



THE Word of Faith

JUNE/JULY 2019

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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Nothing

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GOD

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The Godly Father

Whether in life or in memory, godly fathers teach and train us how to live pleasing to our Heavenly Father. Thankfully, I've had several examples in my life, including my father, the late Kenneth E. Hagin, and my father-in-law, the late V.E. Tipton.

Embedded in the letters f-a-t-h-e-r are the characteristics of a godly father.

F—Faithful. A godly father is faithful, honors his marriage vows, and protects his children. He is fully committed to his Heavenly Father.

A—Affectionate. A godly father's love for his children is evident. His affection instills faith and security in his kids. When children know their dad will be there for them, they are confident in his love. In times of need, they won't hesitate to go to him.

T—Trustworthy. As a godly father teaches his children biblical principles and moral values by being an example for them to follow, he develops trust and faithfulness in them. The more children trust their father, the more confidence they have in trusting God.

H—Honorable. A godly father is honest and meets his obligations promptly. In doing so, he protects the integrity of his family's name. As he lives a life of integrity, he lays a path for his children to walk honorably before the Lord.

E—Energetic. A godly father is not idle or lazy. He is busy providing for his family. He spends time with his kids and pays attention to them. He also teaches his children—by example—to actively help others and not be consumed with their needs.

R—Rewarded. A godly father is rewarded. By raising his children in the ways of God, he is rewarded by seeing them mature and achieve success.

I challenge all fathers to be godly fathers. Keep in mind that there may be children around you who do not have fathers to look up to. Be an example for them.

We have a great magazine for you this month. You won't want to miss a single page.

Kenneth W. Hagin

PS. Happy Independence Day to those of you in the U.S., and happy Canada Day to our northern neighbors.



THIS ISSUE



4 Nothing CRAIG W. HAGIN

Get ready to shout about "nothing!" These four Bible-based nothings will change your life.

8 Refresh & Restore KENNETH W. HAGIN

The master restorer is looking for situations He can repair and lives He can fix—things He can change just for you!

20 For This Cause KENNETH E. HAGIN

Why is there sickness and premature death in the church when we have been redeemed? God tells us exactly why in His Word.

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Special Report

When God speaks, Phillip and Linda Trent listen. Read how a lifestyle of giving and obeying God has led to favor in every area of their lives.

NOTHING

THE BIBLE HAS a lot to say about nothing! If you look it up in the concordance, *nothing* is listed 225 times in the *King James Bible*. I found out why it's called *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*—you get tired of counting how many times “nothing” appears! All kidding aside, I want to tell you about four nothings that can change your life.

1 NOTHING IS GREATER THAN GOD. 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.*” In math, the $>$ symbol means “greater than.” Whether the mathematical statement is $8 > 4$ or $9 > 3$, one number is always greater than another. Although infinity is not a number, the largest number known to man isn't greater than infinity. But infinity is not bigger than God!

No matter what you're facing, nothing is greater than God. AIDS is not greater. Cancer is not greater. It's a good equation to use throughout life. When you put God in the mix, He is more powerful than everything in the entire universe.

GOD > AIDS

GOD > CANCER

GOD > DEVIL

GOD > ANY PROBLEM

Some Christians talk as though the problem is greater: “My head hurts. I'm tired. I can't sleep. The devil's been on my back!” Quit talking about the devil.



CRAIG W. HAGIN

We need to get a hold of how awesome God is. He's omnipresent. He's omnipotent. He's omniscient. He's every omni you can think of! *Omni* means “all.” He is all. He is everything you need. He is greater than any situation you may go through. Remember the equation: God $>$ anything.

2 NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOD. Luke 1:37 says, “*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*” And Luke 18:27 says, “*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*” If you are in what feels like a hopeless situation, God can get you out. He can work the impossible!

People think the devil is big, but next to God, he is a little shrimp. Never forget how big your Heavenly Father is and how He wants to meet your needs. He can deliver you from *any* situation you get into. God is a *big* God! Anyone can get off track and mess up. But God can work miracles! Even if the situation looks horrible, He makes a way out possible.



WHEN YOU PUT GOD
IN THE MIX, HE IS
MORE POWERFUL THAN
*anything in the
universe.*

Confessions About Nothing

What challenges are you facing? Speak the confessions below and trust God to see you through.

There is nothing greater than God! He is greater than (my challenge)!

Nothing is impossible with God. He is making a way for (my challenge) in my life.

I have nothing to worry about. I cast the care of (my challenge) over on God.

Without God, I am nothing. Thank You, Father, for everything!

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IMPOSSIBLE

With God, there is no such thing as an impossibility! Stick with Him, and He will turn your situation around.



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Think about Moses marching toward the Promised Land with the children of Israel. When they reached the Red Sea, the people were afraid. But Moses told everyone to be still and watch the Lord deliver them. When Moses extended his rod toward the sea, it split, and they walked across a dry riverbed! (See Exodus 14.)

The situation for the Israelites looked impossible. But God is an impossible-working God. He made a way of escape for them. Their enemies did not have God on their side and drowned. Your Heavenly Father is always greater. He always has the winning team. Nothing is impossible with Him, and He is never limited! You only need to have faith and trust in Him.

3

WITH GOD, WE HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

Philippians 4:6–7 says, “Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” That means you don’t need to worry about your problems.

Too many Christians carry burdens. They worry about everything even though First Peter 5:7 says to cast your care upon the Lord. God said He would meet your needs, so quit carrying them around. Let *Him* take care of your needs.

I have shown you that nothing is bigger than God is or impossible for Him to do. There is no need to worry about anything. So give your cares to the Lord and go about your business.

Hospitals care for people who have worried themselves into nervous breakdowns. God doesn’t worry about your problems, so why are you? I don’t care what it is or how bad it appears, quit worrying and start fresh. God is on your side. He will bring you through.

4

WITHOUT GOD, WE ARE NOTHING. You are a vessel your Heavenly Father works through. All Christians are equal in His eyes. No one is better than anyone else.

Don’t get a “big head” over what God has done for you. Be thankful instead.

I graduated from Oklahoma State University. The school’s mascot, “Pistol Pete,” has a head almost as big as his body! Whenever he walks around, he has to be careful.

He’s so top heavy he might topple over. Likewise, if we get big heads, we can fall! God is the one we live for. He is the one who provides for us. We need to praise Him for everything we have.

Sometimes there is a lot of “gimme” and not enough thanksgiving! Let’s get away from the “I” mentality and get over to the “God” mentality. He is important, not you or me. Look at what He has done! Make Him number one. Quit having a big head and remember that without the Lord, you are nothing. It’s all God, and only through Him are you something.

Our Heavenly Father gave us the Word. It will hold us steady during adversity. But if we don’t know what it says, we can’t put into practice the promises contained in it. Let’s remember these four “nothings.” It’s because of them that we can accomplish anything!♥

Are all things really possible? Yes!
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[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Craig’s first sermon as associate pastor of Rhema Bible Church in 1993.]



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Who You Really Are

LYNETTE HAGIN

WHEN YOU LOOK into a mirror, what do you see? Most people answer by naming different physical features. But look a little deeper. What do you see on the inside? To be all God called you to be, look into the mirror of your life. As you do, you will discover who you really are and what needs to change.

Often, we can easily see where others need to change. Instead of looking at others, we should look at ourselves. Mirrors show everything.

THE MIRROR OF OUR LIFE REVEALS OUR THOUGHTS, ACTIONS, INTENTS, AND AGENDAS. It's important to find out who we really are and allow the Lord to show us where to make adjustments.

Have you ever been in a house of mirrors at an amusement park? Those mirrors distort our reflections. Sometimes we look tall and thin. In other mirrors, we appear short and fat.

In the same way, the view we have of our inner selves is distorted depending on the "mirror" we look in. Here are four different mirrors we view ourselves through.

Hazy Mirrors

When a mirror becomes hazy, it's usually the result of residue buildup. We can't see things as they really are. Spiritually speaking, this residue looks like pride, strife, unforgiveness, jealousy, and gossip. It can also manifest as thinking more highly of ourselves than we should or having a judgmental attitude.

The Bible tells us to be conformed into God's image (Rom. 8:29). If we see any of these ungodly attitudes, **WE NEED TO CLEAN THE DIRT OFF OUR MIRROR SO WE CAN REFLECT CHRIST'S CHARACTERISTICS IN ALL WE SAY AND DO.**

Tiny Mirrors

Most women carry small mirrors in their purses. But because of its size, we only see what we want to see. Our mothers may have said, "Honey, you need to get that smudge off your face," and handed you her mirror. No doubt, you looked and tried to fix it. But if you couldn't wipe it off or you *didn't want* to fix it, you probably ignored it or covered it up.

We sometimes ignore certain "smudges"—attitudes or habits—because we don't want to change. **BUT IF WE DON'T ALLOW THE LORD TO SPEAK TO US, IT RESULTS IN SIN OR A WEIGHT.** Refusing to examine ourselves and make adjustments keeps us from fulfilling God's plan and living the abundant life He has for us.

Broken Mirrors

Sometimes mirrors become cracked, and we can't see ourselves because of the broken pieces. It's impossible to get beyond past mistakes and hurts if that is what we always look at. The Bible tells us to forget "the past and look to what lies ahead" (Phil. 3:13).

Most people have been wronged or experienced rejection. Some have suffered abuse as a child or an adult. As long as we keep dwelling on these situations, the wounds will stay open. We will remain a victim and never become a victor. **WE CAN'T CONTINUALLY LOOK IN A SHATTERED MIRROR AND MOVE FORWARD.** Is it hard to forgive? Yes, absolutely. But Paul tells us to "*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*" (Phil. 4:8 NLT).

The Mirror of God's Word

Mirrors reflect light. As Christians, the light of God's Word should be what reflects in our mirrors. Psalm 119:105 (NLT) says, "*Your word is a lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path.*"

If our lives aren't going in the right direction, maybe we have let the wrong light shine on us. Perhaps we are reflecting images we have watched through television, movies, social media, or secular music. People's opinions and the demands of life may have become our light instead of the One Who is Light.

God wants us to have more than a revelation of Christ. He wants us *to be* a reflection of Him. Let's allow the light of the Word to reflect from our mirrors. Let it correct areas in our lives so God's light fills us, and we become a light to the world.♥



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It's important to find out who we really are and allow the Lord to show us where to make adjustments.

REFRESH AND RESTORE

EVERYTHING EXPERIENCES WEAR and tear. Over time, things need to be replaced, updated, repaired, renovated, or restored. This is also true with spiritual things.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

Ephesians 5:18 tells us to “*be filled with the Spirit*.” That word “be” means “be being.” Verse 18 can, therefore, be read, “be being filled with the Spirit.” In other words, we are to experience continual renewal. If we don’t, we will dry up!

It’s easy to tell when Christians have “dried up” and need revival in their spiritual lives. Their joy seems to be gone. The devil runs all over them, and they do nothing about it! When it comes to victory or what God did for them, they seem to only talk about the good old days.

God did wonderful things in the past, and He will do it again today! Let’s look at what the Bible says about times of restoration.

ACTS 3:19–21 (NKJV)

19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord,

20 and that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before,

21 whom heaven must receive until the **times of restoration of all things**, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began.

According to these verses, God is saying that through Jesus, He will restore everything He promised to mankind. We tap into that when we repent and are converted to Christ. This passage also talks about times of refreshing. Notice the word “times” is not singular. It’s plural, so it means more than once. *Times of refreshing* come from the presence of the Lord (v. 19), and verse 21 talks about *times of restoration* of all things. We need to expect continual refreshing and restoration. That’s what the Holy Spirit wants to do in our lives!

Peter stated in these verses that refreshing and restoration would happen between Christ’s ascension and His second coming. That means times of refreshing should occur throughout the church age until Jesus comes again. Whenever we talk about the “church,” we



IF HE RESTORED
IN BIBLE DAYS,
HE CAN DO IT
AGAIN *today*.

are referring to the *ecclesia*, the called-out ones. That means *you and me*. This is supposed to be happening in our lives!

Now Is Your Time!

We can rejoice in this! We are living at the right time to experience God’s promise to refresh and restore us continually. Everything God is doing in the earth since Jesus came is to further His plans of restoration. We play a part in it! God has a purpose for each of us to carry out while we are here. *Expect* times of refreshing and restoration with the Spirit of God.

God wants to restore everything Satan has stolen from us. We can go through a lot in our lives—bad, tragic, and traumatic events happen to people. But we can put our trust in God. He will bring restoration.

JOEL 2:23–26 (NKJV)

23 Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for He has given you the former rain faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you—the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Don't let the devil tell you it's over.

24 The threshing floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with new wine and oil.

25 So **I will restore to you** the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, My great army which I sent among you.

26 You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, Who has dealt wondrously with you; and My people shall never be put to shame.

Everything will be restored! That is not only for the Israelites. If you are born again, then you are Abraham's seed and an heir to those promises (Gal. 3:29). We are adopted into the family, and therefore, we are the spiritual children of Zion (Rom. 8:12–17). As we trust God and stand in faith, He will continue to work until His promises are fulfilled in our lives. And if God ever fixed something once, He can fix it again!

God Will Do It Again

The devil may have brought chaos and messed up your life. You may feel ruined. Your heart may feel so shattered it looks unrepairable. But if you will commit your heart and life into the hands of the master restorer, He will put it back together again.

When He's done, you won't even be able to tell it was broken!

God wants to come in and restore everything. He *can* repair all situations. He can even fix you! He has not forsaken you.

He has not turned against you. If He restored in Bible days, He

can do it again today. God will *always* make a way where there seems to be no way.

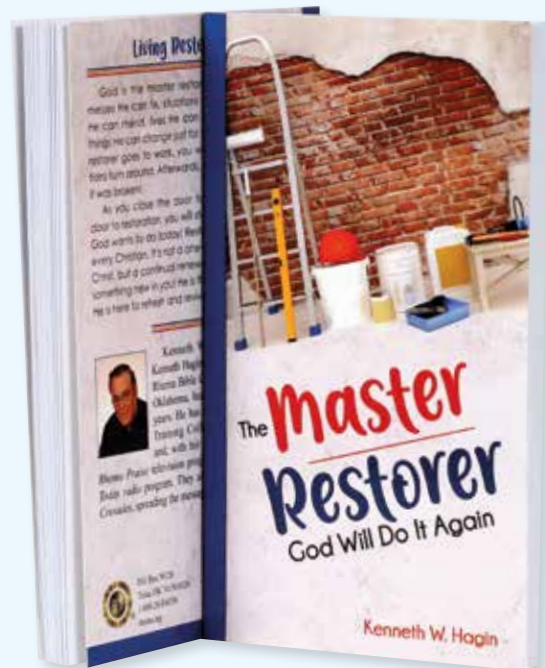
Don't let the devil tell you it's over. God is the master restorer. He is looking for messes He can fix, situations He can repair, hearts He can mend, lives He can put back together—things He can change *just for you!* ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from *The Master Restorer* by Kenneth W. Hagin.]

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How to Reap a Financial Harvest

KENNETH E. HAGIN



A LAW OF sowing and reaping exists in the natural and spiritual realms. Second Corinthians 9:6 says, *“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.”* It’s a law that works. But many believers have not understood the importance of this biblical principle, especially in the area of finances.

We know we can receive our needs met by faith in God’s Word just as we can receive healing or any other blessing found in God’s Word.

We can also be blessed materially through a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. An example of this is the widow woman in the Old Testament. God spoke to her through the prophet Elijah. Although a famine was in the land, her oil cruse kept pouring oil and the meal barrel kept giving her meal (1 Kings 17:16). For her, that was just as good as having money.

That was a supernatural manifestation. **WHEN WE FAITHFULLY OBEY GOD AND SOW SEED, WE CAN**

RECEIVE SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATIONS IN THE AREA OF FINANCES.

The manifestations of the Holy Spirit, however, are as *He* wills. We can’t *make* them happen. But whether there is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit or not, we always have the Word to act on.

Planting Seed

There’s another side to faith in God’s Word for finances. We can’t reap a crop naturally or supernaturally without *sowing* seed. If we haven’t *planted* tomatoes in our backyard, we can’t say, “I’m going to pick some tomatoes.”

If a farmer hasn’t plowed a field and planted cotton seed, he can’t say, “I’m going to pick cotton tomorrow.” If cotton hasn’t been planted, he is not going to pick any cotton!

People often miss it in this area when it comes to faith for finances. They want God to bless them, and it’s amazing how He’ll have mercy on them and help them sometimes. But oftentimes, they’re trying to

exercise faith principles to reap a crop when nothing has been planted!

Faith for Finances

From my experience throughout my many years of preaching faith, I think more people fail when it comes to faith for finances than anything else. The reason is that they’re trying to exercise faith, but they haven’t planted any seed.

Luke 6:38 tells us, *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”*

Let’s look again at our first scripture.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6

6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

There is a law of sowing and reaping that many believers have yet to tap into. As a result, they have not prospered in the way God wants them to. If we want to receive a bountiful crop, we have to sow bountifully. So let’s be faithful to obey the Word by paying our tithes and giving offerings. And let’s **BE OBEDIENT TO THE LEADING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AS HE DIRECTS US SPECIFICALLY TO GIVE.** We can’t out-give God. If we sow seeds bountifully in faith and obedience, we will reap a bountiful harvest! 🍷

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *Biblical Keys to Financial Prosperity*.]

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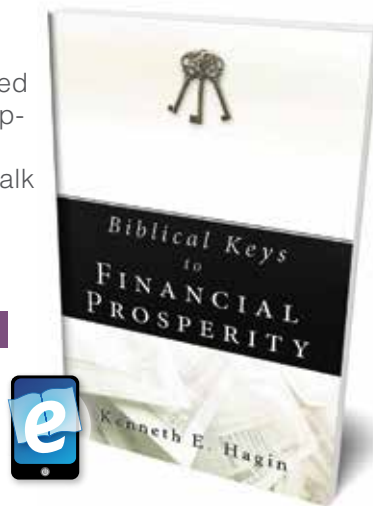
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“The Holy Spirit will cause the Word to come alive inside us and empower us to speak it out and walk it out. Then it will start to materialize in our lives.”

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“It is God’s will for us to run our race to win. There will be some battles and hindrances but keep running no matter what. Be in it to win it!” **// DARRELL HUFFMAN**

“The Holy Spirit moves based on what you say. If you say what you see, you will see what you say. Confession builds a road over which your faith carries its mighty cargo.”

// DAVID SHEARIN

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The **Cost** of Freedom

KENNETH W. HAGIN



A **HIGH PRICE** has been paid for the natural freedom we experience in the U.S. and the spiritual freedom all Christians share. As we celebrate Independence Day next month, I want us to remember all our service men and women who are still in harm's way, protecting and fighting for freedom. But let's not forget that Jesus Christ paid a price as well.

Since the fall of Adam, Satan has ruled the spirits of men and women with an iron hand, keeping humanity in his clutches. **BUT JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS OF CALVARY TO SET MANKIND FREE FROM THE BONDAGE OF THE DEVIL AND SIN.**

It is now up to us to live in the freedom that Jesus purchased for us. Galatians 5:1 (NIV) says, *"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."* Every day should be a celebration of our spiritual freedom.

On the Fourth of July, we celebrate our nation's natural freedom. Many families spend the day enjoying the outdoors. But a tremendous sacrifice was required for the liberty we enjoy.

The greatness of this nation is determined by what we the people are willing to give. Throughout our history, brave men and women gave their lives for the cause of freedom—on the shores of Normandy, in the waters at Pearl Harbor, and in the sands of the Middle East to name a few. Beginning with the American Revolution through today, over 19 million men and women have died so you and I could live in freedom.

We must not forget those who fought for our independence. And we must continue to honor and respect our veterans and those who still fight for freedom. As

THE GREATNESS OF THIS NATION IS DETERMINED BY WHAT WE THE PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO GIVE.



you watch fireworks on the Fourth, take time to think about the cost of freedom. And thank God for those who have given so much so you can live free.

And let's not forget that Jesus' blood flowed down Golgotha's Hill more than 2,000 years ago. It is still flowing today, offering spiritual freedom for anyone willing to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior. ♥

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OBEDIENCE BRINGS BLESSINGS

PHILLIP AND
LINDA TRENT



FOR YEARS, Phillip Trent ('84) drove his tractor up and down the lush fields on his beautiful Kentucky farm. He loved farming, but he had an insatiable hunger for something more. Long hours working the land provided many opportunities for solitude and reflection. The Lord ministered to him daily, intimately revealing His Word.



TRENT FAMILY FARM

One afternoon, leaning back against a tree in the woods, Phillip wondered if he was a fool. Having never heard the revelation he was receiving from God, he wasn't sure if he was really hearing from the Lord. "What do I do, Lord?" he asked. He heard, "Go to Rhema."

Clueless as to what "rhema" was, Phillip called a friend who was well studied

in the things of God. "*Rhema* means a spoken word," said his friend. "There's also a Bible school called Rhema." Phillip's heart leapt with excitement—God wanted *him* to go to school!

Hearing and Obeying

Phillip and his wife, Linda, sold their farm and headed to Oklahoma with two teenagers and a newborn in tow. They knew God would provide if they listened to Him. "The Lord told me to break the rearview mirrors out of my life and go forward," says Phillip. As a sign of his obedience, he took a ball-peen hammer and knocked the rearview mirror out of his truck.

At Rhema, the Lord confirmed everything He taught Phillip on the farm. "When Dad Hagin would speak, it was like God was speaking to me," recalls Phillip. At the end of his first year, the Lord gave him clear instructions: move back to Kentucky immediately and start a church. The first Sunday the Trent family returned, they started Immanuel Ministry Church in an old, run-down building without bathrooms or running water.

Even when it seemed as though they had nothing to give, they obeyed God and were determined to be generous givers. "We started over 30 years ago giving \$25 a month as Rhema Word Partner Club members, which was more than we made preaching," says Phillip. "We wanted to give into a place with fertile soil that would bring back a harvest because we needed it. You can't believe God for finances if you're not involved in His way of giving."

When God told Phillip to go into full-time ministry, he was unsure how his family would get by financially. He knew, however, that blessing was tied to obedience. "My responsibility was to obey God," says Phillip. "The best way to take care of my family was to do what God told me."

Soon after, someone gave Phillip a check for \$25,000. He used it to start the church's building fund. That year, the church's income increased by 138 percent! Instead of experiencing lack, it was a season of tremendous blessing and prosperity!

The Trents continued giving and taking care of the church. It began to grow. In 1996, they broke ground on a new building on six acres of land they bought next to the old building. It was a 12-year, \$1.6 million building project. Today, the church is debt free!

"The Lord told me if I would build His house, He would build mine. So we did, and He's built our house and paid for it!" shares Phillip.

If you don't hear God's voice, stop what you're doing, get in His presence, and learn to hear His voice. That's the secret to success.



FEEDING THE HUNGRY: FROM THE ABUNDANCE OF THE HART FOOD BANK



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



of much-needed jobs and commerce into the county. And the ungodly curriculum that tried to infiltrate their school system has been removed. People depend on the ministry for both spiritual and physical sustenance. Since 2000, IMC has operated a food bank that feeds 500 families a month and has distributed over 3 million pounds of food. Like the radio and television ministries, the food for the program is paid for in advance every year by generous donors.

It's all a part of what the Lord spoke to Phillip at *Campmeeting* years ago: "Get ready, get ready! Get ready for the outpouring that shall come to your area. Build, build, build. People, people, buildings. Take this region for me." That's exactly what the Trents have done. Immanuel Ministry Church is now well known and received in the community of Hart County, Kentucky. Through their ministry, God is building up the small, rural area for His purpose.

Miracles and Success

One time Phillip had a recurring vision of a woman. While visiting his mother at the hospital, he saw the woman from the vision. Phillip approached, made small talk, and asked if everything was okay. The woman said she was visiting a loved one. She began crying when Phillip told her he had a word from the Lord for her. Phillip assured her that God heard her prayer and had forgiven her. And He wanted her to forgive herself and move on. Phillip ended by saying she would remarry and have a family.

Years later, the woman spotted Phillip at an event. She reintroduced herself and told him she had remarried and introduced her two children. She shared with Phillip that he saved her from committing suicide. The woman confessed she had lied to him the night they met. She was not visiting a loved one in the hospital. She planned to shoot herself there because if she fired and didn't die, she would receive medical attention.

Phillip attributes his success to hearing and obeying God. He says, "When you hear God's voice, do what He says. It's simple. Just follow the leader."

As the Trents have faithfully followed God, they have seen His favor in every area of their lives. Phillip shares, "Every time I've needed to know something, God spoke to me. If you don't hear His voice, stop what you're doing, get in His presence, and learn to hear His voice. That's the secret to success. God is extremely intelligent. If you can hear His voice, He'll make you look pretty smart."♥

IMMANUEL MINISTRY CHURCH CHRISTMAS PARADE



Take This Region

Over the years, the Trents have faced backlash and skepticism over what they believed and taught. "The word of faith is still taboo in our community," says Linda. But through an unwavering commitment to intercessory prayer and preaching the truth, they are seeing the tide turn. "We've seen how prayer changes things and to stand and not be moved by anything other than God," says Phillip.

One reason for the community's change of thinking is due to the Trent's *IMC* radio program, which has aired for 22 years. God instructed Phillip to use radio to dispel the myths people had about what they taught. The radio program was a way for individuals who would never visit their church to hear the Word. The cost of the program is paid for in advance every year by a single donor.

Television ministry was never on Phillip's radar, but God had other plans. One day a woman saw Phillip being interviewed on the local TV station. She called to tell him he should consider preaching on TV. Uninterested, Phillip didn't give it a second thought. Months later, she called again and said, "If you do the preaching, I'll do the paying." The *I Am Alive* TV program has been going strong for 11 years. The woman, a non-church member, sends a check every year that covers the entire cost of the broadcast.

Immanuel Ministry Church has become a beacon of light to the region. Through intercessory prayer, there has been an influx

To **LEARN MORE** about Phillip and Linda Trent, visit iamky.org.

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*Starting college is the easy part.
Let us help you finish strong.*

family outside the classroom," says Christy Wicks, Rhema Bible Training College Recruitment Administrator. "We not only want the students to leave here with what God has for them but also with connections and strong friendships. So wherever God takes them, they have people to lean on."

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*"I met my **best friend**
in my circle group!
And made many other
life-long friendships.
We're always checking
in on each other.
We are like family!"
—Christina*





Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin



For This Cause

IN THE 11TH chapter of First Corinthians, Paul wrote to the Church about the Lord's Supper:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:27-29

27 Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

29 For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

Notice that Paul made statements about eating and drinking unworthily. That is not the word *unworthy*. The blood of Jesus Christ made us worthy. *Unworthily* refers to the attitude or manner in which we partake of the Lord's Supper.

Paul goes on to say, "*For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep*" (v. 30). This verse shows us why sickness is in the church. As far as I can ascertain, this is the only cause the Bible gives for believers being sick.

Discern the Lord's Body

The Holy Spirit is speaking through the apostle Paul: "*For this cause*." He didn't say "these causes" (plural) but "this cause" (singular). The verse goes on to say, "*many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep*." The word weak implies physical weakness and sleep refers to bodies asleep in the grave. He infers they were "sleeping" or died prematurely.

IF WE DON'T SEE OR UNDERSTAND WHAT
JESUS' DEATH ON THE CROSS ACCOMPLISHED,
IT WON'T BENEFIT US.

What is the cause? Not rightly discerning the Lord's body. *Discern* means "to see." If we don't see or understand what Jesus' death on the cross accomplished, it won't benefit us. The Communion wafer represents Jesus' broken body. He was bruised on Calvary for our physical ailments. By not understanding this, we can take Communion and *still* be sick and die prematurely!

There is a further thought here. The Lord's body today is the Church. Jesus is the head, and we are the body. Every born again Christian—whether they are members of our particular fellowship or of another church—is a member of Christ's body. We must love one another, or we will bring condemnation upon ourselves. The fewer Christians who walk in love, the more sickness will be in the church.

Judge Yourself

Notice what Paul says in verse 31: "*For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged*." In other words, if we are doing wrong, we need to judge our actions or words. Confess, "I've sinned. I did wrong. Forgive me."

One time when Jesus appeared to me in an open vision, He said, "I'll judge you quicker on spiritual sins than I will on physical sins." God sees our hearts. If we judge ourselves, we will not be judged.

Throughout the Old Testament, God told Israel to walk in His statutes and keep His commandments. If they obeyed Him, He would take sickness away from them, and they would fulfill the number of their days. In the New Testament, Jesus gave us a new commandment—love one another.

God is the same now as He ever was. His attitude toward sin hasn't changed under the new covenant. If God didn't want people to be well or live long on the earth, He wouldn't have told them how to do it, would He?

God does not want His children to be sick or die prematurely. He made provision for health and long life. That's the reason the Holy Spirit told Paul to write: *"For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged."*

BY NOT UNDERSTANDING THIS, WE CAN TAKE COMMUNION AND STILL BE SICK AND DIE PREMATURELY. More than once, the Lord has said, "Don't pray for them. They are going to die." In one case I said, "You promised us at least 70 or 80 years. They're not even 70 years old yet. Why are they going to die?" He said, "I've been waiting on him 36 years to judge himself and put away sin. His house is in order, and he's ready to come home. He will never have a better time to die than now. Leave him alone and let him come on home."

Think about the patience of God—waiting all that time for someone to get right with Him!

One time the Lord talked to me about a young preacher who died and said, "He wouldn't judge himself." Some folks get disturbed about that and say, "That blows up the theory of divine healing." Divine healing is not a theory; it's a fact. The facts of God's Word still stand. The Lord didn't put sickness on anyone. Scriptures tell us it's by Jesus' stripes we were healed (1 Pet. 2:24). We must judge ourselves so First Corinthians 5:5 doesn't come into play: *"To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."*

Do the Word

We must rightly discern the Lord's body. It's God's will that we judge ourselves and walk in the health and healing He provided for us.

- 1 Understand that Jesus' physical body was broken for us so we can be healed.
- 2 Know that the Lord's body is one, and walk in love toward fellow members.
- 3 If we persist in sin over a long period, we will be judged—so we must judge ourselves instead!

We need to preach God's provision, which includes healing and health. But on the other hand, we need to warn people. Remember, Jesus told one man *"sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee"* (John 5:14). Let's purpose to live right and walk with God.

Broken fellowship with God or the Body of Christ may cause sickness, but forgiveness and healing are available to us. Let's get the past under the blood of Jesus and not allow the devil to condemn us.

May we walk in the light of God's Word and put it into practice. Then we shall receive all the blessings and provisions that have been furnished for us. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's *Confession Series*.]

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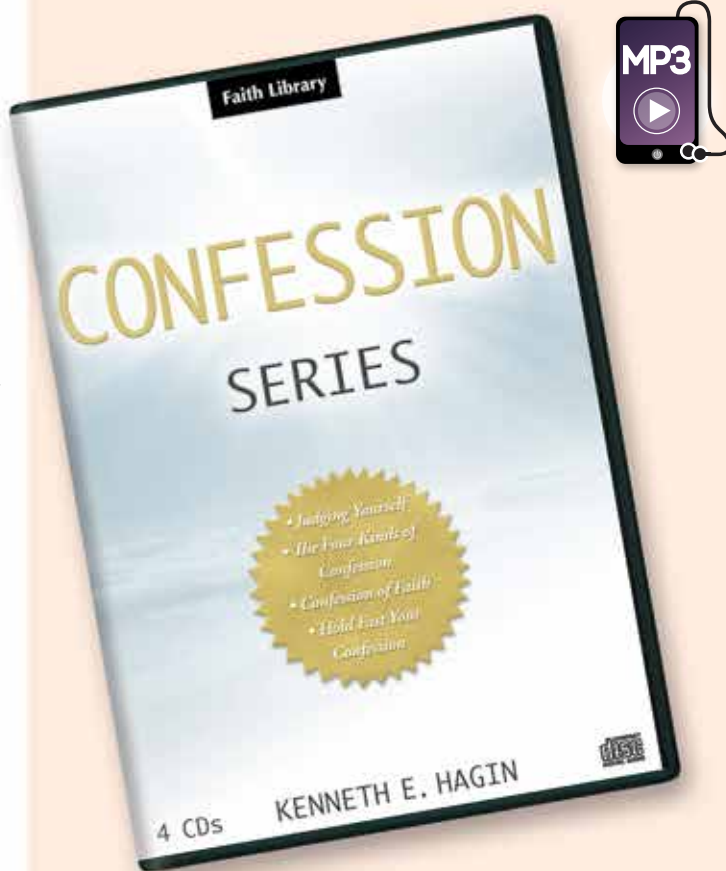
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Thoughts

// 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)

OVERCOMING FEAR

IT IS EASY to be dominated by fear. Many types of fear can overwhelm a person. Some people are afraid of heights; others are frightened of being closed in a small space. Some are scared of dogs, spiders, mice, and so forth. I have known individuals who were fearful of public speaking. During a class I taught several years ago, I asked the students to come to the front, give their name, the state they were from, and why they were taking the course. One girl uncontrollably shook while answering those simple questions.

The Bible tells us multiple times to "fear not" or do not be afraid. I researched how many times those words occur in the Bible. There were various answers to that question. It really does not matter how many times that phrase occurs. The most important thing we need to understand is that the Father told us we do not have to be afraid.

The Bible indicates that fear is a spirit. Second Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) says, "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*" I remember my father-in-law often saying, "Faith and fear cannot reside together. If you are in fear, you are not in faith. If you are in faith, there will be no fear."

Satan loves to keep us in fear. Years ago, I had a terrible fear of flying. Our entire life has consisted of flying numerous times during the year! At the slightest turbulence, I gripped my husband's hand so hard it almost bled. It was torturous for me to fly, but there was no other alternative. My father-in-law always taught us to find scripture to stand on for our particular situation.

I searched the Word, and the Lord brought me to Psalm 121:4-8: "*Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.*"

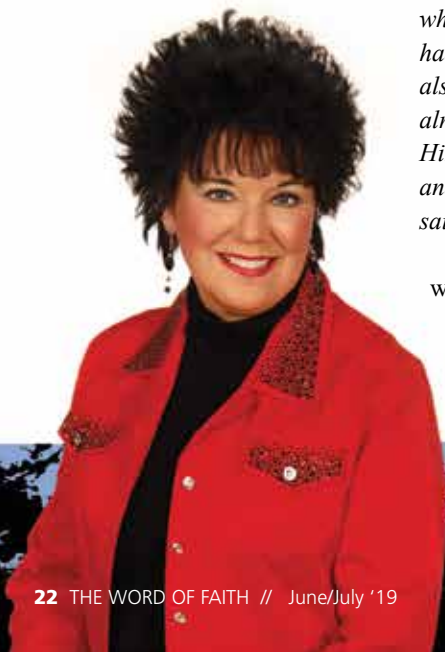
I knew the most critical time of flying was when the airplane is ascending and descending. This passage fit the situation perfectly as it covered my "going out and coming in." Those verses calmed my fears. I still pray them whenever I board an airplane. I believe my Heavenly Father honors His Word. Faith in God will dispel any fear the enemy tries to put on you.

The devil endeavors to keep you in a state of fear. Peter warned in First Peter 5:8-9 (NLT): "*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are going through the same kind of suffering you are.*"

I am reminded of when the disciples were in a boat with Jesus, and a storm arose. Mark 4:35-40 (NKJV) says, "*On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, 'Let us cross over to the other side.' Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, 'Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?' Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace, be still!' And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. But He said to them, 'Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?'*"

Regardless of what kind of storm you may go through, remember that Jesus is in the boat with you. You do not have to be afraid. In the same way He said to the disciples, "*Let us pass over to the other side,*" you will get to the other side if you have faith in God's promises. ♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

FIND-A-WORD!

Find these words from Jeremiah 33:3 in the scrambled letters below: **CALL • ANSWER GREAT • MIGHTY • THINGS**

T H I N T R A L Y S C A
G R E A E O T T G C A C
I A E W C O H N C A L A
N R S G A G I Q L A T L
G N E Y I H N R E A L I
A T O M T C A L I E E L

PRAYER: Your 'PHONE LINE' to God!



What is prayer? Simply put, it is communicating with, or talking to, God. An easy way to understand it is to think about talking on the telephone. If you want to talk to somebody in another town or far away you simply pick up the telephone, dial their telephone number, and talk to them . . . you talk some and they talk some. It's the same way with prayer . . . you talk some and God talks some. God wants to hear from you and wants to talk to you. In Jeremiah 33:3, God says, "**Call to Me and I will answer you**, and show you great and mighty things." So, call to God today in prayer . . . and be sure to listen to what He has to say!

jokes & riddles



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

What has 12 legs and runs into things?
Three Blind Mice

Why did the muffin want to be like the croissant?

Because it was a good ROLL model.

What's at the end of a rainbow?
The letter "W"

Sunday School Teacher: After the book of Deuteronomy comes Joshua, Judges, Ruth . . .

Jimmy: What did Ruth do wrong?

Sunday School Teacher: Nothing.

What makes you think Ruth did something wrong?

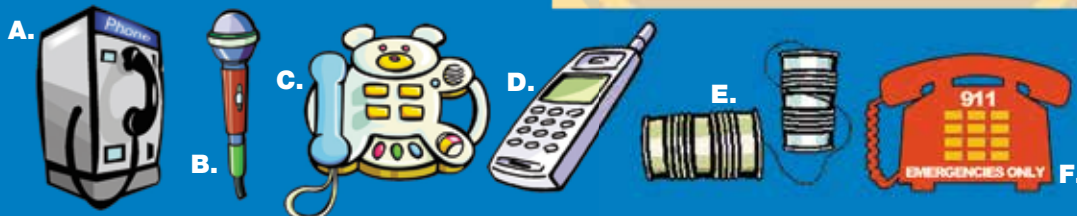
Jimmy: Well, you just said Joshua **judges** Ruth.

Tongue Twister

See if you can say this
three times fast:

He sells sea shells; she sells cell phones.

What's Your Line?



If your prayer life could be compared to a phone, which one of the "phones" shown above would best represent your prayer life? Match the statements below with the phone above that it goes with.

- I don't take prayer very seriously. I know cute little prayers like "Now I lay me down to sleep," but that's about it.
- I only pray when I'm in trouble or if I have a problem.
- I like to pray because I love to talk. Oh . . . I'm supposed to listen, too! I'm not a good listener . . . but I do like to talk!
- It **costs** you time and energy to pray so I don't do it as much as I should!
- I just don't seem to get a "good connection" when I pray. I want to hear God but everything sounds so unclear.
- Prayer is my life line! I pray **everywhere I go** and God can reach me any time He needs to talk to me!

What's That Number?

Look up the verses on prayer below in your Bible by using the letters on these phone buttons to determine the chapter and verse numbers.

Example:

Jeremiah DE:F = Jeremiah 33:3

- Philippians G:N**
- Colossians H:A**
- Romans U:BN**
- Matthew M:Z**
- Matthew Y:EV**



T H I N T R A L Y S C A
G R E A E O T T G C A C
I A E W C O H N C A L A
N R S G A G I Q L A T L
G N E Y I H N R E A L I
A T O M T C A L I E E L

It's Your Call! • Answer: A.
1. C, 2. F, 3. B, 4. A, 5. E, 6. D
What's Your Line?
5. Matthew 9:38
3. Romans 8:26-4. 2. Colossians 4:2
1. Philippians 4:6

ANSWERS:



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