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APRIL 2022

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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You Are Free

You and I are free today from the chains of sin, sickness, and disease because Jesus Christ became our Substitute on the cross of Calvary (Isaiah chapter 53). There is nothing you or I could have done to gain our citizenship in Heaven. It was bought and paid for by Jesus Christ. It took His shed blood to buy our redemption.

The cross of Calvary is real. It is not a myth or a fairy tale. Jesus shed His blood for our redemption when He hung on that cross many years ago. And now the cross is both a warning to those who refuse to believe and a blessing to those who recognize that it stands for the grace of God.

We do not merit God's favor and grace. All of God's blessings were bought and paid for when Jesus became our Substitute. His grace and mercy are now ours to freely receive.

If it were not for the cross and Jesus' shed blood, we would have received justice. We would have had to pay the price for our own sins—something we could never do. But instead of receiving justice, we have received abundant mercy and grace because Jesus paid the price for us!

In our judicial system, sometimes a judge has the ability to be lenient and show mercy, or if need be, to penalize an offender to the full limits of the law. I thank God that the Judge of all the earth, God Almighty, has given unlimited mercy to those who come to the cross.

The Judge of all the earth has already extended mercy to you. Because of Jesus, all you have to do is accept His mercy. When you know Jesus and you are born again, you can stand before God fresh and clean because of the cross of Calvary.

Because of Jesus, we have life more abundantly (John 10:10). This is the greatest story ever told to mankind. God's own Son took our place and paid our debt of sin. And now we are free. Happy Resurrection Day!

Kenneth W. Hagin



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Quit Waiting

WHENEVER I READ my Bible, I like to analyze the stories that are recorded. I think about what was going on—more than what scripture records.

John chapter 5 tells about the healing of the man at the pool of Bethesda. We don't know how big this pool was, but scripture says it had five porches. And a multitude of sick people lay around it, so it seems like it was a pretty big pool.

When I read this story, I imagine a wave pool at a water park. If you've never been to a wave pool, a bell usually rings every half hour to let people know when the waves will start. When people around the pool hear the bell, they jump into the water in anticipation of the waves.

The people at the pool of Bethesda didn't have a bell. They never knew when an angel would stir the water. At least at the water park, you could expect waves every 30 minutes.

We know that one man at the pool had been sick for 38 years. I don't know how long he had been lying at the pool. But one thing was certain—he had no chance of being the first person in the water.



CRAIG W. HAGIN

WE CAN USE OUR AUTHORITY IN JESUS' NAME AND ***speak to any situation,*** AND THE MOUNTAIN HAS TO MOVE.

Imagine how you would feel in his situation. He had been hurting for a long time and was surrounded by a multitude of sick people. And every time the water was stirred, someone else was healed. He experienced disappointment after disappointment, day after day, and maybe year after year. I don't think this pool was a happy place.

Jesus shows up one day and asks the man if he wants to be made well (v. 6 NKJV). You would think he would have responded, "Absolutely." But the man said, "I don't have anyone to help me. Somebody always beats me in." Maybe he was subtly asking Jesus to stick around for a while and help him get into the water the next time it was stirred.

I often wonder why Jesus went to that pool. The man didn't even know who Jesus was. But I think that's just the way Jesus is. When He knows someone is in trouble, He shows up to help.

When Jesus showed up in this man's life, everything changed in an instant. The man walked out of there healed and whole.

We Don't Have to Wait

The man at the pool of Bethesda waited a long time to be healed. Unfortunately, it seems as though some Christians today are waiting for the water to be stirred so they can be helped. They're waiting for some kind of sign and wonder to happen.

Jesus' last words on the cross were, "*It is finished*" (John 19:30). He was saying that His work on earth was finished. When He ascended into Heaven, He gave us everything we need to live victoriously. We have the Word of God and the blood of Christ. Jesus gave us His authority. Jesus is not going to do anything more for us than what was already done on the cross.

When I traveled with my grandfather on crusades, I heard people say, "I waited two months for Brother Hagin to come to town so I could get healed."

They didn't have to wait. Mark 16:18 says that believers "will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." It does not say a famous minister must lay hands on you to be healed. Any believer can pray for your healing.

Some people wait until they get to church to have someone pray for them. But we don't even have to wait that long. Here's what Jesus said.

MARK 11:23-24 (NKJV)

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, "Be removed and be cast into the sea," and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

24 Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.

According to these verses, we can just speak. That's how my grandfather was healed. We can use our authority in Jesus' Name and speak to any situation, and the mountain has to move. We can say it with our mouth, believe it in our heart, and have what we say.

Too many Christians are waiting. They're waiting on Jesus, an angel, or somebody to help them. But we already have somebody. Jesus said He would never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5). And the Holy Spirit has taken up residence in us.

Sometimes we know what to do but we forget. A lot of things are going on around us, and we forget about our rights in Christ.

We need to begin acting like the Bible is true. And that means being a doer of the Word. We just need to do what the Bible says. We don't have to wait for anybody to minister to us. We have the authority to speak to our situation. And when we use our authority, like what happened to the man at the pool of Bethesda, everything can change in an instant.♥

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*This Easter,
take time to share the
Good News of Jesus Christ
with others.*

Easter

MEANS SHARING JESUS



KENNETH W. HAGIN

ARE YOU FINDING that celebrating Easter requires a lot of work? We can easily get caught up in all the details. Hiding Easter eggs. Preparing baskets of candy. Cooking dinner. Traveling to Grandma's house.

But in the busyness of planning, we must not allow ourselves to forget the real reason for celebrating this holiday.

For Christians, Easter is a significant holiday. It is dedicated to celebrating Jesus' greatest act of obedience. He triumphed over sin and death through His death, burial, and resurrection.

Every blessing we enjoy in Christ is a result of Jesus' obedience. Because of Him, we have eternal redemption and freedom. We are no longer powerless over fear, sickness, and poverty, and we have favor with God. Because of Jesus, we are overcomers, destined for victory!

In light of what God has done for us, we should never allow Easter to become just another day of the year. We should honor our Heavenly Father for all He has given us in His Son. Many of us already honor God with our worship. We attend church, pray, and offer praises. But there is an additional way to honor God for the sacrifice of His Son. We can share Jesus with someone.

Sharing Jesus— It's Easier Than You Think!

You may wonder, "How can I make a difference? I don't know how to witness." Don't be discouraged! God has made the Good News simple for you to share with others. In a nutshell, the Gospel is this:

- The Bible says we all have sinned (Romans 3:23; Galatians 3:22). And the penalty for sin is death (Romans 5:12; 6:23).
- But the good news is that God sent Jesus, His only Son, to die for us and pay the penalty for our sins (John 3:16; Romans 5:8).
- To be saved—to receive everlasting life—we must call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus. (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9–10, 13).

To help someone accept Jesus, lead them in a simple prayer like this:

God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I have sinned. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me. Thank You for sending Your Son to die for me. Jesus, I ask You to be my Savior and Lord. I receive everlasting life. Thank You for saving me! Amen.

God loves all people, and He wants us to share His Good News. After Jesus rose from the grave, He instructed His disciples—and us—to share this news with others.

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you” (Matt. 28:19–20 NKJV). What a great privilege we have!

As you celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus this Easter, remember those around you who don’t yet know the joy and

GOD LOVES ALL PEOPLE,
AND HE WANTS US TO SHARE HIS

Good News.



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peace that comes from a relationship with God. Many people in your workplace, neighborhood, and family may not know Jesus. But you know Him! And you can share your knowledge of God with others.

As a believer, you have God’s power living in you. And God wants to flow through *your* hands to heal the sick. He wants His Word to be spoken through *your* mouth to set people free. He’s calling *you* to reach people with the Gospel. *You can do it!*

This Easter, take time to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others. By doing so, you are fulfilling Jesus’ command and making a difference in this world!♥

FAITH NUGGET

The Dos and Don’ts of Sharing Your Faith

You don’t need to be a Bible “expert” to tell people about Jesus. God only requires you to be willing and obedient. But there *are* some dos and don’ts that can help you share the Gospel:

1. Don’t nag. No one likes to be forced into something. And you certainly don’t want to push people into a relationship with Jesus. When they seek Him because *they* want to, it will be a meaningful experience for them.

2. Don’t argue. Truth doesn’t need to be proved; it’s the truth. You don’t have to win a debate with others. Just look for opportunities to share simple Bible truths.

3. Do live what you believe. People say that a picture is worth a thousand words. That’s a great way to think of evangelism. The most effective way to influence others for Christ is to let them see Jesus in your life.

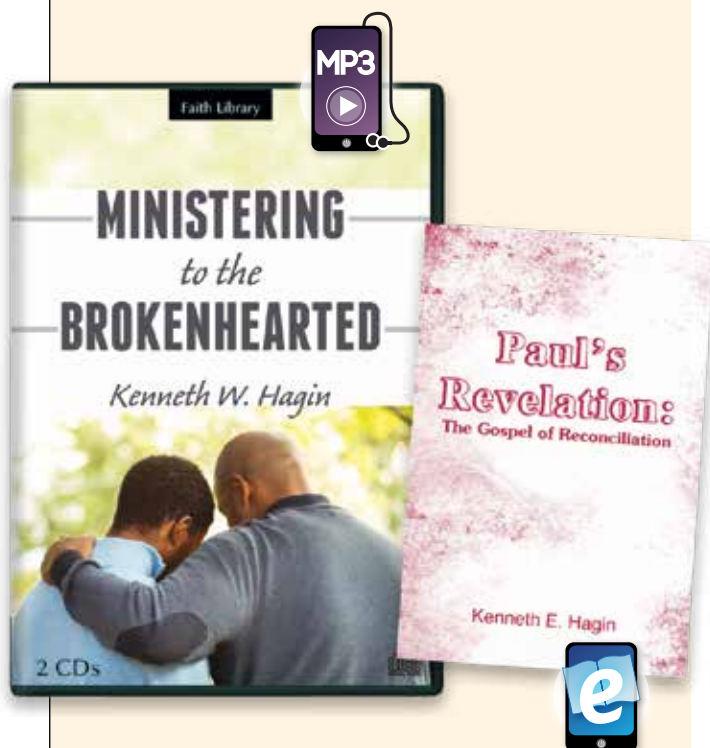
4. Do pray. The Holy Spirit knows *exactly* what is needed to reach an individual. And He wants to share that inside information with you. So pray, and then do as the Holy Spirit instructs you.

5. Do be loving. When people know you genuinely care about them, they’ll listen to what you say. Show them you care by smiling, being respectful, offering help, and listening to them.

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Activate God's Resurrection Power

PATSY CAMENETI



FAITH IS MUCH like a switch. It doesn't contain power in itself. But it's what we use to activate God's power. Faith gives action to the power.

The Apostle Paul knew how to activate God's power. As we follow his example, we can have the same results.

At the end of his life, Paul made two requests. First, he wanted to know Christ; and second, he wanted to know the power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10).

When writing to the Corinthians, Paul said, *"My speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power"* (1 Cor. 2:4). **WHENEVER PAUL SPOKE, HE WANTED PEOPLE TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S POWER.**

Paul's Addiction

Throughout his ministry, Paul found himself in difficult situations. He was beaten with rods, stoned, and shipwrecked. Yet he was able to say, *"Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN AM I STRONG"* (2 Cor. 12:10).

Paul was addicted to the power and strength of God. He came to know that God's strength was available to him, and he relied on it. Many times he wouldn't even make a demand on God's strength until he came to the end of his.

Because God's strength was so amazing to experience, instead of repelling hardships, Paul welcomed them. He boasted during those times, because in his weakness, God's power would show up. Rather than abhorring bad situations, Paul craved to see what God would do.

The prophet Zechariah wrote, *"Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts"* (Zech. 4:6). We can never rely on our own ability. **WE WILL NEVER ACTIVATE GOD'S POWER IN OUR LIVES THROUGH OUR OWN MIGHT.** In fact, the miracles recorded in the Bible happened when people *didn't* have enough might.

Think Like This

What are we to do then? Paul tells us in Philippians 2:5 (NKJV), *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."*

How did Jesus think while He was on the earth?

PHILIPPIANS 2:6-8 (NKJV)

6 Who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

JESUS' MINISTRY WAS SO STRONG BECAUSE HE DID ONLY WHAT THE FATHER TOLD HIM TO DO. And in Jesus' sweet yielding of not trying to be something, God was something through Jesus.

Jesus lived His entire life submitted to God. His submission didn't start when they pounded nails into His hands and feet. It happened every day. And in that submission the Holy Spirit was able to work powerfully through Him!

Total Access

Imagine what God could look like in us if we gave Him complete access and total permission. We would look just like Jesus!

God has a purpose and plan for each of us. It will take His resurrection power to fulfill that plan. We have to be raised into His places for us. We can't get there and do everything He asks in our own strength and ability.

Paul bowed his knees to the Father. He spent time with God and was strengthened in his inner man. (See Eph. 3:14-21.) To experience God's resurrection power, we must do the same. As we exchange our strength for God's and our ability for His, we'll see His resurrection power begin to flow through us. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from one in the June/July 2014 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]



RHEMA AUSTRALIA

Patsy and Tony Cameneti re-established Rhema Australia in 2009. To date, just under 1,000 people have graduated. The challenges of the worldwide pandemic in 2020 didn't slow the school down. It simply revamped and moved to online training. The new format enabled some students to enroll who had not been able to attend in person.

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CAMP MEETING 1973



During old-time camp meetings in the 1800s, people often came in wagons, set up camp, and attended an outdoor tent revival. They weren't in a hurry because they didn't have to go anywhere, so the Spirit of God could move freely. Many would fall out under the power during the services. They called it "going into trances" in those days.

In January 1973, the Lord dealt with Kenneth E. Hagin about holding meetings where the spirit of old-time camp meetings would prevail. God instructed him to teach faith in the daytime and leave the night sessions open to the move of the Holy Spirit.

Brother Hagin held his first camp meeting in July 1973 at Sheridan Christian Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The early meetings were called *Faith Seminar and Indoor Campmeeting*. More than 400 people came that first year. The speaker lineup included Roy Hicks and J.R. Goodwin. Vicki Jamison Peterson ministered in song while Sharon Bell played the keyboards.

Below are excerpts from Brother Hagin's and J.R. Goodwin's messages. Key points from Roy Hicks' message are on page 13.

'WE'RE GOING TO START A BIBLE SCHOOL!'

KENNETH E. HAGIN

I ONCE HEARD a fellow preaching on TV. If I called his name, many of you would recognize him. He said, "Paul healed the man down there at Lystra because the apostles had that kind of power. They sort of carried it around as credentials for their authority. But when the last apostle died, all that ceased." And to prove his point, he read Acts 14:8–10.

Never has there been a bigger lie told in or out of church than that. I've read some of that preacher's books. He had a number of degrees after his name. There was LL.D, ED, XYZ, and Ph.D. I decided that Ph.D. meant posthole digger. It seemed to me like a common posthole digger would have had more sense than him.

I'm not belittling education. Thank God for it. But sometimes even preachers go to school and study everything except the Bible. They come out with a big education and an inflated ego but are depressed spiritually.

THAT'S THE REASON, BLESS GOD, WE ARE GOING TO START A BIBLE SCHOOL RIGHT HERE ON THESE PREMISES—WHERE THE WORD OF GOD IS TAUGHT. If you want a degree, well, get it somewhere else and hang it on a willow tree. Come over here and learn about the Bible and the Holy Ghost!

THE OPERATION OF THE HOLY GHOST

J.R. GOODWIN

JESUS NEVER DID a single miracle on earth as the Son of God. He did them all as a man anointed by the Holy Ghost. And He never preached until He was filled and anointed with the Holy Ghost.

John 1:32 (NKJV) says, "*And John bore witness, saying, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.'*" Acts 10:38 (NKJV) goes on to say, "*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*"

I'm going to throw something out. In the New Testament, you will not find where a single individual preached the Gospel until he was filled with the Holy Ghost. When Jesus was ready to go to Heaven, here's what He told those who were with Him: "*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high*" (Luke 24:49).

Now remember, the disciples had been given power to "heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out devils" (Matt. 10:8). When they went to Jerusalem, they didn't go out and start preaching. They waited.

JESUS DIDN'T ALLOW PEOPLE TO PREACH UNTIL THEY WERE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST. So preacher, if you're not filled with the Holy Ghost, you'd better get filled quickly.

[Editor's Note: To listen to old *Campmeeting* messages, go to rhema.org/store and purchase *Campmeeting Classics—Volumes 1–4*.]

THE POWER OF THE SPOKEN WORD

ROY HICKS



[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Roy Hicks' *Campmeeting* 1973 message. It prompted Kenneth E. Hagin and his family to call the Bible school they were starting Rhema. Rev. Hicks passed from this life in 2008 after more than 60 years of ministry.]

AFTER A MAJOR trial in my life, I was directed by the Holy Spirit to do a study of God's Word. I had been at the point of death, and I knew I was slipping away. I did everything I knew to do spiritually, but my condition didn't change.



I said to God, "I've done all I can. I don't know what else to do." **IN MY SPIRIT I HEARD THE LORD SAY, "BUT MY WORD WILL NOT FAIL YOU!"**

I thumbed through my Bible and came across a scripture where God said, "*I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you*" (Prov. 1:23).

After reading that verse, I asked God to make His Word known to me.

I began to study the word "word" in the Greek. As a former Bible college student, I was familiar with the Greek word for "word," *logos*, which means "God revealed" and "written Word." Jesus is the *Logos* of God. He is the revealed part of the Godhead.

JOHN 1:1 (NKJV)

1 In the beginning was the Word [*logos*], and the Word [*logos*] was with God, and the Word [*logos*] was God.

As I studied further, I discovered another Greek word used for "word": *rhēma*. The first time *rhēma* is used for the word "word" in the Bible is when Jesus was tested in the wilderness. (See Matthew chapter 4.)

In His greatest hour of temptation and physical weakness, Jesus rebuked Satan and said to him, "*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word [rhēma] that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*" (Matt. 4:4).

It's important to note that Jesus didn't use the word *logos*; He was the *Logos* of God! But being the *Logos* of God wasn't the weapon Jesus used to successfully defeat Satan. Nor did He automatically overcome in the hour of weakness simply because He was the Son of God. It's the same for you and me—nothing is automatic for us just because we're Christians.

Jesus used the word *rhēma* when rebuking Satan. He was using the sword of the Spirit!

EPHESIANS 6:17

17 And take . . . the sword of the Spirit, which is the word [*rhēma*] of God.

What is *rhēma* defined? According to one definition, *rhēma* is "quoting (speaking) the Word of God" (the *logos*). It's the *rhēma* Word of God that imparts faith (Rom. 10:17). *Rhēma* is the sharp, two-edged sword of the Spirit that goes not out of the hand but out of the mouth.

RHĒMA IS GOD'S CREATIVE POWER! Hebrews chapter 11 says that the worlds were created by the *rhēma* of God.

HEBREWS 11:3

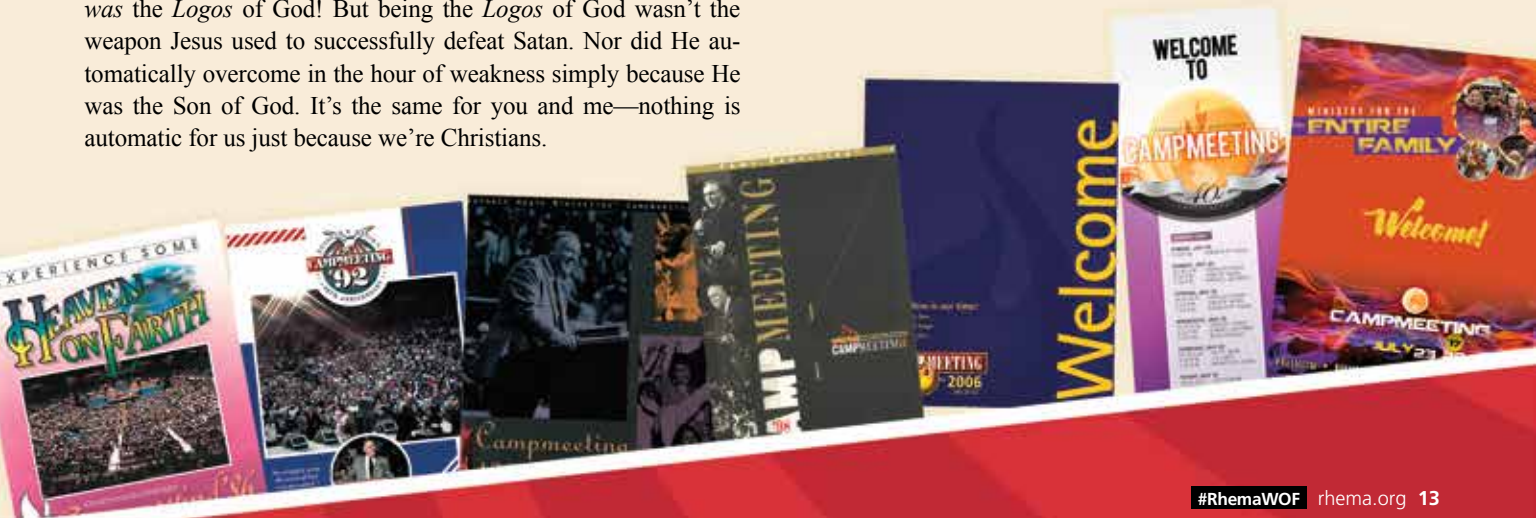
3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word [*rhēma*] of God

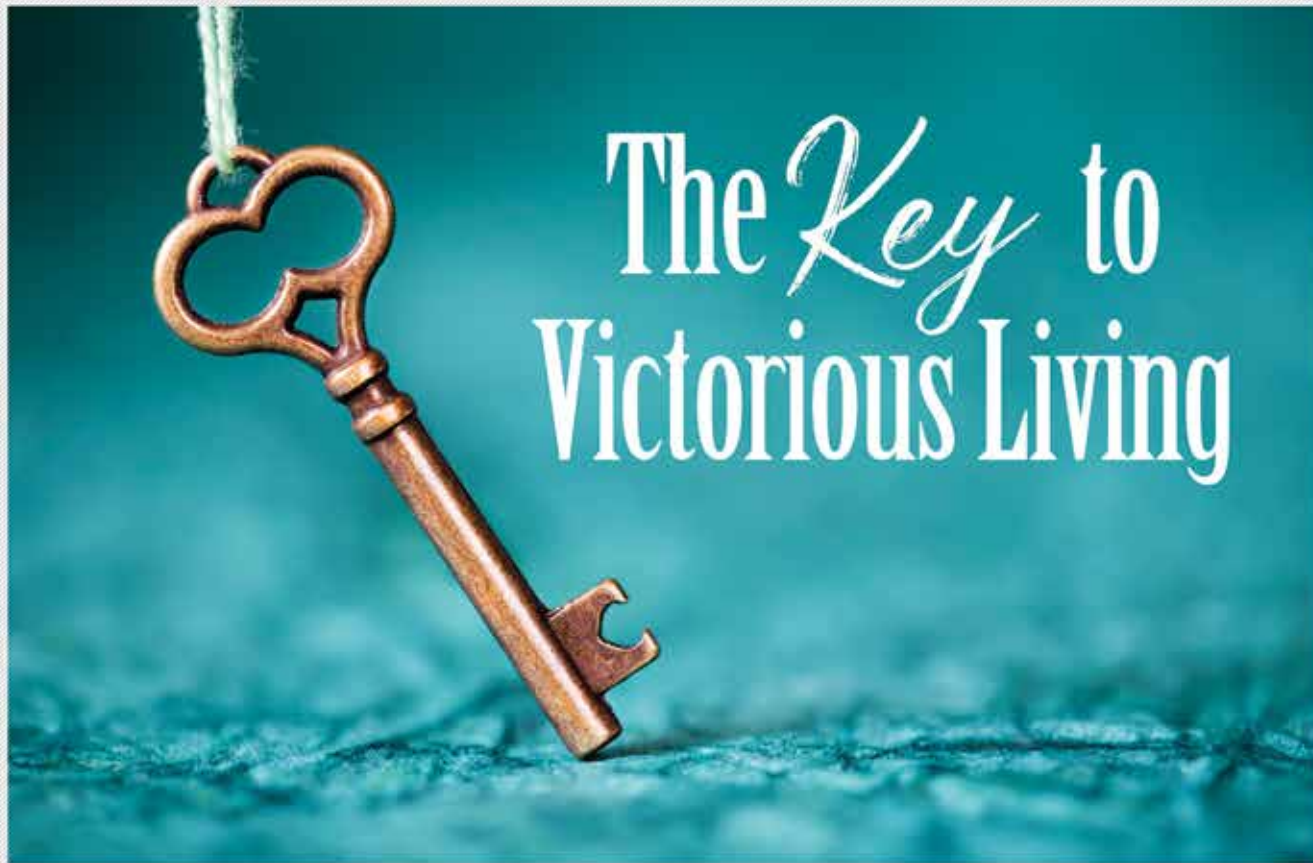
Jesus overcame temptation in the wilderness with the spoken *rhēma* Word of God, which is God's power!

People read the Bible—the *logos*—all their lives and don't have an ounce of faith! Why? Because they never speak God's Word. They carry the *logos* with them to church, lay it on the coffee table, and pick it up for devotions, but they never learn the power which is *rhēma*. Many weaknesses exist in the Church because Christians don't know the value and the power of speaking God's Word.

Luke 1:37 (ASV) says, "*For no word [rhēma] from God shall be void of power.*" **WHEN WE SPEAK GOD'S WORD, WE'RE SPEAKING THE SAME CREATIVE POWER GOD USED TO CREATE THE UNIVERSE.** That same power will create a new lung if you need one. God's power will make new heart valves where the old ones rusted out. It will put new joints into your bones where the other ones were eroded by arthritis! Whatever your need, you have creative power in your mouth.

Speak God's Word. Begin to release the word of faith—the *rhēma*! ♥





GOD HAS GIVEN us everything we need to live successful, godly lives. In His Word, He has given us many promises. But how do we take advantage of them? How do we move into His greater plans for us? To live victoriously, we *must* know the Father. It is the most important thing we need to do.

Peter tells us something about this. (The emphasis is mine.)

2 PETER 1:3-4 (NLT)

3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to *know him*, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

4 And because of his glory and excellence, *he has given us great and precious promises*. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

The key to living life on earth is getting to know our God! Just as it takes time to develop natural relationships, though, it also takes time to get to know the Father. It doesn't happen instantly—even though we live in a time when everything is instant.

Think about it. It used to take an hour to bake a potato in the oven. Now it takes only five minutes in the microwave. But I still



LYNETTE HAGIN

find myself sitting there wondering, “Will this ever hurry up and get through?”

That's the age we live in, and that's how we try to approach our relationship with God. We want to get to know Him microwave-style. But the Father is saying, “I'm putting you in the Crock-Pot. And I'm going to cook you until you're so filled with My power, My strength, and My might that nothing can keep you from fulfilling your calling.”

Hallelujah! When we allow the Father to put us in His Crock-Pot—when we take the time to get to know Him—we'll become like Him. Then we won't give up, stress out, or fall down, no matter what we face.

So how do we get to know Him? One of the most important ways is by meditating in His Word. Joshua 1:8 (MSG) instructs us to “*ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed.*”

The Word is so precious! And if we want to know our God, we need to fall in love with His Word.

At Rhema Bible Church where my husband and I pastor, we give the babies in the nursery their own little Bibles. The teachers hold the Bible up to their cheeks and say to the children, “We love our Bibles.” Why? We want those little ones to get acquainted at an early age with loving their Heavenly Father and His Word.

I heard about one little boy from church who was roaming around his house searching for something. His mother had no idea what he was looking for. Finally, his eyes lit up when he saw the big family Bible in the living room.

That precious little boy went over to that great big Bible and struggled to try to lift it to his cheek. Why? Because he loved his Bible so much.

Like this little boy, we must fall in love with our Heavenly Father through His Word. You see, God's character and nature are revealed through the Word. And the more we read and study for ourselves, the more we'll learn about Him and see His faithfulness toward us in every situation.

The second way we come to know the Lord is through prayer. Our relationship with Him will not rise to the level He desires unless we fellowship with Him.

Unfortunately, we sometimes get so involved in our daily lives—with the work of our God—that we fail to commune with the God of our work. I've caught myself doing this. I was always the Martha who made everything happen. And we need Marthas! But we must be Marys as well (Luke 10:38–42). We need to set aside time to talk to the Lord and allow Him to talk to us.

When He was on earth, Jesus always took time to fellowship with the Father. Though He was the Son of God and already knew why He had come, He spent more time praying to the Father than anything else.

That's the way we should be with the Lord. We should pray about everything continually—not just when something awful happens to us. I know it's easy to push the 911 button during a crisis and pray fervently. But that shouldn't be the only time we talk to God! Prayer should be the response to every event in our lives (Phil. 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:7).



ACTION NEEDED: Have you spent time with God today? Set aside time to enter His presence. Give Him your undivided attention. Talk to Him and let Him talk to you. He's ready to listen and help you through every situation.

The Lord desires so much for us to know Him, for our hearts to connect with His. He longs for us to know Him as our best friend. He is a friend who sticks closer than a brother (Prov. 18:24). The question is, will we spend time get-

ting to know Him today? An intimate relationship with the Lord is the only thing that will truly relieve the stresses of this life. It's what

FAITH IN ACTION

Connect With Him

Prayer is the most powerful instrument you have as a believer. Here are some tips to help you successfully commune with your Father.

1. Be disciplined and make prayer a priority.
2. Stay in God's presence on purpose.
3. Open your mouth and talk to the Father.
4. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.
5. Know the power of prayer.

will open doors of opportunity, lead us down the right paths, and cause us to walk in His ways.

Our heart's cry should be to know the Lord in a closer, deeper way. Above all else, our greatest passion in life should be to know Him. When we know the Father, we know the end result. We always triumph. And no matter what path our life takes, the God we know—our Heavenly Father—will get us to our destination in victory!♥

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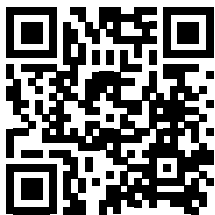
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RHEMA IS A SPOKEN WORD, A PLACE, AND A WORLDWIDE FAMILY.

Preparing for Tomorrow

KENNETH W. HAGIN

MANY TIMES PEOPLE say, “I’m not thinking about tomorrow; I’m just living day by day.” But do you realize that what happens to you tomorrow depends on what you do today?

One reason so many people end up in trouble spiritually is, they never prepare for tomorrow with their faith. They don’t continue to study the Word or maintain fellowship with God in prayer.

In Joshua 3:5 (NIV), Joshua told the people, “*Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.*”

THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL TOMORROW IS CONSECRATION. That means to set yourself apart, to be submitted to God “lock, stock, and barrel,” as we’d say in Texas. In other words, it means to be fully devoted to God in everything.

To consecrate yourself, you have to get rid of “excess baggage” in your life.

When I was in the Army, all the recruits were issued military packs that we had to carry around on our backs during field drills. Those packs were filled with all sorts of gear—C rations, a canteen, a change of clothes, a first-aid kit, half of a shelter tent—just about anything we would need out in the field. But when it came time to conduct certain training exercises, we got rid of those backpacks in a hurry. Why? Because we didn’t want anything slowing us down. We had to outrun bullets, and we needed to move as fast as possible!

You see, when a soldier is in the heat of battle, he gets rid of everything he can that will hinder him. Yet some folks engaged in spiritual battles, trying to fight the good fight of faith, have all kinds of excess baggage weighing them down!

YOU MUST GET RID OF ANYTHING THAT WILL HOLD YOU BACK SPIRITUALLY. Get rid of fear, anger, ill will, unforgiveness, hatred, and so forth. Those things are “excess baggage,” and they will hinder you in running your Christian race. If you don’t get rid of them today, they will affect you spiritually tomorrow.

For instance, how many times have you heard someone say, “I’m going to start my diet tomorrow”? But “tomorrow” never comes, and that person never loses any weight. I once said for years that I was going to lose some weight and start an exercise program. Then one day, I stopped and said, “No, I’m not going to start; I am starting! My tomorrow begins today!”

Your tomorrow has to begin today in your personal life. You can’t have a worldly lifestyle and tell inappropriate jokes today and expect to be spiritually strong tomorrow. **YOU CAN’T FORSAKE GATHERING TOGETHER WITH OTHER BELIEVERS TODAY AND EXPECT TO BE STRONG SPIRITUALLY TOMORROW.** You can’t run with the wrong crowd today,

befriending those who serve the world, without it affecting your spiritual life down the road.

Your tomorrow also has to begin today in your home. If you want to establish true, godly relationships with your spouse or children, you have to begin today—not tomorrow.

And your future has to begin today in the church because the success of your local church depends on the success of your personal life. A chain is only as physically strong as its weakest link, and a church is only as spiritually strong as its weakest member!

You are not here just to exist. You are building a life. If you build your life upon the wrong ideals and the wrong principles, you won’t stand the test of time. But if you build it upon the principles and values of God’s Word today, then you’re preparing for a successful life tomorrow.

The decision is yours. The Lord will do amazing things in your life if you will consecrate yourself and get ready for success—because your tomorrow begins today!♥



Prepare for your tomorrow at Rhema Bible Training College! For more information, visit rbtc.org.

What happens to you tomorrow depends on what you do today.





SUPERNATURAL GUIDANCE



PROVERBS 20:27 SAYS, “*The spirit of man is the candle [or lamp] of the Lord.*” This verse lets us know that God guides us through our spirit.

Too often, we seek guidance in other ways. We judge by our physical senses, but nowhere does God say He will guide us by our senses. Or we look at a situation from a mental standpoint. But God guides us through our spirit, or our inward man.

The inward man has a “voice.” We call it our conscience, intuition, or an inward witness. As born-again believers train and develop their spirit, this voice becomes clearer.

One thing that has held us back is that we are more body-conscious and mental-conscious than spirit-conscious. We have developed the body and soul but have virtually ignored our spirit.

The Abiding Holy Spirit

Once we are born again, the Holy Spirit lives and abides in our spirit. He does not communicate directly with our mind because He is not in our mind. He is in our spirit, and He communicates with us through our spirit.

Jesus said, “*We will come unto him, and make our abode with him*” (John 14:23). Paul said, “*Know ye not that ye are the temple*

WE GET SO BUSY PHYSICALLY AND
MENTALLY THAT SPIRITUAL THINGS
BECOME INDISTINCT TO US.

of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (1 Cor. 3:16). And Paul also told the Corinthians, “*Ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people*” (2 Cor. 6:16). If God dwells in us, then that is where He will speak to us.

Romans 8:16 says, “*The Spirit itself [or Himself] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.*” Notice that this verse does not say the Spirit bears witness with our body.

Feeling is the voice of the *body*.

Reason is the voice of the *soul* or *mind*.

Conscience is the voice of the *spirit*.

If we go by feelings, we will get into trouble!

Our faith must be based on the Word, not on our feelings. Romans 8:16 does not say the Spirit bears witness with our *body* or *feelings*. It says, “*The Spirit itself beareth witness with our*

SPIRIT.” The Word and the Spirit agree. The Holy Spirit takes God’s Word and witnesses to our heart, or spirit.

Be Led by the Spirit

Jesus told His disciples, “*He [the Holy Spirit] shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*” (John 14:26). Jesus also said the Holy Spirit “will show you things to come” (John 16:13).

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit. Then He leads us. Romans 8:14 says, “*For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.*”

It is not for us to tell the Lord how to lead us. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see how some people received guidance through a vision. We read where others received guidance from an angel who appeared and told them certain things.

Too many times, people seek guidance that way instead of listening to what the Bible says. However, such phenomena didn’t happen every day in these people’s lives. They occurred once or twice in the entire lifetime of some of them.

Too many times when God tries to guide us by bearing witness with our spirit, we don’t listen because we want something dramatic, like a vision or an angel.

Fleeces

Some people put out what is called a “fleece” before the Lord when seeking guidance. I tried that one time. I put out a fleece and got fleeced!

The New Testament does not say, “Those who are led by fleeces are the sons of God.” Gideon did put out a fleece (Judges 6:36–40). But we are not living under his covenant. We have a New Covenant established on better promises. And we don’t see any of the apostles telling people to put out a fleece before the Lord.

I put out a fleece once when I tried out for the pastorate of a church in Texas. I said if the congregation voted 100 percent for me to come as their new pastor, I would accept this as the Lord’s will and go. I got every vote and accepted the pastorate.

That was the most miserable time of my life. I lost the anointing to preach. While preparing my sermons, I felt like fire was in my bones. But the minute I stepped inside the church, it was as if someone poured a bucket of cold water on me.

I was out of God’s perfect will and in His permissive will. And things don’t work right when you are in only His permissive will. That was the only time I ever missed it in taking a church.

Wait on God

Sometimes people don’t want to take their responsibility. It’s easier to put it off on God and say, “Lord, if You want me to do that, then open the door. If You don’t, then shut it.” It’s harder to wait on God until you know the answer on the inside. And sometimes it takes times of waiting to hear this inward witness.

We get so busy physically and mentally that spiritual things become indistinct to us. It is easier to get quiet with your body than with your mind. Sometimes when you try to sleep, your body is relaxed. But your mind is still churning with the day’s activities, ideas, and plans, or with worries and anxieties.

Here is an area where praying in tongues is a great advantage. Paul said, “*For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful*” (1 Cor. 14:14).

I have found the best way to quiet my mind is to pray in other tongues. When you pray in tongues, your mind grows quiet. Once it is quiet, you become more conscious of your spirit and spiritual things.

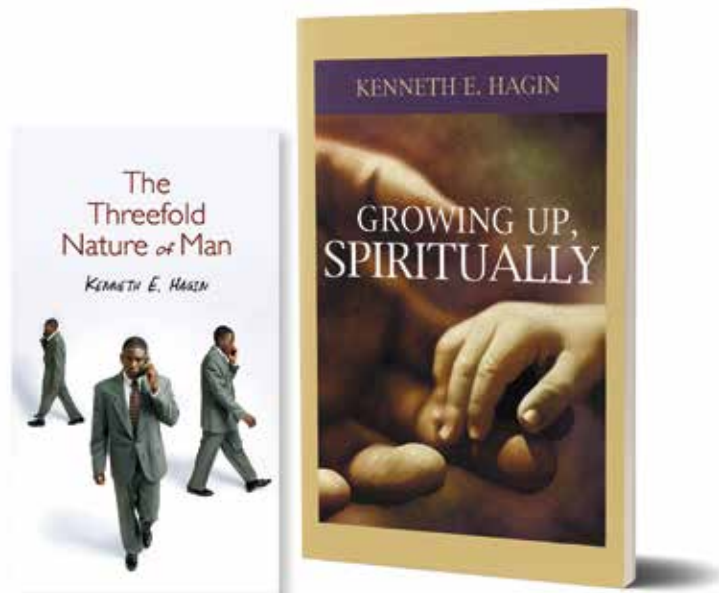
When Christians seek to know God’s will for their lives, He will make His perfect will clear to them by some means. Whether it be through a still, small voice speaking to their heart or through a supernatural manifestation, God will guide those whose hearts are open to Him along the pathway of peace. ♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *How You Can Know the Will of God*.]

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THE POWER OF

Jesus' Name

GOD EXALTED JESUS when He raised Him from the dead, victorious over death and hell. Now Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, far above all other authorities and powers. God conferred upon Jesus the highest Name. Jesus, in His resurrected body, is seated at the right hand of the Father. But Jesus left us His Name. His Name with all its power, authority, might, and dominion is ours today.

We exercise the authority Jesus gave us in His Name by speaking God's Word. In the Name of Jesus, every demon, every sickness, every bit of poverty, and anything with a name that's hindering us has to flee, because it is all under the authority of the Name that's above every name! Let's start using that Name to rule and reign over all the works of the enemy!

Each week, meditate on one of the following verses daily until the power of Jesus' Name becomes a reality in your life.♥

MATTHEW 18:20

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

MARK 16:17

17 "And these signs will follow those who believe: In **My name** they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues."

LUKE 10:17

17 Then the seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us in **Your name**."

JOHN 14:13

13 "And whatever you ask in **My name**, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

JOHN 14:14

14 "If you ask anything in **My name**, I will do it."

JOHN 16:23

23 "Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in **My name** He will give you."

ACTS 2:38

38 "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the **name of Jesus Christ** for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

ACTS 3:6

6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the **name of Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, rise up and walk."

ACTS 3:16

16 "And **His name**, through faith in **His name**, has made this man strong . . ."

ACTS 4:30

30 ". . . by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the **name of Your holy Servant Jesus**."

ROMANS 10:13

13 For "whoever calls on the **name of the Lord** shall be saved."

COLOSSIANS 3:17

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the **name of the Lord Jesus**.

JAMES 5:14

14 Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the **name of the Lord**.

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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)

CELEBRATING OUR RISEN SAVIOR!

THIS MONTH, WE celebrate Easter. I have fond memories of this celebration from my childhood. Churches gathered in a large football stadium in the Dallas area for what was called a sunrise service. It began as the sun rose on a Sunday morning in remembrance of the *Son* rising from the dead.

I loved the songs "Up from the Grave He Arose" and "He Lives." Those memories are so vivid that I can still see that sun rising as we all joined in the chorus, "He lives. He lives. Christ Jesus lives today."*

We would then dress up in a new Easter outfit, including an Easter hat, and go to our respective churches. We continued worshipping Jesus there and how He sacrificed His life so we might experience life. His sacrifice meant that lambs no longer had to be sacrificed for the remission of our sins because the *Lamb of God* had made the ultimate sacrifice for our salvation. He also took stripes on His back for our healing. Healing was paid for on that cross.

Isaiah 53: 3–6 (NLT) states it this way: "*He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with deepest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way. He was despised, and we did not care. Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all.*"

I encourage you to read the entire chapter of Isaiah 53. I especially like to read it in the *New Living Translation*. Verse 11 says, "*When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of his experience, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins.*"

When I read this chapter, tears come to my eyes as I think about the love and sacrifice that was extended to us through our Lord and Savior. Can you imagine being willing to sacrifice your only son to save others? And can you imagine the thoughts that went through Jesus' mind as He approached the day He would die on the cross for our sins?

Matthew 26:36–39 (NKJV) describes it this way: "*Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.' He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.'*"

Being sacrificed was hard. Yet Jesus said, "Not My will, but Your will be done." If someone does something significant for us—e.g., taking us on a dream vacation, buying us a car, paying off our debt, etc.—we would thank them over and over. We would be so grateful for their generosity. But how often do we thank the Heavenly Father for sending His Son to redeem us? How many times do we think of the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for us?

I was raised in a home where going to church every week to worship the Lord was a normal routine. Missing church was not an option. It was not, "Are we going?" It was, "What time are we leaving?" Statistics show that Christians average going to church once a month.

Let me ask you a question, "How would your body react if you only ate one meal a month?" Of course, you would become sick and eventually die of malnutrition.

That is happening to Christians today. They are dying spiritually of malnutrition because they are not feeding their spiritual bodies. I believe we are approaching the end times. We are instructed in Hebrews 10:25 (NLT) "*And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.*"

I want to encourage you to get back in church on a regular basis. It will strengthen you and help you to accomplish the purpose God has for you.♥

*Written by: Alfred H. Ackley. © 1933 The Rodeheaver Co., Renewed 1961 Word Music, LLC.



Lynette



Kids' Page

Fearless, Appointed, Inward-Led, Trustworthy, Hairs of God

RELATIONSHIPS

There are three important lessons you can learn about relationships by reading about three "ships" that are mentioned in the Bible.

Lesson #1—NOAH'S ARK: (Gen. 6:9-8:22)

Be careful who you get into a relationship with . . . you may be sailing with them for a LONG time.

The eight people on Noah's Ark were together inside the ship for over 300 days . . . almost one full year! Can you imagine what kind of arguments they would have had if they did not know how to get along? Friends are people who should be willing to go the distance with you . . . make sure you're willing to do the same for them!

Lesson #2—JONAH: (Jonah 1:1-4:11)

Make sure the people you are in relationship with are going in the same direction that God has told you to go.

Jonah got into a boat that was headed for Tarshish . . . the opposite direction from where God told him to go. Because he disobeyed God, a great storm came and threatened the ship, and Jonah was thrown overboard. Choose friends who are interested in following God's plans . . . they'll never throw you overboard!

Lesson #3—JESUS AND

HIS DISCIPLES: (Mark 4:35-41)

All relationships will go through a few storms!

Even Jesus' friends had to ride through a storm with Him. A true friend will stick with you even when times get tough . . . and if they can't calm the storm for you, they'll ride it out with you!

Not in the 'Same Boat!'



Harry (the guy circled in the picture above) got separated from Terry, his identical twin brother. See how quickly you can find him in the crowd.

Search & Find See if you can find all of the relationship words below in this puzzle.

b a d m a u r a u n t
s r r e r e r f k u r
i i o n h i w r y n i
s c f t f e n i e c e
t h a o h r u e i l h
e f i r i e i n i e i
r m o t h e r d w h w

brother
sister
mother
father
friend
niece
uncle
mentor
aunt

THEY GO TOGETHER

Some things just go together . . . you can't say the name of one without thinking of the other. You know, like peanut butter and . . . Fill in the blanks below to finish the missing part of the relationship.

BATMAN AND _____

CHIP AND _____

LEWIS AND _____

CAKE AND _____

JACK AND _____

SAMSON AND _____

TOM AND _____

ROMEO AND _____

BURT AND _____

MILK AND _____

jokes & riddles

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



How did the barber get his work done so quickly?

He knew some short "cuts"

Why did the policeman refuse to get out of bed?

Because he was working "under cover"

What goes up but never comes down?

Your age

Why did the man fall asleep on top of a lamp?

He was a "light" sleeper

Why did the lion eat the tight-rope walker?

He wanted a balanced meal

Answers:

They Go Together

badmaunt
ster
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Ernie, Cookies.
Jerry, Juliet,
Jill, Delilah,
Clark, Ice Cream,
Robin, Dale,



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

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EVANGELISTIC ASSOC.



Dear Friend,
Many people still need to hear the Gospel of Christ. Reaching all of them is too big to do alone. By working together, we can influence many more lives for Jesus! *International Rhema Day* is on May 1. When you support Rhema Bible Training College with your prayers and financial gifts, you make it possible to train students to reach the world with the Gospel. Together, we can change lives!
Thank you for your generosity!

Kenneth E. Hagin

SUNDAY, MAY 1

Supporting Rhema—Reaching the World!

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