



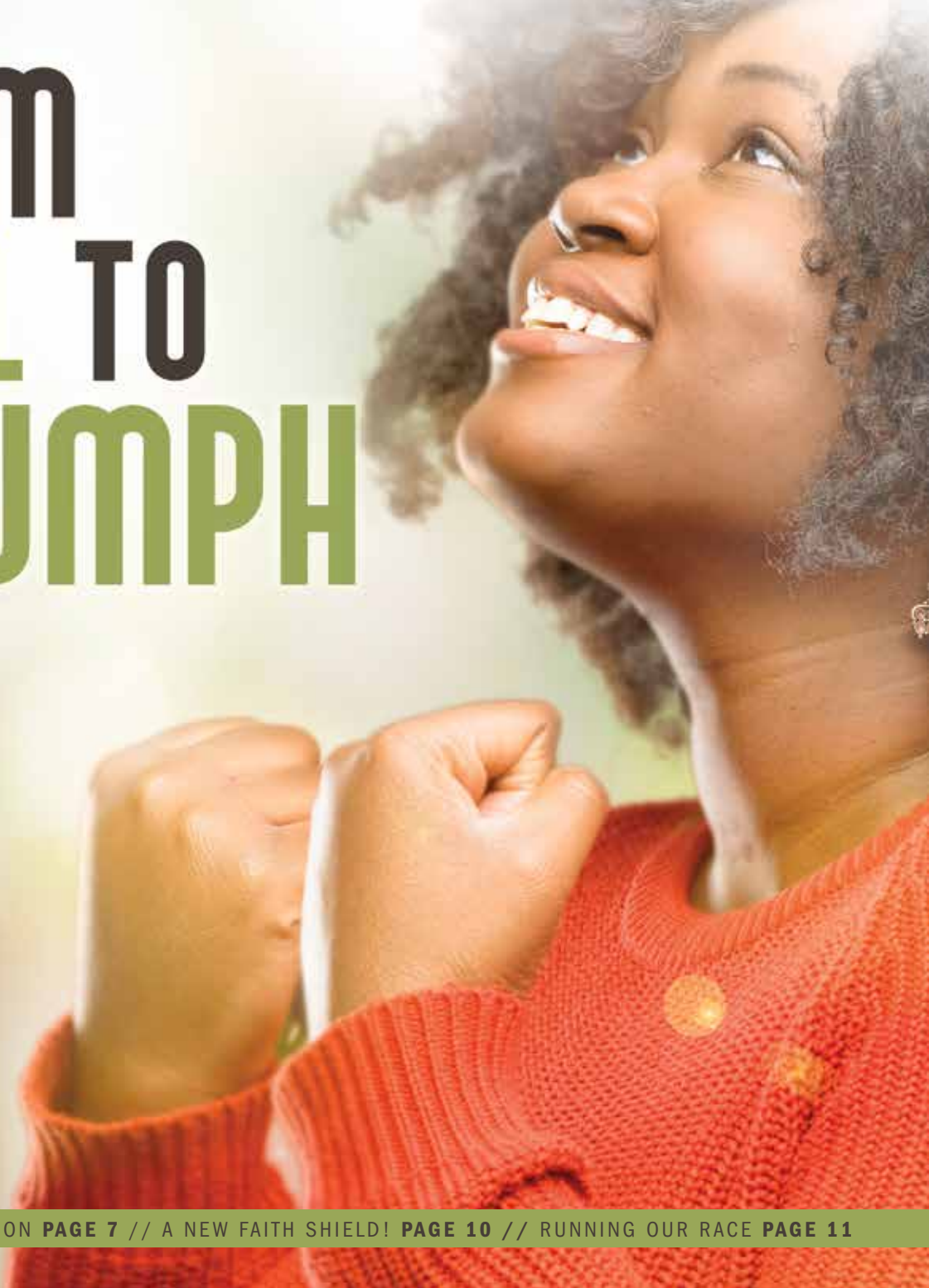
# THE Word of Faith

MAY 2024

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

## FROM TRIAL TO TRIUMPH

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# the Word of Faith



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# You Are Designed for Victory!

Many people struggle to survive the obstacles and opposition life throws at them. We are not designed to be defeated. God’s original design for humanity was for us to be victors—to triumph and live above the limitations of life.

Through the years, there have been those who defied all the odds. They’ve broken records, climbed mountains, and explored unknown regions of this world. They’ve fought battles and triumphed, overcome physical limitations, and risen from obscurity to places of influence.

But the most important battles we will ever face are spiritual. These include battles to escape the sinful nature, triumph over Satan, and enter the place of victory God has designed for us. We cannot win these battles on our own. We can never extract ourselves from sin without the help of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Over 2,000 years ago, Jesus won the victory for us, so we can live in victory in 2024! He defeated Satan, the god of this world, and delivered us from his dominion. Second Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) declares that God always leads His people in triumph. He has a plan for each of us to have victory over every challenge and impossibility we will ever face. I want you to get a firm grip today on this fact: you are designed for victory!

As we celebrate Memorial Day, let’s honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice by shedding their blood so America could have victory over her enemies. The blood they spilled was not shed in vain. They left a legacy of victory that encourages us and stirs our hearts to press on and receive victory in our lives today.

*Kenneth W. Hagin*



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# GOD'S PURPOSE FOR EVERY Woman



God created women with **special qualities** and **characteristics**, and He has a specific purpose for us to fulfill.



**DENISE HAGIN BURNS**

**IT'S NO SECRET** that men and women are different. Our brains are wired differently. Men's brains have a simpler, more linear path, while women's brains are more complex and intertwined. Being a woman comes with its own set of complexities. I fully enjoy being a woman, but I've noticed that not

every woman feels the same. I think part of the issue is that our culture has twisted womanhood and femininity into something weak and inferior. But I believe a bigger problem is that many women simply don't understand their purpose.

## PINK ON PURPOSE

When a baby is born, people ask, "Is it pink or blue?" When God formed women, He wanted us to be pink—He wanted women to be women. God created women with special qualities and characteristics, and He has a specific purpose for us to fulfill. Ephesians 2:10 (NLT) says, *"For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."*

More and more women, including young Christian women, are adopting the attitude, "We don't need men anymore." I find

that those who think that way don't fully grasp their purpose as a woman. They would be proud to be pink and fulfill their role as women if they truly understood God's design.

## GOD MADE YOU FOR MORE

What exactly is God's purpose for women? Genesis chapter 2 has the answer.

### GENESIS 2:18 (NLT)

**18** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him."

So often we hear that God formed man first (which is true), and women are supposed to be the helper. Oftentimes we think this means women are lesser, but that isn't the case. God created men and women as equals.

Society has relegated the word "helper" to mean domestic roles. However, that could not be further from what God meant. The Hebrew word translated "helper" in verse 18 is ezer. Ezer means "to provide support for someone who needs help; to assist and encourage; to rescue and to be strong." It implies great strength and helping in dire, life-threatening circumstances.

Ezer was used 21 times in the Old Testament to reference God when He helped people out of dire situations. The word God uses for woman in Genesis 2:18 is the same one He used for Himself

when delivering His people. This aspect of God’s character means a vital and powerful strength as a sustainer, protector, strengthener, and helper. That doesn’t sound weak to me, and it certainly doesn’t have anything to do with domestic roles.

God created women to be an ezer-helper like Himself. He didn’t give this powerful aspect of His character to men—He gave it to women. When a woman says, “I don’t want to be a helper,” she is saying she doesn’t want God’s qualities operating in her life. I don’t know about you, but I want everything that is from God.

I encourage you to read about Queen Esther in the Book of Esther, Deborah in Judges chapter 4, and Rahab in Joshua chapter 2. They are inspirational examples of women in the Bible whom God called as ezers. These women saved whole nations and helped people fulfill their divine destiny because they walked in their God-designed purpose.

## WHO ARE YOU CALLED TO HELP?

So my question to you is, who has God called you to help? It could be your family, friends, neighbors, or a group of people. You may be called to help children, the homeless, the abused, missionaries, or the sick.

If you’re married, you’re called to be a strong helper to your husband. If you have children, you are called to help them. But your role as helper goes beyond this. And if you’re single, don’t fall for the lie that you can’t be a helper until you’re married. Remember, being a helper is not about a domestic role. It means helping people.

We should be helping no matter our stage of life—single, married, divorced, or widowed—because that is the purpose of being pink. God’s plan for our lives does not change. If you are unsure about who you are called to help, a good place to start is to think about what or who makes you most passionate. What makes you smile and light up when you do it?

You will never find fulfillment in life unless you walk in your purpose as a helper. You can pursue achievements, but until you submit to the way God created you, you will always be searching for something more. You will never feel fulfilled as a woman until you start helping others.

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## 3 STEPS TO FULFILLING YOUR PURPOSE

God designed women to be strong and protective. It’s in our DNA. We can’t get away from it, no matter how hard we try. I challenge you to do these three things so that you can fulfill your God-ordained role as a woman.

**1** Examine your life to see if you are walking in your calling to be an ezer. Are you being pink on purpose? Are you helping on purpose? Write down who you are helping right now to remind you of your purpose in this season. Your mindset should be, “I will be strong for the people I am called to help. I will encourage, support, and protect them.”

**2** Pray. If you feel frustrated, sad, or anxious about where you are in life, pray and ask God who you should help. You can say, “Lord, show me who I should be an ezer to. I want to walk in my calling as a woman.” Then start to take notice of where you feel the most joy.

**3** Give God permission to search you. Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT) says, “*Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.*”

Do you know what the opposite of an ezer-helper is? It is a woman who is discouraging, demeaning, domineering, and interfering. Ask God to reveal anything about you that offends Him. Ask Him to show you if you are being the opposite of an ezer-helper. Commit to making the changes the Lord tells you to make.

If you do these things, I guarantee that you will fulfill God’s purpose for you. And when somebody says, “Oh, you’re just a woman,” you can be confident and secure in your identity and say, “Yes, I am a woman!” ♥



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PSALM 37:23

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# You Were Created to Be Connected

KENNETH W. HAGIN



“**NO MAN IS** an island” is a famous saying written by English poet John Donne. **GOD NEVER INTENDED FOR ANYONE TO DO LIFE ALONE.** But more than ever, many people are facing life with all the good, bad, and ugly it can bring—alone. They are lone rangers who face their problems in what I call the “isolation chamber,” because they aren’t connected to anyone. Life can be challenging enough, but it becomes even more challenging when we try to do it alone.

Life revolves around relationships. Meaningful relationships are important for spiritual, professional, and personal

isolation and loneliness are real problems, both in our world and among churchgoers. The coronavirus pandemic only made things worse. In a sense, isolation and loneliness have become their own pandemic. The U.S. Surgeon General declared loneliness and isolation the latest public health epidemic. He said loneliness poses health risks as deadly as smoking up to 15 cigarettes a day, costing the health industry billions of dollars annually.\*

On the surface, it seems as if we are more connected than ever. We have the internet, social media apps, and digital connections that let us see

These relationships also give us strength, stability, and safety in times of need. There is great power in being connected to a local body of believers, serving God and others, with each person doing their part. It strengthens the local church and thereby makes it more effective in reaching the lost. Believers are less susceptible to being destroyed by Satan’s attacks when they are active parts of a community.

A Spartan king once boasted to a visiting monarch about the walls of Sparta. The visitor looked around and said, “I don’t see any walls!” His host turned and pointed to all his troops and said, “In Sparta, every



**Believers are less susceptible to being destroyed by Satan’s attacks when they are active parts of a community.**

success. But they are equally important for maintaining good physical health. Studies have shown that social connections can lessen anxiety and depression, help regulate emotions, lead to higher self-esteem, and improve our immune systems. When we neglect to connect, it negatively affects our entire being—spirit, soul, and body.

The truth is, relationships are one of our most valuable assets. The devil knows this, and he is out to destroy relationships among believers so he can isolate them. He wants them to believe they are better off by themselves and don’t need help from the church or others. I’ve noticed that people who isolate themselves never accomplish what they could have if they had stayed connected.

into people’s lives. We can connect with new people or reconnect with people from our past with the push of a button or swipe of a screen. Yet more and more people, including Christians, report feeling isolated, lonely, and disconnected.

I thank God for technology. It has its advantages. But He didn’t intend that our primary way of connecting with each other boil down to a text or a screen. **GOD HARDWIRED US TO DESIRE AND FORM REAL CONNECTIONS WITH REAL PEOPLE.** The primary way He wants Christians to find and develop these connections is through the local church.

Relationships with other Christians help us succeed in serving God and doing what He’s called us to do.

man is a brick. These are the walls of Sparta!” The point was, as long as the bricks (the troops) held together, they were an impenetrable wall. As long as we who are founded on the Rock—Christ Jesus—come together and stay connected, nothing can prevail against us!👊

\*“Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation: The U.S. Surgeon General’s Advisory on the Healing Effects of Social Connection and Community,” 2023, <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/surgeon-general-social-connection-advisory.pdf>. Pages 8–9.



# WHY MOTIVES MATTER IN GIVING



**Timeless  
Teachings**  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

**YEARS AGO**, an evangelist I knew kept saying to me, “You ought to write a book! You could really make money!”

Because he said this, it was years before I actually did write a book. I knew that if I ever wrote a book to make money, I would be in trouble with the Lord. I did not want to write a book until I was absolutely certain that I was only doing it to help people. That had to be my only motive.

God promised to bless us, and we need to know, remember, and believe that. But sometimes there is a fine line that has to do with the motives of the heart. We can close the windows of Heaven on ourselves if our motives are impure.

First and foremost, **PEOPLE SHOULD GIVE BECAUSE THEY LOVE THE LORD! THEY SHOULD GIVE BECAUSE THEY LOVE SOULS AND WANT TO PROMOTE GOD’S KINGDOM AND HIS WORK.** They ought to be able to say, “I’m going to give to help and benefit others even if I never receive anything in return.” When people can make that statement of commitment, they know their motives are pure. And when people give from pure motives and they believe God and love Him, He will honor their giving.

## **PURE MOTIVES BRING PROMOTION IN GOD**

I have seen people be blessed financially through their giving, even though they didn’t know much about faith or

believing God. But they lived right, and their motives for giving were pure. They wanted to bless people and promote God’s Kingdom.

For example, I remember one fellow in particular who was a minister in the 1930s Depression days. Back then, men would work all day long—from sunup to sundown—for \$1. This man knew very little about faith, yet he became wealthy. He didn’t know it, but he was actually acting on faith principles.

One day he said something profound to me. He said, “Brother Hagin, I really don’t know much about exercising faith. For instance, I really don’t know how to exercise my faith to get healed. But even in the trying times of the Depression, I always owned a brand-new automobile. In fact, I was never without a new car.”

He said, “Financially speaking, my family never suffered, even though we pastored some small churches. We always lived in a nice house and had plenty to eat; we never suffered financially.”

Why did he always have plenty, even in the Depression days? Why was he always well provided for, even when others experienced lack and went without? Because he always kept the windows of Heaven open in his life. He not only paid his tithes, but he was a great giver and advanced God’s work. That was the secret of his success. He put himself in a position to receive God’s blessings.



## THE MAN WHO BECAME A MILLIONAIRE IN DEPRESSION DAYS

I knew another fellow down in Texas who never went beyond the fifth grade. He dropped out of school to go to work. He never wore a pair of shoes until he was 12 years old.

As a child, this fellow never owned any store-bought clothes. His mother would take clothes other people gave her and remake them for him. But when this man grew up, he made it big! He was worth more than a million dollars in Depression days! That was practically unheard of.

I knew the fellow personally, and I talked to him about it. He didn't know much about faith, but he knew a little bit. However, he knew how to get God to open up the windows of Heaven by obeying the Word on giving. He got the windows of Heaven opened up early in his life, and those windows were never closed on him. Why? Because he kept them open by his giving.

On God's side, God kept them open because this man obeyed His Word on giving (Mal. 3:10; Luke 6:38). And the Bible does promise us a return on our giving.

### PROVERBS 3:9-10 (AMPC)

9 Honor the Lord with your capital and sufficiency [from righteous labors] and with the firstfruits of all your income;

10 So shall your storage places be filled with plenty, and your vats shall be overflowing with new wine.

God promised to fill our storage places with plenty! He said our vats would overflow with new wine. I don't know about you, but I want the abundance the Lord promises! God doesn't make empty promises. What He has said in His word, He is able to perform (Rom. 4:21).

## GIVING TO THE POOR

Now this man who became a millionaire in Depression days didn't give generously just to get. He didn't have a stingy, grasping attitude—giving just to get everything he could.

No, that fellow was one of the most generous people I had ever met. Whenever he saw anyone in need, he always helped

them. He gave generously because he wanted to see the work of God promoted and advanced. In other words, his motives for giving were pure.

Not only did he give his tithes and offerings, but he was a great one to give to the poor. He believed and stood on the promise of Proverbs chapter 19.

### PROVERBS 19:17 (AMPC)

17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and that which he has given He will repay to him.

Sometimes I think believers read this verse, "He who lends to the Lord, the Lord will just forget about it." No! That's not what the Bible says. The Bible says that if you give to the poor, you are actually lending to the Lord, and the Lord will repay you. This is one of the ways to keep the windows of Heaven open in your life.

If you have the windows of Heaven open in your life, it doesn't matter what happens in this world. No matter how bad inflation or the economy gets, the windows of Heaven will still be open in your life.

You are the only one who can close yourself off from the windows or doors of Heaven. Through disobedience, impure motives, and failing to walk in the light of God's Word, you can in effect shut the doors and windows on yourself.

So let's get the windows of Heaven open in our lives so we can enjoy the blessings of God and be a blessing to humanity! Let's learn the secret of obeying God in giving, and then watch Him open the windows of Heaven.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Jesus—The Open Door*.]

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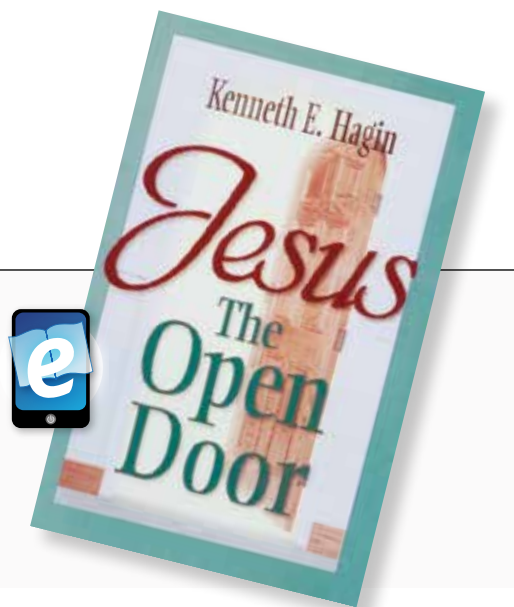
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# Running Our Race

MARK BINTLIFF

WE ALL HAVE a race to run. Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV) says, “*Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.*”

What does our race look like? I believe our race is Christlikeness. Our challenge is becoming like Jesus. Some would say, “No, no, no. Our race is evangelism.” But God’s idea from the beginning was, “*Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness*” (Gen. 1:26 NKJV). Even though Adam sinned, God’s intention never changed.

Jesus is “the brightness of [God’s] glory and the express image of His person” (Heb. 1:3). Jesus is our model. We’re to look like Him. We are to run our race “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” (Heb. 12:2). But as we set out to be Christ-like, we’ve let the enemy tell us, “You’ll never be like Jesus.” We can’t be like Him in our own strength. But God has put His Holy Spirit in us and that changes everything.

Galatians 5:25 (NKJV) says, “*If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.*” In explaining this verse, Kenneth Wuest writes, “The responsibility of the saint is to desire to live a Christlike life, to depend upon the Holy Spirit for the power to live that life, and to step out on faith and live that life. This fulfilled, will bring all the infinite resources of grace to the aid of the saint, and put in operation all the activities of the Spirit in his behalf.”

Having God’s Spirit in us is like putting a racing engine in the family car. We have dynamic power in us that drives us forward, inspires our

lives, and moves us into what God called us to do. We have to learn to live by that power, but God will help us do that. He will show us how to use that power in everyday life to become like Christ.

## GETTING RID OF WEIGHTS

To be like Jesus, we will go through a “training process.” In auto racing—especially endurance racing—drivers practice on a test track that’s not an oval. They and their team learn how to navigate corners and eliminate aerodynamic drag.

Spiritually, we go through a similar process. For instance, when we find “drag” in our marriage, the Holy Spirit teaches us how to handle rough corners and avoid getting stuck or spinning out.

Hebrews 12:1 (NKJV) tells us to “*lay aside every weight.*” Some Christians deal with the weight of guilt and shame from their past. We’re to lay those things aside. Others deal with distractions. Paul said in First Corinthians 10:23 (CSB), “*‘Everything is permissible,’ but not everything is beneficial.*”

Some things in our flesh slow us down. We need to lay them aside too.

Jesus said, “*Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me*” (Matthew 11:29 NKJV). As we run our race, we can come to Him, and He’ll show us how to walk through situations in love, joy, peace, and gentleness.

Jesus is returning for a glorious church, without spot or wrinkle (Eph. 5:27). It’s a church that looks like Him. That means every individual member looks like, operates like, and uses God’s power like Him.

Don’t let the devil lie to you and tell you it’s not possible to be like Jesus. With God’s help, it is possible!♥

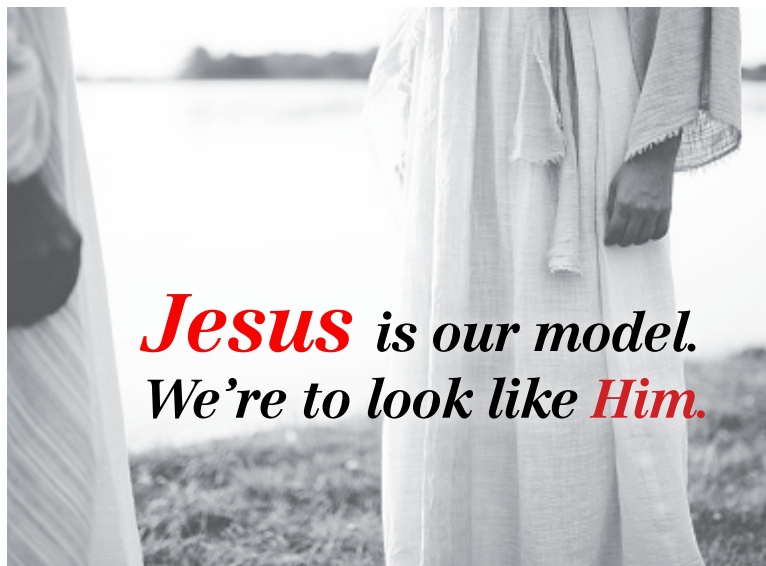
[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Mark Bintliff’s message at *Campmeeting 2023*. Rev. Bintliff pastors New Creation Church in Glenwood Springs, Colorado.]

\*Kenneth S. Wuest, *Word Studies in the Greek New Testament, Volume 1* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1944, 1972), 162.



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# FROM TRIAL TO TRIUMPH

We establish victory in our hearts when we believe, and we possess the victory when we speak.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

**LIFE'S CHALLENGES** are inevitable parts of human experience. Some Christians believe they are out of God's will if they face a trial. Others don't understand why they are going through trials. They think, "I've been following God and doing what He's asked me to do. Why is this happening to me?"

The fact is, the devil will do everything he can to destroy anyone who claims salvation through Jesus' blood. The Apostle Peter said, "*Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you*" (1 Peter 4:12 NKJV).

The good news is, Christians don't have to be overcome by troubles. Jesus' sacrifice secured victory for us. Jesus said, "*In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world*" (John 16:33 NKJV). The Bible also says, "*Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ*" (2 Cor. 2:14 NKJV).

Jesus didn't overcome the world for Himself; He overcame it for you and me. Therefore, we can walk confidently through any trial knowing He will lead us and bring us through.

## Trusting God Through Stormy Trials

The story in Mark chapter 4 of Jesus calming the storm is familiar to many Christians. Jesus told His disciples to cross the

lake and they immediately started doing that. Then a storm arose and threatened to sink their boat. They made it across, but not without a trial.

### MARK 4:35-40 (NKJV)

**35** On the same day, when evening had come, He [Jesus] said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

**36** Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

**37** And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

**38** But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

**39** Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

**40** But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

This story illustrates the need for us to move forward in our Christian journey. We should always be moving forward from where we are now to where God wants us to be. We can't achieve

that by being passive, sitting around and doing nothing. Next week, we shouldn't be in the same place we are in today.

Because of Jesus, we've gone from being sinners to saints. Now we need to move from immaturity to maturity and religiousness to righteousness. We need to go from problems to promises, from victims to victors, and from trials to triumphs. For this to happen, we must be convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that God's Word will come to pass in our lives.

I don't think the disciples were convinced they would reach their destination. Instead of listening to Jesus (the Word), they looked at the waves. Believers do the same today. Many problems in their lives come from their lack of faith that God's Word will actually come to pass for them.

We must be convinced that God has already given us victory. Before we can receive anything—spiritual or natural—we must be confident that it belongs to us and that we can have it. And we must believe that we can emerge from a trial victorious.

That is why we must build a strong foundation on God's Word. The enemy likes to attack Christians who don't have a solid foundation in the Word because he knows they are likely to quit. Jesus' disciples were initially obedient, but they lost faith due to a weak foundation, and Jesus had to intervene.

Many Christians build themselves up in God's Word, but when things are going well for them, they let their guard down and stop practicing the Word. Then the devil comes along with some sort of attack. And instead of being strong in faith, they get into fear and have to build themselves back up.

Jesus is always there to intervene when we lose our way, but the best thing we can do is maintain a strong connection with the Word in every season of life. God's Word is the solution for victory in every situation.

## The Key to Victory

Too many people remain silent in the middle of their trial instead of saying what God has said. What we say will bring us victory. When problems stare us in the face, we must believe and speak! We cannot let trials silence us.

### HEBREWS 10:23

**23** Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Our profession is our confession. We will possess what we confess. Even in the midst of our greatest trial, we must continue to confess what God's Word says. Before we can see victory, we must first speak victory. Jesus provided victory for us at Calvary, but we must actively possess it. He provided the Promised Land for the children of Israel, but they still had to take possession of it.

Some people ask, "Did Jesus provide everything for us?" They should instead ask themselves, "Am I going to possess what He has provided?" Others ask, "Did Jesus really bring the victory?" But they should be asking, "Am I getting the victory and holding on to it?"

**WE CAN'T JUST AGREE WITH GOD'S WORD. WE MUST BELIEVE IT. WHAT WE BELIEVE IN OUR HEARTS AND CONFESS WITH OUR LIPS WILL DETERMINE WHETHER WE MOVE FROM TRIALS TO VICTORY.**

Have you ever seen a child try to take another child's toy? The child with the toy will say, "No! It's mine!" We must have that same attitude about what God says belongs to us. We have to tell the devil, "No! This is mine!"

What the economy says is irrelevant. What anyone else says doesn't matter. Our safety, healing, and provision are in what we say when we say what God says. Jesus established our victory on the cross. We establish victory in our hearts when we believe, and we possess the victory when we speak. It's up to us whether we go from trial to triumph. 🏆

### SPECIAL OFFER

## Don't Let Trouble Defeat You!

Troubles come to all of us, whether we cause them ourselves or find them thrust upon us. But God has given us everything we need to survive and even thrive when trouble arrives. Because of Jesus, we can weather any storm and have new hope for the future.



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# KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES' Winter Bible Seminar

## Winter Bible Seminar 2024 Recap

Winter Bible Seminar 2024 brought together the Rhema family from around the world for a week filled with unity, fellowship, and inspiration from the teaching of the Word.

Speakers taught on topics ranging from moving beyond the past and what it really means to be like Jesus, to faith for healing and learning to listen to God's voice. The sessions were marked by moments of deep prayer, thankfulness to God, prophetic utterances, healings, and psalms and spiritual songs. The conference served as a reminder of the power of unity in spreading the message of faith.♥

Make plans to join us next year for *Winter Bible Seminar* and *Rhema Worldwide Homecoming 2025, February 16–21*.

### CALL TO ACTION

## Experience It

Watch archived messages at [vimeo.com/rhema/collections](https://vimeo.com/rhema/collections) or on demand at [YouTube.com/RhemaUSA](https://YouTube.com/RhemaUSA).

### OUR GOD IS A FAITHFUL GOD



“God is always faithful because He never changes. His Word never changes. God’s righteousness always prevails, and His power is unconquerable. It doesn’t matter what your situation looks like. **God is faithful to deliver you if you will trust in Him. Nothing is too hard for Him. God is a turnaround specialist.** He is faithful

to respond to His Word, but it’s up to us to get that action started by believing He will do what He said. *‘Abraham never wavered in believing God’s promise. In fact, his faith grew stronger, and in this he brought glory to God.’* (Rom. 4:20 NLT). Abraham considered God’s faithfulness, not his circumstances. That is where many people miss it. They focus on their problem. You can’t deny the situation’s existence. It exists, but God’s faithfulness says, ‘I will come through for you.’”

// KENNETH W. HAGIN

### THE POWER OF AGREEING IN PRAYER



“The Apostle Peter warned us when he said, *‘The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers’* (1 Peter 4:7 NLT). What helps us is the very thing the enemy tries to keep us from doing. **God has ordained prayer to be the means through which He operates on earth. The more we**

**pray, the more He is able to do for us.** The Lord wants us to come together and pray. There is power in agreement, and those prayers bring a response from the Father. The prayer of agreement speeds up answers to our prayers. We go from addition into the realm of multiplication when we agree in prayer. **If we all came together as the Body of Christ agreeing, there is nothing we couldn’t accomplish for God.”**

// LYNETTE HAGIN







## CONQUERING YOUR GOLIATH



“Sometimes the battles you face may look hard and you think, ‘I don’t see how I’m going to do this.’ Well, you’re not going to do anything. You have to **get yourself out of the way. God will fight for you.** I love David’s reply to Goliath in First Samuel 17:45–47 (NLT), ‘*You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies . . . Today the Lord will conquer you . . . This is the Lord’s battle, and he will give you to us!*’ **When facing your Goliath, your mentality has to be that it’s the Lord’s battle.** Like David, you have to say, ‘It’s not my battle. And I know the Lord will cause me to conquer you because I know my God. I know He is well able.’” // **CRAIG W. HAGIN**



## WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE RHEMA FAMILY



“When you graduated from RBTC, you made a commitment to take Jesus to the world. The mandate is what binds us together. As a family, each member has a responsibility so the Rhema family can operate the way God designed it. **What are our family commitments? One: serve together.** We each have a unique supply and responsibility, and we must all do our part. **Two: love unconditionally.** Neither our prayers nor our faith will work without love. That love needs to extend to those who have fallen—to restore them and get them back in the race. **Three: stand in unity.** We may not always see eye to eye, but we’re always part of the Rhema family. **Four: pray together.** No great move of God ever happened by people doing nothing. Fervent prayer must be made for the end time revival.” // **DENISE HAGIN BURNS**

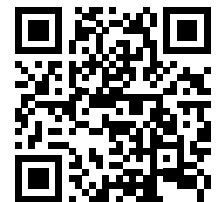




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“God has helped me become more biblically solid. I have gone through other Bible schools, but Rhema emphasizes the Word of God more than anyone.” // Robert, RBTC Student



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# Living God's Way— Walking in Love



LYNETTE HAGIN



When we place God first in our lives, every hostility will evaporate, and the love of God will permeate our lives like a new fragrance.

A **POPULAR PASSAGE** in Deuteronomy chapter 28 talks about the blessings that belong to God's people. It says we will be blessed in the city and blessed in the field, and the fruit of our body (our children) will be blessed (vv. 3–4). We love to concentrate on verse 13 in that chapter. It says we will be the head and not the tail and that we'll be above and not beneath.

While all that is true, sometimes we don't read the rest of verse 13. That passage gives the condition on which these blessings are based. We will enjoy them . . .

#### **DEUTERONOMY 28:13 (AMPC)**

**28** . . . if you heed the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you this day and are watchful to do them.

If you sometimes wonder why your confessions of faith are not becoming realities, ask yourself, "Am I heeding the commandments of the Lord?"

What has God told us to do? The Bible contains many commandments He wants us to follow. We are to search the scriptures, find them, and obey them. But of all the commandments in the Bible, I want to focus on one—the commandment to walk in love.

#### **MATTHEW 22:37–40 (NLT)**

**37** Jesus replied, " 'You must love the Lord your God with all

your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'

**38** This is the first and greatest commandment.

**39** A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'

**40** The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

In verse 39 Jesus is talking about the commandment to walk in love. He isn't referring to loving others just in words and thoughts, but with consistent actions and deeds.

Acts of kindness are one of the strongest voices in the love walk. I believe we have only scratched the surface of the love commandment. If we consistently operate in it, we won't need to be concerned with the other commandments. They will become second nature to us.

What is supposed to come out of us when we practice the love walk? A new fragrance!

#### **EPHESIANS 5:2 (AMPC)**

**2** And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us, a slain offering and sacrifice to God [for you, so that it became] a sweet fragrance.

I got excited when I found this out because I thought, "When we walk in love, we are supposed to smell like a brand-new bottle



of cologne!” Some women carry perfume or cologne in their purse. I believe God wants to give us a new perfume—the fragrance of walking in love!

The cares of life can bring us so far down in our love walk that if any fragrance is left in us, it smells like cheap perfume.

The act of walking in love is very important. If we want to live a life of faith, we must remember that faith works by love (Gal. 5:6). And walking in love is an essential part of relationships.

If we don’t walk in love, what is the alternative? Life is too short to live in selfishness and turmoil. Scripture tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God (Matt. 6:33). The fact is that when we place God first, every hostility will evaporate, and the love of God will permeate our lives *like a new fragrance*.

Can people around you “smell” the fragrance of God’s love flowing through you? You may be thinking, “That’s not my personality type.” You may not be a person who shows love easily. But if you are born again, the love of God has been “shed abroad” in your heart, for God is love (Rom. 5:5; 1 John 4:16).

When you seek the Lord and yield to His love in you, that love has to come forth. Then, no matter what’s going on around you, love will come out of your heart and mouth. And when you walk in love, peace will surround you. You will experience joy like you’ve never known it before, and hatred and bitterness will dissolve away. Your entire life will have a wonderful fragrance—the fragrance of the Lord Jesus Christ.♥

..... FAITH NUGGET .....

Love as God Sees It

Read, meditate, and act on the following scriptures every day. The more you act on these verses, the more your life will be a sweet fragrance to the Lord.

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8 (NLT)**

**4** Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud

**5** or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged.

**6** It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out.

**7** Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.

**8** . . . Love will last forever!

SPECIAL OFFER

Loving Others

God is love, and His Holy Spirit fills our hearts with that love (Rom. 5:5 NLT). But love, like faith, is revealed in words and actions. As we speak and act in love, we will stay out of the enemy’s territory and enjoy the Lord’s blessings.



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# 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)

## RAISING GODLY CHILDREN

**PROVERBS 31:10-31 DESCRIBES** a virtuous woman. You can read the entire passage, but because of lack of space, I want to concentrate on verses 25-29 (NLT). *"She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness. She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness. Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!'"*

Mothers, I want you to ponder several questions in this column as we celebrate Mother's Day. Will your children stand and bless you? What kind of example are you in their lives? Are you an inspiration they can follow, or will they look to someone else as their example?

Mothers have been given a powerful responsibility. The home revolves around the mother. Children will learn more about God in the home and from their home life than any other place. You don't have to say much to teach children about God. Your attitudes, actions, and the values you live by all teach your children how important God is or isn't to you.

What standard do you live by? Does it teach your children how important God is in your life? Matthew 6:33 says, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* That scripture was indelibly and consistently impressed upon me during my childhood. It was the cornerstone upon which I built my life and upon which I raised our children. It is very important to commit to making your home a true Christian home by placing God at the center of everything you do.

Satan is bringing an intensive attack against the home. It is important to realize that and strengthen your relationships. Spend time with your children. You can be so busy providing for them that you fail to spend time with them. Giving them your time is just as important as providing things. In fact, children often desire your time more than any gift you might purchase for them.

Always encourage your children. In preparing my children for success in life, I always spoke encouraging words

to them. I constantly reminded them that with God as their partner, anything they desired to accomplish in life was attainable. No mountain was impossible to climb with God on their side.

Remember that your smile and approval are so important to your children. Don't concentrate so much on perfecting your children that you fail to praise them for their accomplishments during each phase of their lives.

As mothers, we tend to look for the imperfections and try to improve those flaws. But take time to praise your children. Recognize what they do well and overlook some of the imperfect things.

For instance, when teaching your children to make their bed, don't be critical if they don't get it exactly perfect. Find something they have done well and compliment that. Children yearn for affirmation. A kind word or compliment goes a long way in building each child's self-confidence.

Motherhood is an awesome responsibility with multiple tasks. Moms give birth, nurture, and train their children. Then they must learn to let go of them. At times, it is difficult to find the balance among all these tasks.

As you start to raise your children, you begin to realize that your mother may have been a very strong person. You might wonder, "Can I ever fit into her shoes?"

No, wear your own shoes. You may never do things exactly as your mother did. However, if you came from a Christian home as I did, your mother gave you the pattern upon which to build. And that pattern is to bring up your children in the ways of the Lord.

In Proverbs 22:6, God promised that if we would train up our children in the way they should go, when they are old, they will not depart from it. Though your children may wander in their teen years, it is important to keep your faith and hold on to God's promise.

If you were not brought up in a Christian home, decide today that you will begin that godly pattern for your children to follow. Have a wonderful Mother's Day! If your mother is still alive, let her know how much you appreciate and love her. ♥



Lynette



# Kids' Page

Fearless, Anointed, Inward-Led, Trustworthy, Heirs of God

## Do You Have a "Golden" Memory?

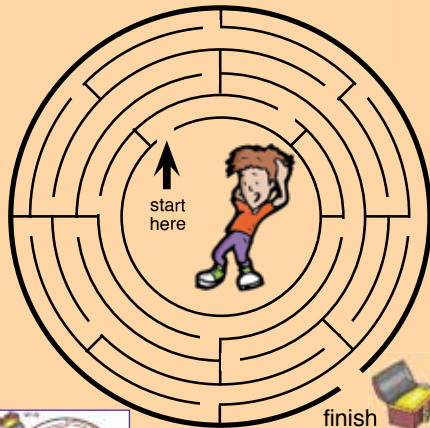
Very carefully read these verses from Proverbs chapters 3 and 4. Then answer the question below.

- Wisdom is worth more than silver. It brings more profit than gold.
- It is more precious than rubies. Nothing you want is equal to it.
- With her right hand, wisdom offers you a long life. With her left hand, she gives you riches and honor.
- My child, hold on to wisdom and reason. Don't let them out of your sight! They will give you life. Like a necklace, they will beautify your life.
- Wisdom is the most important thing. So get wisdom. If it costs everything you have, get understanding.
- Like flowers in your hair, wisdom will beautify your life. Like a crown, it will make you look beautiful.

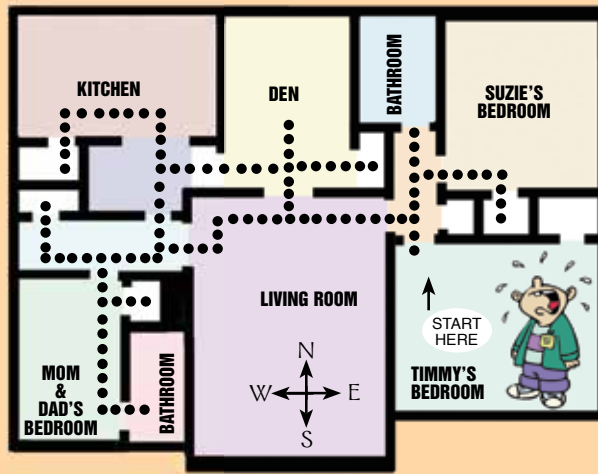
Now, can you remember the 6 items found in the scriptures above that you would find in a treasure chest? Try to answer without looking above.

## A "maze"ing Treasure

Johnny is looking for the treasure chest of gold. Help him find his way through the maze to the treasure.



## FIND THE HIDDEN TREASURE MAP!



Timmy lost his Bible (God's Treasure Map) somewhere in his house. Help him find it by following the directions to the right. All of the rooms are labeled and all of the white spaces are closets. Each black dot represents one footstep.

1. Take 3 steps North and 9 steps West
2. Take 4 steps North and 8 steps West
3. Take 5 steps South and 4 steps East
4. Take 2 steps North and 14 steps East
5. Take 3 steps North and 6 steps East
6. Take 3 steps South

**YOU'VE FOUND THE TREASURE MAP!**

## jokes & riddles



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

If a 50-cent piece and a quarter were on the Empire State Building, which would jump first?

The quarter, because it has less sense (cents)

Why were the little strawberries upset?

Because their parents were in a jam

Why didn't they let the butterfly into the dance?

Because it was a mothball

What starts with an "E" and ends with an "E" and only has one letter in it?

Envelope

How does a flea get from place to place?

Itch-hiking

Who makes a living by driving his customers away?

A taxicab driver

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To get to the other side

Why did the chicken cross the road a second time?

Because it was a double-crosser



**ANSWERS:**  
Do You Have a "Golden" Memory? Silver, Gold, Rubies, Riches, Necklace, Crown  
Find The Hidden Treasure Map! Timmy's Bible is hidden in Suzie's bedroom closet.



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