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SEPTEMBER 2021

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Need Some Rest?

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matt. 11:28 NKJV). God’s promise of divine relief and rest is for anyone who will accept it. It doesn’t matter who you are or what you’re facing.

Are you troubled and ill at ease? Are life’s pressures weighing you down? Do you need relief from the stress of your present situation? Could you use some rest for your soul?

If so, Jesus says, “Come to Me and hear My voice. Come into My Presence and experience My grace and strength.” He is inviting you, but He won’t force you to accept what He’s offering. *You* have to do something. It’s up to you to *come to Him*.

You must also be willing to exchange your yoke for His. Jesus said, “Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls” (Matt. 11:29 NKJV).

In other words, when you come to the Lord, you will have to submit yourself to His guidance and authority to enjoy His rest. You’re the one who decides whether to obey Him. You are saved by faith, but you enter into God’s rest by obedience!

Aren’t you glad that God provided a way of escape from the pressures you encounter? Isn’t it wonderful that He’s not off somewhere in the distance? He is not making you deal with difficult situations to the best of your know-how.

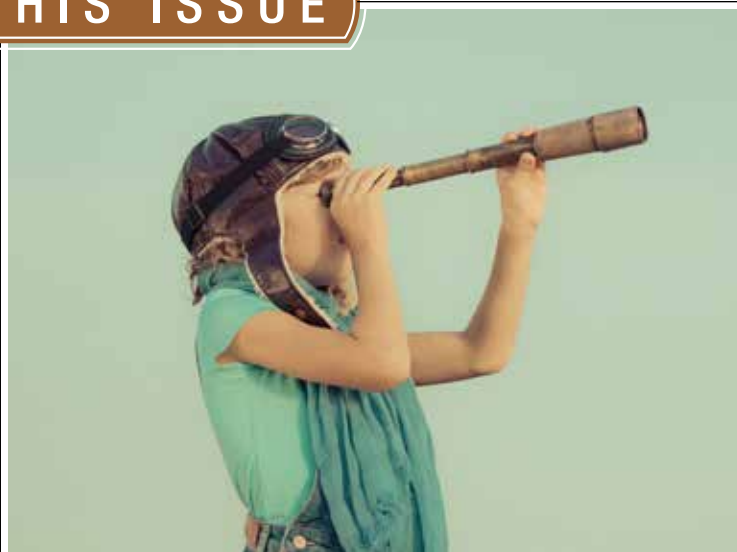
You can draw strength and encouragement from the Lord’s invitation for whatever you need today. Jesus Christ, the Anointed One, can remove any burden and destroy any yoke in your life. He is saying to you, “I am your Deliverer. Come to Me, and I will give you rest.”

Don’t miss a single page of this issue of our magazine. It’s packed full of Bible truths that will build your faith and help you enjoy God’s abundant life! Be sure to share your favorite quotes on social media! Just #RhemaWOF.

Kenneth W. Hagin



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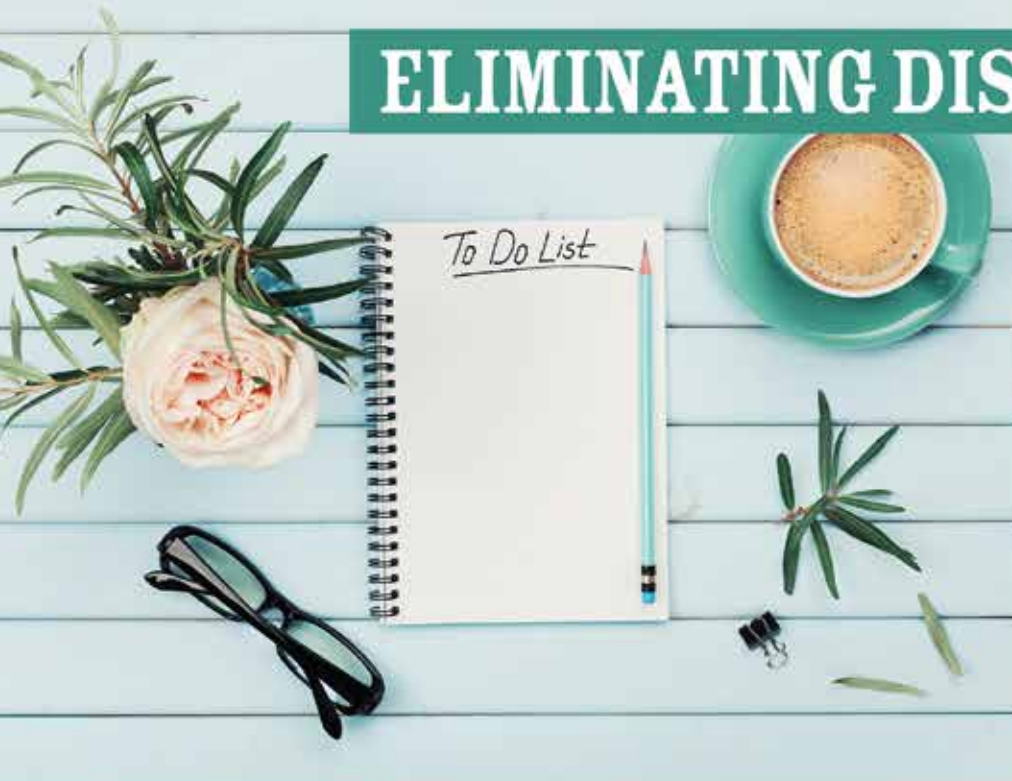
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ELIMINATING DISTRACTIONS



IT TAKES A LOT OF WORK AND ENERGY TO START A PROJECT. BUT IT TAKES A GREAT DEAL OF CONCENTRATION TO *finish it*.



LYNETTE HAGIN

ANYONE WHO KNOWS me knows that I love to-do lists. I like to be organized because I have a lot to accomplish every day. But many times, one distraction after another comes up. And at the end of the day, I've gotten nothing done.

Life often consists of rabbit trails instead of highways. We're always on the move but nothing is accomplished. Distractions dictate our decisions and control our schedules.

Rebuilding the Jerusalem Walls

We read in the Old Testament that King Artaxerxes granted Nehemiah permission to return to Jerusalem to rebuild the city walls. The local officials in Jerusalem weren't happy to learn of Nehemiah's plans. So they used every demoralizing technique to discourage and distract him. But Nehemiah and the Israelites in the city stayed in one accord and continued working until they completed the wall.

NEHEMIAH 6:1-3 (NLT)

1 Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies found out that I had finished rebuilding the wall and that no gaps remained—though we had not yet set up the doors in the gates.

2 So Sanballat and Geshem sent a message asking me to meet them at one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But I realized they were plotting to harm me,

3 so I replied by sending this message to them: "I am engaged in a great work, so I can't come. Why should I stop working to come and meet with you?"

When distractions order our day, it can be difficult to hear the voice of the Holy Spirit. Nehemiah, however, remained sensitive and was aware that his enemies were plotting to harm him. Every time Sanballat and Geshem sent Nehemiah messages to meet, he ignored them.

But guess what? Rebuilding the walls never would have happened if Nehemiah had let the distractions keep him from God's assignment. How many times do we allow distractions to keep us from fulfilling God's plan?

Getting the Job Done

It's so easy to get distracted and quit working on a task. We only have to look at the unfinished projects around the house to know how true that is.

One time when I was cleaning, I came across a half-finished afghan. As I thought about it, I realized I had started knitting that afghan 25 years earlier! I never finished it because something distracted me. And I placed more importance on the distraction than I did on the project.

Too often, our attention switches to the wrong thing. It takes a lot of work and energy to start a project. But it takes a great deal of concentration to finish it.

What Are You Focusing On?

Time and again, our lives consist of Rush and Urgent. The urgent consumes us, and we don't have time for the eternal. I have found that God's time clock doesn't operate on Rush and Urgent. His timing isn't like a microwave; it's more like a crock-pot. He likes to put us in places where we will "cook" for a while. That way, we'll come out tender and patient.

We do a million little things, and we leave the big things undone. We fill our days with things that don't matter and leave unfinished the things that do. Jesus told us how to fix this.

MATTHEW 6:33-34 (MSG)

33 Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

34 Give your entire attention to what God is doing right now, and don't get worked up about what may or may not happen tomorrow. God will help you deal with whatever hard things come up when the time comes.

God wants our full attention, but many things pull us away from Him. Here are just a few.

FACEBOOK. I love the connection we have on social media. But several hours can go by as we mindlessly scroll through our newsfeed.

FEAR. We spend too much time worrying about things that never happen.

HOBBIES. God doesn't mind us enjoying ourselves in our free time. But our hobbies should not consume all our time.

FAMILY. God created the home and family before He created the Church. But we must keep everything in perspective. Family activities should not keep us out of church.

FRIENDS. We need friends who support and encourage us. But sometimes friends can give us advice that may not be from God.

CELLPHONES. Nowadays, everything is on our cellphone. We can search the Internet, check email, text, scroll Facebook, and even do our banking. It's easy for us to get distracted from what we should be doing by checking something on our phone.

JOBS. We all need jobs, and we should be good employees. However, we have to guard against becoming workaholics.

FINANCES. When we don't know if our budget will balance, we can worry about how the bills will get paid.

Leaning on the Holy Spirit

Jesus told His disciples that He had to leave so the Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7). The Holy Spirit is our Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor, Counselor, Strengtheners, and Standby (John 15:26 AMP).

The Holy Spirit was given to us as the voice of our Guide. He wants to show us how to handle everything that happens to us. But He doesn't speak in a loud voice—only in a slight whisper. Scripture says there are many voices in the world (1 Cor. 14:10). The Holy Spirit is the one voice that is always there for us. But we have to recognize it in the midst of distractions and be sensitive to what He is saying.

When we pray in Jesus' Name about a need, our Father God hears our prayer and tells the Holy Spirit how to guide us. The Spirit wants to tell us what God has said (John 16:13). But we often have distractions screaming to be heard. Instead of tuning them out, we let them keep us from hearing the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit. Even though He's talking, we can't hear Him. And that's why people make bad decisions. They listen to the wrong voice.

Life is busy. Like a juggler, most of us have many balls in the air—God, family, work, school, and so forth. But in the busyness of life, our number-one priority must be God. We have to seek first His Kingdom (Matt. 6:33) and follow Him. When we do, we will hear the Holy Spirit's voice and know what to do when distractions try to get us off course.♥

SPECIAL OFFER



A Key to Answered Prayer

To receive from God, you must look at your circumstances the right way. What you focus on will bring you either victory or defeat. When you expect God to move based on His Word, He will do what He said.

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'THE GREATEST DECISION WE'VE EVER MADE'

"We came to Rhema six months after getting married, and sitting through those classes was like marriage counseling for us. Rhema not only helped us grow and develop as individuals, it helped us establish the foundation for our marriage. We didn't even know where Broken Arrow was, but it was the greatest decision we have ever made. We learned so much about the

foundational truths of faith and how to love people, which is so important. We had a lot of challenges while we were in school. But in all of them, God showed himself mightily.

"I will never forget the times we would see Pastor Hagin dedicate babies at church while we were believing God for a child. When it happened, our son arrived three months early, weighing only one pound and 13 ounces. But at Rhema, we learned about a God who heals the sick and raises the dead, and that faith works! Faith works every day! And Rhema has never changed its message. There is such clarity in its message, and that is why it's reaching the world!"

// HENRY AND ELLA LOONEY ('89)

'RHEMA WAS THE OBVIOUS CHOICE!'

"At one point in my life I decided that when I was old enough to choose for myself, I would be done with church. I didn't want to go anymore. I didn't see a lot of life in it. Then my life changed when I went to a church pastored by a Rhema graduate. I heard the Word of God in a way I never had before. That put me on a quest to know God, and He began to drop in my heart that I was called to ministry. For me, Rhema was the obvious choice!

“My time at Rhema was so precious. It was a season of much growth. I was very young—straight out of high school! Nowadays, there are many ministry schools one can go to. But at Rhema, all the instructors have so much valuable experience. Every day you just get loaded down with truth and excellence! Sometimes I go through a problem and realize I already received the answer 23 years ago in a Rhema class! You just receive so much in the Word, in the Spirit, and in practical knowledge . . . it’s the full package! I don’t know of any other place that has Rhema’s track record and has produced so many world-changers. It’s been an honor to be a part of it!” // **CHRIS PILKERTON ('98)**

'RHEMA TAUGHT ME HOW TO STAND FIRM ON THE WORD'

“I followed Kenneth E. Hagin and read his books; that’s how my journey with Rhema started,” shares Nigel. “But it wasn’t the books necessarily that brought me to Rhema. It was just a hunger for God. It wasn’t wanting to be a pastor, teacher, prophet, evangelist, or anything like that. I just wanted to know more about God. I wanted to go for several years before but never made the decision to. Then one day I told the Lord, ‘If You supply, I will go.’”

“I remember like it was yesterday. I was at a church in Alabama and a couple whom I barely knew came up to me and asked to speak to me after service. Later they said, ‘Are you going to Rhema?’ At that time I had never talked with them about Rhema. It was supernatural. I told them, ‘I haven’t made a decision, but I told God if He would bless me and show me that this is what I’m supposed to do, I would go.’ Then they said, ‘God told us that we’re supposed to supply and meet all of your needs for Rhema!’ They handed me a \$4,000 check. I was blown away! God’s ways are always higher than ours!”

At Rhema,
we learned about a God
who heals the sick and
raises the dead, and that
faith works!

—Henry and Ella Looney

Tracy adds, “I simply had a desire to leave my environment and the atmosphere I was once a part of. I was ready to do what God called me to do, and I was committed to separate myself to really hear from God about His calling for my life. Rhema taught me how to stand firm on the Word regardless of what was going

on around me. It established the firm foundation that allowed me to go off and do what God has called me to do. Which now plays into our marriage, our family, and what we are called to do together!”

// **NIGEL AND TRACY ARNOLD ('12)**

'I LEARNED TO FOLLOW GOD NO MATTER WHAT'

“My parents went to Rhema and graduated in 1982, so I felt like I needed to follow in their footsteps. But when I got there, I realized I needed Rhema for myself. It was there that I really felt qualified and confident enough to follow God and pursue the call He had for my life. Rhema gave me the tools that I needed.

“Sometimes there is a lot of fear of the unknown when it comes to following God. There are many questions. Can I do this? Where is this going to take me? How is it going to work? There’s so much you don’t know. I believe many people hesitate to step out and follow God because of the unknown. But it was really my time at Rhema that gave me the confidence to say, ‘It doesn’t matter what I know in the natural. I know that God is in control, and He’s going to take care of me if I just obey Him.’”

“That’s what I learned at Rhema—obedience! I learned to follow God no matter what and never give up! I graduated from Rhema with the mentality that if I do my part, God will always do His part. I tell people all the time, ‘I am married, I have two children, and I have a really good life. But my years at Rhema were some of the best of my life, and that is no exaggeration!’”

// **ROBERT CONOVER ('02)** 🇺🇸

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—Chris Pilkerton

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“My love for the Lord skyrocketed when I was at Rhema. It’s like I fell in love with Him all over again—the teaching, the classes, and more importantly the presence of the Lord that is always there. The Word and God’s presence are the two aspects of Rhema that laid an eternal and steady foundation in my life that affects who I am today.” // **Laura McNeese ('08)**

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Seven Ways to Get Healed



SCRIPTURE CONTAINS SEVERAL methods through which healing can be obtained. Because everyone's faith is not on the same level, God has provided seven ways to receive physical healing. God doesn't leave us stranded. If we cannot rise to meet Him on His level, He will come down to ours.

1. DEMAND IN JESUS' NAME THAT SICKNESS LEAVE.

ACTS 3:1–3, 6

1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. . . .

6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Throughout the Book of Acts, the apostles did not pray for the sick. Peter and John commanded in Jesus' Name (it says in the Greek) that the lame man at the Gate Beautiful rise and walk.

We can demand in Jesus' Name that people be healed. We are not demanding it of God; we are demanding that the devil turn them loose.

2. PRAY TO THE FATHER IN JESUS' NAME.

JOHN 16:23–24

23 In that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

"In that day" refers to the day we are living in. Praying to the Father in Jesus' Name belongs to us today.

When Jesus ascended to Heaven, He sat down at the Father's right hand (Heb. 1:3). When that happened, a new day dawned—the New Covenant began.

John 16:24 says, *"Ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."* This includes all prayer, but healing is involved here too. How can we be joyful if our loved ones are sick? It's our right to ask for healing.

3. AGREE IN PRAYER.

MATTHEW 18:19–20

19 . . . 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.

20 For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

When two people agree in prayer, Jesus causes what they agree on to happen. When they unite and demand healing in Jesus' Name, their prayers are answered.

Jesus talks about *"two of you"* in verse 19. Some think if they get enough people—maybe 1,000 or even 10,000—they will get results. But only two are needed. Jesus never said we had to get the entire church to agree.



4. ANOINT WITH OIL.

JAMES 5:14–15

14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

There should not be any sick among us. But if there are, the elders of a church can pray for them, so they are healed.

If someone has missed it and sinned, help is also available. Church people often expect someone who was saved Sunday night to fully grow and mature spiritually by Wednesday night. But they're just babes in Christ, and we ought to carry them on our faith until they can believe for themselves.

5. LAY HANDS ON THE SICK.

MARK 16:17–18

17 These signs shall follow them that believe; . . .

18 . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Every Christian should practice this. Parents can lay hands on their children if they are sick. They shouldn't have to send for somebody else. James 5:16 says, *"Pray one for another; that ye may be healed."*

Some people are not on a level where they can receive healing on their own. But any believer can lay hands on them. Laying on of hands is a point of contact to release our faith. That is the point where the sick person believes they receive their healing.

If the sick person believes it is done when hands are laid on them, they will receive healing. This principle is found in Mark 11:24: *"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."*

Believe that you receive it, and you will have it. The *having* comes after the *believing*.

6. RECEIVE THROUGH GIFTS OF HEALING.

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7, 9

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. . . .

9 To another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

Among the spiritual gifts God placed in the Church are the gifts of healing. They are supernatural manifestations of healing power working through one individual to another.

The Holy Spirit initiates the manifestation of the gifts of healing. We can't make them work anytime we want. It's as the Spirit wills.

7. KNOW THAT HEALING BELONGS TO YOU.

ISAIAH 53:5

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

The best method by which we can be healed is knowing that healing is part of God's redemptive plan and that it belongs to us. When sickness tries to attack, we don't let it in because Jesus already paid the price for it on the cross.

Because we know we are healed, we won't need to have hands laid on us. Nor will we need the manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit. We receive healing with our own faith.

Believers should understand that healing was consummated in Christ. Knowing that in their spirits will be the end of sickness and disease in their bodies.

But not all believers have been taught how to receive healing by standing on God's Word. And they can't operate beyond their knowledge. That is why God provided different methods for them to be healed.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Seven Things You Should Know About Divine Healing*.]

SPECIAL OFFER

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Free From Pressure

MATT SHEARIN



HAVE YOU EVER been under pressure? Pressure to perform, to succeed, to be a good parent or a good spouse? How about pressure to please everyone?

Proverbs 3:5 (NKJV) tells us, *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.”* **IF WE TRY TO FIGURE OUT EVERY SITUATION, THE ENEMY WILL BOMBARD OUR MIND WITH PRESSURE.** We can’t do it on our own.

Moses, the Israelites’ deliverer from slavery, repeatedly faced pressure. The Egyptians let the children of Israel go. Then Pharaoh changed his mind, chased them, and caught up with them while they were camped by the Red Sea. When the Israelites saw the Egyptians coming, they panicked. (See Exodus 14:5–10.)

When Under Pressure, Watch What You Say

We know the end of the story, but at that moment the Israelites didn’t. And they didn’t handle the pressure well. They turned on Moses and said,

EXODUS 14:11–12 (NLT)

11 “Why did you bring us out here to die in the wilderness? Weren’t there enough graves for us in Egypt? What have you done to us? Why did you make us leave Egypt?”

12 “Didn’t we tell you this would happen while we were still in Egypt? We said, ‘Leave us alone! Let us be slaves to the Egyptians. It’s better to be a slave in Egypt than a corpse in the wilderness!’”

We can say things under pressure that 15 minutes later we wish we hadn’t said.

No Matter What, Stay Calm

In the middle of all hell breaking loose, Moses tried to reassure the people.

EXODUS 14:13–14 (NLT)

13 “Don’t be afraid. Just stand still and watch the Lord rescue you today. The Egyptians you see today will never be seen again.

14 “The Lord himself will fight for you. Just stay calm.”

Jesus is in the peace-giving business today. Regardless of what’s happening, we can look to Him and find peace.

What You Need Is in You

EXODUS 14:15 (NLT)

15 Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why are you crying out to me? Tell the people to get moving!”

Have you ever cried out to God, and He said, “Why are you talking to me about that? I already did what I needed to do. My Son died a criminal’s death that He didn’t deserve. He went to the cross. He went to the grave. Three days later, he came out with victory in His hands. **AND THE SAME POWER THAT RAISED CHRIST FROM THE DEAD LIVES IN YOU.** So get moving!”

Too often when we face trouble, we stop and want to tell everybody about our problem. And we get stuck in our situation. But God is saying, “Don’t stand still. Keep moving.”

Do Whatever God Says

Can you imagine the sound of an army of chariots coming after you? Think of the pressure Moses must have felt. What was he to do? Then God said,

EXODUS 14:16 (NLT)

16 “Pick up your staff and raise your hand over the sea. Divide the water so the Israelites can walk through the middle of the sea on dry ground.”

Moses obeyed God and the Israelites made it safely across the Red Sea on dry ground. I’m from Louisiana. I’ve gone mud-bogging, and I got stuck every time. But when God parted the Red Sea, the Israelites didn’t even get dirt on their shoes. That’s a miracle right there!

After all the Israelites were safe, Moses raised his hand again, the water crashed down on the Egyptians, and none of them survived.

IF THE ENEMY HAS BEEN CHASING YOU, GOD WILL DO WHAT ONLY HE CAN DO. He’ll get you to the other side of your situation and destroy every foul enemy that has been chasing you.

God has promised you healing, strength, peace, and whatever else you need. As you trust His promises, He will relieve the pressure and bring you to victory. 🍷

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Matt Shearin’s message at A Call to Arms Men’s Conference 2019.]

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KENNETH W. HAGIN

HAVE YOU EVER noticed when you're walking down the street, if something catches your attention, you somehow find yourself drifting in that direction? Suddenly someone yells at you, "Hey, look where you're going!" But the problem

is, you're going where you're looking!

The same principle is true in every area of life. What you look at or set your heart on is what you'll do or where you'll go. This is why God wants us to focus on His Word and not on our circumstances. Whatever we continually focus on in the Word of God, we can have.

**WHAT
ARE YOU
LOOKING
AT?**



In Second Corinthians 4:18, the Apostle Paul told us not to fix our eyes on the things we see around us. Instead, we must fix our eyes on the unseen promises of God. Paul was telling us to look at the things that are eternal.

You see, you're a product of what you continually give your attention to. If you look at evil long enough, you will go in that direction. If you gaze at the Word long enough, you will become what it says you are.

When I was younger, if I saw a car I liked as I was driving down the street, I would stop and look at it. I'm sure many people can identify with doing this. You pull into a sales lot and get out to look at a particular car. You sit behind the wheel and say, "I really like this car!" Then you look at the price tag, and the next thing you say is, "Oh, no way!" But in a few days you go back and look at that car again. For ladies, it may be a new dress or handbag.

When you're not in the sales lot or standing in front of the store window, you can still see yourself driving that car or wearing that dress. And if you keep looking long enough at that car or dress—or whatever else you desire—you will find a way to buy it.

You're going where you're looking, whether it's in a positive or negative direction. Negative things are packaged attractively to catch our eye. The devil wants to capture our attention and divert it from God's Word. He knows if he can cause us to look at things other than the Word, he can stop us from receiving what God said is ours.

***We must get hold of this:
if we can see something in
the Word, we can have it!***

God's words are life. Keeping our eyes on His Word brings life to us in every area!

PROVERBS 4:20–22 (NLT)

20 My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words.

21 Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart,

22 for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

God makes a significant point to us through this passage of scripture. He says, “My child, pay attention! This is important now and for your future!” He is telling us not to lose sight of His words (v. 21). As long as we keep focusing on them, they will penetrate us and take us where we want to go. His words will carry us to a place of life and healing (v. 22).

We must get hold of this: if we can see something in the Word, we can have it! Looking at God’s Word sets our course for what it says we can have. The Word of God is to us spiritually what a GPS navigation system is to us naturally. Once you program your destination into it, the GPS system takes you to the exact place you want to go.

Christians have the best navigational system there is—God’s Word! That navigational system will take us wherever we need to go in life if we keep it in front of us. It will bring us whatever we need. And it will keep us safe in the midst of a storm.

See Yourself the Way God Sees You

What are you facing today? Begin to see yourself with the answer God gives you in His Word. See yourself possessing the promises of God.

As a young man, Joseph believed God’s promises. He believed God would bring to pass the visions He had given him when he was just a boy. (See Genesis chapter 37.) Joseph ended up in prison but saw himself free, and he eventually became the prime minister of Egypt. Although Joseph went through many negative circumstances, he never wavered. And he saw the visions God had given him become a reality!

It’s important to see yourself the way God sees you. See yourself protected, surrounded with His favor. Look at the Word, believe it, and say what it says. Remember, you will receive what you look at.

I learned at an early age to see myself the way God sees me. In 1959 while I was going to Bible school, I worked on a freight dock in Dallas, Texas, loading and unloading trailers.

We had an old foreman who rode us hard. We were working ourselves silly, but he’d still yell at us. One day I heard him coming down the line, asking people if they could do certain jobs. One at a time, each answered, “No, I can’t.”

When he came to me, he said, “Hagin, can you do this job?”
“Yeah!” I replied.

A guy loading next to me who went to the same Bible school I did said, “Hagin, you don’t know how to do that job.”

“I will by tomorrow at 2 o’clock,” I told him. “The Bible says I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

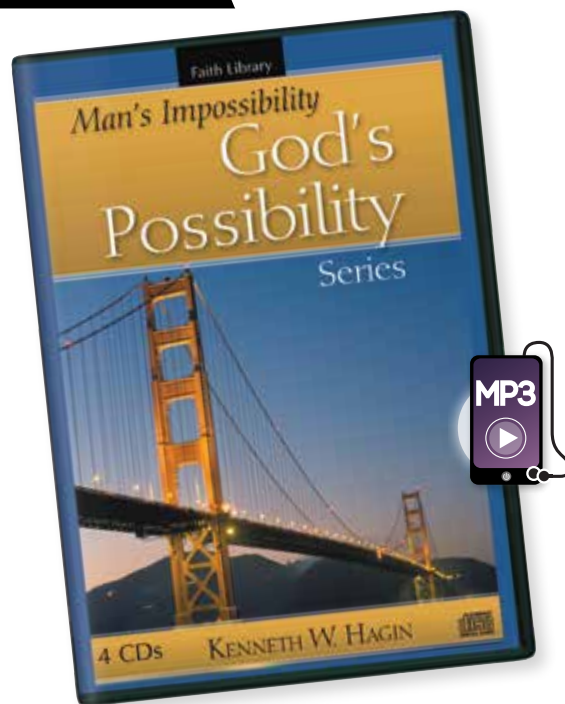
I went to the library and studied that job and talked to a friend who did similar work. As a result, I was promoted when others weren’t simply because I said, “I can.” I saw myself the way God’s Word says I am.

Many people miss out because they say, “I can’t do that.” If you see something the way God sees it, you can! Man puts so many limits on things, but with God there are no limits. That’s why it’s crucial for you to see yourself the way God sees you. See and talk about yourself differently. Don’t talk about how tired you

are. Talk about how full of life you are. Don’t talk about what you can’t do. Begin to talk about what you can do.

Instead of looking at everything coming against you, look into the Word and let it get inside and penetrate you. Every obstacle is an opportunity to prove that God’s Word works. Seeing the obstacles in life that way will change your whole perspective. It will change how you feel and how you talk. It will change everything!♥

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*OFFER EXPIRES **DECEMBER 31, 2021**

Jesus Christ, Our Shepherd



KENNETH E. HAGIN

THE PSALMIST DAVID looked ahead to Jesus and said, “*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want*” (Psalm 23:1). And Jesus said of Himself, “*I am the good shepherd*” (John 10:14).

We are living in Psalm 23 right now. It belongs to us as believers in Jesus Christ. It is more than a beautiful scripture passage. David was prophesying when he said, “*The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*” I like to say it this way: “The Lord is my shepherd; I *do not* want.”

Philippians 4:19 says, “*My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*” Our Heavenly Father knows our needs. Jesus demonstrated that while on earth. Twice He fed a multitude. He gave Peter a great catch of fish and turned water into wine. Jesus healed every sick person who came to Him.

That is my Lord, my Shepherd. I can say, “The Lord is my Shepherd; I do not want.”

The high priestly ministry of Jesus meets every need of the believer from the moment he is born again until he is ushered into God’s presence.

Christ has provided abundant life for every man, woman, and child. He has liberated sinners. He took our sinful nature upon Himself when He went to the cross. And He is not holding our sins against us anymore.



God is not against or mad at sinners. What sends people to hell is not something like lying, stealing, or cheating. It is rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRIST’S SAVING GRACE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE.

But to know Him as our Good Shepherd, we must first receive Him as our Lord and Savior.

Have you been born again? Do you know Jesus as your Savior, your Lord, and your Good Shepherd? If you do not, simply pray the following prayer from your heart:

God, I come to You in Jesus’ Name. I admit that I have sinned and come short of Your standard. Thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus, to pay the price for my sins.

Jesus, thank You for dying on the cross for me. I ask You to be my Savior and Lord. And I trust You to be my Good Shepherd and provide everything I need. Through You, I receive God’s free gift of eternal life. Thank You for saving me!❤



If you prayed this prayer for the first time, welcome to God’s family! Email us at PartnerService@rhema.org or call us at **1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484)** and let us know about it. We’d love to send you some free materials to get you started in your new life as God’s child!

WHAT SENDS PEOPLE TO HELL IS NOT SOMETHING
LIKE LYING, STEALING, OR CHEATING.

It is rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ.

Second Corinthians 5:19 in the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, “*It was God [personally present] in Christ, reconciling and restoring the world to favor with Himself, not counting up and holding against [men] their trespasses [but cancelling them].*”

Some might argue, “If Christ isn’t holding our sins against us, we will automatically be saved.”

No, we must willingly make Jesus our Lord and Savior. Humanity was born in sin and must be born again in Christ. **JESUS IS NOT INTERESTED IN HOLDING OUR SINS AGAINST US. HE IS INTERESTED IN DRAWING US TO HIMSELF.**



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In your deepest and darkest moments, Jesus is there for you.



DENISE HAGIN BURNS

DO YOU KNOW someone who is a control freak? I must admit, I am. I love being in control. Whenever I feel like my life is a little out of control, I create projects that I have 100 percent control over just so I can feel in control.

One definition of *control* is “the power to influence or direct people’s behavior or the course of events.” For me, control equals safety. Because if I can direct everyone’s behavior and the course of events, I know the outcome is going to be good.

One day I asked myself why I felt the need to always be in control. The answer revealed the root of the problem—past hurts. I could no longer trust that people had my best interests in mind. Therefore, I figured if I could control everything, I’d be safe. That mentality, however, caused me to have power struggles with God! I had been so hurt by people, and I couldn’t trust that God wouldn’t hurt me too.

A Turning Point

For most people, 2020 was an unusual year to say the least. Personally, it seemed as if everything in my life was out of control. I felt like I was being tossed in an ocean and the swells were overtaking me. The events of last year helped me realize I didn’t trust God 100 percent.

During that time, the Lord brought to my remembrance the story of Peter walking on the water in Matthew chapter 14.

MATTHEW 14:23–29 (TPT)

23 After the crowds dispersed, Jesus went up into the hills to pray. And as night fell he was there praying alone.

24 But the disciples, who were now in the middle of the lake, ran into trouble, for their boat was tossed about by the high winds and heavy seas.

25 At about four o’clock in the morning, Jesus came to them, walking on the waves!

26 When the disciples saw him walking on top of the water, they were terrified and screamed, “A ghost!”

27 Then Jesus said, “Be brave and don’t be afraid. I am here!”

28 Peter shouted out, “Lord, if it’s really you, then have me join you on the water!”

29 “Come and join me,” Jesus replied.

In this story, the disciples were in a panic because of the storm. Then out of nowhere they saw Jesus coming toward them, walking on the water. The Lord told them, “Be brave!” Peter said to Him, “If it’s really you, then have me join you.” Interestingly, before Jesus told Peter, “Come and join me,” He said, “Be brave.”

I believe Jesus was warning Peter. It’s as if He were saying, “Peter, if you want to come and walk with Me in the deep, stormy waters—if you want to go on this journey—you have to be brave.” Jesus had the power to calm the storm. He could have commanded the wind and waves to be still as He had before. (See Matt. 8:23–27.) But He didn’t. Instead, Jesus told Peter, “Be brave.”



MAYBE things have happened in your life and you just don't know how to get over them. Sometimes you need help, and there's no shame in that! Don't be ashamed to seek out a Christian counselor or therapist. God has called people to be counselors and therapists. They will help heal your soul in the same way God has called medical doctors to help heal your body.

Sometimes we have to walk through the storms of life, and Jesus needs us to be brave. The Lord will have us walk through uncomfortable situations to get us to the other side. He teaches us valuable lessons in those moments.

The Christian lifestyle is not for the faint of heart. That's why it's crucial to get to the root of your insecurities, issues, and trauma, and deal with them. Unresolved issues can hinder you from being brave and walking in the fullness God has for you. You have to take care of your soul—your mind, will, and emotions. You can have faith all day long. But if you don't take care of your issues, you will be held back every time.

Just Trust

Peter started out walking perfectly fine on the water. It was probably easy for him to step out and trust that Jesus would take care of him when the waves were barely a ripple. But once he saw the waves getting bigger, his trust in Jesus vanished.

You see, it's easy for us to trust Jesus in the little things. When life gets a *little* rocky, it's not that hard to have faith. It's when the winds get really crazy—when our situation seems out of control—that we lose focus and stop trusting God.

When the storm began to rage, Peter cried out to the Lord for help and Jesus *immediately* reached out His hand (Matt. 14:30–31). He didn't let Peter suffer for one second. Jesus was close enough to Peter that all He had to do was reach out His hand.

Jesus Is a Great Catcher

In your deepest and darkest moments, Jesus is there for you. He is a great catcher and He never misses. When my life felt out of control last year, I had a “Jesus, catch me” moment. I chose to let go of all the control so I could reach out and hold on to Him, and He caught me.

Letting go of control and completely trusting Jesus brings immense freedom.

The Lord spoke to me and said, “Denise, I have gone before you. I've walked your entire path that you're going to walk for your whole life. I know what's up ahead. If you'll just hold on to My hand, I'll lead you. I've already predestined it. Just trust Me, because I've got you.”

Have you been in a power struggle with God? I believe He is saying the same thing to you that He said to me: “Just trust Me,

because I've got you.” It's time to let go of the control, past hurts, and your ideas, desires, and way of doing things, and completely trust the Lord.

Perhaps people have hurt, abused, or mistreated you. Maybe you have struggled to trust God as a result. You may think holding on to and controlling the hurt will keep you safe. But there is no safer place to be than in God's hands. Letting go of control and completely trusting Jesus brings immense freedom. You can be brave! It won't always be easy. You may face hard times. But in those moments, simply put yourself in God's hands and trust that He has you. ♥

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Earthquake-Proof Your Life

KENNETH W. HAGIN



ONCE WHEN LYNETTE and I were in Lima, Peru, we were awakened at about 4 o'clock in the morning by an earthquake. Our bed was shaking, and I became concerned about our being on the seventh story of the hotel where we were staying. I didn't know if the building had been built to withstand those kinds of tremors. That earthquake was just strong enough to shake us up—literally and figuratively!

But do you know that, spiritually speaking, you can earthquake-proof your life? **WHEN ADVERSITY SHAKES YOU, THE WORD OF GOD WILL SUSTAIN YOU, DELIVER YOU, AND CARRY YOU THROUGH TO SAFETY!**

Sometimes earthquakes come in the form of sickness, financial problems, conflict in relationships, or pressure at work or school. You may be experiencing the “earthquake” of a marriage teetering on the brink of divorce. Perhaps you are going through the shakeup of losing a business or of being laid off from work. Situations like these can cause quite a stir in the lives of people. But when the Word is their foundation, God will bring them safely through to victory.

In places where earthquakes are prevalent, engineers design buildings to be earthquake-resistant. And they're toying with new ideas for building flexible foundations that won't crumble when the earth moves. But with God's Word as our foundation, we don't have to toy with new ideas. We already have what we need to protect our lives from the things the enemy brings to shake us up, discourage us, and turn us away from God.

Psalms 46 is one of the best portions of scripture I have found to earthquake-proof our lives. It reveals

three elements we need to stand firm and overcome when our world is shaking: (1) *God's Presence*; (2) *God's peace*; and (3) *God's promises*.

Verse 1 (NKJV) says, “*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.*” **TO EARTHQUAKE-PROOF OUR LIVES, WE MUST START WITH THE FOUNDATION, GOD'S PRESENCE WITH US.** He has to be our

behold the works of the Lord . . . He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; He breaks the bow and cuts the spear in two.”

Verse 8 begins, “Come and see the works of the Lord!” God is at work doing awesome things on the earth today. Verse 9 talks about how He makes wars end and breaks the bow and spear. When we take hold

Your foundation will be sure and strong against every tremor of adversity when you earthquake-proof your life with God's Word!

foundation if we are to remain steady, strong, and victorious amid the turmoil life's problems can bring. God is not some impersonal being floating somewhere in space. He is our refuge, our secure hiding place. We can abide safely in Him when our world is shaking.

Second, we can earthquake-proof our lives with God's peace. Psalm 46:2 (NKJV) says, “*Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea.*”

When we face problems, the devil tries to get us to fear, because he knows that if he can keep us afraid, he can defeat us. When fear comes, faith flees. On the other hand, **WHEN FAITH COMES, FEAR FLEES!** Faith emerges and peace multiplies when we look toward Heaven and focus on the power of God.

Third, we can earthquake-proof our lives with God's *promises*. Psalm 46:8–9 (NKJV) says, “*Come,*

of God's promises, He will bring peace and wholeness to our lives. He will break the bow and spear—the weapons of the enemy—that have come against us. We can proclaim, “Come and see the works of the Lord and what He has done for me! No longer is my world shaking! It was being torn apart, but I ran to God, my refuge, and He saved me. **HIS PROMISES ARE SURE AND HE NEVER CHANGES!**”

As you live each day in the *Presence* of God, the *peace* of God, and the *promises* of God, He will sustain and protect you. He will deliver you and bring you safely through every problem that tries to shake up your life. Your foundation will be sure and strong against *every* tremor of adversity when you earthquake-proof your life with God's Word!♥

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SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

BE OF GOOD COURAGE

LIFE CAN BECOME so busy that we neglect the very one Who can help us navigate everything we are facing. God is there to help us, but we have to take the time to ask and listen to His instructions. I believe Moses had the kind of relationship we need to pursue with God.

I love to read the dialog between God and Moses in Exodus chapter 32. I would encourage you to read the story. Moses had led the Israelites through many situations with God's instructions. He and God had negotiated with each other often. Sometimes Moses would get upset at the people and asked God to destroy them. Other times, God would get upset with the Israelites and wanted to destroy them, and Moses would intercede.

But now the time of Moses' passing came (Deut. 34), and his leadership was passed to Joshua. The very first instructions God gave Joshua is found in Joshua 1:1–9 (NKJV).

"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass that the Lord spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: 'Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses.

"From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them.

"Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

I can only imagine what was going through Joshua's mind. I am sure he felt overwhelmed after being assigned to such a massive job. And yet what a comfort when God assured Joshua that He would be with him—that He would not leave him or forsake him.

You may be going through a difficult time right now. You may be faced with daunting circumstances or have been given an assignment you do not feel you have the ability to carry out. As you look to God and heed His instructions, know that He is there for you. He will not leave or forsake you. He is telling you just as He told Joshua, *"Be strong and of good courage."*

In my life's experiences and assignments, God has given me many tasks that I argued with Him about. One time Moses said to God, "I am not eloquent in speech. Use someone else" (Exod. 4:10, 13). I said the same thing, and God referred me to what has become my signature scripture, Philippians 4:13 (NKJV). *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*

And so once again, I brought my petition to God. I said, "Lord, if that is what you want me to do, then you must give me the words to say. And I must feel your presence."

I want you to realize that God is always there for you. He wants you to be successful and prosperous. Just as God gave Joshua keys, He has given the same instructions to us. Read and meditate on the Word of God, and obey its instructions.

As the summer has ended and we get back into a normal routine, I encourage you to make reading the Word of God and communing with Him through prayer a priority in your daily life. ♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Bible character

LICENSE PLATES

If Bible characters drove cars today, maybe some of them would have these customized license plates on their cars. See if you can discover who would be driving in the cars with the license plates below.

B10 NME

YYY MEN

HAD2C2BLEVE

18B4HE8



Can You
**HEAR
YOUR
HEART?**

If a doctor wanted to listen to your heart, he would put a stethoscope to your chest and listen. Spiritually, there's a much easier way to hear what your heart sounds like. Jesus said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). In other words, whatever your heart is full of will come out of your mouth. **You can hear your heart through the words you speak!** Read the words of the Bible characters below and then match the phrase to the letter below it that best describes what was in their heart.

- "Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord." —**Peter** (Luke 5:8)
- "Lord, if thou wilt, thou can make me clean." —**Leper** (Matthew 8:2)
- "Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them?" —**James and John** (Luke 9:54)
- "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." —**Jesus** (Luke 23:34)
- "Why do the disciples of John fast often, and make prayers, and likewise the disciples of the Pharisees; but thine eat and drink?" —**Scribes and Pharisees** (Luke 5:33)
- "Master, carest thou not that we perish?" —**The disciples on the boat during the storm** (Mark 4:38)

A. LOVE

B. CONVICTION

C. ANGER

D. CRITICISM

E. FAITH

F. FEAR/UNBELIEF

Next time you're wondering what's in someone's heart—just listen to their mouth!

THE NAME SAYS IT ALL!

Use the first letter of the capitalized words to discover the name of the Bible characters who fit the description perfectly.

- Jumping Overboard is Not Always Helpful
- Defeated A Very Immense Dude
- My Obedience Saved Egypt's Slaves
- Joined Others Honoring the Nazarene
- Now Offering Animals a Home

HE SPOKE HIS HEART!

Put these word pictures together to discover someone in the Bible who spoke his heart quite often.



jokes & riddles

"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)



What is Barbie's favorite thing to do in the summertime?

Have a Barbie-Q

Who started the first fan club in the Bible?

The Wise Men—they followed "the star."

If you drop a pound of feathers and a pound of pennies off the Golden Gate Bridge, which will hit the Hudson River first?

Neither. The Golden Gate Bridge crosses over The San Francisco Bay, not the Hudson River.

I have a head, but it is flat.

I have a tail, but not like a cat.

You might think this riddle's dense, But I think it makes a lot of "cents."

What am I?

A coin

Answers:
BIBLE CHARACTER LICENSE PL8S
B10 NME = BEATEN ENEMY—DEVIL
YYY MEN = THREE WISE MEN
HAD2C2BLEVE = HAD TO SEE TO BELIEVE—DOUBTING THOMAS
18B4HE8 = I ATE BEFORE HE ATE—EVE
THE NAME SAYS IT ALL!
1. JONAH
2. DAVID
3. MOSES
4. JOHN
5. NOAH
CAN YOU HEAR YOUR HEART?
1. B 2. E 3. C 4. A 5. D 6. F
HE SPOKE HIS HEART!
SIMON PETER



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