



THE Word of Faith

JUNE/JULY 2024

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the Word of Faith



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Staying Prepared

The Apostle Paul told Timothy, his son in the faith, *“Be ready in season and out of season”* (2 Tim. 4:2 NKJV). I thank God for seasons of refreshing. But times of refreshing are not something we dwell in continually. They are seasonal. We can’t just live for those times. We have to be prepared for other seasons too. I know in my own life that some of the greatest trials and tribulations I’ve had to face came right after times of great refreshing.

We may be progressing along in our daily routine, not being as sensitive as we should be to the Holy Spirit’s promptings. Then all of a sudden something happens—our situation changes—and we’re not prepared! So what do we do?

Some of us begin to scurry around, confessing the Word and grabbing hold of God’s promises, trying to make up for lost time. But how much better off we would be if we were already prepared for the change—if we were ready in season *and* out of season.

Maybe we were shouting the victory two weeks ago. But now the rent is due, the car is breaking down, there’s no food in the pantry, and our paycheck is already spent! Are we going to give in to despair? No! We need to get up, shake ourselves out of our despondency, and act as if the Word is true, because it is! The same God Who is with us in the good times will see us through every trial.

It’s easy to float along through life when we’re “in season”—when all our needs are met and everything is going fine. The real challenge is keeping the victory when our season changes!

As long as we live, seasons will come and go, but God and His Word will never change. So we just need to stay with Him and what He has said. Then we’ll be prepared in every season.

Kenneth W. Hagin

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BE A MAN OF

CONVICTION,

COMPASSION

& COURAGE



We need men with godly convictions to be the spiritual and moral compass that points our children in the right direction.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

DAVID WAS A SHEPHERD boy turned songwriter and musician. He was a young man who became a giant-killer. He married into the royal family and became a successful military leader.

You might say that David was the original Robin Hood. He was forever helping the common man. After he fled from King Saul, he gathered around him many unwanted people.

When David was anointed king, he provided strong leadership. History shows us he was one of Israel's best-known kings. He was a strong advocate of following Jehovah. David was a man after God's heart.

Miles and centuries separate us from David. He was a king; we are common. But despite the distance and differences, we can learn something about being men and fathers from this father of long ago.

A MAN OF CONVICTION

David's convictions drew him close to God. Psalm 119 shows David's strong beliefs. Each verse speaks of them.

PSALM 119:54-56 (NLT)

54 Your decrees have been the theme of my songs wherever I have lived.

55 I reflect at night on who you are, O Lord; therefore, I obey your instructions.

56 This is how I spend my life: obeying your commandments.

Today we need men with godly convictions. It seems that our society depicts men as cowardly and spineless. We don't see men with godly character held up as role models. Unfortunately, people with some of the worst morals have reached influential positions and have managed to become role models for our children.

Our kids need to see examples of fathers and other men with godly convictions who will stand strong against the tsunami of evil that is sweeping our countries. We need men with godly convictions to be the spiritual and moral compass that points our children in the right direction.

David wasn't perfect by a long shot. He made mistakes, but he corrected them. He sinned against God. But when he was made aware of his sins, he was quick to repent. David's continual service to God demonstrated our Heavenly Father's forgiveness and love.

A MAN OF COMPASSION

We can see David's compassion in the way he interacted with his children. Although his children took advantage of him, he still loved them. When Absalom tried to take the kingdom from his

father, David decreed that Absalom should not be killed. When David later learned that his son had died, he wept uncontrollably over a man who had instigated a coup against him.

Why would David mourn over someone who tried to steal his kingdom? The truth is, a father's love is not determined by a child's conduct.

We also see David's compassion as he encouraged Solomon to build the Lord's temple. David didn't want his young son to be overwhelmed by the enormous task ahead of him. In his final words to Solomon before he passed, he said, *"Be strong and courageous, and do the work. Don't be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. He will see to it that all the work related to the Temple of the Lord is finished correctly"* (1 Chron. 28:20 NLT).

A MAN OF COURAGE

David demonstrated his greatest acts of courage when King Saul was trying to kill him. On two occasions David had an opportunity to take the king's life, but he refused.

It often takes more courage *not* to do something than to do it. David's source of courage was his faith and trust in God. He was not afraid of anybody. Nor was he afraid to stand up for what was right and die for his beliefs. But David would not raise his hand against the man God had chosen to be king. As a result, Saul pursued him for many years.

We need fathers and other men who will stand courageously for godly principles in the face of opposition—men who refuse to be afraid of what others think. I often ask myself, "What good is it if someone says good things about me, but I don't have the courage to preach the truth of the Holy Word?"

Men, what kind of legacy are you leaving your children and other young people around you? Is it one of conviction, compassion, and courage? As a man, you cannot leave behind a more important example of character than this. ♥

What Makes a Great Dad?

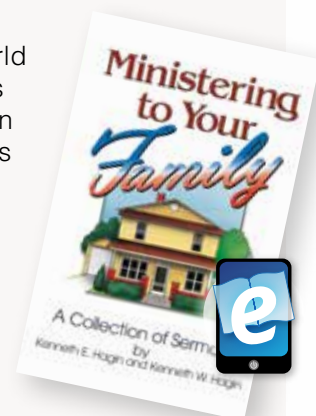
Men often sacrifice being a successful father to succeed in business. But if you gain wealth and fame and lose your children, what have you really gained? Sadly, too many men are more interested in business, possessions, and community standing than in being a dad. Anyone can father a child. But it takes a man with convictions and compassion to be a great dad.

My father, Kenneth E. Hagin, went home to be with the Lord in 2003. He was internationally known. Many people called him the father of the modern-day faith movement, a title he detested. He was a successful author. More than 60 million copies of his books have been sold. He was a radio personality, noted Bible teacher, and prophet of God. But I remember him as Dad.

Although these wonderful accolades were laid at his feet, when he came home, he was just Dad. He was a great man of God, and I respect that. But I don't remember him as a great teacher. I remember a man who drove all night just to have breakfast with Mom, Sis, and

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me. I have fond memories of staying up all night talking to him in the car while he drove to his next meeting. When I was 12, he taught me how to drive on those old East Texas oilfield roads. I remember him putting his arms around me and saying, "Son, you can be what you want to be with you and God."

Whatever success I've achieved today is not because of my dad's preaching, the books he wrote, or the thousands of radio broadcasts he recorded. It's because of those father-and-son times.

Men, it's important that you have these father-child moments. That's what your kids will remember. They won't remember how hard you worked to put food on the table. Yes, we have to provide for our families. But we can't neglect our children in the process.

If you die tomorrow, your company will replace you in a matter of hours. Other people will remember you occasionally. But your children will feel the loss forever. Is that extra hour at work worth it?



Ambassadors for Christ *in Action*

KEVIN ONLY WANTED something to drink. Little did he know he was about to quench a deeper thirst. After buying a soda at a local gas station, he saw two men in their early 20s and knew the Lord wanted him to talk to them. Without taking a drink, he started a conversation.

“Do you want to be a success in life?”

They looked at each other and nodded yes.

“There’s only one way,” he continued. “Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life.”

Kevin then shared what Jesus did for them on the cross and what they needed to do to be born again. He asked if they would like to commit their lives to Christ. They both replied, “Yes.” Kevin led them in a prayer to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Kevin said it was one of the easiest things he had ever done. He finally took a drink, knowing the two young men would never be thirsty again.

How did you feel when you first were saved?

Maybe your thirst was quenched, as it was for these two young men. Maybe you jumped for joy. Maybe you were moved to tears when you learned God loved you and Jesus loved you enough to die for you.

You can help make that moment happen for someone else.

Before Jesus returns, everyone should have the opportunity to choose life in Christ. As Paul said in Romans 10:13 (NIV), “*Everyone who calls on the name*

of the Lord will be saved.” Paul went on to say in verse 14 that people cannot call on the Name of the Lord unless someone tells them about Him. “*How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?*”

People around the world—and in your sphere of influence—have never heard about Jesus. The people in your “circle”—people you see at work, at the store, or in your neighborhood—may not have anyone to tell them but you. Some of them may never go to church, but you see them every day.

Sharing Jesus is easy because the Gospel message is simple. God’s plan for mankind has always been simple.

IN A NUTSHELL, THE GOSPEL IS THIS:

- The Bible says we all have sinned. And the penalty for sin is death (Rom. 3:23; 5:12; 6:23).

- But the good news is that God loved us so much He sent Jesus, His only Son, to die for us and pay the penalty for our sins (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

- To be saved—to receive eternal life—we need to call on the Name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 2:21; Rom. 10:9–11, 13).

God made the message simple so it would be easy for you to tell people. You can do it! Follow these simple steps to lead someone to Christ:

1. **Pray.** Pray that they will be open to God. Let the Holy Spirit guide you as you pray for them (Rom. 8:26; 1 Tim. 2:1).

2. **Love.** Simple gestures make a big difference. Smile at people. Treat them with respect. See the spiritual potential within them. You can do this because God’s love is in your heart (Rom. 5:5).

3. **Listen.** Understand people’s needs and look for opportunities to share simple Bible truths with them. You don’t always have to quote chapter and verse to communicate the truth of God’s Word to people.

4. **Ask.** Ask them if they believe and want to make Jesus the Lord of their life.♥



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Let Nothing Move You

I ENCOURAGE PEOPLE to commit to memory and endeavor to live by a verse in Acts chapter 20. Let's read the two preceding verses with it. Then we can see exactly what the Apostle Paul was experiencing when he wrote these powerful words.

ACTS 20:22-24 (NKJV)

22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there,

23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me.

24 But none of these things move me. . . .

I pray that the words in verse 24 will leave an indelible impression on our minds and hearts, because many things in life try to move us. The devil uses difficulties to get us off track. We will have many opportunities in our lifetime to say, "It's not worth it." But during those moments, we have to stand strong and declare by faith, "None of these things move me!"

We're not always going to have someone who will pat us on the back and assure us, "You can make it through this."

At times we'll be out in the middle of nowhere, facing the fiery darts of the enemy with no one at our side. That's when we have to stir ourselves up to pray and believe God. To succeed in our Christian walk, we must not allow ourselves to be moved by anything.

The enemy constantly tries to discourage us. He talks to our minds and tries to play havoc with our thoughts. He does everything in his power to keep us from finishing the race God set before us.

When the enemy tries to discourage us, we must set our face like flint and determine that Satan will not succeed. He will not deter us or stop us from fulfilling God's call.

How are we supposed to deal with the attacks of the devil? First Peter 5:8 (TLB) says, "*Be careful—watch out for attacks*



LYNETTE HAGIN

from Satan, your great enemy. He prowls around like a hungry, roaring lion, looking for some victim to tear apart."

Satan wants to tear our families, our health, and our financial situations apart. Ultimately, he's trying to tear God's Kingdom down. He wants to pluck everyone he can from the Kingdom of God and take them captive in his kingdom.

Sometimes it seems as if we're dealing with a barrage of battles. But what does the Word say in First Peter 5:9? "*Stand firm when he [Satan] attacks. Trust the Lord; and remember that other Christians all around the world are going through these sufferings too*" (TLB).

What should we do when the enemy is attacking us? We need to speak the Word of God. When Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness, what did He do? He said to Satan, "*It is written*" (Matt. 4:4). He answered the devil's attacks with the Word. And **WE MUST LEARN TO COMBAT THE DEVIL'S ATTACKS THE SAME WAY JESUS DID—BY SPEAKING THE WORD OF GOD.**

I've discovered it's impossible to listen to the devil if I'm quoting the Word. When the enemy starts talking to me, I quote God's Word to him, just as Jesus did!

**GOD HAS *not changed*
HIS MIND ABOUT US.**

I also remind myself of my calling from the Lord when the devil begins to taunt me. Romans 11:29 (AMPC) says, "*For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call].*"



God has not changed His mind about us. It doesn't matter what His divine call is upon our lives—whether it's a call to business, to the teaching profession, or to the ministry. We must never underestimate His calling.

If we don't know what God has called us to do, we can rest assured that He has called us, first and foremost, to be His children. We're in the most important service there is—the service of the Lord Jesus Christ!

He's called us out of darkness into His marvelous light (1 Peter 2:9). He's called us into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13). God has called us to be Christians, and what a great calling that is! No matter how much the enemy attacks, we must remind ourselves of our calling in Christ. That will help us say with boldness and conviction, "None of these things move me!"

FAITH NUGGET

Full of the Word and the Spirit

Adversity comes to us all. What we do with it determines the outcome of our lives. We can allow difficulties to move and shake us. Or we can refuse to let trouble defeat us and keep us from our destination.

Here are two simple things we can do to keep from being moved by the devil's attacks:

1) **Build ourselves up in the Word of God.** We can keep ourselves full of the Word. When that Word is hidden in our hearts, it will come forth in times of crisis.

2) **Build ourselves up by praying in the Holy Spirit** (Jude 20). We can keep ourselves built up in the spirit by continually praying in tongues. This causes us to become more sensitive to the Spirit's voice.

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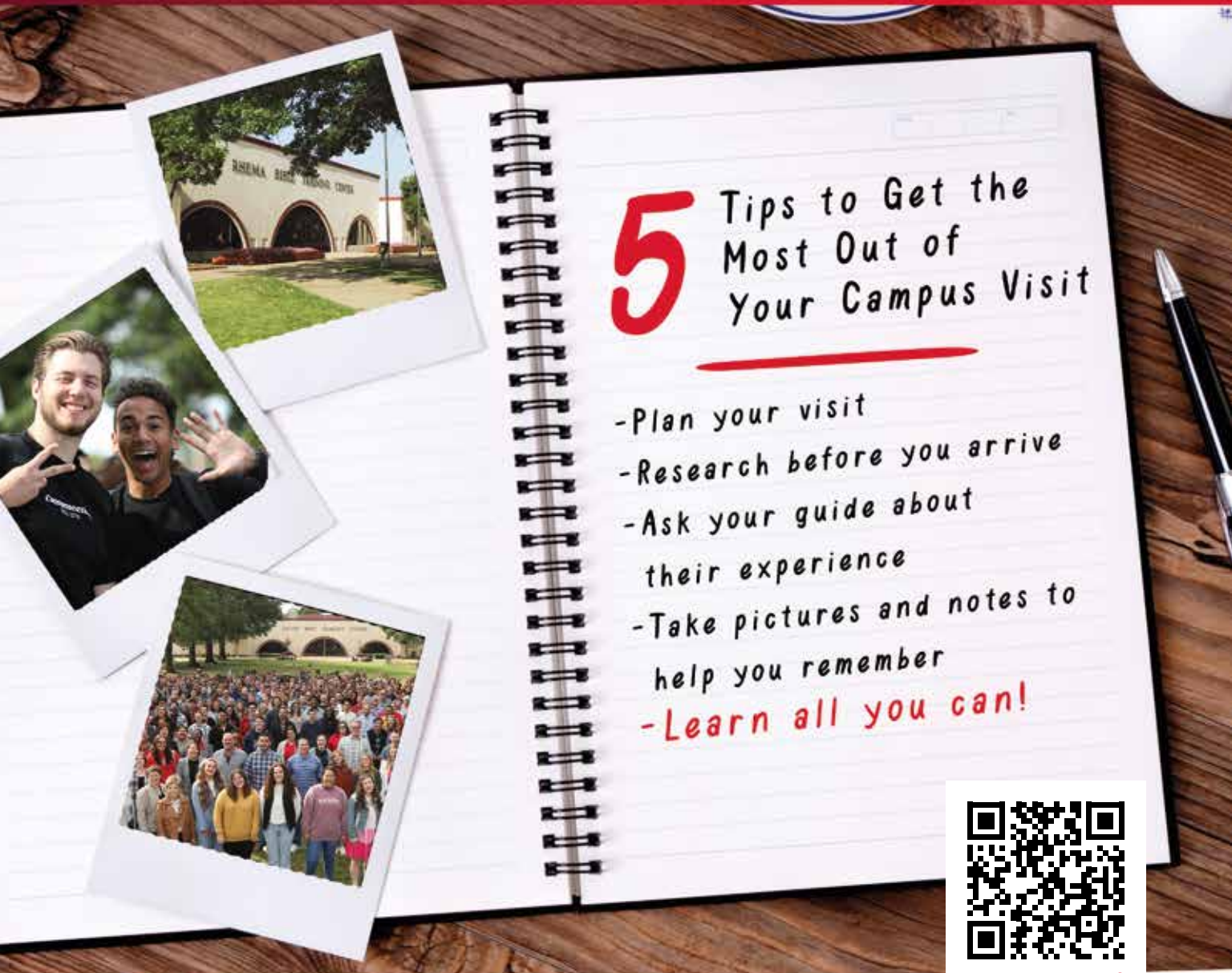
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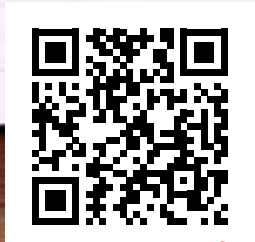
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Now Is Not **the Time to Quit!**

KENNETH W. HAGIN



INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT

OVER THE YEARS, I've noticed that many people start believing God for something, then just before their answer comes, they quit. However, success comes by standing firm on God's Word. Ephesians 6:13–14 (NKJV) says, *“Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. **Stand** therefore.”*

If we quit standing on the Word and give up, what have we gained? But if we keep going, what have we got to lose? That's the way I look at things. I don't believe in quitting. If other people have stood on God's Word and succeeded, we can too.

People may tell us that it's too late to succeed in life. But it's never too late with God. Some of our plans and dreams may be buried amidst mistakes we've made, but Jesus is the Restorer. Jesus is the One Who takes what we have messed up and turns it into something good.

Everyone makes mistakes. We don't have to hang our heads because of something we did. Instead, we can thank God for Jesus the Restorer. When we fall, He will pick us up. He will forgive us and say, “It's going to be all right,

My child. Now go and live for Me. I do not condemn you; go and sin no more.”

Through His restoring power, Jesus can take all God has given us—that which we've let lie dormant—and resurrect it into a flame burning bright. That flame will enable us to accomplish great things in our community, on our job, in our church, in our home, and wherever else we go.

The Bible contains many examples of men and women who wouldn't quit in the face of obstacles. They stayed in faith, stood their ground, and received their miracle.

In Matthew chapter 15, we find the story of the Canaanite woman who asked Jesus to heal her demon-possessed daughter. Jesus told her, “It's not right to take the children's bread and give it to the dogs.” The woman could have given up and walked away. But if she had, she would have quit on the brink of her miracle. Instead, she persisted and said, “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from the Master's table.” Jesus marveled at her faith, and her daughter was healed at that hour (Matt. 15:22–28).

In Mark chapter 2, we read the story of the paralytic who was brought to Jesus by his four friends. They couldn't get in the house where Jesus was because of the crowd, but they didn't quit on the brink of their miracle. They climbed on top of the house, tore a hole in the roof, and let the paralytic down in front of Jesus. And Jesus healed him (Mark 2:3–12).

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). Whatever we need, Jesus is the answer. **WE MAY BE STANDING FOR SOMETHING, AND WE THINK IT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN. BUT WE MUST NOT QUIT ON THE BRINK OF OUR MIRACLE.** Payday may not be tomorrow or the next day, but if we keep standing, payday will come.

If blind Bartimaeus had sat on the ground and listened to the crowd telling him to be quiet, he would have been blind the rest of his life. But he defied the crowd and persisted in his faith. He stood up and cried, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” And he was healed. (See Mark 10:46–52.)

When you're in faith, you can rest assured that your miracle is on its way. So keep standing your ground. No matter what you have been through or what you are facing, don't quit!♥

[Editor's Note: Kenneth W. Hagin is president of Rhema Bible Training College.]



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See page 10 for more information.



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PLEAD YOUR CASE

NO WORD THAT
HAS GONE
FORTH FROM
GOD CAN
RETURN UNTO
HIM **WITHOUT**
ACCOMPLISHING
THE PURPOSE
FOR WHICH HE
SENT IT!

THE BELIEVER TODAY has covenant rights just as much as the Old Testament saints did. In fact, the Bible says we have a better covenant established upon better promises (Heb. 8:6). Because of that, we ought to be able to do all they did and more.

Here is a challenge from a covenant-keeping God to Israel under the Old Covenant to plead their case with Him. How much more, then, is it His challenge to the Church today!

ISAIAH 43:25–26

25 I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.

26 Put me in remembrance: **Let us plead together:** declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

COME BOLDLY TO THE THRONE

First, God said, “I am He Who blots out your transgressions, and I will not remember your sins.” Thank God for that! If you are a child of

God and have confessed your sins according to First John 1:9, then you have been cleansed of all unrighteousness by the blood of Jesus. God has no knowledge that you ever did anything wrong.

Do you see what confidence that gives you? When you understand that fact, you can come to the Lord without a sense of sin-consciousness. You can come with faith and boldness and get your prayer heard and answered.

But if a person comes to the Lord in prayer under condemnation and with a sense of spiritual inferiority, he will be tongue-tied and fear-filled in His Heavenly Father’s presence. And he will be hindered from receiving answers to his prayers. For instance, many times when people pray, they say, “I don’t know if the Lord will hear me, because I’ve missed it and failed. I’m such a failure!”

If you’ve confessed your sin to Him, God doesn’t know you are a failure, so don’t tell Him you are. He plainly said in Isaiah 43:25, “I will not remember your sins.” Since He doesn’t remember your past sins and failures, don’t you remember them either. Instead, come with confidence and

boldness before the throne of grace, knowing that you have been made the righteousness of God by the precious blood of Jesus (Heb. 4:16; 2 Cor. 5:21).

PUT HIM IN REMEMBRANCE

Second, God said, “**Put me in remembrance:** *let us plead together: declare thou [or set forth thy cause], that thou mayest be justified*” (Isa. 43:26).

What does it mean to put God in remembrance? It means that as a covenant believer, you can stand before the throne of God when you pray and remind Him of His promises. You can lay your case legally before Him and plead your case as a lawyer would plead his case before a judge.

A lawyer is continually bringing up law and legal precedent. In the same way, you should bring God’s Word to His attention. That’s what He is inviting you to do in Isaiah 43:26. So put Him in remembrance. Lay your case before Him and plead your covenant rights as His child using the legal precedence of His Word.

If you need healing, if your children are unsaved—whatever it is you are praying about—find scriptures that cover your case. Then lay the matter before your Heavenly Father. As you stand on the Word and plead your case based on His promises, He will work on your behalf.

THE WORD WILL NOT RETURN VOID

Isaiah 55:11 is an important scripture you should continually use in prayer as you stand on God’s Word: “*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*”

This verse should be the very backbone of your prayer life. No word that has gone forth from God can return unto Him without accomplishing the purpose for which He sent it!

God said, “*I will hasten my word to perform it*” (Jer. 1:12). A marginal note in my King James Version reads, “I will watch over My Word to perform it.”

These scriptures are in perfect harmony with John 15:7, where Jesus said, “*If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.*”

For more timeless teachings by Kenneth E. Hagin, scan the QR code and subscribe to the @RhemaKennethEHagin YouTube channel.



Hallelujah! As a partner, a worker-together with God, you can lay your case before Him. You can call His attention to His part in your life. And because His Word abides in you, you can ask according to that Word and receive answers to your prayers. God *will* make His Word good if you dare to stand by it!♥

[Editor’s note: This article was previously printed in the May 2012 issue of The Word of Faith.]

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Make Every Step Count

HALEY SCHURZ



KINDLE THE FLAME

HAVING BEEN AN ATHLETE, I've always loved the athletic metaphors in the Bible such as those about running one's race. A few years ago, while I was reading 1 Corinthians 9:24–27, one verse in particular deeply resonated with me.

1 CORINTHIANS 9:24–27 (NLT)

24 Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win!

25 All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.

26 So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing.

27 I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified.

Verse 26, “*So I run with purpose in every step,*” stood out to me that day. God wants us to run our race, first, with *purpose*, and then, in *every step*, not just in some steps. Every step we take in life should be purposeful. That means not taking steps in the wrong direction. It also means not taking a day off from God. While rest is necessary, we should never take a break from Him.

The Bible has abundant instructions for what path in life holds the most meaning and fulfillment for us as individuals. God has paths for each of us to take. The paths we walk on refer to how we live and what we do with our limited time on earth.

Some people create their own path or sit back and wait for life to

happen. Others behave like those without a target and walk about aimlessly. When we wander off the right path, even a little bit, we end up somewhere we shouldn't be. And the longer we stay off track, the tougher it is to find our way back. That's why it's important to study the Word and get God's directions for our lives.

It's not for us to direct our own steps. Jeremiah 10:23 (NKJV) says, “*O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.*” When we do what we want instead of what God wants, we put ourselves before Him. Prioritizing our desires over God's will mess up our lives.

The Bible says when we acknowledge the Lord in all our ways, He will direct our paths (Prov. 3:6). It's God Who does the directing. Our part is to listen and submit to His purposes. We must take the steps He tells us to take, even when it means giving up our personal desires. We can trust that God knows best, and He will take care of us.

So how do we purposely take these steps with God? Author Stephen Covey talked about the

principle of starting with the end in mind. It's really the godly principle of vision. Seeing the end destination will motivate us every day and give us the perseverance to run our race. It's vital to always remember our end goal, because there will be battles along the way. When the path gets rough, we can't afford to become lazy or take the easy way out.

God's purpose must become our purpose. The purposeful steps He has for us include advancing His Kingdom agenda on earth. God's agenda is all about blessing people and helping them understand Who He is. It's about leading people to Christ, loving people as He loved us, and helping others grow in Him. As the Apostle Paul said, we are competing for an eternal prize. This life is not a rehearsal, and there is no return. Therefore, we must make every moment, every decision, and every step count for Jesus.♥

[Editor's Note: Haley Schurz and her husband, Walker, co-pastor Miracle Life Family Church in Lusaka, Zambia. They also are directors of RBTC Zambia and Rhema Africa. This article was adapted from Haley's message at Kindle the Flame 2023.]



**“WE MUST MAKE EVERY
MOMENT, EVERY DECISION,
AND EVERY STEP COUNT FOR JESUS.”**

— THE —
STEPS
— OF A —
GOOD WOMAN
ARE ORDERED BY THE
LORD

AND HE DELIGHTS IN HER WAY.



PSALM 37:23

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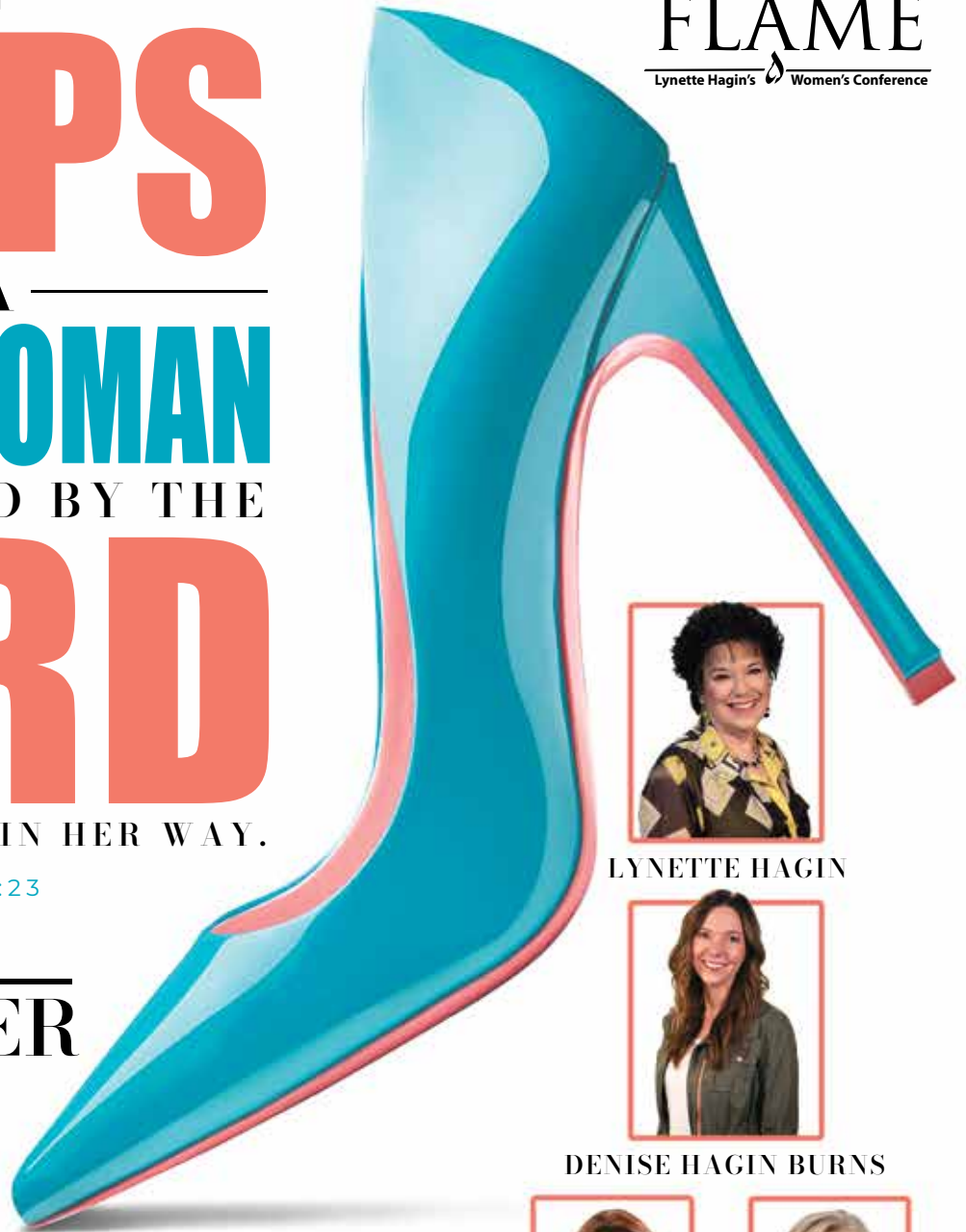
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THE DOMINO EFFECT OF CHANGING THE WAY YOU THINK



CRAIG W. HAGIN

MANY PEOPLE ARE familiar with the Bible story of the prodigal son. Usually we hear the pigpen version. The son leaves home and ends up in a pigpen. He decides to go home, and his dad accepts him back.

I don't believe the prodigal son woke up one morning and suddenly thought, "I'm going to ask Dad for my inheritance and move out." No. There was a process that led up to him leaving.

You see, every action starts with a thought. The way you think affects the way you are and how you live. You can change your life by changing how you think.

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NKJV) says, "*For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.*"

These verses are an invitation to live on a higher level. But what if you're not thinking higher thoughts? How can you better yourself if your thinking is lower than what it should be?

Many things can affect your thought life. But a powerful influence comes from the people you

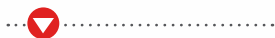
surround yourself with. You will be like those around you. Unfortunately, some Christians think

they can surround themselves with the world and still be okay.

I've found that when people get away from the Word, they have trouble acting on it. Remember, faith comes by hearing and hearing and hearing (Rom. 10:17). And so does everything else.

When you hear the Word, you'll act on the Word. If you don't hear the Word, you won't act on it. If what you are hearing doesn't line up with the higher thoughts God wants you to think, then your actions will be worldly.

Romans 12:2 (NKJV) tells us, "*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*" The key to thinking higher, godly thoughts is to renew your mind. That means reading your Bible, meditating on what you've read, and then doing what the Word says.



Subscribe and listen to the Rhema Podcast with Craig W. Hagin. He focuses on faith, current events, and "all things Rhema." It's available on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Podbean, and other podcast platforms.

You can tell if you're full of God or the world if you accidentally hit your finger with a hammer. What's on the inside will come out. For instance, if you squeeze an orange, what comes out? If you squeeze a bunch of grapes, what comes out? What about a Christian? What comes out when they get squeezed?

That's why Christians sometimes react the same way as non-Christians when they unintentionally hit their finger with a hammer. Whatever you're full of comes out.

Do you want to change your life? Then start with your thoughts. You have to quit thinking what you're thinking and start thinking about what the Bible says about you.

The Bible says you are more than a conqueror in Christ (Rom. 8:37). You are the head and not the tail, above and not beneath (Deut. 28:13). God always causes you to triumph in Christ (2 Cor. 2:14). If you have a loser mentality, you can change that by constantly thinking on these scriptures.

CHRIST IN YOU

The deal is, it's not about you. It's about Who lives in you. You have to identify with Christ. Colossians 3:3 (NKJV) says that *"your life is hidden with Christ in God."* Every time you face a situation, you need to answer it with Christ.

To think God's higher thoughts, Colossians 3:2 (NKJV) tells us to "set our minds on things above and not on things on the earth." Colossians 3:8 goes on to tell us what not to think. It says, *"Put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth"* (NKJV).

Get rid of the anger, the wrath, the filthy language—all the things your mind wants to focus on—and clear your mind of everything except Jesus. Then you can focus on Him and think His thoughts.

Scripture says that you have the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16). If you have the mind of Christ, then your heart and mind are lined up with Jesus, and you're not worried about a lot of stuff. Jesus never worried—not one time. Scripture says that Jesus wept. He cursed a fig tree. He got mad at the money changers. But He never worried.

**IF YOU DON'T LIKE
YOUR SITUATION,
CHANGE WHAT
YOU'RE THINKING.**

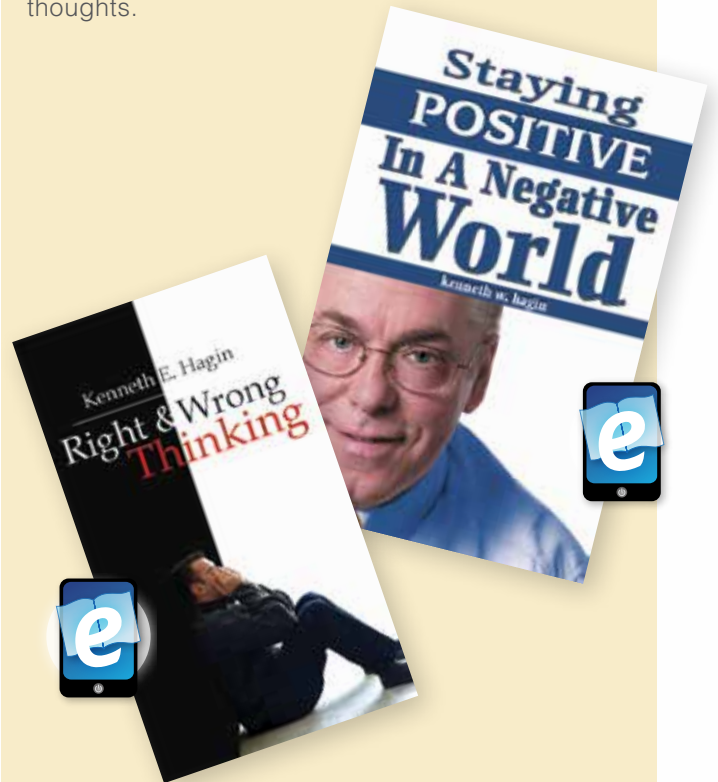
CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

It all starts with a thought. How you think is how you speak. And how you speak is how you act. How you act is how you have. How you have is what you do. And what you do affects who you are.

If you don't like your situation, change what you're thinking. That will change what you say and what you do. And changing what you say and do will change how you feel and what you have. You start this whole process by changing the way you think. 🍷

It Starts With How You Think

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Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

CONQUERING FEAR

IF WE LOOK at the world, it would be easy to allow ourselves to be dominated by fear. The media bombards us with negative happenings. Reports of economic conditions, natural disasters, crime, health concerns, and terrorist attacks may cause us to try hibernating and live to ourselves.

Fear starts early in life. Often children become fearful of the dark at a young age. When our daughter Denise was little, the next-door neighbor girl tried to tell her that there were monsters, and we should be afraid of them. We assured Denise that no monsters could possibly come near us, as we were protected by Psalm 91.

One day the little girl tried again to make Denise afraid of monsters. I heard Denise call the girl by name and say, "Psalm 91 says, 'No monsters can come nigh you.'" I laughed but thought that was a pretty good interpretation of Psalm 91. Denise made that scripture personal for her situation and that was the end of the monster scare.

That fear may sound trite to adults. However, other fears get a hold of adults and keep us in captivity, just as the monster fear tried to torment Denise. It's important to face fear and allow the Lord to turn it into faith in His promises.

Fear can be paralyzing. I was fearful of flying for many years. Every time I experienced turbulence in an aircraft, my stomach did somersaults. I would grip my husband's hand so tightly that it almost bled. I took authority over fear in Jesus' Name, as I knew where it was coming from. Yet I had difficulty calming my mind.

Finally one day I said to the Lord, "I've got to have a scripture to stand on when I fly. I've got to have a promise from Your Word that is specific to my situation." Isn't it wonderful that God will give us exactly what we ask for?

He led me to Psalm 121:1-8 which says, *"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth. He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber. Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore."*

The Message Bible puts it this way: *"I look up to the mountains; does my strength come from mountains? No, my strength comes from God, who made heaven, and earth, and mountains. He won't let you stumble, your Guardian God won't fall asleep. Not on your life! Israel's Guardian will never doze or sleep. God's your Guardian, right at your side to protect you—shielding you from sunstroke, sheltering you from moonstroke. God guards you from every evil, he guards your very life. He guards you when you leave and when you return, he guards you now, he guards you always."*

I was so comforted by this psalm. I thought that it covered everything I needed. He guards me when I'm flying by day, and He guards me when I'm flying at night. He guards me when I'm taking off in the plane and when I'm landing. And greatest of all, He is always guarding me. From that day forward, I have always claimed these verses whenever I fly.

We always pray before we take off in an airplane. I always end the prayer with, "Thank you Lord, You bless our going out and coming in. We shall be safe from the time we take off until we land at our destination."

You may have never been afraid to fly. However, what fears are controlling you right now? You may be afraid of disease, death, financial problems, or broken relationships. Are you afraid of failing in your marriage or being a bad parent? You might be experiencing fear of rejection or losing your job. Whatever fears are holding you in bondage, face them with faith in God and His Word.

At the death of Moses, God comforted Joshua with these words, *"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"* (Josh. 1:9 NIV).♥





Kids' Page

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

D-I-S 3 Very Deadly Letters

jokes & riddles



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

What did one fish say to another?

If you keep your mouth closed, you won't get caught!

What is the longest word in the dictionary?

SMILES...because there's a MILE between the first "S" and the last "S."

Danny: Teacher, would you yell at me for something that I didn't do?

Teacher: Well, of course not!

Danny: Good, because I didn't do my homework.

What's the difference between a baseball player and a tired dog?

The baseball player wears an entire uniform but the dog only pants.

Police Officer: Ma'am, I'm sorry, but I have to bring you in for driving 90 miles an hour.

Lady: But officer, that's impossible. I've only been driving for 10 minutes!

Knock! Knock!

Who's there?

Cows.

Cows who?

No, Cows moo...Owls hoo!

WHAT AM I?

I am found in the sea and on land but I don't walk or swim. I travel by foot but I'm toeless and I'm never far from home. What am I?

A snail

Take a Closer Look!

Maybe you haven't thought about just how important it is to obey. But if you'll take a closer look, you'll see how important obedience is in your everyday life. For instance, if your parents did not obey the signs below, what do you think would happen?



There are lots of good reasons to be obedient. But the most important reason can be discovered when you circle every third letter in the jumbled letters below. The answer is from Colossians 3:20. The first word has already been done for you.

m**b**ftl**o**mb**o**rvthel
lqipssbcivxserw
piewilnrilmvplelm
veskawisqczunr
fgwptriopqtzjhjcj
easLtrokhrxmd.

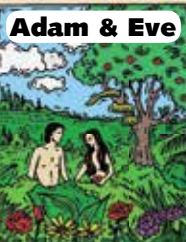
Who Am I?

Use the picture clues below to figure out the answer to this riddle. Then write your answer in the blanks below.

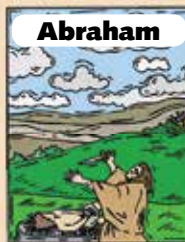
All God's commands I obeyed from my youth,
And I went to Jesus searching for truth.
What He told me to do was hard to obey,
So I left His presence very sad that day.



The _____



(Gen. 3)



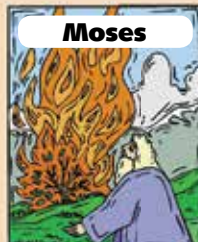
(Gen. 22)



(Gen. 6)

OBEDIENCE

DISOBEDIENCE



(Exodus 3)



(Jonah 1)



(Gen. 19)

D-I-S 3 Very Deadly Letters
Take a Closer Look!
For this is well pleasing to the Lord.
The Rich Young Ruler
Adam and Eve-Disobedience; Abraham-Obedience; Noah-Obedience; Moses-Obedience;
Jonah-Disobedience; Lot's Wife-Disobedience.

ANSWERS:

YOU CAN TALK TO GOD

TAKE YOUR FIRST STEP in a lifelong journey with the Creator of the universe. He loves you and paid a high price to have a relationship with you.

The Bible says we all have sinned.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23 New King James Version).

“But the Scriptures declare that we are all prisoners of sin” (Galatians 3:22 New Living Translation).

And the penalty for sin is death.

“When Adam sinned, the entire world was affected. Sin entered human experience, and death was the result. And so death followed this sin, casting its shadow over all humanity, because all have sinned” (Romans 5:12 The Passion Translation).

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23 New International Version).

But the good news is that God loves us so much He sent His only Son, Jesus, to die for us and pay the penalty for our sins.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16 English Standard Version).

“But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8 English Standard Version).

To be saved—to receive eternal life—we need to call on the Name of the Lord Jesus.

“And it shall come to pass that everyone who

calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21 English Standard Version).

“If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’ . . . For ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’ ” (Romans 10:9–11, 13 English Standard Version).

Are you ready to experience the reality of God’s love?

If so, pray this simple prayer from your heart:

God, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. I admit that I have sinned and fallen short of Your glory. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me from all my sins. Thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die for me and pay the penalty for everything I’ve ever done wrong.

Jesus, I ask You to be my Savior and Lord. Right now, I receive everlasting life. Thank You for saving me!♥

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





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