



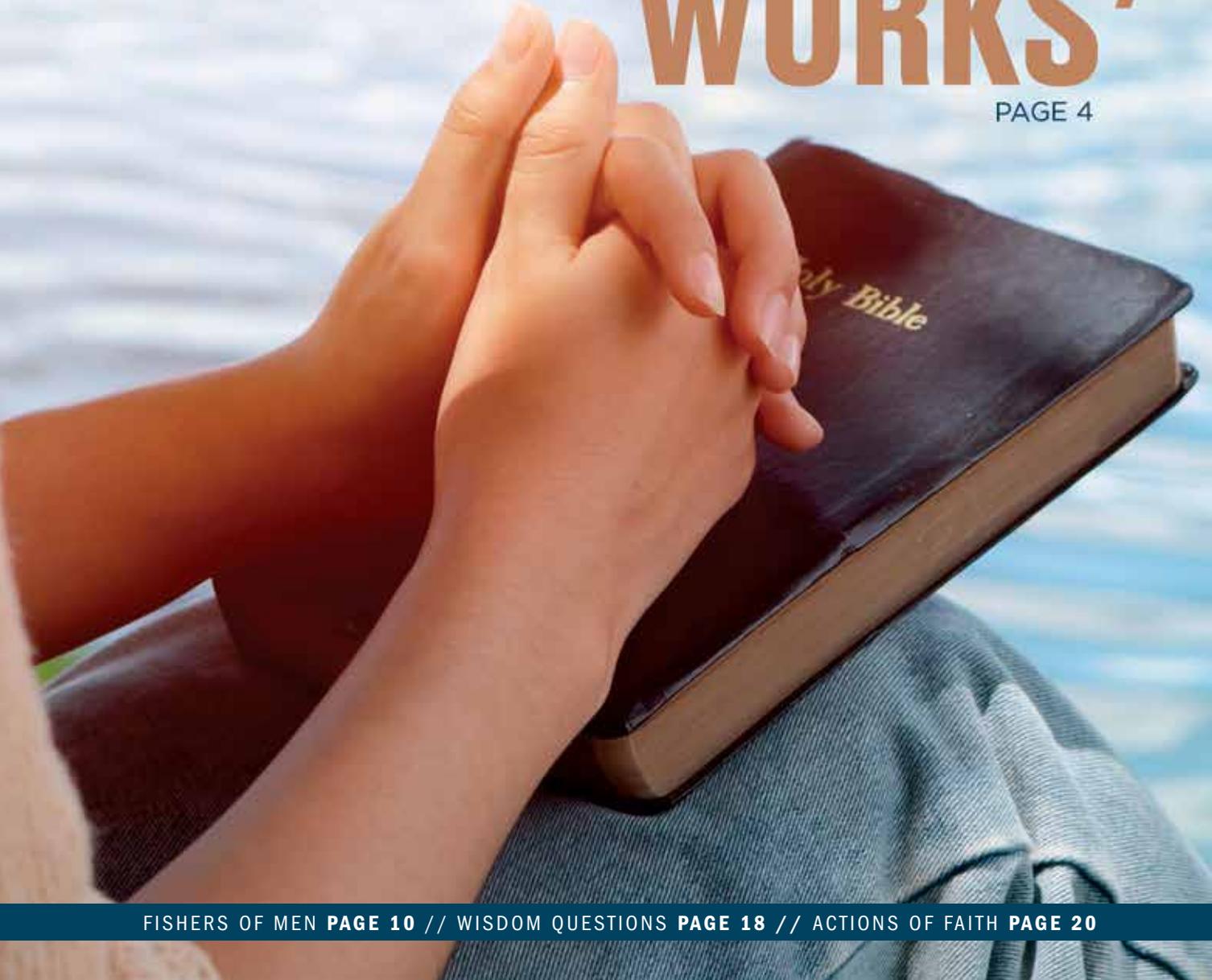
THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2024

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

THE KEY TO 'GREATER WORKS'

PAGE 4





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- DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS Kris Taylor
- SENIOR EDITOR Janet Wagner
- CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Robert Murphy
- EDITORIAL STAFF Danielle Burnside
Judy De La O
- GRAPHIC ARTISTS Kristen Cook
Michelle Duy
Jeanne Hoover
Rose Wenning
- PHOTOGRAPHERS Phil Anglin
Emily Lightfoot
Mica Marcal
Bailey Reimer
- PROJECT MANAGERS Katrina Ewalt
Christi Finley
Philip Ramsey

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WRITE:

US: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74150-0126

CANADA: THE WORD OF FAITH, P.O. Box 231, Schomberg, Ontario, Canada L0G 1T0

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Our God Is Able!

Throughout the Bible we hear men and women echo the statement made by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: “Our God is able!” Maybe the words each person used were not identical to those found in Daniel 3:17. But the truth came forth clearly that God was able to deliver!

If we asked Abraham, Moses, David, Luke, John, or Paul about God, all of them would agree that our God is *able!* Hannah, Deborah, Mary, and Martha would also join their voices in the glad refrain, “Our God is able!”

The God of the past is still the same today. In Malachi He says, “*I am the Lord, I change not*” (Mal. 3:6). Since the God of the past was able, the God of today is able. He’s the *same God*.

God can turn tragedy around for our good. God can turn tears into smiles of gladness. He turns mourning into dancing and sorrow into joy (Ps. 30:11).

Our God is able. He delivered the three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace. What can God deliver us from? Anything that comes against us! Isaiah 54:17 (NKJV) says, “*No weapon formed against you shall prosper, and every tongue which rises against you in judgment you shall condemn.*” No god is as big as our God.

When we’re in the middle of a trial—when we’re being tossed to and fro in the storms of life—we sometimes fail to look for God’s deliverance. We forget that He causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). Sometimes all we can hear is howling wind, and all we can see are tossing waves. We must learn to focus our eyes on God and His ability.

God does not bring the storms of life, but He is able to deliver us from them. He is able to make our requests a reality. He is able to take our dreams and make them come to pass in our lives.



Kenneth W. Hagin

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THE KEY TO 'GREATER WORKS'

PRAYER IS OUR spiritual oxygen. Just as oxygen is vital to our natural life, so prayer is vital to our spiritual life. We need to pray regularly and continually in order to live as God intends.



LYNETTE HAGIN

In John chapter 14 we discover one thing that God desires for our life by reading what Jesus said about the power of prayer.

JOHN 14:12-14

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

In this scripture passage, Jesus said He was going to the Father and that the works He did, we would do—and even greater works! Jesus wasn't talking only to His disciples. He wasn't talking to ministers or Bible school students or those Christians whom people consider highly anointed. Verse 12 says, "He that believes on Me." Are you a believer? If you are—if you've accepted Christ as your Savior—then Jesus was talking to you! The works Jesus did, you're going to do also. But you're going to do more than that. You're going to do greater works than He did!

If you are a parent, don't you want your child to be more successful than you are—to do greater things than you have done in your life? That's the way Jesus was. He did great works while He was on this earth. But He said to those who believed on Him, "I want you to do more than I've done. I want you to do *greater works!*"

THE KEY TO DOING 'GREATER WORKS'

But how do we do what Jesus did? How do we do even greater works than He did? He told us in verses 13 and 14, "*Whatever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do. . . . If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*" We will accomplish the greater works through the power of prayer.

Too often, things aren't accomplished in our life because we don't ask! Some people ask God for things only when they get into trouble. "Oh, God, please help me! Please forgive me! Please rescue me!" Don't misunderstand me. God does help us, forgive us, and rescue us. But He wants us to pray and ask Him for things according to His Word even when we're not in trouble. Unfortunately, praying is often the last thing people do instead of the first thing.

How many times have you heard someone say, "Well, I tried such and such and that didn't work. So I tried this, that, and the other . . . and finally I just had to pray about it." *Finally had to pray about it?* The *first* thing we should do is pray!

Prayer was never meant to be a last resort. It was meant to be a source of continual communication between God and us. Prayer is the responsibility of every Christian. Prayer is so important that God *commanded* us in His Word to pray (Eph. 6:18, 1 Thess. 5:17, 1 Tim. 2:8).

Prayer should never be viewed as drudgery. Talking to God is a privilege! We shouldn't have the attitude, "Do I have to pray?" No! We should be thankful we have the *opportunity* to pray!

WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL PRAYER MAKE?

Many of the problems we've faced in life could have been avoided if we had been praying on a regular and continual basis. The Bible says that the Holy Spirit will show us things to come (John 16:13). But how can God warn us about something if we never talk to Him? If we spent more time in prayer, we would be able to pray on the offensive instead of having to pray on the defensive when problems arise. When we enter into a life of prayer, the Lord will show us things to come!

When the Lord shows you things to come, He may not give you the total plan. However, He will tell you everything you need to know at that moment in order for you to be successful in life. And you will be able to hear His voice if you will stay sensitive in your spirit and continue to live a life of prayer.

One of the most important things we should want to do as Christians is to walk out the perfect plan of God for our life. How do we walk out that plan? We do it through prayer, through reading His Word, and through developing an intimate relationship with Him. It is through prayer that we have a relationship with our Heavenly Father; it's how we come to know Him better.

By developing an intimate relationship with God, we allow Him to start guiding us in His course for our life. We can trust that everything will be all right, because we know we are walking out *His* plan. Since before we were born, He knew the plan for our life from beginning to end. Now we must choose whether to walk in His plan, doing the works that Jesus did—and even greater works!♥

WE NEED TO PRAY REGULARLY AND CONTINUALLY IN ORDER TO LIVE AS GOD INTENDS.

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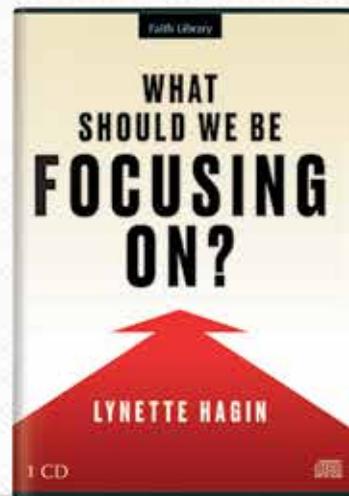
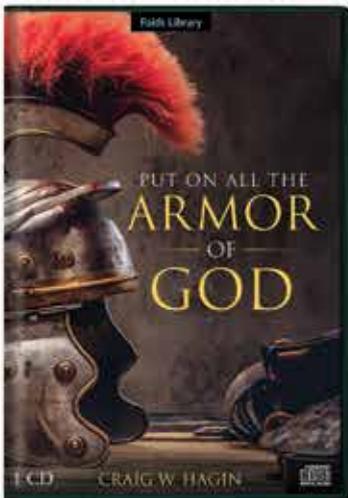
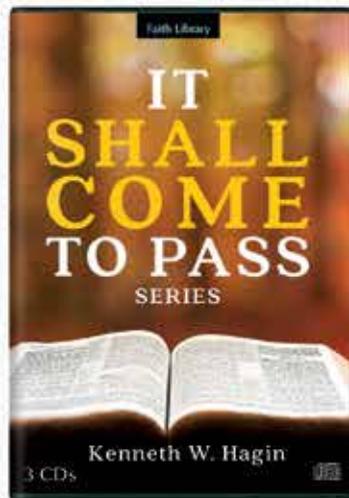
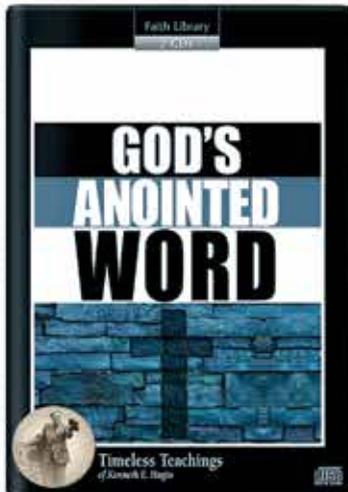
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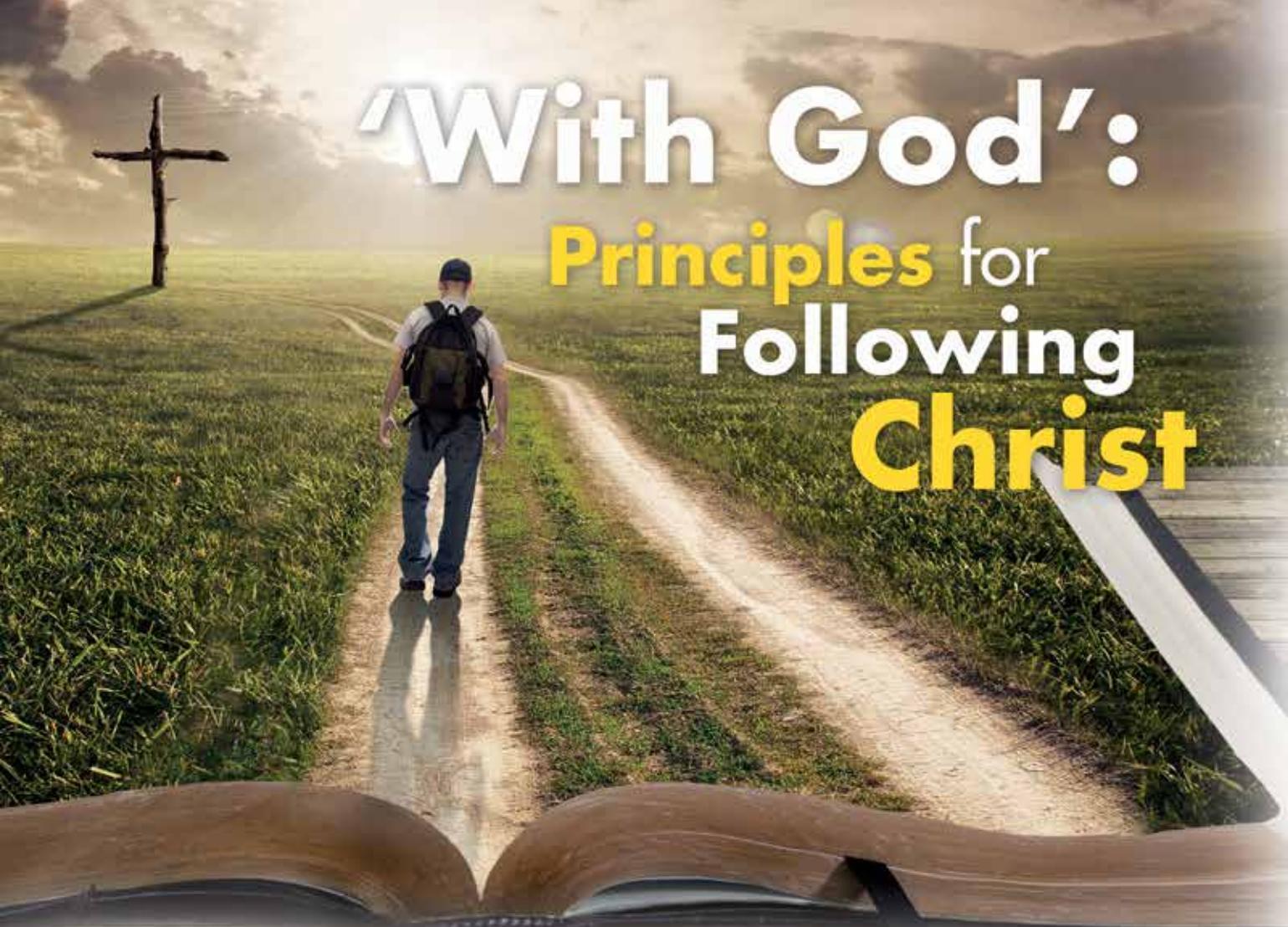
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'With God': Principles for Following Christ

THE NEW BIRTH qualifies us to be partakers of God's divine nature. We're made heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus. Luke 18:27—"... *The things which are impossible with men are possible with God*"—has become ours. But how do we actually *partake* of God's blessings and glory? How do we receive and experience them for ourselves?

So many people accept Jesus Christ as Savior, and then that's *that*. They don't receive Him as *Lord*. They don't go any deeper in their walk with Him. They go back to living the best they know how and waiting for the Sweet By-and-By when they'll walk those heavenly streets of gold. But the "with God" in Luke 18:27 that makes man's impossibilities possible also means that we're *following* God. In other words, our being "with God" is a lifestyle, not just an event.

Let's look further in Luke chapter 18.

LUKE 18:27-30 (NIV)

27 Jesus replied, "What is impossible with man is possible with God."

28 Peter said to him, "We have left all we had to follow you!"

29 "Truly I tell you," Jesus said to them, "no one who has

left home or wife or brothers or sisters or parents or children for the sake of the kingdom of God **30** will fail to receive many times as much in this age, and in the age to come eternal life."



KENNETH W. HAGIN

Talking about himself and the other disciples, Peter told Jesus, "We have left everything to follow You."

Following God sometimes means giving up things or making sacrifices. It may mean leaving friends who don't want to follow God wholeheartedly. It may mean giving up comfortable, familiar surroundings and moving someplace else to obey Him. It could mean any number of things. But if you will follow God with your whole heart, He will give you more than you ever had.

You never give up anything for God without Him blessing and prospering you many times over. Sometimes people want to see the *blessing* before they do the *giving up*. That's where faith comes in. You have to believe Luke 18:27-30: that the God Who does the impossible will increase you in every area as you follow Him.

WHAT DOES FOLLOWING GOD REALLY MEAN?

We know that if we're "with God," we're following Him. But let's break that down further. What does it mean to follow God? It means that we have priorities—not *our* priorities, but *His*.

When God's priorities become your priorities, you will put Him and His Word first. This is not an option; it's a necessity. You won't put friends first. You won't even put listening to Christian podcasts, reading teaching materials, and attending special meetings first. You will put *Him* first! Those other things can help you, but they can't take the place of His Word and of your fellowship with Him.

You can always tell when a person is putting God and His Word first. You can't determine that by the absence of tests or trials in their life. It's what they do *in the midst* of tests and trials that shows where their priorities lie.

When you're putting God first and a trial comes, you won't wring your hands and say, "Oh God, what am I going to do?" No, you will have already armed yourself with His Word, and you will begin to speak it. What you have put in your heart will eventually come out of your mouth.

Putting God and His things first also means putting His *will* first. To follow God, we must put His desires above our desires and choose His will for our lives over our own.

Putting God's will for us first is a choice we will have to reaffirm throughout our lives. We don't do it once, and that's it. If you haven't already done so, I challenge you to put God's desires for your life above your own. He made you, and He has created you for a very special purpose. You can trust Him to bring that purpose to fulfillment.

FOLLOWING GOD INVOLVES COMMITMENT

Following God also means *committing* to follow Him as a lifestyle. We *commit* to always put Him, His Word, and His will first. And we commit to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We must wholeheartedly commit to follow the One Who knows

more about us than we know about ourselves. We must entrust ourselves to Him Who cares more about our prosperity and success than we do. He has our best interests at heart. We can trust Him with our life!

These things are what it means to be "with God" and to follow Him. If we are "with God," we are *putting God, His Word, and His will first*, and we are *committed to doing that* despite any sacrifices we may have to make. Whatever you think you may be sacrificing to follow God is nothing compared with the rewards of following Him.

Someone might argue, "Well, you sound so certain, but I'm just not sure." People like that often find themselves feeling dissatisfied. They're *questioning* rather than *believing*. They haven't reached the point in their walk with God where they can say with full assurance of faith, "God said it. I believe it. That settles it!"

When the pressures, tests, and trials of life come to try to steal from us and make us doubt, we must let the infallible truth of God's Word be our rock and foundation. We have to maintain our commitment to follow God, His Word, and His will for our lives, no matter what. And we must steadfastly follow the leading of His Spirit.

Your mind may be shouting, "You're not going to make it! There's no way out of this!" You may have to bite your lip to keep from giving in to hysteria and desperation. You may have to just close your eyes and cling in faith to the Master, because all you see is hopelessness. But if you will hold to the truth that the answer to your problem is possible *with God*, you will make it through and experience the fullness of His blessing.♥

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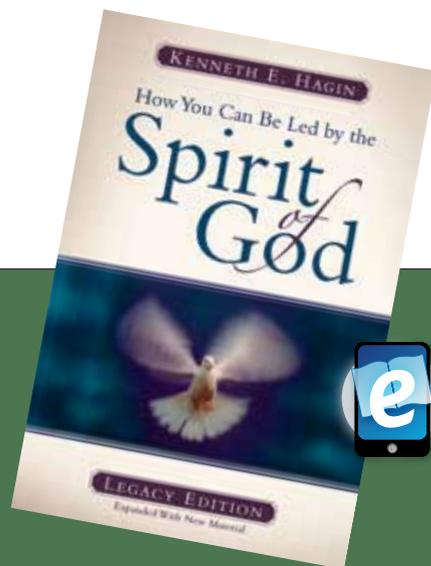
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IT'S BEEN SAID, "Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime." Spiritually speaking, a similar principle is true. Jesus gave His disciples the Gospel and that had the power to save *them*. But He also taught them how to share that same saving Gospel with *others*. He multiplied His life-changing efforts by training others to continue His work.

Jesus spent much of His ministry teaching His disciples to be fishers of men. He knew that when He was gone, they would carry His message to their generation—and then to all others. Commissioned by God, Kenneth E. Hagin and his family built Rhema for the same reason. He, and they, wanted to ensure that God's Word would be preached in the uttermost parts of the world, generation after generation.

The Reason Rhema Exists

For three generations, the Hagin family has been training men and women in the Word. Their focus has been particularly on the message of faith, healing, and the move of the Spirit. They also have been training these men and women to teach others the very same truths. And this work continues. We minister the Word of God to thousands of men and women. And we train them to minister in turn to multiplied thousands more around the world.

Since 1975, Rhema USA's 49 graduating classes have equipped more than 29,000 men and women to take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the nations. Alumni live and minister in more than 100 countries outside the United States. Many more travel overseas for short-term ministry. Many Rhema grads serve as fivefold pulpit ministers. Others serve as youth and children's ministers, worship leaders, and support staff. The prayers and gifts of believers worldwide support Rhema USA. Those believers are changing lives in their own countries and others as graduates fan out around the globe and share what they've learned.

Kenneth E. Hagin was born in 1917. Back then, no one would have thought that his future work would have such an amazing impact. And when he and his son and daughter-in-law, Kenneth W. and Lynette Hagin, started Rhema Bible Training College in 1974, few realized what the school would accomplish. The Hagins are only one family. They could not possibly reach the uttermost parts of the earth on their own. But through the more than 29,000 Rhema USA graduates, the biblical teachings they love are changing lives in places they will never visit.

International Rhema Day

International Rhema Day grew out of the Hagins' practice of designating one day during their meetings as "Rhema Day." They

would share God’s vision and purpose for RBTC and give an update on the school and ministry. Everyone was encouraged to “double up” on their giving. And the entire “Rhema Day” offering went to support Rhema Bible Training College USA.

Student tuition pays only one-third of RBTC’s operating cost. So the school depends greatly upon its generous partners who join in *International Rhema Day*. Through your support, graduates are “fishing for men” around the world. They are doing today what Jesus trained and sent His disciples to do over 2,000 years ago.

International Rhema Day lets everyone in the Rhema family help support Rhema Bible Training College USA. Through your prayers and gifts, you enable RBTC to run with its God-given vision to train end-time laborers.

Whether you are an individual or a church, you can help make *International Rhema Day* a success. Join us on Sunday, May 5, for *International Rhema Day*. You can participate in three practical ways:



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2. Pray

Set aside a time on Sunday, May 5, to pray both individually and as a local church for the school, staff, and students.



3. Share

Tell others about Rhema Bible Training College USA. If you or someone you know might be interested in attending RBTC, visit rbtc.org or call 918-258-1588, ext. 2238, for more information.

Please help Rhema raise up fishers of men—qualified ministers who will go into all the world and share the Gospel with the lost and hurting. For more about *International Rhema Day*, or to sign up your church to participate, visit rhema.org/ird, call **918-258-1588, ext. 2238**, or email us at partnerservice@rhema.org.

Remember to mark *International Rhema Day*, Sunday, May 5, on your calendar. And thank you for supporting Rhema Bible Training College USA. *Together* we are preparing those who will help usher in the last great move of God’s Spirit and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.♥



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The Lordship Principle of the Kingdom

EARL GLISSON

“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has chosen gladly to give you the kingdom.”

— LUKE 12:32 (NASB1995)

A KING HOLDS ultimate authority in his kingdom. It’s through authority that his kingdom is established. A king’s domain is the territory over which he exercises authority, control, and dominion. The word *kingdom* literally means “king’s domain.”

God has a Kingdom He wants us to operate in. Matthew 6:33 says, *“Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* To have things “added unto” us, we first must understand the principle of lordship.

Before anyone gains access to God’s Kingdom, they must be born again. Jesus died for the world and made a way of salvation for everyone. Salvation is free. In context, that means we couldn’t do anything to deserve it. But make no mistake—for this *free* gift to be applied to our lives, it *will cost* us something. We have to give up our way of living and allow Jesus to be our Lord.

Romans 10:9 (NASB) says, *“If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.”* Savior refers to what Jesus did. Lord is who He is.

The Greek word translated “confess” in Romans 10:9 means “to covenant.” When we confess Jesus as Lord, we are making a covenant with our mouths that Jesus is our Lord. The word *lord* means “supreme in authority.” It means “he to whom a person or a thing belongs.” It also means that Jesus makes decisions for us.

God’s Kingdom isn’t a democracy. We don’t get to pick or choose what we like and don’t like. When we are born again, we say, “My life is not my own. I give Jesus full authority over my path.” Accepting Jesus as our Savior is so much more than saying, “Jesus, save me so after I leave this planet my final destination is Heaven.” Submitting ourselves to God’s lordship is saying, “I am Yours; what’s my next step?”

Jesus is the Word. When we accept Christ as our Lord, we are giving the Word supreme authority over our lives.

Some of us think that salvation is a onetime experience. It’s not. It operates all the time. Salvation manifests itself in healing, prosperity, and restoration of our relationships.

When we make a covenant with God that His Word is supreme in authority, we will be saved from all kinds of trouble.

The Kingdom of God is bigger than our personal lives. Yes, God promises to provide for us. But it’s so much more than saying, “I’m blessed and prosperous!” He wants us to touch the world! And if we seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, all these things will be added unto us anyway (Matt. 6:33).

When we give God lordship over our lives, He will make the crooked places straight. His Word will be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from a message Earl Glisson spoke at Campmeeting. Earl pastors Anchor Faith Church in St. Augustine, Florida.]

Savior refers to what Jesus did. Lord is who He is.



CAMPMEETING
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Praying for Our Leaders

PATSY CAMENETI

“Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, for kings and all who are in authority.”

—1 Timothy 2:1-2 (NKJV)

WE ARE INSTRUCTED in First Timothy 2:1-2 to pray and give thanks for kings and all who are in authority. Since we’ve been instructed to do so, it would be reasonable to say God has authorized and commissioned us to pray these prayers. How should we pray? What do we ask for on behalf of these kings and all others in authority?

Proverbs 8:15 shows us what is necessary for kings and others in authority to rule and govern rightly.

PROVERBS 8:15

15 By me [wisdom] kings reign, and princes decree justice.

Solomon was a king known for his wisdom. He was his father David’s choice among all of his sons to succeed him on the throne. Most importantly, he was God’s choice.

God appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him to request anything he wanted. Of all the things Solomon could have asked for, he chose wisdom to rule and judge correctly. He recognized that he needed God’s wisdom to rule worthily. God was pleased with Solomon’s request and granted him unparalleled wisdom. So pleased was God with this amazing request that He even gave Solomon the things he didn’t request—riches and honor.

Solomon’s wisdom showed up in several ways. It could be seen in his ability to handle the affairs of the state (1 Kings 4:1-28). His wisdom surpassed that of other world leaders (1 Kings 4:30, 34). He composed songs and poetry (1 Kings 4:32).

And he showed great understanding of the natural world (1 Kings 4:33).

TWO SOURCES OF WISDOM

It was clear to Solomon that to rule and reign justly, he needed divine wisdom. This is true for the king of any nation and for all others in positions of authority. The Bible speaks of two sources of wisdom. We know there is wisdom from God, or from above, but there is also wisdom that is from the earth, or from below (Isa. 29:14, 1 Cor. 2:5).

The following scriptures contrast the two types of wisdom:

1 CORINTHIANS 2:6

6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought.

JAMES 3:15, 17 (NKJV)

15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

Clearly, there are two kinds of wisdom from two opposite sources. And it is obvious that of these two types of wisdom contrasted in James, the wisdom from above is the best wisdom by which kings and all who are in authority should operate.

GOD’S WISDOM IS DISPENSED THROUGH THE CHURCH

There are rulers who pray and ask for God’s wisdom. But what about those who don’t? We are to ask God on their behalf to give them wisdom. If no one requests divine wisdom for them to rule by, then by default, the only wisdom left for them is the wisdom from below.

We are instructed in First Timothy 2:1-2 to pray for kings. In response, we can request that wisdom be given to them. God has promised to give it liberally. And when we ask, let’s ask in faith, nothing wavering. Rather than trying to figure out what the king is supposed to do relating to national and eternal affairs, let’s absolutely trust the Holy Spirit. Remember, God’s plan not only affects the well-being of a nation but also prepares the way for a harvest of souls (1 Tim. 2:4).♥

[Editor’s Note: Patsy Cameneti and her husband, Tony, are the directors of Rhema Australia and Kenneth Hagin Ministries Australia. This article was adapted from her book *For Such a Time as This*.]

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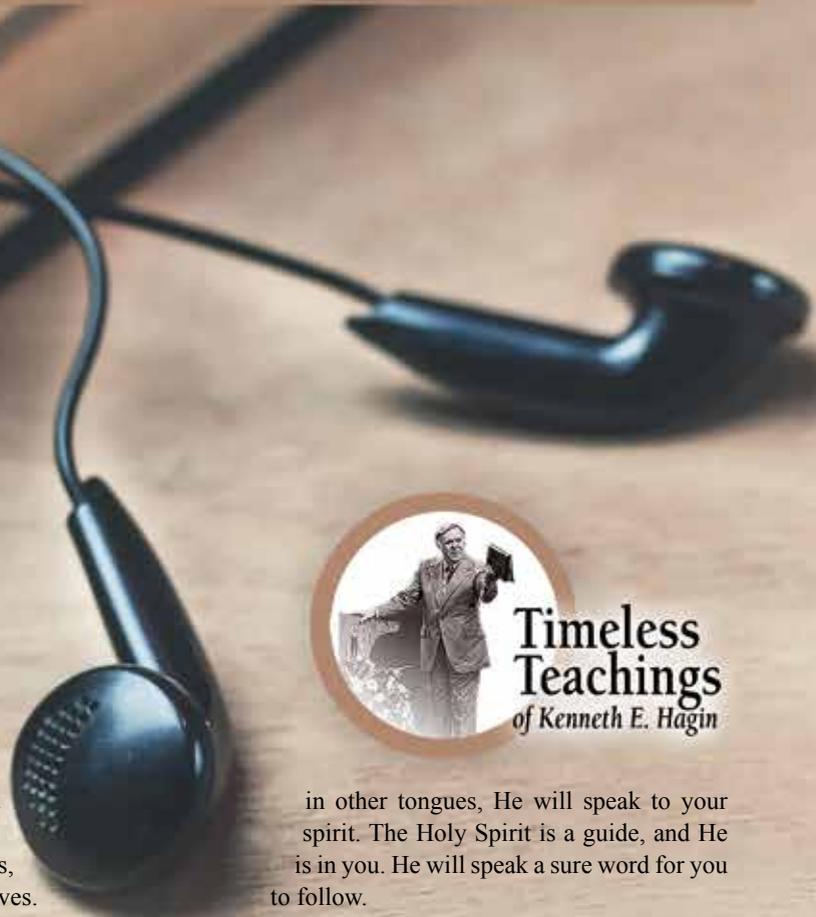
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Learning to Hear



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CHRISTIANS CAN LIMIT their spiritual growth by not doing their part to grow spiritually. For example, when the Holy Spirit prompts them to spend time praying in tongues, they often override that leading and go about their daily lives. They never learn to develop in the scriptural scope of speaking in other tongues as God intends.

What is your part in growing spiritually? The truth is, the Bible tells you to do some things that will impact your life in God. If you'll obey Him and do your part, you'll discover the supernatural power praying in tongues affords.

A key to developing ourselves spiritually is found in Isaiah 40:31: *"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength."*

Continual renewals of your spirit come by spending time before God. When you wait before Him, praying in the Spirit not only refreshes and renews your inner man, it also affects your mind and physical being.

One benefit of waiting on the Lord is that you'll begin to discern the voice of the Spirit. As you wait in God's presence praying

in other tongues, He will speak to your spirit. The Holy Spirit is a guide, and He is in you. He will speak a sure word for you to follow.

ISAIAH 30:21

21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

People often say to me, "Tell me how I can know the voice of the Holy Spirit."

This is my answer: "I can't do that. You'll have to learn the voice of the Holy Spirit for yourself—which you *can* do because He dwells in you."

"How can I tell if it's really the Holy Spirit talking to me?"

When a person asks that question, it tells me they haven't become acquainted with the One Who lives in them. They don't know His voice. That person needs to spend time waiting before God. If they will stay in God's presence long enough, they

won't have to ask anyone to tell them how to discern the Holy Spirit's voice.

If a person doesn't spend time in God's presence each day, telling them what I know wouldn't help. They would still miss what the Holy Spirit is trying to tell them.

As for me, I'm *not* going to miss what the Holy Spirit is saying to me, because I listen to Him. He knows what's out in front of me, and He is faithful to show me things to come (John 16:13).

Sometimes our staff gets aggravated when they're waiting for an answer from me. I don't move until I get the answer from God in my spirit. I live by Psalm 127:1, "*Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.*" We may build the house, but it's in vain if the Lord isn't building it.

You can do a lot of good things that aren't what God wants you to do and get into trouble. Even if what you did was good, it may not have been what God wanted *you* to do. You have to find out what His plan is for you. Then follow what He tells you to do.

ONE BENEFIT OF WAITING ON THE LORD IS THAT YOU'LL BEGIN TO DISCERN THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT.

You might ask, "*How am I going to discover God's plan for me?*" The Holy Spirit will lead you as you wait before God praying in other tongues. As Jesus promised us, "*He [the Holy Spirit] will shew you things to come*" (John 16:13). Besides, God promised that "*As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God*" (Rom. 8:14). That means *you* can be led.

I have always been very studious, but almost everything I know about God's Word didn't come from studying books. The primary way I learned the Bible was on my knees, praying in other tongues. That's how the revelation of the Bible came to me. I'd get revelation from the Counselor that would cause me to start moving in a certain direction. In fact, for every new direction I've ever taken in ministry, I've received divine guidance while praying in tongues.

That's why many people never receive revelation about God's plan for their lives. They don't spend enough time praying in tongues. They never get in the Spirit to obtain their answers from God. As a result, their reasoning and planning is in the mental realm. In the end, their man-made plan fails.

Your part is to set aside time to wait before God. Get into His presence and pray in the Holy Ghost, and you'll receive the answers you need. As you wait on the Lord, divine guidance will come.

Cultivate your spiritual life by feeding on God's Word. Spend time fellowshiping with the Father, praying much in other tongues. Learn to follow what your spirit is saying to you. Every

day the Holy Spirit will use your spirit to enlighten you to God's will. God will direct you through your spirit, for the Bible says, "*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord*" (Prov. 20:27).

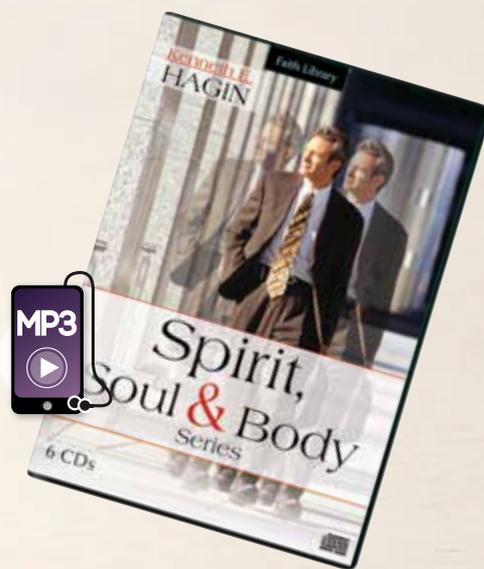
Learn to walk in this new realm of Holy Ghost power. Everything starts by determining to get before the Lord every day—allowing Him to lead you, teach you, and continually renew your spiritual strength.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Tongues: Beyond the Upper Room*.]

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INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

Wisdom Questions

TONY MCKINNON

WISDOM IS A subject that can be foggy and mystical. And that means we just don't understand it. I want to demystify wisdom by asking questions.

WHERE IS WISDOM FOUND?

Since the beginning of time, we've been looking for wisdom in all the wrong places. In the Garden of Eden, when Eve *"saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate"* (Gen. 3:6 NKJV).

Eve was deceived after talking to the snake. She went after wisdom from a source that was not the true source of wisdom. And people have been doing that ever since.

Job asked, *"Where can wisdom be found?"* (Job 28:12 NKJV). The answer is in Proverbs 2:6 (NKJV): *"For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding."*

WHAT IS WISDOM?

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) says, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding."* To fear the Lord is to reverence God. It is to exalt Him as God above all other gods, including the god of self.

The Jesus some people claim to worship is actually themselves. Our culture has demoted God and exalted virtually everything else above Him. That's why we're rich in knowledge and poor in wisdom.

I find it interesting that we can split an atom, but we can't unite a family. We can engineer genetics, but we can't raise children. We can build massive homes, but we can't build happy ones. We can cure many diseases, but we can't stop living lives that produce disease. We can surgically change our image, but we don't understand our identity.

Wisdom deficiencies can be detected in people who have a lot of knowledge but lack the ability to apply that knowledge to their lives and relationships.

James 1:5 tells us to ask for wisdom if we lack it. We apply this verse to all kinds of stuff, but how about applying it to wisdom? We have to exercise faith for wisdom just like we do for salvation and anything else that is ours in Christ.

WHAT DOES WISDOM HAVE?

In short, wisdom has the following: the ability to govern, happiness, prosperity, fulfilled desires, long life, promotion, honor, pleasantness, peace, health, and favor.

HOW DO WE RETAIN WISDOM?

Solomon is the perfect example of someone who had wisdom and didn't retain it. In First Kings 3:9, he asked God for an understanding heart, and that's what God gave him (v. 12).

Wisdom is synonymous with a heart that leans into God. It requires, by necessity, a relationship with the giver—with the Source.

It's not something we take and walk away with. It's the fruit of a relationship. And the degree of wisdom we walk in is only as fresh as our relationship with God.

Solomon didn't have the same steadfast devotion to the Lord that characterized his father, David. Solomon had many wives who worshiped pagan gods. They planted seeds in his heart that, when he was old, drew him away from the God of Israel.

Two women compete for the hearts and souls of humanity: Lady Lust and Lady Wisdom. We are to flee the one and earnestly seek the other. Solomon introduced us to both of them through the way he lived and wrote.

To retain God's wisdom, we must value and pursue it more than we pursue anything else in this world. All God's promises, including wisdom, must be sought for and fought for. They are processed and protected through faith and kept vibrant through a relationship with God.

The world needs the church, more now than ever, to walk in God's wisdom. People need answers to their questions and solutions to their problems. And wisdom is ours for the having.♥

[Editor's note: Tony McKinnon is assistant national director of Rhema Ministerial Association International and Rhema Alumni Association. He is also an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College.]

"Wisdom is synonymous with a heart that leans into God."





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PUT YOUR FAITH INTO ACTION

FAITH IS THE key to having the power of God work in your life. But it's just as important to know where to put your faith. The Word of God says that your faith should be in the power of God, not in the wisdom of men (1 Cor. 2:5). If you want God's power to move on your behalf, you have to have faith. First, you must have faith in God's power. But you must also have faith to "step out" when His power is present.

Here are several ways you can begin putting your faith into action.

ACTION #1: PUSH ON AND PRESS IN

You may be familiar with the story in Luke chapter 5 of the man who was sick with the palsy. The sick man's friends brought him to Jesus to be healed. But when they arrived at the house where Jesus was preaching, they could not get into the room because of the crowd. These four men were



CRAIG W. HAGIN

concerned about only one thing: getting their friend healed. They didn't care what happened—they were going to do whatever they had to do for their friend to receive his healing. The perfect plan was for them to carry him into the room and set him down in front of Jesus. Instead, they were forced to go to "Plan B."

But they weren't worried about it; they just kept on going.

When Christians are believing God in a particular situation and something happens contrary to what they are expecting or believing, they sometimes think, "Oh, no! I've missed it somewhere." They fall apart and never receive what they are believing for. But, you see, even when you face contrary circumstances, you must still keep pressing on and pushing in. You have to keep doing whatever it takes to receive what you need from God.



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DON'T LISTEN TO THE DOUBT AND UNBELIEF THAT PEOPLE TRY TO DISCOURAGE YOU WITH. JUST KEEP PRESSING IN TO JESUS.

When it looked as if there was no way for the man with the palsy to get into the room where Jesus was, he kept pressing on and pushing in. His friends tore the roof off in order to get him to Jesus. You have to be the same way. When everything has gone wrong and looks bad, you can't give up. Of course, "Plan A" was for everything to go perfectly, but sometimes trials and struggles come. Keep pressing on and believing in spite of what's going on around you.

ACTION #2: DON'T LISTEN TO DOUBT

After Jesus healed the man with the palsy, the Pharisees and teachers of the Law were telling Him, "No, Jesus, you're doctrinally off." But Jesus didn't listen to them.

There may be people who will try to speak doubt into your life. They will say, "You can't do this, and you can't do that." But you don't have to listen to them. You can choose to listen to doubt if you want to. If you do, though, you will miss out.

Jesus chose not to listen, and the man with the palsy chose not to listen. He was the only one present that day who was healed. The power of God was present to heal them all, but everyone else was worried about what the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law would think and say about them, so they didn't get healed.

Don't listen to the doubt and unbelief that people try to discourage you with. Just keep pressing in to Jesus. No matter how bad your circumstances are, keep putting your faith in the power of God.

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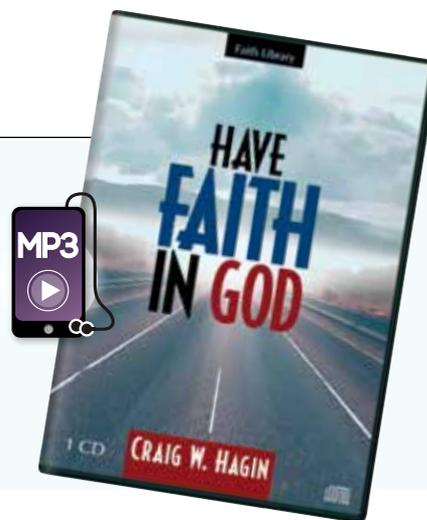
If you are believing God for something, get excited about it now! Don't leave all the dancing and shouting for later. Start dancing and shouting now. Because we know that God does not lie (Heb. 6:18). We know that our God has promised us victory, healing, and prosperity. And since these things belong to us, we should pray *expecting* to receive them.

While we're expecting to receive, we can shout and dance because we have already seen our outcome with the eye of faith. We may not see the manifestation tomorrow or the next day, but we can know it's on the way.

Just as the man who was sick with the palsy, we can expect an answer from God. His friends let him down through a hole in the roof of the house where Jesus was ministering, because they were expecting him to be healed.

It took a lot of faith for the sick man's friends to take him to the top of the house, tear the roof off, and lower him down in the middle of a church service. When the man came down, Jesus saw his faith and said, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house" (Luke 5:24 NKJV). Likewise, *your* faith can make *you* whole. The power of God is present to heal you! Healing belongs to you because God has already provided it for you. But whether you get healed is up to you and your faith.

Whatever you may be facing, know that your circumstance will not last forever; it is only temporary. Think of it as just another chance to believe God and build your faith. You see, the devil is trying to destroy you, but really he's *helping* you, because he's giving you an opportunity to build your faith. Then the next time he comes around, your fight of faith will be easier, because you have been building up your faith. So don't let trials get the best of you. From now on, every time you face an adverse situation, think of it as another opportunity to put your faith into action.♥



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— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

GOD'S PROTECTING POWER

THIS TIME OF year in Oklahoma is often referred to as "storm season." We frequently hear the local warning of sirens alerting us to impending storms. These storms can quickly evolve into a tornado that can destroy everything in its path. I'm no stranger to storms. As a young child, I remember my mother taking me to our neighbor's storm cellar every time a storm arose. Even if the storm struck in the middle of the night, my mom woke me up and took me—sometimes in heavy rain—to the storm shelter.

I'm reminded of the fierce storm the Apostle Paul faced in Acts chapter 27. He was a prisoner aboard a ship scheduled to set sail. Because it was the time of year when sailing was dangerous, Paul warned those in command not to sail. He said, "*Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives*" (Acts 27:10). However, the centurion refused to listen to Paul and continued with the voyage.

A storm indeed arose and the captain and crew began throwing everything overboard in an effort to save the ship. The storm became so treacherous that all hope of being saved was abandoned. "*Finally, Paul called the crew together and said, 'Men, you should have listened to me in the first place and not left Crete. You would have avoided all this damage and loss. But take courage! None of you will lose your lives, even though the ship will go down. For last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me, and he said, 'Don't be afraid, Paul, for you will surely stand trial before Caesar! What's more, God in his goodness has granted safety to everyone sailing with you.' So take courage! For I believe God. It will be just as he said. But we will be shipwrecked on an island.*" (Acts 27:21–26 NLT)

God often warns His children of impending danger, but too many of us fail to heed His warnings. We would be wise to listen and obey. When I was a teenager, my friend and I wanted to drive from my home in Texas to her relative's home in Oklahoma. My father did not want me to go. After I begged him, He reluctantly gave his permission. On the way to Oklahoma, we encountered a terrible storm. The storm grew so intense we could not even see the road. Carefully we pulled over to what we hoped was the side of the road. Large balls of hail began beating against our car. I literally thought that I was going to die.

I did some quick repenting for not listening to my father. Although my friend and I arrived safely at our destination, I learned a good lesson. I should have obeyed my father. Since that experience, if I ever feel a check in my spirit while traveling, I always look to the Lord for His direction concerning the matter.

God is concerned about our safety. It is important to claim His promises on a daily basis. I always claim Psalm 91, verses 10–11 (AMPC) for my family. "*There shall no evil befall you, nor any plague or calamity come near your tent. For He will give His angels [especial] charge over you to accompany and defend and preserve you in all your ways [of obedience and service].*"

I have witnessed God's protecting power on many occasions. One day we heard the sound of a tornado passing over our house. Our son, who was a teenager at the time, heard the noise first. Because I had so emphasized Psalm 91 to our children, he immediately began quoting it. The tornado passed over us and touched down a mile away.

The Lord has protected us from car accidents. Once as I was preparing to go out of town, something on the inside told me to wait. I ended up leaving an hour later than I had intended. While on my trip, I encountered a traffic jam and came upon a bad accident. I realized if I had left home when I had intended, I could have been in it.

I encourage you to call upon the protecting power of God. Then be sensitive to His voice, and He will warn you of things to come. If you sense a check in your spirit about something, heed that warning. It pays to listen to the Voice of the Lord.♥

Lynette





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