



THE Word of Faith

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2019

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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the Word of Faith



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Let Us Give Thanks

It is easy to get caught up with life that we forget to give thanks to the Lord. Often when we come into God's presence, we focus on our needs. "Lord, I have this problem," or "Lord, I really need some help." However, the scriptures encourage us to enter His gates with thanksgiving and His courts with praise (Ps. 100:4). No matter what happens around us, we should purpose to thank and praise God for everything He has done for us.

We need to learn how to let thanksgiving roll from our lips. Unfortunately, some people habitually gripe and complain about this, that, and the other. But if we look around, we have much to be thankful for. We may not have everything we need or want, but we can thank God for what we do have. And based on the Word, we can thank Him by faith for blessings to come. If our Heavenly Father moved on our behalf before, He will not forsake us now. Let us remember to thank the Lord for His goodness—not only during the Thanksgiving holiday but throughout the year as well.

At this time, we also honor the men and women who have bravely served in the U.S. Armed Forces. I am proud to have been in the army. I am thankful for our veterans and the sacrifices they have made to protect our country and guarantee the freedoms we have. Our nation remains free because thousands of men and women battled courageously in many wars throughout its history. If you see someone on active military duty or know a veteran, let them know how grateful you are for their service to our nation.

From our family to yours, have a blessed Thanksgiving—both in the U.S. and Canada (October 14).

Kenneth W. Hagin

VETERANS: Thank you for your service to this country.
We know it is because of you that we have our freedom.
God bless you.



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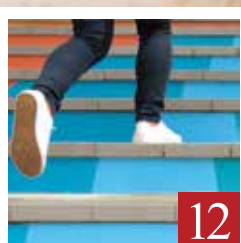
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WHY FORGIVE?

“Then Peter came to him and asked, ‘Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?’ ‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’”

—MATTHEW 18:21–22 (NLT)



LET’S FACE IT. Forgiveness is not easy. But it is not optional for the Christian! When someone hurts you, it can be hard to forgive. Maybe you do once, but suddenly they do something else! Now you have to forgive again, and it hurts.

Jesus understood this. He knew the importance of forgiveness and talked to His disciples about it. Peter asked, *“Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?”* (Matt. 18:21 NLT). He thought that was enough. But the response in verse 22 was: *“‘No, not seven times,’ Jesus replied, ‘but seventy times seven!’”*

Jesus continued with a parable (an earthly example with a heavenly meaning) of a king who loaned millions of dollars to his

servant. When the servant couldn’t repay, he, his family, and everything he owned was sold to pay the debt. He begged his master for patience, promising to pay it all. The king had pity, released him, and forgave the debt.

Immediately, the forgiven man went to a fellow servant who owed him far less and demanded payment. Like him, the other servant pleaded for patience, but he wouldn’t wait. He had the man arrested. When the news reached the king, he called the servant in and said, *“Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?”* (Matt. 18:33 NLT). The king sent the man to prison until he paid the entire debt.

Jesus was blunt when He said, *“That’s what my heavenly Father will do to you if you refuse to forgive your brothers and sisters from your heart”* (Matt. 18:35 NLT). Forgiveness is important!

God has forgiven us. So why would we not extend that forgiveness to others?

Do We Really Forgive?

Christians can be critical. They say, “If that were me, I would *never* sin like that!” But they sin by their judgment! The Word tells us not to judge others lest we are judged. (See Matt. 7:1–2, Luke 6:37, and James 5:9.)

My philosophy has always been this: How would I want to be treated if I were in that person’s shoes? Don’t criticize others. Don’t be critical about their lives or what’s happening in their children’s lives.

If we get huffy, puffed-up, and self-righteous toward another person, we need to forgive. We can say the words, “I forgive you,” but do we *really* forgive?

Forgive defined by Webster’s 1913 dictionary means “to give up resentment . . . to cease to feel resentment against (an offender).” Let that soak in.



LYNETTE HAGIN



Your success depends on walking in love and forgiveness! Visit bit.ly/4give for more encouragement.

Imagine that you have forgiven somebody. When you see them on the street or in a store, what do you do? Avoid them? Pretend as though you didn't see them? Are you glad when you don't see them because you would have to say hello? If that happens, you haven't forgiven. You are still resentful because of what they did.

Forgiveness Is a Choice

Do you hold grudges or keep records of the wrongs people have done? Do you punish others with guilt trips? If you continually talk about everything people have done to you, you are choosing the negative instead of the positive. You are not choosing to forgive.

Forgiveness is not an action of the emotions or the mind. It is an action of the will. If you wait until you feel like it, you'll never do it! Do you ever feel like forgiving when someone has hurt you? Probably not!

Being hurt is an emotional event, and emotions don't heal by themselves. Your will is involved. It is your will that says, "Even though I'm hurt, I choose to forgive."

You might ask: What if someone abused me? What if my spouse cheated? If someone hurt me to the extreme, do I still have to forgive them? Yes, you must forgive them. Does that mean you let a person keep on hurting you? Absolutely not.

Forgiveness doesn't mean that you allow someone to keep taking advantage of you. But you also don't hold grudges or "bad mouth" those who hurt you. You don't seek revenge or keep bringing up those mistakes.

Sometimes you don't want to forgive because you want the other person to hurt too. But unforgiveness doesn't hurt them—it only hurts you. If you allow yourself to feel like a victim or dream of ways to retaliate, it takes a toll on your mind and body. Bitterness builds up and affects your physical and mental health. It even harms relationships. Forgiving is good for your body and soul!

My Forgiveness Journey

I used to have a hard time forgiving. When I love, I love deep. So when someone hurt me, it cut deep! I knew I needed to forgive, and I wanted to, but I didn't know how.

At first, I asked my husband because he didn't seem to have any trouble forgiving anyone. He said, "You just forgive." That wasn't a good answer for me! So I went to his father, Kenneth E. Hagin. Surely, he could tell me how to forgive! But he responded, "You just do." That didn't work for me either. I needed to know the steps to take.

I finally asked God. (If we just go to the Father, He will show us exactly what we need!) He took me to a Bible verse and showed me the key to forgiveness.

MATTHEW 5:44

44 But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.

The Lord told me, "I want that to be the first scripture you read every day. Pray for anyone you have trouble forgiving. When you really forgive, you'll pray and not feel resentment against them."

It's like an infection you get out with an antibiotic. You don't quit taking medicine when you feel better. You keep taking it until the prescription runs out. The Word is our antibiotic.

FORGIVENESS
IS NOT AN
ACTION
OF THE
EMOTIONS OR
THE MIND. IT
IS AN ACTION
OF THE WILL.

I practiced Matthew 5:44 day in and day out. Some hurts were so deep that it took me ten years to be able to pray and not remember what was done.

Today it's easy to forgive. I learned the secret: praying for my enemies. I now understand what my husband and father-in-law were saying. You choose to forgive and just do it—freely and quickly.

Forgiveness begins in the heart.

Start practicing it. Pray for the person who hurt you. Open your heart and say, "I forgive you." Forgiveness will set you free! ♥

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Men Who Lead

JOHNATHAN MORIN

KIDS IN TODAY'S society are navigating through extreme challenges we adults never faced in our childhood. They have technology in their pockets that gives them access to many opportunities to get in trouble. Pornography, drugs, alcohol, and sexual encounters are so prevalent that kids think it is normal before they hit their teen years.

As a youth pastor, I have hundreds of teenagers who cope with things I can't imagine dealing with myself. They need to know how to get to a safe harbor. And we need to know how to lead them.

The Nail

There's a story about a man who sold his house under the condition that one nail on the front porch would still belong to him, and he could do anything he wanted with that nail. One day he hung an animal carcass on it. The new owner could do nothing. In the end it drove him out, and he lost everything. It's like the devil. If we allow him to have something small like a nail, he will hang whatever he wants on it and destroy us.

Ephesians 4:27 (NIV) says, "*do not give the devil a foothold.*" Too many young people are letting the enemy have a foothold in their lives. The devil takes over, and they don't even know what's happening. For most of them, it comes innocently. Why? Because Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy—immediately. And he is successful because many kids

don't have someone to navigate them through these things.

They don't understand things like marriage because they've never seen their parents married. They are confused because they see confusion. They go back to what they see, which is wrong. Dads, mentors, pastors, grandfathers, and leaders, it's time to step up! Make a decision, and say, "I'm not going to let these kids be destroyed any longer!"

The Stake

My son and I planted two small oak trees in the front yard and secured them with stakes. Soon after, we sold our home. I expected to drive by our old house years later and say, "Son, remember when we planted those trees?" For some reason, the new owner removed the stakes. At first, they fell over. Now they are dead and gone. Why? The stakes were removed.

When we lead youth—students, sons, daughters, grandchildren, any child or young person within our influence—we have to teach them that God must be their stake. Nobody else can take that place, not us, not their pastor. It is God alone. And if that stake is removed, they will fall over just like those trees did.

The Example

When I was a youth pastor, I had conversations with my youth leaders, especially new ones. During a service, I didn't want them doing anything but worshipping, taking notes,

listening, and spending time with God. Why? Nothing is stronger for a student's life than the power of God. And they are setting the example.

Don't try to be Jesus in that setting. We are not the Holy Spirit. Nothing we say or do is better than what God says or does when young people are in His presence. We need to point them to Jesus, not to us.

The Difference

There's a difference between *leading* and *directing*. If I ask someone where to go for an exceptional meal, that person can either give me directions to a restaurant or lead me there. Some people are good with directions. Some aren't. My wife is not. I can tell her how to get somewhere, and ten minutes later she's calling, telling me she's lost!

When it comes to navigating, too many times, we just direct others and hope it works out. But are we showing them? Are we taking them where they will get help? We must be men who lead this generation—not just *direct*, but *lead* them to Jesus and show them the way to safe harbors. ♥

[Editor's note: Johnathan Morin is the men's pastor at Grace Outreach Center in Plano, Texas. This article was adapted from his message at A Call to Arms Men's Conference 2016.]



SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT



See pages 6–7 for more information on A Call to Arms Men's Conference, or visit rhema.org/cta to register now!



Nothing we say or do is better than what God says or does when young people are in His presence.

“Guess what mommy? My warps found out they’re healed.”



My four-year-old daughter Lylah had a wart on her hand. It slowly spread over her hands and feet. I counted once and she had 22 warts! I told her we have to go to the doctor. “Mommy,” Lylah said, “I don’t want to go to the doctor. Can you find a healing center?”

I was new to Rhema Bible Church and found out that Rhema had a Prayer and Healing Center. Lylah and I went to a morning session. **A healing technician taught us about healing, prayed for my daughter, and gave us a prayer cloth.** I attached the prayer cloth to one of Lylah’s Beanie Babies. She took it to day care and sometimes slept with it.

“Mommy,” Lylah would say, “my warps are not coming off.”

“Those warts are healed.” I said. “They just don’t know it yet.” I told her to touch each one and tell it, “You’re healed in Jesus’ Name!”

One day, Lylah came to me and said, “Guess what mommy? My warps found out they’re healed. I can’t find them, not even on the floor or in my bed! They distapeered!”

Thank you for your dedication in the Prayer and Healing Center. Lylah is forever changed!

—Shawna

**THANK YOU, RHEMA WORD PARTNERS, FOR HELPING US TEACH LITTLE
LYLAH THAT HEALING BELONGS TO HER.**

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**Timeless
Teachings**
of Kenneth E. Hagin

DURING THE DEPRESSION, a friend of mine worked for his brother in a little garage that barely had room for one car. His brother paid him three dollars a week and fed him. Also, both brothers tried to help their very poor parents.

One day I stopped by to see my friend. He wanted me to pray that he would get a good job. He had been dating a young lady and wanted to get married, but he couldn't do it on three dollars. He didn't even have any dress pants. There were hardly any jobs, but he knew God would do something about it.

I told him what Jesus said in Matthew 18:19, *"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."*

We agreed over a job he was seeking. They called him 10 days later, and he went to work for ten dollars a week. Soon he bought a couple of suits. Months later, he got married. He stayed there until he became one of the bosses and earned a good salary. Then God called him to preach, and he went into the ministry.

That was my first experience of acting on this verse. Jesus did not say it *might* be done or there was a possibility it *could*

"Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."

— MATTHEW 18:19

be done. Instead, He said it *shall* be done! Let's take God at His Word.

Power of Two

For the prayer of agreement to work, there must be two of you. And you have to be on earth. That fits us!

While traveling in ministry, I once wrote my wife telling her that a pastor asked me to stay on longer. It was nearing Christmas, and I needed extra money since I would not hold meetings during the holidays. The pastor, however, wasn't sure if his people could give anything extra.

I wanted her to open her Bible to Matthew 18:19 the next Sunday afternoon and agree with me for a certain amount of money. When they took up the offering, there was three dollars more than what she and I had agreed on.

The next week, I wrote Oretha telling her to do the same thing again on the following Sunday afternoon, and I would do likewise. We received \$1.49 above the amount we had asked for.

DO NOT PUT ANY
LIMITATIONS ON
MATTHEW 18:19!
THE PRAYER OF
AGREEMENT WILL
WORK BECAUSE IT
IS GOD'S WORD.

The Sunday before Christmas, the offering was about twenty dollars short. I suggested that we count it again. I told the pastor how Oretha and I had agreed. If the money was not there, I would have to go to every church I preached in and tell them Jesus was a liar and the Bible was not true. If it didn't work, I wanted to throw it away!

We counted a second time and still came up short. I told the pastor it had to be there, and we counted again. It was still the same. He said we would count all night until we got it. Suddenly I remembered that the pastor's wife had bought a Bible from me before church. She had put the money in an envelope and included a personal offering. When I opened it, there was a twenty-five dollar offering. We received five dollars above what we had claimed!

Stand Your Ground

When using the prayer of agreement, I do not imply that things will come to you like ripe cherries falling from a tree. You have to stand your ground against the devil.

People often fight for their rights and what belongs to them. They will lose sleep and put forth every effort. But when it comes to spiritual things, they will roll over, shut their eyes, and play dead!

We need to get down to business and find out where the answer is. If I lost a valuable ring, I would carefully search where I thought I had lost it. I would get down on my hands and knees, crawling around looking for it. When it comes to spiritual matters, I do the same thing—I retrace my steps. Many times in prayer and the Word, I go over the same ground again and again.

Stand on God's Word and say it must be so. Look the storm in the face and say as Paul did: *"I believe God, that it shall be even*

FAITH IN ACTION

Activate God's Word

It is sad when a Christian goes through life without acting on the Word. The believer who thoroughly understands that God's power supports him can exercise authority and face the enemy fearlessly. Ephesians 6:10 says, *"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."* This verse doesn't say anything about being strong in yourself. It talks about being strong in the Lord.

The Lord's strength backs the prayer of agreement. Jesus is the one who told us, *"If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven"* (Matt. 18:19 NKJV). Don't argue with the Bible—side with it! God's Word is true.

If you don't have someone who can agree with you, call us! 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).

as it was told me" (Acts 27:25). The opposition will relent and the answer will come. Stand your ground. God's Word works!

When we learn to pray in line with what the Bible says, our prayers will be productive. Do not put any limitations on Matthew 18:19! The prayer of agreement will work because it is God's Word. You can be mighty in prayer alone, but you can be mightier when someone joins you!♥

Visit rhema.org/wof to easily share this article and more with friends online.

[Editor's note: This article was adapted from *Prayer Secrets*, a slimline book by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

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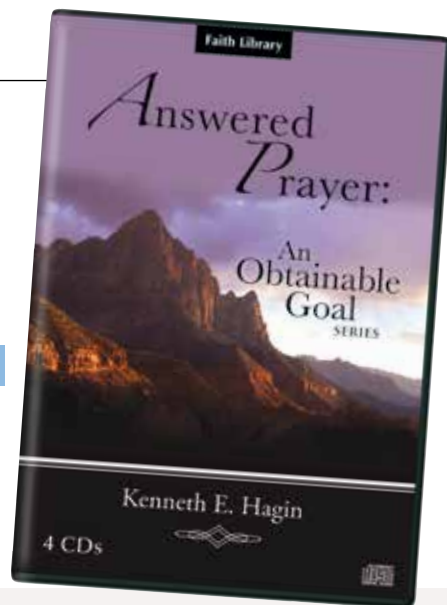
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A STEP OF FAITH

GOD CALLED ABRAHAM to a place he had never been before. To a land far from his relatives, friends, home, and comfort zone (Gen. 12:1). That one step of obedience led to great blessings in his life and the redemption of others.

God called 46 international students to Rhema this year. They came to train for the ministry and become grounded in the message of faith. The knowledge imparted to them is what they will carry to their countries, which translates to the salvation of many souls. These are a few of their stories.



Surrendering to God's Will

“What kind of animals did you have in your backyard?” “Do you speak African?” Wisdom Dafeamekpor of Ghana sometimes is taken aback by the questions he gets from Americans. Contrary to popular beliefs, he did not have any wild animals as pets—just dogs like most people.

Wisdom grew up in a Christian home in Accra, the capital city. “The living experiences aren’t much different [than the U.S.],” he shared. “Fortunately, my family was blessed to send my siblings and me to good private schools. We didn’t lack much. Once you have the internet and TV, you’re connected all over the world.”

The 26-year-old’s journey to America began when he was 17. After graduating from high school, his dad wanted him to receive a good college education. Wisdom applied to

“I HOPE TO REACH THE POOR, UNDERPRIVILEGED, AND ABANDONED PARTS OF THE WORLD WITH THE TRUE MESSAGE OF SALVATION.” —WISDOM DAFEAMEKPOR

several colleges in the U.S. and attended Morgan State University in Baltimore, Maryland, graduating cum laude. He then landed a job at a prestigious accounting firm in Los Angeles.

Although Wisdom prospered in his career, a desire to preach the Gospel wouldn’t go away. He resisted God’s gentle nudge to go into ministry for a time. Eventually, one day at a church service, he surrendered his plans to the Lord. Wisdom returned to Ghana and ministered in his father’s church for a season before transitioning to Rhema Bible Training College.

Wisdom is enjoying his second year at Rhema. When he returns to West Africa, he plans on serving in his father’s church. “I hope to reach the poor, underprivileged, and abandoned parts of the world, and not just Ghana, with the true message of salvation,” he says.

A Dream Fulfilled

When Mica Marcal was eight years old, her dad moved their family from Brazil to Florida to grow his IT business. Mica fell in love with America and wanted to live in the States forever. Her dreams were crushed on September 11, 2001.



WISDOM DAFEAMEKPOR

wanted him to receive a good college education. Wisdom applied to



MICA MARCAL

during her senior year of high school, she was accepted at Utah Valley University. “My mom and dad moved Heaven and earth to get me to Utah,” she says. “My dad sold water bottles at the beach to get money to send me to pay for my bachelors.” Mica earned a bachelor’s degree in film and communications.

As her return to Brazil was nearing, a friend encouraged her to read *Plans, Purposes, and Pursuits* by Kenneth E. Hagin. “That book wrecked me,” she shares. “I lived my entire life trying to please God, but not once did I ask Him what He wanted me to do.”

Mica had never heard of Rhema Bible Training College, but when she began seeking God’s plan for her life, that’s exactly where He led her. Today, she is a third-year student in the Student Ministries program and has grown tremendously. “I never fully understood who I am as a child of God and what I could have. Now, I feel like I can do everything through God because of my relationship in Him.”

Escaping to a Better Future

Fabrice Dogbo’s once peaceful life in the Ivory Coast felt like a war zone in 2003. A year earlier, a political and religious uprising gave birth to the First Ivorian Civil War. The violence never stopped. Rebel forces attacked major cities. Violence filled the streets as armed rebels’ oppressed civilians. Citizens were killed and homes destroyed. Day by day people fled to places of safety. Fabrice fled to the United States.



FABRICE DOGBO

university—first to learn English and then to work toward a degree. Fabrice eventually moved to Oklahoma to enjoy the lower cost of

living. He reached his educational goals and earned two master degrees. He also taught college-level courses.

While in college, Fabrice became part of a men’s Christian Bible study where he taught them how to hear God for themselves. One guy in the group felt God had more for Fabrice to do and suggested that he check out Rhema.

At first, Fabrice resisted the idea of attending Rhema. But he realized that God knew best, and he trusted Him. In 2016, Fabrice answered God’s call and enrolled in RBTC. Now a fourth-year student, Fabrice has a great love for the lost. He also enjoys ushering and serving the Hagins. “I’m very grateful for what God has done in my life,” he says.

A Heart for God

Christiana Ravi’s ex-boyfriend was possessive and abusive. She felt trapped in the relationship and desperately wanted to escape. One night, he held an iron to her head, and Christiana thought he would kill her. Inwardly she cried out, “God, if You’re there, please speak to me.” She heard a voice say, “Fake a panic attack.”

“I can’t breathe! I can’t breathe!” Christiana cried. Then her ex-boyfriend panicked and told her to leave. Not only did she leave his apartment, she also left Singapore.

Christiana began working at Emirates Airlines as an airline attendant, moved to Dubai, and traveled the world for three years. “At the airline is where I grew with God,” she shares. “I felt God’s presence. He taught me how to have compassion for passengers and love people of different cultures.” As opportunities opened, Christiana shared the Gospel, and Muslims and Buddhists came to the Lord.

Captivated by God’s love for the lost, Christiana wanted to serve Him full time. At the end of her contract, she began looking at Bible colleges to attend. Christiana felt the Lord leading her to attend Rhema Bible Training College. She started in January 2018.

Now a second-year student in the Itinerant Ministry program, Christiana is falling more in love with God. “My mind is being unlocked to the power of God’s Word,” she says. “I have never seen the Bible the way I have until now.” As a member of Rhema Bible Church, Christiana serves on the nursing home ministry team, on the prayer lines, in Prayer School, and sings in the choir. “When I feel how much God loves people and feel His heart for them, it drives me to want to serve deeper.”



CHRISTIANA RAVI

To **LEARN MORE** about Rhema Bible Training College visit, rbtc.org.

Is Hell Real?

KENNETH E. HAGIN



I WAS 17 when I was healed and raised from a death-bed. Most of my childhood, I had lived with my grandmother in McKinney, Texas. She had a cousin who lived about 30 miles away in Sherman, Texas.

When I was bedfast, this cousin—Aunt Lizzie, as we called her—would visit us with her daughter, Loreenna. We could never mention God around Aunt Lizzie. If we did, she would rant and rave saying, “There is no God! There is no Heaven or hell. Every preacher should be shot and every church burned down. Those preachers are fooling people. They’re just trying to get people’s money.”

Once Aunt Lizzie started hollering, it would take some time for Loreenna to quiet her down. When she did, we changed the conversation.

Aunt Lizzie was up in age when I saw her again about 10 years later. I had married by then. My wife and I were holding a meeting in Sherman. Loreenna asked us to visit them. There was such an urgency about her request that we paid them a visit.

After Loreenna greeted us, she began to cry. “Oh, Kenneth. I wanted you to talk to Momma. She’s in a coma, and the doctor said she won’t recover. If we can get her to come to, will you talk to her?”

“I sure will if I can,” I answered.

Loreenna led us to the bedroom where Aunt Lizzie was. **THIS DEAR WOMAN IN HER SEVENTIES WAS LYING**

THERE DYING. Her eyes were wide open and looked like marbles. She never blinked. Out of her partially opened mouth came a rattling sound as she breathed.

Loreenna leaned over her mother. “Momma! Momma!” she said. There was no answer. “Momma!” Loreenna hollered and shook her a little bit.

“Yes, my baby, what is it?” We could hear Aunt Lizzie plainly, but her lips never moved.

“Momma,” Loreenna said, “do you remember Aunt Lillie’s boy, Kenneth? He was bedfast for a long time and later became a preacher.”

When Aunt Lizzie heard the word “preacher,” she raised up in bed. Although she never batted an eye, and her lips never moved, she reached out her hand to me.

“Ken! Ken,” she said. “Where are you?” I took her hand. “Kenneth!” she cried. “You’re a preacher. Tell me there’s no hell. I said there was no God! I said there was no Heaven. I said there was no hell!” Aunt Lizzie was frantic.

“TELL ME THERE’S NO HELL,” SHE CONTINUED. “I’M SO AFRAID. IT’S SO DARK, AND I’M SO AFRAID. Oh! Oh!” she gasped, “I’m going to hell!” Aunt Lizzie fell back onto her pillow.

I couldn’t tell Aunt Lizzie there wasn’t a hell. I started to say there was a Heaven and that she could go there by accepting Jesus Christ as her savior. But Aunt Lizzie exhausted all her strength. She fell back onto her pillow, lapsed into unconsciousness, and never came out of it. I say with tears—Aunt Lizzie died and went to hell.

Those who die without knowing Jesus as their personal savior will spend eternity in hell, a place of torment and punishment. But God wants you to live forever with Him. If you haven’t made your eternal destination certain, do so now. 🕊️

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

God wants you to live forever with Him. If you haven’t made your eternal destination certain, do so now.



Salvation Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner and ask for Your forgiveness. I believe You died for my sins and rose from the dead. I turn from my sins and invite You to come into my heart and life. I want to trust and follow You as my Lord and Savior.

If you prayed this prayer for the first time, let us know by emailing partnerservice@rhema.org. We want to send you free material to get you started in your new life as God’s child.

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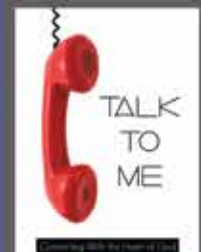
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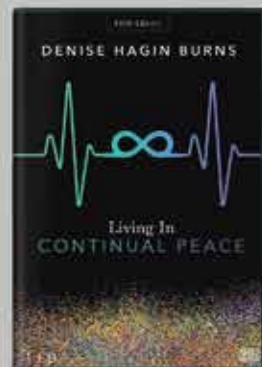
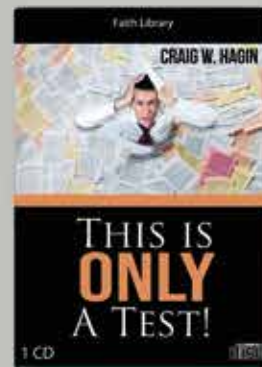
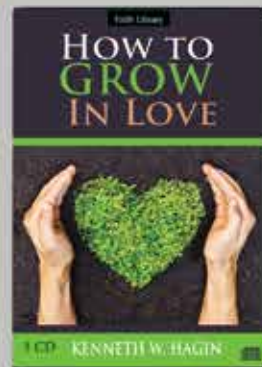
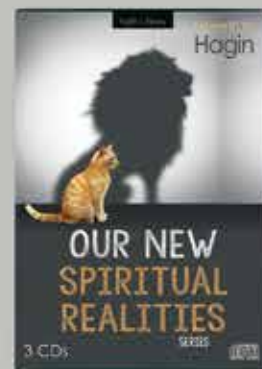
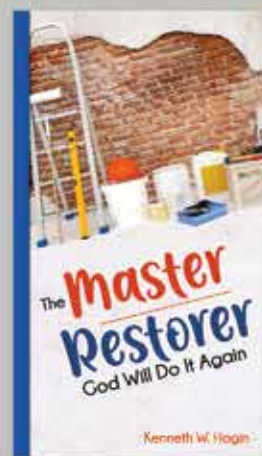
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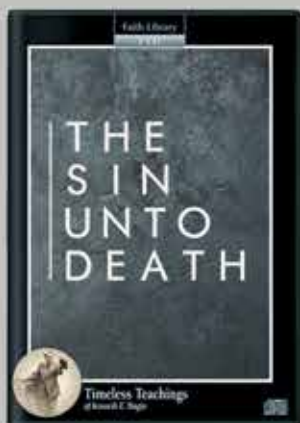
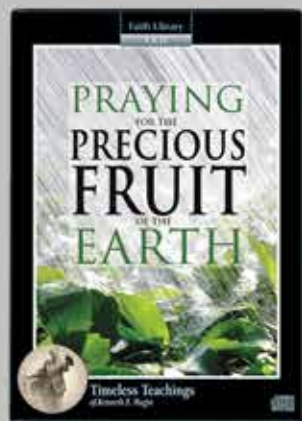
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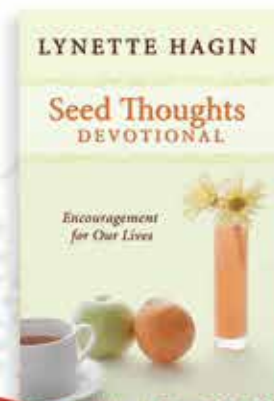
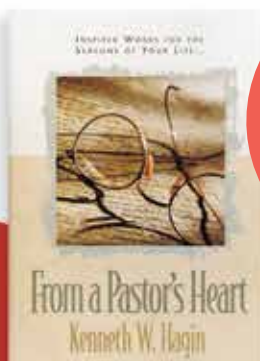
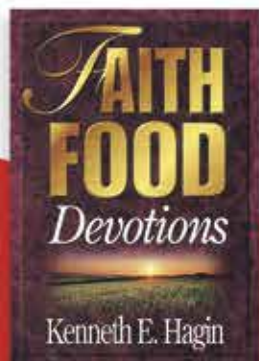
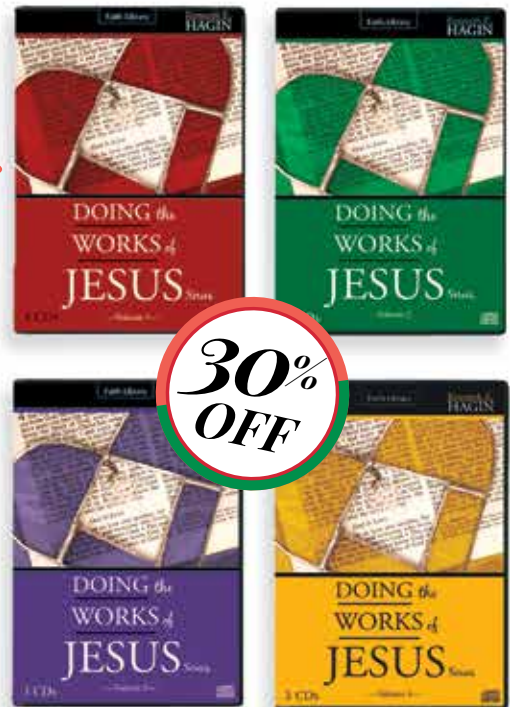
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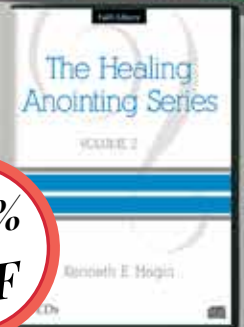
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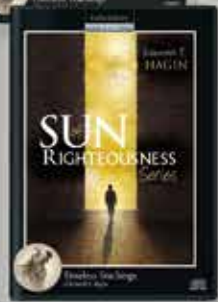
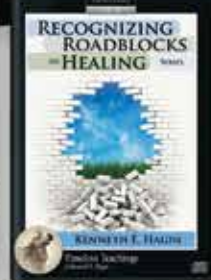
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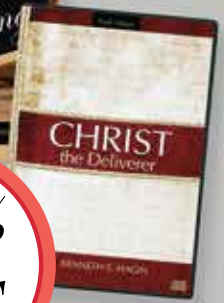


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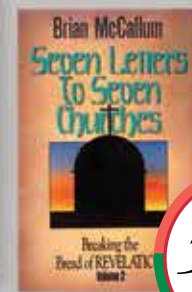
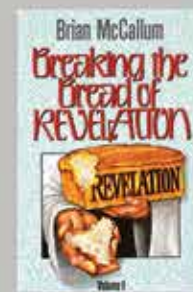
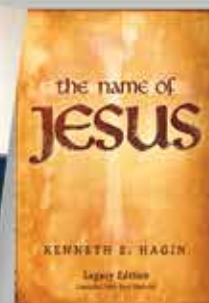
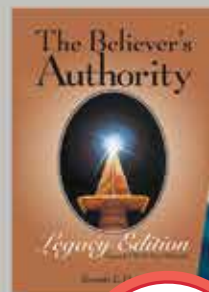
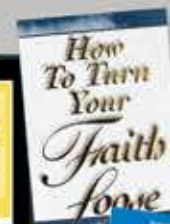
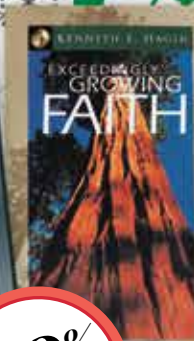
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Sin Versus Mistakes

DOUG JONES

CULTURE IS CHANGING before our eyes. There seems to be a trend where society promotes detestable things as acceptable. The world views sin as mere mistakes.

But *sin* and *mistake* are not synonymous terms! A mistake is unintentional. It is an accident or error caused by carelessness or insufficient knowledge. Sins are different. It is the willful violation of biblical boundaries.

Many people see boundaries as restrictive. God cares for us, and His boundaries are in place for our safety and blessing. These biblical guidelines benefit us and cause us to enjoy an abundant life. They are good and not to be despised!

Choose Words Carefully

Don't soft-sell sin by calling it a mistake! If it was truly a mistake, then so be it. But if we crossed a God-boundary, then call it what it is—sin. Jesus is very pointed in describing evil:

MARK 7:21–23 (AMPC)

21 For from within, [that is] out of the hearts of men, come base and wicked thoughts, sexual immorality, stealing, murder, adultery,

22 Coveting (a greedy desire to have more wealth), dangerous and destructive wickedness, deceit; unrestrained (indecent) conduct; an evil eye (envy), slander (evil speaking, malicious misrepresentation, abusiveness), pride (the sin of an uplifted heart against God and man), foolishness (folly, lack of sense, recklessness, thoughtlessness).

23 All these evil [purposes and desires] come from within, and they make the man unclean and render him unhallowed.

Things are on that list that today's culture says is permissible! But if God calls something evil, then we are to call it evil. To do otherwise is not acceptable nor permissible.

We see another list in Galatians 5:19–21 (NKJV): *"Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like."*

This is not all-inclusive. The phrase, "and the like," implies it is a short list of what the flesh will produce when it is in control. If God calls something a work of the flesh or evil, do not be found calling it a mistake or a birth trait!

Take Responsibility

When it comes to behavior, take responsibility. Own it! An individual who "comes clean" is on the way to a

restored life. Those who hide their behavior, lie, do not divulge situations on their own, or are caught in sin have not taken responsibility yet.

People justify themselves—it's someone else's fault. A husband says, "My wife drove me to it." The wife says, "My husband made me do it." But Psalm 32:5 (NKJV) says this: *"I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah."*

Accepting responsibility is a mark of maturity. The sooner sin is acknowledged, the sooner restoration is possible. This is not about an emotional, "I'm sorry." This is about producing behavior that reveals we are on a repentant road.



Cooperate With God

Repentance affects not only one's heart and emotions but also one's conduct and behavior. Matthew 3:8 (NIV) says, *"Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."* The *Weymouth New Testament in Modern Speech* says it like this: *"Therefore let your lives prove your change of heart."*

To repent means turning from a way of life that is contrary to God and toward a lifestyle defined by God's way. But behavior is not where we begin! Thought always precedes action. Lasting repentance demands a change of perspective first. That means we need to go to the Word of God and change the way we think.

Those who understand the difference between mistakes versus sin will stop their sinful acts. They will replace them with conduct that ensures that sin has no chance for future expression.

Get into God's Word and find out exactly where boundaries have been placed. Then spend time renewing your mind. 📖

[Editor's Note: Doug Jones is an instructor at Rhema USA.]



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Campmeeting 2019 was a glorious time in the Lord as God's presence and power descended on the Rhema campus. Those who attended—whether in person or online—were blessed and stirred to expectation by the richness of the Word and the refreshing of the Holy Spirit. From *Summer Blitz* to Rhema Kids to the adult services, all ages experienced life-changing encounters with God. Here are some highlights from the week.



IT'S TIME FOR THE RAIN

KENNETH W. HAGIN



"Many churches are not experiencing the supernatural rain of the Holy Spirit. They are like the dry bones in the valley (Ezek. 37) that have a form of godliness but no power. **THE CHURCH NEEDS TO BE REFRESHED, REVITALIZED, AND REJUVENATED BY THE RAIN OF GOD'S SPIRIT.** If we get on our knees and pray, we will have rain. The earnest prayer of the righteous has great power. It won't be some distant shower. It will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. When the rain comes, we will see things we have never seen before. We must be willing to move out and let the Holy Spirit direct us. **TODAY IS THE DAY TO DECLARE THAT WE HEAR THE ABUNDANCE**

OF RAIN. The end-time revival is here!"

PASSION

LYNETTE HAGIN



"We are on the edge of a Holy Ghost fire moving in our midst! To receive it, we must prepare for it. We start by letting hunger for the things of God consume us. Jesus said, *'Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled'* (Matt. 5:6). **WE NEED TO BE FULL OF HOLY GHOST FIRE—NOT DILUTED DOWN.** God wants to prepare us for revival!"

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE?

CRAIG W. HAGIN



"Jesus wasn't telling you to move the mountain (Mark 11:23). He was saying to *believe* God to move it—but you must speak to it with the authority of God. Think about the Old West—covered wagons got *through* the Rocky Mountains. **YOU DON'T HAVE TO FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH A MOUNTAIN; YOU CAN MOVE YOUR MOUNTAIN.** But it won't move unless you say something to it!"

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"When we consult with Jesus on our daily decisions, I am thoroughly convinced it will change the way we think, feel, and act. It will change what we listen to and look at. When we consult the Professional, the One who gives the expert advice, the Creator of the Universe, **THAT'S THE BEST ADVICE WE CAN GET IN EVERY AREA OF LIFE.**"



WATCH IT ONLINE!

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vimeo.com/rhema/collections.



.....
**"I'M GETTING
 STIRRED UP! THINGS
 THAT SEEMED LIKE
 THEY WERE FORGOTTEN
 OR FADING AWAY ARE
 COMING BACK."**

—JUSTIN, OHIO

"The first principle of faith is to **JUDGE GOD FAITHFUL. HIS WORD WORKS YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER.** It never changes. If it was good yesterday, it's good today, and it will be good tomorrow. When we decide to walk by faith, God has already settled His promises in Heaven." **// CHARLES COWAN**



"God's eyes are searching to and fro. He's looking for someone who is ready to respond and ready to believe that He can bring them through any circumstance. **GOD SEES YOU, AND HE TOLD ME TO TELL YOU 'BREAKTHROUGH IS ON THE WAY!'**" **// BILL RAY**



"Adding joy to your faith gives you endurance. **IF YOU ONLY KNEW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REJOICE, YOU WOULD REJOICE EVERY DAY!** Devils are running, angels are sent on assignment, and situations are turning. You are moving from believing to receiving." **// MARK HANKINS**



"Dare to believe God's eternal, redemptive Word! Speak it, and you will have what you say. 'By His stripes, I was healed!' It's the Word of the Living God. **IT'S AN ETERNAL, UNCHANGEABLE, UNALTERABLE, IRREVOCABLE PROMISE THAT HEAVEN HAS ALREADY MADE GOOD ON** in the person of Jesus Christ." **// DAVID SHEARIN**

"The Kingdom of God is not just for us to get our needs met; it's to set the captives free. **JESUS WANTS US TO BECOME KINGDOM INFLUENCERS FOR HIM.** We are called to influence the people around us. Decide to let people see Jesus in you!" **// DARRELL HUFFMAN**



SUMMER BLITZ 2019

KNOWN



For hundreds of 6th–12th graders, *Summer Blitz 2019* was all about seeing themselves the way God sees them! As the week began, it was clear their hearts were eager for Him. The young people enjoyed energy-packed and intimate worship. In each service, God intimately ministered to them as they listened to the speakers. They experienced physical and emotional healings as the Holy Spirit moved mightily among them. By the end of the week, they were set ablaze, ready to walk in their identity in Christ—knowing themselves as they are known by God. Here are some highlights from the week.



"The devil is scared of you knowing yourself as you are known by God. Because the power and authority you have is greater than his will ever be." // **D.K. HALL**



"Any great path worth taking has a purpose." // **CHRIS CAMPBELL**



"We weren't created to depend on ourselves. We were created to lean on God." // **KATY CAPLE**



"When you make the choice to get vulnerable with God, He comes through time and time again." // **MIKE CAPLE**



"When you stay in unforgiveness, you won't be able to operate in all God has called you to be." // **JILL DONOVAN**



"Someone's opinion of you is not your reality." // **SMILEY ELMORE JR.**



"When you take time to press into the Word, it's easier to follow God's voice in the midst of distractions." // **OBADIAH HAGANS**



"God loves you in a moment more than anyone can in a lifetime." // **MATT MCCARTY**



"Knowing God's character rules out the lies of the enemy." // **MIA MCCARTY**



"Your personal history with God is the power of your life." // **KAIRA MCKINNON**



"Who you are is based on who God says you are, not on who the world says you are." // **ROB POST**



"Jesus Christ is the only standard by which you judge yourself." // **ANTHONY WASHINGTON**

WINNING IN TIMES OF TROUBLE



WHEN IT COMES to trials and adversity, some people spend their entire lives playing “dodgeball.” When I was a youngster, I played dodgeball in physical education class. We used a small ball—sometimes a volleyball—to throw at kids on the opposing team. If you hit someone with the ball, that person was out of the game. However, if the person you were trying to hit caught the ball, *you* were out of the game. Some of my classmates were great at dodging the ball.

Some adults play dodgeball too. They spend their energy, efforts, and resources trying to dodge trouble.

Other people experience the same challenge repeatedly. I call them slow learners. Invariably, they go around the mountain again and again dealing with a seemingly never-ending problem.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

It doesn't take me long to learn something. One time I accidentally stuck my finger in an electric light bulb socket. I promise you, I never did that again!

Not properly dealing with trouble is why the same set of circumstances keeps returning. Trials and tests should be dealt with in two ways—naturally and spiritually. Solutions are not all natural, but they're not all spiritual either. To handle adversity successfully, you must address both sides.

Let's look at the natural side first.

1. GET RID OF YOUR EXCUSES.

It's easy to blame someone else. However, if you decide to do or not do something, the blame rests squarely on your shoulders.

Some people never accept responsibility for their shortcomings. They find fault with everyone else, or they come up with excuses.

Continually making excuses is really just taking on a “victim” mentality.

You may be facing problems right now. This is not the time to come up with reasons for why you aren't successful. It's time to put action to your dreams.

2. DON'T LOOK BACK.

Your answer is not behind you. If the solutions to your dilemmas were behind you, you wouldn't be in your current situation. You can't change what happened yesterday. But you can change your future. Your tomorrow can change because the answer is in front of you.

3. QUIT COMPARING YOURSELF TO OTHERS.

Comparing yourself to others can destroy you. It can eat you up like cancer. You are unique. God was pleased when He made you. When He gave you dreams and plans for the future, He knew who you were. God knows both your shortcomings and your strengths. So never compare yourself with anyone. It will only hinder you from turning those dreams into realities.

NO MATTER
HOW DIRE
YOUR
SITUATION
SEEMS, YOU
NEVER HAVE
TO FEAR
BECAUSE GOD
IS ON YOUR
SIDE.



TRIALS AND TESTS SHOULD BE DEALT WITH IN TWO WAYS—
naturally and spiritually.

4. KNOW YOUR LIMITS.

Have a realistic evaluation of yourself—your knowledge, ability, and the pressure you can handle. Too many people try to accomplish tasks beyond their capabilities. You can't expect more out of yourself than you have the knowledge and ability to achieve.

If you want to step out in an area where you have no expertise, learn what you need to know before venturing into unfamiliar territory. Stepping out before gaining knowledge can put you under an excessive amount of pressure.

Now, let's look at the spiritual side.

1. REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WITH YOU AND WANTS TO GET YOU OUT OF ADVERSITY.

Psalm 91:15 (NIV) says, *"He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him."* God never said He would only be with you some of the time. No. He is *always* with you. And He is ready to deliver you out of trouble.

At times, you may feel like everyone is against you. Instead of voicing your feelings, continually confess Romans 8:31 (NIV): *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* Remember, when God is for you, it doesn't matter who is against you.

2. RESIST FEAR

You cannot be fearful and have faith at the same time. And you can't expect the supernatural to work for you when you are filled with fear.

Romans 8:15 (NIV 1984) says, *"You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear."* God didn't give you a spirit of fear. Instead, He gave you a spirit of power, love, and a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). No matter how dire your situation seems, you never have to fear because God is on your side.

3. ALWAYS MAINTAIN A GOOD ATTITUDE.

Too many people have what I call "stinking" attitudes. They complain and cry about the adversity they are facing and say things like "I don't understand why I'm going through this." When you "count it all joy" (James 1:2), you maintain the necessary attitude of faith. Faith is what changes your situation.

4. WALK IN LOVE

Christians are not required to follow the Old Testament Law. Jesus gave them the commandment of love (John 13:34) to follow. In First Corinthians chapter 13, the Apostle Paul outlined how to fulfill this commandment. Being a doer of this passage can eliminate a lot of adversity from your life.

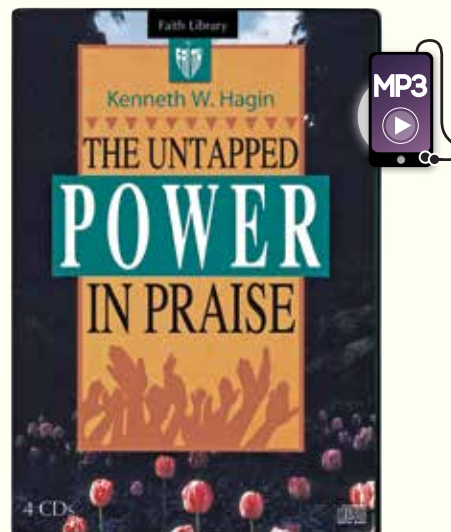
You can probably remember a time when you wouldn't have gotten into a predicament if you had more patience. It's always better to take the high road of love—it never fails. Anytime you walk in love, you enable the God of love to move on your behalf.

Standing Firm

When the wind of adversity blows, you can stand by dealing with it both naturally and spiritually. As you follow the steps I have outlined, realize that some people, though well-meaning, can exert pressure on you to go in the wrong direction. But you must be strong and stand your ground. Learn to disagree without being disagreeable.

Psalm 34:17 (NIV) says, *"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles."* This is God's promise to His children. He is faithful to do what He promised. So never doubt that God will perform His Word in your life. ♥

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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)

LIVING IN PEACE WITH OTHERS

RECENTLY, I WAS reviewing my day's events and was amazed at how many people I had interacted with that day. Of course, we are daily around our immediate family or our fellow employees. But we also communicate with friends, salespeople, restaurant staff, and so forth. How we negotiate those interactions may determine whether we have a peaceful, stress-free day or become irritated, upset, and stressed-out.

As we go through life, we find that some people simply rub us the wrong way. I don't care what they say or how they say it, their mannerisms are irritating. Maybe they don't do anything specific, but something about them gets under our skin.

Being a Christian does not automatically cause us to love and want to get along with everyone. We all have a carnal nature to deal with. Obviously, there were problems in the Corinthian church. Paul wrote the following to them: *"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you"* (1 Cor. 1:10–11 NIV).

Satan wants to stir up strife in the Body of Christ. The Bible speaks about it a lot. James 3:16 says, *"For where envy and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."* The Lord wants us to get along with each other. Psalm 133:1 (NIV) declares, *"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"*

We all have certain things that are important to us. Something I value is living in a peaceful environment. Throughout my life, I have been around many people with different personalities. I naturally enjoy some personalities more than others, but I have learned to live in peace with everyone.

Let me share a few suggestions that may help you to do the same. When I encounter difficult people, I always take the high road. Colossians 3:12–15 (NLT) admonishes us with the following: *"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful."*

Paul is reminding us of who we are. We are God's people, and our actions should be accordingly. When responding to those who irritate us, our thoughts should be, "What would Jesus do?" Will my attitudes and actions be Christ-like?

But so many times, we open our mouth and insert our foot without thinking of the consequences. And the results can be estranged relationships for years to come. I know of families who have not talked to each other for years because of getting offended by someone's actions. That is not what God intended. He wants us to live in peace and harmony.

When friends, family, co-workers, or acquaintances stir up trouble, always take the high road. Getting even never resolves the conflict. Remember that you are not perfect either and may need forgiveness yourself.

Concentrate on the positive qualities of people rather than the negatives. In counseling couples, I often hear all the complaints about each spouse. After listening to them, I then say, "Now let's see what positive traits your spouse possesses." After being reminded of those traits, oftentimes they realize they have been concentrating on the wrong things.

Finally, remember that actions are more significant than feelings. It's important to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, forgiveness, and patience. Emotions can send us in one direction, but clothing ourselves with good attitudes and behaviors will move us in a better direction. When we respond in love instead of hostility, the peace of God will surround us and cause us to live in harmony with others. ♥

Lynette

Kids Make a Splash

Young ones were diving deep during *Campmeeting!* While adults were immersed in their services, the elementary-age students were swimming in the power of the Name of Jesus, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. Kids learned about using the Word and relying on the Spirit to “Make a Splash” in their world—the theme for the week. They talked about people in the Bible and in the world today who make waves for God, and how they can do the same.

Don’t think that children are too young to jump into the flow of the Holy Spirit! There were notable times where God ministered to them right where they were at. He reminded them that they are created *on purpose for* a purpose. The Heavenly Father helped them see themselves the way He sees them. A large number of kids were healed, some accepted Jesus as Savior, and the Lord moved in all the young lives in powerful ways! Families, schools, communities, and friends are feeling the ripples from the “splashtastic” experience these children brought home with them!♥



You Were Created to . . .

Fill in the boxes below by finishing the sentences below. When you are done, the yellow boxes will tell you what you were created to do.

1. Fish were created to . . .
2. Bowling balls were created to . . .
3. Roosters were created to . . .
4. Questions were created to . . .
5. Axes were created to . . .
6. Teeth were created to . . .
7. Tops were created to . . .

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TEST YOUR MEMORY!

Memorize Ephesians 2:10 written below and when you have it memorized, cover the verse with your hand and then try to find all of the errors in the verse inside the box. “X” out wrong words that are used and put a circle where words are missing.

“For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” —Ephesians 2:10 (NIV)

FIX THIS

“For we are God’s workers, made in Jesus to do bad works, which God prepared in advantage for us.” —Ephesians 1:10 (NIV)

1. SWIM 2. ROLL 3. CROW 4. ASK 5. CHOP 6. BITE 7. SPIN

ANSWERS:

jokes & riddles

“A merry heart does good, like medicine.”

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)



Johnny: Go ask your dad for 50 cents.

Sam: I can’t.

Johnny: Why not?

Sam: Because mom said that dad doesn’t have any cents (sense).

Why did the little boy put a clothespin on a skunk’s nose?
To keep it from SMELLING.



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