



THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2025

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

FEAR

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the Word of Faith



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Step Into the Power!

As we enter 2025, we have an opportunity to step into a greater dimension of God’s power than ever before. The Holy Spirit did not come into this world empty-handed. He came with all the power of Heaven at His disposal. When Almighty God called us to go into all the world and preach the Gospel, He never intended us to go empty-handed (Mark 16:15–18). He wants us to go with His power and anointing.

We’re living in a generation that doesn’t know the moving of the Spirit and the operation of His power. God has sent us as beacons of the light of the Gospel to the lost. He has made us carriers of the Living Bread to the hungry. And He has created us as vessels to take His power to the sick, the helpless, and the brokenhearted.

It’s time that we demonstrate God’s power, not just a knowledge of His Word. The Word without the power isn’t going to save the lost, heal the sick, or set the captive souls free. So let’s not be satisfied with having just a little bit of God’s power. Let’s determine to step out of our comfort zone and carry the message of faith, deliverance, and salvation to a hurting, suffering world. This is not the time for the Church to hold back. God wants us to rise up and touch our generation with His mighty power!

We’ve put together a great magazine for you this month. I hope it will help you start 2025 well. And may this be your best year yet!

Kenneth W. Hagin

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BUILDING STRONGER BONDS IN THE NEW YEAR



KENNETH W. HAGIN

GOD DESIGNED HUMANS for connection. We are meant to be connected to God, His Word, and His people. Connections are important both spiritually and naturally. We may have expertise and talent in

certain areas, but if we don't have the right connections, we won't accomplish much.

Everyone has connections. Some of us still stay in touch with high school classmates we played ball with. Many of us have remained connected to people we were with in college. I can go to my hometown and see people I haven't seen in a long time, but we still have a connection.

We need to stay connected to people who can help us, especially those in our church family. Some are quick to dwell on a negative experience they had in church. They will tell you why going to any church is not good.

Have you ever gotten hurt by what someone in the church said or did? Probably we all have. But that's not a reason to quit going. We have also received help, healing, and encouragement through people in the church. That's a good reason to stay connected.

Have you ever been hurt by what somebody in the world said or did? Most of us have. We might not have received the best service at our favorite restaurant. But we don't stop eating there because of that. And we don't stop going to work or to a store because somebody said something mean to us. For some reason,

people don't use the same logic when it comes to the things of God. Instead, they are quick to quit attending church.

WE NEED EACH OTHER

Adam had a relationship with God and had every material resource he needed. Yet, that wasn't enough. God saw that Adam shouldn't be alone, so he made a "helper who was just right for him" (Gen. 2:18 NLT).

God designed us to have relationships with more than just Himself. **WE NEED PEOPLE, WHETHER WE THINK WE DO OR NOT.** Some people don't make an effort to have a relationship with others. Sometimes they don't understand how important it is. Or they might have had a bad experience. Others think it's too hard or requires too much effort.

The truth is, human connections are vital for our well-being. It's through our relationships with others that we find support, understanding, and a sense of belonging. This is especially true in the local church body. Our relationship with our church family is especially beneficial during times of need. They are there when we need them the most.

OUR TOP PRIORITY

We can accomplish much through relationship connections. But when we break these connections, we are limited in what we can do. As we work together, we will accomplish great things for God.

Relationships must be a top priority for the believer. Without relationships, we will not function properly.

Fishing nets are made by knotting twine together. The twine and all the knots are important. If any knot or any twine is broken, fish will get through the net. One strand of twine won't catch any fish. And neither will one knot. But when all the twine is knotted together, the net functions the way it's supposed to and catches fish.

In the same way, the church can't reach its full potential unless people are in a relationship with one another. We have to work together, with each part doing its share.

TEAMWORK ACCOMPLISHES MORE RELATIONSHIPS BRING OUT THE BEST IN US. WE HELP EACH OTHER BECOME WHO GOD WANTS US TO BE. Ephesians 4:16 says that each person brings a supply. Some people say, "I don't have anything to offer." Quit selling yourself short! The devil wants you to feel that way to prevent you from being in a relationship. An attitude like that prevents you from accomplishing what you need to do and hinders the church from accomplishing what it needs to do.

If the enemy can keep us from having relationships, then he can isolate us and cause us to have a bad self-image. Christians should never have a bad opinion about themselves. We have been born again by the blood of Jesus and have been made righteous through Christ. We have a right to come boldly to the throne of grace because of our relationship with God. And we have a right to be connected to other people in the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

On May 29, 1953, Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay made their historic climb to the summit of Mount Everest. A few days before the climb, Sir Edmund and Tenzing were taking supplies to a camp up the mountain. On the way back to Base Camp, Hillary jumped across a crevasse in the icefall. The chunk of ice he landed on gave way, plunging him down into the chasm. Norgay dug his axe into the ice and tightened the rope that bound the two, saving Hillary's life.*

LIFELINES

Tenzing Norgay was Hillary's lifeline. In the same way, believers help each other, and these relationships are lifelines. Time and again, our bond with fellow church members is a source of strength. We see this in the Early Church.

ACTS 2:42, 46-47 (NLT)

42 All the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, and to fellowship, and to sharing in meals (including the Lord's Supper), and to prayer. . . .

46 They worshiped together at the Temple each day, met in homes for the Lord's Supper, and shared their meals with great joy and generosity—

47 all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people.

From these verses, we see the people first began a relationship with Christ. Second, the believers developed relationships with each other. Third, they helped each other in their relationship with Christ. These relational activities built connections that formed lifelines for those believers.

Life is better when we have friends we can depend on. When we have relationships with one another, we have a right to speak into each other's lives. Where we are strong, we can help someone who is weak. Where we are weak, someone in our circle of friends can help us.

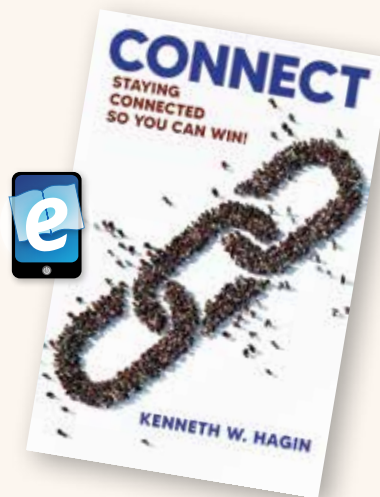
So as we begin the new year, let's focus on building and strengthening our connections with others. These bonds not only support us in times of need but also enable us to achieve more for God's Kingdom. This year, let's make connecting with other believers and nurturing these relationships a priority. Let's remember that we are stronger when we stay connected and we truly need each other to fulfill our purpose.♥

*Sir Edmund Hillary, *View From the Summit* (Pocket Books, a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc., 1999), 113-115 (paraphrase).

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Going Home HEALED



Timeless
Teachings
of Kenneth E. Hagin

*“I’m sure
glad you
boys didn’t
let me die!”*

SHE SAID. “IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN THE
EASIEST THING
IN THE WORLD
TO JUST DIE AND
GO TO HEAVEN.”

AFTER A MORNING SERVICE in one of our seminars, my wife reminded me that while we were pastoring, we never buried one of our church members. I checked the records and saw that over the 12 years we pastored, I had only five or six funerals. And those were for relatives of church members or for former members who left before I became pastor.

Don’t misunderstand me. I realize that people are going to live out their lives. If Jesus carries His coming, people will go home to be with the Lord. But they don’t have to die with sickness and disease.

In one church we pastored, our pianist came to Oretha and me and told us that her mother was dying of cancer. The doctors had given her mother 10 days to live. When I went to see her mother, she said, “Brother Hagin, I’m 82, and I’ve suffered with this cancer. Just leave me alone and let me die.”

I told her, “I’m not going to do that. Let God heal you and then die if you want to. But don’t die like this, not with sickness and disease.”

We laid hold of her spirit and wouldn’t let her go. We kept her here long enough that we finally

got enough Word into her spirit and she was healed. It took six months to do that, but praise God, she lived to be 93. And when she went home to be with the Lord, she died without sickness and disease!

I remember one time I was holding a meeting in Fort Worth, Texas, at an Assemblies of God church. The pastor asked me if I would go with him and pray for a woman in his congregation. She was an 82-year-old Assemblies of God evangelist who had been bedfast for two years with cancer.

This woman had been operated on two years before. And when the doctors opened her body up, they saw many malignant growths. So they just sewed her back up and said nothing more could be done. They couldn’t understand how she had lived so long after the operation.

I went with the pastor to visit the woman. When I met her, she looked like a skeleton. Her skin looked as if it was stretched over her bones, except where the tumors were. The tumors made her look as if she were pregnant.

This dear saint said the same kind of thing my pianist’s mother said. “I’ve preached for years. I’m saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. I’ve

suffered so much, and I'm ready to go. Just leave me alone and let me die."

The pastor and I both said, "No, we're not going to do that." I felt led to read her Proverbs 4:20-22: "*My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.*"

"When I was on the bed of sickness," I told her, "I eventually got hold of these verses and saw where I had been missing it. We have to keep the Word before our eyes."

When I was terminally ill, this was a turning point for me. The doctor said I was going to die, and I saw myself dead. But I got hold of these verses and did not let the Word of God depart from my eyes. I began to see myself alive even though nothing had changed in my body. I began to see myself doing things I had never done before.

I told that dear saint, "Every time you look at your big stomach, see it flat. See yourself preaching again. God doesn't want you to die like this. You can die if you want to, but let God heal you first. He won't get any glory if you die like this."

I laid hands on the woman and left. That was at the beginning of September of 1957. In May of 1958, I was back in Fort Worth ministering at the same Assemblies of God church. The pastor told me that this woman had been healed. I rejoiced but thought no more about it.

One evening the pastor and I were in the church. I was straightening up my book table when I heard him speaking to two ladies. I didn't recognize either one of them so I kept straightening my books.

One of the ladies came up to me and just threw her arms around me and hugged me. I pulled her arms off of me, pushed her away, and looked at her.

She said, "You don't recognize me, do you?"

"No, I don't," I said. She looked so young and pretty.

"I'm Sister So-and-So." When I realized she was the woman evangelist I had prayed for, I threw my arms around her, and we had a hallelujah spell right there!

"I'm sure glad you boys didn't let me die!" she said. "It would have been the easiest thing in the world to just die and go to Heaven. But I started thinking about what you said. And every time I looked at my huge stomach, I saw it flat. My condition didn't change instantly, but in two or three months' time, I could tell that it was getting smaller. And in the process of time, my stomach just flattened out and all the symptoms left me.

"I have the summer lined up with meetings," she said. "I can't go like I did when I was young, but I'm going to preach all summer and rest in the winter."

Years later, I read in the *Pentecostal Evangel* that she died when she was 93 years old. And she died without sickness and disease! I found out from the pastor in Fort Worth that she preached right up to the time she died. One day she said to her daughter, "The Lord showed me it's time for me to go home." She sat down in the rocking chair, said good-bye, and just took off! 🙏

[Editor's note: This article was previously printed in the October 2009 issue of The Word of Faith.]

A Healing Confession for Every Day

Heavenly Father, thank You for making me Your child through Your plan of redemption, which includes healing. Matthew 8:17 says Jesus bore our sicknesses, so I don't need to bear them. First Peter 2:24 declares, "*By whose stripes ye were healed.*" I believe this in my heart and confess it with my mouth. Because Jesus bore sickness for me, I am healed and free. Thank You for Your will that I live a full, healthy life without sickness or pain.

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FROM UNCERTAINTY TO PURPOSE

Andrew Preston always knew he wanted to go into ministry, but a **life-changing** moment came during an RBTC short-term missions trip to Zambia.

"I prayed for a woman who couldn't walk. After prayer, her legs straightened out, and she began walking," he recalls. That experience **ignited a boldness** in Andrew, one he had long been seeking.

"From that moment, I knew ministry wasn't something I wanted to do; it was something I was supposed to do."

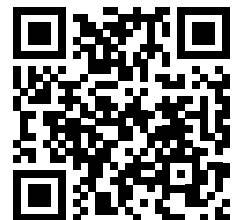
At RBTC Andrew found more than biblical knowledge. He discovered a **deeper relationship with God and clarity about his purpose.**

"I chose RBTC because I wanted to build my personal relationship with God," says Andrew. "RBTC has helped me know who I am in Christ and find the boldness to walk in everything He died to give us. This has shown me the next steps to take."

For anyone searching for their life's calling, Andrew offers this advice: **"If you want to discover your purpose, RBTC will guide you in the right direction.**" Apply what you learn, and your relationship with God will grow. He will lead you to your next steps."



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New Year, New Beginnings

A FRESH START IN CHRIST

AS THE NEW YEAR begins, many of us take time to think about our lives. We look back at what we've done and think about what we hope to achieve in the coming year. We often think of the new year as a great time for new goals and fresh starts. For Christians, this is also a chance for us to grow closer to Jesus and renew our commitment to Him.

THE IDEA OF STARTING FRESH ISN'T JUST TIED TO A CALENDAR CHANGE; IT'S SOMETHING GOD OFFERS US EVERY DAY THROUGH CHRIST. The Bible tells us in Second Corinthians 5:17 (NLT), "*Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!*" When we put our faith in Jesus, we become new people. God forgives our past sins, mistakes, and failures, and we have a chance to begin again. No matter what happened last year, good or bad, we can start fresh because Jesus forgave us and has given us a new life.

So, how can we start fresh with Christ this year?

Let Go

First, we need to let go of the past. In Philippians 3:13–14, the Apostle Paul says to forget what is behind and focus on what is ahead. This doesn't mean we should ignore our past or pretend it didn't happen. It means we should give our past to God—our mistakes, our regrets, and our sins. When we confess our sins and ask for forgiveness, we let go of things that hold us back and receive God's healing and freedom in that area. The Bible assures us that God's mercies are new every morning (Lam. 3:22–23), which means each day can be a new beginning.

Renew Your Mind

Next, we must renew our minds. Romans 12:2 encourages us not to follow the ways of the world but to be

transformed by renewing our minds. This happens when we spend time reading God's Word. The more we read the Bible, the more we get to know God. We find out Who He is and what He wants for our lives. The Bible is full of truth and wisdom. When that truth and wisdom changes the way we think, it can help us make better decisions and live in a way that honors God.

As we enter the new year, we should make it a priority to set aside time every day to study the Bible and pray. This will help us maintain a close relationship with our Heavenly Father. And it will give us the strength, faith, and wisdom we need to face whatever the new year brings.

Connect

Another important step in starting fresh is to connect with other believers. Hebrews 10:24–25 tells us to encourage each other and not to give up meeting together. The Christian life isn't meant to be lived alone. Being part of a church and connecting with other believers gives us support, encouragement, and accountability. It also gives us the opportunity to learn from one another, pray for one another, and help each other grow. We can attend church, join a Bible study, or spend time with Christian friends. However we gather, being in community with others is a vital part of living a healthy and successful Christian life. (For more on this topic, check out "Building Stronger Bonds in the New Year" on page 4.)

Stay Mission-Focused

Finally, we must focus on the mission Jesus has given us—the Great Commission. In Matthew 28:19–20, Jesus tells us to go and make disciples of all nations. **THIS YEAR, LET'S MAKE IT OUR PURPOSE TO SHARE THE GOSPEL AND THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH OTHERS.** We can share our faith, help others through acts of kindness, or simply live in a way that reflects Christ. Whatever we do, we are called to be His representatives in the world.

The new year is about more than just making resolutions; it's an opportunity to truly start fresh in our relationship with God. Let's use this time to draw nearer to Him, strengthen our faith, and walk closer with Him each day.♥

Keeping Your **FOCUS** On What **MATTERS MOST**

As long as we **focus on Jesus**,
we can have **peace**.



CRAIG W. HAGIN

AFTER FEEDING THE 5,000, Jesus told His disciples to get into their boat and cross over to the other side of the lake. He then went up into a mountain to pray (Matt. 14:22–23).

As the disciples were heading to Bethsaida, strong winds swept across the lake, making the water very rough. About three o'clock in the morning, the disciples saw Jesus walking on the water toward them. They were terrified, believing they were seeing a ghost.

“Don’t be afraid. It is I,” Jesus called out.

“If it’s really you,” Peter said, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

“Come,” said Jesus.

Peter jumped out of the boat and began walking on the water. He was doing fine until he looked at the wind and the waves. Then he began to sink. (See Matthew 14:22–33).

LOSING FOCUS

I don’t believe Peter actually started looking to the right and the left. I think he was still looking at Jesus. But he also felt the strong wind and the spraying water. And he could see huge waves crashing around them.

I’m pointing that out because we encounter “storms” in our lives. We can be doing everything right: spending time with the Lord, reading our Bible, and going to church. In essence, we’re looking at Jesus.

But real life happens, and we’re hit with all kinds of stuff. Wind and waves for us are whatever we’re facing. In our world, that includes economic recession, physical or emotional situations, family issues . . . the list can be endless. Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) says, “*You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.*” As long as we focus on Jesus, we can have peace.

My question is, when you’re not in peace, where is your mind? It’s human nature to think negatively whenever the wind and waves come. But anytime we have negative thoughts, we have to cast them down (2 Cor. 10:5).

I hear a lot of people say, “I can’t afford it.” “I can’t do that.” “I can’t . . .” Here’s the deal. There are no “can’ts” when it comes to God. Now, it might seem difficult. But how difficult is it when the Greater One is inside of you? It’s not that hard.

We have to change our mindset. I get it. Everything is twice as expensive as it was a year ago. My mindset is that it doesn’t matter. Too many of us are trying to figure out how to get extra money. But what we need to do is trust God.

When we start thinking, “I have to do this; I have to do that . . .,” we’re looking at the wind and waves. We’re trying to fix our situation in our own strength.

In John 14:13 Jesus said, “*You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it*” (NLT). The Bible says that God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory (Phil. 4:19). When our needs go up, God’s supply also goes up. Our God is not affected by inflation or a supply chain crisis.

When we look at the wind and the waves, we’re thinking that God works like the natural realm with all of its issues. He doesn’t work like that. The real problem is that we took our focus off Jesus. If we want to live at this higher level, we can’t focus on the natural things that are going on around us.

Second Corinthians 4:17 (NLT) says, “*For our present troubles are small and won’t last very long.*” Even when our troubles are big, we have to look at them as small because that’s how God sees them. And this verse also says that troubles won’t last very long.

ONLY BELIEVE

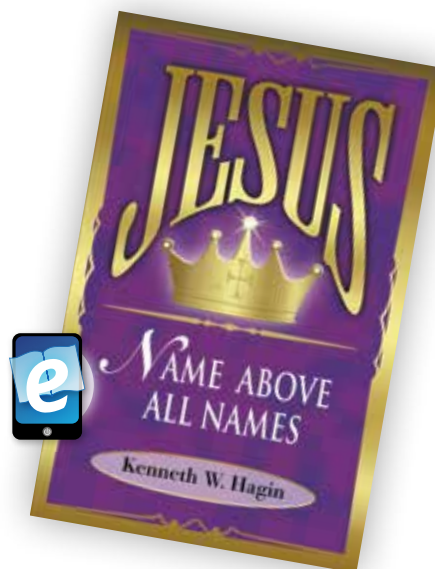
Our responsibility is to believe God. He is the One Who has to figure out how to turn our situation around. And I don’t think



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There's Power in Jesus' Name

When we speak Jesus' Name, circumstances must subject themselves to God's will. Discover the authority we've received as born-again children of God.



He's worried about how He's going to do that.

Faith is believing that something has *already* happened. According to the *Webster's New World Dictionary*, faith is an unquestioning belief without any proof or evidence. Regardless of what we see or feel, we don't have to worry.

We only worry if we think God can't or won't take care of our situation. But I know my God. I know His abilities and His love for me. I know His moving on my behalf is as good as done.

We may know people who have the wherewithal to help us financially. Regardless of how much money we may need, they can cover the bill. If they said they would help us, we would quit being concerned about the financial expense.

God has the wherewithal to help us with anything: healing, finances, peace, protection. Whenever we open a bill or get bad news from a doctor, our mindset must be, "God's got this. He has it under control. I don't know how He'll work this out, but that's not for me to figure out."

Thoughts always come first. The problem is when we let negative thoughts come out of our mouths. Matthew 12:37 (NLT) says, "*The words you say will either acquit you or condemn you.*"

The way to get what we want is to speak what we want. We have to stop saying things like, "I'll never be able to buy a house." "I'm always sick." "I can't get ahead."

Start saying what you want. Find scripture that pertains to your situation, and keep speaking those verses.

Whenever my grandfather had a wave or wind pop up, he always said, "Just another opportunity to prove that God's Word works."

Anytime a storm arises, let's keep our focus. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus and walk on the water with Him until we cross over to the other side.♥

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Choosing Godly Thoughts

KAREN JENSEN SALISBURY



WBS
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HIGHLIGHT

PEOPLE CAN GO three weeks without food, three days without water, and three minutes without oxygen. However, we can't go three seconds without thinking. We have a lot of thoughts running through our head all the time.

This is not news to any of us, but what we think about is important. If we don't take control of our thoughts, our thoughts will control us.

Scripture tells us to renew our minds with God's Word: "*Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind*" (Rom. 12:2). The word conformed means "to be similar; compliant." This verse is telling us not to adopt the world's way of thinking.

Some Christians think that renewing their mind is an option. If we don't renew our minds, we will never accomplish what God has called us to do. But once we start, we will think like God, talk like God, and act like God.

WATCH HOW YOU REACT

Although Satan is the god of this world, he has no power over us. The only way he can do anything in our lives is to get us to agree with the adversity he puts on us. The devil wants us to use our words to keep the trial going.

The devil can't read our minds, but he watches what we say and do. He pokes our buttons and watches how we react. If we respond contrary to God's Word, he'll say, "Oh, that's good. Let's do that again."

However, we won't fall apart when our mind is renewed and adversity hits. Instead, we'll say, "None of these things move me. God is working all things together for my good (Rom. 8:28). My Heavenly Father always causes me



If we don't take control of our thoughts, our thoughts will control us.

to triumph (2 Cor. 2:14). By Jesus' stripes, I am healed (1 Peter 2:24)."

The way to win against the devil's attacks is by having a renewed mind. Regardless of the attack, we will be victorious because we're full of God's Word.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR THOUGHTS

You are the CEO of your thoughts. It's your responsibility to monitor your thoughts and remind yourself that God's Word has an answer to every situation. Here are three steps to change the way you think.

1 Recognize wrong thoughts.

Read your Bible a lot. The more of God's Word you have in you, the faster you will recognize wrong thoughts.

2 Resist wrong thoughts.

James 4:7 says, "*Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*" Get your sword out and start swinging it. Start saying what God says about you.

3 Replace bad thoughts with good thoughts.

Think on what you know to be true in God's Word. That means to think on the promises of God instead of the problem, instead of

the pain, and instead of the lies. Start thinking on what you know to be true.

You can set yourself up to succeed every day by having a daily devotional time. I suggest picking one thing that stood out to you from the devotional time and writing it on a card or saving it on your phone. When something happens and you can't think one good thought, you can read what you've written to remind yourself of what you're believing.

Let's make a habit of praying in tongues throughout the day. We can pray when we're driving, while we're mowing the lawn, when we're making dinner. We hook up to God's power source whenever we pray in the Spirit.

By doing these things, we will get a grip on our minds. We'll start controlling our thoughts instead of them controlling us.♥

[Editor's Note: Karen Jensen Salisbury is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College. This article was adapted from her 2024 Winter Bible Seminar message.]

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Quiet Time in the Chaos

LIVING A LIFE OF DEVOTION



DENISE HAGIN BURNS

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME, you probably feel like you lead a crazy, hectic life. I'm a wife, a mom to two boys who play every sport imaginable, and I work full time.

Because things are so busy, I've had to come to terms with what it means to have a devotional life. I used to think it was just another one of those things I had to do. But when I looked up *devotion* in the dictionary, I discovered something really interesting. Devotion is not a verb; it's a noun. In other words, it's not just something we *do*; it's something we *are*!

That completely changed my perspective. By definition, *devotion* is "love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person, activity, or a cause." As believers, that means we should be love, loyalty, and enthusiasm for the Lord. We need to be focused on Him—all the time. **DEVOTION IS A LIFESTYLE, NOT JUST A TIME WE SET ASIDE.**

You need to understand a few things about this life of devotion. First, there is no condemnation in it. You shouldn't feel horrible if you're not able to spend an hour in prayer every morning and two hours reading your Bible in the evening. Those things are good,

but there's no formula you have to follow. That's not what living a life of devotion is about!

Second, there is no cookie-cutter mold. **YOU ARE WHO YOU ARE.** God created you. He knows your personality and what makes you tick. You can't compare your life of devotion to another person's. You're *not* that person.

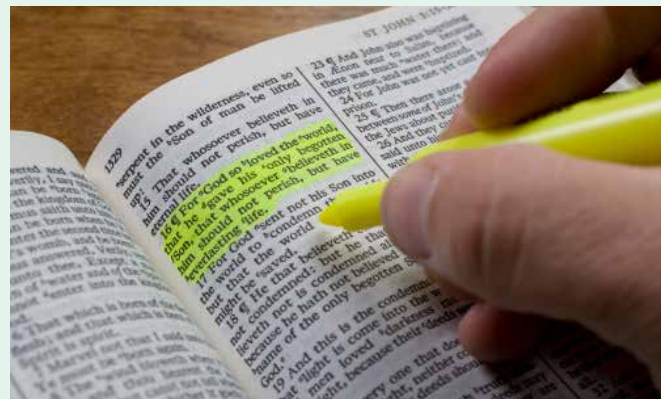
Third, your life of devotion doesn't stay the same. It will look different in different seasons of life—in the single season, in the kid season, in the empty-nest season. Be OK with it changing, because God is. He 100-percent understands.

Finally, your devotional life shouldn't be private. **EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW YOU LOVE JESUS AND YOU'RE ENTHUSIASTIC FOR GOD.**

If you have kids, they especially need to see your life of devotion. The Lord convicted me about this. He said, "Your children don't know you pray and spend time with Me. They need to know."

So I don't have a private devotional life anymore. And to be honest, it was frustrating at first. I'd be reading my Bible and every other verse my younger son would say, "Hey, Mom. What are you doing?" "Hey, Mom. Look at this!"

I thought this time was producing nothing good. But I learned that God's OK with interruptions. It's not really about us anyway.



It's about living a constant life of devotion.

Before long I began to see what God had said to my heart. One day my younger son got curious and wanted to sit with me while I read my Bible. He asked what I was reading and then said, "How do you know what to read?"

with it! After a minute he said, "Mommy! Look how much God is speaking to me!"

Precious, right? My son learned something that will stick with him for the rest of his life. But this would never have happened if I'd kept my devotional life private.

Everyone SHOULD KNOW YOU LOVE JESUS AND YOU'RE *enthusiastic* FOR GOD.

Teachable moment! I was able to explain how I go about it. And he did his 6-year-old best to read his own Bible. Then he saw me pick up my highlighter. "I didn't know you colored when you read your Bible!"

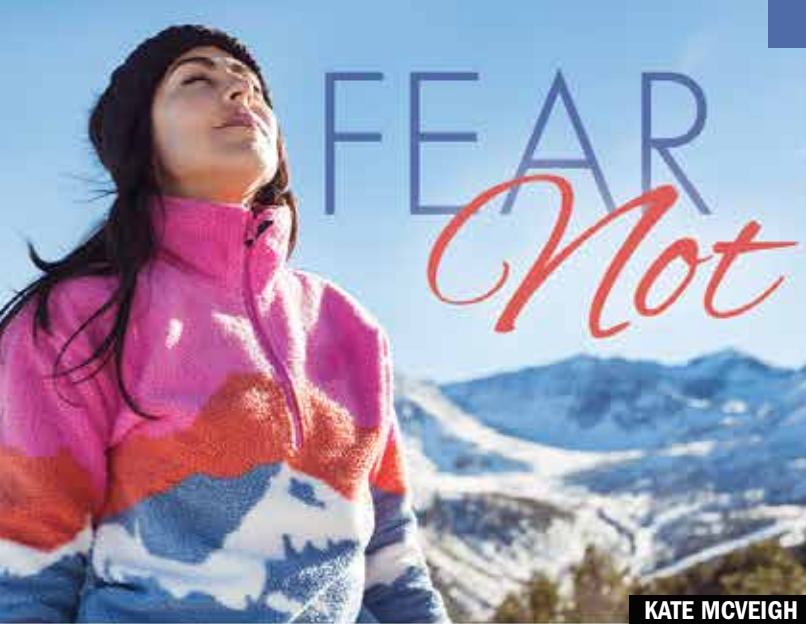
Another teachable moment! I was able to explain that I highlight verses that speak to my heart—or ones I want to remember. So he ran and got a yellow crayon and just went to town

I want my children—and others around me—to know what I stand for and how I live. That's my devotion to God my Father. That's living a life of devotion. ♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Denise Burns' workshop at the 2013 *Kindle the Flame Women's Conference*. Denise is Kenneth and Lynette Hagin's daughter.]

TIPS for Living a Life of Devotion

- 1 PRAY CONTINUALLY** (Eph. 6:18). I pray at random times. I'm constantly aware that God is always with me.
- 2 WORSHIP.** When we praise God, He shows up in a big way (Ps. 22:3).
- 3 READ THE BIBLE.** The Bible is God speaking directly to you. It's living and powerful.
- 4 JOURNAL.** I write down verses that stand out to me and what God's saying to me.
- 5 DEVOTIONAL BOOKS.** A good place to begin if you need a jump-start.



KATE MCVEIGH

Choose to Please God

According to Proverbs 29:25, "The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever leans on, trusts in, and puts his confidence in the Lord is safe and set on high" (Amplified). **WHEN WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE INTIMIDATED BY OTHER PEOPLE, WE'LL GO ONLY SO FAR BEFORE WE'RE JERKED BACK BY THAT SNARE.** If you

YOU MUST SEE THAT INTIMIDATING FEAR FOR WHAT IT IS—A MANIPULATIVE LIE OF THE ENEMY. Then confront it, and by faith allow the Holy Spirit to walk you through it. You will experience victory as you commit to spending time in the Word, searching out scriptures that edify and encourage you, and speaking boldly what God's Word says about you. Start seeing yourself changed!♥

[Editor's Note: Kate McVeigh is a Rhema graduate and traveling minister.]

ALMOST ALL OF US have experienced some measure of intimidating fear in our life—and it's not a good feeling. It is tormenting and uncomfortable. And if we don't purpose in our hearts to conquer it, we will never accomplish much for God.

Satan loves it when we're intimidated. When we view ourselves as unqualified and insignificant, lacking confidence and feeling insecure, we play right into his hands.

Why do we let the enemy influence us? John 8:44 says he isn't capable of speaking the truth. When he says, "You can't do that!" "Who do you think you are?"—he's lying!

I remind myself often that Christ dwells in me. I am a new creature in Him who can do all things! You see, **THE ONLY POWER THAT CAN MEET AND CONQUER INTIMIDATING FEAR IS FAITH!** We must renew our minds with the Word. We must see ourselves the way God sees us. Whatever is intimidating us to the point of immobility; we must face it and decide to do it anyway.

Just Do It!

After I went to Bible school, I received invitations to minister. Speaking in front of people was a strong area of intimidation for me as a schoolgirl. Well, I started to preach, and I shook, quivered, and trembled, but I remained determined to overcome the intimidation of people.

I began to confess Second Timothy 1:7-8 from the *Amplified Bible*: "For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control. Do not blush or be ashamed then, to testify to and for our Lord. . . ." I love these scriptures! I realized the cringing timidity I was experiencing while speaking in front of people didn't come from God, so I shouldn't be blushing with fear! I needed to get up and be bold about what God had called me to do.

study the word *snare*, it refers to putting a snare, chain, or leash on a dog. That dog can only venture so far before it is jerked back by the tether around its neck. The progress of mobility is completely hindered.

It's the same with us. **WE CAN'T WORRY ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE ARE GOING TO THINK.** We must strive to do our best to please and be a blessing to people, but we cannot allow ourselves to become people-pleasers rather than God-pleasers. That is a dangerous trap. We must always give God first place.

Fear of man, fear of what people think about you, and fear of not being accepted will hinder God's plan for your life. The devil knows that and works hard to keep you in bondage to that fear.

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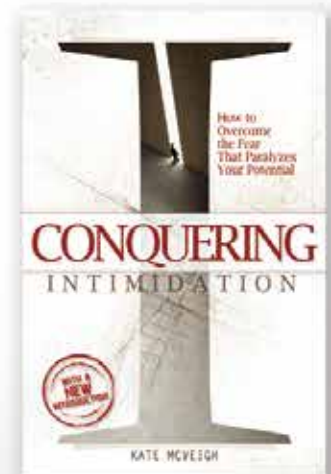
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MANY TIMES, WE LOOK AT NEGATIVE THINGS IN OUR LIVES SO MUCH THAT ALL WE SEE IS WHAT WE'RE NOT INSTEAD OF WHAT WE ARE!



LYNETTE HAGIN

IT SEEMS THAT in this day and age, we live in a busy, busy world—too busy sometimes! We expect so much of ourselves. It seems that we constantly have to learn more and do more to try to keep up with the world around us. And we expect a great deal not only from ourselves but from other people . . . and even from God!

At times I've been so busy that I've felt as though I was in a whirlwind, just trying to hold on! Have you ever felt that way? At one time or another, most of us have thought that if we could just get control of our life, we'd have it made. We've thought that if we could just organize our life, we'd be set!

Over and over, we're admonished, "Take charge of your life!" Then we feel guilty because we think we haven't done a very good job of taking charge of it. So we buy a new planner, read a new time management book, or even attend a seminar that we think will help us do better and accomplish more. Then we get frustrated when all these things don't seem to make us feel any more in control!

CONTROL CAN BE AN ISSUE

Control can sometimes be a big issue for many people . . . including me! I am a very organized person and very much a perfectionist. I was the type who wanted to plan my life from A to Z. I wanted to know exactly what I would be doing in five years, 10 years, and 20 years! That was very important to me. I had the attitude, "God, I want to commit my life to You. I know that I'm called to work for You, so just show me the plan—the whole plan." And I prided myself in having fairly good charge of my life. But that was the problem: I was in charge of my life, not God.

Jeremiah 29:11 (NASB95) says, "*For I know the plans that I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.*" Notice that God has a plan, and it's His plan, not our plan. Yet one of the most difficult things for us to do is commit to God's plan instead of our own.

Did you know that God doesn't need any help planning

our lives? And His ways are so much higher than our ways (Isa. 55:8–9). The best thing we can do is get “self” out of the way and say, “Lord, not my will, but Yours be done.” But that’s not always easy, because we think we can plan our own life—or at least help God along with the plan.

God has a plan and a purpose for each of our lives. How do we fulfill that plan? He tells us in His Word.

PROVERBS 3:5–6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

Yes, God has a plan for your life. But even the right plan executed at the wrong time can become a disaster. That’s why it’s so important that each of us says, “Okay, Lord, I may not understand the path You’re leading me on, but I accept that path. And I will walk on that path peaceably. I will do that because I know that the end result of Your plans for me are welfare (the state of doing well) and not calamity. You are planning to give me a future and a hope!”

THE RIGHT PATH AT THE RIGHT TIME

I think many times about those people in the Bible who wholly followed God. What if they had not walked on the right path at the right time? Most of us know the story of Esther. The king had been convinced by one of his advisers to send out a decree saying that all the Jews should be killed. The king didn’t know that the queen he had chosen—Queen Esther—was a Jew herself.

The Jews were desperate, and Esther’s uncle, Mordecai, sent word to her, saying, in effect, “Don’t think that you will be spared just because you’re the queen. If all the Jews are killed, you will be killed too.” Then he delivered that great message: “*and who*

knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?” (Esther 4:14)!

And you have “come to the Kingdom for such a time as this”! In this day and hour, it will take all of us getting into our rightful places to bring back the King. Whether we’re called to be ministers of the Gospel, businessmen and women, professionals, housewives—whatever our particular gift and calling—we all have a place in God’s plan.

You may be saying, “Lynette, I still don’t know my purpose in life.” I encourage you to get down on your knees and say to God, “I’m not going to let You go until You tell me Your purpose for me.” Pray as you’ve never prayed before, because you do have a purpose. Your calling was from birth. God made you different from anyone else, and He thinks you’re wonderful! David said, “*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made*” (Ps. 139:14).

We need to thank God for the way He has made us. We have God-given talents, so we need to meditate on that and not on all the negative things in our lives. I’m not saying we can’t grow and change. But many times, we look at negative things in our lives so much that all we see is what we’re not instead of what we are!

Determine to discover and fulfill God’s plan for your life. Don’t let anything stop you—not fear or distrust or anything else that would hinder or distract you from the good things God has planned for you to accomplish. You can’t do it by yourself. But with His guidance and His strength and ability, you can do it! If I can, you can!♥

[Editor’s note: This article was previously printed in the October 2005 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

SPECIAL OFFER

Does Your Life Draw Others to Jesus?

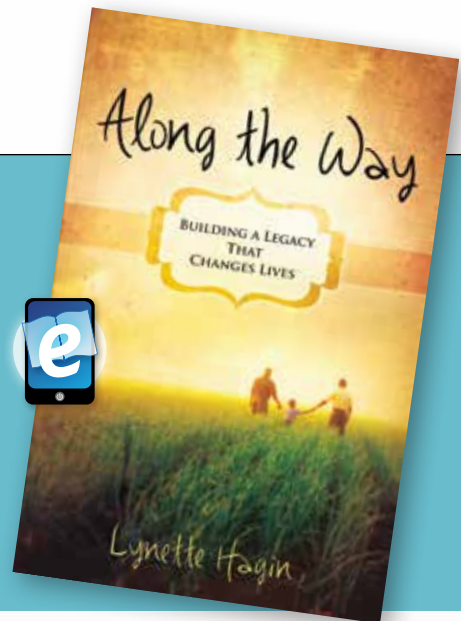
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Thoughts

// 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)

FOLLOWING YOUR DREAMS

2025 IS HERE! At the beginning of each year, I like to reflect on the previous year and take inventory of things I excelled in, as well as things I would do differently. However, the past cannot be changed. What we accomplished or did not accomplish in 2024 is forever in the history book of our lives. However, before us lies another year. We have a blank book to be written once again. How will your history book read this year?

I want to encourage you to rekindle the dreams that perhaps you had for many years. When we make God the center of our lives, I believe the thoughts and plans He planned for us are wrapped up in the dreams and desires that are in us. All my life, even as a young child, I dreamed of being married.

Not only did I dream of being married but that dream was further enhanced by the fact that I dreamed I would marry a minister.

That dream was very important to me. I knew my destiny was wrapped up in it. I was so consumed with the dream, that as I was looking for a mate, I would never allow myself to get emotionally attached to someone who was not pursuing ministry. I stayed focused on the dream until it became a reality in my life.

What dreams have not been fulfilled in your life? It is time to kindle and rekindle those God-given dreams. The word *kindle* means "to stir up; arouse; to cause to glow; ignite." Paul reminded Timothy in Second Timothy 1:6 (AMPC), "*That is why I would remind you to stir up (rekindle the embers of, fan the flame of, and keep burning) the [gracious] gift of God, [the inner fire] that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands [with those of the elders at your ordination].*"

One of the greatest dreamers in the Bible was Joseph. I love to read his story and have read it many times. I would encourage you to read the entire story in Genesis chapters 37, 39–50. Jacob loved Joseph more than his other sons because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. He made Joseph a coat of many colors. When Joseph's brothers saw that their father loved him more than them, they hated him.

To make it even worse, Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. He dreamed they were binding sheaves of grain in the field and their sheaves bowed down to his. Then he had another dream. This time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to him.

Of course, as you read the story of Joseph, you find that many good and bad things occurred before that dream became a reality in his life. In following your dreams, be careful with whom you share them. God may drop a dream in your heart, but very seldom does He give you the details of the dream. He does not tell you exactly how it will come to pass. Joseph would have been wiser to have kept his dreams to himself.

In my life, dreams have not come to pass as I expected them nor in the time frame I would have liked. Although I knew I would marry a minister, I had no idea the magnitude of the plan God had for my life. I did not expect my husband and I to eventually be the head of a worldwide ministry. Those thoughts would have frightened me. It was better that God did not reveal those things to me but allowed me to simply walk out the journey one step at a time.

In following the dreams God has for us, sometimes the road is not what we thought it would be. The enemy likes to throw stumbling blocks along the way. I encourage you not to allow the enemy to discourage you but make those stumbling blocks stepping stones.

God has placed dreams in your heart. You did not hear Him wrong. Though the ride has been a little rough, the Lord is saying, "Just hold on—it's about to smooth out."

Have a blessed New Year and always allow the Lord to be the center of your life.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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

Don't Forget to ~~Read~~ Eat God's Word!

An important part of a healthy spiritual diet is to read God's Word daily. You can't expect to grow strong in your body by just eating one good meal a week! In the same way, you can't expect to grow strong spiritually by reading the Bible one time a week. Read God's Word often, and it will be food to your spirit.

Decode the following verse. Place the letter from the box below in the blank above the symbol that it matches.

★☆☆ ✱✱✱✱✱ ✨✱✱✱

✱★✱ ✱★✱✱✱ ✱★

★✱ ✱✱✱✱✱ ✱ —Psalm 119:103

A=☆	D=♣	E=♠	H=★
M=★	O=✱	R=✱	S=*
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NUMBER TURNOVER

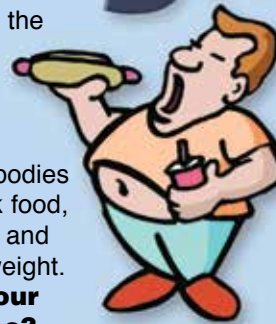
The numbers below may look like ordinary numbers to you, but if you turn this page upside down, you'll find that they are the answers to the Bible questions beneath them. Match the number with the question that it answers.

53045 618
57738 53704
57714

- The Old Testament priest wore these along the hem of his garment (Exodus 28:33).
- These melt like wax at the presence of the Lord (Psalm 97:5).
- Goliath wore these on his feet (1 Samuel 17:4-7).
- Jesus said that foxes live in these (Matthew 8:20).

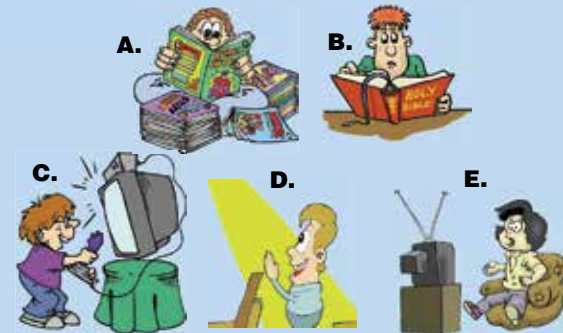
What Have You Been Eating?

Almost everyone knows the difference between healthy food and junk food. When we eat healthy food, it gives us strength and helps our bodies grow. When we eat junk food, it zaps us of our energy and usually makes us overweight.



Did you know that our "spirit man" eats too?

Jesus told a large group of people that those who **hunger** for righteousness will be blessed and satisfied. Our spirit is hungry, but it is up to us to feed it. And we must feed it the right "food" if we want to grow strong in spirit. So, what have you been feeding your spirit? Look at the pictures below. Each kid is feeding his spirit . . . some are feeding on healthy food and some on junk food. Circle those who are "eating healthy," and draw an X over those who are eating "junk food."



ANSWERS:
What Have You Been Eating?
Kids feeding on healthy "spiritual Food": B and D.
Kids feeding on spiritual "Junk Food": A, C, and E.
Don't Forget to Eat God's Word!
HOW SWEET ARE THY WORDS TO MY TASTE —PSALM 119:103
Number Turnover
A. 57738 (turned over spells "bells")
B. 57714 (turned over spells "hills")
C. 53045 618 (turned over spells "big shoes")
D. 53704 (turned over spells "holes")

jokes & riddles



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

What did the digital watch say to the grandfather clock?

Look pop, no hands!

If a dictionary goes from A to Z what goes from Z to A?

Zebra

What says "Quick, Quick"?

A duck with the hiccups

What's white when it's dirty and black when it's clean?

A blackboard

Why do golfers always carry two pairs of socks with them?

In case they get a hole-in-one

What game do cannibals play at parties?

Swallow the Leader

What do you call a pig with three eyes?

A piig

What's in the middle of a jelly fish?

A jelly button

Tongue Twisters

Bernie, Bart, and Bert bought a burnt barn.

There was a minimum of cinnamon in the aluminum pan.

Keep It Simple

WE COULD WRITE a clever article about the new year and making a fresh start and relating it to a new life in Christ. But honestly, it's all about Jesus and what He did for us on the cross. He died in agony in our place. He loved us more than He loved His own life. The Bible says, *"God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us"* (Romans 5:8 NKJV). Jesus' love for us is amazing. But it does us no good until we accept Him as our Savior. To accept Jesus into your heart today, simply pray this prayer:

God,
I come to You in the Name of Jesus. The Bible says, "If you declare with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9 NIV). I declare that Jesus is my Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Therefore, I am saved! Thank You!♥

If you prayed that prayer, we have some materials we would like to give you to help get you started on your walk with God. E-mail us at PartnerService@rhema.org or call us at 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484).





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Reaching the World!**
SUNDAY, MAY 4



International Rhema Day is on May 4, 2025. Countless people around the world still have not heard what Jesus Christ has done for them. But you can help change that! On *International Rhema Day*, will you support Rhema Bible Training College with your prayers and financial gifts?

Together, we can make a difference.



**SCAN NOW
TO SIGN UP!**

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