everyone has areas of weakness. But if we focus on our insufficiencies, we won't recognize and appreciate what we have.

When some people encounter stressful situations, they never look at what they have. They say things like "I don't have enough," or "I can't help so-and-so with money because I don't have any." They don't realize that doing this only keeps them right where they are—still in lack.

## What Do You Have?

In Second Kings 4:1–7, a widow went to Elisha for help. After her husband died, the creditors came to take her two sons as slaves to pay the family's debt. The distraught woman only focused on her lack. But the first thing Elisha asked her was, "*What do you have?*" (v. 2 NKJV). **WHAT SHE ALREADY HAD WAS ENOUGH TO SUPPLY HER NEED.** The widow obeyed the prophet's instructions and paid her debts.

In Acts chapter 3, Peter and John were at the gate called "Beautiful." Every day a lame man sat at the gate begging. When he asked Peter and John for money, they didn't focus on what they didn't have. Their lack of money never crossed their minds. They immediately used what they had—the Name of Jesus!

Peter said to the beggar, "*Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up*

*and walk*" (Acts 3:6 NKJV). When the two apostles used what they already possessed, the power of God was extended to heal the man.

## Adjust Your Focus

People can focus so much on the talent or abilities they don't have, it makes them ineffective. Eventually, it produces a lifestyle of inactivity, which results in an inability to believe and receive. **THERE MAY BE AREAS WE DON'T EXCEL IN THE WAY OTHERS DO, BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE US ANY LESS VALUABLE.**

The Body of Christ needs the talents of every believer. When we work together, the Church is complete. We each have a part to play. Everyone's gifting is unique and needed. We all have abilities that are a part of who we are.

Someone may say, "God asked me to do such-and-such, and He knows I can't do it." God knows who you are! Your Heavenly Father made you. He knows what you can and can't do. He knows what you have and don't have. If God didn't believe you could do what He asked,

He wouldn't have chosen you for the task!

## Use What God Has Given You

Some people believe it's wrong to show off their talents or abilities. They quote Romans 12:3, which tells us not to think more highly of ourselves than we should. It's true; we shouldn't be conceited. But we also shouldn't ignore what we have, who we are, and what we can do! It's essential to understand who we are.

God expects us to use what He has given us as illustrated in the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14–30). **HE'S NOT LOOKING AT HOW MUCH WE DO, BUT WHAT WE DO WITH WHAT HE GAVE US.** So let's quit focusing on what we don't have. Instead, let's appreciate what God has given us, and use it. When we do, we'll see that we can accomplish a lot.♥



IF GOD DIDN'T BELIEVE YOU COULD DO WHAT HE ASKED, HE WOULDN'T HAVE CHOSEN YOU FOR THE TASK!

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# Climb Past Your Past

MIKE CAPLE

**ONE OF THE** darkest moments in my life happened when I was a youth. I got involved in something I shouldn't have. Eventually, I was so convicted I spilled my guts to my mom and told her what I was struggling with. But I felt so ashamed. The pain of my embarrassment and guilt's sting crushed me. I grabbed a bunch of my clothes, hopped in my car, and took off. I ran away from my problems and the people I had let down.

I wondered if God still loved me or if now He would be against me. I hoped it wouldn't be the latter. I was disgusted with myself. Shame shouted that I was not worthy to be in God's presence and that He could never use me again. And I believed it.

Can you relate? Maybe you're thinking, "I'm right where you were." The good news is there's hope. My story didn't end in that situation. I learned some things that allowed God to heal me.

## Peter's Denial

God began talking to me about a fisherman in the Bible named Peter. When Jesus met Peter, Jesus asked him to leave his career and start fishing for people. And Peter did! **HE LEFT EVERYTHING TO FOLLOW JESUS.**

That decision landed Peter a front-row seat to witness everything Jesus did over the next three years. He watched Jesus heal the sick and feed thousands. He saw Jesus cast out demons and heard Him teach with authority. Peter even walked on water with Jesus. This guy was living the dream.

That is, until the Temple guard arrested Jesus. During an earlier conversation with His disciples, Jesus told them He was about to be betrayed and arrested, and they would desert Him. Everyone, including

Peter, rejected His prediction. Peter declared, "*Even if everyone else deserts you, I never will.*" (Mark 14:29 NLT).

When nighttime came, Jesus was arrested and taken away. All His followers fled, except Peter, who followed from a distance. Eventually, he sat by a fire in a courtyard outside of where they took Jesus.

**LUKE 22:56–57, 61–62 (NLT)**

**56** A servant girl noticed [Peter] in the firelight and began staring at him. Finally she said, "This man was one of Jesus' followers!"

**57** But Peter denied it. "Woman," he said, "I don't even know him!"

Peter went on to deny Jesus two more times.

**61** At that moment the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Suddenly, the Lord's words flashed through Peter's mind: "Before the rooster crows tomorrow morning, you will deny three times that you even knew me."

**62** And Peter left the courtyard, weeping bitterly.

## Peter's Reconciliation

Peter's story didn't end there. After Jesus died, Peter returned to his old life as a fisherman. One day he and the disciples were fishing when they saw Jesus on the lake-side. Peter jumped into the water and swam to shore, where Jesus was making breakfast for the disciples.

After they ate, Jesus told Peter to feed His lambs and to take care of and feed His sheep. (See John 21:15–17). He didn't say anything about his past mistakes. No. **JESUS TALKED ABOUT HIS FUTURE.** Jesus loved Peter, and God still had good

plans for him. Peter became a leader in the Early Church and won thousands of people to the Lord.

## He Pursues You

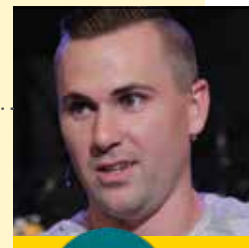
When you mess up, shame tells you to leave God's presence because you're not worthy. It says, "You're over. God can never use you again."

.....  
**WHEN YOU RUN  
FROM GOD,  
HE PURSUES YOU.  
WHEN YOU'RE  
CRUSHED,  
HE RESCUES YOU.**

But really, God can. He's always close by. Psalm 34:18 (NLT) says, "*The Lord is close to the broken-hearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed.*" When you run from God, He pursues you. When you're crushed, He rescues you.

**YOUR FUTURE IS NOT IN THE HANDS OF YOUR FAILURES.** It's in the hands of a loving God. He determines your future. When it comes to climbing past the mistakes you've made, be like Peter, and reach out to God. He is close by—ready to rescue and restore.♥

[Editor's Note: Mike Caple is a youth pastor at Cedar Point Church in Claremore, Oklahoma. This article was adapted from his *Summer Blitz 2018* message.]



**SPEAKER  
HIGHLIGHT**



# AN ANCHOR OF HOPE

“GWEN, YOU HAVE breast cancer,” said the nurse on the other end of the phone.

“No, I don’t.”

“Yes, you do.”

“I can’t have cancer.”

Shaken. Confused. A dark cloud moved in on an otherwise beautiful fall November day in 2013. Gwen Mullins’ throat tightened, and tears trickled down her cheeks. She couldn’t have cancer. She was a single mother of three boys.

Gwen first noticed the lump in September. At first, she ignored it, but it wouldn’t stop hurting. She made an appointment with her doctor who scheduled a mammogram.

The lab technician took picture after picture, getting the breast from every angle. Then the radiologist wanted an ultrasound. Before Gwen left, a needle biopsy was scheduled for the following week.

None of these tests concerned Gwen. Except for the pain in her breast, her 39-year-old body felt healthy and strong. Besides, she believed Isaiah 54:17—no weapon formed against her body could prosper.

Snapping herself back to reality, Gwen continued listening to the nurse. “You do have cancer. We want you to come in next week and have an MRI. You’ll need to see a surgeon within two weeks. It’s not the fastest growing cancer, but it’s not the slowest growing either.”

The news punctured Gwen’s soul. The only place she wanted to be at that moment was at Rhema Bible Church. So Gwen got in her car and drove straight there.

## A Shaken Faith

Associate pastor Bill Ray’s warm smile greeted Gwen. She blurted out that she needed to talk with him right then. Once in his office, she said, “They told me I have cancer!”

“Okay,” Pastor Bill said calmly. “We know that everything has to bow to the Name of Jesus.” He opened his Bible, and together they read healing scriptures for nearly an hour. Finally, his fingers turned to Numbers chapter 13. He asked, “Are you going to look at the grapes or the giants?”

Gwen knew the Bible story. God promised the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey, but giants were in the land of promise. Only Joshua and Caleb believed they



*The Word of God  
was her anchor.*



could overcome the giants. The rest of the people didn't. Whose report was she going to believe? The test results or God's promise? Gwen had a choice to make.

After leaving Rhema Bible Church, Gwen only shared the doctor's report with her parents and a few close friends. Unsure of how her three boys would handle the news, she waited to tell them. Besides, she believed that God would perform a miracle before she had the MRI. She constantly commanded the lump to dry up in the Name of Jesus.

## No Change

A few days later when the motorized bed rolled Gwen out of the MRI scanner, a technician began removing the IV. "Is it gone?" she asked.

"No," replied the tech, surprised by the question.

"Wait!" Gwen thought. "The lump was supposed to be gone!" The technician's words felt like a dagger. Although Gwen was confessing scripture, the opposite of what she wanted to see kept happening. That was the biggest battle for her.

Gwen left the hospital with an accordion folder filled with brochures on breast cancer. "What am I supposed to do with all this?" she wondered. It was overwhelming. Ephesians 6:13 (NKJV) became Gwen's anchor. *"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."*

Gwen chose to put on the armor of God's Word. She refused to give up on her miracle. She continually quoted scripture and believed God that she wouldn't have to have chemotherapy.

When Gwen met with the oncologist, she argued to no avail about chemo. Although she asked God for other options, she didn't receive the miracle she hoped for. She finally agreed to the treatment. Surgery was scheduled for early December.

## "Mom, You're Healed"

Now she had to tell her boys.

Gwen first told Alex, 12, and Nate, 16, what she was up against. Her oldest was still at work.

"You're healed Mom," Nate said encouragingly. "You'll get through this. We'll get through this."

"Yeah Mom, you're healed!" said Alex.

Their unwavering faith lifted her heart.

That evening, Gwen told Thomas. The high school senior held back his emotions and spoke words of faith—words he fully believed.

"Mom, you'll be fine," he said. "God is good. He's the healer."

Their words undergirded her in the drawn-out battle.

## Dark Days

As Gwen went through chemo, the day came when her hair fell out in clumps. It happened to be the day after her 40th birthday. Eventually, a beautician shaved her head. "That was a rough day," she admits. "I'm the type of person who cries, but then I don't leave until I'm speaking faith."

When Lynette Hagin heard what happened, she offered to take Gwen wig shopping. While in the store, Gwen insecurely removed her scarf, exposing her hairless head.

"You'll get through this," Lynette said. "Pastor Ken and I are standing with you."

It was another moment when Gwen's faith was encouraged.

## Dealing With the Side Effects

"Chemo brain," or mental foginess, is a side effect of chemotherapy. Because of it, Gwen couldn't read her Bible or watch television. Fatigue attacked. At times, she could only crawl to the stairs before starting the climb up them to wake her boys for school.

During her third chemo cycle, Gwen experienced unbearable bone pain. She cried out, "God, I don't want to wake up. I can't take this anymore. Just let me come home." However, from her heart rose, "I will live and not die, and declare the works of the Lord" (Ps. 118:17).

Throughout Gwen's cancer treatment, the Word of God was her anchor. She read and reread the Bible stories she learned in children's church. Although imprisoned, Joseph's dream still came true. Against all odds, David slew a giant. The three Hebrew children safely came out of the fiery furnace. When thrown into the lion's den, Daniel was not harmed.

The lives of the people in these stories encouraged Gwen. They always trusted God no matter what happened to them. Their faith bolstered hers.

"I couldn't imagine going through chemo and radiation without having God's Word," says Gwen. During the hard times, it was the anchor that held her steady. It gave her hope to press forward continually.

## Moving Forward

When the doctor's report revealed the lump was gone, Gwen was thrilled. In 2015, she returned for a second year at Rhema Bible Training College. After graduating, she has been on the go, traveling to Beirut, Lebanon; Cairo, Egypt; and Manchester, England. She participated in women's conferences, visited a refugee camp, and helped with a youth conference. She has also written a book.

When Gwen met with her oncologist on October 4, 2018, she heard words that were music to her ears.

"You're doing great! I'm going to drop your visits down to once a year," he said.

After five years of testing, doctors, surgeries, chemo, and radiation, things are looking good! She walked outside, and tears of joy wetted her cheeks. ♥

**WHILE GOING THROUGH CHEMO TREATMENT, GWEN AND HER SON ALEX ENJOYED A TRIP TO WALT DISNEY WORLD.**



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TO LEARN MORE about Gwen Mullins visit [gwendolynirene.com](http://gwendolynirene.com)



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# THE Greater One LIVES IN YOU!

**BEING BORN AGAIN** is not just an experience. It is receiving the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit—a Divine Personality—to come and make His home in us.

There is no need for any believer to feel comfortless, deprived, or hopeless. Christ's purpose in sending the Holy Spirit was for Him to *live* in us and be *in* us.

However, few Christians are aware of the Holy Spirit living *in* them. If they were, they wouldn't talk and act as they sometimes do. Instead of always talking about their lack of power and ability, they would know nothing is impossible to them.

The Bible says "*all things are possible to him that believeth*" (Mark 9:23). There is a reason all things are possible to him who believes. Our Heavenly Father planned that the believing one should have God Himself living in him through the indwelling Presence of the Holy Spirit. And with God *in* the believer, *nothing* is impossible!

## Greater Is He That Is in You

First John 4:4 says, "*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*" Satan—the god of this world—is the "he" that is in the world. But the "He" in us—the Holy Spirit—is greater! All that God could be to us and do for us, the Holy Spirit through His indwelling Presence is *to* us, *for* us, and *in* us.

If we were conscious of the Greater One in us, we would not fear the devil. We would not fear "he that is in the world" because "He that is *in* us" is greater.

## A Thousand Times Bigger on the Inside!

Smith Wigglesworth, a man of God who was used mightily of the Lord to preach faith and perform miracles of healings, said in his book, *Ever Increasing Faith*,\* "I am a thousand times bigger on the inside than I am on the outside."

I hadn't been among the Pentecostals very long when I read that statement. It was hard for me to understand because my mind wasn't renewed sufficiently with the Word. I wondered how that could be.

During the night, the Holy Spirit brought to my remembrance the statement Wigglesworth made. So I reread that chapter and asked the Holy Spirit to give me insight into what he was saying.

As I was reading, I came upon First John 4:4. I saw it then. With this enlightened understanding, I felt Wigglesworth should have said, "I am a *million* times bigger on the inside." That still wouldn't have done it justice because God is infinitely bigger than we can think or imagine.

That scripture doesn't belong only to preachers. John was writing to lay members. We are never without help in life because the Greater One is in us!



ALL THAT GOD COULD BE TO US AND DO FOR US, THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH HIS INDWELLING PRESENCE IS *to* US, *for* US, AND *in* US.

## Our Helper and Comforter

Many believers have missed the reality of what the Holy Spirit came to do in us. In John 14:16 (AMPC), Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be a Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby.

Too often when some people need help, they run around frantically trying to find someone to pray for them. They cry on one person's shoulder and then on another's, shed a few "crocodile" tears, and quote scripture. But when they're alone, they are in the same mess they were in to begin with. They forget they have a Helper on the inside. They don't have to pray for a helper because they already have *the* Helper *in* them.

## Our Guide in the Affairs of Life

The Holy Spirit is also our Guide. "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth*" (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit will guide us in all the affairs of life. "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God*" (Rom. 8:14). No one can be guided or led, however, without placing themselves in the hands of the Guide.

For example, it's useless to pray, "Lord, guide me. Give me directions," unless we allow ourselves to be guided. That is the reason Christians have gotten into some messes—they were not following the Guide. The Holy Spirit will lead us, but we have to put ourselves into His hands.

When we receive direction from Him, we can be prepared ahead of time. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth. If we learn to listen and look to Him, He will also instruct and lead us in every situation.

Many times things will happen in our lives—good and bad—and afterward, we will say, "I knew what to do all the time." Where did we know it? On the inside. It would save us many problems if we learned to listen to our spirit.

## He Testifies of Jesus

In the Book of John, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit's role as He resides *within* believers. The Holy Spirit always lifts up the Word of God and the Name of Jesus. John 15:26 says, "*But when the Comforter is come . . . he shall testify of me.*" In other words, the Holy Spirit will make Jesus and the things of God real to us. He will bring to remembrance the Word of God that we have hidden in our hearts.

He will also cause us to bear fruit. One of the Holy Spirit's main purposes for inhabiting the believer is for fruit bearing. As we yield to God and obey His Word, the life of the Holy Spirit within will cause us to grow in love, joy, and peace, as well as the other fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22–23).

The Holy Spirit, our Helper, has made His home in us as believers. He is everything we need Him to be. If we know Who lives in us and if we believe God's Word, then no matter what or whom we face in life, we will have no fear. The Greater One Who lives in us is greater than he who is in the world! He will put us over in life!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's study course *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*.]

\*Smith Wigglesworth, *Ever Increasing Faith* (1924; Springfield, Missouri: Gospel Publishing House, 1971). p. 95.

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# Scriptures to Live By

Your thoughts affect your health, emotions, and destiny. It's important, therefore, to transform your mind with the Word of God. Here are scriptures to help you do that.

## **PROVERBS 4:23 (GNT)**

**23** Be careful how you think; your life is shaped by your thoughts.

## **PHILIPPIANS 4:8 (NLT)**

**8** And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

## **2 CORINTHIANS 10:5 (NKJV)**

**5** Casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.

## **PSALM 118:24 (NKJV)**

**24** This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.

## **PSALM 139:14 (NIV)**

**14** I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

## **JEREMIAH 29:11 (NIV)**

**11** "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

## **PROVERBS 3:5-6 (MSG)**

**5** Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.

**6** Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track.

## **PHILIPPIANS 4:13 (NKJV)**

**13** I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

## **1 PETER 5:7 (NLT)**

**7** Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you.

## **ISAIAH 26:3 (NCV)**

**3** You, Lord, give true peace to those who depend on you, because they trust you.

## **ISAIAH 53:5 (NKJV)**

**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.

## **PSALM 91:10-11 (GW)**

**10** No harm will come to you. No sickness will come near your house.

**11** He will put his angels in charge of you to protect you in all your ways.

## **PSALM 91:16 (NIV)**

**16** With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

## **2 TIMOTHY 1:7 (NKJV)**

**7** For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

## **ISAIAH 41:10 (MSG)**

**10** Don't panic. I'm with you. There's no need to fear for I'm your God. I'll give you strength. I'll help you. I'll hold you steady, keep a firm grip on you.

## **ROMANS 8:11 (KJV)**

**11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

## **ISAIAH 40:31 (MSG)**

**31** But those who wait upon God get fresh strength. They spread their wings and soar like eagles, they run and don't get tired, they walk and don't lag behind.

## **PHILIPPIANS 4:19 (NKJV)**

**19** And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

## **JAMES 1:5 (NLT)**

**5** If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.

## **ISAIAH 54:17 (NCV)**

**17** "So no weapon that is used against you will defeat you. You will show that those who speak against you are wrong. These are the good things my servants receive. Their victory comes from me," says the Lord.

## **ISAIAH 43:2-3 (MSG)**

**2** When you're in over your head, I'll be there with you. When you're in rough waters, you will not go down. When you're between a rock and a hard place, it won't be a dead end—

**3** Because I am God, your personal God. ♥

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# GET OUT OF THE PIGPEN



CRAIG W. HAGIN

IN THE STORY of the prodigal son (Luke 15:11–32), the pigpen was about as bad as it could get. The Jews whom Jesus told this story to would have understood this. In their culture, the pig is an unclean animal—not fit to eat. The prodigal son was working with them as a professional pig feeder!

To make matters worse, he was so hungry that even the pigs' food looked appetizing (v. 16). I don't know about you, but I would not want to eat what pigs eat. However, he had no other options. He was out of money.

Thankfully, while the prodigal son was wallowing in the mud, something happened. Luke 15:17 says, "*he came to himself.*" He remembered how good his father was—even to the servants. At that moment, he realized he would rather go home and become a servant than stay with the pigs and starve.

## Stop Wallowing in the Pigpen

Although the prodigal son came to himself, many people do not. Or they take an extremely long time to do so. I know people who were once on fire for God but are now wallowing in the

WITH GOD BY YOUR SIDE,  
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO  
GET PAST EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE.

pigpen—and have been for decades. They are doing only what's needed to get by. Many are so used to living with "pigs" that it's not even a big deal to them anymore.

I'm talking about people with a call of God on their lives. They let resentment or a wrong belief into their hearts, and it changed their destiny. Some are in jail. Others are atheists and want nothing to do with God. They are in the pigpen.

I know other people who look like a million bucks on the outside, but inside they are hurting like crazy. They are in the mud mentally. They may have rededicated their lives to God, but they have banished themselves to the pigpen. They think they don't deserve anything better because of what they did in the past.

The truth is, Christianity is not about what we deserve. If it were, we would all be dead because of our sins (Eph. 2:1). We see in Ephesians 2:4–5 that together with Christ, God made us alive! Jesus took our punishment—what we deserved—and gave us His love, joy, health, and peace.

## It's Not Too Late

We've all been in pigpen situations. But we don't have to stay there! We can get out. God is able and willing to take us out of whatever we've put ourselves into. I don't care how bad it seems.





## You Can Be Free

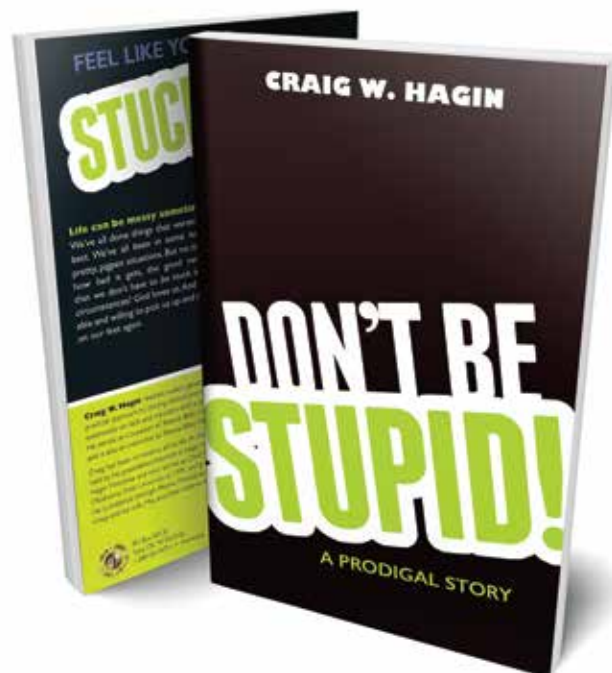
Have you banished yourself to the pigpen? No matter where you've been or where you are now, you can turn to God. He loves you and is waiting for you with open arms. Here are some Bible verses that tell of His love. Read and speak them aloud every day.

*"O Lord, you are so good, so ready to forgive, so full of unfailing love for all who ask for your help" (Psalm 86:5 NLT).*

*"The Lord your God is with you, . . . He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing." (Zephaniah 3:17 NIV).*

## Feeling Stuck?

Are you feeling stuck with no way out? Look to Jesus! He is able and willing to pick you up and set you on your feet again!



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God has provided a way for us. Someone may say, "I've messed up my life so badly, it can't get any better. God doesn't want me." Stop listening to the devil's lies!

The reason your life is a mess is that the devil is out to destroy you. He wants to steal your life from you (John 10:10). He wants you to think you deserve to stay in the pigpen for the rest of your days. He may even try to tell you to end your life—that your life is worthless.

Your life is not worthless! It can sometimes feel as if you're in a situation where you can't get back up. You may feel as though you're too far from God and no one can help you. However, the Bible says God loves you unconditionally. Nothing can separate you from His love (Rom. 8:38–39).

Now, it is possible for you to separate yourself from the Lord because you feel unworthy. Have you ever said or thought, "This is what I deserve," or "God is doing this to punish me"? That is a mud-pit mentality. That kind of thinking keeps you away from God and wallowing in the mud with the pigs.

The truth is, your Heavenly Father is always there for you. He isn't trying to punish you. No matter what you've done—even if you have a long laundry list of sins—you can come boldly to His throne (Heb. 4:16), knowing He won't reject you. After all, that's why Jesus came (John 3:16). God never stopped loving the world, even when it wouldn't accept Him. And He has never stopped loving you.

### The Father's Love

We see the unconditional love God has for us in the story of the prodigal son. When he began his journey back home, the young man thought he would become a servant. After all, he had disowned his father and the entire family. But the father ran to his son when he saw him. He didn't give him the position of a servant; he reinstated him as a son.

Our Father God is the same way. When we come back to Him—or when we finally give all our issues to Him—He runs to meet us. He says, "I'm glad you're back. You're not going to live as a servant. You're going to live as a son or daughter."

There's nothing like coming back to our Father! We've all had pigpen experiences. Where everything goes wrong and nothing seems right. But when we come back to Him, He welcomes us with open arms.

### See Yourself as God Sees You

See yourself the way God sees you. He doesn't see you as a loser. He sees you as someone who is more than a conqueror in Christ.

Jesus didn't die on the cross for a worthless person. He didn't die the way He did for you to be depressed or so the devil could whip you every day. Jesus gave His life so you could have an abundant life.

If you've fallen, who cares? It's time to rise and shake off the mud-pit mentality! Come to yourself! Decide today to live differently. God wants you to get up. He loves you and is right there, ready to help you.

No matter what the people around you say, your Heavenly Father accepts you. He says you're worthy. Turn to Him. With God by your side, you have everything you need to get past everything you've done. ♥

# 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)

## DON'T WORRY

**I AM ALARMED** at the increased number of people who are dealing with anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts. Stress and worry have become a way of life for many, including Christians. In a time when modern conveniences should eliminate stress, it appears they have enhanced the situation. Stress and worry try to devour the peace and happiness of everyone they touch. They are major contributors to heart attacks, high blood pressure, ulcers, and a lot of other medical issues. They drain energy from the body and mind.

Various studies show that 40 percent of what people worry about never happen; 30 percent are in the past and can't be changed; 12 percent are from criticism by others, most of which is untrue; 10 percent are from health, which gets worse with worry; and only 8 percent are from real problems. So 92 percent of what we worry about either doesn't happen, is not true, or cannot be changed. Someone said, "Worry is the interest you pay on troubles that seldom come."

Have you ever kept a worry log? Make a list of everything you worry about for seven days. Notice how little or no control you have over most of your concerns. Worry is faith in the negative. It is a belief in defeat. It has been said, "Worry is wasting today's time to clutter up tomorrow's opportunities with yesterday's troubles." Erma Bombeck said, "Worry is like a rocking chair—it gives you something to do but doesn't get you anywhere."

Let's look at what scripture says about worry. *"That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn't life more than food, and your body more than clothing? Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren't you far more valuable to him than they are? Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?"*

*"And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?"*

*"So don't worry about these things, saying, 'What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?' These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need" (Matt. 6:25–33 NLT).*

In this passage, the Lord is not *suggesting* that you do not worry—He is giving a direct command. His instructions are specific. Jesus said anxiety, worry, and fear have no place in your life.

However, I'm sure that many of us would admit to struggling with the cares of life. Has anyone ever told you not to worry when you were describing a situation to them? You probably replied, "That's easier said than done." In life's journey, a hard piece of luggage to shed is worry. It is a tough habit to break.

An example of how to handle worry is found in Philippians 4:4–7 (NLT): *"Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon. Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."*

When Paul wrote these words, he was a prisoner in Rome, chained 24 hours a day to a Roman soldier and facing possible execution. He had a marvelous opportunity to be worried, but he said to **REJOICE!**

I encourage you to replace worry with joy. Why can you rejoice? Because God will bring you out of any difficult situation or decision you might face. As Paul so aptly said: "You are more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:37).♥

*Lynette*





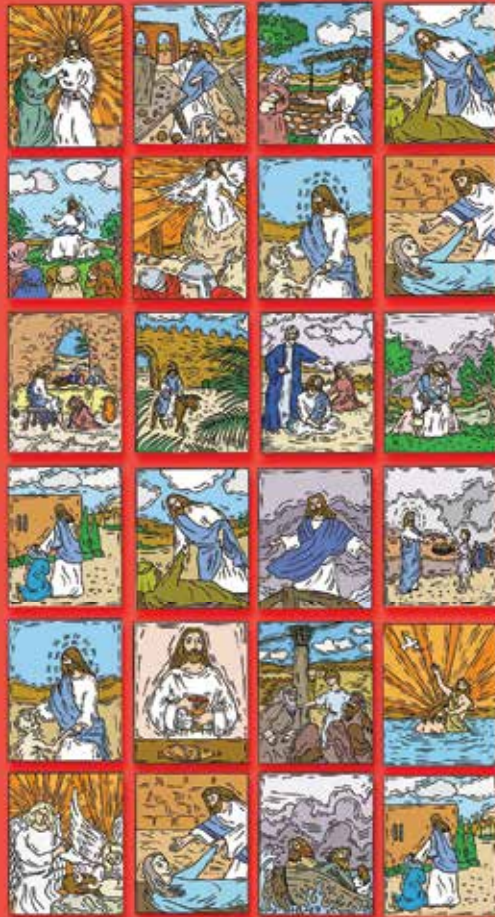


# Kids' Page

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

## FIND THE PAIRS!

See how many matching pairs of pictures you can find below. When you have found the matching pairs, see if you can figure out what topic the pairs have in common.



## WHAT MADE THEM WELL?

Read the three accounts of healing below and see if you can figure out what two words are missing.

**Mark 10:51-52**—And answering him, Jesus said, "What do you want Me to do for you?" And the blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, I want to regain my sight!" And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; \_\_\_\_\_ has made you well."

**Luke 8:47-48**—And when the woman saw that she had not escaped notice, she came trembling and fell down before Him, and declared in the presence of all the people the reason why she had touched Him, and how she had been immediately healed. And He (Jesus) said to her, "Daughter, \_\_\_\_\_ has made you well."

**Luke 17:15-19**—Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His (Jesus') feet, giving thanks to Him. . . . And He (Jesus) said to him, "Rise, and go your way; \_\_\_\_\_ has made you well."



Only one of these answers is the correct answer to fill in the blanks above. Which one is it?

- A. GOD'S POWER C. YOUR FAITH  
B. GOD'S GRACE D. GOOD WORKS

## MATCH-UP

How much do you know about Jesus' healing ministry? Match the people below with the way that they were healed.

- Blind man of Bethsaida ○ Jesus laid hands on them  
Crowd at Peter's house ○ Jesus used his spit  
Deaf man of Decapolis ○ Touched Jesus' clothes  
People of Gennesaret ○ Jesus used clay  
Man born blind ○  
Woman with issue of blood ○

## jokes & riddles



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

Why couldn't the pony sing with the choir?

**Because he was a "little hoarse" (horse)**

**Johnny:** Hey Sam, can you come out to play?

**Sam:** No, my Mom grounded me because I was dribbling balls in the house.

**Johnny:** Wow, your Mom sure is tough!

**Sam:** Well, they were meatballs!

Why did the bicycle quit the race?

**Because it was too tired (two-tired)**

It's raining outside and all the windows in the house are tightly shut, yet one curtain still gets wet . . . why is this?

**Because it's the shower curtain**

What do you get when you cross a rooster with an owl?

**A cock-a-doodle-who!**

What ball still works fine even with three holes in it?

**A bowling ball**

## A-mazing Healing

Draw a line to mark your way through the maze below. Challenge a friend to see who can do it the fastest!



start here

finish here

**ANSWERS:**

**WHAT MADE THEM WELL?**  
• Answer: YOUR FAITH

**FIND THE PAIRS!**  
THERE ARE FOUR MATCHING PAIRS AND THEY ALL SHOW JESUS HEALING SOMEONE.

**MATCH-UP**

1. BLIND MAN OF BETHSAIDA—JESUS LAID HANDS ON HIM AND USED HIS SPIT—MARK 8:23  
2. CROWD AT PETER'S HOUSE—JESUS LAID HANDS ON THEM—LUKE 4:40  
3. DEAF MAN OF DECAPOLIS—JESUS LAID HANDS ON HIM AND USED HIS SPIT—MARK 7:32-33  
4. PEOPLE OF GENNESARET—TOUCHED JESUS' CLOTHES—MARK 6:56  
5. MAN BORN BLIND—JESUS USED BOTH SPIT AND CLAY—JOHN 9:6  
6. WOMAN WITH ISSUE OF BLOOD—TOUCHED JESUS' CLOTHES—LUKE 8:44





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# SUNDAY, MAY 5

**Supporting Rhema—Reaching the World!**

TO PLAN YOUR RHEMA DAY, VISIT [RHEMA.ORG/IRD](http://RHEMA.ORG/IRD)  
OR CALL 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484).

Dear Friend,

Countless people still have not heard what Jesus Christ has done for them. By working together, we can reach many more lives for Christ! *International Rhema Day* is on **May 5**. On that day, will you support Rhema Bible Training College with your prayers and financial gifts? Your gifts make it possible to train students to go around the world and preach the Good News. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for your generosity!

*Kenneth E. Hagin*

