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JANUARY 2024

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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the Word of Faith



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Reaching for the New

All of us face the new year with new possibilities and opportunities. You may not have realized it, but we can choose what we want for the upcoming year. We can't do anything about what happened last year, but we *can* control what we do in 2024. Some people constantly think about the past and try to relive the good things that happened. Other people try to preserve the present. They don't like change, and they try to keep things just as they are. Still others move on and pursue the prize in front of them. The Apostle Paul was always thinking about moving forward with God. And he tells us to "forget the past and press on to what lies ahead" (Phil. 3:13).

As we move into 2024, let's press forward as if we are running a race. The entire year is in front of us. So remember that it's not a sprint—it's a marathon. To win our race this year, we have to pace ourselves and focus on crossing the finish line. When problems arise, keep your eyes on Jesus. He told us that problems would come. But He said, "Don't worry. Just stay with Me. I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Let's focus on what God has for us this year. As we stay steady and run our race, we will find that God's grace is sufficient to see us through whatever happens. He is with us every day of the year and will give us the strength to go through this, that, and anything else. Let's keep believing and keep going. In the end, we'll come out all right.

We've put together a great magazine for you this month. I trust it will give you the boost you need to kick-start 2024. May this year far surpass your dreams!

Kenneth W. Hagin

THIS ISSUE



4 Reset Your Thermostat

KENNETH W. HAGIN

Our thoughts can control our beliefs the same way a thermostat controls the temperature in a home. Set your spiritual thermostat at a high level to receive all that God has for you.

10 Following God in the Last Days

LYNETTE HAGIN

As time wraps up, no matter what happens, God wants us to thrive, not just survive. Hearing and obeying Him is part of how we do that.

18 Get to Know Your Father God

KENNETH E. HAGIN

As we grow spiritually, we can live without worry and fear and receive all the blessings our Heavenly Father has for us.

SEED THOUGHTS Page 21
FAITH ACADEMY Page 22



6

Endurance in Times of Trouble

DENISE HAGIN BURNS

Find out what it takes to stand strong when life gets tough.



RESET YOUR THERMOSTAT

DO YOU BELIEVE God is willing and able to meet your needs? Do you believe He is willing and able to give you what you ask for? Do you believe He wants to do much more for you than you can ask or think?

Our answers to these questions reveal how much we believe God. Many people answer yes to the first question. But for the other two, they're not sure what He will do.

Our thoughts control what we believe, similar to the way a thermostat controls the temperature in a home. The furnace or air conditioner delivers warmth or coolness only to the level set on the thermostat.

WHAT WE BELIEVE SETS THE LEVEL OF WHAT GOD CAN DO FOR US. Some people think too small, and God can only work with them at their level. He can't go beyond what they believe.

My dad used to say people want to be blessed, but they never develop their faith to receive that blessing. In other words, they've never set their thermostat.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

How do you set your spiritual thermostat to a higher level? By knowing what God's Word says.

When Dad left the church in Van, Texas, to go on the road, his healing thermostat was set high. We had no trouble getting healed, but we nearly starved to death! He traveled all over the country, and whatever churches paid him was what we lived on. Sometimes it wasn't enough to buy fuel for his car.

One day Dad got to praying, and the Lord told him to use the same faith for finances that He did for healing. Things changed for us after that.

MUCH MORE

The Book of Second Chronicles records the story of King Amaziah of Judah. In organizing his army, he paid 7,500 pounds of silver to hire experienced fighting men from Israel. A man of God came to the king and warned him not to hire troops from Israel. He told King Amaziah that he would be defeated in battle if he used men from Israel's army, for God was not with them.

The king asked him, " 'But what about all that silver I paid to hire the army of Israel?' The man of God replied, 'The Lord is able to give you much more than this!' " (2 Chron. 25:9 NLT).

God Can Do 'Much More'

Below are scriptures to build your faith in a "much more" God.

"If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him."
—Matthew 7:11 (NLT)

"For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!"
—Romans 5:10 (NIV)

"If one man's sin brought a reign of death—that's Adam's legacy—how much more will those who receive grace in abundance and the free gift of redeeming justice reign in life by means of one other man—Jesus the Anointed."
—Romans 5:17 (VOICE)

"Shouldn't we expect far greater glory under the new way, now that the Holy Spirit is giving life? If the old way, which brings condemnation, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new way, which makes us right with God! In fact, that first glory was not glorious at all compared with the overwhelming glory of the new way. So if the old way, which has been replaced, was glorious, how much more glorious is the new, which remains forever!"
—2 Corinthians 3:8-11 (NLT)

The *Easy-to-Read Version* says, "The Lord has plenty. He can give you much more than that." The *Voice* says, "Don't worry about the money. It is nothing compared to what the Eternal has to give you."

Sometimes we get so concerned about things from a natural standpoint. When the devil steals from us, we forget God can give us so much more than what we had in the first place. Look at Job's life. What happened to him that's recorded in the Book of Job lasted only about nine months. In the end, everything turned around for him. Job 42:10 (NKJV) says, "The Lord restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."

EXCEEDINGLY ABUNDANTLY

God thinks differently than we do. He thinks according to His riches and resources and according to His power and might. He thinks in line with what He is capable of producing.

Unconsciously, we think and act according to what we believe we can do. We make decisions based on *our* resources. God does the same, but His resources are unlimited. And when He finds people who believe in line with His Word, He's ready to shovel "much more" on them. Ephesians 3:20 (NASB20) says that God can do "far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us."

How can we tap into the "much more" that God wants us to have?

First: Find promises in God's Word that cover whatever it is you need.

Second: Believe what God's Word says.

Third: Speak the Word

The minute we start taking these three steps, the devil will find out if we really believe what we say we do. He'll throw everything he can at us to discourage us. That's when we have to dig in our heels and keep speaking the Word. We have to be fully persuaded that God will do for us what He said He would do. We have to reset our thermostat based on His Word, and then keep believing and saying what He said in spite of our circumstances. As we do, we will see our situation turn around as the God of the "much more" moves on our behalf.♥

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ENDURANCE

in Times of Trouble



It is in our weakness
that God's power
shines the best.



DENISE HAGIN BURNS

WHEN I HAD my stitches removed after knee surgery last summer, the news wasn't what I expected. The doctor told me my knee was still in really bad shape and that I'd probably never be able to do what I used to do. He said I would most likely need a knee replacement in 10 years. In his opinion, that was the *best* case scenario.

Although I heard what the doctor told me, my mind said, "I believe the report of the Lord." However, I'm a very active person. I love to run and work out. And I admit I was taken aback by what he said.

By the time I got home, I was feeling down. I started complaining and feeling sorry for myself. As I wallowed in self-pity, the Lord stopped me and taught me a lesson through the story of Elijah in First Kings chapter 18.

Israel had turned away from the Lord to worship Baal. God sent the prophet Elijah to show them their evil ways and encourage them to return to Him. Elijah challenged the wicked King Ahab and the 450 prophets of Baal to a burnt offering showdown on Mount Carmel to prove who was really God.

For the contest, Elijah and the prophets of Baal would each sacrifice a bull on the altar, but they would not light a fire. Instead they would ask the one they worshipped to light it. The prayers of Baal's prophets were unsuccessful. But the Lord answered Elijah's prayers with fire. The people of Israel returned to the Lord, and Elijah killed the 450 prophets of Baal.

King Ahab told his wife, Jezebel, what happened, and she sent Elijah a death threat. When he heard it, he ran for his life. He became so discouraged that he told the Lord he wanted to die (1 Kings 19:4). Elijah had just experienced a huge victory over 450 men. Then one woman threatened his life and he ran away, hid under a tree in the wilderness, became full of fear and self-pity, and begged God to let him die.

'WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?'

When Elijah reached Mount Sinai, God asked him, "*What are you doing here?*" (1 Kings 19:9). It's as if God was saying, "I just came through for you on Mount Carmel, and now you feel like you can't go on and fulfill the plan I have for you?"

I saw myself in part of Elijah's story. I had an "Elijah spirit." I received one bad doctor's report and let self-pity take over. Although I knew that report wasn't the final say, I had a defeated,

“poor ole me” attitude. Like Elijah, I felt as if God was asking, “Denise, what are you doing here after all the times I’ve been faithful to you?”

In the end, God revealed His plan to Elijah and sent Elisha to help him for the rest of his days on earth. God had a plan all along. It just took a process to get there.

GOD CALLS US TO ENDURANCE

God has a plan for each of us, but sometimes it takes endurance to get there. Endurance is a vital quality to have, because life is tough. Jesus said we will have trials and tribulations. But He also told us to take heart—or have endurance—because He has overcome the world. (See John 16:33.)

The Book of James also has something to say about endurance.

JAMES 1:2–4 (NLT)

2 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy.

3 For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow.

4 So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

Endurance is “the ability or strength to continue or last, especially despite fatigue, stress, or other adverse conditions.” Endurance isn’t a supernatural gift God gives us. It is developed through stress, trials, and pressure. **TRIALS HIGHLIGHT OUR WEAKNESSES AND SHOW US WHERE WE NEED TO GROW.** That’s why we must go through tests, trials, and persecution instead of trying to back out of them. It’s time we stop feeling sorry for ourselves and having pity parties when difficulties arise. Instead of responding like Elijah, we need to respond like the Apostle Paul.

Paul knew a thing or two about endurance. Writing to Timothy he said, “*But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance*” (2 Tim. 3:10 NLT).

As the Lord dealt with me last summer, I went from an “Elijah

spirit” to a spirit of endurance like Paul. He learned to rejoice and take pleasure in all his hardships. (See 2 Cor. 12:9–10.) Paul came to understand that when he was weak, he was in the best possible position. He learned that when we come to the end of ourselves, God always comes through. It is in our weakness that God’s power shines the best.

TWO WAYS TO DEVELOP ENDURANCE

To develop endurance we must do two things each day. First, we have to feed our faith. In First Kings chapter 19, when Elijah was lying under the tree wanting to die, the angel of the Lord fed him. God arranged that because He knew if Elijah didn’t eat, he wouldn’t make it on the 40-day journey He was about to send him on.

To make it through the journey God has for us, we must eat the Word of God every day. If we don’t feed on the Word daily, we risk casting away our faith in times of trouble. Sadly, many people end up in this position. It happens because all they do is listen to other people instead of reading the Word for themselves. To develop endurance we must be proactive and feed on scriptures that strengthen us where we are weak.

The second thing we must do to develop endurance is fix our focus. We must ask ourselves, “Where is my focus? Is it on Jesus or on the problems around me?” Wherever we’re looking is where we’re going. We must intentionally fix our focus on Jesus each day. If we find ourselves weakening in our faith, we must look to Jesus. In Hebrews chapter 12 we see how He kept His focus and endured for us.

No matter what the devil throws at you, refuse to quit. Feed your faith and fix your focus. If you do these two things every day, you will be complete and mature, lacking nothing. And when trouble comes, you will endure.♥

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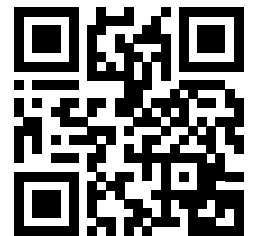


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A Christian Approach to

New Year's Resolutions

FOR MANY, a new year means a fresh start. It's an opportunity to set new goals, strengthen their resolve, and commit to better habits in an effort to enhance or improve their lives. The common practice of making New Year's resolutions is usually based on a person's own desires and ambitions. But what is the Christian approach?

According to the Bible, setting goals, making plans, and preparing for the future is wise. Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV) says, *"A man's heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps."* There isn't anything wrong with Christians making New Year's resolutions, but we should approach them from a Christ-focused perspective. How? We can start by asking the Lord what *He* wants for our lives this year. The Bible says, *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans"* (Prov. 16:3 NIV).

As we decide what goals to set this year, it's important that we examine our motivation for wanting what we want. Whether a goal is spiritual, material, or physical, what matters most is the motive behind it. Proverbs 16:2 (NIV) says, *"All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord."* God looks at the heart.

Whether we're setting goals, making changes in our lives, or believing God for something specific, we should first check our hearts and consider the "why" behind what we desire. When our motives are right, accomplishing our goals will have greater value to us.

For example, wanting to shed some pounds is a good goal. But we must ask ourselves, "Do I want to lose weight out of vanity or truly for better health?" This leads to the next way our resolutions can be more Christ-focused: Are they God-honoring or self-honoring?

New Year's resolutions are often all about *self*-improvement. While we should want to improve ourselves, if self is all we're thinking about, then we've got it wrong. We must be careful not to put ourselves at the center of our plans. Instead, let's ask God if our resolutions align with His desires for us and if they are part of *His* plan for our lives. Self-serving goals are doomed. Let's put Jesus at the center of our plans and allow Him to help us accomplish them. As we do, we will find our year and our lives much more fulfilling.♥

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans."

—Proverbs 16:3 NIV.



FAITH NUGGET

Practical Steps to Reaching Your Goals in 2024 and Beyond

Whatever you are believing God for or wanting to accomplish this year, here are some practical steps to help you get started.

- 1. Start with prayer.** Jesus said, *"Apart from me you can do nothing"* (John 15:5 NIV). Vision and goal setting begins with seeking God and asking for His help. Ask Him to show you what steps to take to accomplish your goals. Then wholeheartedly commit your plans to Him.
- 2. Create a vision list or board.** Habakkuk 2:2 (NKJV) tells us, *"Write the vision and make it plain on tablets."* Your vision and goals need to be written down. Your vision isn't really a vision if you can't see it. And if your vision isn't in front of you, you will forget it after a while.
- 3. Find Scriptures.** Find at least two scriptures that back up what you are believing for or that support your goals or vision. Apply those verses daily by speaking them. Then by faith declare, "It is done," and thank God for His love and faithfulness toward you.
- 4. Stay committed.** Make changes to prepare to receive what you're believing for. Don't give up no matter how long it takes. Each day, do something in faith to work toward your goal or vision. Allow the natural and the supernatural to work together to bring your vision to pass.

FOLLOWING GOD'S PLAN IN THE LAST DAYS



LYNETTE HAGIN

WE ALL GO through different seasons in life. And since the pandemic, the season has been *really* different. But guess what? We don't have to be concerned or afraid. God already told us in His Word that the last days would be difficult times (2 Tim. 3:1 NLT).

My parents went through difficult times during the Great Depression and World War II. During the war, there were all kinds of shortages, and a lot of items were rationed.

They had to use rationing stamps to buy things like sugar, coffee, and even tires.

The COVID-19 pandemic was a very challenging time, and we also experienced shortages. But I remember thinking, "If my parents survived shortages, I can too."

LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS

As we approach the Lord's return, God does not want us just to survive. He wants us to thrive. Daniel had a vision of what the last days would be like. God told him that many evil and corrupt things would happen, "*but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits*" (Dan. 11:32). The definition of exploits is "bold or daring feats."

The *Amplified Classic* says, "*The people who know their God shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm and do exploits [for God].*" Daniel was telling us that in the midst of whatever may come our way, we must stand firm. What are we going to stand firm on? God's Word. It never fails. But we can't stand firm on His Word if we don't know what it says.

Standing firm, obviously, is not going to be an easy thing to do. The exploits—the things God has prepared for us—are not going to be easy.

The Apostle Paul warned us about the last days.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1–5 (NLT)

1 You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be very difficult times.

2 For people will love only themselves and their money. They will be boastful and proud, scoffing at God, disobedient to their parents, and ungrateful. They will consider nothing sacred.

3 They will be unloving and unforgiving; they will slander others and have no self-control. They will be cruel and hate what is good.

4 They will betray their friends, be reckless, be puffed up with pride, and love pleasure rather than God.

5 They will act religious, but they will reject the power that could make them godly. Stay away from people like that!

Peter also gives us advice for the last days. He wrote, *“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers”* (1 Peter 4:7 NLT). That verse in *The Message Bible* says, *“Everything in the world is about to be wrapped up, so take nothing for granted. Stay wide-awake in prayer.”*

To be forewarned is to be forearmed. None of what is happening today should surprise us. It should warn us. I grew up in a church, and the guest preachers talked about the last days, end-time prophecy, and 666. It was a warning to me. Even as a child, I knew I needed to stay close to God.

FOLLOWING GOD’S PLAN

Daniel told us that in the midst of these trying times, the people who know their God will be strong and do exploits. We have assignments, guys. God has things He wants each of us to do.

Jeremiah 1:5 in *The Message Bible* says, *“Before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you.”* God’s ultimate desire is for you to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior. He has plans for you, but He also gave you a free will. Are you going to follow the plans God has for you? Or are you following your plans?

WHEN WE FOLLOW THE PLANS GOD HAS FOR US, HE GIVES US THE GRACE FOR THEM.

I’ve found out that when we follow the plans God has for us, He gives us the grace for them. I have endeavored to follow God’s plans all my life. Did I like all those plans? Absolutely not. Have I encountered situations in following those plans? More than I want to mention. But every time I encounter something and it looks like I’m going under instead of over, I remind God of His Word.

He said in Jeremiah 29:11 that His plans are *“for good and not for disaster”* (NLT). His plans are to give us a future and a hope. I like what God said in the following verses in *The Message Bible*.

JEREMIAH 29:13–14 (MSG)

13 “When you come looking for me, you’ll find me.

14 “Yes, when you get serious about finding me and want it more than anything else, I’ll make sure you won’t be disappointed.”

How badly do you want to follow the plan of God? Do you consult Him before you make decisions, or do you just decide for yourself? Do you consult Him before you buy a car, or do you just buy a car? Maybe that’s why you’re having trouble with your car. Maybe that’s why you didn’t get the right price. You didn’t consult with God.

Do you consult God before you buy a house? Are you sure that’s the right house you need? God knows the future. He knows what we need and what we don’t. Do you consult Him before changing jobs? Or do you just change jobs because you’ll get a hiring bonus? What does the future hold for you in that job? Is it really where God wants you?

After Ken and I were married, with every ministry position we took, our pay was cut in half. I told the Lord, “I thought we were supposed to multiply, but we’re dividing every time.” Yet He always provided. And had we not obeyed Him, we would not be where we are today. Were there hard times? Absolutely. But as we have followed God’s path for us, He has blessed us exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or think.♥

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First Peter 3:15 (NIV) tells us, *“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.”*

What is the Gospel message we are commissioned to share? The Book of Romans lists four scripture passages that have been called the Roman Road. By memorizing these verses, you can easily share Christ with the lost.

Romans 3:23 (NKJV), *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Every one of us has sinned. If a person has never encountered Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, they are in sin. They are separated from God.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV), *“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus*

“Every one of us has been called to share the Gospel with the people we know and meet.”

our Lord.” The punishment for sin is spiritual death. Jesus, however, provided hope for anyone who is separated from God.

Romans 5:8 (NKJV), *“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

When humanity was in a sinful, hopeless condition, Jesus became our substitute. He took our place and was crucified on the cross of Calvary. His death paid the penalty for sin and released us from its bondage.

The Gospel has nothing to do with what we have done through our own ability, works, wisdom, or strength. It is about what God has done for us through Christ. The Gospel is about a man—Adam—who messed up his relationship with God, and a God who provided a way to reconcile and restore that relationship. The Gospel is the

message of how God did right to rescue man from the effects of what Adam did wrong.

Once an individual becomes aware of what Jesus did, a response is needed.

Romans 10:9–10 (NKJV), *“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”*

Salvation is gained by believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth. Below is a prayer of salvation. Simply have the individual repeat this prayer after you.

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

[Editor’s Note: Doug Jones is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College. This article was adapted from his 2023 *Winter Bible Seminar* message.]

YOUR FAITH WILL SEE YOU THROUGH

KENNETH W. HAGIN



MY HEART HAS always been to help and encourage God's people wherever they may be in life. Let's face it—at some time or another, we are all confronted with challenging circumstances. It's not our own strength that will put us over. We need something more.

The Bible is filled with stories of men and women who were ordinary people just like you and me. These people faced insurmountable obstacles. Yet their faith in God brought them through to victory every time.

They came from all walks of life and every stratum of society: Abraham, the father of many nations; Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—princes of Israel; Samson, a man chosen by God to do a mighty work in Israel; blind Bartimaeus—a poor, hopeless wretch who lived by the side of the road begging alms of those more fortunate than he; the woman with an issue of blood—an ordinary woman who dared to believe God; the paralyzed man who would not let circumstances daunt his faith—and his four friends who demonstrated their unity of faith; and the man at the Gate Beautiful, who refused to take his eyes off the goal.

Faith Doesn't Quit

These are only a few of the ordinary men and women written about in the Bible who had great faith in God. They had every opportunity to quit

when life seemed to be stacked against them. By looking at the way they handled the tests and trials they faced, we can learn valuable lessons for our own "fight of faith."

These men and women had great faith because they didn't give up when confronted with what seemed impossible. They tenaciously held on to their faith in God—no matter what. They knew what it meant to struggle to believe God in the face of contradictory circumstances. But instead of quitting when challenged, they each made a far-reaching decision. They chose to press on and trust God despite every contradiction!

Each of us at some time will deal with the same choice. Everything around us may look bleak and it may seem impossible to receive what God has promised. But will we abandon all hope in His promises? Or will we make the same decision as these men and women?

Faith Leads to Success

Let us be encouraged by their lives—the victories, the pitfalls, the trying circumstances, and the struggles. Through everything, they endured. They kept their faith in God strong in the face of opposition. Their faith in Him was the secret to their success. Their faith in a faithful God caused them to be

overcomers. They believed He would bring them through every difficulty into what He had promised them.

Time after time, we see in the Word that these godly men and women realized they could not receive God's best for them if they quit trusting Him. Quitting would gain them *nothing*, but wholeheartedly following Him would gain them everything! Each of them had to decide whether to give up or keep on trusting God and walking in His ways. They had to decide that, even when it seemed *impossible* for His promises to be fulfilled. Quitting would have been the easy way out. It took faith to stand! **IN EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE, IT WAS PERSEVERANCE OF FAITH THAT BROUGHT THEM THROUGH.**

These men and women did not live problem-free lives. But when they faced adversity, they tenaciously believed God. And in *God's* strength, they overcame every trial.

Your faith in God will always see you through—no matter what the difficulty, trial, or circumstance. However high that mountain seems, with God's help, you *can* overcome it! ♥

Your faith in God will always see you through—no matter what the difficulty, trial, or circumstance.



FOCUS ON HEALING

IMAGINE THAT YOU have a choice: You can choose to be sick in bed all weekend, miserable and up to your ears in Kleenex. Or you can choose to be healthy and feel great, enjoying time with your family and friends.

Which would you choose?

That's a simple choice, right?
You would choose to be healthy. No one

wants to be sick. The good news is, God doesn't want you to be sick, either. He wants you to be well! As this new year begins, you can commit to walk in God's provision of divine healing and health.

How do we walk in the health promised to us in the Bible? First, we must know that God is our Healer. Many scriptures reveal His desire to heal. Consider, for example, this verse in Exodus chapter 15.

EXODUS 15:26 (NIV)

26 "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, **who heals you.**"

In this passage, God names Himself as our Healer. Healing is His nature. In fact, He cares about our health so much that He made healing a benefit of Jesus Christ's redemptive work. Through Jesus, believers have access to the healing and health promised to us by our Heavenly Father. The Apostle Peter described this truth in First Peter chapter 2.

1 PETER 2:24 (NIV)

24 "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds **you have been healed.**"

Jesus purchased healing for our physical bodies through the wounds He suffered for us. As Christians, we have a right to enjoy that healing.

Once we know that God is our Healer and that divine health is a result of Jesus' redemptive work, we must build our faith to receive healing. We build our faith for healing the same way we build our faith for anything else God has promised us in His Word. Faith comes by hearing the Word. (See Rom. 10:17.) We must meditate daily on what God's Word says about healing.

A passage in Proverbs chapter 4 captures the importance of building our faith in the area of healing.

PROVERBS 4:20–22 (NIV)

20 My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words.

21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart;

22 for they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.

As we continually meditate on God's Word concerning healing, the Word produces life in us and brings health to our whole body!

To keep God's promises of healing in your heart, you must meditate on the Word daily. You may want to post healing scriptures where you will easily see them. Along with your Bible, a devotional such as *Health Food* can help you study nuggets of healing.

Many friends and partners of Kenneth Hagin Ministries have testified to receiving their healing after building their faith through our *Healing Scriptures* recording. It is available as a CD or a downloadable MP3. By listening regularly to the scriptures on this recording, you can train yourself, even in the face of adverse symptoms, to remember what the Word says about healing. When those scriptures are in your heart, they can produce healing and health in your physical body.

You can choose right now to know God better as *your* Healer and to build your faith for healing. Why not make 2024 a year of health? Commit to meditate daily on God's Word concerning healing and to walk in the divine health He has promised you!♥

Contact Us

To let us know how you have been healed through Kenneth Hagin Ministries, or to request a prayer cloth for yourself or a loved one, email us at partnerservice@rhema.org.

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“ To live in the fullness of what God intended for us, it isn't enough to be born again. We must grow up in the things of God until we are walking after our Father and following His ways. ”



Timeless
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GET TO KNOW THE FATHER

AS THIS NEW year begins, many people are worrying about what the future holds. Perhaps bills from holiday spending have started piling up, and many wonder how they will make ends meet. But the good news is, God knows all of our needs, and He is willing and able to supply them as we look to Him in faith.

Are you looking to God in faith? Or are you struggling with worry and fear? Current world events have many people fearful and worried. They worry about the economy, their health, and the safety of their family. But as Christians we can live free from worry and fear. We do so by walking daily with our Heavenly Father—by believing His Word is true and that He will take care of us if we seek Him first.

Read carefully the following passage on the subject.

MATTHEW 6:25–33

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father

feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

There are two verses in particular I want you to notice. Verse 32 says, “Your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” And verse 26 says, “Your heavenly Father feedeth them.”

This passage isn’t talking about unbelievers, because God isn’t the “Heavenly Father” of non-Christians. Some people think everyone is a child of God. But that isn’t true. God is the Creator of us all, but He is not the *Father* of us all. The devil is the father of some people. Jesus said to some of the most religious people of His day, “You are of your father the devil” (John 8:44).

To live in the fullness of what God intended for us, it isn’t enough to be born again. We must grow up in the things of God until we are walking after our Father and following His ways. Many people have been born again and become children of God but have never really gotten acquainted with Him as Father. They haven’t grown spiritually—therefore they don’t know Him in a personal way.

HOW TO KNOW GOD AS YOUR FATHER

Thank God, we can get to know our Father better. How? I like something Smith Wigglesworth said: “I can’t understand God by feelings. I understand God the Father *by what the Word says about Him*. He is everything the Word says He is.”

We get to know the Father through His Word. It is in the Word that we find out about our Father’s love, His nature, and how much He cares for us and loves us. And because we know He loves us, we aren’t supposed to worry or fret about anything.

Some may say, “What are we supposed to do?” Matthew 6:33 says we are to seek first the Kingdom of God! When we do that, everything we need is *added unto us*. This proves that the Father cares for His own.

Then verse 34 tells us to “take no thought for tomorrow.” This verse is saying that **GOD DOESN’T WANT HIS CHILDREN TO WORRY ABOUT TOMORROW OR WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS. WHY? BECAUSE HE LOVES US!**

Our Heavenly Father knows your needs, so you don’t have to worry or have anxiety. If God is your Father, you can be assured He will take a father’s place and perform a father’s part. You can be certain that He loves you and will care for you.

John 17:23 says that God loves *us* just as He loved *Jesus*. Since God loves you just as much as He loved Jesus, you don’t have to be afraid to face life’s problems, for God is always with you as He was with Jesus.

GOD WANTS TO WALK WITH YOU!

The Father is just as real to us as He was to Jesus—if we let Him be. He wants to walk with us just as He walked with Jesus when Jesus was on the earth. The Father’s love compels Him to care for you. When you come to know His love and begin to walk daily in that love, all doubts and fears will be destroyed.

God the Father is your Helper. He will never leave you or forsake you (Heb. 13:5–6). He wants you, His child, to know that He will surely supply all your needs according to *His riches* in glory by Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19). These are living truths to you from the heart of our loving Father God.

It is so blessed and wonderful to be able to walk with God. I encourage you this new year to determine in your heart that you will walk closer to Him than you ever have before. Commit to spend time in His Word, get to know Him better, and grow as a result.

Remember, if Jesus is your Savior, God is your very own Father. There is no need to worry about the future. God Himself loves you and cares for you. And as you seek His Kingdom first, everything you need in life will be added to you. ♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from the article “Walking With Your Father” which appeared in the January 2003 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

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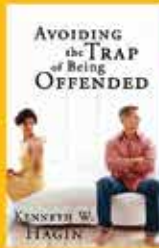
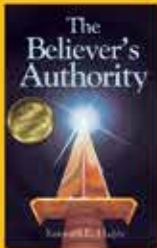
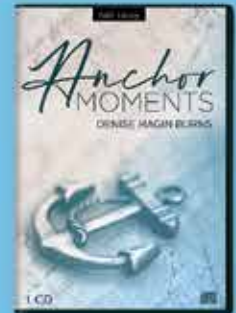
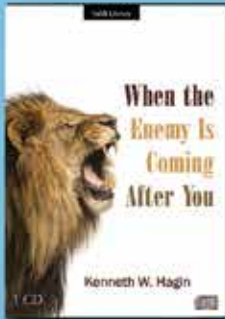
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Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

PRIORITIZING YOUR TIME

AS THE PREVIOUS year passes and a new year begins, it never ceases to amaze me how fast the years go by. As a child, I always looked forward to summer when school was out for three months. It seemed that the school year went by so slowly. And now life seems to pass so quickly. It's unbelievable that we are in the 24th year of this century.

The beginning of a new year is a great time to make changes in our lives. Many set new goals for their career, family, finances, or their individual lives. I am a believer in setting goals and planning. However many of us are so driven and goal oriented that we are missing out on life, forgetting that life is right now.

We are all faced with decisions every day. We find ourselves wrestling with choices, plans, and priorities. It is easy to get overwhelmed by all the invitations and activities we must fit into our schedule on a weekly basis.

Suddenly the year goes by and things we wanted to accomplish took a back seat to the emergencies that arose.

Life can be demanding, and I believe it is important to set boundaries. For those of you that still have children at home—let me give you a word of advice. Those 18 years pass very quickly. It is important to enjoy every moment possible with your children. Memories are being made that they will talk about for years. We always made a practice to have daily family time. We designated our dinner as the time we would connect and have devotions. It was a time to communicate with each other. A time to laugh together and share what had gone on in our day.

Secondly, we always planned a yearly vacation. It did not have to be something elaborate—just a time to enjoy the company of each other. We always included the children in the decision-making process. Though our son and daughter are now grown, they still talk about the vacation we called the "Amusement Park" vacation. That year we went to four amusement parks during our vacation.

We make time for what we truly value. Being in the ministry is a very demanding profession. My husband and I learned the importance of prioritizing how we spend our free time—to decide what we say yes to and what we say no to. When our children were at home, we spent all our free time with them. Now that we are empty nesters, we spend our time together, enjoying what we like to do.

Many years ago, I learned a valuable lesson. It was shortly after we became empty nesters. I have always been in charge of making the yearly schedule for my husband and me. Not having to consider our children's schedules for the first time, I neglected to set aside time for my husband and me to take a vacation.

That year we had a very busy schedule. In the midst of looking at our calendar, I was frantically trying to find time to squeeze in some vacation days. I could find none.

I desperately called out to God. First of all, I repented. I said, "God, I did this to myself but I need help. I don't know how I'm going to get through the stress and schedule of this year." God always has the answer to whatever problem we have.

The Lord brought the following scripture to my memory: Second Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." And then I heard the following: "I will give you the grace for each day. You cannot pull on tomorrow's grace today. So quit thinking about tomorrow and just concentrate on today. When tomorrow comes, you will have another basket of grace that will last for that day."

As I pulled on grace for that year, I made it through the year stress free because I leaned on God's grace. And then I made a vow never to get myself in that situation again. So each year, I write down our vacation time first before any other commitments are made. I have learned what to say yes to and when to say no.

I want to encourage you to declutter your life, live in the now, and enjoy every moment as time passes by quickly.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

What Have You Been Saying?

Confession is good for the soul . . . but it's also good for your faith. That's because what you say (or confess) shows what you believe. You might believe that Jesus is Lord, but Romans 10:9 says that you must say it with your mouth in order to be saved.



Your science teacher will tell you that your mouth is connected to your esophagus and stomach. That's a scientific fact. But spiritually, Jesus said that your mouth is connected to your heart (or your spirit). He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart [or spirit] the mouth speaks" (Matt. 12:34). A person can tell what is in your heart just by listening to the words you've been saying. **So**



what have you been saying? Have you been speaking words of faith from God's Word or words of doubt and unbelief?

Below are a few bad confessions that you might be tempted to say. Find the good confessions from God's Word beneath these bad confessions. Then use the good confessions to defeat the bad confessions you've been saying.

Match the number of the Bad Confession with the letter of the Good Confession that will defeat it.

BAD CONFESSIONS

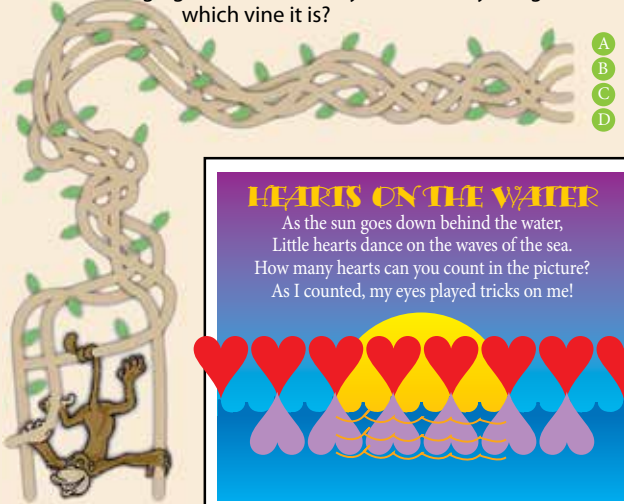
- "I'm not very smart when it comes to math!"
- "I can't do that! It's too hard!"
- "I'll never get over this sickness!"
- "I'm afraid something bad is going to happen!"

GOOD CONFESSIONS

- "By Jesus' stripes I am healed" (1 Peter 2:24).
- "The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Psalm 27:1).
- "I'll never get over this sickness!" (1 Corinthians 2:16).
- "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

HANG IN THERE WITH FAITH!

Faith helps us "hang on" to the promises of God. The monkey below is "hanging on" to one vine by his tail. Can you figure out which vine it is?



HEARTS ON THE WATER
As the sun goes down behind the water, little hearts dance on the waves of the sea. How many hearts can you count in the picture? As I counted, my eyes played tricks on me!

WORD SEARCH

Read the good confessions in the Bible lesson above. Then search for words from these verses in the scrambled letters below and circle them. There are 13 words to find.

S	P	T	P	D	P	O	Q	P	F	G
P	T	H	E	A	L	E	D	R	R	S
A	E	R	O	P	S	A	L	M	S	O
M	V	L	I	L	G	V	Q	S	C	V
E	P	E	A	P	E	I	A	E	U	Q
P	M	S	T	R	E	N	G	T	H	R
H	P	N	L	H	B	S	E	B	S	B
I	O	A	C	C	H	R	I	S	D	S
L	M	I	H	L	I	F	E	I	N	T
I	I	H	R	S	S	Q	A	I	G	H
P	N	T	I	F	E	R	S	S	I	I
P	D	N	S	D	F	I	U	R	R	N
I	Q	I	T	A	S	S	N	S	E	G
A	Q	R	T	T	E	W	T	G	T	S
N	O	O	Q	J	I	R	E	O	E	R
S	P	C	F	R	A	I	R	S	P	P

ANSWERS:

S P T P D P O Q P F G
P T H E A L E D R R S
A E R O P S A L M S O
M V L I L G V Q S C V
E P E A P E I A E U Q
P M S T R E N G T H R
H P N L H B S E B S B
I O A C C H R I S D S
L M I H L I F E I N T
I I H R S S Q A I G H
P N T I F E R S S I I
P D N S D F I U R R N
I Q I T A S S N S E G
A Q R T T E W T G T S
N O O Q J I R E O E R
S P C F R A I R S P P

What Have You Been Saying?
1. "I'm not very smart when it comes to math!"—C
2. "I can't do that! It's too hard!"—D
3. "I'll never get over this sickness!"—A
4. "I'm afraid something bad is going to happen!"—B
Hang in There With Faith • Answer: C
Hearts on the Water • Answer: 21
Where the tops of the waves touch the bottoms of the hearts an upside down heart is formed. Can you see it?

jokes & riddles



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

Who was the smallest man in the Bible?

Some think it was Kneehighmiah, but others say it was Bildad, the Shuhite (Shoe-height).

Mr. Bigger and his son, Junior, were going to explore a cave. The opening to the cave was small, but Mr. Bigger squeezed through the hole. But his son, Junior, could not fit through the hole. Why was this?

Because he was a "little" Bigger

What did the science book say to the math book?

I've heard you have a lot of problems!

What 10-letter word starts with g-a-s?

Automobile

Why is Alabama the smartest state?

Because it has four A's and one B

Who invented fractions?

Henry the Eighth

Who was the best actor in the Bible?

Samson . . . he brought the house down.

A New Beginning for the New Year

PEOPLE OFTEN MARK the new year by setting goals and making resolutions to start fresh. The year change can also be a time of spiritual newness. Second Corinthians 5:17 (*The Living Bible*) says, “*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun!*” You might wonder how this can happen.

John 1:12 (*New King James Version*) says, “*But as many as received [Jesus], to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*”

You receive Jesus by praying a simple prayer and inviting Him into your heart. When you ask Jesus to be Lord of your life, you become God’s child and a new person on the inside.

Would you like to receive Jesus and become a brand-new person? If so, pray this prayer from your heart.

God, I come to You in Jesus’ Name. I want to live right, but I can’t do it on my own. When I try to do better, it doesn’t work. I need a Savior. 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 *New Living Translation*). I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead. And I openly declare that I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. According to Your Word, I am saved. Thank You for making me brand new on the inside. Thank You for giving me a new life!♥

If you prayed this prayer, welcome to God’s family! We want to send you some materials to help you in your new life with Him. Email us at PartnerService@rhema.org or call us at 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484).



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SUNDAY | **SUPPORTING RHEMA—** **MAY 5** | **REACHING THE WORLD!**

Dear Friend,
Countless people around the world still have not heard what Jesus Christ has done for them. But you can help change that! On *International Rhema Day*, will you support Rhema Bible Training College with your prayers and financial gifts? Together, we can make a difference.
Thank you for your support!

Kenneth W. Hagin
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