



THE Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2021

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

JOY TO THE WORLD!

Our Savior Has Come!

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KEEP LOOKING FORWARD **PAGE 11**

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the
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DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Kris Taylor

SENIOR EDITOR Janet Wagner

EDITORIAL STAFF Danielle Burnside

GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kristen Cook
Jeanne Hoover
Lisa Moore
Rose Wenning

PHOTOGRAPHERS Phil Anglin
Emily Lightfoot
Mica Marcal
Natalie Tysse

PROJECT MANAGERS Julie McAllan
Ronda Swords
Whitney Yoder

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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WRITE:

US: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150-0126

CANADA: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. Box 335, Station D, Etobicoke (Toronto), Ontario, Canada M9A 4X3

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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

His Peace

The Christmas season is in full swing. Stores are marketing to shoppers. Travel for the most part is back to pre-pandemic levels and families are planning trips near and far. Parties and get-togethers are happening. All this is being done in the name of Christmas.

Christmastime is fun, but it can also be stressful. Family members may find themselves at odds. Businessmen and women can become frazzled as they finalize deals to make year-end goals and budgets. Let me ask you a question. In this time of hustle and bustle, have you lost your peace?

Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be the Prince of Peace (Isa. 9:6). When our Savior arrived, the angels declared, *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men”* (Luke 2:14). And when He was about to depart this life, Jesus said, *“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid”* (John 14:27 NKJV).

I’m not saying life will be easy. But I encourage you to see that God’s peace becomes real for us when we focus our lives on Him, not on our circumstances. The peace of God shows up in a life established on His Word. And His peace becomes ours when we realize that the One who came has overcome the world. If you’ll make an effort this holiday season to rest in His peace, you will have the best Christmas yet!

From my family to yours, Merry Christmas! May this be a season of peace, joy, and love like you’ve never known before as you celebrate God’s greatest gift to us—His Son, Jesus.

Kenneth W. Hagin

PS. Do you know Jesus as your Savior? If not, turn to page 21 and accept the best gift you’ll ever receive.



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The Truth Will Set You Free



We need to simply look to the Word of God and do what it says. Agree with it. Side in with the Word, not against it.

IT'S THE ANOINTING or power of the Holy Spirit that breaks the yoke of bondage. The yoke is anything that binds you. It can be sickness, bad habits, or demonic activity. But the yoke of bondage will be destroyed because of the anointing (Isa. 10:27)!

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is on God's Word. John 8:32 says that the truth—God's Word—shall set you free. You might say, "But I thought it was the anointing that breaks the yoke." That's true, but Jesus said His words are spirit and life (John 6:63). The Word of God is anointed by the Spirit of God. That's the reason the truth of the Word will set you free.

Jesus made this request of His Father in John 17:17: "*Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.*" So the Word and truth are interchangeable terms. This means we could

read John 8:32 as, "You shall know the *Word*, and the *Word* shall make you free."

I feel sorry for Christians who don't know the Word. You see them throughout the Body of Christ—bound up, failing, and stumbling by the wayside. God said, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*" (Hosea 4:6). Another way to say it is, "God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge of the truth of His Word." But when people possess the knowledge of the truth in God's Word, they won't be destroyed any longer.

All of our praying, shouting, and jumping—or whatever we're doing—needs to be in line with God's Word because God has magnified His Word above His Name (Ps. 138:2). If we're not careful, we can substitute a lot of things that may seem good and legitimate for the Word of God.

Once when I was fasting, the Lord gave me John 8:32. Jesus said to me, “People might receive temporary help and get blessed momentarily because they are honest and they’re seeking Me. But the only thing that will permanently bless people is *to know the truth of My Word.*”

The Word is anointed by the Holy Spirit. And when you know God’s Word, that anointed Word will permanently bless you by setting you free! No matter what the circumstances are, no matter what you face in life, train yourself to always ask, “What does the Word say about it?” In other words, *put the Word first!*

If you don’t know the Word, then you are in trouble. You’ll remain in bondage, for it is knowledge of the Word that makes you free.

Our problem much of the time is, we are looking for someone else to make us free. Instead of looking to the Word and trusting in Jesus, we look to and trust in people. But we should be looking to *Jesus*. He has already won the victory! The Word tells us that deliverance from *all* the power of the enemy already belongs to us through Christ (Luke 10:19; Col. 1:13).

Through the Holy Spirit, God has given us the Bible so that knowledge of what He has done for us can set us free. For example, to set us free from sickness and disease, the Bible tells us, “*Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*” (Matt. 8:17), and “*by whose stripes ye were healed*” (1 Peter 2:24).

We need to simply look to the Word of God and do what it says. Agree with it. Side in with the Word, not against it. It is only knowledge of the anointed Word that will set us free.

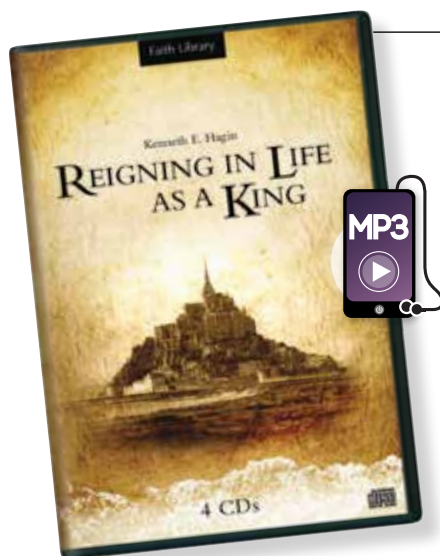
Many people miss it when it comes to healing. If they’re not immediately healed 100 percent, they say, “I didn’t get anything.” They turn the switch of faith off if there isn’t an instant, total manifestation of healing. But they need to know the truth about healing.

The Word teaches us that a healing which takes place over a period of time is also miraculous. The Bible records the gradual healing of the nobleman’s son (John 4:46–53). And it says this was the second miracle Jesus did in Cana of Galilee (v. 54).

I remember after I was healed, I didn’t look any different than I did before I was healed. I weighed just 89 pounds. Naturally, I was terribly weak because I had been bedfast for 16 months.

My heart seemed to beat normally. But if I exerted myself even a little, it would start pounding. I was just a skeleton with a little skin stretched over the bones. I didn’t look healed. But thank God, I began to amend from the hour I believed I was healed. And that was a miracle!

Keep the switch of faith turned on. In other words, learn what the Word promises you, and then believe and act on your



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FAITH IN ACTION

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Faith gives action to the anointing, or the power of God. Without faith to activate the anointing, nothing will happen. Whatever you are believing God for, mix faith with it. Exercise your faith and watch God work on your behalf as His anointing breaks every yoke of bondage!

knowledge of the truth. Don’t give up just because in the natural it looks like your faith isn’t working. Believe that what God has spoken in His Word is true. Continue to act on your knowledge of the Word in faith and it will become a reality in your life.

People see the sick being healed instantly when the healing anointing is in manifestation, and they think it should work that way with everyone, every time. But we need to be ready and willing to follow God’s leading, *whatever* He wants us to do.

If you say, “But I want God to do it my way,” you are setting yourself up for a downfall. Doing things *our* way only keeps us in bondage. It’s the knowledge of *God’s* truth that sets us free. That knowledge is the only thing that will permanently bless people.

When you know the Word and do it, you won’t need to look to people to set you free. The anointed Word will break every yoke of bondage, no matter what your need is.

So put God’s Word first. Despite what comes in life, train yourself to ask, “What does God’s Word say about it?” Then act upon the knowledge of that truth and watch it set you free!♥

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

KINDLE THE FLAME 2021: GOING *higher* WITH GOD!

Excitement and expectancy filled the Rhema Bible Church auditorium as women gathered for three days to get refreshed and go higher with God. Anyone who has attended any of Lynette Hagin's women's conferences agrees they are life changing. No one leaves without having a God-encounter. **Make plans to attend *Kindle the Flame* September 22–24, 2022!** In the meantime, enjoy these highlights.

GETTING KINGDOM BUSINESS DONE UNHINDERED

LYNETTE HAGIN

God has assignments for us to complete, and to do as He asks, we have to go higher with Him. **A DEEPER FOUNDATION IS REQUIRED TO GO HIGHER IN CHRIST.** When we build our foundation on the Word, we can withstand any storm in life.

Communicating with God through prayer strengthens our foundation. We can talk to the Lord at any time and need Him to be the dominant influencer of our thoughts and actions.

GOING HIGHER WITH GOD REQUIRES COMMITMENT. We must surrender our will to His will and become clay in the potter's hand. The Holy Spirit is with us to lead and guide. But to recognize His voice requires that we become still enough to hear what He says.

We all like our comfort zones, but we must be willing to let God stretch us. Before stepping out, we often want the whole picture. But it's after we take a step that He shows us what to do next.

In our walk with the Lord, **WE MUST THROW ASIDE EVERY WEIGHT THAT HINDERS US.** The list of weights can be long: fear, offense, unforgiveness, bitterness, and even social media.

We need to be about kingdom business. God has a work for every one of us. As we commit to go higher with God and let go of the weights that hold us down, we will complete the assignments God asks of us. We were truly born for such a time as this.





CELEBRATE YOUR SEASON

DENISE HAGIN BURNS

God has our best interest in mind when it comes to our season. He sees the big picture. God showed me that we often get hung up on the destination. He once said to me, **"IT'S NOT ABOUT A DESTINATION; I'M INTERESTED IN THE JOURNEY."**

Many of us are missing what God has called us to do because we're so concerned about the destination. In the meantime, we're missing the journey and everything He is trying to teach us along the way.

I was so concerned about getting to the destination that I wasn't having fun. God told me to relax and have fun because there's nothing better in life (Eccl. 8:15 NLT). He said, "Denise, I want you to celebrate your season, whether it's good, bad, hard, or stressful. Celebrate it."

I believe **CELEBRATION IS AN IMPORTANT BUT UNDERRATED SPIRITUAL DISCIPLINE**. It's a discipline because it's hard to celebrate when things aren't going great. But in the middle of stressful and heartbreaking circumstances, God is saying, "I want you to sit down with Me and relax, and fellowship, and enjoy because I've got you. Even with everything that's happening around you, you can still celebrate your season. We're going to sit here for a bit, and then I will walk you through to the other side."

WHATEVER SEASON YOU ARE IN, LEARN TO CELEBRATE IT. It will take commitment and determination, but that's how God wants us to live our lives.



LINDSAY HILL



ERICKA MCCRUTCHEON



BRENDA THOMAS



TY WARD

"God wants to take us higher and deeper, but we must be free from offense. How do we walk in love and stay free? By abiding in Christ. Jesus said if you abide in Him and draw close to Him, He will draw close to you! He will take you deeper, further, and higher. **YOU CAN FORGET ABOUT WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO YOU BECAUSE YOUR EYES ARE SET ON JESUS.** And you will produce fruits of righteousness and bring glory to the Father because you're abiding in Him." **—LINDSAY HILL**

"The culture of Rome was constantly pushing against the Early Church. Paul's mission was to make sure the Gospel message did not become tainted or polluted. He established the point that salvation was by grace through faith in Christ Jesus. But the culture of his day pushed against that. I present to you that in our world today, we cannot permit the Gospel to be anything but the power of God unto salvation. **WHEN TODAY'S CULTURE PUSHES AGAINST OUR BELIEFS, WE MUST ENGAGE AND SPEAK THE TRUTH IN LOVE.**" **—ERICKA MCCRUTCHEON**

"Jesus said, 'I came that you may have life and enjoy it to the full' (John 10:10 AMP). He came to give us an abundant life. Life is a journey, and we can enjoy the trip. We have places to go and things to do in the Kingdom of God, and we have to be full of the joy of the Lord. **THE JOY IN US OUGHT TO RADIATE ON THE OUTSIDE. PEOPLE WILL WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE HAVE.** We've been chosen to rise up in the strength of the Lord and carry the message of hope, help, and healing to others." **—BRENDA THOMAS**

"Maybe you've experienced something really difficult, and it's knocked you off your feet. But just like the sun, you will rise again. **EVERY PROMISE WILL BE TESTED AND EVERY DREAM CHALLENGED.** God may not do everything the way you want. But He's always ready to do exceedingly, abundantly beyond anything you can ask or think. No matter what it looks like, declare with full assurance that there isn't a need God can't meet or a mountain He can't move. **THERE'S NO PRAYER GOD CAN'T ANSWER, SICKNESS HE CAN'T HEAL, HURT HE CAN'T MEND, OR DOOR HE CAN'T OPEN.** You will rise again." **—TY WARD**





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The High Cost of Getting Even

KENNETH W. HAGIN

THE BOOK OF Esther recounts how envy backfired on a prominent nobleman. King Xerxes, ruler of the Persians and Medes, made Haman the most powerful official in his empire. All the people in the land except one bowed when Haman passed by.

Mordecai refused to bow to Haman because Jewish law prohibited him from bowing his knee to anyone other than God. Haman was envious, jealous, and furious that Mordecai would not honor him by bowing.

Envy is discontent or ill will toward another person because of their good fortune. It implies jealousy and hatred. Envy arises from desire. **AN ENVIOUS PERSON WANTS SOMETHING SOMEONE ELSE HAS OR SOMETHING AN INDIVIDUAL WON'T GIVE THEM.**

That was the case with Haman. He was deprived of the one thing he wanted most—Mordecai's submission.

Why Did They Get Blessed?

I have seen Christians become envious when a fellow believer received something from God. "I don't understand," they moan. "I've been believing God longer than they have. And I haven't received anything!"

Church members become envious of each other. One person wants to teach a class, but the pastor asks someone else to do it. Or someone is picked to sing a solo, and another person gets mad because they believe they can sing better. Then they begin discrediting their brother or sister in the Lord.

Galatians 5:26 warns against this. It says, "*Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.*" **ENVY IS SO POWERFUL THAT IT CLOUDS OUR THINKING.** It causes us to have a one-track mind. All our thoughts point toward getting even with the one who we believe has wronged us.

That's what happened to Haman. He was so enraged that one man wouldn't bow down to him that he sought to destroy all the Jews. In Esther chapter 5, Haman bragged to his friends about his great wealth and how the king had advanced him above his other officials. But, he said, "*All this availeth me nothing, so long as I see Mordecai the Jew sitting at the king's gate*" (v. 13).

What About You?

Have you ever envied someone so much that you didn't go to an event because you knew that person would be there? You couldn't stand to be around them, so you stayed home and missed out on a good time.

Envy and jealousy go hand-in-hand. **BUT JOY AND JEALOUSLY ARE INCOMPATIBLE.** If we're jealous, we don't have joy. The two emotions can't abide together.

Envy Will Turn on You

Haman thought it was smart to build a gallows on which Mordecai would be hung. But he was caught in his own evil plan. Esther intervened on behalf of Mordecai and the Jewish people, and Haman and his 10 sons were hanged. What an extraordinarily high price he paid trying to get even.

The Cure for Envy

To keep envy from gaining a stronghold in our lives, we must first recognize that it exists. More Christians are envious than will admit it. But until we pinpoint a problem, we can't prescribe a proper solution.

Envy often begins when we start complaining to God about fellow believers because they got blessed. **BUT INSTEAD OF COMPLAINING, WE NEED TO START CLAIMING GOD'S PROMISES FOR OURSELVES.** Some Christians claim His promises one day and complain to Him the

Let's purpose not to complain but keep thanking God until we receive from Him.

next. Scripture tells us not to do that. James 3:10 (NKJV) says, "*Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.*"

As we stand in faith, let's purpose not to complain but to keep thanking God until we receive from Him. And if someone else receives from Him before we do, let's rejoice with them.

Know Your Self-Worth

God doesn't have favorites. We're all special to Him, and He's endowed each of us with gifts. Proverbs 18:16 says our gift will make room for us and bring us before important people. So **LET'S DEVELOP WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN US AND NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT ANOTHER'S GIFTS.** When we follow after God and develop what He's given us, we'll have no reason to envy others.♥



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Perspective

JOHN GRUNEWALD

NO CHURCH OR ministry has a future unless its dreams are bigger than its memories. I believe that is also true for individuals. If our dreams are smaller than our memories, how will we ever possess our tomorrows?

To get from where we are today to where we are supposed to go, we need the right perspective. Are we looking forward or backward? Is our view eternal or worldly? Is it about me or others? People are eternal; stuff is not.

Our focus makes all the difference. If our eyes are on the wrong things, we will think about insignificant things and argue about unimportant stuff. And we'll worry about and fear the future.

AN ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE ALWAYS LOOKS FORWARD. It's dangerous to look behind you when you're walking. YouTube has videos of people doing that and walking into a pole on the street. It makes us laugh and at the same time say, "Ouch." But looking back all the time isn't so funny when it comes to the will of God.

The Apostle Paul tells us to look forward.

PHILIPPIANS 3:12–13 (NLT)

12 I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me.

13 No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, . . .

From these verses we see that God had gotten hold of Paul to do something. **AND GOD WANTS US TO GET HOLD OF HIM JUST AS STRONGLY AS HE HAS HOLD OF US.** Doing that will pull us toward what He's called us to do.

One day years ago as I was reading these verses, the Lord said, "No looking back. No turning back. No

going back. No holding back." Although we recognize the great things that have happened in our past, when it comes to what God wants for us, it isn't about looking back. We have to keep looking forward and pressing toward His high calling (Phil. 3:14), whatever that means in our lives.

Why was Paul able to finish his course? Part of it was his perspective.

Does God have a good plan for you? Absolutely. Is that plan for your entire life or until you retire at age 65? If you give up on life when you reach 65, you will start to decline. **RETIRING FROM A JOB HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GOD'S WILL FOR YOUR LIFE.**

The Israelites often looked back because they couldn't imagine a better future. Moses painted a vision of the Promised Land and what God wanted them to have. But they didn't grab hold of what they could have had.

What did they do? Complain. They said, "We should have stayed in Egypt." Although their past wasn't that great, they kept looking back and talking about it.

When my wife and I moved to Germany in 1993, it wasn't easy. It took more money than we

Our focus makes all the difference.

had. Everything was different. But we had a choice. We could keep looking forward, or we could look back.

But if you keep looking back, there's a pretty good chance you'll go back. And it's a lot easier to achieve your goals, your dreams, and your tomorrows if you don't complain. The way forward is always trusting God and walking by faith, not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7).♥

[Editor's Note: John and his wife, Michelle, graduated from RBTC in 1980. They established RBTC Germany and Rhema Bible Church in Bonn, Germany, in 1999. They currently live in London, England.]



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Joshua 1:8 (NIV) says, *"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."*

This verse is letting us know that it's so important to speak the Word at all times.

I don't know where I would be without God's Word. It has kept me throughout my life. When trials come, I always go to the scriptures.

Something I have observed in Christian circles that troubles me is how many people don't stick with the Word. As long as everything is going well and everyone is healthy and blessed, they serve the Lord with all their hearts.

But when trials come—when the "having done all, to stand" time comes—they forget what God said. They leave behind the only foundation that can support them through the storms of life: God's Word.

We must build a strong foundation on the Word of God and stand firm on it. When we hear news of something that's not what



LYNETTE HAGIN

we desire, we must ask ourselves, "Whose report do I believe?" Then we need to declare our faith in the report of the Lord.

Start Your Day With the Word

Before I get out of bed in the morning, I begin to make my confessions of God's Word. First I declare, "This is the day that the Lord hath made. I will rejoice and be glad in it" (Ps. 118:24). This is especially important for me because I'm not a morning person. I come alive around midnight, which means I'm wide awake when everyone else is asleep.

In the morning, it's vital for me to speak to my body and say, "Body, you will rejoice! You will have energy. You will do what needs to be done."

I refuse to say, "I'm tired," because I know my world is formed by what I say. The more I say I'm tired, the more tired I will be.

When my energy level seems low, I speak words of faith. I declare God's Word over my body and say, "I go in the strength of the Lord. His strength dwells in me. I'm not getting weaker—I'm getting stronger."

Don't Go Into Battle With Your Mouth Closed

When facing a spiritual battle, we should never go into it with our mouths closed. Our most powerful weapon against the enemy is God's Word coming out of our mouths.

Ephesians chapter 6 describes the armor God gave us to fight spiritual battles. Verse 17 talks about our greatest offensive

weapon—the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. But God’s Word doesn’t become a sword until we speak it.

When we declare, “No weapon formed against me shall prosper” (Isa. 54:17), the Holy Spirit, the angels, and Jesus go to work on our behalf. Jeremiah 1:12 (AMPC) tells us that God watches over His Word to perform it. As we speak scripture, our words become the sword of the Spirit that destroys the devil’s attacks.

We may have to declare the Word more than once before our confession becomes a reality. But if we want to win the good fight of faith, we can never give up.

It takes tenacity and toughness to stand strong. In the midst of adversity, it takes boldness to keep speaking the Word and saying, “I’m going through!”

I’ve decided that I’m going *through* the trials and troubles of life. I’m determined to receive everything God intends for me to have!

We often fall short of the blessings of the Lord because we don’t press in and, by faith, take hold of His promises. When it looks as if God’s Word is not working, we stop confessing it.

What would have happened to the woman with the issue of blood if she hadn’t pressed in to receive her miracle? (See Mark 5:25–34.) What if she had stopped confessing her faith when she saw the huge crowd surrounding Jesus?

Fear might have gripped her when she reached out to touch the hem of Jesus’ garment. After all, she wasn’t supposed to be out in public. And because she had suffered from that issue of blood for 12 years, she was weak physically.

What if she had said, “I’m too weak. This is too hard. I’ll never make it”? What if she had turned back? She would have never received her healing.

But this woman kept on pressing through the crowd and speaking her faith. Mark 5:28 (AMPC) says, “*She kept saying, If I only touch His garments, I shall be restored to health.*”

It’s so important to keep saying what God’s Word says about the problems we face. Our words form our world. If we speak doubt, fear, and unbelief, that’s what we will have. But if we

confess God’s Word and continue speaking it, we will have what His Word promises us!

The woman in Mark chapter 5 kept saying, “If I just touch His clothes, I will be restored to health.” She was forming her world by her words. Then she began acting on her faith. She pressed through the crowd that thronged the Lord. Next, she reached out and grabbed the hem of Jesus’ garment, just as she had repeatedly said in faith. And she was healed. Her world was transformed by her words!

From this woman’s story, we can see why it is so important to continually speak God’s Word. Her bold confession of faith dramatically changed her life.

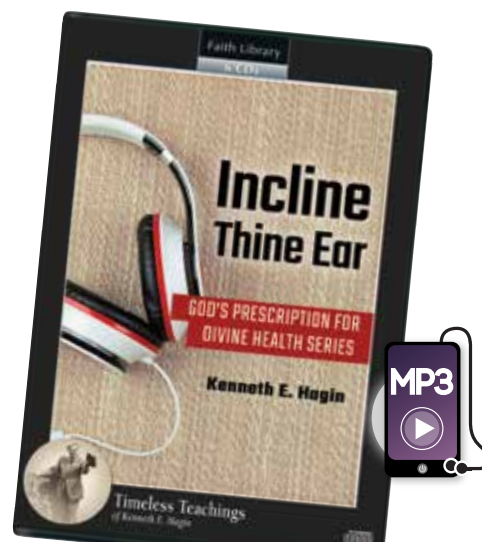
I encourage you to speak God’s Word when you’re discouraged. If you need finances, help with family problems, or healing for your body, keep speaking the Word.

As you continue confessing the Word of God and obeying His commandments, you’ll create a different future, a different world. It will be an exciting and adventurous world—one where your confessions of faith become a reality!♥

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FAITH IN ACTION

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Confess these scriptures daily about yourself and build your faith for the victory Christ wants you to have.

Despite all these things, overwhelming victory is mine through Christ, who loved me.

—Romans 8:37 (NLT)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

—Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

Jesus took my sicknesses and removed my diseases.

—Matthew 8:17 (NLT)

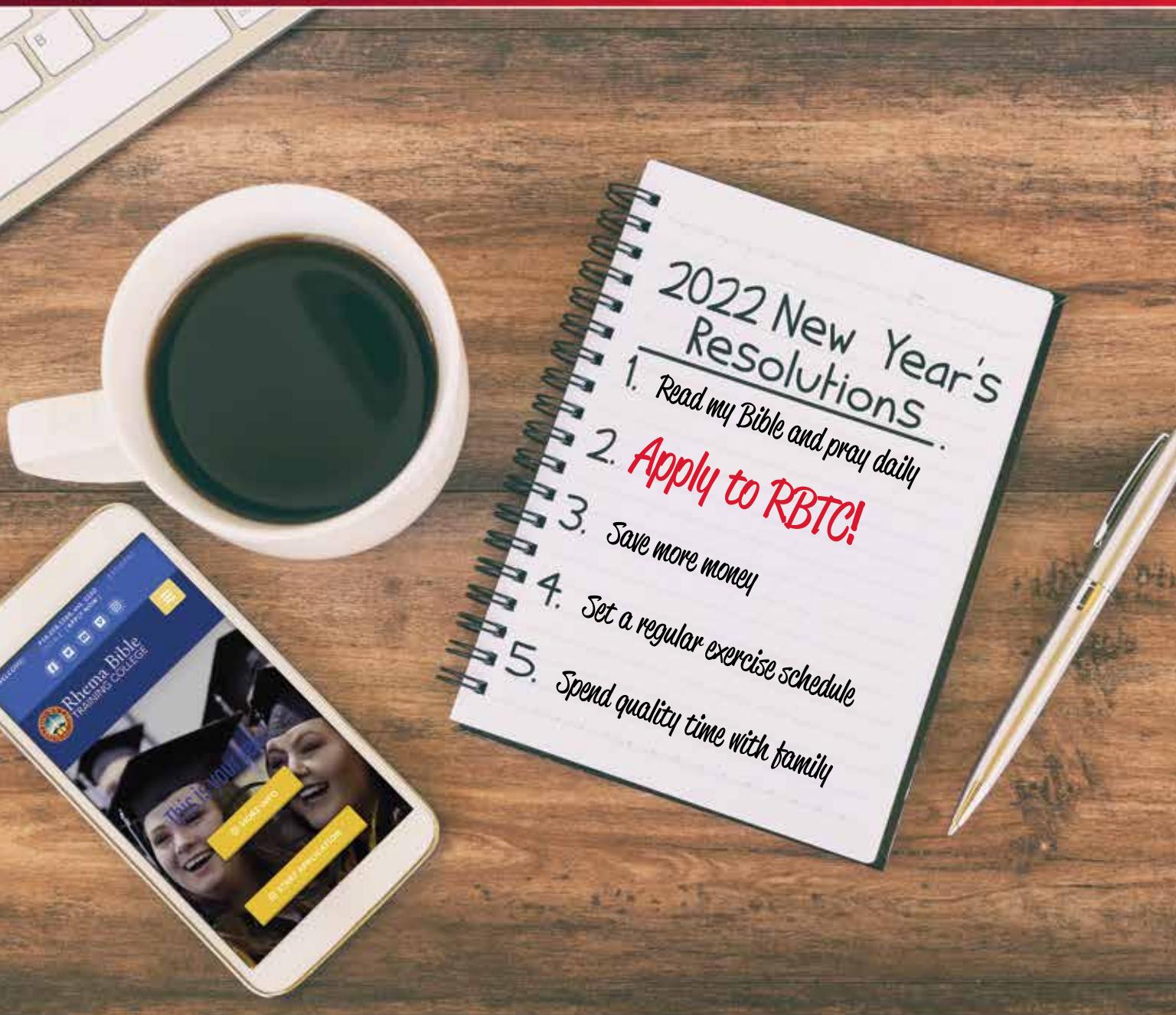
My God shall supply all my need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 4:19 (NKJV)

Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world.

—1 John 4:4

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RHEMA IS A SPOKEN WORD, A PLACE, AND A WORLDWIDE FAMILY.

Take the Mask Off & Be Who You Really Are

CRAIG W. HAGIN

HOW AUTHENTIC ARE you? Do you act one way at church surrounded by fellow believers and another way at work surrounded by unbelievers?

The Apostle Paul said that he became all things to all people (1 Cor. 9:22 NIV). I think some Christians take that scripture too far. They wear “masks.” I’m not talking about the masks we’ve worn for Covid. I mean some Christians put on a façade—a false front. What they appear to be is not who they are.

Some people wear a mask and pretend to be somebody else because they think that’s cool. (Think back to your high school days.) Others hide behind masks because something happened to them. They try to act as though everything is OK. But inside, they’re hurting.

PEOPLE HAVE AN ENDLESS NUMBER OF REASONS FOR WEARING MASKS TO CONCEAL WHO THEY REALLY ARE.

But regardless of why they do it, it’s time to take them off. The good news is, they don’t need to hide behind a mask when they know who they are in Christ.

When we are born again, old things pass away and all things become new (2 Cor. 5:17). We become something different. But many of us don’t realize what we possess on the inside.

When God Moves In

Romans 8:11 says that the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in us. And we see in First John 4:4 that God, who is in us, is greater than the devil who is in the world.

The Greater One dwells in us! **WE ARE NO LONGER ORDINARY PEOPLE.** Each one of us has become a super-person!

A mask—a façade—can never make anyone a superhero. But Jesus can. How? Philippians 4:13 (NKJV) says, “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*” There isn’t anything we can’t do! Why? Because we serve a God who is more than enough. **OUR GOD IS GREATER THAN ADVERSITY.** He is greater than any sickness or financial lack we will ever face.

Whenever we encounter issues, we don’t have to put on a mask and act as though everything is OK. We don’t have to try to maintain an “image.”

Have you ever noticed how life can be going good, and BOOM—the devil hits you across the face and puts something on you or pulls you into adversity? When that happens, you have to remember that the Greater One dwells in you. You can look within and say, “Jesus, I need help!”

Do the Math

When something hits me hard, I have a simple math problem I always do. Remember the “greater than” sign we learned in math class as kids? This is what it looks like: >

I apply that symbol to my situation. During all tests and trials, the equation looks like this:

Jesus is > sickness.

Jesus is > financial problems.

Jesus is > _____ (Fill in the blank.)

It doesn’t matter what’s on the other side of the equation. Jesus is always greater!

As we’re going through life and something comes up that looks pretty tough, let’s put it in this equation and see how it stands up against Jesus.

We often worry about things we have no business worrying about. We see ourselves as natural human beings and don’t realize what’s in us. We’re too busy wearing a mask and pretending to be somebody else. But it’s not about hiding who we are; it’s about knowing who we are in Christ.

Let’s purpose not to complain but keep thanking God until we receive from Him.

The New Testament is filled with scriptures that tell us our identity in Christ. As we study these verses, we’ll discover that we are not ordinary people. We are superheroes—not in our own strength, power, or might, but through Christ. **IN HIM, WE ARE OVERCOMERS!** 🏆

To learn more about who you are in Christ, go to rhema.org/store to purchase Kenneth E. Hagin’s minibook *In Him*.





LIVING FREE IN THE 'HERE AND NOW'

IN JOHN 10:10 (AMP), Jesus said, *“I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].”* Jesus was talking about our having an abundant, overflowing life in this life. *Today! Right now!*

We can’t afford to remain focused on past regrets. But we also can’t afford to live in fear of the future. Some people rejoice in yesterday. They’re always talking about the “good old days.” Other people are always waiting for *someday*. But God’s Word says, *“Today is the day to rejoice and be glad!”* (Ps. 118:24).

God’s ‘Today’ for You

You see, God has designed a plan for you *today*, and He wants you to step into that plan. He wants you to begin living above life’s limitations and enjoy all His benefits now! Today is the day of salvation. Now is the time of healing, deliverance, and provision. Today is the day of overcoming and of going on to spiritual maturity.

Today has great value. But we must take advantage of the opportunity it presents. If we don’t, the promise of today will be of no value to us. Here is one example the Bible gives us of a missed opportunity.

HEBREWS 3:13–19 (NIV)

13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness.

14 We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

15 As has just been said: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

16 Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

17 And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose

bodies perished in the wilderness?

18 And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed?

19 So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

The children of Israel were not able to enter into and possess what God promised them because of their unbelief. They died in the wilderness because they missed the opportunity to believe God and take Him at His Word.

Likewise, many people today, because of unbelief, are not able to enter into the things God has for them. As Christians, we cannot afford to disbelieve for one minute what God has said in His Word. We must be faithful in the here and now, believing Him and laying claim to His promises today.

Obey Today

Hebrews 3:15 challenges us to obey God’s voice today! When we receive revelation from His Word, He wants us to be a doer

of the Word instantly, not sometime in the future. He is saying, “Don’t be like the children of Israel who hardened their hearts and disobeyed Me.”

Doubt and unbelief are why some people don’t receive from God. They’ve read certain promises in His Word. They may have even believed those promises once. But contrary circumstances rose up and caused them to back off of their faith. And they lost their victory when they should have won it.

It’s Not Too Late!

If that describes you, *today* is the day to pick those promises back up and meditate on them until they become part of you. Speak them out loud until they register on your heart, or spirit. Then keep speaking them until you see what you are believing. But start *today*!

Parents, teachers, and others in positions of authority have tried to instill in us a “right-now” attitude. Spiritually speaking, some people put off believing God’s Word. They have an “I’ll-get-to-that-later” attitude. I don’t know about you, but putting things off until later has never worked for me.

If you’re like me, when your parents asked you to do something, you knew they wanted it done right away. They wouldn’t accept your putting it off. So what makes us think procrastinating will work with our Heavenly Father? He wants us to believe Him *today* and trust Him *now*. Don’t limit God to the past or the future. Enter into His overflow blessings by faith *today*.

Make the Most of the Present

Our actions today open the doors of opportunity tomorrow. Instead of passively waiting for opportunities to come someday, we must act on what we believe *today*. We should be confessing *today* the Word that cannot and will not fail us if we’ll hold fast to it.

How you believe God in the present will affect what you receive from Him tomorrow. Unbelief kept the Israelites out of their Promised Land for 40 years. And it will keep us out of our promised land today. But faith in God’s Word is the vehicle that will transport us from where we are now to the place where we experience all the goodness Christ paid for us to have.

Confidence ‘For Such a Time as This’

Our Heavenly Father wants us to approach Him with confidence today (Heb. 4:16). He wants His children to start believing and trusting Him *right now*. Each of us is on this earth “for such a time as this”—for the here and now. God has a plan and purpose for everyone, and it’s a good plan.

Unfortunately, many Christians are not excited about “today.” They’ve lost what I call their “first-day” attitude. Do you remember how you felt and thought the day you accepted Christ and realized how much God loves you? You were full of joy. And what about the day you were married or the day your child was born—those first moments you laid eyes on that baby, so tiny and trusting?

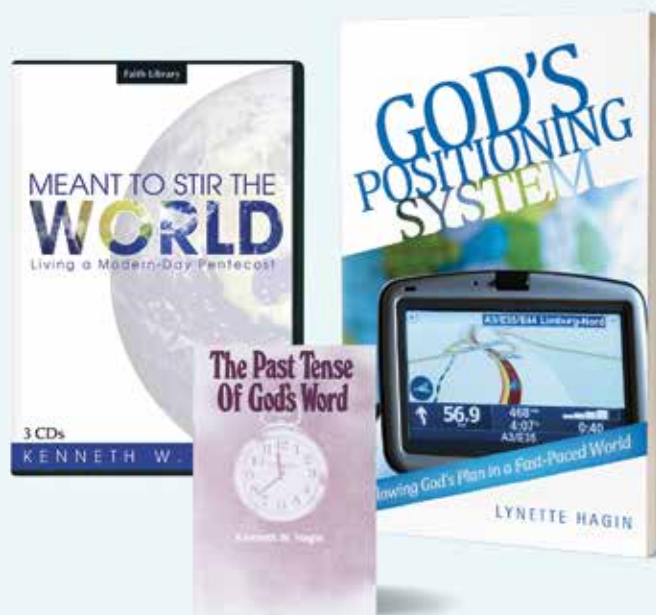
If you’ll learn to live every day with a first-day attitude, you’ll find life a lot more rewarding. You’ll be so full of energy and strength that you won’t think about the past. You’ll be too busy rejoicing in today.

Your attitude about today is a choice you make. Today, you can begin living life to the full. You can live victoriously above hindrances and limitations. So choose to forget the past, trust God for your future, and live free today in the here and now!♥

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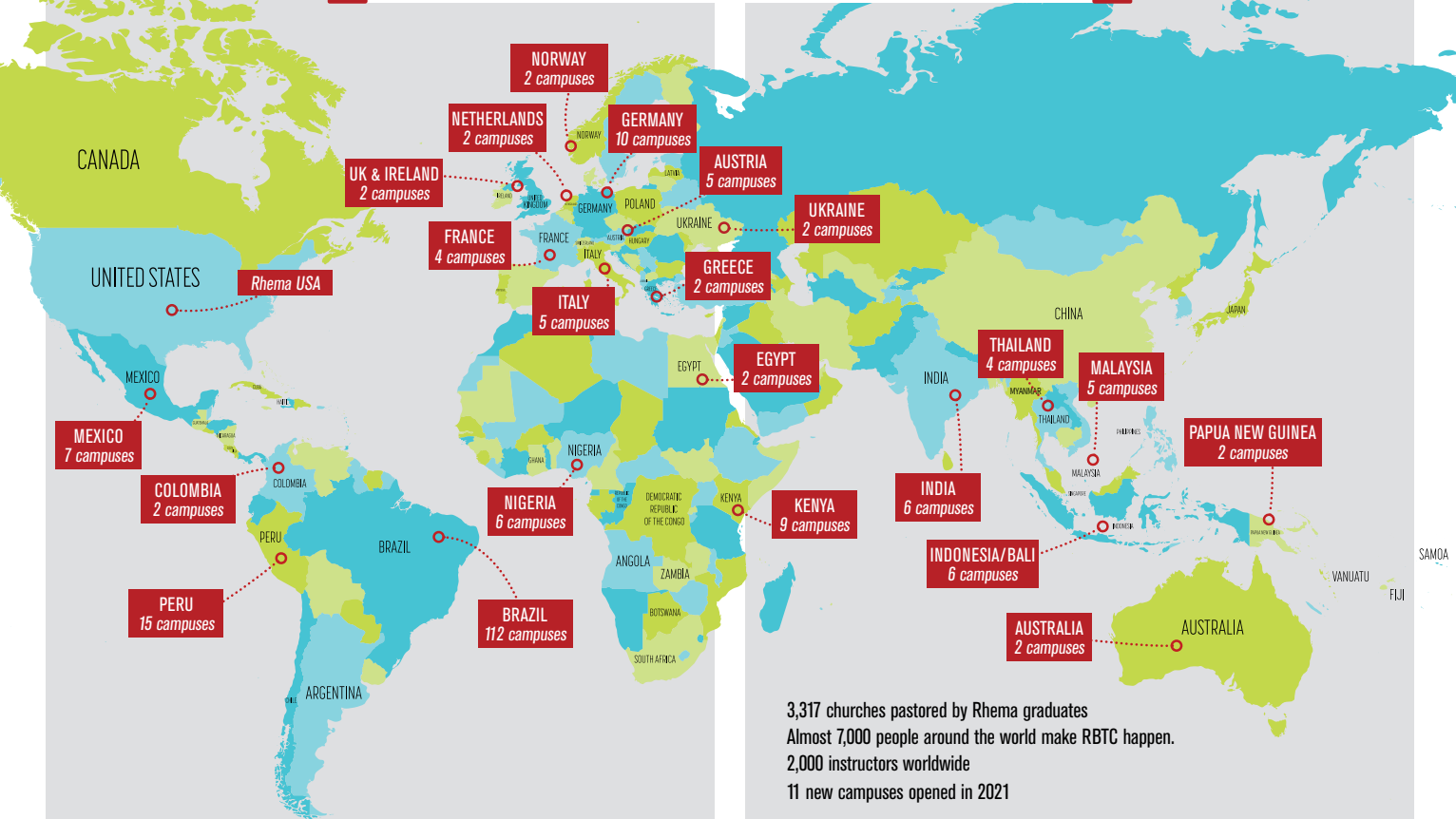
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*OFFER EXPIRES **MARCH 31, 2022**

A Worldwide Update

As the world inched toward normalcy, Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Rhema Bible Training College, and Rhema campuses around the globe continued to spread hope, help, and healing to spiritually hungry and hurting people.



2021 Conferences—Broken Arrow

- Winter Bible Seminar // February 14–19
- Campmeeting // July 25–30
- Lynette Hagin's *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference* (Higher) September 23–25
- Kenneth W. Hagin's *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* (Ascend) November 5–6

Living Faith Crusades

- St. Augustine, Florida (Anchor Faith Church)
- Live Oak, Florida (Melody Church)
- Seminole, Texas (Transformation Church)
- Kenedy, Texas (The Word Fellowship Church)
- Cleveland, Tennessee (Cleveland Christian Fellowship)
- Ridgely, Tennessee (Abundant Life Fellowship Church)
- Traverse City, Michigan (City Church)
- Yorkville, Illinois (Restore Church)
- Glenwood Springs, Colorado (New Creation Church)
- Cheyenne, Wyoming (Family Harvest Church)
- Warsaw, Indiana (New Life Christian Church & World Outreach)
- Virginia, Illinois (Life Family Church)
- Arlington, Texas (Faith Christian Center)
- Scottsdale, Arizona (Desert Valley Church)
- Albuquerque, New Mexico (Church Alive)

RBTC Fast Facts

94,556 worldwide Rhema graduates
274 Rhema campuses in 55 nations

3,317 churches pastored by Rhema graduates
Almost 7,000 people around the world make RBTC happen.
2,000 instructors worldwide
11 new campuses opened in 2021

RBTC Missions

- Graduates from Rhema South Pacific went to remote Aniwa Island. The three-square-mile island has a population of 350 people. Of those, 298 accepted Christ and 28 were healed!
- Many Rhema campuses continued holding online classes because of COVID-19 lockdowns. A Singaporean living in Cambodia was able to attend Rhema Singapore, complete her classes, and graduate via Zoom.
- Campuses opened in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Congo.

Worldwide Rhema Campuses

THE AMERICAS

Rhema USA
Argentina
Brazil (112 campuses)
Canada—Quebec
Chile
Colombia (2 campuses)
Costa Rica
Cuba
Guatemala
Haiti
Mexico (7 campuses)
Nicaragua
Peru (15 campuses)

EUROPE/AFRICA/ MIDDLE EAST

Albania
Angola
Austria (5 campuses)

Botswana
DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo)
Egypt (2 campuses)
France (4 campuses)
Germany (10 campuses)
Ghana
Greece (2 campuses)
Italy (5 campuses)
Kenya (9 campuses)
Latvia
Netherlands (2 campuses)
Nigeria (6 campuses)
Norway (2 campuses)
Poland
Portugal
Republic of the Congo
Switzerland
UK & Ireland (2 campuses)
Ukraine (2 campuses)
Zambia

ASIA/OCEANIA

Australia (2 campuses)
China/Hong Kong
Fiji
India (6 campuses)
Indonesia/Bali (6 campuses)
Japan
Malaysia (5 campuses)
Myanmar
Papua New Guinea (2 campuses)
Philippines
Samoa
Singapore
Thailand (4 campuses)
Vanuatu

The **Gift** That Keeps On Giving



KENNETH W. HAGIN

JESUS IS THE Gift that keeps on giving. He was God's Gift to mankind more than 2,000 years ago—the greatest Gift we ever received. And Jesus continues to give today. People who believe in Him are adopted into God's family and are able to receive all the blessings and benefits rightly due an heir of God.

Let's look at three truths that Jesus' birth reveals about God's nature.

1 GOD IS ALWAYS ON TIME.

Today, we tend to become impatient if we don't get what we want immediately. We are a "now" generation and don't like to wait for anything. Prophets foretold the coming of a Savior hundreds of years before Jesus was born. How long it must have seemed to those waiting for His arrival! But the Bible says, "*When the set time had fully come, God sent his Son*" (Gal. 4:4 NIV).

At just the right time, Jesus came to earth. And the fact that God was right on time in sending Jesus ensures us that He will be right on time when we need Him today.

2 GOD MEETS PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE.

The Bible tells us in Galatians 4:4 that Jesus was born of a woman. Some people think it strange that Almighty God would choose to have His Son make the same helpless entrance into the world that each of us has made. But Jesus humbled Himself and became a man. The Son of God became flesh and made His dwelling among us (John 1:14 NIV).

In His awesome greatness, Almighty God reached out to mankind when we could not reach out to Him. And God will meet *you* where you are today. If you're lost, struggling, hurting, bound, broke, or alone, God the Giver offers you salvation and help through the Gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

3 GOD WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE.

When God sent Jesus, He changed the world forever. Mankind was no longer without hope. And when you accept Jesus into your life, you are forever changed.

Galatians 4:5 says that God sent Jesus to set us free so He could "*adopt us as his very own children*" (NLT). Galatians 4:7 says that anyone who accepts Christ is "*no longer a slave but God's own child*" (NLT). Those who accept Jesus are no longer slaves to sin, sickness, and lack. They become God's children. And children of Almighty God have rights that slaves don't have!

When you accept Christ as your personal Savior, you are adopted into God's family. You become a new creation and are never the same! God places His Spirit within you and makes you His heir. As His heir, you receive salvation, healing, His Holy Spirit, provision, protection, everlasting life, and many other gifts. They belong to you. They become yours.

If you have never accepted the gift of Jesus Christ and would like to receive Him as your Savior and Lord, pray the following prayer from your heart:

*Dear God,
I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I ask You to forgive me of all my sins. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead, I will be saved (Romans 10:9). I believe in my heart and confess out loud that Jesus is my Lord and Savior. Thank You for the gift of everlasting life!♥*

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 material to get you started in your new life as God's child and heir!

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)

MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOU

EVERY YEAR AT our Carols, Candlelight & Communion service at Rhema Bible Church, I read the story of Jesus' birth. When I was four years of age, my aunt took a special interest in me. She had no children of her own, but she loved to teach children God's Word.

Aunt Oma compiled the Christmas story from Matthew and Luke and took me to her house every weekend to memorize it. At our church Christmas program that year, I recited the story by memory. Those scriptures are still alive in my spirit after all of these years.

As I was preparing to write this column for December, I was alerted in my spirit to look at those scriptures. I encourage you to read both accounts of Jesus' birth in Matthew chapter 2 and Luke chapter 2. For lack of space, I want to bring your attention to several of the verses.

Matthew 2:7-10: *"Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy."*

The word *joy* jumped out at me. Over the past 18 months, it appears that people have not experienced a lot of joy. Circumstances and situations have sapped a lot of joy out of our lives. Sometimes you don't realize how much even small things in the natural can sap your joy.

News broadcasters are already warning that you had better buy your Christmas presents early because of a shortage of supplies. I encourage you not to let that sap your joy. Nehemiah 8:10 states, *"For the joy of the Lord is your strength."* Draw strength from the joy of the Lord during the difficult times you may encounter during this Christmas season.

Another portion of the Christmas story that jumped out at me is Luke 2:8-11. *"And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."*

The word *fear* became emphasized to me. Many people have been gripped with fear these last 18 months. Fear of Covid, fear of loved ones getting sick, fear of dying, fear of jobs, and fear of even finding supplies.

Fear brings torment. Fear and faith cannot dwell together. If you are in fear, you are not in faith. The enemy loves to taunt our minds with fear. Many scriptures begin with "fear not."

Once again, I encourage you to allow faith to be the dominating factor in your life. You can have faith that God will see you through any circumstance that may come your way. Isaiah 41:13 (NLT) says, *"For I hold you by your right hand—I, the Lord your God. And I say to you, 'Don't be afraid. I am here to help you.'"* When you allow God to be the captain of your ship, you do not have to be afraid.

The last verses that seemed to be highlighted in my spirit were Luke 2:13-14, *"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."*

The word *peace* stuck out to me. We have had many opportunities to be out of peace. I love Isaiah 26:3 and quote it often, *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee."*

It is important to keep your thoughts on the Lord and place your trust in Him. And finally, it is important to live in peace with others. Hebrews 12:14 (NLT) admonishes us to *"Work at living in peace with everyone."*

One of Satan's crafty tricks is to keep Christians out of unity. When we unite together great things can be accomplished for the Lord in these last days.

Have a Merry Christmas! And do not allow the enemy to paralyze you with fear, but let joy and peace reign in your life.♥

Lynette



Kids' Page

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

Name that Tune!

The pictures below tell the names of favorite Christmas songs. See if you can figure them out!

A.



Shhh!

B.



C.



D.



E.

1. ABCDEFGHIJK
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

2. ABCDEFGHIJK
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

The Best Christmas Gift of All!

Kids all around the world love Christmastime. They love to sing Christmas songs, watch Christmas plays, and eat Christmas goodies. They love the Christmas tree with its decorations and lights. Let's see . . . wasn't there something else? Oh yes! The presents! Christmas is a time when people exchange gifts with those they love. Of course, the first Christmas gift was given 2,000 years ago when God gave the world His one and only Son.



If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you have received the **best Christmas gift of all**. If you have not, why not receive this gift today! To receive God's gift of salvation, the Bible says you must confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9-10). If you'll do this today you will receive the **best Christmas gift of all!**



WORD SCRAMBLE

God gives lots of gifts to those who love Him. Unscramble the letters below to find out three very special gifts that God has given us. If you need help, the answers can be found in Acts 2:38, Romans 5:17, and Romans 6:23.

1. lohy ripits 2. sertinghouses
3. neretal file



A

B

C

D

The Missing Piece

A piece is missing from the puzzle and only one of the four pieces to the left is correct. Can you find the missing piece?

jokes & riddles

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



What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

It's Christmas, Eve!

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?

The letter "D".

What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations?

You get tinsel-itis.

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a shark?

Frostbite

What is Tarzan's favorite Christmas song?

Jungle Bells

What is never hungry at the Christmas dinner?

The turkey . . . it's always "stuffed."

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?

Thanks, I'll never "part" with it.

What was the name of the angel who sang on Christmas Day?

Harold (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)

The Missing Piece • Answer: C

1. Holy Spirit—Acts 2:38 says that we should repent and be baptized so that we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
2. Righteousness—Romans 5:17 tells us that by the gift of righteousness we will reign in life through Jesus Christ.
3. Eternal Life—Romans 6:23 says that the free gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Word Scramble

A. O Holy Night (O Holy Knight)
B. Silent Night (Silent Knight)
C. Away in a Manger (A Weigh in a Manger)
D. Angels We Have Heard on High
E. The First Noel (The First No "L")

ANSWERS:



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

P.O. Box 50126 • Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

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