EACH THE W

MAY 2022

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

Happy Mother's Day

LOVE ONE ANOTHER PAGE 8 // THE WORLD CAME HOME! PAGE 12 // MOMS, WE SALUTE YOU! PAGE 14



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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

A Mother's Faith

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson officially proclaimed Mother's Day a national holiday to be held on the second Sunday of May. Thank God for mothers. We honor moms for all they have done and continue to do. We especially honor them for their faith-in God and in us.

A mother's faith can propel children to do things they never thought possible. Their faith can cause their children to succeed where they would otherwise fail. Our mothers believe in us when

we don't believe in ourselves. That's why it is so important for mothers to always speak positive, faith-filled words over their children.

My mom used to tell me, "Ken, it doesn't matter what anyone else says. I believe in you, and with God's help, you can do whatever you want to do!" I wouldn't be preaching today if it weren't for my mother.

A mother's influence on her children is far greater than she may realize. If you are a mother and wonder if your good example has taught your children anything, I want to assure you that it has. I want to encourage you to keep up the good work. Your faith is more powerful than you think.

This month, we honor our mothers because they are special, valuable, and irreplaceable. Mothers, we appreciate you and thank God for you!

Where would we be without the love, prayers, and support of our mothers? I encourage you to take time on this special day to thank your mother for her faith—the faith that brings Heaven to earth, gives you a godly legacy, and changes your circumstances for the better.

We trust that you will enjoy this issue of The Word of Faith. We picked articles to help build your faith and encourage you in your walk with God. And as we celebrate Memorial Day, let's remember those who gave their lives so we could live in freedom.



THIS ISSUE



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FAITH ACADEMY

The Difference Between Hope and Faith

DENISE HAGIN BURNS

Faith and hope are closely related, but they're still different. Gain a clearer understanding of what it means to be in biblical hope versus biblical faith.

Refining Your Faith Like Gold LYNETTE HAGIN

> At one time or another, we all go through trials. But we don't have to become discouraged. We can learn how to triumph over everything we face.

Supernatural Setup KENNETH W. HAGIN

> Discover your part in experiencing God's supernatural power in your life.

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Find out who's behind the things that oppose you, and learn how to stand against him.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN





DENISE HAGIN BURNS

TO GET OUR prayers answered, we must be in faith, not hope. There's a difference between the two. Sometimes we think we're in faith, but we're not.

What exactly is faith? Hebrews 11:1 (NIV) says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

According to the dictionary, faith means a strong belief or trust in someone or something. It's being fully convinced.

Hope, on the other hand says, "Yeah, I believe it's possible, but I'm not sure it will happen."

Being in faith is being fully confident. Even though we don't see something, we believe beyond a shadow of doubt that it will happen. That's the difference between hope and faith.

When we come to God with a need—for finances, healing, peace, protection, or something else-we must be fully convinced that He will take care of us.

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is that of blind Bartimaeus.

MARK 10:46-52 (NLT)

46 Then they reached Jericho, and as Jesus and his disciples left town, a large crowd followed him. A blind beggar named Bartimaeus (son of Timaeus) was sitting beside the road.

47 When Bartimaeus heard that Jesus of Nazareth was nearby, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

48 "Be quiet!" many of the people yelled at him. But he only shouted louder, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" 49 When Jesus heard him, he stopped and said, "Tell him to come here." So they called the blind man. "Cheer up," they said. "Come on, he's calling you!"

50 Bartimaeus threw aside his coat, jumped up, and came to Jesus.

51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked. "My rabbi," the blind man said, "I want to see!"

52 And Jesus said to him, "Go, for your faith has healed you." Instantly the man could see, and he followed Jesus down the road.

In Bible days, news spread by word of mouth. A friend told a friend who told another friend. Word spread about the miracles and healings Jesus performed. The healing testimonies sparked hope in those who heard.

Faith Is Not Silent

When Bartimaeus heard Jesus was passing by, he already knew that Jesus had healed other people. He probably thought, "Maybe, just maybe, Jesus will heal me too." Bartimaeus was feeling hopeful, but he wasn't quite in faith yet.

Faith is not silent. It's activated by our words. We can't just think what we believe. We have to use our mouth to speak our faith.

When we come up against a mountain that needs to be moved, we can't face it silently. We have to arm ourselves with scripture. We must know our authority in Christ and who we are in Him. Then we have to come at our situation speaking God's Word.

Speaking activates our faith. Our words bring things that are not yet real into reality. Part of our faith journey is speaking it out.

Don't Be Discouraged or Distracted

Bartimaeus shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (v. 47). He knew Jesus was the answer. Sometimes all we need is the Name of Jesus. In some situations, we don't have time to quote scripture. There's only time to cry, "Jesus!" At that Name, things happen. They move and change!

People around Bartimaeus tried to quiet him. They told him to shut up. They tried to stop his faith from getting what he wanted.

Sometimes people—good, well-meaning Christian people! will try to stop us, discourage us, and block us from getting our miracle. We can love them, but we don't have to listen to them.

It's also easy to become distracted. Circumstances can get in our way and distract us. So can social media. Even our thoughts can be a distraction. The devil may scream in our head, "You're not going to make it!" Or, "You're going to die!" But just because we think something doesn't mean it's true.

Second Corinthians 10:5 tells us to cast down imaginations and anything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. We're told to bring our thoughts into the obedience of Christ.

What did Bartimaeus do when people tried to distract him? He shouted louder!

Sometimes we have to get loud. We have to have grit. We have to be determined because it will not always be easy. Sometimes we have to fight to get our miracle. We must decide that nothing will prevent us from getting what we need from God, no matter what.

Bartimaeus wouldn't let anything keep him from receiving his sight. He got louder and louder. And guess what happened? Jesus stopped and called for him. The cry of faith always stops Jesus in His tracks.

Stepping Into Faith

Mark 10:50 (NLT) says, "Bartimaeus threw aside his coat." Why is that important? In Bible times, coats signified your social status. The coats of blind beggars showed their low position in life.

But here's the deal—faith takes action. When Bartimaeus threw off his coat, he stepped out of hope and into faith. Leaving his coat behind showed that he believed he wouldn't need it anymore. Bartimaeus was convinced that as he got to Jesus, he would see!

Sometimes when we're believing God for something, we hold on to stuff that weighs us down. In the same way that Bartimaeus took off his coat, we need to take off the weights, leave them behind, and step out in faith.

Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "What do you want me to do for you?" (v. 51 NLT). Bartimaeus said he wanted to see and was instantly healed.

Put Action to Your Faith

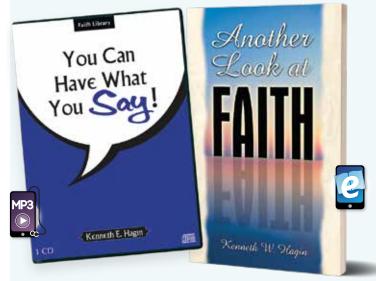
On the cross, Jesus did everything He's going to do for us. He's now waiting for us to use our faith and take action. He told Bartimaeus, "Go, for your faith has healed you" (v. 52 NLT). Jesus was saying, "It's not Me that healed you. Your faith has made you whole."

Jesus has whatever we need. We must find scriptures that speak to our need and put a voice to our faith. Let's be determined to get what we need and be fully convinced that we will. If it looks like we won't, we must quote the Word more and get louder. We need to talk like it's so, walk like it's so, and live like it's so before we see it. If God said it in His Word, that settles it. When we're fully convinced that what He said will happen, we'll move from hope to faith.

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CAMPMEETING

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

KENNETH E. HAGIN

JESUS WAS ARRESTED and later crucified during the Passover celebration. Before He died, He gave His disciples a new commandment: "That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" (John 13:34-35).

Over in Romans 5:5 it says, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us." God not only commands us to love one another, but He also gives us the love to do it with!

WHEN WE WERE BORN AGAIN, GOD'S LOVE WAS SHED ABROAD-OR PUT-IN OUR HEARTS. WE NEVER HAVE TO PRAY FOR LOVE. IT'S **ALREADY THERE.**

Now then, love is a fruit. It's the first fruit of the Spirit. (See Galatians 5:22-23.) It can grow. But we need to develop the love that was given to us. If we feed that love on the Word and exercise it, it will grow.

What do I mean by "exercising love"? Act like you would if you did love. That's how love grows!

Jeremiah prophesied about this new commandment of love.

JEREMIAH 31:33

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

The prophet Jeremiah said, "I will put my law in their inward parts." Notice the word "law." It's singular, not plural.

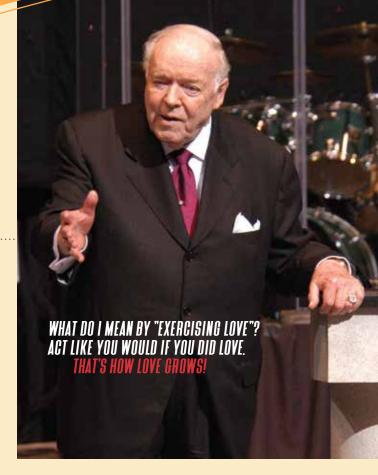
Let's look at what Ezekiel prophesied.

EZEKIEL 36:26-27

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

Under the old covenant, God wrote the Ten Commandments on stone tablets. But under the new covenant, He writes on the tablets of our hearts.



ROMANS 13:8-10

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

NO LONGER DO WE HAVE TO BE BOTHERED WITH A LOT OF DO'S AND DON'TS. WHEN WE WALK IN LOVE, THAT COVERS EVERYTHING.

Love works no ill to its neighbor or to anyone. To the husband or wife. To children. To parents. To fellow Christians.

I made up my mind that I would walk in love whether or not anybody else did. I've had a great time trying. I may not have always done it, but I've been close. That's why before I said or did something, I would always stop and think, "How will this affect the other person?" Many times, I couldn't do something. That law was in my heart.

Love does not wrong somebody. So let's decide to first question how our words or actions will affect another person. Then, let's walk in love.

[Editor's Note: This article was written from a message Kenneth E. Hagin taught at Campmeeting 2003. The message—The Love Walk—is available for purchase on CD and MP3 at rhema.org/store.]



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REFINING YOUR FAITH LIKE

"YES, I'M BEING TESTED BY THE FIRE, BUT I'M ALSO BEING PURIFIED. AND I'M DETERMINED THAT I WILL COME OUT OF THE FIRE LIKE PURE GOLD."

FIERY TRIALS ARE a part of life. I've experienced them, and I'm sure you have too. I know that the same God Who met me in the middle of a fiery trial will meet you in the middle of yours. He will cause you to triumph, just as He promised in His Word (2 Cor. 2:14).

The Apostle Peter said, "Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you" (1 Peter 4:12 NLT). He also said that the trial of our faith is "much more precious than of gold that perisheth" (1 Peter 1:7).

When trials come, our faith is tested as we go through the fire. But the Lord promises in Isaiah 43:2, "When thou walkest through

the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

I'll never forget the time my husband, Ken, and I visited a gold mine in South Africa and watched as the metal was refined. Before gold can be used for jewelry or any other purpose, all impurities must be burned out.

The gold was placed in a big crucible, thrust into the fire, and heated until it melted. As the gold became



LYNETTE HAGIN

liquid, the impurities rose to the top and were skimmed off. In the same way, when we're in a trial, we may feel as though we're roasting in the middle of a big fire. But remember, God wants impurities purged out of our lives.

> Fiery trials and testings of our faith aren't much fun. Sometimes when the tests come, I say, "God, it's too hard!"

But each time those thoughts come, the Greater One on the inside rises up, and I begin to say, "Yes, I'm being tested by the fire, but I'm also being purified. And I'm determined that I will come out of the fire like pure gold."

Escaping the Flames

In Daniel chapter 3 we read how Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego were tried in the fire. They weren't thrown into the flames because they did anything wrong. They were cast into the fiery furnace because they refused to bow down to King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image.

However, Jesus met them in the middle of the fire. And when they came out, they didn't even smell like smoke. Their hair wasn't singed. Their clothes weren't burned. There weren't any signs they had ever been in the fire.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego came out of the furnace singing the praises of God! Not only that, the king was praising God too. He issued a decree that if anybody said anything bad about their God, those people would be put to death (Daniel 3:29).

We're all going to be tested by fire. Why? Because the devil is the god of this world. First Peter 5:8 says that Satan goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. But he can't devour us if we won't allow it.

You may feel as if you've been in the fire so long that you're burned to a crisp. You may feel as though you can't make it through one more test or trial. You can—Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (NKJV).

Counting It Joy

No matter how much we meditate on and believe the Word, our faith will never grow without trials and tests. Yes, faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). But faith grows as it's tested. And there will be many tests and trials of our faith.

James 1:2 says, "Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations." The New International Version says, "Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds." Why? "Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance" (v. 3).

We can rejoice when the tests and trials of life come because testing builds our endurance. If that doesn't make us feel like shouting, we can rejoice because God said the trial of our faith will cause us to come forth like pure gold (1 Peter 1:7).

We can rejoice when the tests and trials of life come because testing builds our endurance.

The Apostle Paul knew what it was like to be tested by fire. Second Corinthians 11:24–28 says that he was beaten five times with 39 stripes and three times with rods. Once he was stoned and three times he suffered shipwreck. For a day and a night, he was tossed about in the deep.

He was in perils in the city, perils in the wilderness, perils in the sea, and perils among false brethren. He had more afflictions, trials, and troubles than anyone I know of. But he was still able to say, "Thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ" (2 Cor. 2:14). Because Paul could say that, we can proclaim it too.

The next time the fire gets hot and the devil starts howling in your ear, let Paul's words ring in your heart. Just begin to declare, as he did, "Now thanks be unto God, Who always causes me to triumph in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!"

Don't Let Adversity Defeat You

Everyone faces trials at one time or another. To overcome them, we must speak God's Word. When we say what the Bible says, we will walk out of defeat and into victory!

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FAITH NUGGET

Stay Ahead of the Devil's Attacks

In 1983 my husband and I learned that our son, Craig, had a brain tumor. We prayed and stood firmly on God's Word, believing for Craig's healing. Doctors operated to remove the tumor, and today Craig is healthy with no side effects.

After the operation, I decided to stay ahead of the enemy's attacks. I determined to surround my family with good health through faith and prayer. I wasn't going to wait until something bad happened to them and then scramble to pray and confess God's Word.

So every day I mention each family member by name and say, "Thank You, Father, that every system in their bodies functions normally—every organ, every muscle, every nerve. They are healthy and whole in every way. No evil will overtake them and no plague shall come nigh them. With long life You will satisfy them and show them Your salvation."

Whenever the enemy attacks their health, I say, "Oh no you don't, Satan. I have surrounded my family with health and protection."

It's important to proclaim God's Word over our lives every day. The enemy is always trying to steal, kill, and destroy. But as we continually declare the Word, we will stop him in his tracks.



Winter Bible has been a great time of rest but also preparation. There's a lot of impartation going on. I'm getting strengthened and built up. I can't wait for next year." // Kaden, Norfolk, NE







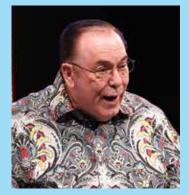












NING WITH FAITH AND LOVE

"If we want victory in our lives, our faith must work by love. Mixing faith with God's love makes a spiritual force that cannot be conquered. The Lord told me once that people in the faith camp are not missing it in their operation of faith. They miss it in not knowing how or refusing to walk in love. Not walking in love causes people to walk in defeat and failure. Troubles and trials knock on everybody's door. Sometimes it's physical symptoms or financial problems. But sometimes, it's people who come against us. When that happens, we must walk in love. We have to understand the devastating effect of unforgiveness and hatred in our hearts and what it will cost. Walking out of love hinders our faith. If your faith doesn't seem to be working, check up on your love walk."

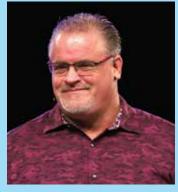




PRAY ALWAYS

"The Apostle Paul tells us to pray at all times (Eph. 6:18). He knew the significance of praying always. One of my mandates is to emphasize the importance of always praying. We can be so busy and condemn ourselves because we haven't spent an hour in uninterrupted prayer. I don't make light of the fact that we should spend uninterrupted time in prayer, but we can pray always. We can be in the Spirit at all times. God depends on His children to bring His will on the earth. It's through prayer that His will is done. But how much are we praying? I hear people say they don't like what's going on in the world. But what are we doing about it? If we want things to change, we must continue to pray. Not just a little prayer but fervent prayers."

// LYNETTE HAGIN



EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANT

"For 2022, the Lord gave me Ephesians 3:20: 'Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us' (NKJV). The Lord told me that people like to claim this verse, but they're not asking or thinking anything. I have a big imagination. So I've been asking God for things that never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would ask for. God is saying that He wants to give us exceedingly above our wildest dreams. Ephesians 3:20 doesn't just apply to finances. It applies to every area of our lives. And it applies to the 5.8 billion people who need to be saved. God wants a superabundant harvest. So go out and touch the lost and dying world like never before."

// CRAIG W. HAGIN



THE POWER IN CORPORATE PRAYER

"There is a lot of power in corporate prayer. Not only does the Holy Spirit show up, but we are filled with boldness to speak the Word. We need boldness in these last days. The Lord dropped in my heart that we need to go deeper in prayer and pray Holy Spirit strategies. It's going to take Holy Spirit strategies to navigate the End Times. To pray Holy Spirit strategies, we have to pray in the Spirit and get in tune with Him because He prays out God's perfect will. It's going to take those who are willing to go a whole lot deeper. If we can hook up in unity and go deeper, imagine the results it will produce! It's bigger than you or me. And it will take everyone coming together in unity and harmony."

// DENISE HAGIN BURNS

A Salute to Moms: Lessons We Learned From Our Mothers

Someone once said, "Life doesn't come with a manual. It comes with a mother." Where would we be without our mothers? They guide us, stand by our side, cheer us on, keep us grounded (and our bellies full), and push us to reach our full potential. Moms encourage, comfort, and love us unconditionally—often in spite of ourselves. A mother's influence on her children can be powerful and enduring.

In honor of Mother's Day, we asked Kenneth Hagin Ministries staff members to share the most important lesson they learned from their mothers. Here's what they gleaned from Mom's example and words of wisdom. To all the moms—happy Mother's Day!

"My mother lived a life of reverence for God. Though she lacked biblical knowledge, I learned by observance. Years later, I was blessed to be a part of her born-again experience and see her life transformed. The seeds she planted in me grew, and we both reaped the benefits." // LISA

"My grandmother taught me, 'Always treat people the way you would want them to treat you.' She modeled love by doing things for others and praying for them, even when they wronged her. Although it wasn't an easy task I have learned to follow in her footsteps. I've seen how beneficial it is when you love those who have wronged you. It changes you and the person who has done you wrong."

// COMAR

"My mom taught me to always be kind. That was just the way she lived her life. I don't remember her ever speaking an unkind word to or about anyone, and I learned from her example." // JUDY

"My mum taught me that forgiveness is the key to 'no regrets.' The last words my mum said to me as I was leaving Australia to move to the United States were, 'You've been a good daughter, Julie—no regrets.' I answered with tears in my eyes, 'Yes, Mum. No regrets.' "// JULIE

"The most valuable lesson I ever learned from my mother was how to focus with all that I am on worship and the Word. Any given Sunday you will see my mom in church either leading worship or worshipping with all of her strength. Her heart to worship carries right into the sermon as she sits on the edge of her seat focused on what God is saying. My mom's heart of worship has always been contagious, and to no one more than me. Today if you see me in church, I will be worshipping with all my heart, strength, and soul. I love you long time, Momma! Thank you for giving me a heart of worship!" // JEREMIAH

"My mother's generosity is a lesson for anyone in what an open heart and hand look like. I have seen her give to neighbors, friends, strangers, family—and not just a little. When she gives, she gives big! She will go without so that others have plenty. When I see the things she does for others, it motivates me to give like she does." // CASSIE

"My mom is one of the most influential people in my life. As an immigrant parent she knew that for me to have the best opportunities, she needed to instill a 'hard work' ethic into my siblings and me. I am where I am today because of the encouragement she gave me to follow the Holy Spirit and go after it with 100 percent. I am so grateful and proud of you, Mom. I love you." // BAILEY

"My mom taught me to put God's Word first in every situation, pray about everything, and not put up with anything the devil throws at me. Since I can remember, I've watched my mom discipline herself to spend the first five to six hours of her day in prayer and the Word, without fail! My family is blessed because of it, and I am forever grateful for her example."

// DANIELLE



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Host **DENISE** HAGIN BURNS



SUPERNATURAL SETUP

WE ALL WANT to see the power of God in action. However, to experience God's explosive force in our lives, we must put ourselves in position to receive it. Many times in the Bible, the power of God wasn't evident until the other person involved did something.

For instance, in the Old Testament Naaman had to dip himself in the Jordan River seven times to be healed of leprosy. (See Second Kings chapter 5.) In the New Testament, the 10 lepers were healed as they went to show themselves to the priests. (See Luke chapter 17.)

In Luke chapter 5, the supernatural was released when Peter obeyed Jesus' words. When Peter let down the net, the power of God came on the scene.

LUKE 5:4-7 (NIV)

- 4 When [Jesus] had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch."
- **5** Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. **But because you say so**, I will let down the nets."
- **6** When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.

GOD WILL OFTEN TELL US TO DO SOMETHING "NATURAL" SO IT CAN

release the power of the supernatural.



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7 So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink.

Naaman's healing, the 10 lepers, and Peter's huge haul of fish are examples of the same kind of thing. I like to describe it as "the natural and the supernatural coming together to make an explosive force for God." They all had to do something natural for the supernatural to show up.

God Expects Us to Do Our Part

The Bible gives us another example of this in Abraham. He acted on something in the natural, and then he experienced God's explosive power. Abraham believed God's promise that he would

be the father of many nations. He believed it even though he was 99 years old and his wife, Sarah, was barren. (See Genesis chapter 17.)

What did Abraham, whose name was Abram at the time, do in the natural? First, he believed God. Then he began referring to himself by the new name God had given him: *Abraham*, or "father of many." Abraham made up his mind that he would say what God said and then let God take care of His part. Each day he went around saying "my name is Abraham" until the promise came to pass.

It is our obedience to God's Word that causes His power to work on our behalf. In other words, when we do our part, God does His part.

To get anywhere with God and experience His supernatural power in our lives, we must first believe and act like the Bible is true. Then we must obey whatever the Lord tells us to do.

For instance, many times people ask the Lord to bless them financially, but they never give. They ask Him to bless them with a good job, but they never take steps to show they are willing to work. The Bible says the Lord will bless what we put our hands to (Deut. 28:8). It's not all up to us, and it's not all up to God. When we do what God says, things begin to happen!

Follow God's Leading—No Matter What

In Acts 1:4, Jesus told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift His Father promised. About 120 believers gathered in the Upper Room to wait for the power of God—the Holy Spirit—as Jesus had commanded. Acts 2:1 (NIV) says, "When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place."

I can only imagine what was going through their minds as they waited. They might have said to each other, "Why are we waiting? This doesn't make any sense" or "This is crazy. It isn't going to happen."

The devil will always come with thoughts contrary to what God said when he sees people acting on the Word. Sometimes what the Lord directs us to do may seem to make no sense. But we must learn to follow His leading no matter how strange what He instructs us to do sounds. God will often tell us to do something "natural" so it can release the power of the supernatural.

Everyone present that day received the Holy Spirit, the Church was born, and the world was forever changed because 120 people obeyed Jesus' word to "wait."

'Go Back'

Once when Lynette needed to purchase furniture for the buildings on Rhema's campus, she said, "All right, Lord, this is Your money. Now, You help us."

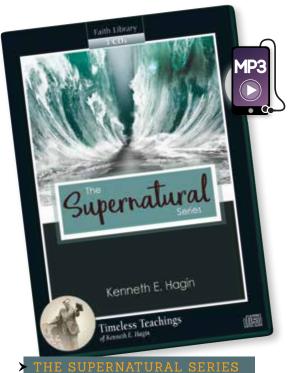
There was one piece of furniture from a particular store that Lynette wanted for an office. She had gone to that store a great number of times. And each time she said, "I'm not going to pay that amount for that."

In the natural, she did some research on the furniture. She was praying the next morning and heard the Lord say, "Go back to that store."

She said, "I was just at that store yesterday!" He said, "Go to the store."

Signs and Wonders

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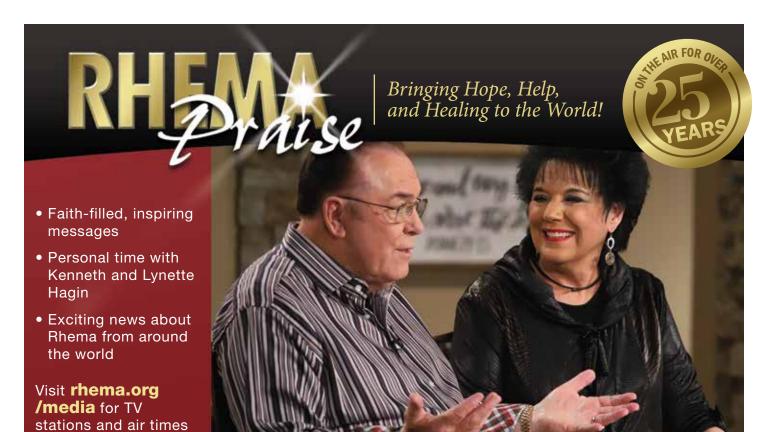
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When Lynette walked into the store, there was a big "50 percent off" sign on that piece of furniture! If she had persisted in arguing with the Lord and not gone back, she would have missed out.

We may not always realize it, but when we feel we should take some natural step, it may be God's supernatural power at work. He may be helping us or protecting us—sometimes from getting in a mess. We never know what following the non-spiritual things God tells us to do will lead to. But if we're faithful to do what He says, the natural will set us up for the supernatural to take over.





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IT IS IMPORTANT TO RECOGNIZE THAT THE SOURCE OF THE OPPOSITION IS SATAN—AND TO **stand your ground**.

SO MANY TIMES people don't know whether God or the devil is doing certain things. "Well," they say, "maybe the Lord is trying to teach me something."

I remember hearing an evangelist years ago. He had a tent that seated 20,000 people. But when he put it up down in Texas, a tornado came along and blew it away. At this meeting they were taking up a special offering to help him get another tent. I remember he said, and I almost fell off the bench when I heard him say it, "I don't know whether God or the devil blew away my tent."

God is not blowing down gospel tents! God is putting them up! "Yes," somebody said, "but God allowed it."

God is not the god of this world. Second Corinthians 4:4 calls Satan the god of this world. And the laws governing the earth today came into being largely with the fall of man.

It is because people do not understand this that they accuse God of causing accidents, sickness, the death of loved ones, storms, catastrophes, earthquakes, and floods. God is not responsible for, nor the author of, any one of those things. Jesus set aside these natural laws, as we understand them, in order to bless humanity. Jesus stood on board a ship and rebuked a storm, saying, "Peace, be still" (Mark 4:39). According to John 14:10, it was God in Him Who did that work. If God caused the storm, God would be working against Himself in causing it to cease.

That cannot be. For Jesus said, "If a kingdom be divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house be divided against itself, that house cannot stand" (Mark 3:24–25).

Determine the Source

It is very easy to find out where things come from. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself contrasted His works with the works of the devil in John chapter 10.

JOHN 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

In contrasting His works with the works of the devil, Jesus is contrasting God's works with the works of the devil. For on one occasion Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). On another occasion when one disciple said to Him, "Show us the Father," Jesus answered, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father. . . . The Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:9-10). If you want to see God at work, look at Jesus.

It would absolutely erase all confusion as to where a thing is coming from if we would listen to the Word of God.

If you will get into God's Word, it will straighten out your thinking. Think in line with what the Word says—not necessarily with what you have been taught it says, nor what somebody told you it says. Ask yourself, "What does the Word of God say?"

Don't Blame God

You need to realize this: Many times, particularly in the Old Testament, when it talks about God doing something, He did not actually perform it. In other words, He was not the agent who did it. He did not send evil on anyone. God already had warned them, "If you sin, these things will happen to you."

Suppose, for instance, a man climbs up on a house, then falls off and breaks his leg. God put into motion the law of gravity. But the man could not say, "God broke my leg," or, "God pushed me off the roof," or even, "God did it." No. God put into motion the law of gravity; the man violated it and reaped the results.

Now then, when certain things happen in life—such as sickness and disease, catastrophe, and so forth—and people say, "God did it," no, He did not. They happen because man sinned. Not the individual involved, necessarily, but Adam sinned—and all mankind fell heir to the terrible results. As John Alexander Dowie said, "Sickness is the foul offspring of its mother Sin and its father Satan."

But, thank God, we do not have to let Satan dominate us. Even though he is the god of this world, he does not have the right to dominate the Church. He does not have the right to dominate us as believers.

Stand Your Ground

It is important to recognize that the source of the opposition is Satan—and to stand your ground.

Too many people are ready to give up on something instead of recognizing that it is Satan who is trying to keep it from happening. Many of the things we pray about—finances, healing, and so on—have to come to pass in this world realm. And Satan is at work here. He will put up every block he can to keep it from happening. Then if there is a delay, some people say, "Maybe God doesn't want me to have that after all." They lose out when they should have recognized the source of all opposition is Satan and not allowed him to defeat them.

God revealed to the Apostle Paul exactly what we are to do when opposition arises. Paul, writing to the Church at Ephesus, plainly said, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord." (Eph. 6:10).

It does not say a thing in the world about us being strong in ourselves. That's where people miss it. They drop back into the natural and try to do it themselves. It says, "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." Just wrap yourself in the promises of God and enjoy yourself.

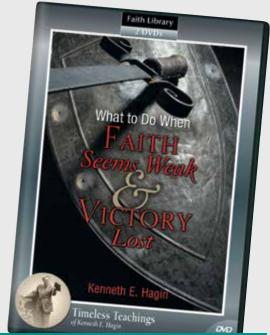
If you want to walk in victory, recognize that the source of all opposition is Satan, and stand against him. We need to realize that we have authority over the devil in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. We can stand against him. We can be victorious through the Lord Jesus Christ.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book What to Do When Faith Seems Weak & Victory Lost.]

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"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)

MAKING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL OF YOUR LIFE

I HAVE ALWAYS loved Precious Moments figurines and began collecting them many years ago. The manufacturer only makes so many figurines of one type and then breaks the mold, never to be used again.

For years my husband has given me a Precious Moments at Christmas, our anniversary, my birthday, and Mother's Day. Each is very special to me. They all have meaning and special sayings, such as: "Your Love Fills My Heart," "Our Picture Book of Love," "I Love You for All You Do."

Some of my Precious Moments are behind glass and others are on open shelving. Recently as my husband was turning on a light in the hallway where the shelving is, he accidentally knocked over one of my Precious Moments. It fell to the floor and broke into pieces. The figurine was a little girl with pom-poms. The inscription was, "Your Spirit Is an Inspiration."

My husband was devastated, as he knew that the figurine could not be replaced. I picked up the broken pieces and pondered what I should do with them. I started to throw all the pieces in the trash, but instead, I laid them on the kitchen counter. We were going out of town so I thought, "I'll deal with this when we return."

When I returned home, much to my amazement, the little girl with pom-poms was put back together. I could not even tell it had been broken. One of our talented employees, who seems to be able to do the impossible, saw it and put it back together. I had not told him it was broken or asked if he could try to fix it. My husband and I were all smiles when we saw that Precious Moments put back together so perfectly.

As I was gazing at the figurine, the Lord seemed to say, "That is what I desire to do for My children." Psalm 34:18 (NLT) says, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted; he rescues those whose spirits are crushed." You may feel as though you have been broken in many pieces. The Lord is willing and able to put all of your broken pieces back together.

Many times our lives become broken because we want to do things our way rather than God's way. We find an example of this in the Bible. Abraham was called by God and was given many instructions. God told Abraham that he would have many descendants.

"Then the Lord said to him, 'No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir.' Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, 'Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!'" (Gen. 15:4–5 NLT).

We know the story. Abraham and his wife Sarah got impatient because the son did not come when they were expecting. So they decided to help God out. (See Genesis chapter 16.)

We often do the same thing. When what God spoke to us about does not come to pass in the expected time, we try to make it happen. In doing so, we make wrong decisions and try to put the broken pieces of our lives back together.

Before my husband and I were married, I decided that God wasn't bringing my spouse to me in the time I expected. I decided to help God out and was in a serious relationship with a person. After several months, the guy broke up with me, and I was devastated.

At the moment of my brokenness, I said to God, "I've tried to help you out and have made a mess of this. I'm turning this over to you and am trusting you to bring the right person to me."

Of course, the rest is history. God did bring the right person along, and we are working on our 57th year of marriage.

Psalms 147:3 (NLT) says, "He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds." I would encourage you to let God direct your entire life. I have lived my life by Proverbs 3:5–6 (NLT), "Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take."

I love the song written by Bill Gaither called "Something Beautiful." A portion of it says, "Something beautiful, something good. All my confusion He understood. All I had to offer Him was brokenness and strife. But he made something beautiful of my life."

If you will trust God, He will make something beautiful out of the broken pieces of your life.

Synette

*Something Beautiful, Bill & Gloria Gaither, Gaither Music Co., © 1971



Can a Kid Make a Difference?

Many adult Christians are making a difference in their world. So, the question is, "Can a kid make a difference, too?"

SOME KIDS IN THE BIBLE MADE A DIFFERENCE!

If you don't think a kid can make a difference, maybe you should read your Bible again! Each poem below

refers to a kid in the Bible who made a difference in his day. See if you can figure out who each poem refers to.

The disciples wanted to send all the people away. But Jesus took what I had and began to pray. And the little that I had fed a great multitude. I made a difference when I gave Him my food! Who am I? (John 6)

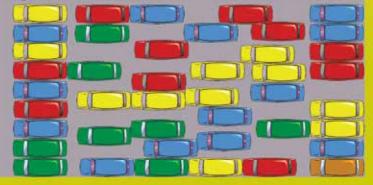
When I was a child, the smallest and the least, God spoke to me instead of to the priest. Yes, He spoke to me, but still I had a choice. I made a difference 'cause I obeyed His voice. Who am I? (1 Samuel 3)

I was only 8 years old when I became the king. A kid ruling a kingdom? Who's heard of such a thing! But I followed God's laws and so He blessed my throne. I made a difference 'cause I served God alone! Who am I? (2 Kings 22)

Many Ways to Make a Difference



The little boy wants to "make a difference" by helping the older man get to his car. See how many different ways you can find to get between the parked cars below to the man's orange car on the bottom right.













A Puzzling situatio

The puzzle above is missing just one piece . . . but only one of the pieces on the right will fit correctly. Don't forget the details of the story about the boy who gave his five loaves and two fish to the Lord or you may choose the wrong piece.



does good, like medicine."

-Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

What did the duck put in its soup? Quackers

What gets wetter the more that it dries?

A Towel

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a wild dog? **Frostbite**

Why did the banana go to the hospital?

It wasn't "peeling" well

What is so fragile that even saying its name will break it? Silence

Inoitentic gnilzzu9 A

Asisol .5

1. The boy who gave Jesus his lunch to feed the 5,000. Can a Kid Make A Difference?

Answers:



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