



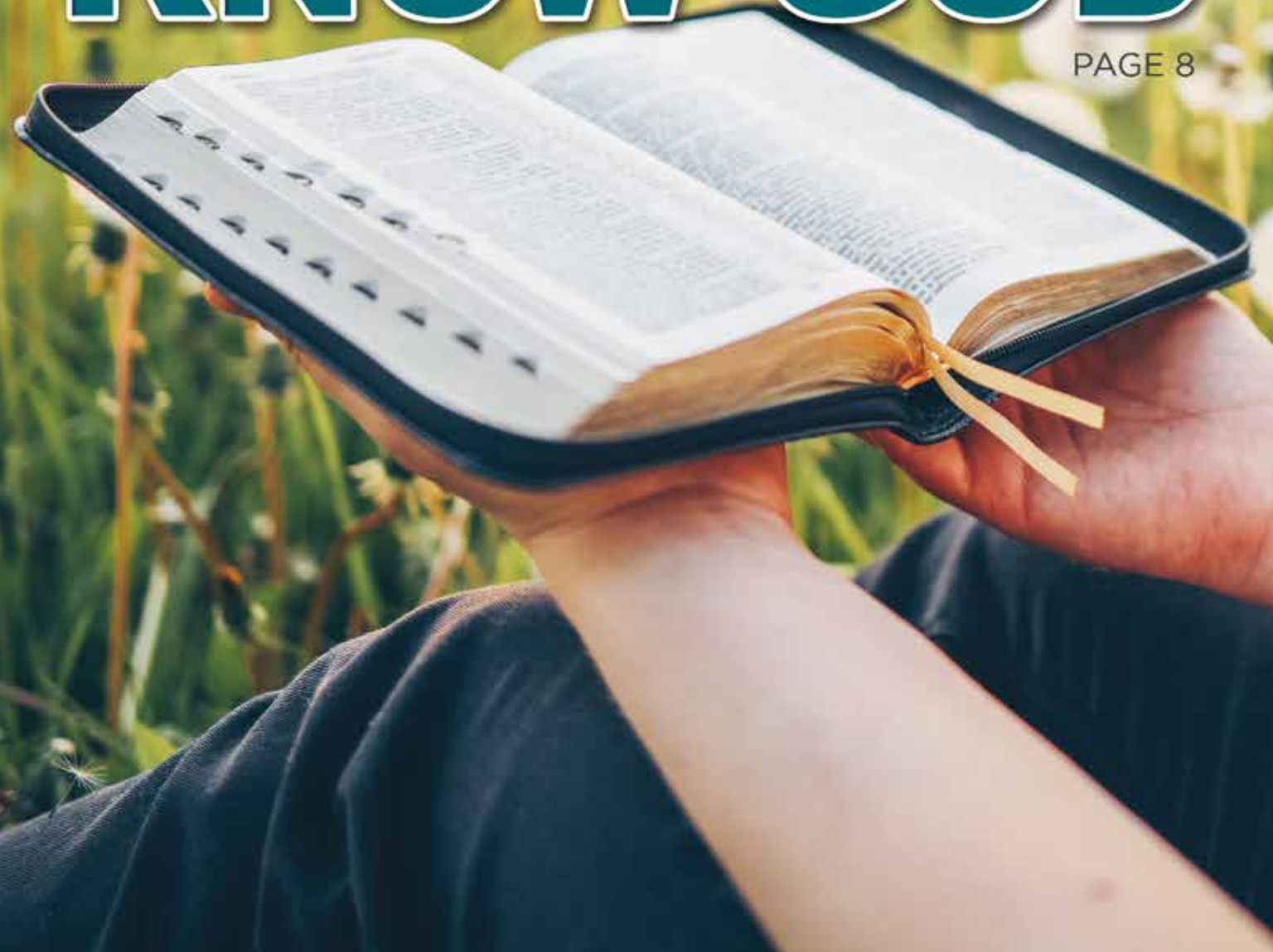
# THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2025

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

## GETTING TO **KNOW GOD**

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# the Word of Faith



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# Jesus Is the Open Door

During this wonderful time of year, we celebrate Easter. And at this time it's important for us to remember that Jesus is the Open Door through which mankind can reach God the Father. In John chapter 10, the Lord told His disciples, "I am the door of the sheep. . . . If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture" (vv. 7, 9 NKJV). In other words, Jesus is the Door through which we enter into all the good things God has provided for us in His Word.

Jesus opened the door between God and man when He went to the cross at Calvary. Because He shed His blood, we can step into righteousness, walk in redemption, and receive forgiveness for our sins. Because of the stripes that were laid upon Jesus' back, we can walk in healing.

If a door is closed and locked, we can't reach what is on the other side of it. Jesus is an *open* door—not a closed door or a locked door. Because that door is open, we have access to all God's provisions.

Jesus said in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (NKJV). Jesus is the Way—the Open Door—to the Father. An open door says, "Yes, you may come in." Jesus is the "Yes" for all humanity.

God is not withholding anything from us. He wants us to have everything He's provided for us as His children. We can find a promise in His Word that covers whatever we need. Let's start claiming our promises and receive from Him what we need today!

Jesus causes all the possibilities of Heaven to become a reality in our lives—big possibilities, amazing possibilities, and greater-than-we've-ever-imagined possibilities. What looks impossible without the Lord becomes possible with Him. It's time to walk through the Open Door into the wonderful blessings of God!

*Kenneth W. Hagin*

## THIS ISSUE



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**KENNETH E. HAGIN**

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### Near the Cross

**KENNETH W. HAGIN**

What impact did Jesus have on the lives of those who followed Him to the cross? And what does that cross really mean to us today?

# The Precious Blood of Jesus

One thing that makes our New Covenant so much better than the Old Covenant is that Jesus has washed us—cleansed us—  
**from all sin by His own blood!**



**Timeless  
Teachings**  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

*“FORASMUCH AS YE know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold,*

*from your vain conversation [your manner of life or conduct] received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot” (1 Peter 1:18–19).*

Circumstances can affect the value of anything. Differing circumstances can make the very same thing either worthless or extremely valuable. The reality of sin and its dire consequences make the blood of Jesus very precious. And the blood of Jesus is made infinitely more valuable and precious to us because of the power it has in our life.

I don’t know whether you can fully realize how precious health is until you get sick. Or whether you can fully realize how precious it is to live without pain until you suffer pain—and how precious food is until you suffer hunger. Hunger makes food precious; thirst makes water precious; and poverty makes riches precious.

Sin makes the blood of Jesus Christ precious.

## REDEEMING POWER

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *redeeming* power.

The Bible teaches that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). As we saw in our text from First Peter, God’s Word teaches that the blood of Christ is precious.

We were not redeemed with silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ.

Paul, in giving his farewell message to the elders of the Church at Ephesus, also talked about our being purchased with Christ’s blood. Paul said, *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).* Thank God we’ve been bought by the blood of the Lamb!

## CLEANSING POWER

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *redeeming* power and also because of its *cleansing* power. First John 1:7 says, *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another; AND THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST HIS SON CLEANSETH US FROM ALL SIN.”*

Notice that the verse from First John said Christ’s blood “cleanseth us from all sin.” In Revelation 1:5 we read, *“Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood.”*

Under the Old Testament law, the blood of innocent animals was shed. These animals were a type of the Lord Jesus Christ, for our text in First Peter speaks of Him as being *“a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

However, the blood of these sacrificial animals only covered the people’s sins; it didn’t cleanse the sins. That’s why the Jews had to repeat these sacrifices at regularly-stated intervals. Their sins were merely *covered*, not *cleansed*.

One thing that makes our New Covenant so much better than

the Old Covenant is that Jesus has washed us—cleansed us—from all sin by His own blood!

## PACIFYING POWER

The blood of Jesus is precious because of its *redeeming* and *cleansing* power. It's also precious because of its *pacifying* power.

### COLOSSIANS 1:20

20 And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

First, the blood of Christ pacifies *the broken law*. We've all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). Through the blood of Jesus, God has made peace, reconciling all things to Himself.

Second, the blood of Christ pacifies *the guilty conscience*. **ONE REASON MANY CHRISTIANS GO AROUND FEELING SO GUILTY IS THAT WE HAVE NOT MAGNIFIED THE BLOOD OF JESUS AS WE OUGHT.** If believers only knew about the power of the precious blood of Jesus Christ, they would no longer have a guilty conscience.

## RECONCILING POWER

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *reconciling* power.

Ephesians 2:13 says, "*But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*" In and of our own selves, we couldn't do anything to reconcile ourselves to God. No amount of good works could enable us to enter into God's Presence. It's only through the blood of Jesus that we are reconciled to God.

## EMBOLDENING POWER

The blood of Jesus Christ is also precious because of its *emboldening* power.

Let's examine Hebrews 10:19, which says, "*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.*" No, we don't come by our own name, and we don't come by our own righteousness. I don't care how many good works or how much right conduct we have—we still have to come by the blood of Jesus.

Many people want to get healed *because* they're "good Christians." We ought to be good Christians, but we're not going to be healed because we're good. We're going to be healed because we believe in Jesus and His blood!

## OVERCOMING POWER

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *overcoming* power.

Revelation 12:11 says, "*And they [believers] overcame him [the devil] by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.*" The Lord didn't say, "They overcame by the word of their testimony" or "the word of their confession" and end the verse there. No, He said, "*They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.*"

Thank God, there is overcoming power in the blood of Jesus. Power to overcome the world, the fear of death, the power of the devil, and all evil. There is power in the blood—the precious blood of Jesus!

## SONG-INSPIRING POWER

The blood of Jesus Christ is precious because of its *song-inspiring* power.

Revelation 5:9 says, "*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.*" This is a new song for new souls in a new sphere. When you are a child of God, this is *your* song to sing! And it's all because of the blood of Jesus.

There is redeeming, cleansing, pacifying, reconciling, overcoming, emboldening, and song-inspiring power in the blood of Jesus. Now you see why that blood is so precious and valuable! And that precious blood was shed for *you*.♥

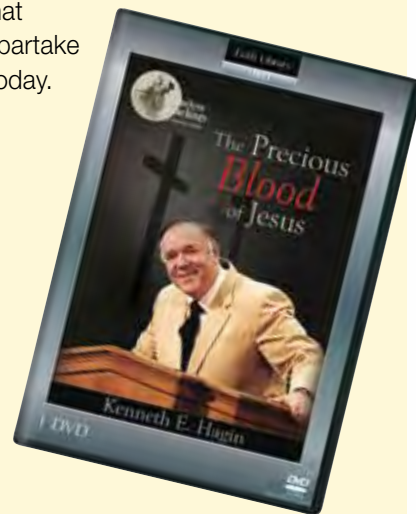
[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's minibook *The Precious Blood of Jesus*.]

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# The Seek and **Save** Mission

JOE DUININCK

**A FEW YEARS AGO** I attended the funeral of one of my college roommates. Over 800 people were in attendance. When someone's life is cut short, people often say, "He left us too soon. He had so much life ahead of him."

But at my friend's funeral, what people said about his life inspired me. I thought, "Look at the lives he touched during the time he was here." After the funeral, I asked myself, "What am I doing with the time I have on this planet?"

James 4:14 says that our life is like a vapor. It's here today and then it's gone. The question we all need to ask is, what are we going to do with our vapor?

I want a significant life. I want to do something that's purposeful and meaningful for the Kingdom of God.

## Jesus' Life

Jesus was also on the earth for a short time—about 33 years. While He was here, He revealed the Father to us. By the time He was born, people had lost track of Who God really was.

In Matthew 7:11, Jesus said, "If you, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Heavenly Father give good things to those who ask Him?" Jesus calling God Heavenly Father was too much for the people of His day. To them, it sounded sacrilegious and inappropriate.

But Jesus kept calling God Father, Papa, Abba, Daddy, Lover of you. We should never get away from the teaching that God is our Father, He is good, and He loves the world.

At the Last Supper, Philip asked

Jesus what the Father was like. Jesus replied, "When you've seen Me and everything I do and say, you've seen the Father." (See John 14:8–9.)

Acts 10:38 (NKJV) says that when Jesus was on the earth, He "*went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil.*" That's what our Papa in Heaven is like.

Jesus was also on a mission. He came to redeem humanity. A lot of spiritual leaders in Jesus' day asked, "Why are you hanging out with sinners?" He answered that question by telling three back-to-back parables with the same emphasis. (See Luke chapter 15.)

A man left 99 sheep to find the one that was lost. A woman searched throughout her house for one lost coin. A father watched every day for his wayward son to come home.

Jesus came "*to seek and to save the lost*" (Luke 19:10 NIV). He hung out with sinners because the Father's heart is toward the lost.

## Our Impact

How can we have a life that's significant, that has impact? Our lives aren't significant because Jesus is our brother. Our lives are significant when we help alter people's eternity. We do that by joining the seek-and-save mission.

How do we do that? We do it as the Body of Christ. Each of us has unique gifts that help us fulfill our calling and fit us corporately into Christ's Body. God chose to commission and equip each of us. And the Body of Christ will not function in full coordination and effectiveness unless *all* of us find

and value our place in it. We all need to become skilled in our giftings and be willing to do whatever the Lord asks.

To fulfill this mission, we must know we are seated with Christ in heavenly places (Eph. 2:6). Have you ever tried to do what God has asked in your own strength? Scripture doesn't say, "I am strong in the Lord and in the gritting of my teeth."

If we try to do the mission from the earth realm, it's doomed for failure. So we might as well go on up to the heavenly places with Christ and look at the mission from Heaven's perspective. From there, we can minister from a position of authority, rulership, and dominion.

Time is short. You've only got a snap in time. What are you going to do with your vapor?♥

[Editor's Note: Joe Duinick is the missions director and an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College.]



**INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT**



**Jesus was also on a mission.**  
**He came to redeem humanity.**

# GETTING TO

# KNOW GOD

We must fall in love with our Heavenly Father  
through His Word.



LYNETTE HAGIN

**GOD HAS GIVEN** us everything we need to live successful, godly lives. In His Word, He has given us many promises. But how do we take advantage of them? How do we move into His greater plans for us? To live victoriously, we *must* know the Father. It is the most important thing we need to do.

Peter tells us something about this.

## 2 PETER 1:3–4 (NLT)

**3** By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to KNOW HIM, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.

**4** And because of his glory and excellence, HE HAS GIVEN US GREAT AND PRECIOUS PROMISES. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires.

The key to living life down here on earth is getting to know our God! However, just as it takes time to develop natural relationships, it also takes time to get to know the Father. It doesn't happen instantly—even if we are living in the “instant” microwave age.

Think about it. It used to take an hour to bake a potato in the oven. Even though it now takes only five minutes in the microwave, I still find myself sitting there wondering, “Will this ever hurry up and get through?”

That's the age we live in, and so that's the way we try to approach our relationship with God. We want to get to know Him microwave-style. But the Father is saying, “I'm going to put you in the Crock-Pot. And I'm going to cook you until you're so filled with My power, My strength, and My might that nothing can keep you from fulfilling your calling.”

Hallelujah! When we allow the Father to put us in His Crock-Pot—when we take the time to get to know Him—we'll become like Him. Then we won't give up, stress out, or fall down, no matter what we face.

So how do we get to know Him? One of the most important ways is by meditating in His Word. Joshua 1:8 (MSG) instructs us to “*ponder and meditate on it day and night, making sure you practice everything written in it. Then you'll get where you're going; then you'll succeed.*”

The Word is so precious! And if we want to know our God, we need to fall in love with His Word.

At Rhema Bible Church where my husband and I pastor, we give the babies in the nursery their own little Bibles. The teachers hold the Bible up to their cheeks and say to the children, “We love our Bibles.” Why? We want those little ones to get acquainted at an early age with loving their Heavenly Father and His Word.

I remember hearing about one little boy from church who was roaming around his house searching for something. His mother didn't have any idea what he was looking for. Finally, his eyes lit up when he saw the big family Bible in the living room.

That precious little boy went over to that great big Bible and struggled to try to lift it to his cheek. Why? Because he loved his Bible so much.

Like this little boy, we must fall in love with our Heavenly Father through His Word. You see, God's character and nature are revealed through the Word. And the more we read and study for ourselves, the more we'll learn about Him and see His faithfulness toward us in every situation.

The second way we come to know our Heavenly Father is through prayer. Our relationship with Him will not rise to the level He desires unless we fellowship with Him.



Have you talked to God today? Set aside time to get into His presence, because He's ready to listen and help you through every situation.

Unfortunately, we sometimes get so involved in our daily lives—with the work of God—that we fail to commune with the God of our work. I've caught myself doing this. I was always the Martha who made everything happen. And we need Marthas! But we must be a Mary as well (Luke 10:38–42). We need to set aside time to talk to the Lord and allow Him to talk to us.

When He was on earth, Jesus always took time to fellowship with the Father. Though He was the Son of God and already knew why He had come, He spent more time praying to the Father than anything else.

That's the way we should be with the Father. We should pray about everything continually—not just when something awful happens to us. I know it's easy to push the 911 button during those crisis times and pray fervently. But that shouldn't be the only time we talk to God! Prayer should be the response to every event in our lives (Phil. 4:6–7; 1 Peter 5:7).

The Lord desires so much for us to know Him, for our hearts to connect with His. The question is, will we spend time getting to know Him today? That's the only thing that will truly relieve the stresses of this life, because when we know the Father, we know

the end result. We always triumph. And no matter what path our life takes, the God we know—our Heavenly Father—will get us to our destination in victory! 🏆

[Editor's note: This article was previously printed in the June/July 2012 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

FAITH IN ACTION

Connect With Him

Prayer is the most powerful instrument we have as believers. Here are some tips we can follow to help us successfully commune with our Father.

1. **Be disciplined** (1 Peter 4:7). We must make prayer a priority.
2. **Stay in God's presence on purpose.** We must set the atmosphere around us. I continually surround myself with worship music that opens my heart to God.
3. **Open your mouth and talk to the Father.** We can't develop relationships with others if we don't talk to them. It works the same way with God.
4. **Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit.** If we're sensitive to our spirits, the Holy Spirit will give us prayer impulses straight from Heaven.
5. **Know the power of prayer.** Jesus taught His disciples to pray (Matt. 6:7–13) because He knew it was the key to their success in life and ministry.

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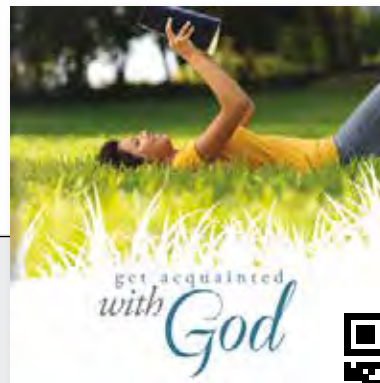
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### By His Stripes, I Am Healed

"I took Holy Communion at the beginning of the month here at Rhema Bible Church. I decided to remember Jesus by being healed. I said, 'I'm healed of dizziness and will never be dizzy again.' Later on in the month, I started feeling dizzy, so I said, 'No, I'm not dizzy. I got healed at the last Holy Communion.' Soon I sat down and ate dinner. When I stood up, my dizziness was gone." // **LOUIS**

### No More Back Pain

"Kindle the Flame 2024 was awesome. Bonnie Huffman told those with back or shoulder pain to stand up. I stood for back pain and was prayed for. Well, praise God, no pain! I am so looking forward to next year and the 25th conference." // **CHELLE**

### Heart Condition Healed

"At Rhema Bible Church, we had a stuffed animal prayed over for my daughter's heart condition. When we went to the cardiologist three days later, there was nothing left of the heart condition." // **JENNIFER**

### The Best Education

"Prior to attending RBTC, I had a bachelor's degree and two master's degrees. RBTC was the best educational experience for me. I learned about

Christianity through so many different sources, but I learned about the Holy Spirit at Rhema! The Holy Spirit is my Comforter during hard times. As a senior citizen, there are more and more hard times. Thank you for your boldness not to compromise. I love RBTC and Rhema Bible Church!" // **GERALD**

### Free From Depression

"In 2011, I was enjoying the mountaintop in my relationship with God and in ministry. But in July of that year, my father unexpectedly went home to Heaven. I wasn't able to be with him or my family during those last hours, and it had been one year since I had last seen him. This, along with some other disappointments, brought me from the mountaintop to a valley of depression. For nearly 10 years I allowed the enemy to keep me depressed, discouraged, and out of the will of God. At Winter Bible Seminar 2024, Pastor Hagin spoke about moving beyond and that God still has greater things ahead. I received that word! Thank you, Pastor Hagin, for your obedience and faithfulness. It truly was a word in due season." // **TOM**

### A Word of Encouragement

"Thank you for your faithfulness to do what God has called you to do. I was so discouraged this morning, and really struggled to encourage myself in the

Lord. I was asking Him to reach out to me and encourage me. I received The Word of Faith magazine yesterday and opened to the first article in the issue. I was immediately encouraged by the truth shared. Thank you." // **MAIJA**



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# Knowing God, Doing Exploits

DARRELL HUFFMAN

**Daniel 11:32 (NKJV)** declares, “*The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.*” Daniel didn’t single out pastors, evangelists, or any other title. He said, “*The people who know their God.*” This includes the whole Body of Christ—ordinary believers who truly know God. Not just those who know *about* Him, but those who walk with Him daily, trust Him fully, and live with the confidence that He is always with them.

In a world filled with perversion, challenges, and distractions, God is calling for people who will surrender their lives to Him. He’s looking for those who understand Who He is and are willing to let Him work through them to accomplish mighty things.

## FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

To live this way and do exploits for God, we must be full of faith and the Holy Spirit. That’s how Stephen is described in Acts 6:5. Stephen wasn’t an apostle; he was a church worker chosen to help with practical tasks. Yet because he was full of faith and the Holy Spirit, God used him to perform miracles and boldly share the Gospel.

To be full of faith, we must be full of God’s Word. Romans 10:17 (NKJV) says, “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*” To be full of faith, we must regularly read, meditate on, and act on God’s Word. Colossians 3:16 (NKJV) instructs us to “*let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.*” The Word should be so alive in us that when the enemy attacks, it’s our first thought.

To walk in God’s power, we must be full of the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples, “*You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be*

*witnesses to Me*” (Acts 1:8 NKJV). The Holy Spirit equips us with power and boldness—not just for personal joy or church gatherings but to do Jesus’ works and witness effectively.

When we are filled with the Spirit, our faith is stirred like fire within us. This enables us to step out boldly and share the Gospel everywhere we go. Instead of the world influencing the Church, we will influence the world through the power of the Kingdom of God.

God is looking for some fanatic, radical, on-fire, Spirit-filled, tongue-talking, Word-speaking, devil-casting-out, healing believers who will do the works of His Kingdom because He wants to expand His Kingdom.

## SIGNS FOLLOW BELIEVERS

In Mark 16:17–18 (NKJV) Jesus said, “*These signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; . . . they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.*”

These promises are for all believers. If you’re a parent, these signs should follow in your home. Wherever we go—whether at work, school, or in our neighborhoods—we carry God’s power. When we wake up in the morning, demons should tremble knowing we’re about to walk in the authority of Jesus’ Name.

This truth must become real to us. The early church showed us what’s possible. Acts chapter 8 tells us that after persecution scattered the church, ordinary Christians went everywhere preaching the Gospel. They were people

just like us who knew their God, were full of the Holy Spirit, and boldly proclaimed His Word.

## REVIVAL STARTS WITH YOU

Doing exploits for God starts with a commitment to know Him deeply. Spend time daily in His Word. Pray for the Holy Spirit’s guidance. Step out in faith, trusting God to work through you. When challenges come, remember Jesus’ example. He overcame the enemy by declaring, “It is written.”

The world needs believers who are full of faith and the Holy Spirit—people ready to disrupt darkness and advance the Kingdom. When you truly know your God, nothing is impossible. Trust Him, stand strong, and watch as He uses you to do great exploits for His glory.♥

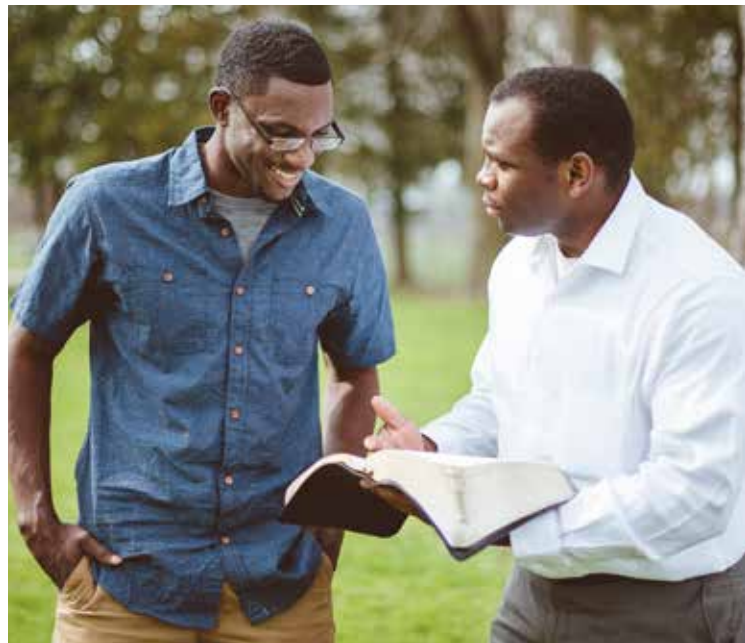
[Editor’s Note: Darrell Huffman is a 1978 RBTC graduate. For over 41 years, he has preached the Gospel across the U.S. and around the world. This article was adapted from Darrell’s *Campmeeting 2024* message.]



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# NOT GUILTY

**JESUS REDEEMED MANKIND** from sin on the cross of Calvary. When something is redeemed, it means it was bought or a debt was paid in full. Jesus paid the ultimate price to redeem us. He willingly shed His blood to take care of our sin issue. His blood wiped away our debt of sin.

In God's eyes, we were forgiven 2,000 years ago when Christ shed His blood on Golgotha's Hill. Even before we were born again, God saw us as forgiven. It was when we made Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior that we took advantage of Christ's redemption. That's when we appropriated, or took possession of, what technically was already ours.

Jesus not only paid the price for our salvation, He also bore stripes on His back and secured healing for us. We were healed 2,000 years ago. First Peter 2:24 says that it's by the stripes of Jesus that we *were* healed. If we *were* healed on the cross of Calvary, then we *are* healed today. However, even though healing is available to us today, many Christians are sick because they haven't cashed in on what belongs to them.

Many benefits are included in our salvation package. Healing and escape from hell are just two of them. It's up to each one of us to take hold of what has been given to us. Here's one way

to do that: See the benefits of salvation as a bunch of coupons Jesus gave us. Anytime we need anything, we just have to cash in one of the coupons.

For example, if we need healing, we receive it by opening our mouths and saying, "Jesus, I need to be healed. It's by the stripes that You bore on Your back that I am healed. I receive what you bought for me over 2,000 years ago. I'm taking my healing today. Here's my coupon."

## Ruled by Guilt

Some Christians get tripped up when they sin after they've been born again. Whether we like it or not, being born again does not keep us from sinning. Our spirit man has become a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). However, we still live in a body that has fleshly desires. Our flesh and our spirit fight a battle every day. Both sides want to dominate. That's why the Apostle Paul told us in First Corinthians 9:27 to keep under our bodies and bring them into subjection.

While most Christians don't blatantly sin, we can easily be challenged in our love walk. It's very easy for things to happen that just set us off. During those times, we have to put the flesh under and allow our spirit man to rule.



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**



## What Does 'I'm Redeemed!' Mean?

There is so much more to redemption than escaping the flames of hell. These scripture-based confessions highlight a few of the many other benefits of salvation. If you'll confess these truths about yourself each day, they will transform your life.

- I am a new creature in Christ. Old things are passed away and all things have become new (2 Cor. 5:17).
- I am victorious in every situation I encounter, for no weapon formed against me shall prosper (1 Cor. 15:57; 2 Cor. 2:14; Isa. 54:17).
- I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13).
- I am an heir of God and a joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17).
- I am more than a conqueror through Him who loves me (Rom. 8:37).
- I am healed by the stripes that Jesus bore on His back (Isa. 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24).
- I am redeemed from the curse of the Law (Gal. 3:13).
- I am filled with God's peace, which passes all understanding (Phil. 4:7).
- I am the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19).
- I am the salt of the earth and the light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16).
- I am not condemned, for there is no condemnation in Christ (Rom. 8:1).

Our spirit man is full of the unconditional love of Christ, and God's love loves everybody, no matter what. Anytime we lash out in a fleshly manner, we've let our flesh win at that moment.

When this happens, we need to remember our salvation coupons and cash in First John 1:9 by saying, "Father, I messed up. But You said that if I would confess my sin, You are faithful to forgive me and cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Here's another coupon!" When we do this, we're basically reminding ourselves that we've been redeemed.

After asking God to forgive them, some people still feel guilty. They think if they do something nice for somebody, donate to the local food bank, or do some kind of penance, they'll stop feeling guilty. They don't realize that they are trying to redeem themselves. They really don't understand what redemption means. Instead of accepting God's forgiveness, they are trying to do something so they feel better. But they don't have to do that. They don't have to hold up a sign, "Will work for redemption." It's not about what they do; it's about what Jesus did.

Unfortunately, way too many Christians are walking around with guilt. They think that because they've messed up, they can never be what God wants them to be. They think that it's three strikes and they're out. But Jesus doesn't count up our strikes. We can have 99 strikes against us and Jesus still loves us unconditionally.

Although we may "feel" better after doing something for somebody, we have to realize that feelings are emotions. And it's not about *feeling* better; it's about *knowing* that we're forgiven. One definition for *redemption* is "atonement for guilt." Jesus redeemed us from guilty feelings. So anytime we feel guilty for something we've already confessed and repented of, we just need to let go of it.

God loved us so much that He sent His Son to redeem us. We need to remember that through Jesus Christ, we *have been* redeemed, and we need to drop that guilty feeling. Instead of thinking about guilty feelings, we need to think about Jesus. Through His shed blood, we are "not guilty!"♥

[Editor's note: This article was previously printed in the April 2013 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

### SPECIAL OFFER

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# Redeemed From the Curse of Poverty

KENNETH E. HAGIN



**PAUL SAYS IN** Galatians 3:13, “*Christ hath REDEEMED us.*” If you ask Christians “What did Christ redeem us from?” they usually say, “From sin.” That’s partly true, but it’s not nearly the whole story.

The rest of this verse tells us in no uncertain terms what Christ redeemed us from: “*Christ hath redeemed us FROM THE CURSE OF THE LAW.*”

In the New Testament, “the Law” can mean either the 10 Commandments, the first five books of the Bible, or the entire Old Testament. In Deuteronomy chapter 28, Moses stated the blessings and curses of the Law. The curse for breaking God’s commandments was threefold: *poverty, sickness, and spiritual death.* Christ has redeemed us from all of these. But here I want to focus on the blessing of being redeemed from the curse of poverty.

The curse of poverty should come upon all of us, because we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). But Galatians 3:13 tells us that Jesus was made to be a curse *for* us. Jesus became our substitute. He paid the

debt for our sins through His death on the cross. And God wrote it down as though *we* had paid the debt for sin ourselves! Now because of Jesus, we are free from the curse of the Law—and that includes poverty.

## THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM

Let’s look in Galatians chapter 3 again: “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law . . . that THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM MIGHT COME ON THE GENTILES through Jesus Christ*” (vv. 13–14).

Under the New Covenant, Abraham’s blessing belongs to us! The blessing of Abraham is threefold in nature: spiritual, physical, and material. In Deuteronomy we see the material and financial blessings we now have in Christ.

### DEUTERONOMY 28:3–6, 8

**3** Blessed shalt thou be in the city, and blessed shalt thou be in the field. [You’ll be blessed wherever you are!]

**4** Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy ground, and the fruit of thy cattle, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep.

**5** Blessed shall be thy basket and thy store.

**6** Blessed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and blessed shalt thou be when thou goest out. . . .

**8** The Lord shall command the blessing upon thee IN THY STOREHOUSES, and in all that thou settest thine hand unto: and he shall bless thee in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Some Christians say you shouldn’t desire material possessions in this life. But God says He will bless what you have *stored up!* He promises an abundant supply!

It’s unscriptural to believe that God wants us to live in lack in this life. In Mathew 6:33 Jesus promised us that if we’ll seek first God’s Kingdom, we will be taken care of. He talks about the material things of life, such as food to eat and clothes to wear, being added unto us (Matt. 6:31–32).

## ENJOYING THE BLESSINGS!

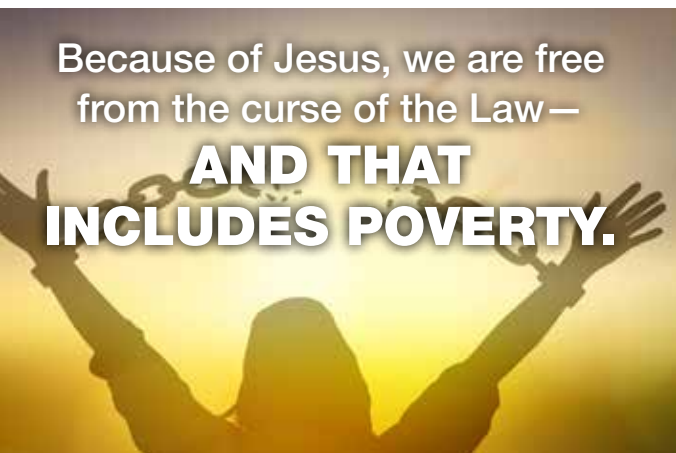
We have to believe God’s promises and exercise faith by walking in the light of His Word in order to receive His blessings. And it’s important to know that *we* have a part to play in activating these blessings.

For example, God promised to bless the work of our hands (Deut. 28:12), the fruit of our ground (Deut. 28:4), and our storehouses (Deut. 28:8). He expects us to work (2 Thess. 3:10). But as we put our hands to something, we can trust Him to prosper what we do.

So don’t settle for living under the curse of poverty. God wants you to live an abundant, prosperous life. You’ve been redeemed from the curse of the Law by the blood of Jesus Christ. Stand on God’s Word and claim the blessing of Abraham that is *yours* in Christ. Believe God for a *full* supply in every area of your life!♥

[Editor’s note: This article was previously printed in the August 2013 issue of *The Word of Faith.*]

Because of Jesus, we are free  
from the curse of the Law—  
**AND THAT  
INCLUDES POVERTY.**





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# Near The Cross



KENNETH W. HAGIN

**IN OUR MODERN** world, it can be hard for us to understand why anyone would have wanted to witness the agonizing scene on Golgotha's hill. Isaiah 52:14 says Jesus' face was so marred He wasn't recognizable. He was so beaten, he hardly looked human.

But scripture tells us there were a handful of people gathered to witness Jesus' death. They were

Mary, Jesus' mother; Jesus' mother's sister; Mary, the wife of Clopas; Mary Magdalene; and John, the disciple Jesus loved (John 19:25–27).

What impact did Jesus make on the lives of these faithful few that they were willing to follow Him to the cross? What compelled them to stand there and witness the bloodshed? Why didn't they run and hide like the rest of Jesus' followers?

## A PLACE OF REWARD

Mary, Jesus' mother, had suffered much to get to the cross. There was the obvious pain of childbirth, but also the shame and gossip that came with being an unwed mother. Then she must have endured terrible agony as she watched Jesus being beaten, rejected, and placed on the cross. I'm sure she was broken beyond measure as she watched the blood flow from her son's veins.

But Mary stayed near the cross. She stayed faithful, because she understood Who Jesus was. He was the Son of God—the Lamb Who would take away the sin of the world.

As she stood there, something amazing happened. Looking down from that cross, Jesus said to her, “*Dear woman, here is your son* [talking about John]” (John 19:26 NLT).

In the moment of her greatest agony, Jesus rewarded her. He gave her a son who would love her and take care of her. And scripture tells us that from that time on, John took her into his home. Mary's faithfulness reaped a reward—at the cross.

## A PLACE OF RESTORATION

What about John, then? Why did he follow Jesus to the cross? He had fled from the Garden of Gethsemane with the other disciples. He was nowhere to be found at Jesus' trial or beating. But he came back.

The cross probably wasn't the safest place for John to be as one of Jesus' followers. But he wasn't going to run or hide any longer. Scripture doesn't tell us exactly what happened with him, but somewhere along the line, he must have woken up to the truth that Jesus would forgive him. Yes, he'd run and forsaken his Lord, but Jesus would restore him.

It took courage for John to come back, because He knew he'd messed up. But he came anyway, and he found restoration. I think that's why he could later write with conviction, “*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (1 John 1:9 NKJV). John had experienced forgiveness himself—near the cross.

Draw near and find peace that passes all understanding  
and joy and strength that only the Lord can give.

## A PLACE OF REDEMPTION

Mary Magdalene also followed Jesus all the way to the cross. Why? I think we're given a little insight in the Book of Luke.

### LUKE 8:1-2 (NLT)

**1** Soon afterward Jesus began a tour of the nearby towns and villages, preaching and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom of God. He took his twelve disciples with him,

**2** along with some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases. Among them were Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons.

This passage tells us that Jesus traveled around proclaiming and teaching the Word of God. He took His 12 disciples and some women who had been cured of diseases and evil spirits. We're not told more about any of these women except Mary Magdalene. Verse two says she had seven demons!

Can you imagine the turmoil and agony Mary Magdalene experienced, and the sin she was into? But when Jesus miraculously delivered her, everything changed. She surrendered her life and gave up what she had to follow Jesus and help His ministry.

Why would she do this for Jesus, and why would she follow Him all the way to the cross? Why would she watch Him bleed and die? It's because Mary Magdalene understood the power of redemption.

She had been delivered from turmoil. She had been forgiven and set free from demonic bondage. Her life had gone from terrible darkness to amazing light—from misery to the wonder of knowing Jesus.

When she stood looking up at that cross—watching her Savior and Redeemer Who had been spat upon, laughed at, and pierced with thorns and nails—she understood the cost of her deliverance. She witnessed the price that was paid to buy her back from the grip of Satan.

To Mary Magdalene, that cross was the price of redemption.

## DRAW NEAR

That cross is also the place of *our* redemption. It's *our* place of reward and restoration.

### ISAIAH 53:3-6 (NKJV)

**3** He [Jesus] is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

**4** Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

**5** But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

**6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Jesus paid the price so we could be delivered and healed. He was punished in our place.

You see, we've all fallen short. Without Jesus, we're all sinners in need of God. But it's at the cross that we find everything we need. It's at the cross where we, just like John, find restoration when we mess up. It's at the cross where we, like Jesus' mother, realize there are rewards for serving God. And it's at the cross where we, like Mary Magdalene, find salvation and redemption.

Will you follow Jesus to the cross? Will you be faithful even when things don't go the way you want—when you're persecuted and misunderstood? I encourage you . . . draw near. Draw near and find peace that passes all understanding and joy and strength that only the Lord can give.♥

[Editor's note: This article was previously printed in the April 2014 issue of *The Word of Faith*.]

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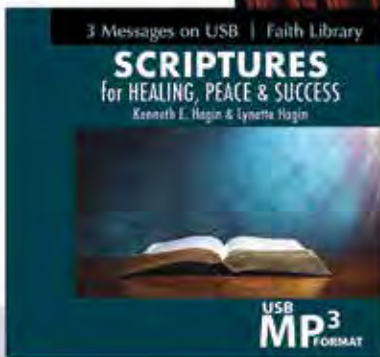
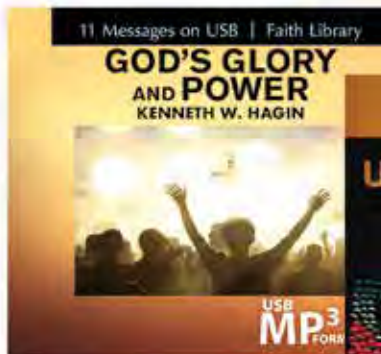
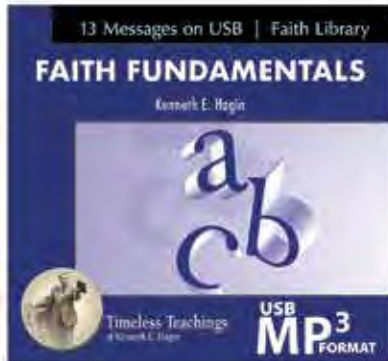
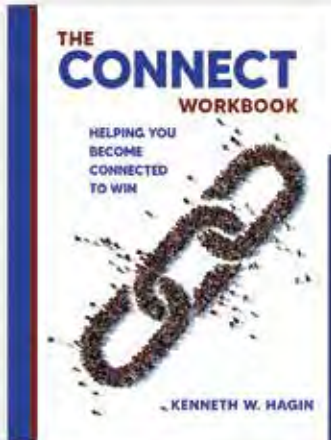
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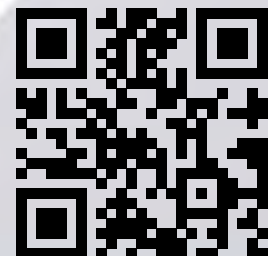
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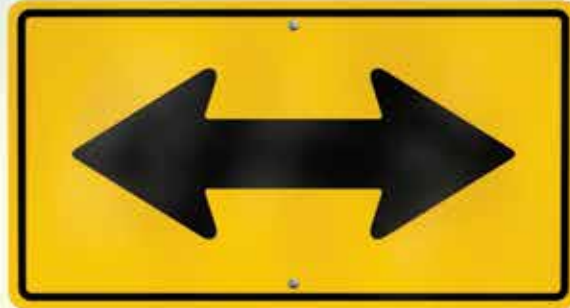


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# DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?



**HAVE YOU EVER BEEN** driving or walking somewhere and ended up completely lost? No matter which way you turned, nothing looked familiar, and you had no idea where you were. Do you remember the feeling of relief when you finally found the right way?

Perhaps you feel lost in life. Maybe you don't know where you're going or what you're supposed to do. Someone does know. God tells us in Jeremiah 29:11, "*I know what I'm doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for*" (Message). If you're lost and need to find your way, simply pray this prayer:

God,

I come to You in Jesus' Name. I admit that I'm lost and need help in life. 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, according to Your Word, I am saved! Thank You! I look to You to take care of me. Show me where to go and what to do.

If you prayed that prayer, welcome to God's family! We have some materials we would like to send you to help you get started on your walk with God. Email us at [PartnerService@rhema.org](mailto:PartnerService@rhema.org) or call us at 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484).♥

# SEED

## Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

### COMMITMENT AND CONSECRATION

**WHEN I THINK** of Easter, this thought comes to mind: The commitment and consecration of Jesus to fulfill His mission on this earth. I am always moved when I read Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Matthew 26:36–45 (NKJV), *"Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to the disciples, 'Sit here while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. Then He said to them, 'My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.'*

*"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.*

*"Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, 'What! Could you not watch with Me one hour? Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.' Again, a second time, He went away and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, Your will be done.' And He came and found them asleep again, for their eyes were heavy. So He left them, went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words."*

No matter how many times I read this passage, I am moved with compassion and tears, realizing that even though Jesus was the Son of God, it still took deep commitment and consecration to obey His Father's will.

Many people question why their prayers are not answered. I think the reason is that we have not first prayed the prayer of consecration. Let's define *consecrate*: To devote or dedicate to some purpose. To devote irrevocably to the worship of God.

The prayer of consecration, the prayer of committing to live a holy life, and committing to do God's will are often the most difficult things for people. It is not fun to die to our own will, ways, and desires.

There has never been a prayer that matches Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Although the most committed of the disciples were nearby—Jesus had to carry His burden alone to the Father.

This prayer, with all its intensity, didn't spontaneously spring up in Jesus' heart at this one crucial time in His life. Although the Garden of Gethsemane experience was the ultimate test of His willingness to die to His will, Jesus lived His entire life on this earth with an attitude of surrender to God.

John 6:38 (NLT) says, *"For I have come down from Heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will."* John 4:34 (NLT) further confirms this as Jesus said: *"My nourishment comes from doing the will of God, who sent me, and from finishing His work."*

Isaiah 1:19–20 declares: *"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."*

Willingness and obedience to fulfill God's will is important to Him. If the children of Israel had faithfully followed God's plan rather than their plans and desires, they would not have had to experience some of the consequences they faced.

A prime example of being consecrated and committed is the story of Abraham. God told Abraham to go from the land he was inhabiting. However, God didn't tell Abraham where he was going. He simply said "Go and I will show you" (Gen. 12:1). God went on to say, *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing"* (v. 2). Abraham obeyed and was blessed.

When we accept Christ as Savior, our desire is to follow His will for our lives. However, if we are not careful, the longer we are saved, the stronger our desires become and the weaker the desire to do the will of the Father becomes.

I encourage you to review your consecration and commitment to the Father. And recommit as David did in Psalm 40:8 (NKJV): *"I delight to do your will, O my God, and your law is within my heart."* ♥

*Lynette*



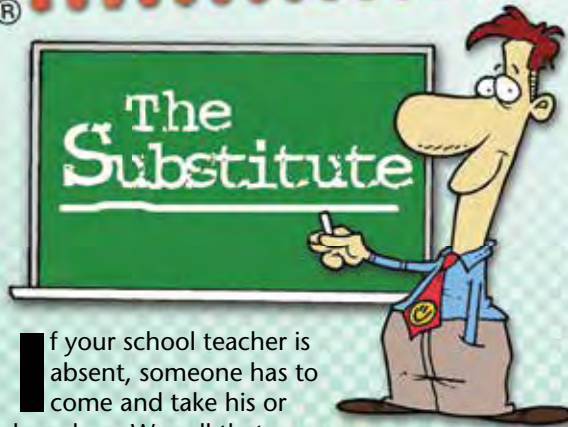


# Kids' Page

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

## ONLY ONE!

There was **ONLY ONE** who could be the perfect substitute for us and that was **JESUS!** In the same way, **ONLY ONE** of the squares below can be substituted for the empty square in the picture. **ONLY ONE** will work perfectly. Can you figure out which one it is?



If your school teacher is absent, someone has to come and take his or her place. We call that person a **SUBSTITUTE**. A substitute is someone who takes the place of another. You may not know this, but **JESUS IS YOUR SUBSTITUTE**. No, not your substitute teacher . . . but **YOUR** substitute, the one who took **YOUR** place. But how did He take your place? Well, because you were a sinner, you were going to have to die for your sins and go to hell. But when Jesus died on the cross, God made Him your substitute . . . He died in your place. In fact, all the bad things Jesus went through were a part of being your **SUBSTITUTE**. Emphasize the capitalized words from the following verse (Isaiah 53:5):

**HE** was wounded for **OUR** transgressions,  
**HE** was bruised for **OUR** iniquities;  
the chastisement of **OUR** peace was upon **HIM**;  
and with **HIS** stripes **WE** are healed.

All that **HE** did was for **US!** **HE** took **OUR** place!  
**HE** was **OUR** substitute!

## THE SUBSTITUTION DECODER

The secret message below tells another way Jesus was our substitute. Here's how to decode the message. Substitute every letter **N** with the letter **T**. Substitute every letter **L** with the letter **H**. Substitute every letter **Z** with the letter **V**. Substitute every letter **J** with the letter **B**. And substitute every letter **D** with the letter **M**. All of the remaining letters stay the same. The first word has been decoded for you.

THOUGH  
NLOUGL LE WAS RICL, ZEN FOR ZOUR SAKE  
LE JECADE POOR, NLAN ZOU NLROUGL LIS  
POVERNZ DIGLN JECODE RICL.

## jokes & riddles



"A merry heart does good, like medicine."

—Proverbs 17:22 (NKJV)

Why couldn't the slow boxer get a drink at the party?

Because everyone beat him to the punch!

Why was the archaeologist upset?

His job was in ruins!

Why do pens get sent to prison?

To do long sentences!

Why did the fly fly?

Because the spider spied her!

What's the moral of the story about Jonah and the whale?

You can't keep a good man down!

Mother: How did you do on your tests?

Johnny: I did what George Washington did!

Mother: What was that?

Johnny: I went down in history!

When a knight in armor was killed in battle, what sign did they put on his grave?

Rust in peace!

**ANSWERS:**  
**ONLY ONE!** • Answer: C.  
**The Substitution Decoder**  
 YOUR SAKE HE BECAME POOR,  
 THAT YOU THROUGH HIS POVERTY  
 MIGHT BECOME RICH.



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# Supporting Rhema— 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.*



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TO SIGN UP!**

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