



THE Word of Faith

JUNE/JULY 2022

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



PAGE 18

**A PORTRAIT
OF FATHERHOOD:**

FIVE TRAITS OF A GOOD FATHER

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the Word of Faith



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The Choice Is Yours

It's crucial that we guard against being problem-conscious instead of spirit-conscious. When we are problem-conscious, we will criticize and condemn everything we look at and think about. Everything we see will be negative. On the other hand, if we stop focusing on our problems and focus on Jesus, the way we view our problems will change. Our imperfections and negativism will fade away when we get our focus off of problems and onto the Problem Solver.

Jesus is the Answer, and He has put His Spirit in us. That means our answer is right in front of us and living inside us. All the power of God is at our disposal if we will just take our eyes off the problem and praise Him for what He is doing and is about to do in our lives!

In Acts chapter 16 we see that Paul and Silas had a big problem. An entire town wanted them dead, they were in severe pain from being beaten, and their hands and feet were in stocks in a dark dungeon. Because they were more conscious of their God than they were of their problem, they began to sing praises at midnight (v. 25). They probably didn't feel like doing that, but they chose to do it. They understood that when we praise God, His power and presence are released to solve the problem. And not only were they delivered, but God brought about the salvation of many people.

The choice is ours. Will we be overwhelmed by our problems? Or will we be overwhelmed by God? If we will become spirit-conscious instead of problem-conscious, we will be inspired and re-fired, and our faith will release God's delivering power.

Kenneth W. Hagin

PS. Happy Fourth of July! As we approach Independence Day in the United States, take a moment to pray for our nation, and thank God for all He has done for our country.

THIS ISSUE



4 Let Go and Hang On

CRAIG W. HAGIN

God has a future—a plan—for each of us. But we'll never move forward holding on to our past. Discover the key to letting go.

10 Running Your Race

KENNETH E. HAGIN

It is important to follow God's plan for your life. Learn how to successfully run the race God has set before you and finish your course with joy!

14 Celebrate Your Season

DENISE HAGIN BURNS

Are you struggling to enjoy a new phase of life? Learn four simple ways to embrace your season.

18 A Portrait of Fatherhood: Five Traits of a Good Father

KENNETH W. HAGIN

Discover five important attributes of a good father all dads should strive to have.

SEED THOUGHTS Page 22

FAITH ACADEMY Page 23



I'VE FOUND THAT THE ONLY WAY WE CAN TRULY LET GO OF SOMETHING IS TO *hang on to Someone else.*

LET GO AND HANG ON

SOME CHRISTIANS ARE holding unforgiveness in their hearts but don't realize it! They can't get over certain situations in their past. And because of that, they can't move forward in life.

The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 3:13–14 (NKJV), *“One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

“Forgetting those things which are behind. . . .” How many of us would say, “Easier said than done!” But scripture tells us that we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us (Phil. 4:13). We can get over that situation and get over ourselves.

I understand that we may have experienced something that wasn't good. Or we may have done something we wish we could undo. We can't change the past. And I'm not saying what we did or what was done to us was right. But for our own sanity, we have to move forward. And we can never move forward by looking back.



CRAIG W. HAGIN

I believe that's why Paul was so big on forgetting those things which were behind. He did things he probably wished he'd never done. If he had continued to think about his past, he would never have accomplished all that he did.

Unforgiveness Checkup

Many of us are familiar with Mark 11:24: *“What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”* But have you noticed what verse 25 says? *“And when ye stand praying (that's the same praying you were doing in verse 24), FORGIVE, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.”*

The word *ought* in this verse is not one we use a lot. It means to have unforgiveness toward someone.

People say, “I've gotten over that. I've forgiven that person.” Well, if that's true, why does your blood pressure rise when you're in the room with that person? Why do things feel awkward and uncomfortable? It's because you're holding ought, and you ought not to do it!

We need to check up on ourselves. If we don't, unforgiveness will continue to dwell and grow on the inside. And soon, we'll have stage 4 unforgiveness eating us up.

My grandfather Kenneth E. Hagin always talked about how he would check up on himself when it seemed as if things weren't going right in his life. He'd ask, "Do I have unforgiveness in my heart toward someone? Is there something that is holding me back?"

Forgiving others needs to become a habit. In my own life, I've had times when people did some things to me that weren't very nice. And I could easily have held unforgiveness against them.

When things like that happen, I try to put myself in the other person's situation: "Maybe they did this because this happened or that happened." Regardless of why, I've decided that I'm not going to let those things bother me.

One of my favorite things to do when someone is mad and unforgiving toward me is to pour out love toward them. I do not want to be bound by unforgiveness!

How to Let Go

I've found that the only way we can truly let go of something is to hang on to Someone else. God is the only One Who can help us obliterate our past. When we need to let go, we have to hang on to Him—His Word, His ability, His strength, and His power.

What you're looking at today might not be a good situation. But God doesn't see just today; He sees tomorrow. And when you start to hang on to Him, you can think about tomorrow too!

"Yeah, but things haven't changed," someone may say. That's where faith kicks in. That's where you have to believe things you can't see and let go of what you're holding on to.

"Well, I don't know how we can restore this situation." It's not about what *you* can do! The Bible says God's love has been poured out in our hearts (Rom. 5:5 NKJV). It's about His mercy, forgiveness, and love working in us.

You Have a Future!

I know that letting go is not always easy, and it's uncomfortable. But to move forward, we have to be willing to let go of the wrong things.

YOUR SAVIOR DIDN'T COME SO YOU
COULD REMEMBER ALL THE BAD THINGS
THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO YOU ALL THE
DAYS OF YOUR LIFE!

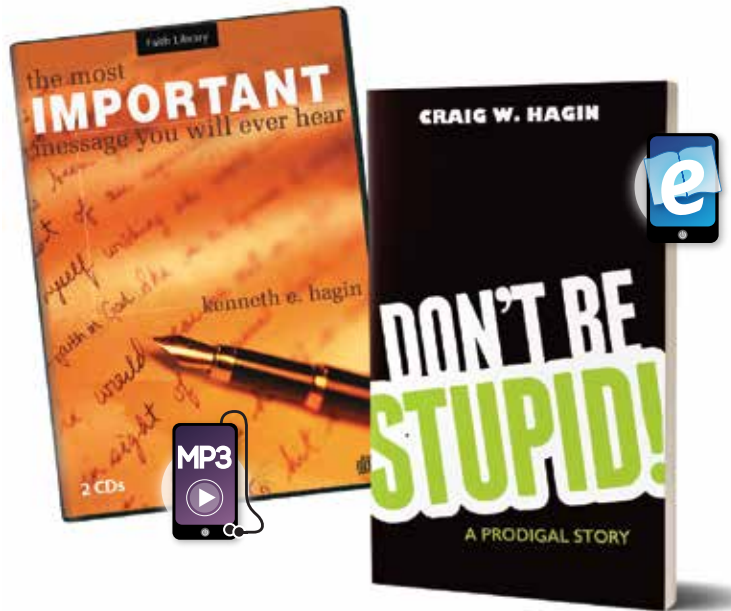
Think about a trapeze artist at a circus. When he lets go of the bar, he has to focus on what's next. But he'll never have "what's next" if he never lets go.

God has a future for you—a plan! Don't hold yourself back by holding on to unforgiveness. Instead, do as it says in Hebrews 12:2—"Look unto Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of your faith." Put Philippians 3:14 (NKJV) into practice and "*press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*"

Your Savior didn't come so you could remember all the bad things that have happened to you all the days of your life! Jesus said He came so you would have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

You have to let go and let God. He's able, He's willing, and He has something better for you. Your best is yet to come!♥

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True Freedom

JOE DUININCK

WE ARE MEMBERS of the Rhema family, and freedom is a part of who we are and what we believe. But it can be a little tricky to know what freedom really is.

We can see what freedom looks like in a church service when someone takes a lap around the auditorium. But we don't always know what freedom looks like on Monday morning when we go to work, or when we encounter a challenging relationship, or when the Lord tells us to do something that doesn't feel very freedom-like.

We often interpret words based on our history and culture as well as on their definitions. But have we properly defined the word *freedom*?

Here is one example of how a word can carry very different meanings for different people. In 1962 Don Richardson, a Canadian missionary, went to Papua New Guinea to work among the Sawi tribe. As he shared Christ with them, he discovered that they regarded Judas as the hero, not Jesus. In their culture, treachery, betrayal, and deception were wonderful things. They meant something totally different to the Sawi than they did to him. He had to find another way to explain the Gospel. He eventually did find that way, and the Sawi embraced it.

There is a similar problem in our culture with the word *freedom*. For many people, freedom means being able to do anything they want to do. But is that the correct biblical definition of freedom? **WHAT DOES FREEDOM IN CHRIST LOOK LIKE?** Let's look at John chapter 8.

JOHN 8:31–36 (NIV 1984)

31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.

32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

33 They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"

34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever.

36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

Jesus told His disciples that if they obeyed His commands, they would be free. Now, most people don't put obeying a command and being free in the same sentence. They think there aren't any commands associated with freedom. But Jesus was saying that to be free, we will have restrictions.

Many people, however, want to limit these restrictions. They want to know the rules and regulations they *have* to follow so they can ultimately do what they really want to do.

Here is the challenge with this kind of thinking. We can't bring an "I've got my rights and nobody can tell me what to do" attitude into a scriptural truth. When we do, we're trying to blend a cultural attitude and a spiritual truth together. And what we end up with is not the Gospel.

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus told John to write to the head of the Church at Ephesus and tell him that they had lost their first love. On the other hand, Jesus applauded them for hating the doctrine of the Nicolaitans. (See Rev. 2:1–7.) The Nicolaitans wanted to hold on to their

culture and blend it into the Gospel. In the end, the Gospel became so watered down that there really wasn't any Gospel at all.

We have to realize that there are things we're *free* from and things we're free *to*. If we think freedom is only what we've been delivered from and not what we've been brought into, we don't fully understand freedom. We are free from bondage and sin's domination. We are free from sin's impact on our lives. But we are also free to be slaves to righteousness (Rom. 6:16–18). We are free to live consecrated to the Lord. We are free to say all day, "Lord, not my will, but Yours be done."

TRUE FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS BEING A SERVANT. It's not focusing on us but on others. It's honoring God with our bodies and not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh. To some this may sound like restrictions. But that's because they don't understand what freedom really means.

Let's stop trying to figure out how much of a worldly lifestyle we can get away with. Instead, let's live dedicated, sanctified, sacrificial, and crucified lives.

If we think freedom is doing whatever we want to do, we'll never be satisfied. We'll dance in church but be miserable after we leave. True satisfaction in life is found when we follow all of the Lord's commands.

When we understand this, we'll experience a freedom that causes us to dance in church, on the job, in relationships, and with our responsibilities. Because on the inside, we will be truly free.♥

[Editor's Note: Joe Duinick is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College.]



**INSTRUCTOR
HIGHLIGHT**

BUILDING A GREAT MARRIAGE: Three Tips for Keeping the Connection

JOE MCGEE

IT'S WELL-KNOWN THAT anything left on its own will decay. That means whatever we're not working to strengthen is getting weaker.

BUILDING A GREAT MARRIAGE TAKES PURPOSEFUL, DAILY EFFORT USING TOOLS FROM GOD'S WORD. Here are three tips for building your marriage and keeping it strong.

1. Do Things Together

Find something you enjoy doing together—like going for a walk, riding a bike, reading a book, or talking about something. Spending time together is a big part of building your relationship. When you get married, you promise to stay *together*, not stay the *same*. The person you married all those years ago changes every year, just as you do. So it's important to date your spouse.

We have a relationship with God and we are saved, but God wants our fellowship too. He wants us to talk to Him and listen to Him. The relationship with your spouse is no different. That talking and listening is what creates intimacy—especially

over the years as you change. Marriage has to be more than just sleeping in the same bed, paying bills, and sharing a mortgage payment.

Start visiting with your spouse and getting to know him or her all over again!

2. Dream Together

Dreaming is something you used to do as a kid. Your best buddies and you would dream when you were in elementary school. You did it before you got married—you dreamed about what your life would be like, where you would live, what you would be doing, and how many kids you would have.

Do you want to maintain a healthy marriage? Dream together. Many day-to-day conversations in marriage end up being about maintenance—bills, crooked teeth, or broken dryer doors.

According to Proverbs 13:12, hope deferred makes the heart sick. You need to dream about your future together. Try a five-year plan, a five-month plan, or a five-week plan. The idea is to talk about where you want

to be headed. Get detailed or keep it simple; the point is to write something down. We are to “write the vision and make it plain” so that we can run together (Hab. 2:2).

3. Pray Together

According to Matthew 18:19, when you get together as a couple and agree about your future, powerful things start to happen.

Plus, it's really hard to lose it when you're praying together. That doesn't mean things will be perfect. But when you're committed to seeking God together and using His Word as the guide for your life, you're on the right path.

Sometimes you'll say, “Hey, come here a second. Let's pray about this real quick.” Other times it will be more planned. But never overlook the quick moments to get into agreement on something. Nothing is too small or too big to believe for together. When spouses pray together, an incredible bonding takes place that causes your intimacy to grow.

In addition to praying *with* your spouse, you need to pray *for* them. It's difficult to complain about your spouse when you are taking him or her to God in prayer regularly.

A MARRIAGE IS A PROBLEM-SOLVING TEAM. When you get into agreement in the Word of God, you'll see great things happen!♥

[Editor's Note: Joe McGee is a 1981 RBTC graduate. For over 35 years, he's been committed to restoring hope and reaching families through every available avenue across the United States. This article previously appeared in the Spring/Summer 2014 edition of *Connections*, the Rhema Bible Training College alumni magazine.]

FAITH IN ACTION

Take the 'Happy' Challenge

Ask yourself, “What one thing can I do to make my spouse happy today?” It doesn't have to be big or something you have to buy. Just ask yourself, “Is there something I can do today to show my spouse I care—to make their load easier or make them smile?” You're not looking for a reward. You're doing this just because you love them—just because they're special to you.



JESUS DIDN'T FIND A CHURCH; HE BUILT ONE (MATT. 16:18). IT'S NO DIFFERENT WITH MARRIAGE. WE DON'T FIND A GREAT MARRIAGE; *we build one.*



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RUNNING YOUR RACE



Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

WE CAN MAKE OUR WAY DIFFICULT AND HINDER OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH IF WE DO NOT RUN WITH *patience* THE RACE THAT IS SET BEFORE US.

YOU HAVE A particular race that God has set before *you*. It is a *spiritual* race that has to do with the divine destiny God has planned for you to fulfill. The Bible says you are to run your race and to finish your course (2 Tim 4:7). In other words, you are to fulfill God's plan and purpose for your own life. You are not to run someone else's race or finish their course. God has set a different course for each of us.

Lay Aside Every Weight

How do you run your race in a way that will cause the plan of God to be fulfilled in your life? Hebrews 12:1 says to, "*lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.*" *The Living Bible* gives a clearer picture of what it means to "lay aside every weight and sin."

HEBREWS 12:1 (TLB)

1 Since we have such a huge crowd of men of faith watching us from the grandstands, let us strip off anything

that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up; and let us run with patience the particular race that God has set before us.

Think about the clothes a runner wears in an Olympic race. He doesn't run with an overcoat or with all his street clothes on. That would slow him down. It's the same way in the spiritual realm. Sin will slow you down, trip you up, and prevent you from running your race. There are other things in this life that are not necessarily wrong, but they will slow you down. They will hinder you from growing spiritually and fulfilling God's purposes in your life.

Notice Hebrews 12:1 says *you* are the one who must strip off the weights and sins that hold you back. The Holy Spirit, your Helper, dwells within you to give you the power and ability to obey God (John 14:26 AMP). But God is not going to pull off your "overcoat"—those weights and sins that slow you down—and lay it aside for you. You are going to have to do it.

God doesn't want our race to be difficult and burdensome. The difficulties we face are not God's yoke on us. They are often the result of failing to strip off everything that would hinder us.

Run With Patience

We can also make our way difficult and hinder our spiritual growth if we do not run our race with *patience*. It is easy to become impatient in our desire to see God's plans and purposes fulfilled in our lives. For example, we can become so time conscious. Many

The difficulties we face are not God's yoke on us.



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times when we hear from the Lord regarding His plan for us, we want it to be fulfilled immediately. But we need to learn patience as we run our race.

Jesus told me once when He appeared to me in a vision, "I'd rather you were too slow than too fast when you are trying to follow my leading. At least when you're behind Me, you can still see Me out ahead of you. But if you're too fast and jump out ahead of Me, you won't be able to see Me any longer, and you'll get off track."

Our race is often like a relay race where the runner races until he reaches a certain station. Then he hands the baton to the next runner. In the same way, there are often different stages to the Christian race. However, God has a timing for each of the stages. Often, our obedience determines how long the time is between one stage and the next.

Preparing for His Purposes

Many times people hear from God regarding the next stage in their race and assume they are supposed to act right away on what they heard. Many times, however, they are not ready or they have not fully prepared themselves as they should. When they step out to do what God told them, it doesn't work out right, and they fall on their faces. God has a *way*, but He also has *timing*. And to move out of God's timing is to move out of His will.

Someone might say, "Will things ever change? I know God is preparing me, and I want to be faithful. It seems that I've been in this place of preparation for a long time. Will it ever be different?" Just continue to trust God with all your heart. Don't try to figure out how and when God is going to fulfill His plan for you. As you pray, He will reveal each step you need to take.

You may not come into the full potential of what God has prepared for you tomorrow or next month. Be faithful to prepare

FAITH IN ACTION

On Your Mark, Get Set . . . Commit

When we try to run someone else's race or a race of our choosing, we are missing the mark. We are to run the race and finish the course God has uniquely designed for each of us. As you follow after God, make this commitment in your heart:

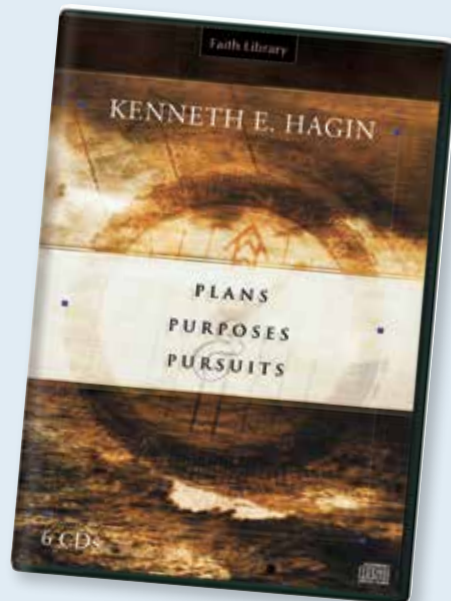
"I will always follow God in His plans for my life. It's His will that I want and not my own. I will quickly lay down the weights that would keep me from running His race. And I will not jump ahead of God but instead wait for His timing. For His way is always best."

yourself and rely on the Holy Spirit's leading. As you do this, you *will* step into what God has planned for you. And if God hasn't specifically spoken to your heart regarding His plans for your future, then just stay put where you are. Be faithful to what He has told you to do with a joyful heart.

Strip off everything that would hinder you from obeying God. Then run your race with your eyes set on the goal—the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (Phil. 3:14). Determine to follow God's plan for your life and finish your course with joy.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book, *Following God's Plan for Your Life*.]

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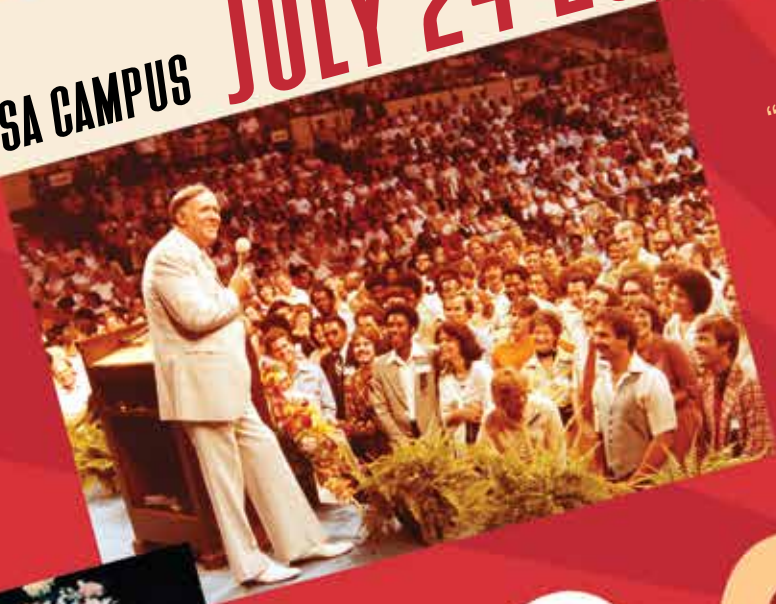
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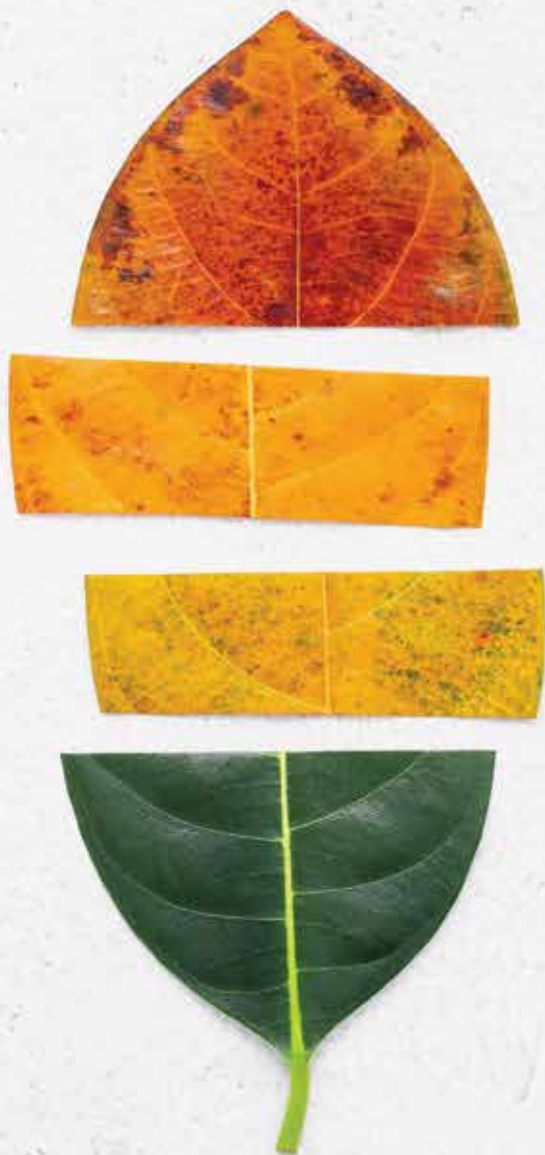
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CELEBRATE YOUR SEASON



DENISE HAGIN BURNS



WHEN WE EXPRESS GRATITUDE EACH DAY,
WE'LL BE FILLED WITH THE HOPE AND JOY
WE NEED TO WALK SUCCESSFULLY
THROUGH EACH SEASON.

GOD CREATED SEASONS. He created the natural seasons of spring, summer, fall, and winter, and He also created seasons in our lives. The consistent thing about seasons is, they always change. Ecclesiastes 3:1 (NLT) says, “*For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven.*”

In the natural, everyone has their favorite season. Some people enjoy the long, warm days of summer, while others prefer the cool and colorful days of autumn. At some point in life, most people experience seasons of singleness, marriage, and caring for aging parents. Parents experience seasons of little kids, big kids, teenagers, and empty nesting.

What do we do when we don't like the season of life we find ourselves in? Some phases of life simply aren't as enjoyable as others. But when those times come, we can be certain that God has our best interests in mind. He sees the big picture.

The Lord showed me that when it comes to life, people often get hung up on the destination. He once said to me, “It's not about a destination; I'm interested in the journey.”

Many people are missing what God has called them to do because they're so concerned about the destination. They want to be wherever “there” is. In the meantime, they miss the journey and everything God wants to teach them along the way.

I've been guilty of this. I have a Type A personality; therefore, I am naturally wired to focus on getting to the destination as quickly as possible. One day the Lord began speaking to me about the season I was in and enjoying the journey. He took me to the Book of Ecclesiastes.

ECCLESIASTES 8:15 (NLT)

15 I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life.

God showed me I was so concerned about getting to the destination that I wasn't having fun! He told me to relax and have fun. He said, “Denise, I want you to celebrate your season, whether it's good, bad, hard, or stressful. Celebrate it.”

I believe celebration is an important but underrated spiritual discipline. It's a discipline because celebrating during hard times doesn't come naturally; we must develop it within ourselves.

One definition of *celebrate* is “to praise someone or something; to say that someone or something is great.” In the midst of hard times, we can choose to celebrate by declaring God's greatness and focusing on His good plan for our lives.

One of God's good plans is found in Psalm 23:5 (NLT): “*You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies.*” It takes spiritual discipline to sit down and have a feast in the middle of difficult circumstances.

I once asked the Lord about this particular verse. Why would we relax and feast while our enemies surround us? Who does that? He said, “In the middle of stressful, dangerous, heart-wrenching, heartbreaking circumstances, I want you to sit down with Me. I want you to relax, and fellowship, and enjoy—because I’ve got you. Even with everything happening around you, you can have fun. We’re going to sit here for a bit, and then I’ll walk you through it.”

Simple Ways to Celebrate Your Season

Are you struggling to enjoy a new phase of life? God knows that moving from one season to the next can be uncomfortable, painful, and frustrating. He showed me four simple ways we can celebrate the seasons of life.

1 FOCUS ON HOPE

People often have a hard time celebrating their season because they’ve lost their hope. One way to celebrate is to focus on hope. That starts with the mind. *We* decide what to give our attention to. We can choose to look at the bad, or we can choose to focus on the good. Our lives will move in the direction of our strongest thought.

Hope means “to look forward with desire and reasonable confidence.” That means we can be 100 percent confident that God is good, no matter what happens around us. The Bible says He causes every detail of our lives to be woven together for good (Rom. 8:28 TPT). God created us and He knows what brings us joy. He will lead us as we fix our eyes on Jesus and listen to His voice.

2 HAVE CONFIDENCE IN GOD’S FAITHFULNESS

In both good and difficult seasons, it is important to regularly remember God’s faithfulness. I often talk about anchor moments in our lives. These are times when God so clearly comes through for us that it anchors our soul. Those moments reassure us that God is with us and give us confidence to go on.

A practical way to remind ourselves of God’s faithfulness is to write down our anchor moments. During hard times, reading what the Lord has already done for us will provide comfort and confidence that He’s working on our behalf.

3 KEEP YOUR PRAYERS GRATEFUL

Gratitude not only changes our perspective, it changes our heart. When I began to write down what I was grateful for, I saw my season from a new point of view.

Celebrating our season requires us to stop focusing on what we don’t like and start focusing on what we do. First Thessalonians 5:16–18 (NLT) says, “*Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.*”

It’s God’s will for us to be thankful. It can be as simple as being grateful for a cup of coffee. No matter how big or small something is, giving thanks for it is a game changer! When we express gratitude each day, we’ll be filled with the hope and joy we need to walk successfully through each season.

4 FIND FRIENDS WHO ARE IN THE SAME SEASON

God didn’t call us to do life alone. We need to find friends going through the same season. We can be open with them and

share our joys and struggles. Friends who are a season ahead of us are just as helpful. They can encourage us and let us know everything will be all right.

We are called to help each other. Galatians 6:2 (NLT) tells us, “*Share each other’s burdens, and in this way obey the law of Christ.*” It takes being a little vulnerable and transparent, but it’s worth it!

Whatever your season, learn to celebrate it! This will take discipline and determination, but it’s how God wants us to live our lives.♥

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What's So Great About Being Born Again?

BEING BORN AGAIN—accepting Jesus as your Savior—is the key that unlocks God’s promises. Second Corinthians 5:17 says, “*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature [creation]: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*” If you are a believer, here are some Bible facts about who you are and what you have as a *new creation* in Christ.

1 You Are a Child of God

No truth in the Bible is as far-reaching as this: when you are born again, God is your Father. And you can be assured He will take a father’s place and perform a father’s part. He’s interested in you and loves you. (See John 14:23; 16:23, 27; Matthew 6:8–9, 26, 30–34; 7:11.)

2 You Are a New Creature—a New Creation—a New Species

I was 15 years old when I was born again. Something took place inside me. It seemed as if a two-ton load rolled off my chest. Not only did something depart from me, but something also came into me. I was not the same person.

In the New Birth, our spirits are recreated. (Our bodies are not. Our spirit is what becomes new.) The Apostle Paul calls our spirit being the *inward man* (2 Corinthians 4:16). Peter calls this inner man *the hidden*

man of the heart (1 Peter 3:4). Your spirit being is the real you.

3 All Things Are Possible to You

No one argues with Matthew 19:26, which says, “*With God all things are possible.*” Yet the same New Testament also says, “*All things are possible to him that believeth*” (Mark 9:23).

Are these scriptures equally true? Could one be a statement of fact and the other a misconception? No! Both statements are true. *All things are possible to him that believeth.*

Anytime you face a seemingly impossible situation, say aloud, “All things are possible to him that believeth. And I believe!”

4 The Greater One Is in You

1 JOHN 4:4

4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

John is telling us that we are born of God. We have been born again. *Our spirits have been recreated.* We are of God.

Sadly, some Christians don’t know they are born of God and have received eternal life (the life and nature of God). They think eternal life is something they *will* have when



they get to Heaven. They think that right now they have received only forgiveness of sins. And because of this, sin and Satan continue to reign over them.

But God *in us* is greater than any force that comes against us! He’s greater than Satan and evil spirits. He’s greater than sickness and disease. When we know that the Life-Giver dwells in us, our very beings will radiate *life*!

When you are born again, you *are* of God. You are born from above. The same Spirit Who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you. It’s no wonder the Bible says, “*All things are possible to him that believeth.*” It is because the God with whom all things are possible lives within you!♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s minibook *The New Birth*.]



KENNETH E. HAGIN

JOIN THE FAMILY

Are you born again? Do you know Jesus as your Savior and God as your Heavenly Father? If not, and you would like to be born again, pray this prayer from your heart:

God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. The Bible says, “*If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*” (Romans 10:9 NLT 2015). I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead. And I confess Him as my Lord. Therefore, I am saved! Thank You! Amen.

FOR MEN WHO have or had a good father, one of the greatest compliments they can receive is, “You’re just like your father.”

Fathers have a great responsibility. The world we live in tomorrow will be what we teach our children today. But to be good fathers, we must first follow our Heavenly Father and His Word.

In First Thessalonians 2:7–12, the Apostle Paul spoke to the Thessalonian Church as a spiritual father.

1 THESSALONIANS 2:7–12 (NIV 1984)

7 . . . we were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children.

8 We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.

9 Surely you remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you.

10 You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed.

11 For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,

12 encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

We can see in these verses five attributes of a good father that all fathers can emulate.

1 The Ability to Express Genuine Love

In verse 8 the Apostle Paul said, “*We loved you so much.*” In the original language, those words express an intense love that gives over and over again.

For fathers, consistently expressing love and affection to their children is vital. Expressing love usually doesn’t come naturally to men. I believe that’s why the Bible constantly tells husbands, “Love your wife.”

The story of the prodigal son is one of the best examples of a father’s love and care for his child. (See Luke chapter 15.) When the lost son returned home, the father didn’t hold back in expressing his love.

It’s important for a father to reassure his children that no matter how far they may wander, he will always be there with open arms to welcome them back, care for them, and love them.

2 A Transparent Life

Paul went on to say, “*We were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well*” (v. 8). Paul shared the Good News with the Thessalonians, but he also modeled it with his life. It’s one thing to preach the Gospel, but it’s another to live it! A godly father’s life—his decisions and values—should demonstrate to his children that he is a Christian.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

A PORTRAIT OF FATHERHOOD:

FIVE TRAITS OF A GOOD FATHER



IF FATHERS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE A STRONG WORK ETHIC, THEY MUST FIRST MODEL A STRONG WORK ETHIC FOR THEM.

Fathers need to be transparent with their children. A child should see their father as more than just an authority figure or a money person. When he is wrong, a good father has the courage to admit his mistakes and ask his children for forgiveness. Not only will they see their dad as someone who is real, but they will develop the same forgiving attitude. And instead of the father losing his position of authority, he will enhance it.

Once when my son, Craig, was a teenager, I wrongly jumped to a conclusion about an incident I thought he had been involved in, and I grounded him. I later found out there was a lot more to the story than I had been told. I went to him and admitted my mistake, and I asked him to forgive me.

The example a father sets—from the way he handles stress and finances to the humor and joy he exudes—will be imitated by his children.

3 Unselfish Diligence

It is a father's responsibility to teach his children a strong work ethic. Paul said, *"You remember, brothers, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you"* (v. 9).

If fathers want their children to have a strong work ethic, they must first model a strong work ethic for them. It's been said that kids who learn a good work ethic grow up to be healthier and happier than their less prepared counterparts.

Fathers can also teach children a strong work ethic by giving them chores and responsibilities from an early age. Let them learn by doing, and give them the opportunity to make mistakes and learn from them.

4 Spiritually Genuine

The Thessalonians saw how Paul lived. Paul said, *"You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed"* (v. 10). The believers in Thessalonica saw that Paul's actions lined up with his preaching. In other words, his faith was genuine.

It is absolutely essential for children to see that their father's faith is genuine—that his devotion to the Lord is true. Kids are observant. They'll notice if their dad carries his Bible to church on Sunday but never opens it during the week.

A father's worship and prayer life must be more than Sunday morning lip service. They must be demonstrated daily in the home for his children to see.

Whether they realize it or not, fathers are the spiritual leaders of their families. It is their responsibility to lead their families closer to the Lord. Fathers who fail to live a life of genuine faith—saying one thing but doing another—will lead their families away from God.

5 A Positive Influence

Speaking as a spiritual father to the Thessalonians, Paul said, *"For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,*

encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God" (vv. 11–12).

A good father encourages and comforts his children and urges them to live worthy lives for God. He speaks to his children in a positive manner.

I once read that for every positive word most dads say to their children, they say 10 negative ones. Many times dads are good at telling their kids, "no," "don't," "you can't," or "stop that." A good father understands that his words have great influence, and he uses them in a positive way to discipline, encourage, and inspire his children.

Being a father is a great responsibility. It is one of the most important and challenging things a man can do! If you're a father, practice these traits to the best of your ability, and ask the Lord for the strength and wisdom to be a good father.♥

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SPEAKER
HIGHLIGHT

SOMETIMES WE HAVE setbacks in life that knock us off our feet. And it may take us a while to figure out how to get back up.

The biblical account of Ruth shows us how to rise from tragedy. Hers is a story of redemption. Ruth rose from the ashes of loss—not because of her mighty strength but through her humility and love for her mother-in-law.

Ruth was a Moabite. She did not come from a great Israelite family or have the right background. But at the end of her story, her name was included in the lineage of Jesus.

Ruth had been married around 10 years when her first husband died. Most widows at that time lived in poverty and weren't treated well.

Like so many people who find themselves in hard times, Ruth had a choice. Would she let her situation take her backward? Or would she use her hardship to propel herself forward?

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO SEE THE FUTURE IN THE MIDDLE OF A TRAGEDY. IT CAN BE HARD TO SEE BEYOND THE LOSS. And we may have no idea how God can bring us out of the situation.

From Ruth's story, we see three ways to rise when we've been knocked down.

1 Humbly Submit

Naomi, Ruth's mother-in-law, encouraged Ruth to return to her people after her husband died. But Ruth refused. She said,

RUTH 1:16–17 (NLT)

16 "Don't ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God.

17 "Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!"

Submission to leadership is undervalued today. But it's a big deal and should not be taken lightly. It's throughout the Bible. Jesus submitted Himself to the Father.

2 Be Quick to Listen

TIME WITH THE FATHER WILL HELP YOU GET BACK UP.

You will be fueled by His power and encouraged by His presence. Within the strong fortress of God's presence, you can anchor yourself to His perspective of your future. He knows His plans and purposes for you.

Ruth was quick to listen to Naomi. She did whatever Naomi told her to do. By following her mother-in-law's advice, she married Boaz.

3 Be a Doer of the Word

ACTION CAUSES FAITH TO FIND ITS FULL EXPRESSION.

You can say you're in faith, but you have to do something. You must take a step—even if it's tiny.

It's time to grow up, walk in your purpose, and be changed by God's presence. For that to happen, you have to act on whatever God is telling you to do.

We often are waiting for God to swoop in and pick us up. But He is waiting for us to stand up and practice what we've learned (Phil. 4:9 NLT).

In this hour, it's crucial that we read our Bible and know the voice of God. We can get deceived and confused because we don't submit and don't spend time in God's presence. We're not quick to do what He tells us.

Never question God's instructions. He wants to take you to another level. When you come out on the other side, you will be stronger and better.

Just like the sun, you will rise again. God doesn't always do what you want, when you want, or how you want it. But He's always ready to do above and beyond anything you can ask or think.

No matter what it looks like, you can declare with full assurance that there is no need God cannot meet, no mountain He cannot move, no prayer He cannot answer, no sickness He cannot heal, no heart He cannot mend, and no door He cannot open. You will rise again. ♣

Just like the sun, you will rise again.

[Editor's Note: Ty Ward is a 1998 RBTC graduate. She currently serves as the young adult minister and marketing director at Word of Life Christian Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.]

SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

SHUTTING OUT THE NOISE

AS I WAS looking back on my notes for "Seed Thoughts," I realized I began this column in June 2001—21 years ago. Wow! I had no idea it had been that long. Time passes so quickly. I endeavor to plant seed thoughts in this column to help you navigate life.

I appreciate the kind notes and letters I receive about this column. Know that I read each one of them. As I begin writing this column for each issue of *The Word of Faith*, I always ask the Lord for words that would minister to individuals.

As I was meditating on this issue, I began thinking about the noisy world we live in. I remember asking my grandmother to tell me about what I would call the "olden days." She told me how they didn't have indoor bathrooms. They had what was called an "outhouse." Baths were taken in a tub filled with water. Cars had just been invented but very few people had them. Most people grew their own food. They had iceboxes, not electric refrigerators.

Neither my kids nor grandkids could imagine living during those times. When my grandchildren ask me to tell them about the "olden days," they are astounded. They can't imagine life without the internet, cell phones, a voice navigation system, and social media in all kinds of forms.

As I pondered those conveniences, though they can be a tremendous help, I realized how much of a distraction they are as well.

Many times when I am ministering, the Lord directs me to focus on the role the Holy Spirit should play in our lives. As a reminder, I want to read a few scriptures from the book of John. Jesus was about to leave the earth, and the disciples were in panic mode. Jesus had always been there to teach them and answer their questions. I can imagine them asking, "What are we going to do when You leave? Who will answer our questions?"

Jesus replied, "*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you*" (John 14:16–17 NKJV).

The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* makes it a little clearer, "*And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.*"

We often look to others for wisdom, knowledge, and guidance. Of course, in the natural, we look to others for information. However, when making decisions that will affect our lives, it is of utmost importance that we look to the Counselor on the inside of us, the Holy Spirit. For you see, the Holy Spirit only speaks what the Father tells Him.

John 16:13 (AMPC) says it this way, "*But when He, the Spirit of Truth (the Truth-giving Spirit) comes, He will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].*"

It is so important in our noisy world to shut out the voices of distraction and listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit, Who is there to direct our lives. I always listen to special worship music as I get ready for the day. It helps me to hear instructions from the Holy Spirit. I keep the music at a low volume.

Recently, my husband was listening to his worship music in an adjoining room. His music was so loud I was having trouble hearing my music. I became distracted and frustrated because I couldn't hear the music I loved. At that moment, the Holy Spirit said to me, "That is exactly what happens in life. The devil is screaming in people's ears to distract them, and they do not recognize and hear My Voice."

What a revelation that was to me. Make sure you shut out the noise the enemy brings and listen to the whisper of the Holy Spirit. He will help you in every decision and situation you face in life.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Faith Doesn't Need It!



3 Heroes of Faith!

Hebrews chapter 11 is often called the "Hall of Faith." Within the first seven verses, you will find the names of three Heroes of Faith. Those heroes' names are shown in the three green boxes below, but you've got to figure them out by putting the letters and pictures together to create the sound of each name.

a

1.

e

2.

ah

3.

The eye, the ear, and the mouth are all very important parts of the human body. But when it comes to the walk of faith, one of them is not needed. Read the scriptures below and see if you can figure out which one it is.

Galatians 3:2 (NKJV)—“Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”

2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)—“For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

Romans 10:8 (NKJV)—“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith which we preach).”

Hebrews 11:1—“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

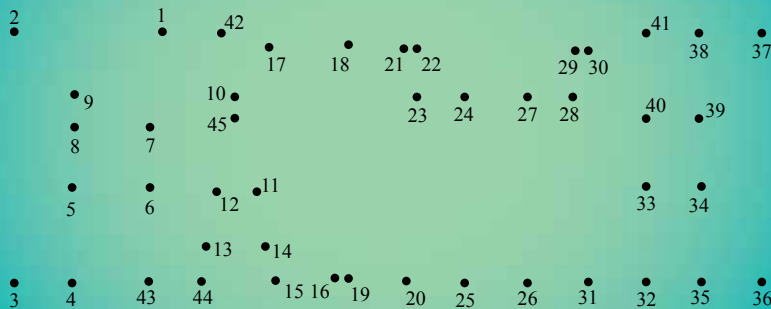
Matthew 17:20 (NKJV)—“For assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.”

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)—“So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Did you figure it out? Faith comes by “hearing something” with the ear, and faith is expressed by “saying something” with the mouth. But when it comes to faith . . . “the eyes DON'T have it!”

Connect the Dots

Using a pencil or pen, connect the dots below starting at the number 1 and go all the way to the number 45 to discover the secret to success!



jokes & riddles



“A merry heart does good, like medicine.”

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

What did the traffic light say to the car?

“Don’t look now. I’m changing.”

What did the Martian say to the gardener?

“Take me to your weeder!”

What do you call a stop watch on the moon?

A lunar tick

What is the most dangerous city in the whole world?

Electri-city

What would you use to cut the sea in half?

A sea saw

Answers:
THREE HEROES OF FAITH!
 1. ABEL 2. ENOCH 3. NOAH
CONNECT THE DOTS
 Connecting the dots spells out the word FAITH



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