



THE Word of Faith

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

**ASCENDING
TO A HIGHER
LEVEL AT
A CALL TO ARMS
MEN'S CONFERENCE**

PAGE 18



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the
Word of Faith



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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

How to Grow in Love

Valentine's Day is a time when many people celebrate the love of their lives. But we must realize that real love doesn't just happen. Love is something we grow in.

Love grows when it's cultivated. In the same way that farmers have to nurture the seeds they've planted for their crop to grow, we must care for the love God has planted in our hearts so it will grow. And once we sow that love into other people's lives, we must still watch over and cultivate it for it to produce a harvest.

To grow in the love of God, you must think and act in line with love. And Philippians 4:8 tells us the way love thinks. You must replace the negative with the positive. You do that by immersing yourself in God's Word. For example, every time you see someone who has wronged you, instead of thinking badly about them, think on the good. Instead of thinking about what that person did to hurt you, remember that the Bible says, *"Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them"* (Ps. 119:165).

Gardens don't grow by themselves, and love won't either. You must take it upon yourself to be sure the ground of your heart is always soft. In this world it's all too easy to allow your heart to become hardened and calloused. Be sure there is nothing that will drain the life out of your love. If bitterness, hate, and unforgiveness grow up around your heart, they will consume the nutrition that your love needs to flourish.

Even though God abundantly poured out His love in our hearts (Rom. 5:5 AMP), He won't force us to grow in love. We have to work at it and be patient while it grows.

Don't give up if the only sign of love you see is a little seedling. Take God's Word as your promise and water that Word daily by confessing and obeying it. Cultivate the love God has given you, and you will reap the harvest you are waiting for.

Kenneth W. Hagin



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WHEN THE *light* OF GOD'S
WORD COMES, *faith* is there.



Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

ACT ON the Word

THE APOSTLE PAUL told us, “*Fight the good fight of faith*” (1 Tim. 6:12). The only fight Christians are called upon to fight is the faith fight. If we are in any other kind of fight, we are in the wrong fight. We need to get out of the wrong fight and get into the right one.

Some Christians say, “I’m going to fight the devil.” There’s no need to do that! Jesus already defeated him for you. And you wouldn’t be any match for him anyway.

Others say, “I’m going to fight sin.” There’s no need to do that either because Jesus is the *cure* for sin. According to Hebrews 9:26, He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. So there really isn’t a *sin* problem; there’s a *sinner* problem. And when you get the sinner to Jesus, the sin problem is taken care of.

There *are* enemies in this fight of faith that we are instructed to fight. If there were no enemies or hindrances to faith, there would be no fight to it.

One hindrance that holds many people in bondage is a lack of understanding of how to act on God’s Word.

Trying to Believe

Some Christians *try* to believe, and it is such a struggle for them. They say they’re *trying* to have faith. But all that’s necessary

is to act on what God says in His Word. If we know God’s Word is true and act on it, it becomes a reality in our lives.

I use the phrase “acting on God’s Word” rather than the terms “have faith” or “believe” because that is what faith actually is. Faith is simply *acting* on God’s Word—acting like it’s true.

Real faith is a product of the knowledge of God’s Word. Isn’t that what Romans 10:17 says? “*Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*”

It takes no effort on the part of the intellect or the will of man to obtain faith. When the light of God’s Word comes, faith is there. Knowledge of God’s Word comes first—then faith automatically accompanies it.

Mental Assent

Many times we unknowingly substitute “mental assent” or “mental agreement” for faith. For instance, we mentally agree that God’s Word is true. We think we believe and that we are in faith—but we’re not.

IF WE KNOW GOD’S WORD IS TRUE AND *act on it*, IT BECOMES A REALITY IN OUR LIVES.

You can mentally assent or mentally agree that the Bible is true, but the Word does not become real to you until you act on it. It is only when you act on God's Word for yourself that it becomes a reality to *you*. And when you act on God's Word, you are exercising faith.

For example, you can say that the resurrection is a great doctrine. But it will mean nothing to you until you believe in your heart and say with your mouth, "Jesus died for me. Jesus was raised from the dead for *me*! He arose victorious over death, hell, and the grave—and He did it all for *me*! I'm free!"

It's when you believe the resurrection truth in your heart and confess it with your mouth—when you act on it—that the Word becomes something more than a doctrine. It becomes a reality. Remember, the people who get answers from God are those who *act* on His Word.

Act Like the Bible Is True

When the crises of life come, if you don't know how to act on God's Word, you are at a disadvantage.

I pastored for almost 12 years and found that churches have the same problems families have. In one church, as we were discussing problems within the church, the board of deacons asked me, "What are we going to do now?" I just smiled and said, "We're going to act like the Bible is true."

And just by my saying that, the deacons sighed in relief because they knew the Bible was true!

I believe the Greater One lives in us. I believe He is greater than the devil. I know the Word says that, so I must act like it is true. When I act like God's Word is true, it becomes a reality in my life. And that is when the Greater One goes to work for me.

FAITH NUGGET

How My Brother Got Saved

I prayed for the salvation of my oldest brother, Dub, for more than 15 years. On several occasions, I fasted. But the more I fasted and prayed, the worse he got.

Then I began to see what the Bible says. Prayer and fasting are right. But I wasn't trusting God to do the work in my brother's life. I was trying to do it myself. It was as if I were trying to force God into doing something.

So one day I took my authority as a believer. I stood in my bedroom and said, "In the Name of Jesus, I break the power of the devil over Dub's life. I claim his deliverance from the devil, and I claim his salvation." Then I left the room singing. I had acted on God's Word.

I didn't think about or pray about Dub's salvation again. Once I settle something in victory, I don't think about it anymore!

Within 10 days, Dub was saved. Someone asked me, "What if it hadn't worked that fast?" It wouldn't have bothered me at all. I would have held fast to God's Word and acted on it. If it had taken 100 years, I would have known Dub would be saved. God's Word is true!

If I act like *I* must fight the battle, God can't fight it. If I fight the battle, I am not taking advantage of the Greater One and what He has done for me. Can you see that? So I don't try to figure out the situation. I just put God's Word to work for me by acting on it, and the Word fights my battles for me.

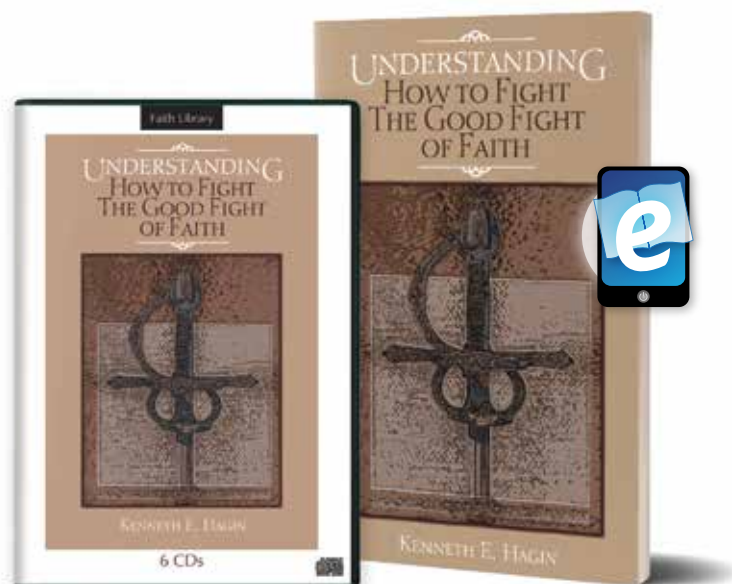
All Christians need to do is *act on the Word*. It's vital that we learn this simple lesson. It's not struggling or fretting—it's *acting* on what God has said that will bring results in our lives!♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Understanding How to Fight the Good Fight of Faith*.]

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DAN TAYLOR

JESUS WAS DEALING with heart issues when He talked about treasures in Matthew chapter 6. We can tell what is in a person's heart by looking at what they value. Jesus gave us good advice when He told us to focus on what has lasting value.

MATTHEW 6:19–21 (NKJV)

19 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The first word to look at in this passage is *treasures*. We often think about money or possessions when someone mentions treasures. But some of what we value isn't monetary. We can value ideologies, friendships, and so forth. A treasure is something that is valuable to us.

Then verse 20 qualifies value in two places: earth and Heaven. If our treasures are on earth, moth and rust can destroy them, and thieves can steal them. But treasures stored in Heaven aren't affected by moths, rust, or thieves.

Not only do we have to identify what we consider valuable, but we also have to determine the resting place of what we value. If we put a high value on something that is earthly, then guess what? Eventually, it will pass away.

I like to call it temporary and eternal. We have to realize that a lot of what we value won't last throughout eternity. So **WE HAVE TO DECIDE IF WE WANT TO MAKE OUR TREASURE SOMETHING ETERNAL OR SOMETHING TEMPORARY**. We find an example of putting our values in the right place in First Kings chapter 3.

Solomon Asked for Wisdom

Solomon was young when he became the king of Israel. God appeared to him in a dream and asked, "What do you want?" (1 Kings 3:5). Let me just say, at a moment like that, what you value and where your treasure is matters.

Solomon could have asked for anything—gold and silver or victory over his enemies. But instead of asking for something temporary, he asked for wisdom to do the job God had given him to do (1 Kings 3:7–9).

The young king could have gone to the high priest or the prophet of the day to ask for wisdom. But he didn't. He went to a place where wisdom was infinite and would last throughout time. Solomon's treasure was something eternal.

God's Treasures

Solomon saw the call of God as valuable. One thing we Christians have in common is, we are all called. Whether we feel called to the ministry or go to work every day, a calling is on each one of us. Every Christian is called to win souls (Matt. 28:19–20; Mark 16:15–18).

IF THERE'S ONE THING THAT'S VALUABLE TO GOD, IT'S PEOPLE. Every day, we come in contact with God's treasures. We talk to them in fast-food drive-throughs. We pass them on the road in our cars. No matter where we go, we see His treasures.

What do you value? How much do you value God's call to go into all the world? We need to evaluate our value system to make sure we are laying up treasures in Heaven. And now, more than ever, let's make sure we ask God to help us touch His treasures that are around us.♥

[Editor's note: Dan Taylor is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College and the director of Rhema School of Worship.]



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HIGHLIGHT**



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God has been specific in His Word to give us a clear-cut path or highway to follow.



OBEDIENCE IS NECESSARY



KENNETH W. HAGIN

THERE IS A subject in today's world that is not popular among many children, teenagers, and adults alike. Sadly, it's also unpopular in many Christian circles. That subject is *obedience*.

It seems you can talk about anything in our society as long as it doesn't involve adhering to a set of laws, rules, or regulations. Maybe one reason Christians don't like to talk about obedience is that, in the past, "obedience" sometimes carried a negative connotation. A relationship with Jesus was reduced to a set of rules: "Don't do this" and "Don't do that."

In that context, obedience often meant adhering to regulations that were not necessarily in line with the Word of God. They were really the do's and don'ts of tradition. But when you begin to study

the subject, obedience is the underlying theme of the entire Bible. How pertinent this subject is to the Church today!

In the Book of Genesis, we see obedience and disobedience from God's perspective as Adam's sons went to worship Him. Abel conformed to God's laws and brought the proper animal sacrifice according to God's instructions. But Cain wanted to do things his own way. He wanted God to recognize and approve of him without bringing the sacrifice His way. He wanted to do it his own way and still receive God's blessings! But God refused his sacrifice. Why? Because He had told man from the beginning how to please Him and, thereby, receive from Him. So Cain's disobedience made receiving from God absolutely impossible.

You will notice in the Old Testament that no one ever got into trouble with God unless they disobeyed His Word. The same is true in the New Testament. Today, we don't get into trouble unless we disobey the Word of God. Of course, you realize that God's Word is His law. Therefore, simply stated, the underlying theme of the Word is obedience with no negotiation.

God is the Creator of all things. He is the only One Who can set into motion the laws of His Word. And we have no right or authority to negotiate with Him when it comes to those laws. He is the final authority.

You see, God has been specific in His Word to give us a clear-cut path or highway to follow. On God's path, there is no confusion. The road signs in His Word are straightforward. Furthermore, they will always lead us to victory and, eventually, to Heaven. Simply put, those road signs state, "Obey God and His Word!"

Many people in our society think they don't need to obey anyone or anything. They want to do what they want to do, when and how they want to do it! But obeying natural authority is part of walking in line with God's Word. Obedience—lining up with God and His Word—is not a popular subject today, but it is vital to the Body of Christ; therefore, it's something we need to look at more carefully.

Many people in the Church world today are disobeying God and may not realize it. For example, they may be making faith confessions, trying to say all the "right things." But God cannot bless them because they are failing to submit to His voice in other areas. What He really wants from them is complete obedience.

We can't live life our own way and then offer God a sacrifice (of prayer, praise, and so forth) and expect Him to bless us. He delights in sacrifices, but not when we haven't obeyed Him. The Bible tells us, "*To obey is better than sacrifice*" (1 Sam. 15:22). What God delights in above all else is obedience to His Word.

If someone is disobeying God's Word, His promises cannot come to them in full. It doesn't matter how much that person confesses the Word, prays, or fasts. If God has told them to do something and they're refusing to do it, He cannot bless and honor them. Disobedience makes receiving from God impossible!

Obeying God's Word will give you peace on the inside in the midst of the storm. When you obey God to the fullest, He will take care of you. Whether in the spiritual realm or the natural realm, obeying Him will see you through. It will always bring you victory. Obeying God will let you lie down and sleep at night without any worry. When I've fully submitted to Him, why should I fret? Why should I worry? Why should I lose sleep? When I know I've obeyed, then I know God has it all under control for me!

That may be why some people are still wringing their hands and having trouble sleeping after they've prayed. They may still be crying, "What are we going to do now?" because they know an area where they haven't yielded to God. They have not completely obeyed, so His promises cannot be fully theirs, and they have a reason to worry and be upset. The only condition to being in God's blessings is to obey Him!

Many Christians today go to church every time the door is open. They read their Bibles and pray, yet it seems to avail little because they're short-circuiting God's power in their lives. Their disobedience in an area nullifies the rest of their efforts. Disobedience cannot bring God's blessings, and it will eventually bring His judgment.

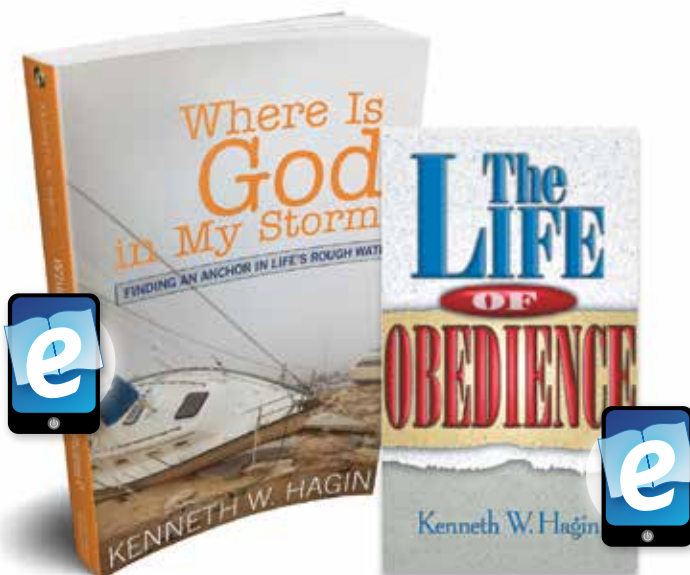
God is saying specific things to each member of the Body of Christ. Yet many are telling Him what *they* will do for Him and how *they* will do it. That's why we must understand what obedience really is. This knowledge is crucial to the Church in our day.

Are you ready to obey the full counsel of God's Word? Are you ready and willing to do things His way and not your own? Choose to walk this year according to His perfect will for your life. The blessings that follow your obedience will make you glad you did!♥

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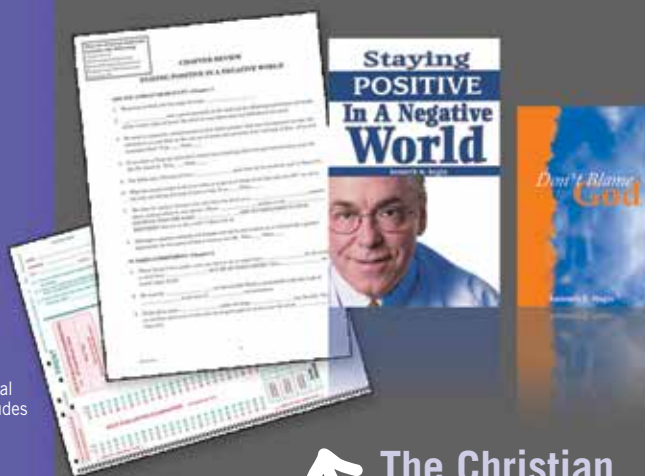
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What Is Character?

DOUG JONES

THE WORD CHARACTER dates back to the 14th century. One of its roots is in a Greek word which means “to scratch or engrave.” *Character* also means “a graphic placed on an object as an indication of ownership.”

These definitions suggest that character involves tendencies that are not original to the person. In other words, if you’re scratched, you got that scratch from someone else. This also suggests that we are not born with a character bent. We are in essence a clean slate that can be scratched by the world or by the Creator of this world. Whichever arena we feed on the most, we will find its scratch the deepest upon our life.

As Christians, we are to be scratched by God and His Word. This must supersede being scratched by this world and the god of this world. As we allow our lives to be scratched by God and His Word, our character begins to reflect God’s character. We are identified with Him, and His mark of ownership is upon us.

Second Corinthians 3:18 says, “*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*” This passage implies that the less we know Him, the less we will reflect His char-

Character transformation begins in the soil of a teachable spirit that is allowed to be mentored by the Word of God.

acter. On the other hand, the more we know God and imitate Him, the more we reveal His character in our lives.

Second Corinthians 3:18 talks about believers being changed, or *transformed*, into God’s likeness. The Greek word translated “changed” in the *King James Version* is almost identical to our English word *metamorphosis*. It speaks of a change, or transformation, from the inside out. Character transformation begins in the soil of a teachable spirit that is allowed to be mentored by the Word of God.

Romans 12:2 says, “*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*” The good news is that our character can change. We can be transformed.

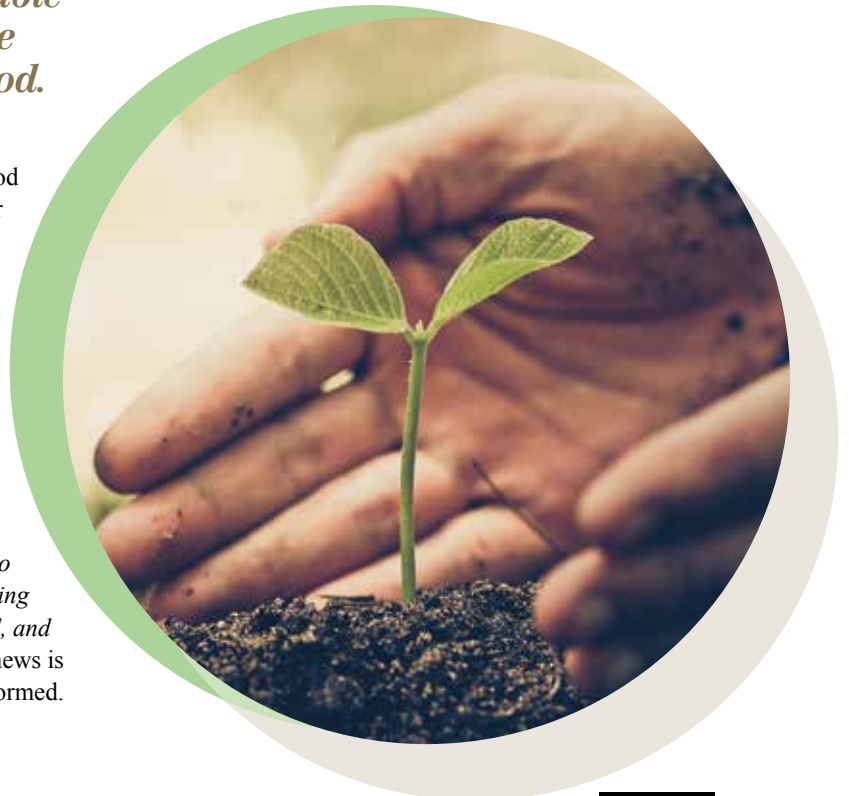
Being unreliable is not a character trait that we have to be chained to all of our days.

Of course, the direction our character heads in each day depends on how much we allow our Word-based beliefs to affect what we think, what we say, and how we act.

We must not take the stewardship of our character lightly. Who we are—our character and integrity—will open doors for us to verbalize our faith quicker than anything else. The world has informed us that they are hesitant to listen to us because we are all “a bunch of hypocrites.” If we nurture our character properly, it will provide an exceptional platform from which we can gain the ears of those who need Jesus. People listen to people of character. ♥

OVER TIME YOUR CHARACTER WILL

- impact how much you accomplish in this life;
- determine whether you’re worth knowing;
- make or break every relationship you have;
- determine how long you’re able to keep the fortune that came through hard work; and
- determine your response during times of failure, success, and mistreatment.



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A photograph of a man in a dark suit and light-colored shirt speaking at a podium. Behind him is a large screen displaying the text "CAMPMEETING 2010".

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KENNETH W. HAGIN

CAMPMEETING

SPEAKER
HIGHLIGHT

AFTER THE CHILDREN of Israel escaped from Egypt, they became well acquainted with the power of God. They miraculously walked across the Red Sea. God supernaturally fed them in the wilderness. They witnessed the bitter waters at Marah turn sweet. By the power of God, they circled the city of Jericho, and the walls fell down. They subdued kingdoms that were four times larger than they were.

In the beginning, **ISRAEL SAW THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF GOD.** They lived in it and moved in the shadow of the Shekinah glory. Nations trembled when they heard of them because they were surrounded and supplied by God's power.

But history also records a time when the Israelites turned their backs on God and were cut off from His supernatural power. In Ezekiel chapter 37 we read that the prophet Ezekiel was carried away by the Spirit to a valley filled with dry bones. These bones represented a nation lying dry and dead in the valley of defeat, despair, and hopelessness.

The Spirit of God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy to the bones. Suddenly, those bones began to rattle. The breath of life from the four winds came, and once again, noise was in the camp of Israel. They stood a mighty army ready again with the power of God.

We can compare what happened to the Israelites to what is happening in the Church today. **THE EARLY CHURCH BEGAN IN THE MIGHTY RIVER OF PENTECOST.** Everyone in the Upper Room was filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with other tongues (Acts 2:4). And as they went out in the supernatural power of God, they turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

As we look at the river of Pentecost today, we can hardly recognize it. Various groups and denominations have poured their traditions and philosophies into it

until it has become diluted. Some Pentecostal churches no longer allow speaking in tongues!

But in the hour of humanity's greatest need, we cannot back away from the Holy Spirit or the supernatural power of God.

As we march through the Book of Acts, we see that the Early Church believed in salvation by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. They believed in the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. They believed in the miraculous power of God, and they demonstrated it.

THE EARLY CHURCH REFUSED TO BACK AWAY FROM THE POWER OF GOD. When they were threatened and told to be quiet, they prayed for boldness to speak even more. They said, "We're going to rev it up. We're going to take it to another level!"

God was not content to leave Israel in the valley of dry bones. And God does not want the Church today to dry up on the vine. It's time for us to grab hold of this same power and go to another level. I will never back away from the supernatural power of God or speaking in tongues.

I hear the footsteps of the Holy Spirit. I can hear the rustle of His garment. I am beginning to hear noise in our valley. But it needs to be louder.

IN THE HOUR OF HUMANITY'S GREATEST NEED, LET'S RISE UP AND MAKE A NOISE THAT WILL SHAKE THE EARTH. Let's make a noise that everyone will hear—a noise that will carry the end-time revival to the four corners of the globe!♥

[Editor's note: Kenneth W. Hagin preached this message at Campmeeting 2010.]

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M A PLACE OF Mercy

BECAUSE JESUS IS our High Priest, we can hold firmly to God's Word and our confession of faith. We can receive promises, withstand temptation, and have every area of our lives affected by the life-changing Word.

Jesus has also given us an open door to God's presence.

HEBREWS 4:14, 16 (NKJV)

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest . . .

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

The "throne of grace" is God's throne where He sits as eternal Creator. Because of Jesus, He also sits as Everlasting Father. And we can approach Him with confidence.

Hebrews 4:16 tells us that God is a giver. Many people believe that. But some believers hesitate to go to Him with their problems. They lack boldness and confidence to approach His throne. They don't understand that because Jesus' blood has been applied to their hearts, they have free access to God's grace.

God Grants Favor

Throughout history, kings have struck fear in their subjects. In some cases, if you approached the king's throne uninvited, you were killed.

In the Book of Esther, Queen Esther's uncle asked her to approach the king's

throne uninvited. If the king extended his scepter, she could enter. If he didn't, she would be put to death! After fasting and praying, Esther went to the king. And God granted her such favor that she saved the Jewish nation (see Esther chapters 4-7).

For believers, God's throne is not a place of judgment but of grace. Yes, He is the King of Kings and the only true God. But for God's children, His throne is a place of mercy and favor! And because of Jesus' blood and His position as our High Priest, God has invited us to approach Him boldly without fear.

We Have a Relationship

I have five grandsons who all come boldly to me, their "Poppy." When they see me at the ministry, they aren't afraid to approach me. They enter my office confidently! It doesn't matter who else is there. They simply come in. Why? Because they're my grandchildren. We have a relationship.

Because of what Jesus did through His death, burial, and resurrection, we who have been born again are in God's family. We have a relationship with God the Father. We don't have to wait for Him to "give us the nod" before approaching Him. Jesus cleared the way for us to go to Him at any time. Our Father God is never too busy. And we don't have to go to Him with our heads down, feeling intimidated and unworthy. No! We can confidently approach His throne of grace, receive His mercy, and find

help when we need it because God our Father is a giver.

If you have not accepted Jesus as your Savior, you are not in God's family. But you can be! Simply pray the following prayer from your heart:

God,

I come to you in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I am not right with You, and I want to be right with You. I want to be in Your family. Please forgive me of my sins. The Bible says if I confess with my mouth "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 that Jesus rose from the dead, and I confess Him as my Savior and Lord. Thank you for saving me and bringing me into Your family.

If you prayed this for the first time, welcome to God's family! Receiving this free gift of salvation is only the beginning of a remarkable relationship with the Father. Email us at **partnerservice@rhema.org** and let us know. We want to send you some free materials to get you started in your new life as God's child!

Honoring God With the Tithe

LYNETTE HAGIN



WHEN I WAS very young, my parents taught me about tithing. I learned that if I received a dollar, 10 cents of that dollar was supposed to go to the Lord.

I was taught that God blessed us, and we were supposed to give the tithe back to Him. **TITHING WAS ALWAYS SACRED TO ME**, and I've followed that principle all of my life. It was never a question of *whether* I was going to tithe. The only question I asked was, "How much is my tithe this week?"

These days, some people are holding on tightly to their money. They think, "I better save all I can." And the first place they cut back is at church. Our giving to the Lord is the one place where we should never tighten our budgets!

Of course, Satan will do everything he can to stop us from tithing. Why? Because he knows the blessings we will receive when we tithe.

And he wants to keep us from receiving God's blessings.

He will say, "If you tithe, you won't have enough money to pay your bills." He'll threaten you by saying, "If you tithe, you won't be able to eat this week."

I've tithed all my life. I've never gone hungry, and I've always been able to pay my bills.

I'm thankful my parents taught me to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and to give my tithes and offerings to the Lord. They knew that following these biblical principles would cause me to prosper in life.

Write Your Tithe Check First

I will never forget an incident that happened in 1966. Ken and I were newly married. Our budget was extremely tight then. It's always been my responsibility to pay the bills

and make the budget work. In other words, I am the keeper of the books in our household. But as I calculated our expenses that month, I realized there wasn't enough money to meet our needs.

For the first time in my life, the thought crossed my mind to not tithe and make it up next month. But because the principle of tithing was strongly instilled in me, I said, "No, Satan, you're not going to cut off the very thing that will open the windows of Heaven for us."

I told Ken about the situation, and we joined hands and agreed that God would meet our needs. Then I wrote out our tithe check and told the Lord, "We're standing on Your Word and are expecting You to meet every need."

At times, I tried to figure out how God would help us pay the bills. I watched for extra money to arrive in the mail, but we didn't receive any. No money dropped out of Heaven. No one handed us a special offering at church.

At the end of the month, I had paid every bill, we had not missed any meals, and we had \$5 left in our bank account. I do not know where the money came from. But **I CAN TELL YOU THAT GOD IS ABLE TO SUPPLY ALL OF YOUR NEEDS ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY BY CHRIST JESUS** (Phil. 4:19).

I told the Lord, "The first thing I'm going to do every month is write out our tithe check. Then I'm going to calculate the rest of our budget for the month." From that day to this, as soon as our pay is deposited in the bank, the first check I write is our tithe. And because we're honoring God and putting Him first, He always supplies our needs. ♥

Our giving to the Lord is the one place where we should never tighten our budgets!



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ASCENDING TO A HIGHER LIFE

KENNETH W. HAGIN

In the Bible, many ascended to higher positions. If they were able to do it, we can do it. God is able to raise us up to the level of His plans and promises for our lives. But we need to rise to a new relationship with Him. We need to be the godly men we're supposed to be, not just in word but in action.

Some say everyone has a predetermined place in life. They believe some are destined to high places, while others are doomed to low places. That's simply not true. I don't believe any of us are predetermined. **GOD MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE TO RISE HIGHER IN LIFE.**

You may be working a regular job. **IF YOU JUST KEEP BELIEVING AND TRUSTING GOD, THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE HE CAN TAKE YOU.** If you purpose to be the best at whatever job He has you doing and cultivate a relationship with Him, watch Him promote you. If you own a business, watch Him take your business to another level.

Do you want God to change your life? Some of you need to let go of things that have hindered your ability to ascend. Those might be bad habits, fear, silent sin, unforgiveness, or wrong attitudes. Some of you need to decide to believe God, humble yourself, and do what He's been telling you to do.

God is calling us to go to another level and walk with Him. **HOW HIGH DOES HE WANT YOU TO GO? TO THE LEVEL OF THE PLANS AND PROMISES HE HAS FOR YOU.**



KEEP ASCENDING

CRAIG W. HAGIN

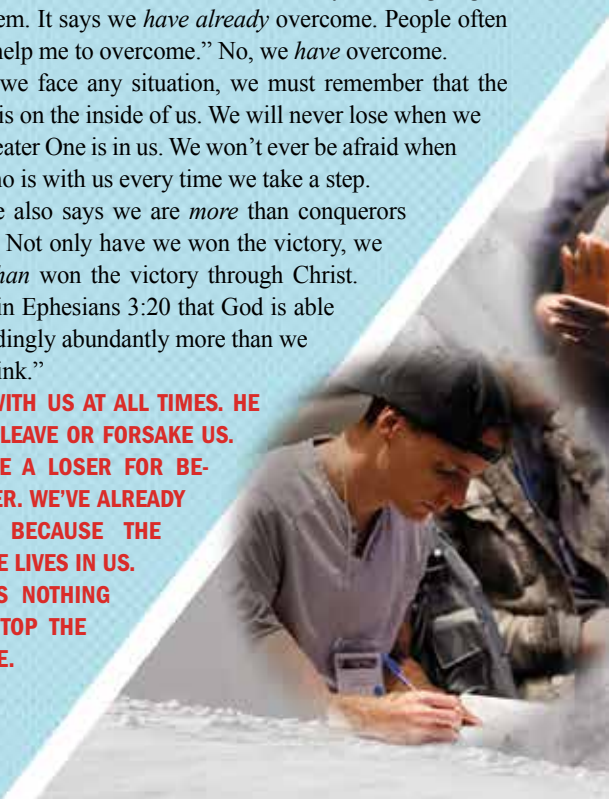
One reason people don't arise is that they don't realize who they are in Christ. It doesn't matter who we are naturally. What matters the most is who we are in Christ Jesus.

First John 4:4 (NKJV) says, "*You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*" This verse doesn't say we are going to overcome them. It says we *have already* overcome. People often pray, "God, help me to overcome." No, we *have* overcome.

Anytime we face any situation, we must remember that the Greater One is on the inside of us. We will never lose when we know the Greater One is in us. We won't ever be afraid when we know Who is with us every time we take a step.

The Bible also says we are *more* than conquerors (Rom. 8:37). Not only have we won the victory, we have *more than* won the victory through Christ. And we see in Ephesians 3:20 that God is able to do "exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or think."

GOD IS WITH US AT ALL TIMES. HE WILL NEVER LEAVE OR FORSAKE US. WE CAN'T BE A LOSER FOR BEING A WINNER. WE'VE ALREADY OVERCOME, BECAUSE THE GREATER ONE LIVES IN US. AND THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN STOP THE GREATER ONE.





“We may be *in* this world, but we’re not *of* this world. We’re not part of a world that’s falling apart—that’s full of fear, confusion, and strife. No matter what is happening around us, we don’t have to participate in it. **SOMETHING AMAZING HAPPENED WHEN GOD RESCUED US FROM THE DOMINION OF DARKNESS AND TRANSLATED US INTO THE KINGDOM OF HIS DEAR SON—THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT.** That means we are no longer under the control of that old king and that old kingdom of sin, sickness, and disease. We can live above it, because we’re coming up higher.”

// DAVID CRAMMER



“OUR GOD IS A ROCK UNLIKE ANY OTHER ROCK. HE’S THE STRONG AND MIGHTY GOD WHO REMAINS THE SAME GENERATION AFTER GENERATION. HE’S THE ROCK WHO IS EVER FAITHFUL. If no one is encouraging you, and you feel overwhelmed with life, and you’re saying, ‘Who can I turn to? Who can I go to?’—you’ve got a Rock Who is always there! He’s unchanging. And we can put our trust in Him. Things begin to change when we truly put our confidence in Him. We see our future begin to align with His vision for our future.”

// JORDAN GASH



“GOD WANTS US AS MEN TO REIGN AS KINGS ON THIS EARTH. HE WANTS TO USE YOU AND SET YOU UP IN A POSITION AS A KING. The reason many of us are not in position is, we have not learned how to serve as priests—how to love God with all of our heart, soul, and strength. And in return, how to allow that love to inspire a mission in us to love and serve others with that same passion and love. You will never rule or reign in a kingdom until you serve in one. To ascend, you have to serve.”

// ZACH MORRIS



“I want to forever change how you look at the idea of adversity. It is not your enemy. **ADVERSITY MAKES YOU STRONGER IN THE PROCESS OF GETTING FROM WHERE YOU ARE TO WHERE GOD WANTS YOU TO BE.** Read Hebrews 11. Those heroes of faith endured some devastating circumstances. Don’t allow yourself to think that everything in life is supposed to be easy. Life is sometimes tough. I’m looking for men who will take the hill and say, ‘We’re well able to take it, because greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world.’”

// JOSH PENNINGTON





THE ANSWER TO YOUR PROBLEMS

Jesus

ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." Jesus' Name is the answer to all of our problems. That Name opens up everything we need.

Call on Him

Even when we're facing the worst possible circumstances, Jesus is still the answer. I think there is no better example of this than when Paul and Silas found themselves in jail in Acts chapter 16. They were ministering in the district of Macedonia because Paul had a vision of a man there saying, "Come and help us" (v. 9).

Paul and Silas were where God wanted them, but they weren't making a lot of people happy. They found themselves beaten with rods and thrown into prison (vv. 22–23).

So here they were, in jail. And I'm not talking about a jail with cable TV. I'm talking about a dungeon. They were chained to the wall and were probably hurting from being beaten. To make things worse, there was a possibility they'd be killed in the morning. They were in a bad situation.

But when most people would be griping and complaining, Acts 16:25 (NKJV) says, "*At midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God.*" Paul and Silas weren't focused on their situation. They were praying and singing praises to God! They knew that if they called upon the Name of Jesus, they would be saved. And they were!

Acts 16:26 (NKJV) says, "*Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and*



CRAIG W. HAGIN

JESUS IS ALWAYS the answer. He's the answer before and during our problems. He does not change (Heb. 13:8). He will do everything the Word says He will do.

Romans 10:13 (NKJV) says, "*Whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" Most of us probably think of this as a salvation scripture—and it is. Jesus *is* our Savior, and one day we'll be in Heaven with Him. But He is not just our Savior ultimately. Jesus is our Savior in any situation we're going through.

It doesn't matter how depressed we are or how far we think we are from the Lord. When we need help, we should call upon Jesus. Doing this will change the way we feel. It will change everything about us.

"But Brother Craig, I've gotten myself into this situation, and I have to get myself out." No! Jesus is the answer, no matter what we've gotten ourselves into. Our Savior loves us, and He already took care of our situation 2,000 years ago. All we have to do is call on His Name. John 14:13–14 (NKJV) says, "*Whatever you*

immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed." Notice that it wasn't just Paul and Silas who were saved—everyone around them was saved as well. Two guys changed the lives of many people because they knew they could trust their Lord.

FAITH NUGGET

Just Trust

Proverbs 3:5–6 (NKJV) says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."* In other words, when you're in the middle of a situation, quit trying to figure it out and start leaning on the Lord. You may not understand everything, but you can trust Him. You can put your faith in Him, because He cannot—and will not—let you down.

Know the Word

Maybe you're not physically beaten like Paul and Silas were. But perhaps you feel mentally beaten up. Maybe you feel like there is no hope and no one to help you. Right in the middle of everything you're going through—when it looks as if there's no way out—Jesus is still the answer! But you've got to know what the Word says.

My grandfather, Kenneth E. Hagin, always said the number one reason people don't get their needs met is that they don't know the Word. When we're facing trials—when we're depressed and going through bad stuff—we have to know that Jesus is the answer. We have to understand that He wants to help us. Jesus didn't die on the cross and bring us this far to let us down. He is the answer! He shed His blood so we could be saved. He took the

FAITH NUGGET

God's Not Mad

One of my favorite scriptures is John 3:16: *"For God so loved the world."* You're in the world, so that means He loves you!

"Well, Brother Craig, that verse is just about sinners." No! God loves you. He loves everyone.

"Even when I mess up?" Yes. Even when you mess up! Some people have the idea that when we mess up, God gets mad at us. But He doesn't. He still loves us.

Now, there may be some things we do that don't please God. There have been times when my kids did things I didn't really want them to do. Those things didn't please me, but they also didn't make me love them any less.

God's the same way. Even when we mess up—even when we do things that may not please Him—He loves us anyhow. No matter where you are today—no matter where you find yourself—call upon the Name of Jesus and return to your Heavenly Father. He loves you. He is for you. And He wants you back.

stripes on His back so we could be healed (Isa. 53:5). He came so that we could have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

Sometimes we go through tough times and it looks as if we're not going to make it. Sometimes we face mountains, and sometimes we're in the valley.

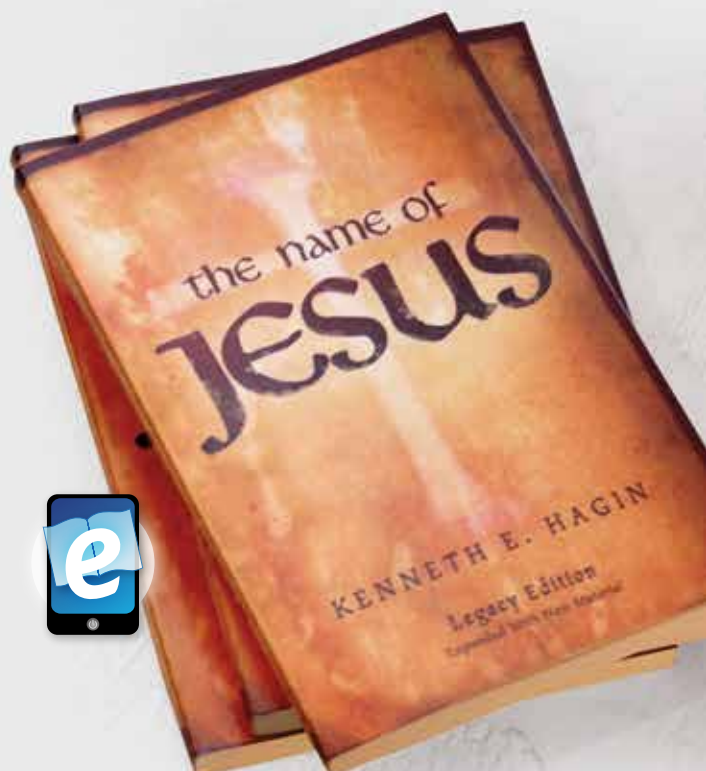
Whatever you're facing today, call upon Jesus. He is always there. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He is for you, and He has already provided a way out. Just call on Him and you will be saved! He is always the answer! ♥

[Editor's note: This article was previously printed in the September 2015 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

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Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

PSALM 91

YOU MAY HAVE certain scriptures or chapters in the Bible that you refer to more than others. One of those for me is the 91st psalm. Years ago, the enemy was playing havoc in my mind, and the Lord took me to this chapter, as it covered everything my mind was dealing with. It was such a precious experience for me, knowing that God had heard my prayer and pointed me to His Word so I could read His promises often.

From that experience, I determined that I would teach my children the importance of reading the 91st psalm and claiming the promises contained within it. Both of my children took that seriously, and of course, I would remind them of those promises almost daily. Those scriptures became such a daily confession to them that they assumed everyone knew the 91st psalm.

Recently I was amused at a conversation that my daughter had with someone. The person was relating a situation to her, and Denise said, "You need to claim the 91st psalm over that." The person replied, "What does the 91st psalm say?" Denise, in shock, said, "You don't know what the 91st psalm says?" I laughed when Denise relayed the conversation to me. I said, "Denise, many people do not understand the promises God has provided for us and that we must claim them to receive their benefits."

I encourage you to read the 91st psalm often. However, to claim the promises God has provided, the first three verses give the requirements for those promises. In life, there are rules we must follow if we want to reap benefits. The same is true concerning God's promises. I like the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* version of these scriptures.

Psalm 91:1–3, "*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand]. I will say of the Lord, He is my Refuge and my Fortress, my God; on Him I lean and rely, and in Him I [confidently] trust! For [then] He will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence.*"

It is important to spend time with the Lord. It should not be once in a while or when we are in adverse situations. We should commune with the Father on a daily basis. Of course, the definition we use in spending time with God is *prayer*. People often presume there are specific ways or methods we should use to conduct effective prayer times.

Sometimes people look at me in shock when I say that I pray all the time. First of all, it's biblical. Paul tells us to "*Pray without ceasing*" (1 Thess. 5:17). And Ephesians 6:18 says, "*Praying always . . .*"

Prayer is really just talking to God. I talk to Him every morning when I get up. I talk to Him when I'm getting dressed. I talk to the Lord when I'm driving to work. And I certainly talk to Him when I'm making decisions at my office.

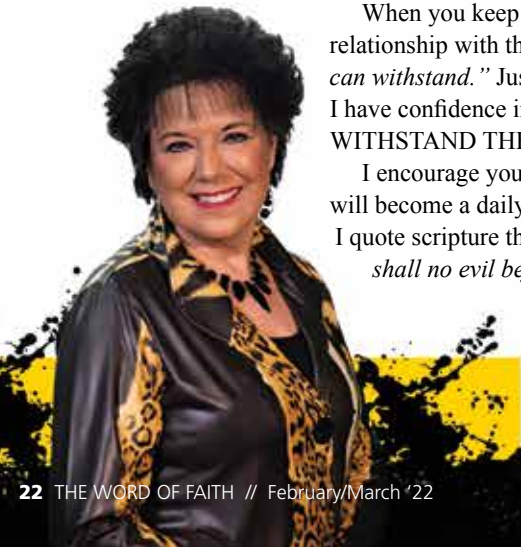
That is how you dwell in the secret place of the Most High. You stay connected with the Lord constantly. When I am at home or in my car, I put on worship music. That keeps me in an attitude of worship and keeps my mind quiet to hear God's instructions. If you are not filling your mind with godly things, you have opened the door for Satan to enter. My husband and I sleep with worship music playing in our room. I want to be constantly surrounded by the presence of God.

When you keep your surroundings permeated with the presence of God, it deepens your roots and relationship with the Lord. I love what the AMPC says in the last note of verse 1, "*Whose power no foe can withstand.*" Just writing those words makes chills run down my spine.

I have confidence in my God that regardless of what the enemy brings my way, **NO POWER CAN WITHSTAND THE POWER THAT GOD HAS PROVIDED** for those who dwell in Him.

I encourage you to make it a daily practice to read the 91st psalm. The more you read it, the more it will become a daily confession in your life. Immediately when the enemy tries to play havoc in my life, I quote scripture that applies to the situation. Verse 10 (AMPC) may apply to many these days, "*There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent.*" 🙏

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Are You Following God's Directions?

Some people use a compass to figure out what direction they should go. But if you read Numbers 9:15–23 you will find that the children of Israel had something far better than a compass to guide them! **God Himself led the children of Israel where He wanted them to go.** God caused a cloud to hang above the tabernacle of Israel by day and it became a fire by night. Whenever the cloud moved, the children of Israel moved along with it. Sometimes the cloud stayed in the same place for days, weeks, or months, but whenever it moved in any direction, the people moved in that same direction.

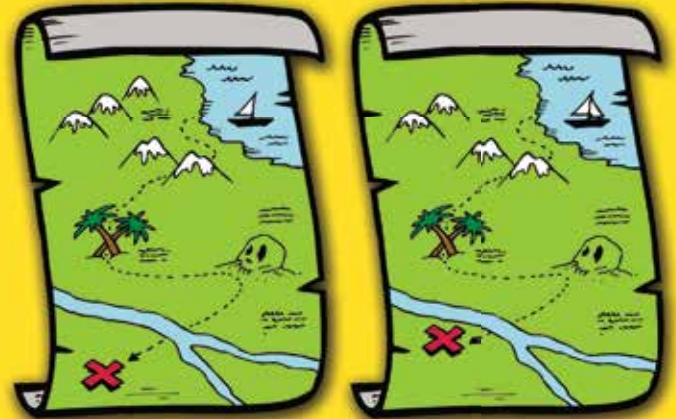
Today, God still wants to lead His people. The Bible tells us two ways that God gives us His directions:



1. By the Holy Spirit—"As many as are **led** by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).
2. By His Word (the Bible)—"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my **path**" (Ps. 119:105). God wants to lead you down His path for your life. The question is: **ARE YOU FOLLOWING GOD'S DIRECTIONS?**

FIND THE DIFFERENCES

Find at least 5 differences between the two treasure maps below.



GOD'S ROAD SIGNS



Match these road signs to the people or verse below that best fits the situation.

1. "I am the way, and the truth and the life; No one comes to the Father but through me."
2. "The way is narrow that leads to life."
3. Some of the children of Israel wanted to return to Egypt.
4. "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."
5. The Holy Spirit forbade Paul to go to Asia and preach the Gospel.

jokes & riddles

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



What did one fish say to the other fish?
"If you keep your mouth shut, you won't get caught!"

What do you get when you cross a dog and an elephant?
A very nervous mailman

What sound do porcupines make when they kiss?
"Ouch!"

What is a baby's motto?
If at first you don't succeed, cry, cry again!

I am found in the sea and on land, but I do not walk or swim. I travel by foot but I'm toeless, and I'm never far from home. What am I?
A snail

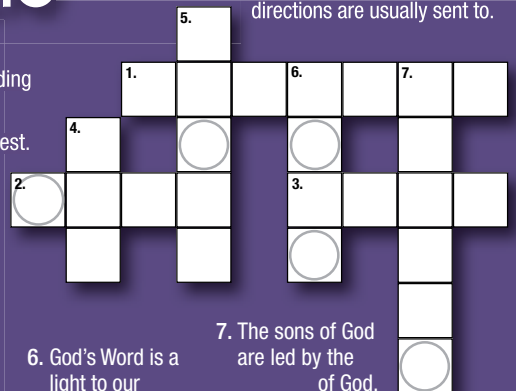
Find the Differences—mountain missing, sail on boat missing, cut on left side of map, skull missing nose, "X," "A," "E," "B" UNSCRAMBLED CIRCLED LETTERS = HEART

Answers:

Crossword puzzle

Finish the puzzle, then unscramble the circled letters to find where God's directions are usually sent to.

1. A round magnetic device used in finding directions.
2. The opposite of west.
3. A long ride taken in a car.
4. A piece of paper used to find cities and roads.
5. The direction a compass needle always points.



6. God's Word is a light to our _____
7. The sons of God are led by the _____ of God.



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