



THE Word of Faith

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

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PAGE 4

Let Love Be The BOSS





the Word of Faith



KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES
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Live Sensibly

I often hear people say the following: “There’s not enough time in the day to get everything done. I’m so tired. It seems like I’m doing more and enjoying it less. How many weeks until vacation?” Does this sound familiar?

Many people are worried and distracted by all the things around them and everything they’re involved in. These things are not necessarily bad. They may not be sins. But they distract us from the things of God.

Luke chapter 10 tells us about a time Jesus visited the home of a woman named Martha. She was so caught up in her tasks that she failed to do what was sensible. However, her sister Mary chose to sit at Jesus’ feet. Mary understood that sitting with Jesus was more important than anything else. Jesus told Martha, *“There is only one thing worth being concerned about. Mary has discovered it, and it will not be taken away from her”* (Luke 10:42 NLT).

Let me ask you a question: Are you living sensibly, or are you so busy that you don’t have time to sit at Jesus’ feet?

If we don’t take time to live sensibly, the pace of life will get to us. Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest motivators of the last century, said, “Fatigue makes cowards of us all.” In other words, we can wear ourselves down to the point where we are susceptible to ungodliness and unholiness. The Apostle Paul warned us never to grow weary in doing good (2 Thess. 3:13). As we live for God, we must be careful not to get so wrapped up in other things that we act unwisely and compromise.

Of course, there is a time to plan and prepare. There are everyday life things we must do. But there is a time when we just need to sit with Jesus. Living sensibly means finding the balance between the two. God wants us to have the best of both worlds. And when we stop and take time for Him, we’ll be surprised at what happens in our lives.



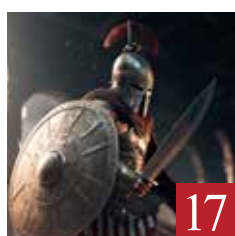
Kenneth W. Hagin

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Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin



Let Love Be The BOSS

EPHESIANS 5:25 SAYS, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it.” Paul is not talking about natural love in this verse, because he said, “*even as Christ also loved the church.*” The type of love he is talking about is beyond natural love. It far exceeds human love. Christ loved the Church with divine love.

Paul was not writing to sinners. An unsaved man could not love his wife in the same way Christ loved the Church. That would be impossible! He doesn’t have that kind of love inside him. He has a natural, human love for his wife—not a divine love.

Natural, human love can be selfish. Although God’s love may be in your heart as a Christian, you can still be selfish. You can be primarily interested in yourself and not in others. The God-kind of love, however, is unselfish.

Who Submits to Whom?

In talking about marriage, people often bring up Ephesians 5:22 where Paul tells wives to submit themselves to their own husbands. But if we look at verse 21, we see that Paul, in giving instructions to the entire church at Ephesus, said, “*Submitting*

yourselves one to another in the fear of God.” Then in the next verse, he brings up the marriage relationship.

By taking a scripture out of its setting, you can make it say anything you want it to say. People have often quoted verse 22 about wives submitting to their husbands out of context. They leave the impression that the man is the dictator of the home, and the woman is supposed to do whatever he says. Well, if that’s the case, we in the Church are supposed to be dictators over one another as well, because verse 21 tells the entire Church at Ephesus to “submit yourselves one to another.”

What did Paul really mean? He was telling the Ephesians to get along with each other. He never meant for any one person in the Church to be a dictator over others. He wanted the Ephesians to understand that it was easy to submit to the rule of love. Paul was saying the same thing when he said, “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands.”

Some get into doctrinal error by overemphasizing that the husband is the head of the wife. They say that the wife doesn’t have any say-so whatsoever. And they believe that the husband has the right to treat her like a doormat.

The husband should **LOVE HIS WIFE** in the same way that **CHRIST LOVES THE CHURCH.**

Cherishing Each Other

But the Bible teaches that the husband should love his wife in the same way that Christ loves the Church. He should nourish and cherish his wife as Christ cherishes the Church. The husband should cherish his wife's health and happiness by putting her first. He should love her better than he does himself.

God is love. And man is God's creation. Therefore man is a creation of love. When God created woman to be man's companion and helpmeet, He took a part of man and formed the woman. The woman became flesh of his flesh and bone of his bone (Gen. 2:23).

Notice in Ephesians 5:28, Paul made reference to what God did in Genesis—how God made woman out of man: *"So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself."*

The Lord also said, *"It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him"* (Gen. 2:18). The Hebrew word for *helpmeet* means "an answering unto." I think that's the most unique expression in this wonderful description. A woman was made as an answer to the heart need, the spiritual need, the mental need, and the physical need of a man.

FAITH NUGGET

Choosing Your Mate

"Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" —2 Corinthians 6:14

The Christian who marries someone who is not born again marries into a family ruled by Satan. Three things happen as a result: the Christian *forfeits his freedom, limits his fellowship with God, and puts himself under bondage to the world.*

Christians make the mistake of thinking they can get their soon-to-be spouse born again. Although this sometimes happens, more often than not it doesn't. Instead of marrying someone who is not born again, find someone whose spiritual level is equal to yours and then build your life together from that point.

God intended that the wife be the queen, or the head, of the home. Now the man is the head of the wife, but she is the head of the home. Paul wrote to Timothy, *"I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house"* (1 Tim. 5:14). The Greek actually says "rule the household." That doesn't mean the wife is to rule her husband. It means she is to rule the household.

God's ideal for marriage is that every woman be queen in her home, that her home should be her empire. And her husband and children are her beloved subjects. It is to be a love kingdom. It is a historical fact that no nation rises above its homes. And no home rises above its motherhood.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the article "Who's the Boss?" which appeared in the August 2012 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

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BEING OBEDIENT — TO DO — GOD'S WILL

REGARDLESS OF WHAT anyone says about you or what your background or present circumstances say, God has begun a good work in you. Philippians 1:6 (NIV) says, *“Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”*



LYNETTE HAGIN

God will continue to develop and perfect His purpose for your life until the day Jesus returns. Did you know you are still under construction? Every one of us is a work in progress, and we must allow the Holy Spirit to work within us according to His good pleasure.

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-13

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

God is working in us, but we must obey Him and do what He’s called us to do.

My husband and I are doing today what God called us to do more than 50 years ago. We’ve been praying out God’s plan since the Lord laid it upon our hearts in the 1970s. It takes time to learn the “hows” and “whens” of God’s plan. And it takes time for God to develop us and bring His plan to full completion in our lives.

Are you allowing the Lord to develop you? Does He have such a hold on you that you can’t do anything but obey Him? Are you committed wholeheartedly to following the Father’s plan for your life?

No matter what God has called you to do, you won’t be able to accomplish it in your own wisdom or strength. You must rely

on His power, just as the Apostle Paul forsook man’s wisdom to rely on God’s power.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 (NIV 1984)

1 When I came to you, brothers, I did not come with eloquence or superior wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God.

2 For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

3 I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling.

4 My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power,

5 so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.

I don’t have anything against natural wisdom or education. Just ask my kids. They both knew that getting a college education was not an option; it was mandatory. But I believe it’s more important to have God’s power in demonstration in our lives than to have man’s wisdom.

When you rely on God to see you through, it won’t matter if you don’t have all the answers. You don’t always know why bad things happen in life, but you can know that you serve a good God Who is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above all you can ask or think (Eph. 3:20).

You need to get past the questions in your mind that hold you back. They have been roadblocks in your life, keeping you from going on in your relationship with God because you’re not trusting Him as you should. The Lord wants you to follow Him and commit yourself to Him. He wants you to be willing to say, “No matter what has happened in the past or what happens in the future, I will do whatever God asks me to do.”

You may wonder, “Does God even have something for me to do?” Yes, He has a wonderful plan for your life.

EVERY ONE OF US IS A WORK IN PROGRESS.



SPECIAL OFFER

Let the Lord Set Your Course

God has a plan for your life and a destiny only you can fulfill. When you look to the Lord, He will point you in the right direction and lead you every step of the way.

First Corinthians 2:9–10 (NIV 1984) says, “*However, as it is written: ‘No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him’—but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit.*”

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) says, “*‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’*”

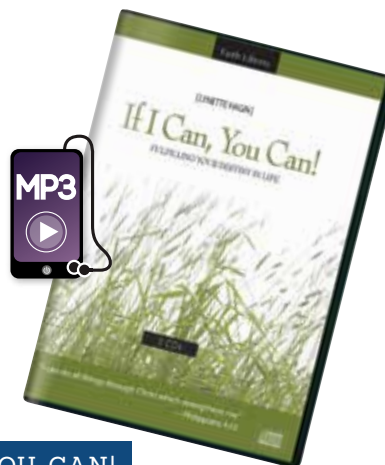
You will never be completely happy or at peace until you commit to following God’s plan. Are you ready to make that consecration today? God has a great job for you to do.

If you want to see mighty demonstrations of God’s power and be used in a mighty way, God’s desires must become your desires. You must learn to listen to His voice and spend time communing with Him on a regular basis.

It’s time to gear yourself up. God has a mighty work for you to accomplish. Make that dedication today and commit yourself to be faithful—even in the hard times.

Will you accept God’s call on your life? Will you do what He’s asked *you* to do? Will you minister to your world, in your sphere of influence? Your world may be in your home, on your job, in your community, or around the nation. Are you willing to go to your world?

If you aren’t feeling up to the task, remember that the Greater One is at work within you. Philippians 2:13 in the *Amplified Classic* says you don’t have to follow God’s plan in your own strength. That’s because He energizes and creates in you both the *power* to obey Him and the *desire* to do so. Whenever I reach a place where I’m nearly overwhelmed by what I have to accomplish, I remember this powerful saying: **“THE TASK AHEAD OF YOU IS NOT GREATER THAN THE FORCE BEHIND YOU.”** Thank God for His power—mighty in demonstration! You can truly do all things through Him Who strengthens you (Phil. 4:13)!♥



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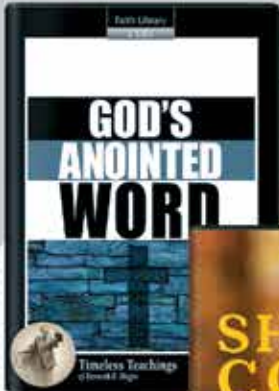
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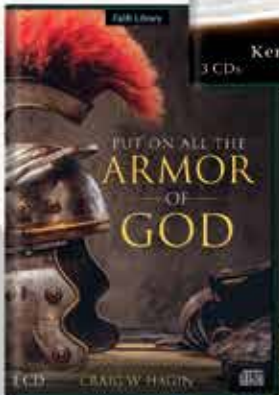
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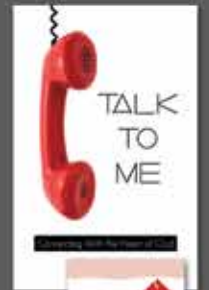
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A Settled Faith

CHARLES COWAN



KENNETH BAHIN MINISTRIES
CAMPMEETING

**SPEAKER
HIGHLIGHT**

IS GOD FAITHFUL? To live by faith, you must first judge and esteem God to be faithful. Before you can release your faith in His Word, you must settle that question in your heart.

God's Word is settled in Heaven, and He has forever bound Himself to His Word. If it appears that His Word has failed us, He is not the cause of the failure. He has never failed and He never will. Some people hide behind their "faith failures." They say, "Well, it must not have been the will of God for me to have that." But God didn't cause His Word to fail. The Bible says, *"If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself"* (2 Tim. 2:13 NKJV).

THE PARTICULARS OF FAITH

God never changes His mind or His methods. Because of His character, He is not capable of denying Himself. God is love, and out of love come all the characteristics of love. Faith works by love's characteristics. Once we find out what they are, we are to live by them.

2 PETER 1:4 (NKJV)

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature.

The characteristics of love—or particulars, as I call them—are the characteristics of the divine nature we received when we accepted Christ. Our new nature is made up of the particulars of *God's* nature. Those particulars are found in Galatians chapter 5. They are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness,

and self-control (vv. 22–23 NKJV). These characteristics are essential to our faith walk. They comprise the particulars of Who God is and what He has. Our faith works by love (Gal. 5:6). So our faith works by these characteristics. And we're to live by them each day. They energize the faith that we receive from God's Word.

Maybe you've thought, "How come I'm not experiencing what God says He's given to me? I've prayed, asked Him for it, and made confessions over it, but I don't see anything." If that's your experience, more than likely there is a kink in your faith—a breach in the flow of the particulars of God's nature in you.

When it seems as if our faith has failed, it's not God holding something back to teach us patience. Instead of blaming someone or something else, we must look inside ourselves and ask, "Where's the breach?" Once we find it, we can get back into alignment with God's characteristics, which are our new nature as Christians. Then the exceedingly great and precious promises that God says belong to those who partake of that new

nature will begin to show up at our house. The characteristics of our new nature combined with our faith bring us to a level where God's promises can manifest in our lives.

A FAITHFUL GOD

God is faithful. He wants us to have everything He has promised. But we must first *judge* Him faithful, or we will have a problem believing His Word and receiving His promises.

I think of Abraham and Sarah. They judged God faithful. The Bible says Sarah, who was well past childbearing age, conceived a child at 90 because she considered God faithful Who had made the promise (Heb. 11:11). Abraham and Sarah had judged God faithful for 25 years before they saw His promise fulfilled.

God isn't holding out on His promises to you. He wants to dump them out on you. He's just waiting for you to agree with His Word. **YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT GOD WILL DO WHAT HE SAID HE WILL DO. AND YOU HAVE TO KNOW THAT HE WILL DO IT FOR YOU.** When you are settled on these things, you can be immovable as you stand on His promises. 📖



[Editor's Note: Charles Cowan is the founder and pastor of Faith Is the Victory Church in Nashville, Tennessee. He is a regular *Campmeeting* speaker.]

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MEN CAME FROM across the U.S. to be built up in the Lord at *A Call to Arms 2023 Men's Conference*. Kenneth W. Hagin got his “preach” on and kicked off the conference with a rousing word of encouragement. From there, each message built upon the next. Men were challenged to be watchmen in their homes, urged to know God intimately, and prodded to push through difficult times and not give up. They left with a winner's attitude, knowing how to position themselves for success.♥

BE SURE TO SAVE THE DATE FOR A CALL TO ARMS 2024, NOVEMBER 7-8.

POST UP FOR VICTORY WITH CHRIST // KENNETH W. HAGIN



Nothing is more powerful than the Name of Jesus. You can give me all the reasons why you think something is not possible. But I will tell you why the promises of God will always come to pass. They will never fail. **YOUR SITUATION IS NOT TOO BIG FOR GOD. YOUR SITUATION IS NOT TOO BIG FOR THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. THE ENEMY CAN'T BRING ANYTHING TO YOU THAT THE POWER OF**

GOD INSIDE YOU CAN'T OVERCOME.

If you're tired and weak, God will give you strength. If you're confused, He'll give you guidance. If you're broke, He'll give you money. If you're sick, He'll give you health. If you feel like you can't hold on any longer, God will hold your hand. If you're all alone, He says, “I am with you.” If you're facing rejection, He says, “I am beside you.” When everything is against you and it looks like it's all gone, He says, “I am still here.” When it looks impossible, He says, “It's possible. Just believe me.”

It's time to turn to the great power of the Holy Spirit and let it loose in your life and position yourself to win. Realize that **WHEN YOU OPEN GOD'S WORD, YOU ARE STANDING ON THE PRECIPICE OF THE GREATEST VICTORY YOU CAN EVER HAVE. NOTHING IS GREATER THAN GOD'S WORD.** When you get in the Word, you position yourself to win. You post yourself up in a position to win.

THE ATTITUDE OF A WINNER // CRAIG W. HAGIN



Winners and losers have different mindsets. Winners act and walk differently than losers. Winners always expect to win. As Christians, we need to have a winning attitude every day. We need to understand that we are the champions; we are not the underdogs. The reason we're champions is the greater One

lives in us. Some of us struggle with this because we have a losing mentality. Our attitude is supposed to change when we become a Christian. We talk about renewing our minds, but we don't renew our attitudes.

TO POSITION OURSELVES FOR VICTORY, WE MUST CHANGE OUR ATTITUDE. WE HAVE TO THINK LIKE JESUS THINKS. He doesn't think like a loser. We must put on the thoughts of God and let the Greater One come out. We have the capacity to be victorious. But we let the smack talker—the devil—overcome us because we see ourselves as the underdog.

THE BIBLE SAYS YOU'VE ALREADY WON THE VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST. The only thing that can defeat you is your mentality. But when you read the Word, you will see how victorious you are. It stirs up something on the inside, and you will act differently. So instead of having a losing attitude, have the attitude of a winner. **YOU ARE GOING TO WIN THIS BATTLE. YOU WILL MAKE IT. IT MAY GET WINDY AND IT MAY GET ROUGH, BUT YOU WILL WIN.**



“God placed Adam in the garden to watch over it—to guard and protect it. **WHEN YOU’VE BEEN GIVEN A FAMILY, YOU HAVE A JOB TO WATCH OVER IT—TO BE A WATCHMAN WHO’S PAYING ATTENTION.** Are you paying attention when the devil attacks your home? Are you paying attention when things come at your kids? Is there a disconnect between mom, dad, and the kids? That disconnect is there because you’ve stopped paying attention to what your kids are interested in. **IF WE’RE NOT CAREFUL, WE GIVE UP TERRITORY AND ALLOW THE DEVIL TO ADVANCE IN AREAS HE OUGHT NOT TO HAVE PERMISSION.**” // **BOB KEICH**

“This journey of life is not necessarily easy. There are a lot of bumps in the road. And the devil will make it extremely difficult at times and bring test, trials, and tribulations your way. He wants to get you to a place where you say, ‘This is far enough.’ I’m here with a message for all of us—**YOU’VE COME TOO FAR TO COME THIS FAR. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? IT’S NOT TIME TO GIVE UP. IF YOU’RE NOT DEAD, YOU’RE NOT DONE. GOD HAS MORE IN STORE FOR YOU.**” // **TONY UMBER**



“What’s missing in many of our lives? We’ve been satisfied with the accumulation of information and have never pressed in to get to know God. We have teachings. You can go to YouTube and listen to anyone, and I love that. But **WHAT’S MISSING IN MANY OF OUR LIVES IS INTIMACY WITH THE FATHER. WE HAVE TO STOP BEING SATISFIED WITH ONLY BEING FAMILIAR WITH GOD. GET QUIET BEFORE THE LORD AND GET TO TRULY KNOW HIM.** Many of us know the Word of God, but until we know the God of the Word, we risk becoming pharisaical in our walk.” // **JERRY WEINZIERL**

“There’s something to be said about somebody who won’t quit. If you’re called to ministry, there will be moments where you want to quit. **THERE COMES A POINT WHERE YOU HAVE TO BE TOUGH ENOUGH TO PUSH THROUGH THE HARD TIMES.** Anything in life that’s worth having will be hard. The calling God placed in you is for a reason. There is so much more in you than you realize. I believe you are one discipline away from overcoming a barrier. You just have to push through. **THE JOURNEY IS HARD, BUT IT’S WORTH IT.**” // **JUSTIN WIEGAND**





CULTIVATING THE JESUS KIND OF LOVE



KENNETH W. HAGIN

TO GROW A garden successfully, we can't plant starters or seeds and then leave them unattended and expect them to grow. We have to water and fertilize a garden properly if we want the best harvest. We have to weed our garden and protect the plants from

insects and pests that could ruin our work.

In the same way, spiritual things like love must be cultivated in order to grow. In other words, we can't plant the Word of God in our hearts and then neglect it. No, we have to water the seed of the Word that has been planted in our hearts by continuing in the Word—reading, studying, and thinking on it. And we have to guard the “soil” of our hearts against the enemies that would try to steal our harvest.

1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 (NKJV)

12 And may the Lord make you **increase** and **abound** in love to one another and to all, just as we do to you.

As we yield ourselves to God, He will cause us to increase and abound in love—to *grow* in love. When we apply ourselves to cultivating God's love in our lives, that love will grow.

LOVE MUST GROW IN GOOD ‘SOIL’

Growing in love requires work. We don't accidentally grow in spiritual things any more than we would accidentally grow a prize-winning crop of flowers, fruits, or vegetables.

TO GROW IN LOVE, WE MUST CAREFULLY GUARD OUR HEARTS. We must continually cultivate the soil of our hearts to keep it soft, not hard. And we must keep our hearts free of “weeds” that could choke the life out of our harvest.

Cultivating our hearts will take diligent effort. But we are not without help! God has given us ample tools to ensure that love grows and increases in our hearts and lives.

WE MUST THINK WITH LOVE

To grow in love, we must first *think* with love.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever

things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, **think on these things.**

Many Christians are very lax when it comes to their thought life. They allow their minds to wander and dwell on the wrong things. They do it mostly out of habit. They've been dwelling on "what someone did to me" for so long that it's easier to continue thinking that way. It takes effort to force their minds to think in a different, new, and better direction—to think on God's Word!

An individual's constant focus on what someone else did to hurt him comes from "the god of this world," Satan. Harboring offense goes completely against God's Word. That's why we must choose which side we're on—we must choose what we are going to think on. If we choose rightly, we can walk free of the pain of the past. But if we choose to dwell on the evil that happened, that evil will become a stronghold in our lives. If we don't change our thought processes to line up with God's Word, we will not grow in love.

WE MUST LOOK WITH LOVE

Jesus had compassion even on those who rejected Him. He looked on people bound by sin. He looked on those who were considered less fortunate. He looked on the multitudes with their many needs. And He was moved with compassion toward all of them!

Likewise, when we look around us, we need to see more than a neighbor, a housewife, a doctor, a teacher, or a student. We need to see individual people with individual needs that God can meet through a heart that belongs to Him.

Too often we look at others, especially those who are unkind, with criticism and skepticism instead of love and compassion. We need to look with love past the faults, failures, and shortcomings of others. When we hear of someone who has made a mistake and has been overtaken in a sin, our first thought should not be to judge them. We should think, "If I were in that position, how would I want to be treated? Would I want to be

criticized and talked about? Or would I want to be shown mercy and forgiveness?"

WE MUST LISTEN WITH LOVE

When people around us are crying out for help, we are often so busy that we don't really hear them. We are taken up with the cares or necessary tasks of life and don't give them the help they need. Instead of offering up a quick prayer, "Lord, bless them," we need to develop a tender heart and a hearing ear toward those who are hurting.

Often when we do take time to help someone in need, we want to do all the talking. We listen a little bit and think we have the answer they need all wrapped up in a nice, neat package. Instead of bandaging the wound, we're just talking and not really helping.

If you were to skin your right knee, you wouldn't clean and bandage your left knee, would you? No, you would wash and bandage the area that was hurt. Similarly, if we want to grow in love, we must learn to listen with love so that we can effectively minister God's love and healing mercy where it's needed.

WE MUST SPEAK WITH LOVE

Words are containers. They can be filled with faith, hope, love, and mercy—or with doubt, despair, fear, and hatred. The words we speak to someone who has fallen can lift them up, or they can cause that person to sink further into hopelessness.

We must refuse to use our mouths to condemn a brother or sister. Instead, our lips should be filled with love and compassion. Our words should usher brothers and sisters back into the family; they shouldn't expel them.

Maturing in love and rising above offense won't always be easy. But it is the *right* thing to do! My dad used to tell me, "Son, if something is worth having, it's worth working for."

The things of God won't just fall on us. We must desire them and position ourselves to receive them. It takes a plant time to grow and bear fruit. In the same way, we must grow in love.♥

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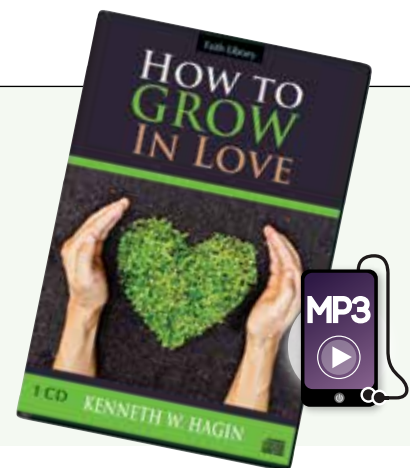
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PUT ON ALL THE ARMOR OF GOD

are wearing our armor, we can stand firm knowing the devil has no right or authority over us. He is not going to win.

Verse 14 (NLT) begins, “*Stand your ground.*” We need to remind ourselves of what God’s Word says. We are the head and not the tail. We are above and not beneath. (See Deuteronomy 28:13.) Whenever we’re in a battle, we must stand our ground. That means don’t retreat and don’t give up.

If we don’t quit, we’ll win. If we continue to stand our ground, we will win every time. Why? Because Jesus defeated the devil 2,000 years ago on the cross of Calvary. We are victorious today because of what Jesus did then.

THE BELT OF TRUTH

Our first piece of armor is the belt of truth (Eph. 6:14). When I think about the belt of truth, I picture the huge heavyweight champion belts given to boxers and wrestlers. I picture a big belt buckle of truth.

However many lies the devil tries to tell us, truth always wins out. The truth of God’s Word is sitting at my waist, and wherever I walk, truth comes in.

THE BODY ARMOR OF GOD’S RIGHTEOUSNESS

Verse 14 (NLT) also tells us to put on the body armor of God’s righteousness. Body armor guards our heart and other vital organs.

Sometimes people say, “You’ve done this. You’ve done that. You’ve messed up so badly, God can’t use you.”



CRAIG W. HAGIN

IN HIS LETTER to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul gives what he calls a final word: “*Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power*” (Eph. 6:10 NLT). Then he tells the Ephesians how to be strong: “*Put on all of God’s armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil*” (v. 11 NLT).

To stand against the devil, we have to do what the Bible says. And that is to put on *all* the armor of God, not just part of it. Sometimes I think Christians put on a few pieces of armor and not the entire set. But it all goes together.

When we’re putting on our clothes, we don’t put on our shirt and shoes but forget our pants. The armor of God has two parts: defensive and offensive. We need both to stand against the enemy and defeat him.

Our battle is spiritual. Paul told us, “*We are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places*” (v. 12 NLT). We fight these spiritual enemies by putting on our spiritual armor.

Verse 13 (NLT) says, “*Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.*” When we

No, we have been made righteous through the blood of Jesus (Rom. 5:9; 2 Cor. 5:21). Paul wrote most of the New Testament. But he had a past life and did a lot of bad things. He was Saul of Tarsus who had many Christians killed. God, however, still had a plan for his life.

It doesn't matter what any of us did before we came to the Lord. God wants to use us.

SHOES OF PEACE

Here's another part of our armor: "For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared" (Eph. 6:15 NLT). The peace this verse is talking about is a peace that passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7).

It's hard to stand strong if we don't have peace. We have to decide that we're going to stand in God's peace.

One of the last things Jesus said before He went to the cross was "peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27 NKJV).

Jesus is the Prince of Peace. When everything is falling apart around us, we can have peace by casting our cares on the Lord. We have to choose peace. We will have days when the author of un-peace tries to take away our peace. But if we have our shoes of peace on, we will be fully prepared to walk through anything.

It's easier to stand strong WHEN WE'RE FULLY DRESSED IN GOD'S ARMOR.

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

The shield of faith is our first line of defense, and it stops the fiery arrows of the devil. The Word says that no weapon formed against us will prosper (Isa. 54:17). But the devil will keep trying to pummel us with something, and it's better if we stop his attacks with our shield. Even so, if something gets past our shield, other parts of our armor will stop the attack.

The devil attacks from behind too. So I imagine that my shield of faith is more like a space shield, and it covers me all the way around.

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

One of our biggest battlefields is in our mind. The devil will try to attack us there daily. Scripture tells us to cast down imaginations (2 Cor. 10:5). And we are told to renew our minds (Rom. 12:2). We do that with God's Word.

Paul calls this piece of armor the helmet of salvation. We need to think about what salvation has done for us. Knowing the Word and what Jesus did for us on the cross will help us win the battles in our mind.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

God's Word is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17). What does His Word say? It's important for us to know. If we don't know what the Bible says, we can't defeat the enemy.

When Jesus was tempted in the wilderness, He answered each temptation with the Word. That is our example to follow. When the devil lies to us, we have to quote the Word. That's how we defeat him.

BE FULLY DRESSED

It's hard to forget to put all our clothes on when we're getting dressed each day. Spiritually speaking, let's make sure every day we are fully clothed in God's armor. If we're going along and the devil tries to attack our heart, it could mean we forgot to put on the breastplate of righteousness. Or if we're feeling unsettled, maybe we didn't put on our shoes of peace.

It's easier to stand strong when we're fully dressed in God's armor. The devil can get through if we've forgotten to put a piece of that armor on. But when we are fully equipped, we'll have the power to withstand him.♥

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INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

But God

TAD GREGURICH

ONE OF MY favorite phrases in the Bible is in the Book of Ephesians: *“But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us . . .”* (Eph. 2:4).

But God . . .

In Matthew 7:24–27, Jesus talked about a wise man and a foolish man. The wise man built his house on the rock. This person heard God’s Word and obeyed it. When the storm came and the wind and the rain beat upon that house, it stood. The foolish man built his house on the sand. He heard the Word but didn’t obey it. That same storm destroyed his house.

LIFE HAPPENS

Life will happen. No one will ever get to a place in faith where life doesn’t happen to them. Everyone will have many opportunities to act on God’s Word. When everything seems to be falling apart, “but God” has to be our go-to.

As we approach the Lord’s return, the world isn’t going to get better. Not long ago, we went through a global pandemic. Things will keep happening. Whatever storm we get caught in, we have to stand up and say, “But God.”

COVID didn’t eliminate “by Jesus’ stripes, I’m healed.” Nothing can change what God says. When life happens, our first response must be, “What does the Word say about this?”

Romans 3:4 says, *“Let God be true, but every man a liar.”* Well, that includes Tad. Let God be true and Tad be a liar. If I believe something different from what God says, I would have to call myself a liar.

Nothing—no sickness, no lack, no adversity—can change what God’s Word says. Anything opposite of the Word has to be a lie.

One time I visited a Rhema Bible Church member in the hospital. He had been having severe headaches and had bleeding in his brain. After his surgery, I was there when they brought him back to the room.

The doctor told us the surgery went well, but he didn’t know if this man would recover.

The doctor gave us the facts. But thank God, we knew the truth, and the truth never changes. The truth of God’s Word says, *“He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed”* (Isa. 53:5).

We prayed and spoke the Word over the church member, and he kept gradually getting better. During another visit, a nurse said, “It’s a miracle. This should not be happening. God had to have done this.” He made a complete recovery!

MOVING FORWARD

Some people are dealing with issues from their past. But I guarantee you there’s not one person who hasn’t had some failures. We’ve all been there. For some people, it may look like they’ve just thrown it all away. “But God” is the answer. Let go of the past, let go of the mistakes, and dare to believe the Word of God.

John 16:33 AMPC says, *“Be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]”* Through what He did on the cross, Jesus has deprived mistakes, sickness, calamity, and anything else of power to harm you. Whatever comes against you, remember, “But God . . . !”

[Editor’s note: Tad Gregurich is the dean of Rhema Bible Training College and an associate pastor at Rhema Bible Church.]

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**When life happens, our first response must be,
“What does the Word say about this?”**

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)



GOD'S FAVOR

I AM AMAZED at how many Christians seldom read the Bible. Reading God's Word is like reading instructions to new equipment. Some people try to assemble a new machine without reading the instructions, only to find that the machine does not operate properly because it was not put together correctly. People wonder why their life is not going as smoothly and productively as it should. When they ask me why, I reply, "Have you read the instruction book—the Bible?"

The Bible contains all the instructions we need to live a productive, successful, and satisfying life. In it, we learn about God's character. He tells us of His love, mercy, and grace. Within it are the promises He has freely given to us. We can understand our authority and our rights and privileges.

I also call the Word our "how to" book. How to pray, how to resist the devil and temptation, and how to stand in the storms of life. To understand God, we must meditate on His Word. He often speaks to us through scripture. When we don't have any feelings—the Word is still there. I have found that one of the hardest disciplines for Christians is to consistently read God's Word. I have often told people in an amusing but honest observation, if you cannot sleep, start reading the Bible. You will fall asleep immediately!

Often, we wait until our Thanksgiving celebration to think about giving thanks. However, it is important to thank God daily for everything He provides for us. Do you realize that, as a believer, you are surrounded all day and every day by God's favor? When you understand and recognize that fact, it will change your life and your attitudes in life. Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV) says, "*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*" Many Christians believe they have to somehow earn God's favor. But the truth is, we already have it. God saved us because of His favor toward us. God's favor is the power that changes things for us.

You must first recognize that God's favor is yours. Secondly, you receive favor by asking for whatever you need. John 16:24 (NKJV) says it this way: "*Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*" Thirdly, you receive God's favor by faith—believing that God will supply whatever favor you need.

My parents taught me Luke 2:52 (NKJV) as a young child. "*And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.*" Then they added, "If Jesus had favor with men, you can too." I have believed that from an early age and have practiced it all my life.

As a five-year-old, I was staying with my aunt over the weekend. She had a huge mulberry tree in her front yard, and I wanted her to make a swing to hang from that tree. Of course, that meant we needed some chain. It was late on a Saturday and the stores closed at 5 p.m. She had gone to several hardware stores and found no chain. She told me, "Lynette, this is the last store we can go to before they close. If it is not here, you will have to wait until you come to my house again." Of course, I wanted that chain now, so what did I do? I prayed. "God, help them to have chain." I was sitting in the car waiting, and to my delight, she came out of the store with a sack of chain.

Recently, I was on a waiting list for a puppy I wanted. The breeder had seven females available. I was last on the list to choose a puppy. The website had pictures and descriptions of the puppies. There were two I told God, "Lord, I would be happy with either. I thank you that I have favor, and one of them will still be available, even though I am the last to choose."

One lady who was sixth in line removed her name from the list because she wasn't sure she would get the puppy she wanted. I was the last call, of course. And I was delighted to hear that both of the pups I wanted were still available, even though five people had chosen before me. *God's favor!* Know that He will do exceedingly, abundantly more than we can ask or think if we just put our trust in Him (Eph. 3:20).♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Are You a Name-Dropper?

Some people try to impress others by telling them the names of important people they know. These people are called "name-droppers." Are you a "name-dropper"? You should be, because you know the name of someone very important . . . as a matter of fact you know someone with the most important name there is. His Name is "JESUS!" The Bible tells us some very interesting things about Jesus' Name.

Philippians 2:9 says that Jesus' Name is above every name. **There is no name greater!** Acts 4:12 tells us that the Name of Jesus is the only Name that brings salvation. **We are saved by Jesus' Name!** Jesus Himself said in John 16:23 that whatever we ask God for in Jesus' Name, He will give it to us. **Our needs are met in Jesus' Name!** When Peter and John healed the lame man in Acts chapter 3, they told him to rise "in the Name of Jesus." **There's healing in Jesus' Name!** In Mark 16:17 Jesus told His disciples that they would cast out devils by His Name. **There's authority over the devil in Jesus' Name!**

Since there is no name greater than Jesus' Name and since we are saved by His Name, healed by His Name, have authority in His Name, and have our needs met by His Name, don't you think we should be saying His Name a lot more?

NAME DROPPERS

The names below will fit perfectly in the blue puzzle pieces below them if they are "dropped" into the right slot (just like the Name of Jesus in the example to the right). Take a pencil and draw a line from the name to the puzzle piece that it fits.

JESUS

JULIE CECIL JESSE GLENN

jokes & riddles



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

What was Moses' cure for a headache?

He took two tablets.

One day Adam went for a walk with his sons Cain and Abel. As they passed by the Garden of Eden, Adam's sons asked their father what this beautiful place was. He answered, "Boys, that's where your mother and I ate us out of house and home!"

What is IN Jesus' Name?

There are 3 "P's" in Jesus' Name . . . Protection, Provision, and Power. His Protection gives us shelter and safety. His Provision meets all of our needs. And His Power gives us authority, strength, and ability.



Find the pictures in the Name of Jesus above and figure out which ones are symbols for Protection, Provision, and Power.

Bible Mysteries

Can you figure out who these Bible characters are?

They used Jesus' Name, and what happened to them seemed to be quite confusing. They knew the right Name but really didn't know the One whose Name they were using.

Who were they?

Fill in the blanks with the letter that matches the symbol below it. The letters are in the box below.

—	—	—	—	—	—
▼	★	♠	*	♣	♦
*	□	■	*	□	*
*	♣	♠	♦	*	

A=*	C=♦	E=♠	F=*
H=★	M=★	N=■	O=□
Q=*	S=*	T=▼	V=♦

What did the whale tell the other fish in the sea after he spit Jonah out of his mouth?

You should have seen the one that got away!

Where would you go to find out how much a pie weighs?

♪ Somewhere over the rainbow, weigh-a-pie ♪

Did you hear about the dog that ate garlic and onions?

His bark was worse than his bite!

What do you get when you cross a bear with a skunk?

Winnie the PHEW

Add'em Up!

Count the total number of times Jesus' Name appears on this page.

Decode the Message

In Acts 4:30 the disciples asked God for something to take place through the Name of Jesus. Decode the message below to find out what they asked for.



ANSWERS:

What is IN Jesus' Name?
PROTECTION: football helmet, shield, lock, hard hat, safe, suit of armor, umbrella
PROVISION: sock, dress, piggy bank, house, cake, money, bread and butter
POWER: muscle, lightning bolt, sheriff's badge
Bible Mysteries (These men tried to cast out a demon in Jesus' Name but they didn't really know Jesus in their hearts . . . the man who was demon possessed jumped on them and beat them all up. If you're going to use Jesus' Name in this way, make sure you know Him in your heart first.)
Decode the Message
Signs and Wonders
Add'em Up: • Answer: 26 times!

Everlasting Love

FEBRUARY IS KNOWN as the month of love. Natural, human love—romantic love—is celebrated on the 14th, Valentine’s Day. However, it can be a lonely day for those who don’t have a “valentine” to celebrate it with.

But there is a love that will never let you down. God, the One Who loves you unconditionally, will always stand by your side. His love is available to everyone. Jesus told us, *“For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16 *The Living Bible*). God promises to *“never fail you or abandon you”* (Deuteronomy 31:8 *The Voice*).

Would you like to know this kind of love? To receive God’s free gift of salvation that He offers through Jesus, simply 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 loving me and making me brand new on the inside. Thank You that You will never fail me or abandon me. Thank You for giving me a new life!

If you prayed this prayer, welcome to God’s family! He is love, and He loves you. 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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