



THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2021

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



A NEW SEASON

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PASSING ON YOUR FAITH

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the Word of Faith



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New Year, New Possibilities!

We stand at the threshold of a fresh new year, and many are wondering, "What does 2021 hold for me? What will happen this year?"

Some fear that we are entering a time of greater instability in the world. The recent pandemic created hardships for many people. And some are prophesying that even darker days are ahead. But is that really the entire picture?

The problem with these predictions is that they forget what the Lord has promised. They leave God out of the picture!

The economic situation, international conflicts, and natural conditions can change. Even the earthly atmosphere can change! *But God's Word never changes!* More than ever before, we must choose to believe God's Word.

When we believe and act on the Word, it overrides the picture in front of us. It may appear that we're going under, but God has promised to put us over. It may look like we're defeated, but He has promised us victory. It may seem that we are doomed to fail, but God always causes us to triumph through Christ.

What shall we do this new year? Let's look to the Lord! He is faithful and His promises are true. If we want to go where we have never gone before, we must follow the Word of God and the direction of His Spirit as we have never followed before.

As we look to the future, let us have eyes to see what the Lord is doing and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying. Then we will be able to walk in the plan God has for His people.

For believers, 2021 is loaded with possibilities! Jesus said, "*Behold, I make all things new*" (Rev. 21:5). Are you ready for some new things? Some new and *wonderful* things?

God has a wonderful destiny for you—a destiny that is written in His Word! So hold on to God's hand and get ready to see amazing things as you walk into the future.

Kenneth W. Hagin



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CRAIG W. HAGIN

MAKE 2021 GREAT!



CIRCUMSTANCES
ARE TEMPORAL.

*Don't let them
defeat you!*

can't make it look good. But you *can* move forward by “*forgetting those things which are behind.*” You have a blank page in front of you.

PHILIPPIANS 3:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Many of us would change parts of our past if we could. But once it has been “written down,” it’s done. What’s in your past is history, and you can never move forward by looking backward.

THE NEW YEAR is like a new page—brand new, crisp, and nothing on it. Last year might be a bit ripped and torn—so crumpled that when you try to straighten it, you

If you’re looking back at 2020 while trying to reach 2021, you won’t get anywhere. This past year was tough for many people. But to move forward, you can’t hold on to what happened last year. It can’t be changed. But you *can* change what happens in the future. It’s up ahead, but your past is behind.

Paul was an expert about forgetting the past. There were things he wished he wouldn’t have done, but God still used him. He still had a future! Don’t think that because of your past, you don’t have a future. No, the future is unwritten! It’s empty. What you write on its pages is up to you.

Make It Happen

Often at the end of December, ministers come up with a slogan for the new year. But just because you hear a clever motto doesn’t mean it will happen for you. You can grab hold of the word or let it slide. People can say things, but that doesn’t make it true for you. You have to believe it!

Many people sit around waiting and thinking, “This year was supposed to be great. But my year hasn’t been that great!” If you don’t expect it, it won’t be a good year! If you expect 2021 to be bad, it will be.

Did you realize that God never promised us a good economy? But He did promise us abundant life (John 10:10). A poor economy does not mean it will be bad for you. You can make money when nobody else can!

The Bible says, “Having done all, keep standing and keep standing and believing” (Eph. 6:13; 1 Cor. 15:58, 16:13). But it’s up to you to believe. Jesus said, “*All things are possible to him who believes*” (Mark 9:23 NKJV). In contrast to this verse, have you ever considered that nothing is possible if you don’t believe! By not believing, you won’t receive anything (Mark 11:24; Matt. 21:22).

Go Beyond What You See

People would like to believe, but they don’t *take* it for themselves. So if you *want* a breakout year, then *take* it! Start saying, “This year is a breakthrough year for me! 2021 is my breakout year!” When challenges come, don’t say, “Well, I guess 2021 will be just as bad as 2020.” If it looks like your year is going south, keep your words going north. Keep confessing, “I’m having a breakout year!” And if your situation gets worse, never change your confession.

Faith is looking beyond what you see because what you see is not what you believe. When you are convinced of what God said, it doesn’t matter what happens around you. You still believe His promises. My grandpa always said, “If God said it, I believe it, and that settles it.” And if that settles it, you don’t worry about it!

Believe and Speak

Every time people say anything contrary to the Word, it shows they don’t really believe. They might desire something, but they don’t really think they will receive it. So when something bad happens, they say, “Well, that was bound to happen. I knew it was too good to be true.”

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▼
Faith is the language of Heaven. Build your faith and speak into your new year with free resources at rhema.org/faith to read and download.

I don’t want to call people liars, but some Christians lie with their faith! They act as though they believe and are standing in faith. But they’re really not. If they believed, they wouldn’t say some of the things they say! I understand we’re human, but you have to decide that it doesn’t matter what happens—you are

going to believe God!

If you want this year to be better than last year, start believing it! If you want this to be your breakout year, then stay in faith and keep saying it! It’s not a one-time confession. You don’t say something once and it’s over. Romans 10:17 (NKJV) says, “*faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” So every time you hear or read the Word you are standing on, say it aloud!

Just like James says, “*Count it all joy*” (James 1:2). The Bible doesn’t say it’s always going to be joyful, but you can act like it is. It doesn’t matter what you’re going through—God is good no matter what. You can praise Him because He is reliable and will get you through anything. Circumstances are temporal. Don’t let them defeat you! Sometimes you have to decide to have a good attitude no matter what.

You Are Not Alone

The Lord will never leave you nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6; Heb. 13:5). No matter where you are or who you are around,

you are never alone. In every situation, Jesus is with you—all the time! The devil is a liar. He will try to knock you off your feet and tell you that you’re alone, or this year won’t be any better than last year.

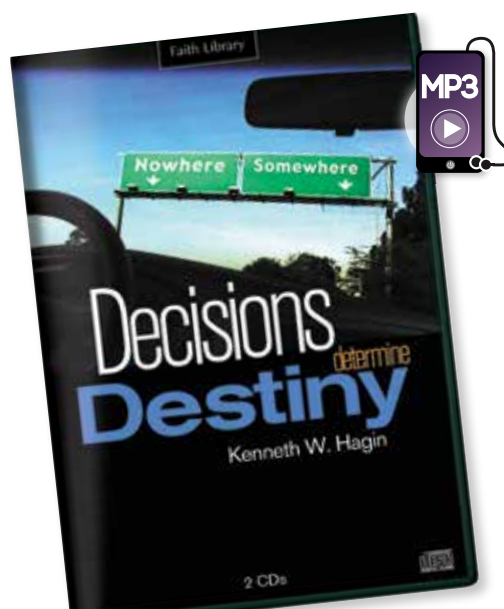
Satan knows the joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10). So choose to be happy! That might be a good start for some of you. I guarantee that if you start choosing joy, things will change for you, and people will treat you better! Positive people are contagious.

Once you decide that 2021 is going to be a good year for you, then you need to make it happen. God won’t magically make it happen. You do—through what you believe, how you talk, and the way you react. You always have a choice. The way you respond will determine your year. It will determine your life!♥

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*I started to have stirrings in my spirit and saw things on the inside—
images of me preaching, and it scared me!*

GOD DESIGNED A unique destiny for you. He prearranged things for you to walk in that you haven't seen or even discerned yet! But when you say yes to the Lord, you step onto those paths. Even if a barrier keeps you from moving forward, His truth will set you free if you allow it to!

EPHESIANS 2:10 AMPC

10 For we are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live].

When I came to Rhema Bible Training College and started traveling with Rhema Singers & Band, I never wanted to preach. I could easily sing backup, but speaking in public terrified me!

I started to have stirrings in my spirit and saw things on the inside—images of me preaching, and it scared me! I had no confidence that I could ever do that.

One afternoon in my hotel room, I tried to rest before the evening service. I couldn't sleep, so I prayed in the Holy Spirit when suddenly I had a mini vision. I saw RS&B sing a particular song. And when it was over, to my amazement, I exhorted the people! Then I finally drifted off to sleep.

Before the service that night, the RS&B leader shared the songs we were singing. My eyes got bigger than baseballs and I thought, "Oh Lord! I think I know what's coming next." The guys in the group saw the look on my face asked, "You got it?"

"If you say I've got it, I do," I replied.

In fear and trembling, I went out on the stage in front of a few thousand people. At that time, I had hardly preached at all.

The first song was Southern Gospel—you don't sing like a songbird, you sing like a lion. Every note roars! We got to the last



REJEANNA JOLIFF

note and held it for what seemed like an eternity. My nerves were pumping hard!

When the song ended, everyone looked at me. Frozen, I stared back at them. The leader quickly realized I wasn't going to say anything and called on someone else. I missed that door of opportunity!

I Found a Key

On another night, Brother Hagin shared a story about being awakened by a visitor who came for prayer. He answered the door in his pajamas thinking it was a life or death situation! When it came down to it, the woman didn't feel saved. He told her she hadn't lost her salvation and just needed to renew her mind.

Brother Hagin said, "I'll show you what I do." Then began by saying, "Lord, I thank You that I am saved. I am redeemed and washed in the blood. I am so glad I'm saved and my name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life!"

He stirred himself up and got so full of the Spirit that laughter began to bubble up. The woman said, "Your face lit up!"

As I listened to that story, it hit me. That's my key! I went back to my hotel room and praised myself to sleep. "Lord, I thank You that I'm free! Fear has no hold on me. I am free because the truth has set me free! There is no more bondage. I am free to do the will of God!"

Power of Truth

God's Word coming out of your mouth creates power! Ability and power are already in it. So when it's released, you have access to what that Word contains. I see it like a balloon. Your words pop the balloon, and whatever is in it comes out.

JOHN 8:31-32 (AMPC)

31 So Jesus said to those Jews who had believed in Him, If you abide in My word [hold fast to My teachings and live in accordance with them], you are truly My disciples.

32 And you will know the Truth, and the Truth will set you free.

Truth sets you free! Lies entangle, but truth untangles. Situations can get tangled up and cause confusion and fear. Or circumstances can seem impossible with seemingly no way out. At times like that, the truth of God's Word goes in, untangles the lies, and sets you free!

The Lord wants His truth to shine in the hidden recesses of your heart (Ps. 51:6). Psalm 23:3 says the Lord will "restore my soul." In Hebrew, part of the definition of soul is "the seat of our emotions."

Sometimes a situation can cause pain. But instead of dealing with what hurt you, you put it on a shelf. God wants to shine a light there. Then the truth of His Word will enable you to walk free of whatever tries to attach itself to you.

That happened to me at a revival. God shone a light on something I had on a shelf for 10 years. And truthfully, I was happy to keep it there.

It took some time to "work" the Word. But every time I faced that situation, I applied God's Word. I spoke scripture out loud and exercised forgiveness. I found that some tracks of my mind were unruly! No one else could see it, but it was happening inside me.

I kept stirring myself up with the Word of God and praying in the Holy Spirit. One day I was driving when that person and that situation came up. And my thoughts started down that path. But this time, a lightbulb went off inside me, "I don't have to think like that!" So I said, "I take that thought captive," and peace and joy poured into my soul like oil. It was a victory moment.

The Lord wants to finish what He started in us, but it takes our cooperation. We have to allow the truth to set us free. We cannot receive freedom for something we have not released to God—that we have kept hidden in our heart.



A LIGHTBULB WENT
OFF INSIDE ME,
"I don't have to think like that!"

Whatever we hold on to will have a hold on us. But when we let it go, truth has the freedom to do what it was meant to do—and that is to set us free. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from ReJeanna Joliff's message at *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference 2019*. She and her husband, Darren, reside in Oklahoma and are often guest ministers at church conferences and prayer gatherings.]

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Walk Through the Door of Healing

KENNETH E. HAGIN



JESUS HAS ALREADY opened doors of blessing for His people. He not only opened the door of salvation, but He also opened the door of *healing* for us and no man can shut it.

Isaiah prophesied many years ago concerning the coming Messiah that He would bear the sicknesses and diseases of us all. (See Isaiah 53:4–5.) When the prophet spoke, he was looking into the future. Isaiah prophesied about Jesus offering Himself as a sacrifice for our sins and bearing our sicknesses and diseases.

When Peter made his statements concerning the covenant of healing, he was looking back in time to Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary and to the stripes that were laid on His back. Peter said, "*By whose stripes ye were healed*" (1 Peter 2:24). This verse doesn't say you are *going* to be healed—future tense. It says you *were* healed—past tense. **IN THE MIND OF GOD, YOU WERE ALREADY HEALED AT THE CROSS WHEN HUMANITY'S SINS AND SICKNESSES WERE LAID ON JESUS.**

Therefore, the door of healing and health is open wide to you. Jesus opened it, but it's up to you to enter in! It is waiting for you to make an entrance. In other words, healing belongs to you *now*.

Someone asked, "How do you enter through the door of healing?" You enter by faith in what God said in His Word! The same way you passed through the door of salvation by accepting Jesus as Savior, you

pass through the door of healing by accepting Jesus as Healer.

Not only is the gateway to divine *healing* now open, but Jesus has opened the door of divine *health*. That means God not only wants you to be healed if you need it, but He also wants you to *stay* healthy.

One way to live in divine health is to walk closely with God every day and remain in close fellowship with Him in His Word. But if you need healing, come to God and receive it because Jesus is still the Savior and the Healer.

Only You Can Enter In

NO ONE CAN ENTER THE DOOR OF HEALING FOR YOU. Believers can come into agreement with you in prayer for your healing; others can join their faith with yours. They can help to inspire your faith. But they can't go through that door for you. Neither can Jesus. He said, "*Behold, I have set before thee an open door*" (Rev. 3:8).

Jesus was saying, "I've done My part. I've already paid the price, and I've opened the door for you. Now it is up to you to go through it." In the same verse He added, "No man can shut that door on you!"

Don't Shut the Door on Yourself

We recognize that Jesus is the One who opens and shuts doors. But when you do not go through an open

door, you are shutting off access to that blessing. Therefore, you can close the gateway to your healing.

One way you can forfeit your rights to what belongs to you in Christ is by wrong living and wrongdoing. Failure to judge sin and wrongdoing can eventually result in believers being turned over to the devil if they are not careful.

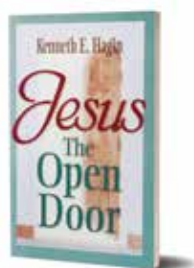
When you fail to enter through Jesus' open doors because of sin such as doubt, unbelief, or failing to walk in love—you are shutting the doors on yourself. You close yourself off from God's entryway of blessings, provisions, and promises.

Jesus works on your behalf to open doors for you! **DON'T CLOSE YOURSELF OFF BY HINDERING THE WORK OF GOD IN YOUR LIFE THROUGH SIN AND DISOBEDIENCE.**

Trust the Holy Spirit to help you *see* and *recognize* God's open doors. You can enter into what God has opened for you! Remember, what the Lord opens, no man can shut.

So by faith and obedience, walk through each door and receive what God has bountifully provided for you. Let your life be a testimony to the riches of God's inheritance in Christ. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book *Jesus the Open Door* by Kenneth E. Hagin.]





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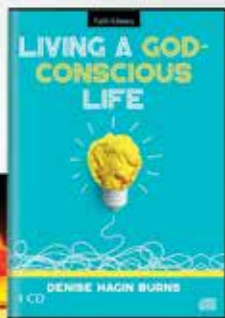
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Friends Don't Let Friends Live 'Sober'

JOE DUININCK

YOU HAVE PROBABLY heard the statement, “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk.” Letting friends drive intoxicated with alcoholic beverages is dangerous. But so is letting friends go through life “sober.” Ephesians 5:18 (GNT) says, “*Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Spirit.*” We can be appropriately intoxicated with the Spirit of God!

It’s dangerous for believers to try and fulfill their calling without being under the influence of the Holy Spirit. Believers are supposed to finish their course with joy! If you’re a true friend, what do you do when one of your friends is just a little too sober? “*Be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*” (Eph. 5:18–19 NKJV). **WE NEED TO HELP OUR FRIENDS STAY APPROPRIATELY INEBRIATED WITH GOD!**

1 Identify Your Friends

You can’t take care of everybody, so be led about who you spend your time with. Jesus ministered to a multitude, dealt with the 70, and spent a lot of time with 12. But He only poured Himself into three.

Friendship may not seem like something that fits perfectly. Look at your thumb. Your thumbnail is very hard, and it’s right next to skin that is very soft. God has placed each of us in the Body of Christ as He sees fit (1 Cor. 12:28). We don’t get to pick! **IDENTIFY WHO YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO DO LIFE WITH.**

It’s dangerous for believers to try and fulfill their calling without being under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

2 Recognize Partnership

The world looks for sterile, perfect relationships that take no time, energy, or work. Partnership can be messy! The Apostle Paul said, “*I have you in my heart*” (Phil. 1:7). If someone is in your heart, then they can tear it out! True partnership means you’re putting yourself at risk.

WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO RISK FOR THOSE YOU’VE IDENTIFIED BY THE LORD TO BE YOUR FRIENDS? Give your life to them, knowing they may not give back. Real partnership is sharing life together—authentic and high risk—carrying someone to Jesus and never giving up easily.

3 Encourage = Build Courage

Be an amazing encourager! **HELP YOUR FRIENDS BECOME WHO THEY WERE MEANT TO BE.** Scriptural encouragement builds faith. We see this throughout the Bible: “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid. God is with you!”

Sometimes you need to pick people up and have mercy, but there can be too much mercy. Don’t let your friends live “sober” and underperform on God’s plan for their lives! Come alongside them and say, “You can do this thing! You can be strong and live the way you’re supposed to live! I will go arm in arm with you.” Encouragement takes people toward their maximum potential.

4 Master an Authentic Love Walk

Love forgives and is merciful, long-suffering, patient, and wise. But that’s not all it is. It is appropriately confrontational and prunes friends by the Holy Spirit’s leading, not by our culture. If you think love looks like you, it might be partially correct or totally wrong! “Minnesota nice” and “Texas tough” can be very different viewpoints of love.

If we don’t know what Bible love looks like, we will miss it. Jesus did not want His disciples to shrink back. He asked things like, “Where is your faith? Why did you doubt?” Real love challenges us to fulfill God’s plan.

We say “*iron sharpens iron*” (Prov. 27:17). Think about that. It’s intense, hot, and causes sparks! Nobody likes the painful part. We want the final product, but being forged by the direction of the Lord may mean having to partner through some pain!

BOLDLY LIVE TO YOUR FULLNESS AND BUILD UP YOUR FRIENDS.

Identify them, partner with them, encourage them, and have an authentic love walk, because if you’re a true friend, you won’t let your friends live “sober.”♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Joe Duinick’s message from *Winter Bible Seminar 2020*. Joe is an RBTC instructor and the director of the Rhema School of World Missions.]



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A PUZZLE IS NOT A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE UNTIL YOU TAKE EACH PIECE AND *connect the puzzle together.*



THE PUZZLE OF GOD'S PLAN



LYNETTE HAGIN

ONE OF THE most important things in life is following God's plan. But sometimes that plan seems like a great big puzzle. The Lord once said to me, "A puzzle is not a beautiful picture until you take each piece and connect the puzzle together."

I don't know if you have ever put a puzzle together, but when there is a lot of blue sky, trees, or water, it's

tempting to try and make a piece fit where it doesn't belong. You leave it there for a while because you think, "This has to be the right piece. I've hunted and hunted and can't find another piece that fits here!" But in your heart, you know it doesn't fit. Then suddenly, you find the right piece that matches the spot, and it makes a beautiful picture!

That's the way it is with God's plan for our lives. Maybe we only have one or two puzzle pieces in our hand. Or perhaps several pieces are missing, and we can't figure out what the puzzle is supposed to be.

God may have already given us the plan. But then He drops a piece into our lap that doesn't seem to fit anywhere. What do we do then? Do we try to force that piece to fit where it doesn't

belong? Or do we put our trust in the Lord and follow Him step by step as He hands us one piece at a time to the puzzle of our life?

A favorite scripture of mine that always encourages me to follow God's plan is First Corinthians 2:9 (NLT)—"*No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared*" for His children.

Every time I read that verse, I get excited in my spirit! God has many wonderful plans for our lives because He loves us, and we are His precious children. But sometimes we get the pieces of the puzzle so mixed up that we can't seem to follow His will!

No Shortcuts to the Promised Land

If you think you have trouble following God's plan, imagine what it must have been like for Abraham when God first dealt with him about going to the Promised Land. When Abraham was 75 years old, God told him to leave his country, the land of his fathers, without telling him where he was supposed to go! The Lord simply said, "Go to a place I will show you" (Gen. 12:1).

Most of us probably would have replied, "But Lord—aren't You going to give me a clue about where we are going?" We would have wanted God to hand us a few more pieces to the puzzle. But Abraham didn't question the Lord. He loaded up his belongings, took his wife and family, and started on a journey to follow God's plan.

When Abraham reached the land of Canaan, almost immediately a famine struck. If that had been most of us, we would have said, “Now, wait a minute, Lord! This is supposed to be the Promised Land. What’s happening here?”

You may think you have reached your promised land, but all of a sudden a famine hits. I encourage you to hold on. The last chapter in the book of your life hasn’t been written yet!

A Giant Step of Faith

I can relate to how Abraham must have felt when God spoke to Him about leaving the place where he had lived his entire life and going to a strange land. My husband and I experienced something similar in the early years of our marriage.

I always knew God had a plan for my life. I grew up in a pastor’s home and longed to be a pastor’s wife. But it turned out that being a pastor’s wife wasn’t the first thing God called me to do. It would be another 20 years before my husband and I began pastoring Rhema Bible Church.

In the meantime, I continued to follow God’s plan, one step at a time. When the Lord handed me a new piece to the puzzle, I tried to do what He asked with all my heart.

But one day He gave me a really hard puzzle piece. It was something I did not want to do at all. The Lord asked me to do what He had asked Abraham to do—leave my own country, my own people, and go to a strange land. It was a giant step of faith for me, and I struggled with the Lord about it.

I began to seek the Lord, asking Him to show me whether this was His plan for our lives. As I prayed, talked to God, and studied His Word, He made it clear that this was His plan. This was the next piece of the puzzle, even though it looked like it didn’t fit anywhere in what I thought was God’s plan.

Our friends thought we were crazy when Ken left a position as associate pastor and we moved to Tulsa to do God-knows-what. Yes, we were crazy—crazy enough to obey the Lord.

IF WE TAKE THE PUZZLE PIECES GOD HANDS
TO US AND OBEY HIS INSTRUCTIONS TODAY,
HE WILL TAKE CARE OF TOMORROW.

But if we had not been willing to take that giant step of faith, even when it looked like it was wrong for us, we wouldn’t be where we are today. We followed God’s plan to the very best of our abilities, and He has blessed us as He promised in First Corinthians 2:9—beyond our wildest dreams and imaginations!

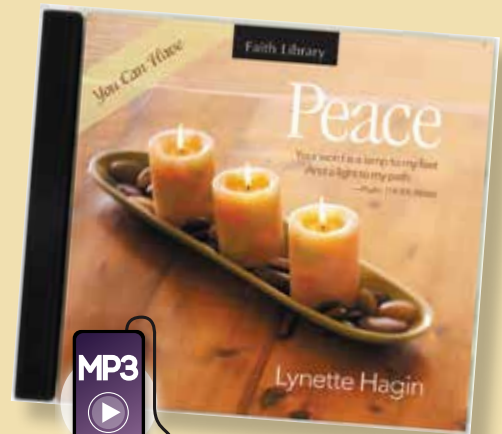
God’s Amazing Plan

God has always had a plan for your life. He had a purpose in mind when He created you. He looked down from Heaven and said, “There’s no one on earth exactly like the person I’m about to create.” And then He added, “I have a special mission for them to accomplish.”

The success of that mission depends on how we follow God’s plan for us. But so many times, we give up on God’s will and His promise right before it comes to pass. Or we try to make things happen in our strength.

If we take the puzzle pieces God hands us and obey His instructions today, He will take care of tomorrow. And He will fulfill every word He has spoken to our hearts! Eventually, all the pieces of the puzzle will fall into place, and we will see the beautiful picture of God’s amazing plan.♥

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KENNETH W. HAGIN

LIVING CLOSE TO GOD



A DIRECT CORRELATION exists between people drawing near to God and Him revealing His glory. God always responds to hungry hearts. James 4:8 (NKJV) says, “*Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.*”

Drawing near to God means we commune with Him in our thoughts. We allow His Word to shape our attitudes, and we glorify Him in our lifestyle. Amid the stress and pressures of everyday life, we take time to focus on God and not on the affairs of life. And we praise Him with heartfelt gratitude for who He is and what we have because of Him.

Let’s look at what we can expect to experience when we draw near to God.

A Place of Protection

When we draw close to God, we will experience *a place of protection* in His presence.

We can run to Him and find protection under the shadow of the Almighty. We can hide in Him and be “covered with His feathers and find refuge under His wings” (Ps. 91:4).

As Christians, we are in Christ from a positional perspective, but we can experientially get too far away from God’s place of protection. This happens when we allow distractions, the things of the world, offenses, and so forth to keep us far from the Father in our thoughts, attitudes, and worship. Sometimes, needless tragedies happened because a believer wasn’t drawing near to God in their walk.

When we live near God in a place of protection, He can manifest Himself to keep us from harm. Too often, the Holy Spirit tries

WHEN WE LIVE *near God* IN A PLACE OF PROTECTION, HE CAN MANIFEST HIMSELF TO KEEP US FROM HARM.



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to warn believers of something to come that they need to avoid. But they override the promptings and miss out on a manifestation of the Holy Spirit to bless and protect them.

We must live in close fellowship with the Lord daily, not just on Sunday or at a special meeting or seminar. It doesn’t mean we have to stop all of our daily activities. We can stay in an attitude of prayer and fellowship while going about our daily affairs.

A Place of Communion

We will experience *a place of communion* when we live close to God. The further away we live from the Lord, the less we will be able to hear His voice. The Father wants intimate communion and fellowship with all His children. But it is difficult to have an intimate conversation with someone if they are not close to you.

If I were standing in my pulpit at Rhema Bible Church and wanted to have a conversation, without a microphone, with an usher standing in the back of the auditorium, it would be difficult. I might try to holler, “How are you doing?” If he heard me, he might nod or perhaps yell back, “I’m doing great!” But we couldn’t have an in-depth conversation because of the distance between us.

Similarly, suppose we're living far from God in our thoughts, attitude, and worship. We wouldn't be able to enjoy the privilege of an authentic relationship with Him. When a believer goes any length of time without entering into a place of intimate communion with the Lord, their Christian experience becomes lackluster and weak. They will succumb to every temptation and give in to every adverse circumstance that comes their way.

It takes living experientially close to God to overcome temptation. So refuse to let anything keep you from drawing near to the Lord and experiencing His presence in your life.

A Place of Receiving

Another experience we can enter into as we draw close to God is a *place of receiving* from Him. Some people doubt that God wants them to have the blessings He has promised in His Word. But those blessings were bought and paid for by the blood of Jesus. Why wouldn't He want us to have them!

Romans 8:32 says, "*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*" It is difficult to draw near to God if we wonder if He wants to bless us. Instead of doubting, we should rejoice and receive what He has provided.

The way to overcome doubt concerning the promises of God is through faith in His Word. It's easy to have faith in God's promises when we are in close fellowship with Him. But a distant relationship with Him causes us to fall prey to doubt and unbelief. A lack of reading, studying, or meditating on scripture causes faith to elude us.

God made His will clear to us in His Word.

2 CORINTHIANS 1:20 (NIV)

20 For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.

And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Our Position Is Secure

Some believers aren't certain about their position with God. They don't understand His plan of redemption and the work Jesus accomplished on their behalf at the cross—in his death, burial, and resurrection. They often feel unworthy of drawing near to God. But the Bible says we can approach Him with full assurance of faith (Heb. 10:22). Through the blood of Jesus, our hearts have been cleansed from the guilt caused by our sin nature.

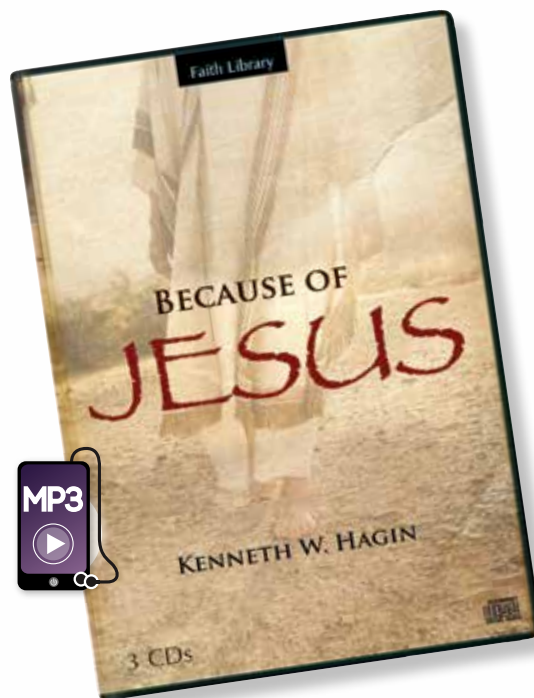
When we accept Jesus as our Savior and Lord, we are washed, cleansed by His blood, and made free to enjoy communion with the Most High. Our position changes from being a part of the kingdom of darkness to having citizenship in the kingdom of light! Positionally, we have been brought near to Him in a divine union. Now we must draw near to Him in our experience. We must enjoy fellowship with Him through His Word and prayer.

The Lord is saying *yes* to every promise He has made. But unless we add our "so be it" to God's "yes," we will never experience the reality of these blessings in our lives!

Everyone qualifies to be a recipient of the promises of God by accepting Jesus as Savior.

But we have to experientially draw near to God to receive from Him. In that place of being near to the Father, we experience a place of protection, of communion, of receiving, and of enjoying *all* His blessings!♥

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Passing Your Faith to the Next Generation

DOUG JONES

IT IS CLEAR from God's Word that believers have privileges and blessings. However, many Christians allow those areas to overshadow a responsibility that Christianity places on each of us. And that is to pass our faith on to the next generation.

The degree to which Christianity thrives in the years to come will depend on how well we share our faith experiences with those coming behind us. While it is important to pass on our faith by example, **A TIME COMES WHEN WE MUST BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH SHARING OUR CHRISTIAN JOURNEY WITH OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN.** We need to tell them about our interactions with our Heavenly Father.

DEUTERONOMY 6:6-7

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

From this verse, we see that passing our faith on to our children should be a part of our daily activity and family life. Neglecting to share our experiences with our kids only produces a generation that doesn't know the Lord or His works. We see this mentioned in Judges 2:10 (NKJV): *"When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel."*

In its simplest form, teachers pass on what they know. One thing we are to pass on is our stories. **I HAVE FOUND THAT PEOPLE REMEMBER STORIES LONG AFTER DOCTRINE HAS BEEN TAUGHT.**

Hebrews 5:12 says, *"For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."* The word "teachers" in this scripture isn't referring to the five-fold ministry office of a teacher. It is saying that believers should grow to the point where they can teach others.

Years ago, I had a conversation with a pastor about passing faith on to our kids. She asked, "Have you ever shared how you were born again with your children outside of the pulpit?"

I thought about it and replied, "No, I have never done that."

"Have you shared with your children how you received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?"

Once again, I paused to think and realized I had not. It dawned on me that we—especially ministers—can get caught up with sharing everything that has occurred in our relationship with the Lord from behind the podium. But we forget about an audience at home that we need to diligently pass those stories on to.

SOMETHING WE CAN DO IS TELL OUR KIDS HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT LED US. Romans 8:14 says, *"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God."* Sharing those experiences can help them expect the Spirit of God to also lead them.

Although I grew up in a thriving Pentecostal church, I don't remember much being said about being led by the Spirit. But when I came to Rhema Bible Training College in 1974, Brother Hagin shared how he was led by the Holy Spirit. His stories helped me believe that my Heavenly Father would also guide me.

So rehearse the times the Lord has led you in the past. Talk about them and find the opportunity to share those experiences with your children and grandchildren. When you impart your faith to them, you have the power to influence an entire generation. ♥

[Editor's Note: Doug Jones is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College. This article was adapted from his *Winter Bible Seminar 2020* message.]



INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

Passing our faith on to our children should be a part of our daily activity and family life.



DEEPER

DIMENSIONS IN GOD



A **CHILD'S SWIMMING** pool is about 12 to 18 inches deep. An adult pool could be 3 to 8 feet deep or more. The water is the same in both; one just goes deeper. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit after being born again is like jumping into the adult pool. It's the same Spirit but in a deeper dimension.

The Word of God suggests a dual working of the Spirit in those who believe in Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit comes *within* the believer in the New Birth and then comes *upon* the believer when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit. A deep Pentecostal experience, such as the baptism in the Holy Spirit, is not to be despised but rather coveted.

When I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, I was pastoring a church. People were regularly saved and healed. I taught my congregation that you could be healed in answer to faith in line with Mark 11:24. But we never had one manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit among us.

I was anointed to preach, of course, because with the calling of God, the anointing is there. But we never had any prophecy, tongues and interpretation, discerning of spirits, or words of knowledge. But as soon as I was baptized with the Holy Ghost, we began to see supernatural manifestations!

Evidence of Power

I was led by the Spirit not to say anything to my church at first. Some Baptist minister friends of mine received this experience and started talking about it. And as soon as they did, the board of

directors in their churches threw them out! I just kept on preaching. After about 30 days, people asked, "What happened to you?"

"Has something happened to me?" I responded.

"Oh, yes!"

"Well, is it good or bad?"

"Oh, it's good! You're a better preacher than you used to be."

"What do you mean?" I asked. I couldn't tell that I was preaching any better.

"You have more power. When you preach now, it's solid. It has a punch to it. Sometimes it almost knocks us off the pew!"

That didn't mean I preached hard. But there was *power* in my words. When I told the congregation what happened to me, almost all of them followed me and were baptized in the Holy Ghost. We didn't lose anyone!

I believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit ought to make a difference in the same way the New Birth should make a difference in a person's life. Jesus said, "*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me*" (Acts 1:8). We witness vocally by telling people about Jesus. But I'm of the opinion that the greatest way to witness is by producing fruit. Let people see something!

I never said one word to my family about God or Jesus. I didn't try to get them saved or even invite them to come hear me preach. I seemed to be led *not* to. Something held me from it. I thought, "If they see the reality of being born again, they will want it," and every single one of them followed me in!

Different Manifestations

ACTS 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Other spectacular manifestations might accompany the baptism in the Holy Spirit, or they might not. Tongues always accompanied the experience in the Book of Acts, but no further reference is made to a rushing mighty wind or cloven tongues of fire. However, the following experience happened to me several times.

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I was invited to preach at a church, and as I closed my message, the Spirit of God inspired me to speak in tongues. The pastor stood up and interpreted it. I spoke again under the inspiration

of the Holy Spirit, and the pastor again interpreted it.

The building was jam-packed. When that pastor interpreted the second message, we heard a sound like a wind blowing. Whoosh! Everyone heard it. You could feel it blow through the building. We never prayed for anyone or laid hands on anyone, but every sick person in that place was instantly healed!

One woman was brought by ambulance and rolled in on a stretcher. When that wind swept through, she leaped off the stretcher and ran down the aisle, instantly healed! People who didn't have the baptism in the Holy Spirit received it and spoke in tongues. Sinners were born again.

Power That Serves Others

In Acts chapter 8, the Samaritans received the baptism in the Holy Spirit (vv. 15-17). You can see the Holy Spirit at work in receiving Christ (v.12), yet you can still see Him at work before then in the miracles Philip wrought.

ACTS 8:6-8

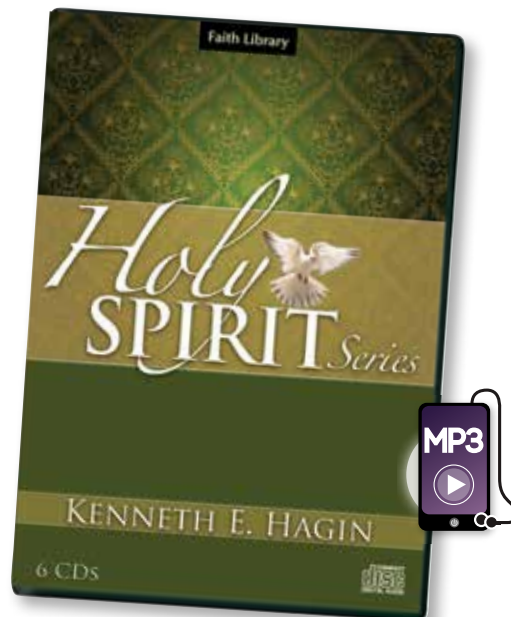
6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

8 And there was great joy in that city.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just an experience for us to have a good time and enjoy. It's an endowment of power for service (Luke 24:49;

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Acts 1:8). The gifts of the Spirit are given so we can bless *others* (1 Cor. 12:7-11). We need to add this deeper dimension to our walk with God and receive the power He has provided for us! When we do, people will see the difference in our lives! ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book *The Spirit Within and the Spirit Upon* by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

Get In on God's Fullness!

Have you been born again and Spirit-filled? If not, you can pray this prayer now:

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord and accept His sacrifice for me. I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue. From this day forward, I will look to You for guidance and freedom. Amen.

Welcome to God's family! Please email partnerservice@rhema.org or call 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484) so we can celebrate and send you free resources.

SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

TRUSTING JESUS IN 2021

Another year is here: 2021! What a year we have left behind. I was looking at the Seed Thoughts I had written in the January 2020 issue. I had admonished people to have more personal contact and show acts of kindness. Of course, I was unaware of what the year held. We experienced many days of being at home together.

Families were looking for activities to occupy their homebound children. It thrilled me when I would go down the toy aisle and find empty shelves where all the board games and puzzles were normally stocked. My husband and I like to put puzzles together, so I decided to go online and purchase some. Even the puzzle companies online were out of stock. Though I was disappointed I could not purchase a puzzle, I was excited that finally people had slowed down enough to have some family time.

Going to the grocery store was an experience in its own right. Not only were paper towels and toilet paper a rare find, but many of the items most people use to cook with were gone as well. I realized we were all forced to cook at home since restaurants were closed. My husband enjoyed home-cooked meals, and it certainly honed my cooking skills.

As 2021 began approaching, I was reflecting upon all the uncertainties that 2020 had brought. In my devotional time I asked the Lord, "What about 2021?" He often answers me by bringing lyrics of songs to my mind.

All of a sudden, I began singing a song I had not thought of in years. Some of the lyrics say this: "He's got the whole world in His hands. He's got you and me, brother, in His hands. He's got you and me, sister, in His hands. He's got the little bitty baby in His hands. He's got the whole world in His hands."

I realized God was saying, "Quit worrying about what 2021 may hold. I've got everyone in My hand. And as long as you allow Me to have you in My hand, you will make it through the year."

I realize many are questioning and wondering how long this pandemic will last and its far-reaching effects. There are reports of many that have succumbed to drugs, alcohol, suicide, and depression. That is exactly what the enemy would like. John 10:10 (AMP) puts it this way, "*The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows).*"

The enemy would love to keep you in a state of fear. Second Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) declares, "*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*" Do not allow fear to control your life and keep you from enjoying an abundant and joyful life. I encourage you to place your trust in the Heavenly Father. He is here to take care of you.

I think about the story in Mark 4:35–40 (NLT), "*As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let's cross to the other side of the lake.' So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.*"

"*Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, 'Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?' When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the water, 'Silence! Be still!' Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, 'Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?'*"

When Jesus spoke the words "*Let's cross to the other side,*" He knew they would reach the other side regardless of circumstances. Obviously, the disciples did not have faith in those words, or they would not have been concerned about the storm.

When we get into the boat with Jesus, we can trust His words, "*Let's cross to the other side.*" I love the hymn, "'Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus, Just to take Him at His Word. Just to rest upon His promise. Just to know, 'Thus saith the Lord.'"†

I encourage you to put your complete trust in the Lord this year, as truly He does have the whole world in His hands.♥

Lynette

*An African-American spiritual that was first published in *Spirituals Triumphant, Old and New* in 1927.

† "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus." Lyrics by Louisa M.R. Stead, c. 1850–1917.





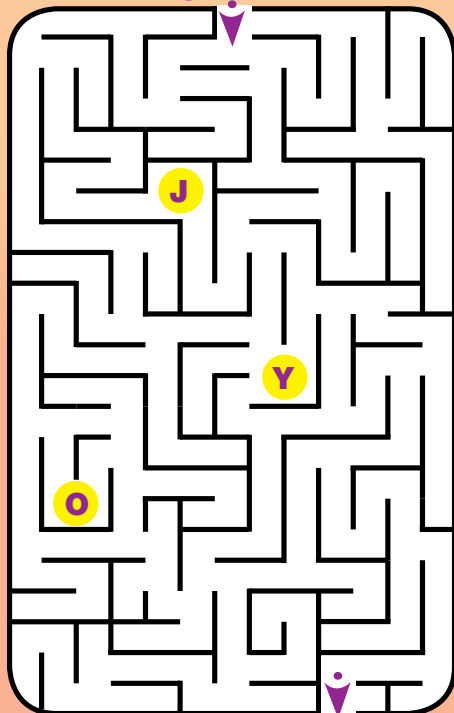
Kids' Page

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

Find the JOY in the JOURNEY!

Using a pencil, trace the correct path through the maze below by finding the letters to spell the word J-O-Y in the correct order. You cannot retrace your path or go over a line that you have already drawn.

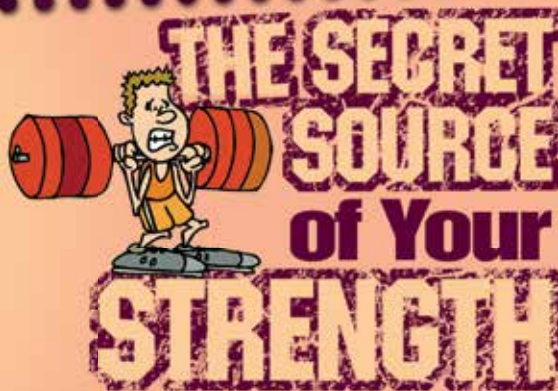
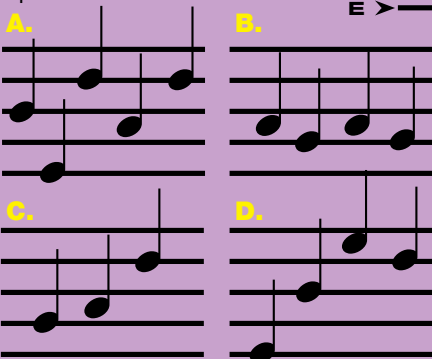
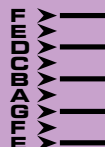
START



FINISH

TAKE NOTE OF THIS!

The lines and spaces on a music staff represent letters of the alphabet as shown in the sample to the right. Figure out what Bible names are spelled out on the music staves below.



If you remember the story of Samson in the Book of Judges, you will recall that Samson's enemies paid Delilah to find out what the **secret of his strength** was. They knew that if they could **cut him off** from his source of strength, they could capture him and taunt him. Samson told Delilah the source of his strength and ended up getting captured by the Philistines.

Well, just like Samson, you have an enemy who wants to **cut you off** from your source of strength. Your enemy, the devil, knows where your hidden source of strength is . . . **but DO YOU?** Nehemiah 8:10 tells us *"the joy of the Lord is your strength"* (NKJV). Don't let your enemy cut you off from your source of strength! If you can keep your joy, then your enemy can't capture you or harm you like Samson's enemies did.

Here are a few Biblical ways to keep your joy—your secret source of strength:

1. STAY IN GOD'S PRESENCE

"In Your [God's] presence is fullness of joy" (Ps. 16:11 NKJV).

2. LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF JESUS

"These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full" (John 15:11 NKJV).

3. ASK GOD TO MEET YOUR NEEDS

"Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24 NKJV).

WHERE DOES JOY COME FROM?

The source of your strength is joy! But where does joy come from? You can figure it out by converting the color circles below into letters using the guide below it to figure out which colors stand for which letters.



jokes & riddles

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



What did the father goat say to his son when he got in trouble at school?

I remember when I was a KID . . .

Even though I'm full of holes, I can still hold water. What am I?

A sponge

When you meet me, you beat me and heat me and eat me. What am I?

An egg

What do you call a bee who is having a bad hair day?

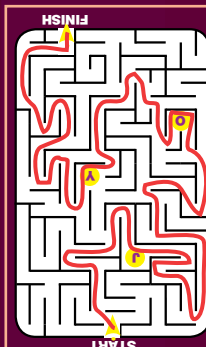
A frizz bee (frisbee)

TONGUE TWISTERS!

Try saying these tongue twisters three times as fast as you can!

YOU SHOULD SEE SHELBY SELL SEA SHELLS

CAPTAIN COULDN'T QUICKLY CLEAN THE QUEEN'S CLICKING CLOCK



Take Note of This!
Answers:
A. Bedad
B. Agag
C. Gad
D. Ebed
Ezra 8:6
Where Does Joy Come From?
HOLY GHOST
Romans 14:17;
Galatians 5:22



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KENNETH E. HAGIN
EVANGELISTIC ASSOC.



Dear Friend,
International Rhema Day is May 2, 2021. You have an opportunity to support Rhema Bible Training College's USA to help train and equip tomorrow's ministers! Many people still need to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But you can help change that on *International Rhema Day* with your prayers and financial gifts!

Thank you for your support!

Kenneth E. Hagin

SUNDAY, MAY 2

Supporting Rhema—Reaching the World!

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