



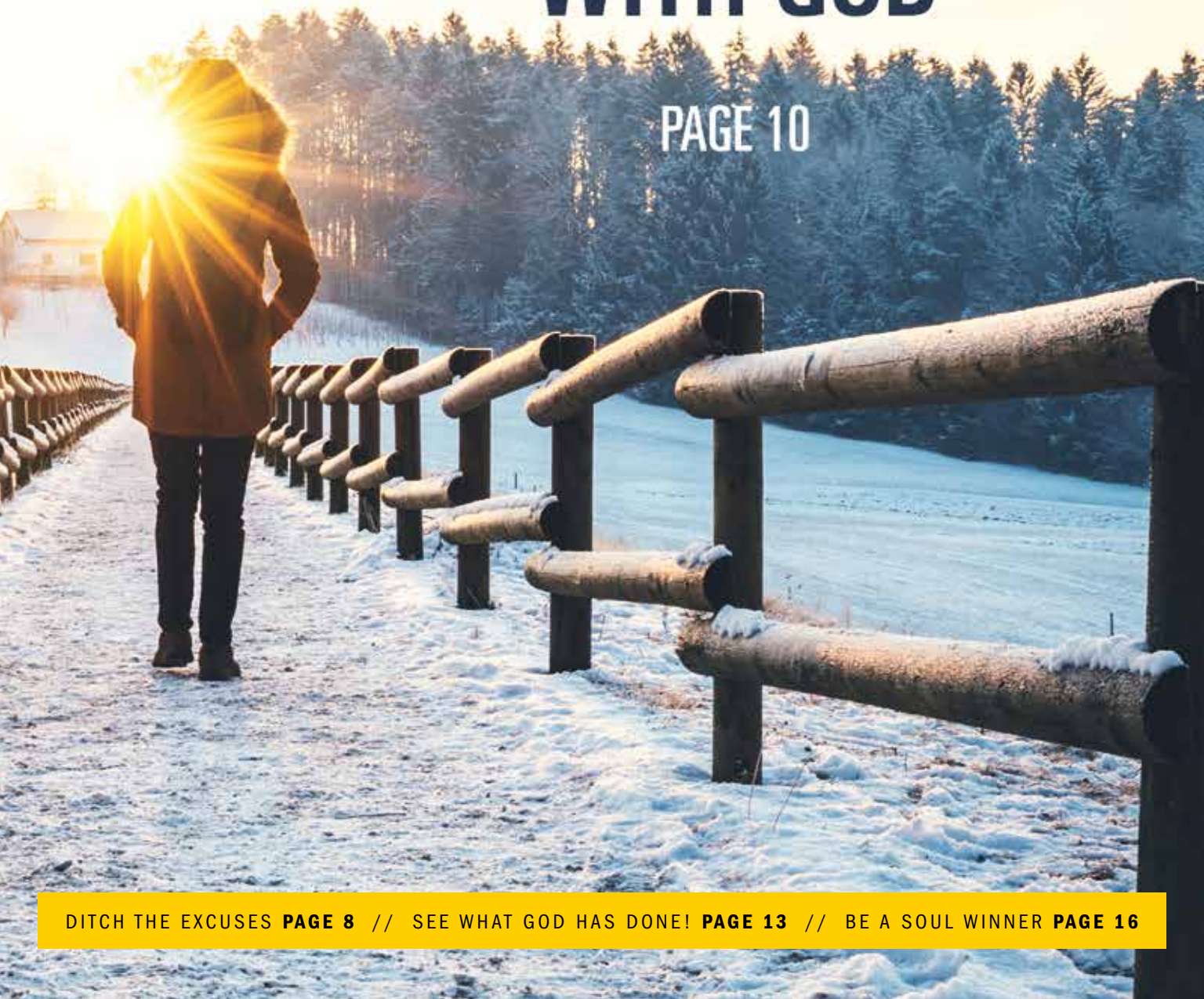
# THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2022

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

## WALKING CLOSELY WITH GOD

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## Start Off the New Year Right

If you're like me, you might be asking yourself, "How did 2021 go by so fast?" Whether we like it or not, December is over and January is here! Every year, the month of January generates its own thoughts and emotions. Some people eagerly look forward to what the new year holds. Many determine to make a fresh start by visiting the gym, setting goals, or making resolutions. Others may simply sigh in relief that last year is over.

As we look back at 2021 and look forward to the future, I am reminded that whatever happens, God is still God! The sum of our success isn't determined by our failures and achievements. It is determined by our constant and close relationship with Him. Joseph remained faithful even when life wasn't fair. Paul sang praises when he found himself in prison. And David celebrated God's provision when he said, *"You crown the year with Your goodness, and Your paths drip with abundance"* (Ps. 65:11 NKJV).

Whether we experience God's goodness and abundance this year will be determined by how we choose to enter it. One way to start 2022 out right is to be in church. So many people let the cares of this world and the distractions of life keep them from making church a vital part of their lifestyle.

When I was growing up, life revolved around the church. Sadly, church for many today seems to have become just another event that we have to make room for in our schedules. If you want to enjoy God's abundance, decide to start the year in church!

Let's begin this new year by remaining faithful to God. Let's sing His praises in spite of our circumstances. And let's thank the Lord for His abundant provision.

We've put together a great magazine for you this month. I believe it will help you start the new year strong. May this be your best year ever as you remain faithful to Him!



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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# STICK WITH THE WORD

**I DON'T KNOW** where I would be without God's Word. When tests and trials come, I always pull out my Bible to find answers. The Word has kept me throughout my life.

As we begin a new year, the most important advice I can give anyone is to stick with the Word in 2022. It's only through God's Word that we will have the abundant life Jesus desires us to have.

The way we can stand firm and never waver during adversity is to have the Word of God as a solid foundation in our lives. We do this by reading and meditating on scripture every day.

When Joshua was preparing to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, God told him to constantly read and study the Word. If Joshua would do that, he was guaranteed success.

## **JOSHUA 1:8 (NKJV)**

**8** 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.

Meditating on the Word involves more than reading a psalm and thinking we have done our spiritual duty for the day. We must take time to read our Bible and allow the scripture to soak in.



**LYNETTE HAGIN**

It's easy to feel as though there's not enough time to read and study God's Word. We're all so busy. But let me ask you a few questions.

Do you have time to scroll through Facebook? Do you make time to watch your favorite TV show? What about other recreational pursuits? Do you find time for them? These activities are not bad. But none of them is as important as reading and meditating on God's Word.

The Word is what gives us the strength to fulfill our calling. And it's through God's promises that we can overcome the attacks of the evil one.

The Apostle Peter said, "*Be sober; be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*" (1 Peter 5:8 NKJV). One thing is certain—the attacks of the enemy will come. But if we determine never to budge from the Word, we won't be devoured.

It takes toughness to stand against the schemes of the devil. Sometimes we have to stand a while before our situation turns around. That's when we have to choose whose report to believe. Will we believe our situation and what the devil has thrown at us? Or will we believe what the Lord says?

I made up my mind a long time ago—I will always believe the report of the Lord.



## *It's through God's promises that we can overcome the attacks of the evil one.*

We have to be determined to *go through* adversity when it comes our way. When we've made up our mind like that, we will receive everything the Lord has for us.

We can fall short of God's blessings if we don't press in and stand for what belongs to us. What would have happened to the woman with an issue of blood if she hadn't heard the Word (Mark 5:25–34)? What if she didn't know that Jesus went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38)?

There was no hope for this woman medically. She spent all her money going to doctors, but her condition was beyond their knowledge. The doctors' report did not give her any hope of being cured. But instead of believing the doctors' verdict, she chose to believe what she heard about Jesus.

I'm sure this woman must have been trembling when she came upon the crowd surrounding Jesus. According to Jewish law, she was not supposed to be out in public. Her infirmity made her unclean.

The crowd that day was huge, and she must have been weak from loss of blood. It was probably difficult for her to push her way through the people to get to Jesus. What if she had turned away? What if she had said to herself, "This is too hard; I'll never make it"? What if she had given up and turned back?

FAITH NUGGET

### Stick With the Word!

Here's an acrostic using the word *stick* to help remind you to *stick with the Word*!

- S: Search the scriptures daily.** Read God's Word every day. Then you will have a strong foundation when the storms of life come your way.
- T: Turn to the Word in times of trouble.** When trouble comes, be sure to turn to God's Word *first*. Find out what the Bible says about your situation.
- I: Incline your ear to what God says.** When it looks as though you're going under, incline your ear to what *God* says!
- C: Call those things that be not as though they were.** Say what God says about your situation. Put God's Word into your own words and speak it out.
- K: Keep the Word of God.** We're told repeatedly in scripture to not be just hearers of the Word, but *doers*. *To do* also means to *keep* (Luke 11:28 KJV). Those who *keep* God's Word—who put it into practice—are the ones who are blessed (James 1:22–25).

We know from the Word that this woman *didn't* turn back. No, she pressed through the crowd. And when she touched the hem of Jesus' garment, she felt God's healing power make her body whole.

We can see how necessary it is to press in until we receive what God promised in His Word. It is so vital to never move off that foundation. With all the distractions surrounding us, it's more important than ever to stick with God's Word. When we do, the Word will see us through—no matter what!♥

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# No More Excuses

MAURO GIRGENTI



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**WHEN GOD CREATED** Adam and Eve, the first thing He told them was, “*Be fruitful, and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it*” (Gen. 1:28 NKJV). Jewish rabbis consider this verse to be God’s first commandment. It isn’t negative. God didn’t tell Eve not to wear too much makeup. He said, “Be fruitful.”

**FRUIT IS THE RESULT OF OUR LABOR, AND GOD EXPECTS US TO PRODUCE RESULTS WHEREVER WE ARE.** But we humans tend to make lists of excuses for why we can’t do something.

## Short on Time?

In Luke 14:15–24, Jesus told the parable of a man who prepared a big feast and invited many people. But the invited guests had excuses for why they couldn’t come. “I just got married.” “I started a new business.” “I have some new cows.”

People often say, “I don’t have enough time.” But we each get 24 hours a day. The question is, what are we doing with the time we have? People say they don’t come to prayer because they don’t have time or they’re tired. No. They *choose* to stay home and watch the ball game.

## The Answer to Excuses

The Apostle Paul had an answer for our excuses. He prayed that we would be “*strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all patience and longsuffering with joy*” (Col. 1:11 NKJV). In Greek, the word *strengthened* is *dunamoō* and the word *might* is *dunamis*. That’s like having two sticks of dynamite in us. Don’t say, “I can’t do that” or “I feel tired.” **SAY, “THANK YOU, LORD, FOR STRENGTHENING ME WITH YOUR MIGHT!”**

## We’ve All Got Problems

Another excuse I hear for not doing God’s will is, “I have problems.” If that excuse were valid, none of us would do God’s will, because we all have issues. Paul showed us how to deal with them. He prayed that God would strengthen us “*for all patience and longsuffering with joy*” (Col. 1:11 NKJV). **PATIENCE, LONGSUFFERING, AND JOY HELP US WITH THE ISSUES OF LIFE.** James told us to count it all joy when we go through various trials, problems, and difficulties (James 1:2–3).

*Patience* and *longsuffering* are words that deal with the outward and the inward. I have a wife and three beautiful daughters. That’s four females in my house. You can imagine how restricted my bathroom time has been!

When we’re getting ready to go somewhere, I knock on the bathroom door and ask, “Are you ready yet?” But if my teeth are clenched and I’m pounding on the door, I’m not being patient.

Impatience only gives us a knot in our stomachs. And that’s why we need longsuffering.

Longsuffering gets rid of the knot. It’s on the inside and literally means breathing deeply. Paul said we can experience longsuffering with joy. And there’s no ambiguity about what joy is.

## God Moves in Chaos

There will never be a time when we have no problems. We can’t wait to have all our ducks lined up before we obey God. **PART OF WALKING WITH HIM IS LEARNING TO WALK BY FAITH IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM.**

God never promised we would have no challenges. But He did promise peace and joy in the storm and victory every time. We need to learn how to walk by faith and trust Him when things are not going the way we think they should.

When the children of Israel were fleeing Egypt, they came to the Red Sea. As the Egyptian army closed in on them, God told Moses to lift up his rod and divide the sea. But God actually divided it by sending a wind. (See Exod. 14:15–21.)

Here’s the point. In the beginning, God told Adam to rule the earth and have dominion. He intended there to be a *partnership* between mankind and Himself. It was the same with Moses, and it’s the same with us. We can’t do anything without God’s power. But God needs our cooperation to accomplish His will.

## Use What You Have

What gifts has God given you? How are you unique? You don’t have a rod like Moses. But what *do* you have in your hand that God can use? Five loaves of bread? Two fish? A boat? **GOD WILL USE WHATEVER YOU HAVE.** He expects us to use our authority and work with Him to solve every problem.

No more excuses. We have everything we need to overcome in life. We can do anything through Christ Who empowers us. ♥

[Editor’s Note: Mauro and his wife, Connie, have been missionaries to Italy since 1994. They are the directors of Rhema Italy, which currently has three campuses.]





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# WALKING CLOSELY WITH GOD

A **GREAT DEAL** can be learned from the experiences of the Israelites. One thing we can learn is the importance of walking closely with God by faith. But not only did the children of Israel walk by faith to possess the Promised Land—they also walked with *purpose*.

## Purpose

It's important to keep your purpose in mind when walking with God. Many people claim to be walking by faith, but they're just walking. They don't have a clear vision of what God wants them to have or what He wants them to do.

The Israelites weren't just walking. They had a divine purpose for every step they took. What was that purpose? It was to take what God said already belonged to them (Joshua 1:1–9).

We need to keep our focus and sense of purpose as we walk with God. Even in the natural, a person must have purpose before they can succeed. Everyone needs a goal that they desire to accomplish. That goal is what will keep a person going when the going gets rough. Without a sense of purpose—that vision or goal set before them—they'll end up quitting during the hard times.

## Hold Fast to Your Purpose

Your sense of God-given purpose will also give you the confidence needed to fulfill your goal. Whatever God tells you to



KENNETH W. HAGIN

do, you can do it with the knowledge that He is with you every step of the way.

## JOSHUA 1:5

5 There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

When you begin the walk of faith, you have to have the same confidence Joshua had.

God said, “*I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.*” You must be confident of the victory before you ever start to attain it. Know that through Christ, you can do all things. Be confident in God's Word and continue walking by faith when it looks as if nothing is happening.

The circumstances of life come to us all. And the circumstances may scream at you, “You won't make it! You can't accomplish this goal. You won't make it through this trial. You don't have the ability. Look at your symptoms. The doctor's prognosis isn't very good.” But when faced with those thoughts, hold on to your sense of purpose and have confidence that “*all things are possible to him that believeth*” (Mark 9:23)!

## Courage

Another ingredient to add to your close walk with God is courage.

IF YOU WILL *walk closely* WITH GOD BY FAITH,  
YOU WILL FIND THAT THERE IS *no defeat in Christ*.



## JOSHUA 1:6-7 (NKJV)

**6** 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.

**7** Only be strong and very **courageous**, that you may observe to do according to all the law . . . do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go.

It takes courage to walk with God by faith. It takes courage to move out into the unknown with His Word as your only support. When you can barely see a step in front of you, so to speak, simply take hold of the hand of the One Who sees everything clearly.

That's what the children of Israel did in possessing their Promised Land. And that's what you have to do if you want to possess the blessings God has already provided for you.

The reason so many people have never received anything from the Lord is that they're afraid to step out and walk by faith to receive it.

NO MATTER THE  
SITUATION, BE  
CONFIDENT THAT  
GOD IS *with you!*

They are comfortable walking by sight rather than walking by something they can't see or feel. But to receive from God, you need to have an attitude that says, "God's Word is true. I believe it, and that settles it. I can receive what I need from Him."

It would benefit you to say Philippians 4:13 regularly: "*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me*" (NKJV). Then confidently and courageously go out and do what God's Word says you can do.

## Faith Demands Action

Many people are waiting for the power of God to overtake them so they can move out to stand against the devil. But that's not how God works. The Bible says that when they do what pleases Him, whatever they put their hand to shall prosper (Deut. 23:20; Ps. 1:3).

Some may say, "But I'm not sure God will meet me when I step out." That's where meditation in the Word comes in. Meditating in God's Word will bring them confidence in Him and that Word. They must be confident that God's strength will come on them as they step out. Confidence in God's Word and His power will make weakness a thing of the past.

## God Is With You!

No matter the situation, be confident that God is with you! Some people only feel confident and courageous when they're in a service where there is corporate faith. They feel good, they're excited about the things of God, and their confidence soars. But they can overcome the tests and trials of life, not only when they feel good, but when they feel as low as the floor under their feet! Because God said He would never leave them or forsake them (Heb. 13:5).

All you need to do is believe and confess, "I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me. I can accomplish this task through His power!"

Years ago a children's book was written about "the little engine that *could*." Faced with an overwhelming task, the little engine kept saying, "I think I can. I think I can." And do you know what? He

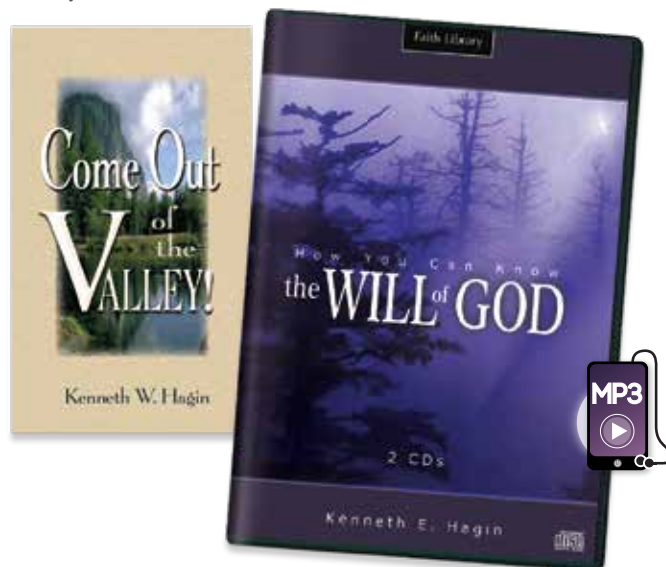
*could*! He accomplished that task because he *believed* he could. It is the same with us. It all comes back to what we believe.

If you will walk closely with God by faith, you will find that in Christ there is no defeat. Every blessing God has provided for you in Jesus is yours. Through meditating in God's Word, you can have the courage and confidence to possess those promised blessings. They *belong* to you. You *can* walk in all of God's fullness and enjoy success and victory!♥

## SPECIAL OFFER

# Learn God's Will and Walk in Victory

As believers, we have an advantage in life: God's Spirit has made His home in us. We *can* learn to let Him lead us every day. When we walk in faith in God's Word and His Spirit, we'll leave the valley of defeat and live in victory!



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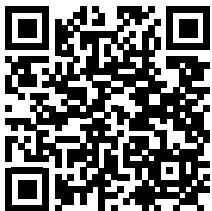
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**“I WAS** having abnormal bleeding for 1 1/2 months. I went to see a provider who recommended a colonoscopy to check for cancer. I was actively bleeding when I came for WBS 2020. I believed I would be healed when Craig prayed for me. The bleeding stopped instantly and has not returned. Several weeks later I had the colonoscopy and they couldn’t find anything. I also took a prayer cloth for my daughter who was having anxiety and depression. As soon as she got the cloth, she said something left her. She no longer has any symptoms. God is our healer!” // **HEATHER**

**“THANK YOU** for praying for my husband! God has brought him back to life! He was sedated and hadn’t woken up for several days. Doctors were concerned about him not regaining consciousness and potentially having brain damage. My husband woke up completely normal, and the first thing he said was, ‘By His stripes I am healed.’ Praise God!” // **ELENA**

**“AFTER WATCHING** Part 3 of your series *Identity in Christ*, I said the prayer with Kenneth and Lynette to rededicate my life to Christ. I have the minibook *In Him*, from which I am learning who I am in Christ. I never fully understood what it meant to be in Christ with all the benefits and promises. Today is a new day for me! I believe God has heard my prayer for a better understanding of His Word, and that by the leading of the Holy Spirit and your booklet my identity in Christ will soar.” // **BARB**

**“I CALLED** your ministry for prayer and also sent in an online prayer request for healing for my dog, Tony. He was severely ill and on the brink of death due to congestive heart failure and kidney failure. After receiving prayer from your ministry, Tony became progressively better over the course of several weeks and has made a full recovery! Thank you for being there in my time of need and standing with me for the healing of my dog.” // **ROBERT**

**“I RECEIVED** a call from someone at Rhema to thank me for being a Word Partner. She asked if she could agree with me in prayer about anything. I needed wisdom about something going

on in my job. I put my faith with hers as she prayed. Within a couple of hours, I had my answer and things had cleared up. Thank you!” // **SANDY**

**“LAST NIGHT** I was online watching the [Campmeeting] livestream, and I received healing during the ministry time at the end of the service. For four months after a dental procedure, I had been experiencing muscle spasms. I received the Word of God with faith to believe He could restore whatever was affected. I want to glorify Jesus, for He has done it! I have not experienced any spasms since last night.” // **ALBERTO**

**“THANK YOU** for praying and agreeing with me. When I received your email saying you would pray with me, I knew I had a breakthrough. The severe headaches began to decrease. Within 24 hours they were gone and have not returned. My health is restored. Praise the Lord for His Word and faithfulness!” // **RUTH**

**“CAMPMEETING/SUMMER BLITZ** changed my direction in life and my entire life in general. I am a 12-year-old boy who went to *Campmeeting* with my family and church family. Before I came to *Campmeeting*, I was in a terrible spot in my life. I was rebellious against my mother. I had a horrible swearing problem. I thought I liked men and found nothing wrong with homosexuality. I wasn’t sure if I was a boy or a girl. I was trying to figure myself out, but I didn’t know the answer was Christ. This trip took away homosexual urges and thoughts. Without this trip, I don’t know what I would be. I don’t swear anymore. I grew in my faith in a way I didn’t know I could, and I got filled with the anointing. I want to give a massive thank you to Rhema. I appreciate what you are doing.” // **MICAH**

### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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# DEVELOPING THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

**SCRIPTURE CONTAINS TWO** groups of nine in connection with the work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life:

1. The nine *fruit* of the Spirit are a result of the Holy Spirit's *indwelling Presence*.
2. The nine *gifts* of the Spirit are a result of the Holy Spirit's *infilling power*.

Let's look at the ninefold manifestations of the fruit that result from the Holy Spirit's indwelling Presence.

## **GALATIANS 5:22-23**

**22** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

**23** meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Paul is talking here about the fruit of the recreated, born-again human spirit. We see an example of it *before* the Day of Pentecost when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **LUKE 24:51-52**

**51** And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.

**52** And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy.

According to Galatians 5:22, joy is a fruit of the recreated human spirit. In Luke 24:52, the disciples had great joy but were

not yet filled with the Spirit. Therefore, the fruit of the spirit could not be a result of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

As we obey God's Word, the Holy Spirit within us causes us to grow in love, joy, and peace. So a main purpose of the Holy Spirit's indwelling Presence in a believer is for *fruit bearing*.

The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* calls the Holy Spirit a Comforter, Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthen-er, and Standby (John 14:16). We don't need anything more than that. Many believers have missed the reality of what God's Spirit came to do in us.

## **Rely On the Helper**

Sometimes when Christians need help, they look frantically for someone to pray for them. They cry on someone's shoulder, shed some "crocodile tears," and quote a few scriptures. But when they are alone, they're in the same mess they started with. They forget they have a Helper on the inside. They don't have to pray for a Helper; they already have Him *in* them.

The Holy Spirit is our Guide. John 16:13 says, "*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.*" Not only will He do that, but Jesus said (speaking to God), "*Thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). The Holy Spirit will also guide us into the truth of God's Word.

The Holy Spirit will guide us in all the affairs of life. Romans 8:14 says, "*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are*



*the sons of God.*” No one can be guided or led, however, without placing themselves in the hands of the Guide.

It is useless to pray, “Lord, guide me—give me directions,” unless we allow ourselves to be guided.

By way of illustration, the Carlsbad Caverns have guides to escort visitors. No one would want to go through the pitch-black caverns without one. Visitors would never get out if they didn’t follow the guides!

Many folks get into a mess in life because they don’t follow the Guide. But for the Holy Spirit to guide us, we must put ourselves in His hands.

When we have guidance, we can be prepared ahead of time. The Bible says the Holy Spirit will show us things to come (John 16:13). He will guide us into all truth and will lead us in the affairs of life.

When I traveled on the evangelistic field, I depended on my Guide. My wife and small children were at home, and the Holy Spirit always warned me ahead of time of a family need. I often had no communication with them, but I knew by the Spirit of God when someone was sick.

## Help From Within

If you are a believer, the Holy Spirit is in you to help you. As you learn to listen and look to Him, He will guide you.

Under the Old Covenant, God spoke about the New Covenant He would establish with His people. This verse gives us a clue about how New Covenant believers are to be guided.

### JEREMIAH 31:33

**33** But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

This Old Covenant promise was fulfilled in the New Birth—in the recreation of man’s spirit.

### 2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

**17** Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Where does God make us a new creature? In our *heart*, or *spirit*, by the regeneration of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

God said He would put His law in our “inward parts”—in our spirit being. It is by the Holy Spirit that God’s laws are written in our hearts (2 Cor. 3:3). We will know by the Spirit what to do in every situation, for He is our Guide into all truth (John 16:13). We need only look inside to see what the Spirit within is leading us to do (Rom. 8:14).

The Holy Spirit, our Helper, has made His home in believers. All we could ever need Him to be *for* us, He is. He is our Comforter, our Guide, our Counselor, and our Teacher.

If we know Who dwells *within* us and believe God’s Word, then no matter what or whom we face, we will have no fear. The Greater One Who lives in us is greater than he who is in the world. And He will put us over in life!♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s study course *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts*.]

## FAITH NUGGET

## God For Us, With Us, and In Us

Having God *for* us guarantees our success: “If God be *for* us, who can be *against* us?” (Rom. 8:31).

God is *with* us in every place in life and in every situation (Matt. 28:20, Heb. 13:5).

Not only is God with us and for us, He is also *in* us. As born-again Christians, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16–17, 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16).

After we became new creatures in Christ, then God, in the Person of the Holy Spirit, chose to dwell *within* us. Now the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead is in *us* (Rom. 8:10–11)!

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# We **Must** Bring In the Harvest

LYNETTE HAGIN

**TOO MANY PEOPLE** today have not accepted Jesus as their Savior and are going to hell. But we have plenty of exciting opportunities to tell them about Jesus. **OUR FIRST AND FOREMOST RESPONSIBILITY IS TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS!**

Where are we going to be witnesses? Wherever God takes us. Every day we encounter someone who doesn't know Christ. Are we sensitive to hear God's voice and minister to these people? Or are we too busy to lend a helping hand and bring them in?

Many of us have such revelation of God's Word, and yet we often keep it to ourselves. We're not telling others. But God didn't give us this knowledge to keep to ourselves. He wants us to go into the highways and byways and compel the lost to come in!

Some people are great soul winners. They're extremely bold and don't mind asking anybody, "Do you know Jesus as your Savior?" Not everyone is comfortable doing that. I know I'm not bold that way. But **EVEN IF WE'RE NOT THAT BOLD, WE CAN STILL BE WITNESSES FOR THE LORD.**

I have always been the type of person who endeavors to witness by my actions, my love, and my compassion for others. I love people, especially those who are hardened against the Gospel.

When we were building the Rhema campus, I came in contact with a particular supplier who furnished our carpet. One of the owners of that company had been

saved but was not walking in fellowship with the Lord. He was hardened against the church and often made fun of ministers.

It grieved my heart when I heard him say those negative things, but I didn't try to correct him. I didn't even try to defend anyone. I continued showing him the love of God.

I had to stop by his business frequently and usually went around 10 o'clock in the morning. One morning I had so much to do that I stopped in around 8 o'clock. He was shocked when he saw me, because he knew that was not my favorite time of day. He said, "It's 8 o'clock in the morning, and you're smiling and happy!"

His business partner remarked, "We've never seen you down. You must know something we don't."

"I do know something," I replied. "Let me tell you what it is." And I began to witness to them about the Lord.

I didn't ask them to pray the sinner's prayer that day. A few days later, the man who had been hardened against the Gospel visited the Rhema campus to look at the carpet. After he toured the campus, we wound up in my husband's office.

He spotted one of our faith Bibles on the coffee table and exclaimed, "I'd sure like to have one of those Bibles!" We got him a Bible, signed it, and he took it with him.

Several weeks later, I called him on the phone about a business situation. Suddenly, the conversation turned to the Lord. I felt an urgency inside to draw in the net a little bit more, so I said, **"YOU KNOW, HEAVEN WON'T BE HEAVEN IF YOU'RE NOT THERE."**

"Lynette," he replied, "I've been reading the Bible you gave me more than you might think." I wanted to draw in the net all the way, but for some reason, I didn't. I wish I had, because we were informed a week later that he died suddenly from a heart attack.

That incident hit me hard. I thought, "God, why didn't I make sure he was right with You?" I believe he accepted Christ as his Savior and is in Heaven. But I determined never to let that kind of opportunity pass me by again!

Witnessing opportunities come to each of us. **LET'S PRAY AND ASK GOD TO OPEN DOORS** for us to present the Gospel in our own way and in whatever way He desires to use us. When we tell the Lord we want to go fishing for souls, He will make it possible. ♥

*Our first and foremost responsibility is to share the Good News!*



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# THREE STEPS TO HEALING

**ACTS CHAPTER 14** records the story of a crippled man whose destiny was changed when he encountered the Apostle Paul. This man was lame from birth and had never walked a day in his life. But after hearing Paul preach the message of Christ, he was healed of a lifelong infirmity.

By examining how this man was healed, we can learn simple steps on how to receive healing for ourselves.

## **ACTS 14:7–10 (NKJV)**

**7** And they [Paul and Barnabas] were preaching the gospel there.

**8** And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked.

**9** This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed,

**10** said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

We can see that both Paul and the crippled man did three things before this healing happened.

First, Paul preached the Gospel. He didn't preach his opinions or his politics. Nor did he give a motivational speech. His

message was simple: Jesus Christ, and Him crucified (1 Cor. 2:1–2).

Although Paul was persecuted for the Gospel's sake, he did not allow persecution to stop him from preaching. In Acts chapter 13, Paul and Barnabas were expelled from Antioch in Pisidia for preaching Christ. Instead of quitting, they shook the dust off their feet and traveled to Iconium (Acts 13:51) and then to Lystra and Derbe (Acts 14:6), where Paul continued to preach the Word boldly.

Second, as Paul ministered the Word, he perceived that the crippled man had faith to be healed (Acts 14:9). This indicates that Paul was probably well into his message when he saw a change in the man's face.

You may have had a similar experience. Have you ever tried to explain something, and you knew the other person wasn't getting it? But you kept talking until you saw a light bulb turn on inside of them. You knew the moment they understood what you were saying.



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**



It appears this is what happened to Paul. He could tell when the lame man had faith to be healed.

Third, Paul commanded the man to get up and walk. He encouraged the man to act on his faith.

These three steps were Paul's part to play in the man's miracle. However, the crippled man was not healed on Paul's faith alone. The man played a part in receiving his miracle. And if he hadn't done his part, he would not have been healed.

What three things did the crippled man do? First, he heard the Gospel being preached. Romans 10:17 (NKJV) says that *"faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."* If we don't know what God's Word says about healing, we can be unsure if God will heal us.

Second, after the crippled man heard the Word, scripture tells us he had faith to be healed (Acts 14:9). Everyone has a free will and can accept or reject what they hear. This man chose to believe Paul's words and accept the message of the Cross. If he had refused to believe what Paul preached, he would have remained a cripple.

Third, the crippled man had to act on what Paul said. Hearing the Word preached was not enough for this crippled man to walk. Neither was having faith to be healed. Many people have faith, but they are not healed because they don't act on their faith.

When Paul said, *"Stand up straight on your feet!"* the crippled man could have replied, "I

#### FAITH NUGGET

### Faith Is Now

Receiving anything from God is about being in faith. And faith is present tense—it's "now." Long before what you are believing for has changed, faith counts it done. Faith says, "I have it now."

Hope, on the other hand, is future tense. And unfortunately, people often think they're in faith when they're really in hope. They expect to see their prayers answered in the future. Hope says, "I will have it someday."

How do you move from hope to faith? It's simple: *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom. 10:17 NKJV). Take time to read and meditate on scripture that pertains to your need. Listen to recordings of quality ministers preaching on that subject. Keep doing this until you can say, "I have it now."

THE CRIPPLED MAN  
WAS NOT HEALED  
ON PAUL'S FAITH  
ALONE. THE MAN  
PLAYED A PART  
IN RECEIVING HIS  
MIRACLE.

can't. I've been lame since birth." But he didn't do that. Although there was no way in the natural for him to stand on his feet, he immediately "leaped and walked" when Paul told him to. Only when he took the initiative and *acted* on Paul's command did the healing power of God go into his limbs and strengthen his lifeless legs.

The healing of the crippled man at Lystra outlines three simple steps to receive healing: hear, believe, and act. When we act on the Word we have heard and believed, the seemingly impossible will suddenly become possible! And like the crippled man at Lystra, we will rise and walk! 🕊

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*Your life and the lives of others depend on your obedience.*

**SMITH WIGGLESWORTH SAID,** “If you have to get ready when opportunity comes your way, you are too late. Opportunity does not wait, not even while you pray. You must not have to get ready; you must live ready.” \*

Christians are to live ready. God has called each of us. The calling may be to ministry, business, medicine, politics, or parenting. Whatever the call, it will require us to live up to a higher standard. So my first question to you is, *are you ready to walk worthy of the calling?*

**EPHESIANS 4:1 (AMPC)**

1 I therefore, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to and beg you to walk (lead a life) worthy of the [divine] calling to which you have been called [with behavior that is a credit to the summons to God’s service].

One way to walk worthy of the calling is through our conduct. As Christians we are to live holy and set apart from the world (1 Peter 1:15–16 AMPC). Many things aren’t necessarily sins, but they are not holy. How are we any different if we’re listening to, watching, or laughing at the same things as the world?

The Bible says that we are not to love the world or anything in it. That doesn’t mean we are not to love people. It means we’re not to love the ways of the world. When we love what the world offers—physical pleasure, a craving for everything we see, and pride in our achievements and possessions—it shows that we don’t have the love of the Father in us. But if we do the will of God, we will live forever. (See 1 John 2:15–17 NLT.)

It doesn’t matter whether you’re young or old—God wants to work through you! And He expects you to live in a way that pleases Him. Your life and the lives of others depend on your obedience.

The Lord is looking to pour out His Spirit on those whose hearts are pure. In Joel 2:28, God said His sons and daughters will prophesy, old men will dream dreams, and young men will see visions. But it won’t happen if you’re not willing to live a life worthy of the call.

**Get Rid of the Dead Weight**

Many Christians have weights in their lives that hinder them from living worthy of the call. Weights can come in the form of distractions that get people off course with God and prevent them from living ready.

ARE  
YOU  
READY?



**DENISE HAGIN BURNS**



My second question to you is, *are you ready to lay aside the weights?*

#### HEBREWS 12:1 (AMPC)

1 Let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangles us, and let us run with patient endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us.

Weights are as much a part of the devil's plan to keep you from your calling as sin is. That's why you must be aware of the weights that come to entangle you, and make a conscious decision to throw them aside daily.

For some people, a weight may be a financial difficulty. They can become so weighed down with worry about how they're going to pay the bills that they can't even hear God speak to their heart about the matter.

Fighting with a spouse can also be a weight. I'm not saying a husband or wife should throw aside their spouse. But when tempers flare, recognize it as a distraction of the enemy and stand against the temptation to argue by choosing to walk in love no matter how hard.

Some weights can be more difficult to get rid of because we like them. For instance, your favorite television show can be a weight if it distracts you from the things of God.

Years ago, secular music became a weight in my life. I really liked '80s love songs. The more I listened to those songs, the more they became stuck in my mind. I would find myself in situations where the Word of God should have been coming out of my mouth, but those songs were the only thing going around in my head!

The Lord started dealing with my heart about it. He said, "You gotta stop." It was hard, but I laid aside that weight. I decided

that a few love songs weren't worth me missing an opportunity to minister to someone or fulfill my divine calling. I wanted God to count me faithful.

#### A Call to Faithfulness

My final question to you is, *are you ready to stay faithful to the call?*

#### 1 TIMOTHY 1:12 (AMP)

12 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has granted me [the needed] strength and made me able for this, because He considered me faithful and trustworthy, putting me into service [for this ministry].

The world is a rough place, and it's only going to get rougher. God is looking for people who will remain sure of what they believe in the face of trials and tests. He is looking for people who will stay faithful when judgment and criticism are thrown their way.

Staying faithful to the call will require sacrifice. I'm so thankful we have a Lord and Savior who sacrificed it all for us. Jesus could have walked away at any time, but He didn't. He knew our lives depended on Him staying faithful to the call. If Jesus could give His all for you, what will you sacrifice to stay faithful to Him?

Decide that when life gets tough, you're not going to quit no matter what. There are people you are destined to minister to. If you give up, they may never have another chance.

It's not going to be easy, but you are not alone. The Holy Spirit will help you walk worthy of the calling, lay aside those weights, and stay faithful. Are you ready?♥

\*Stanley H. Frodsham, Smith Wigglesworth: Apostle of Faith (Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House, 1948, 1990, 2010), chap. 11, Kindle.



A graphic for the Rhema for Today Podcast. It features a vintage microphone at the top left. Below it, the text "RHEMA FOR TODAY" is written in large, bold, white letters on a red background. To the right of this, the word "PODCAST" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Below the red banner, there is a purple shield with a white cross. At the bottom left, there is a black and white photo of a woman with long dark hair, smiling. To the right of the photo, the following text is written: "Whether you're flying transatlantic or riding your bicycle . . . whether you live in South Bend or Singapore . . . the faith-building messages of *Rhema for Today*, Kenneth Hagin Ministries' weekday radio program, are available to you online right now."

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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)

## TRUSTING GOD

We are entering another year, 2022! Many times when starting a new year, we wonder, "What does this year hold for me?" Perhaps you are gladly bidding 2021 goodbye. You may have said, "It was only by the grace of God that I made it through this past year." It may have been a challenging year for you. You may have experienced family problems or health issues, lost family members, or even found yourself unemployed.

I am reminded of a song by Andraé Crouch that, in effect, said, "I've had many tears and sorrows. But through it all, I've learned to trust in Jesus, and I've learned to trust in God. Through it all, I've learned to depend on His Word."

How true those words should ring in our hearts. Our friends and our family may fail us, but Jesus never fails us. He will see us through the fiercest storm in our lives. When we get into the boat with Jesus, we can trust His words, "Let us go to the other side."

I believe the Lord is bringing each of us to a place of absolute trust in Him. It is essential that we place greater trust in Him than ever before. Often, we place trusting God as a last resort.

David knew how to trust His God. Psalm 18:2-3 (NKJV) says, "*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; So shall I be saved from my enemies.*"

David knew how to commit his entire life to the Lord. Sometimes we attempt to handle our situations all by ourselves. Yet the Lord is willing and able to help us through any circumstance that may come our way. It is important that we commit our entire life to Him.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT) says, "*Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.*"

I admonish you to place your entire trust in God this year. Let Him direct your paths. Sometimes that is difficult for us because we would like to see the whole picture. But God doesn't operate that way. He usually shows us His plans one step at a time. Walking with Him is a daily step of faith.

Second Corinthians 5:7 (NIV) says, "*We live by faith, not by sight.*"

When we try to figure things out with our understanding, our mind will give us fits. That is why it is so important to keep our minds on the Lord, and let Him direct our path. We often try to figure out how God is going to work a situation out. The important thing we must do is just stand back, lean on Him, and trust Him to work out every situation for our good.

I encourage you to read Romans 8:28 and insert your name into the scripture. I read it this way for myself: "And we know that all things work together for Lynette's good because she loves God and is called according to His purpose."

Start putting your name in the scriptures. They will take on a new meaning for you. As you commit your life to the Lord and walk in His plan, you can be assured that He will work out all things for your good.

When you begin to understand trusting in God, you'll start to experience the peace of God in your life. The scripture admonishes us in Colossians 3:15 (NLT) to "*let the peace that comes from Christ rule in your hearts. For as members of one body you are called to live in peace. And always be thankful.*"

When you allow the Lord to be at the helm of your ship, you can walk in peace. Though your boat may be going through some rough waters, you can rest in peace, knowing that the Lord Jesus Christ will get you to the other side.

Determine this year to fully follow God and live a consecrated, dedicated, and holy life before the Lord. Place your trust in Him, knowing that regardless of the circumstances that may come your way in 2022, God will see you through, and you will experience His unmatched peace in your life.♥

Lynette







# Kids' Page

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

## FROM 'GUY-NO-MIGHT' TO DYNAMITE!

God has a way of taking powerless people and making them powerFULL for Him. Read the story below and then, on a separate piece of paper, write all of the bold and red letters in order. You will discover a key verse in the Bible that shows how God turns a "guy with no might" into DYNAMITE for His kingdom. Each red letter ends a word within the verse.

### A MAN NAMED GIDEON

There **o**nce lived a man during **t**he **i**me of the Judges **w**hose name was Gideon. The **w**hole nation of Israel was subject to the **K**ing of Midian in Gideon's **d**ay. Gideon **m**ust have been **a**fraid of the Midianites because when the **a**ngel of the Lord appeared to **h**im he was hiding **o**ut in a wine press. But, **t**he **a**ngel **t**old Gideon that God **c**onsidered him to be a "val-**i**ant warrior" who would deliver Israel from Midian's rule. Gideon's **r**eply to the angel was "Behold, my family is least in Manasseh, and I am the youngest in my father's house." Though Gideon knew he was young and weak he trusted the **p**romise of the Lord. Several days later the **w**ord of the Lord came to pass when Gideon took an army of only 300 **m**en and defeated the whole Midianite **a**rrmy.

### it's greek to me!

There's a Greek word for POWER in the Bible that we get our word DYNAMITE from. Use the key to the right to change the symbols below into the answer.



#### Code Key

A=☆, C=✧, D=✧,  
E=✧, G=✧, H=★,  
I=☆, L=★, M=✧,  
N=★, O=★, R=★,  
S=✧, T=✧, U=◆

## THREE LITTLE CIRCLES

Read the poem below and, on a separate piece of paper, see if you can turn the three little circles into the pictures below.

What can you do with these three little circles? →



First thing you could do is color them purple.

Put some leaves at the top of these three little shapes.

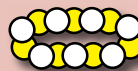
Put stems on each one and now you have grapes. →



What else could you do with these lonely three?

Bring over some friends to keep them company.

Gather them in order, please don't be wreckless,



And before you know it you've made a necklace.

And, with these three, what else could you make?

Add flames and some lines for something on a birthday cake. →



Now blacken the circles . . . let's keep the ball rolling,



Draw a circle around them, it's time for bowling.

Take the bowling ball, add hair, brows, and ears,

And, lo and behold, a face now appears. →



The points we are making, though they seem plain,

With some outside help, they had something to gain.

And you may feel plain, like a lamp with no light,

But with help from the Lord

You can be **DYNAMITE!** →



## jokes & riddles

"A merry heart  
does good,  
like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)



What is one can in your kitchen that can't be opened with a can opener?

The Garbage Can

Why did the ponies get in trouble at school?

Too much "horse play"

**Johnny:** If dogs live in a dog house and birds live in a bird house then where do flies live?

**Sam:** In a fly house?

**Johnny:** No, in an out house!

What kind of crackers should you never eat?

Firecrackers!

Why is the word SMILES one of the longest words in the English language?

Because there's a MILE between the two S's.

Answers:  
A Man Named Gideon  
"To him who lacks might he increases power"—(Isa. 40:29)



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