



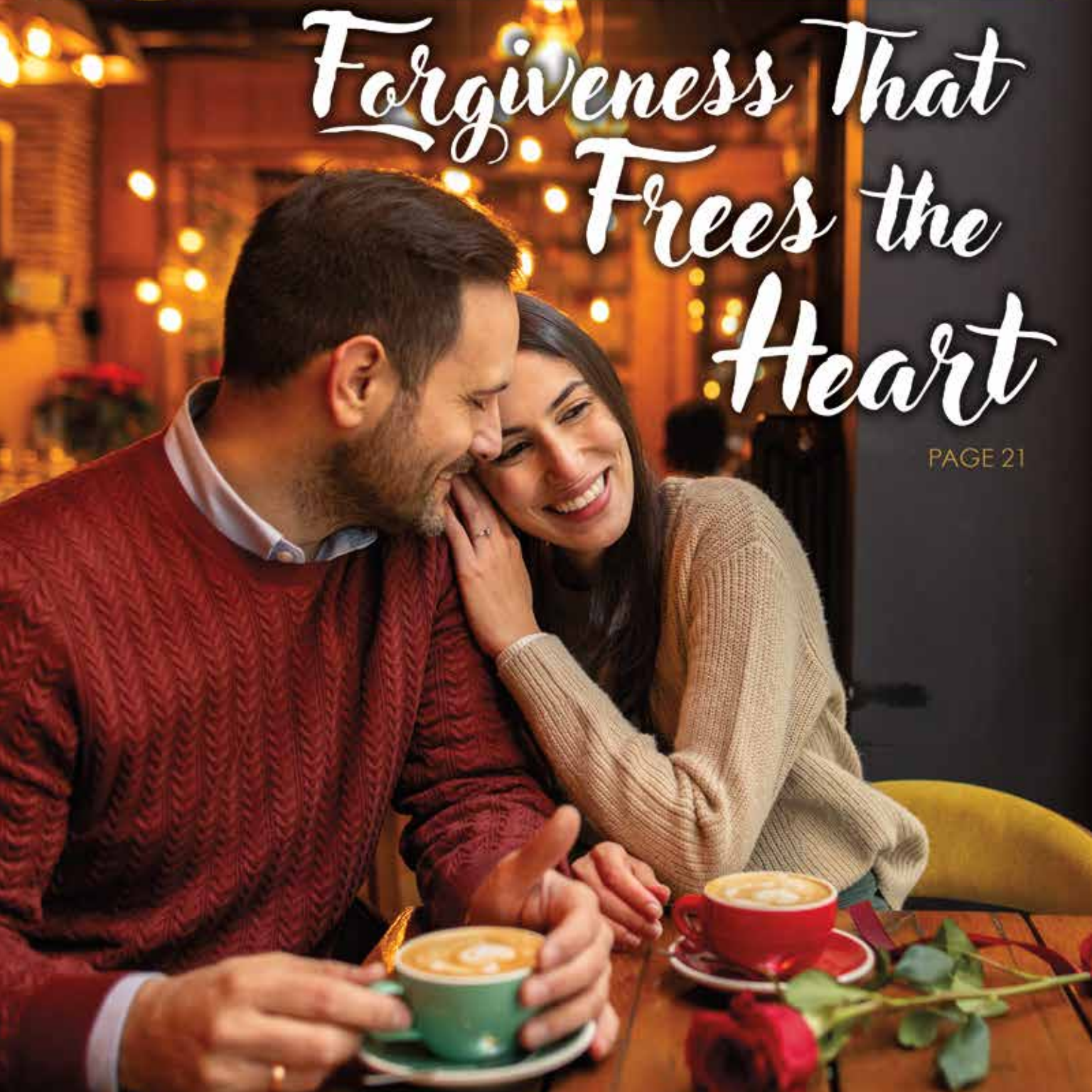
THE Word of Faith

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2026

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

Forgiveness That Frees the Heart

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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

You Are God's Personal Concern

God cares deeply for you as an individual. Did you know God personally cares about you? Not only does He love the world and the Church—the corporate Body of Christ—but He also loves you, the person you see in the mirror!

First Peter 5:7 says, *"Casting all your care upon [God]: for he cares for you"* (NKJV). The Phillips translation says, *"You are [God's] personal concern."* Oh, I like that! And *The Amplified Bible* says, *"[God] cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully."*

How much does God care about you? So much that He sent you a Redeemer—the Lord Jesus Christ! God sent His own Son to shed His blood so you might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). God cares for you so affectionately that not only did He give you a way of escape from the devil's kingdom, but He also translated you into the Kingdom of His dear Son (Col. 1:13)!

Sometimes it's hard for us to fully grasp God's love. How far does His love reach? It reaches farther than a person can run or hide. It reaches to the depths of despair and into our hopeless situations. It lifts us up above hopelessness, trouble, and strife. How long does the love of God last? It lasts a lifetime! It lasts an eternity!

Thank God for His love! Without it, there would be no hope, no tomorrow, and no reason to live. But because of God's wonderful love, you and I can face any challenge, knowing we have a Heavenly Father Who lovingly says, "Don't worry or be afraid. I'll help you! Rest in My love."

Kenneth W. Hagin



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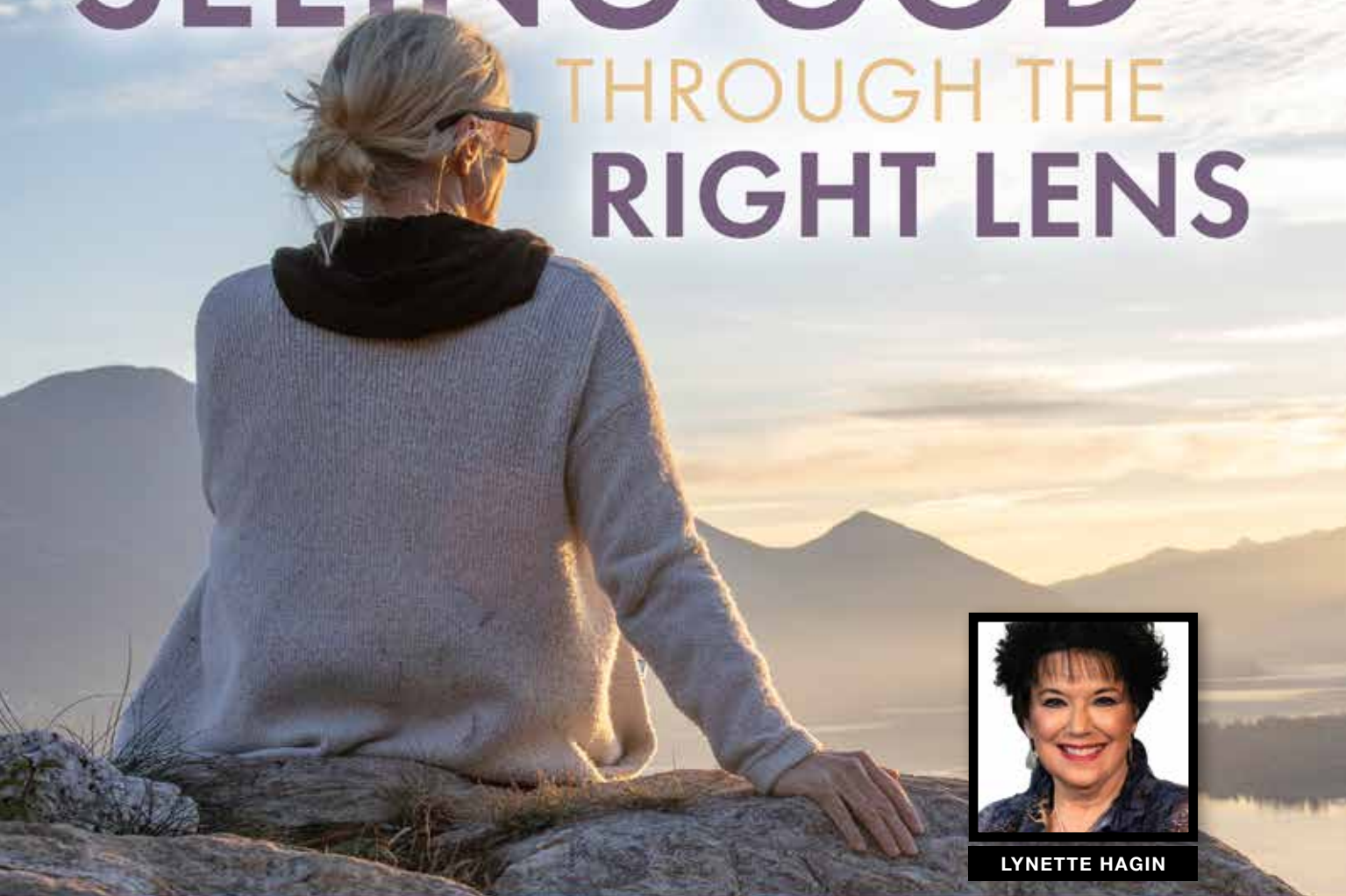


Understanding Righteousness

KENNETH E. HAGIN

Discover what it means to be righteous and how that knowledge can change your life.

SEEING GOD THROUGH THE RIGHT LENS



LYNETTE HAGIN

IS THERE SOMETHING God placed within your heart that you have kept secret or protected, wondering for years if you would ever be able to accomplish it? The Lord has brought you to this day as He brought Esther to her day—for such a time as this.

Perhaps you have already accomplished something for God. But He has more planned for your life. You are not “washed up” or “over the hill.” Regardless of your age or past achievements, your best is yet to come!

With God, each day is different. He never allows Himself to be put in a box. Some days, there are quiet times. On other days, there are hilarious times. And some days are worshipful times. Just be ready to receive from Him whatever He wants to give you and in whatever manner He wants to give it.

I want to recount to you a story I heard. There was a young woman named Brenda who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was afraid of heights, she went with a group of climbers to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on her gear, took hold of the rope, and started up the face of the rock.

She soon reached a ledge where she could take a breather, and she paused because she was a little nervous. As she was hanging there, the safety rope shifted and snapped across her face. One of her contact lenses was knocked from her eye.

You may not know how that feels, but I wear contact lenses, so I know! There Brenda was—on a rock ledge with hundreds of feet above her, and hundreds of feet below her—without her contact lens. She began searching the ledge as best she could, but her contact lens was nowhere to be found.

Brenda was far from home, out of her comfort zone to be sure, and now her sight was blurred. She was desperate and began to get upset, so she prayed to God that she would find her lens. When Brenda finally reached the top of the mountain, a friend examined her eye and then her clothing to see if the lens was there. It was still nowhere to be found.

Brenda became somewhat despondent. As she was waiting for the rest of her group to reach the top of the cliff, she started praying again. She looked across the range of mountains and said to the Lord, “The Word says that the eyes of the Lord run

IF YOU WILL
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TO DO.

to and fro throughout the whole earth [2 Chron. 16:9]. Lord, You can see all of these mountains. You know every stone and leaf, and You know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me find it.”

Finally, Brenda and her group went down to the bottom of the cliff. At the bottom, a new party of climbers was waiting to go up. Someone in the new group shouted, “Hey! Has anyone lost a contact lens?”

It was amazing enough that someone had actually *found* a contact lens. Those things are tiny! But it was even more amazing *how* this climber found the contact lens. As he was about to climb, he saw an ant slowly moving across the face of the rock. The ant was carrying the contact lens!

Brenda told her father, a cartoonist, about her story. He drew an ant carrying a contact lens, and the caption beneath the cartoon read, “Lord, I don’t know why You want me to carry this thing. I can’t eat it, and it’s awfully heavy. But if this is what You want me to do, I’ll carry it for You.”

Like the ant in that illustration, you may not fully understand God’s plan for your life. But His reasons, His ways, and His thoughts are always best. He knows exactly why He has called you to do what He has called you to do. Remember, God doesn’t call the qualified. *He qualifies the called!* If you will totally rely on the Lord your God, you will accomplish what He has called you to do.

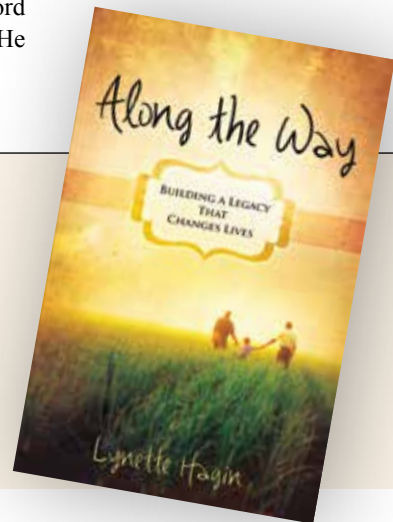
Let’s look at one of the greatest biblical examples of trusting God. One of my favorite stories about Abraham—a man who, even though richly blessed by God, still served Him faithfully—is found in Genesis 12:1–4. Here, God told Abraham to leave his home country and go to a land He would show him. And Abraham obeyed the Lord and departed.

I guarantee you that most of us would not have been as obedient as Abraham! But he left his family and all that was familiar in the land of Haran. I’m sure it was quite a job to pack everything that belonged to him and his wife, but Abraham obeyed God.

Abraham didn’t ask, “God, what are Your plans? Before I decide whether I want to leave, can You tell me Your 10-year plan? What about Your 5-year plan?” But Abraham said, “Okay, I’ll go. I’ll start out in faith and in obedience to you.”

As Abraham went, God began to lead him in the way he should go. He didn’t know God’s final purpose for him. But we can see in many Bible passages how Abraham’s obedience worked out for him.

If God is with us, we can boldly say about our life, “The best is yet to come.” We can learn to lean on Him and trust Him to help us find and successfully fulfill His individual calling for us. Like Abraham, we really can learn to totally rely on God!♥



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A Legacy For Christ

Whether we notice or not, our actions and attitudes influence those around us and the generations to come. How do we build a legacy that points others towards the Lord? Lynette Hagin highlights factors – such as endurance, generosity, and faithfulness – that are essential to creating a godly legacy.

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JOY, No Matter What



CRAIG W. HAGIN

JOY IS A FRUIT of the Spirit that we should all have operating in our lives (Gal. 5:22). And God wants us to be full of it. He wants us to have a full tank of joy (John 15:11)—regardless of what’s happening around us!

James 1:2 (NCV) says, “*My brothers and sisters, when you have many kinds of troubles, you should be FULL OF JOY.*” You may be thinking, “How can I be full of joy when bad things are happening all around me?”

You’re confusing joy with happiness. They are two different things. Happiness

comes from things that happen on the outside—earthly experiences, material objects. And it’s temporary. True joy comes from the inside—from Jesus. And no matter what is going on around us, we can always have joy in Him.

Look Inside

You see, if you’re looking at the world—at trials, wars, and financial situations—you’re forgetting Who’s inside you. Those things shouldn’t move you or cause you to lose your joy. Why? Because to know who you are in Christ is to be joyful.

Nehemiah 8:10 says that the joy of the Lord is our strength. It's *His* joy that's on the inside of us. It's *His* joy that keeps us going strong, no matter what. And we can keep that joy in spite of the situations we face. Christ in us is greater than anything that's in the world!

"Well, I just need Jesus to come by here, and help my situation. Then I'll be joyful." Jesus has already helped your situation! When He died on Calvary, He said, "It is finished." Jesus defeated the devil and gave us His Name. He's the ultimate winner.

When we believe on Him, we become ultimate winners too. It's just that simple. And that's why we can keep our joy in spite of circumstances. We know what the Word of God says and that settles it!

Rejoice—Always

I'm going to be honest. Life is not always going to feel joyful. The devil is here to try to get us off our game. He's here to steal our dreams—to kill and destroy (John 10:10). But God is always for us. And the Bible tells us we must "count it all joy" (James 1:2 NKJV).

That means we must count it all joy *now*—and not just when it feels joyful. Every day, we've got to stir up the gift of God that's on the inside of us, knowing that situations and struggles don't define us. The scoreboard might say we're losing, but the game is not over! We are always victorious through Christ Jesus. And we can have what the Bible says is ours.

We can have joy and the peace that passes all understanding because

we know our God is able. And as long as we put our trust in Him, He will deliver us out of every situation.

The Apostle Paul had many times in his life that didn't seem very joyful. He was persecuted, stoned, and beaten as he ministered the Word. But those things didn't move Him. He kept his joy, because it wasn't based on the things he was going through. It was based upon the Lord. That's why he was able to encourage us in Philippians 4:4 (NKJV) to "rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!" Paul knew of the power that comes from rejoicing in the Lord.

Unspeakable Joy

Our joy doesn't depend on gas prices going up or down. It isn't tied to the stock market, the latest iPhone, or even owning a new car. It's not based upon whether we live in a big house, a small house, or an outhouse! None of that matters!

When we know Who our God is, who we are in Christ, and that the joy of the Lord is our strength, we can continue to rejoice. We can rejoice with "joy unspeakable and full of glory" (1 Peter 1:8).

What does that mean? It means we rejoice with a joy that's so good we can't even describe it. A joy that will strengthen us and help us. A joy that will cause us to stand.

We might not know what to do about a situation, but we don't have to worry. God is still in control. And when we have the joy of the Lord inside us, nothing can stop us!♥



Think It Over

Have you been allowing the joy of the Lord to rule in your life? Or have you allowed situations and circumstances to take over? Decide right now that you will rejoice, no matter what. There's no time like the present to start!

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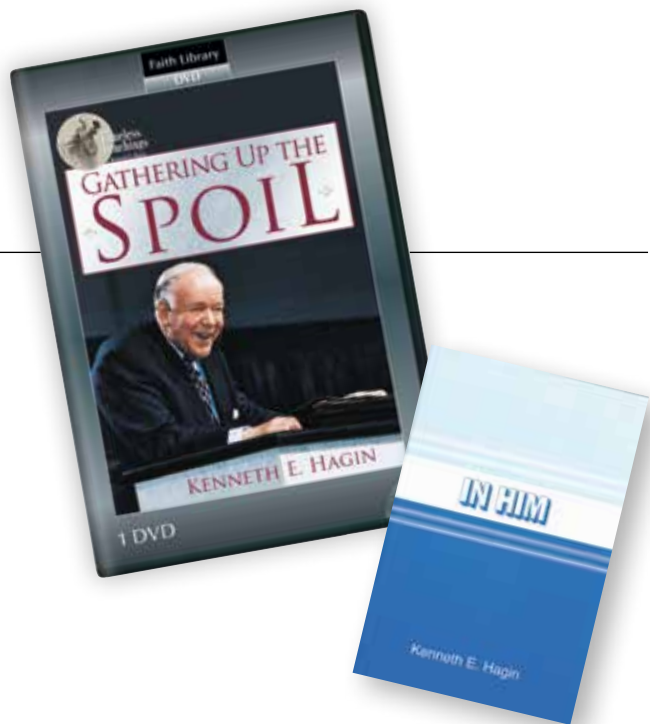
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God's Honor Roll

TAD GREGURICH

IN FIRST SAMUEL 2:30, God says, *“For them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed.”*

“Them that honor Me, I will honor!” This is a law—a principle—by which the Kingdom of God operates. When we honor God, we will be honored!

What does it mean to honor God? In the New Testament, the Greek word for honor means “to view as valuable; to view as precious.” When we talk about honoring God, we’re talking about valuing Him—and not just in church! We should value and esteem Him in every area of our lives.

If we don’t honor God, we will not advance or prosper. That’s why I want to discuss four key areas that will get us on God’s honor roll in life.

1. HONOR GOD

To honor God, we must bring Him our first and best. Proverbs 3:9–10 says, *“Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.”*

These verses are referring to our substance— what we possess. The word “firstfruits” helps us understand something. We cannot honor God with our leftovers. We must always give Him our very best. When we do, verse 10 says there is a reward, an honor, that will come back to us.

2. HONOR GOD'S WORD

Secondly, we must honor God’s Word. Proverbs 4:20–22 says, *“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.”

The Word of God is our foundation. It’s alive and full of power. We must put it first in our lives. We must not treat it as ordinary. That’s what dishonor means— “to treat as common, or ordinary.”

We must keep the Word in our hearts. Stay in love with it and never despise it. You see, if we despise the Word of God, it will profit us nothing. But what we honor, we will be honored with.

3. HONOR GOD'S SERVANTS

When Jesus came to his own hometown and began to teach in the synagogue, Mark 6:5 says, *“he could there do no mighty work.”*

Why? It wasn’t because Jesus wasn’t anointed. It was because the people were offended. They treated Him as common saying, “We know you! You’re the carpenter’s son! Who do you think you are?” (See Mark 6:1–3.) Because they were offended, they could not receive from Him.

Understand that you will always receive from what you honor. There are things in our lives we may need to stop honoring and giving so much value to, but not the things of God nor the servants of God.

Matthew 10:41 says, *“He that receiveth [honors] a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward; and he that receiveth [honors] a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.”*

If we honor and receive from the God-ordained men and women the Lord has placed in the ministry, we will receive the reward of the anointing God has placed upon their lives.

4. HONOR WHAT GOD HONORS

Finally, to honor God is to love

what He loves and hate what He hates. Proverbs 8:13 says, *“The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.”*

In this verse, “fear” does not mean we’re afraid of God. It means we’re honoring, reverencing, and showing Him respect. If God hates pride and arrogance, anything to do with evil, and a mouth that speaks against people and the things of God, so must we.

Yet, the primary attribute of God is love. What does He love? People! To love God is to love people, and to honor God is to honor people. We must not only reach out to a lost and dying world but also love our brothers and sisters in Christ. Our honor and love for God won’t rise any higher than the person we love the least.

Let me ask you: Will you choose to honor God and be counted among those on His roll of honor? If you will, you’ll see things come to pass in your life that are above everything you could ever ask or think!♥


[Editor’s Note: Tad Gregurich is Dean of Rhema Bible Training College.]



INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT



What to Do When Trouble Comes Your Way



When God gave you dreams and plans for the future,
He knew exactly who you are.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

IT'S BEEN SAID there are only two things in life that are certain: death and taxes. I believe that “trouble” can also be added to this list. Trouble is something that visits everyone—young and old, rich and poor. Regardless of your background or where you reside. If you live very long on this earth, one day trouble will knock on your door.

You must address trouble both naturally and spiritually. Let's start with the natural approaches.

1 Get Rid of All of Your Excuses

It's easy to blame others. You've probably heard someone say, “It's not my fault; it's So-and-so's fault.” But if you decide to do or not do something, then the blame should rest squarely on your shoulders. Stop making excuses for why you can't succeed. Start putting action to your dreams. If God is for you, who can be against you? You and God make an unbeatable team!

2 Don't Look Back; Your Answer Is Not Behind You

You cannot change the past; it's history. If the answers were behind you, you wouldn't be where you are now. You can't change your yesterdays. But you *can* change your future. Your tomorrows are open because your answer is in front of you.

3 Quit Comparing Yourself to Others

Comparing yourself to others will consume you. God gave you dreams and plans for the future, knowing exactly who you are. He knew your shortcomings and where you could excel. Quit comparing yourself to others. It only hinders your dreams from becoming reality.

4 Don't Second-Guess Yourself; Make a Decision and Live With It

Years ago, I received good advice:

“When making a decision, look at all of the issues and then make a decision you can live with.” People often make decisions based on emotions, then regret them. Take the necessary time to analyze a situation. Once you decide, stick with it.

5 Learn to Say 'I Don't Know'

You can't know everything or be everything to everyone. It's okay to say, “I don't know.” Don't be intimidated if you don't have an answer to someone's question. If you don't know something, just say so. Then tell the person you will find out and get back to them.

6 Know Your Own Limits

Honestly assess your abilities. Many overestimate what they can do. You can't expect more out of yourself than you have the ability to achieve.

The library and the Internet offer knowledge on any subject. After studying a specific area, you will have the ability and confidence to achieve what once seemed beyond your capabilities.

7 Give Clear Communication

No matter who you are talking to, clear communication is essential. We get into a lot of trouble—in relationships and on the job—just from a lack of clear communication. People aren't mind readers, and a lot of misunderstandings can be avoided by making

sure the other person understands what you are saying.

We've looked at seven ways to deal with trouble in the natural realm. Now, we'll take a look at how we can tackle trouble through the spiritual realm. I have often said, "When the natural and the supernatural come together, they make an explosive force for God." When we come at a situation from both sides, we are sure to see changes.

1 Remember That God Is With You and Wants to Help You

Psalm 91:15 says, "He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him." God isn't just with you *in the good times*. No. He will be with you *in trouble—and He will deliver you!*

2 Resist Fear

Fear is never liberating. It is only incapacitating. Fear hinders the supernatural from working for you. No matter how impossible things look, you never have to fear when God is on your side. Find scriptures about peace and freedom from fear. Meditate on them and confess them aloud whenever fear arises.

3 Realize That God Always Has a Way Out

First Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape. . . ."

Paul assures us God won't let us face more than we can bear. And when you experience tests and trials, God will *always* provide a way out. Instead of focusing on the problem, train your eyes to look for the way out!

4 Always Maintain a Good Attitude

James admonishes Christians to "count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations" (James 1:2). By doing this, you maintain a proper spiritual attitude. Too many people have what I call "stinking attitudes." That is because they only complain and cry about the adversity they are facing instead of doing something about it.

Saying, "I don't understand why I'm going through this," won't change your situation. But when you "count it all joy" despite what you are experiencing, you are maintaining the necessary attitude of faith. And faith is what will change your situation.

5 Walk in Love

The only commandment Jesus gave to believers was the commandment of love (John 13:34). And First Corinthians chapter 13 outlines how. If you will be a faithful doer of the verses in First Corinthians 13, you will automatically eliminate a lot of adversity in your life.

6 Use Your Faith

Use your faith to move mountain-sized trouble from your life (Mark 11:23). To move any kind of mountain, you must believe in your heart that God's Word is able to change what looks unchangeable. Do this by believing the Word instead of what you see or feel. Scripture must be the highest and final authority in your life.

7 Maintain the Proper Confession

Some people constantly talk about their troubles. But doing this does not strengthen your faith. In fact, a negative tongue can cause problems for you. We're told to ". . . hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised)" (Heb. 10:23). When we remember that the One Who promised is faithful to bring those promises to pass, we are better able to watch our tongue and to speak more about the promises than we do about the problems.

As you follow the steps, realize people may pressure you. They may try to distract you from God's Word. But you must be strong and stand your ground.

Psalm 34:17 says, "The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles." This is God's promise to you. He is faithful to perform His Word, and He is faithful to perform His Word *in your life.*♥

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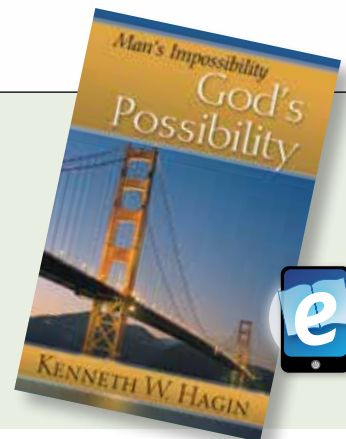
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TARGETED FAITH

Kenneth W. Hagin's *A Call To Arms Men's Conference* ©

WHAT ARE YOU aiming your faith at? Those at Rhema's 2025 *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* were challenged to answer that question.

In line with the conference's theme—"Targeted Faith"—speakers encouraged the men to hunt down the promises of God for themselves. Kenneth W. Hagin and Craig W. Hagin emphasized that hitting spiritual targets requires knowing what you want, focusing on that, and fighting off distractions.

Along with enjoying fellowship and worship, those who attended found themselves challenged to line up their godly vision with a good attitude. Speakers encouraged them to overcome hardship with the joy of the Lord and renew their minds by speaking God's Word over their lives. Guests left with a call to aim their faith at the abundant life God has for them.

The 2026 *A Call to Arms Men's Conference* is scheduled for **November 5-6**. If you're a man, be there!♥



KENNETH W. HAGIN

"When you target, you need to stay focused on that target. Whatever it is, whatever promise you need . . . **you must get to the place where there's no doubt whatsoever.** God meant what He said."



CRAIG W. HAGIN

"A lot of times we see the Word, but **when we speak the Word**, that's when we fire the ammunition."





"Every need becomes a victory when we meet it with a vision anchored by a promise, guided by a purpose, structured by a plan, and fueled by faith."

JOSHUA GRESHAM



"What I want to see in these last days is a people that are not just barely getting across the finish line, scraped and bruised up, but **a people enjoying life . . . enjoying watching God work** and move in their lives, one obstacle after another."

MARK BRADY



"If Jesus is with you, do you really think the stuff you're going through is going to sink you? This is what I've learned in my life: **I've got to stop bailing water and just grab a pillow and sleep by Jesus.**"

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Sharing Your Testimony

PHILLIP SLAUGHTER

MANY TIMES, WE look for ways to share the love of God and His Word with others. One of His greatest gifts to help us do that is our testimony. When was the last time you shared the story of how you were born again and filled with the Holy Spirit? Have you ever walked up to a stranger and told them about the goodness of God? A testimony is an easy way to introduce the Lord to someone. God designed it to be a blessing to the Body of Christ.

Psalms 145:4 says, *“One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts.”* We have a responsibility. Those of us who are older and have experienced God have the duty to pass on our testimonies to the next generation.

ISSUES AND BREAKTHROUGHS

In Mark 5:25–34 (NKJV), we read about the woman with the issue of blood. I’ve read this story many times, but one day the Holy Spirit illuminated to me that this is how we share our testimony.

The account begins, *“Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse”* (vv. 25–26). These verses tell us that this was a real woman with a real issue. Her name isn’t mentioned, but we know she had a serious problem and was desperate to be well. She had tried different avenues in the natural, and nothing had helped. Now she had physical, financial, and probably emotional problems. She had kept pushing for her healing for 12 years. How many of us get frustrated after 15 minutes?

Sometimes it takes contending for the things we desire. When facing health challenges, we cannot let the enemy talk us out of our healing and wholeness. As the Spirit of God speaks to us, we need to act on what He says. That obedience will bring us to the fullness of our testimony. By learning how to walk through trials, we develop the ability to teach others how to walk through their challenges.

SPEAK WHAT YOU BELIEVE

What we believe and say determines our outcome. We need to speak what we believe. The woman with the issue of blood kept saying, *“If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well”* (v. 28). She was totally convinced that coming in contact with Jesus would heal her. And she got exactly what she said. When she touched Jesus’ clothes, *“Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction”* (v. 29).

It’s interesting that Jesus turned around in the crowd and asked, *“Who touched My clothes?”* (v. 30). His disciples said, *“You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, ‘Who touched Me?’”* (v. 31). But Jesus knew that healing power had gone out of Him. And the Scriptures say that the woman fell at Jesus’ feet *“and told Him the whole truth”* (v. 33). She bared her heart to Jesus. And He said to her, *“Daughter, your*

faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction” (v. 34).

Jesus listened to her whole story. And because she told her testimony, we know how to get to our healing and deliverance. There are people today who are waiting to be set free, and they need to hear what God has done for us. He has delivered some of us from addiction to drugs, pornography, and a whole lot of other things. He has brought us out of bondage. And some people don’t know that there’s deliverance available to them. They need to hear our story. They need to hear that God delivers and sets free. They need to hear that Jesus died for them so they can be free too.♥

[Rev. Phillip Slaughter was a part of Rhema Singers & Band for ten years. He now travels the world bringing victory, joy, and freedom to the Body of Christ.]



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MAY 3-5

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MAY 6-8

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Understanding RIGHTEOUSNESS



**Timeless
Teachings**
of Kenneth E. Hagin

“Fight the good fight of faith.” –1 Timothy 6:12

THE FIGHT OF FAITH is the only battle Christians are called upon to fight. There wouldn't be such a fight of faith if there weren't enemies or hindrances to faith. But when we understand the enemies to faith and avoid them, our faith will grow.

One main hindrance to our faith is the lack of understanding of our righteousness, or our right standing with God. James 5:16 states that the prayer of “*a righteous man*” avails much. A lack of understanding of what righteousness is holds more Christians in bondage than any other thing. In my opinion, righteousness is one of the most misunderstood subjects in the Bible.

Paul makes two significant statements about righteousness: first, “*with the heart man believes unto righteousness*” (Romans 10:10), and second, when we receive Jesus and we are born again, we receive “*the gift of righteousness*” (Romans 5:17).

Righteousness is a gift. Too often, we have associated righteousness with good works. The Bible teaches good works and right conduct, but all of our good works and right conduct will never make us righteous. If good works made us righteous, we wouldn't need Jesus.

YOU CANNOT GROW IN RIGHTEOUSNESS

Another fallacy about righteousness is that we've thought we had to grow into some kind of “high spiritual state” to be righteous. Well, thank God, we can grow in the Lord and we can develop spiritually. But we cannot *grow* in righteousness. You will never be any more righteous than you are right now!

In the Old Testament, God set up a system whereby the

blood of animals was shed to *cover* the sins of His people. God did not hold sin against them; instead, He “counted” them as being righteous (Psalm 32:1–2).

In the New Testament, the Bible says we have a *better* Covenant established on better promises (Heb. 8:6). In some Christian circles, we've heard it said, “Our sins are covered.” But our sins aren't *covered*. Our sins are washed away by the blood of Jesus!

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17, 21

17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

21 For he hath made him [God has made Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.

Did you notice the phrases “in Christ” and “in Him” in these verses? *In Christ* we become *new creatures* (v. 17). *In Him* we become the righteousness of God when we are born again (v. 21).

When you receive Jesus as your Savior, you become a new man—a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17). God does not make any “unrighteous” new creatures.

Romans 10:10 says, “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness.*” How does a man become righteous? He believes unto righteousness—because he believes on Him who is our righteousness, Jesus Christ!

When you know this truth, you'll know that God hears your prayers just as quickly as He hears anyone else. Your standing with God is just as good as any other Christian's.

God doesn't love one member of the Body of Christ more than another. We've got all kinds of wrong ideas about this, such as "If I could just get a real man of God to pray for me, God would answer." Some Christians may have learned how to take advantage of what belongs to them better than you have, but they are not any more righteous than you are. God won't hear them pray any more quickly than He'll hear you pray.

I'm thoroughly convinced that in these last days, bands of believers will learn how to take their place in Christ, knowing who and what they are in Him. Talk about prayer warriors! Talk about consecrated, dedicated lives of prayer! Talk about getting results! And they won't have to be dependent on someone else to pray to get answers for them.

God will hear you! In our churches, we've been trained to leave it up to the pastor to do all the praying. But when you gain understanding of what righteousness is and what it means to you, you will be able to step out from that narrow place of theology where you have lived and step into the boundless fullness of God!

**YOU WILL NEVER
BE ANY MORE
RIGHTEOUS
THAN YOU ARE**
right now!

Some people say, "I can see from the Word of God that we've received remission of past sins, and we've received the gift of righteousness. I can see that we've been made righteous new creatures, but what about those sins and wrongdoings I've committed since I've become a Christian?"

Satan used this very thing to defeat me after I learned these facts about righteousness. He said, "Since you've been saved, you've sinned. Remember when you got angry and lost your temper?" (He knew he could no longer dispute my righteousness, because the Word is true and I'd discovered the truth.)

I felt so guilty that I'd missed it. But I began to look at the Word again, and I found this truth in First John: "*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).

When a man sins, he is under condemnation and he loses his sense of righteousness. But when he confesses, "I've sinned and I failed. Please forgive me, in Jesus' Name," God does two things. According to First John 1:9, God forgives AND cleanses us from our sins. If God just forgave us our sin, it wouldn't help us much. We would still be under the condemnation of sin. But

God actually CLEANSSES us from all sin.

What does God cleanse us from? *All* unrighteousness! Not part of our unrighteousness, but *all* of it.

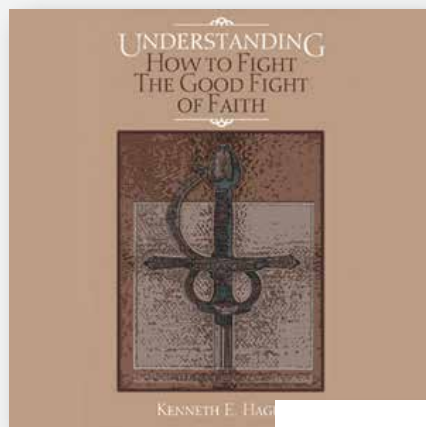
After I saw this in the Word, I came back to the devil with that news and put him on the run. Up until then, the devil had me on the run. Now he's the one who turns and runs. He found out that I know what the Word of God says about my righteousness in God through Christ!♥

[Editor's note: This article was adapted from the book *Understanding How to Fight the Good Fight of Faith*.]

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Reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. That's what Kenneth Hagin Ministries is all about. But we can't do it alone. **IT TAKES ALL OF US PULLING**

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SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)



FORGIVENESS THAT FREES THE HEART

FORGIVENESS IS ONE of the most powerful seeds we will ever plant in our lives—yet it is often the hardest one to sow. Sometimes, it requires us to release something we feel entitled to hold onto: hurt, offense, our sense of justice, or the identity of being wronged. Practicing forgiveness is not a one-time decision; instead, it is a spiritual discipline we revisit repeatedly.

Many misunderstand forgiveness. It doesn't mean what happened was acceptable. It doesn't mean the pain wasn't real or the offense didn't matter. While forgiveness does not excuse wrongdoing, it also does not require reconciliation in every situation. Forgiveness is not saying, "It's okay." Forgiveness is saying, "I choose to release this from my heart so it no longer controls me."

Unforgiveness is heavy. It settles quietly in our spirit, often as justified anger or self-protection. Over time, it affects how we think, respond, and see God and others. What starts as a wound can turn into a root, and if left untreated, that root produces bitterness. Bitterness doesn't stay contained—it spills into relationships, attitudes, and decisions.

Forgiveness, on the other hand, is freeing. When we forgive, we do not let the offender off the hook; instead, we take ourselves off the hook. We are choosing peace over poison. We are choosing healing over heaviness.

Learning to forgive begins with honestly acknowledging the hurt. God never asks us to pretend we weren't wounded. The Psalms are filled with raw, heartfelt expressions of pain, disappointment, and betrayal. God can handle our honesty. Before forgiveness can flow, we must be willing to bring the hurt into His presence and say, "This hurt me." Healing does not come from denial; it comes from surrender.

Forgiving can also be a process. While some offenses are forgiven in a moment, others require repeated decisions. At times, forgiveness must be reaffirmed when memories resurface or emotions flare again. This does not mean you failed. It means you are walking it out. Each time you choose forgiveness, the grip of the offense loosens.

Forgiveness also requires humility. It means laying down our demand for repayment. While there is something in our flesh that wants acknowledgment, apology, or vindication, forgiveness instead trusts God with justice. It says, "Lord, You see what I cannot fix. I place this in Your hands." When we let go of the need to control the outcome, we open the door for God's peace to rule our hearts.

It is important to remember that forgiveness is a spiritual act, empowered by grace. We forgive not by sheer willpower, but by drawing on God's strength. When forgiveness feels impossible, that is often a sign we are trying to do it alone. God supplies grace where obedience is difficult. He gives us the ability to forgive as we receive His forgiveness.

Forgiveness reshapes the future. Unforgiveness keeps us tethered to the past, reliving moments that cannot be changed. Forgiveness lets us move forward, free from yesterday's pain, so new joy, trust, and hope can grow.

We also find freedom in forgiving ourselves. Many carry guilt and regret long after God has forgiven them. Self-forgiveness is an essential part of emotional and spiritual healing. If we refuse it, we claim our judgment is higher than God's mercy. Learning to forgive means accepting the grace God extends—fully and without reservation.

Forgiveness doesn't mean you forget. Some memories are too significant to erase. But forgiveness changes how those memories affect you. What once triggered pain can eventually become a testimony of God's faithfulness and restoration. What wounded you no longer defines you.

As we grow in forgiveness, we discover that it is not weakness—it is strength under control. It is choosing love when offense has every reason to stay. It is trusting God to heal what we release to Him. Forgiveness is a seed that, when planted, produces peace, freedom, and spiritual growth.

This month, consider asking God to show you where forgiveness is needed. It may be toward someone else, toward yourself, or even toward a season of life that didn't turn out as expected.

As you plant the seed of forgiveness, trust that God will bring a harvest of healing in His time.

Forgiveness is not easy—but it is always worth it.♥

Lynette





Kids' Page

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



BIBLE VERSE SEARCH

One of the shortest verses in the Bible talks about remembering something from God's Word. See if you can find where the verse is located by following the clues below.

Open up your Bible, but it's not up in the front; To find this scripture verse, you'll really have to hunt. If you really want to find the verse, then here's a little clue: You won't find it in the OLD, so look within the NEW. There are 27 books that the NEW Testament contains; To find this little verse, you will have to use your brains. We'll narrow down the list, so adjust your attitude; Paul was not the writer, neither Peter, James, nor Jude. The writer's name is short—only four letters in all, But remember, we have told you that the writer isn't Paul. There are three writers left once you consider all these facts, But the one that we are looking for wrote the Book of Acts. If the last clue didn't help you, you can still find the way; The book does not begin with the letter M or J. By now you've found the right book; here's your final clue: Just turn to chapter 17, the verse is 32.

You've Got It!

If you are a Christian, then you have something very important that will help you remember God's Word. Fill the blanks in below with the letter that matches the symbol beneath the blank to discover the answer.

▼*♠ ○*■* □♦ ✦*□*▲▼

✦=C - * = d - ♠ = e - ♦ = f - ✦ = h - * = i
○ = m - ■ = n - □ = o - □ = r - ▲ = s - ▼ = t

Don't Forget!

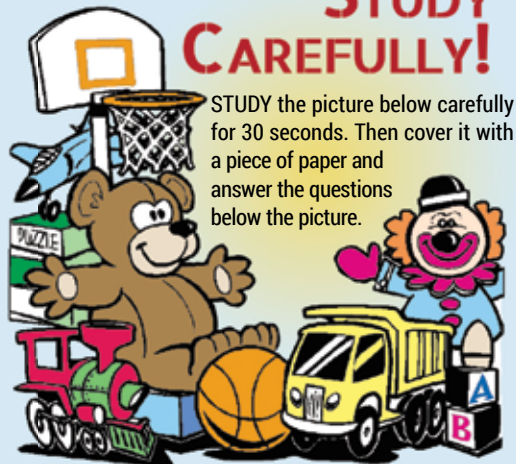
Do you think you'll ever forget what 2+2 equals? No! Because you **studied** it over and over again until you knew the answer without even counting on your fingers. The Bible says you should "**study** to show yourself approved unto God" (2 Tim. 2:15). When we study God's Word and get it

$$2 + 2 = 4$$

"in" us, then we remember it just as easily as we remember that 2+2 equals 4. But when we don't study God's Word, something happens. . . . We **FORGET**. James 1:25 tells us not to be **FORGETFUL** hearers of God's Word. Psalm 103:2 encourages us to **FORGET NOT** all of God's benefits. So, how do we overcome this problem we have of forgetting God's Word. Proverbs 4:20–21 gives us three keys for remembering God's Word: "My child, ❶ **pay attention** to my words. ❷ **Listen closely** to what I say. Don't ever forget my words. ❸ **Keep them deep within your heart.**" Study God's Word . . . pay attention to it . . . listen closely to it . . . and keep it deep within your heart!



STUDY CAREFULLY!



STUDY the picture below carefully for 30 seconds. Then cover it with a piece of paper and answer the questions below the picture.

Can you name all nine toys in the picture without looking? What color was the dump truck? Can you remember all of the letters that are shown in the picture above? Uncover the picture and see if you are right!

jokes & riddles



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

Q: What did the pig say when the butcher grabbed him by the tail?

A: That's the end of me. . . .

I don't have lungs or a chest but I need air; I am not alive, but I grow; I don't have a mouth and I'm allergic to water. What am I?

Fire

Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floor?

It was just a stage he was going through.

What did the leopard say after eating his owner?

Man, that hit the "spot."

Why is it so hot after a ball game?

Because all the fans leave.

Mom knocked on the door and said, "John, get up! You have to go to school."

John said, "Mom, I don't want to go to school, and I have two good reasons. I'm tired, and all the kids make fun of me."

Mom replied, "You have to go to school, and I'll give you two good reasons. You're a grown man, and you're the principal!"

The mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16)

You've Got It!

Luke 17:32—Remember Lot's Wife

Bible Verse Search

ANSWERS :

You are loved

GOD LOVES YOU. Period. It doesn't matter what you've done, even if you did it today. How can you be sure? John 3:16 says, *"God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life"* (NLT). God gave His best—His Son—for you. He loves you that much. To have the eternal life He offers you, you only need to believe in Jesus. To accept Him into your heart today, pray this prayer:

God, I come to You in Jesus' Name. I don't want to perish. I want to have eternal life. The Bible says, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Rom. 10:9 NLT). I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus, Your Son, from the dead. And I confess Jesus as my Lord. Therefore, I am saved. I have eternal life. Thank you!

If you prayed that prayer, welcome to God's family! We would like to give you some materials to help you in your new life with God. Email us at PartnerService@rhema.org or call us at **1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484)**.♥





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