



THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2026

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



Five Blessings of the Resurrection

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'WHEN I WAS IN PRISON, YOU VISITED ME.'



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the Word of Faith



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"We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life."

—Romans 6:4 (NIV)

We should all thank God for the Resurrection Sunday that took place more than 2,000 years ago. And as we celebrate Resurrection Sunday 2026, it's important to remember what this special day means to us.

It means that Jesus took our place on that cross and suffered the penalty of death so we wouldn't have to. But Resurrection Sunday isn't just to remind us that Jesus died for us. It also reminds us that Jesus rose from the grave for us! He didn't stay buried in that grave! On Resurrection Sunday, Jesus conquered the grave and rose from the dead, alive and well! Jesus did what we could not do! He paid the penalty we could not pay. Jesus voluntarily took upon Himself the sin and sickness that we were doomed to bear. Jesus took our place so you and I can live eternally!

You may think your life is over—that your dreams have died in spite of everything you've tried to do. Your situation may look bleak and dark. But in the midst of your seemingly hopeless situation—your darkness, despair, and shattered dreams—Jesus says to you, "I have come that you might have life and have it to the full [John 10:10]. I rose from the grave to give you new life. I can breathe life into this dead situation."

Because Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25), there is hope for all of us today. Because we have a new life in Jesus, we can triumph in every situation.



Kenneth W. Hagin

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Five Blessings of the Resurrection

The **Prince of Peace** is alive and well.
And because **He's alive and well**, we have peace.

“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: ‘He has risen from the dead’”

—Matthew 28:1–7 (NIV)

THIS IS THE time of year when we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The Easter season is one of the most joyous festivals that the Church celebrates. The Resurrection meant new life for Jesus and for all believers. Along with new life, we have received blessings purchased for us by Christ at Calvary.

In this teaching, we will study five blessings that now belong to us through Jesus. The first blessing is *pardon*. Jesus’ resurrection seals our pardon.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

ROMANS 4:25 (NIV)

25 He was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification.

Because Jesus paid the price for our redemption and took our place, God can now offer us a full and complete pardon. What does *pardon* mean? A pardon is a legal document setting a person free from punishment. It also wipes out a record of past deeds. It’s as though they never happened.

We should have to pay for our misdeeds. Instead, Jesus took our sins and the punishment for those sins upon Himself at the Cross. As a result, the Heavenly Father can offer us a pardon and wipe out our misdeeds, our sins, and our past as though they never existed.

The devil may try to haunt you with visions from your past. But as far as God is concerned, if you’ve accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you have been pardoned, and your slate has been wiped clean.

A second blessing Jesus gave us is *peace*. If you have ever lived without peace, you know that peace is a great blessing. And the Resurrection guarantees that you can have peace.

Before His crucifixion, Jesus said to His disciples in the upper room, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you . . .” (John 14:27 NIV). Then John 20:19 says, “On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” (NIV).

One of the last things Jesus said to His disciples before His death was, “Peace I leave with you.” And the first thing He told them after His resurrection was, “Peace be with you.”

Jesus is our Prince of Peace, and He is not buried in a tomb in Jerusalem. The Prince of Peace is alive and well. And because He is, we have peace.

A third blessing Jesus gave us through the Resurrection is *purity*. The person who has received God’s pardon from sin by accepting Jesus Christ as Savior now needs purity. Through Jesus, we receive pardon for the past, peace for today, and purity for life in the future. Because of the Resurrection, a pardoned sinner can now live a life unto God.

ROMANS 6:18, 22 (NKJV)

18 And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. . . .

22 But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Because of the purity imparted to us in Christ, we can live free from sin with fruit to holiness.

Regardless of your past, when you accepted Jesus, you were pardoned, and your past was wiped out. Once you were pardoned, you were given peace. So don’t let your past hinder you anymore.

When you were pardoned by God through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, you were also given purity. Don’t ever say you are unholy. Instead, say, “I am pure and holy because of the blood of Jesus.”

A fourth blessing of Jesus’ Resurrection is *power*. In Philippians 3:10, the Apostle Paul says, “I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection . . .” (NIV).

Romans 8:11 says the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead shall quicken our mortal bodies. Many Christians believe Christ gives us power only for spiritual things. But because of

the Resurrection, we also have power through the Holy Spirit to quicken (build up and strengthen) our bodies.

We have power at our disposal that we often don’t think to use.

EPHESIANS 1:19–20

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

According to this passage, the exceeding greatness of God’s power is toward us who believe—we have power because of the Resurrection!

A fifth blessing of Christ’s Resurrection is *Presence*. One of the greatest personal blessings of the Resurrection is the promise of God’s presence. He has promised to never leave us nor forsake us (Heb. 13:5).

You can be all by yourself with no one else around for miles. Yet, you’re not alone. God’s presence is with you wherever you are. Even when you’re asleep, He’s there. When you’re eating, driving, working—wherever you are and whatever you’re doing, He’s there. God has promised through Jesus, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:20 NIV).

Let us not forget the many blessings of the Resurrection. Pardon, peace, purity, power, and God’s presence are just a few. How amazing to think that Jesus died for us. But how great and wonderful to know that He also rose again! And because He rose again, you and I have blessings beyond compare. Thank God for the Resurrection!♥

(We are indebted to Arthur Petrie’s article “Resurrection Blessings,” which appeared in *The Pentecostal Evangel* magazine, March 26, 1967.)

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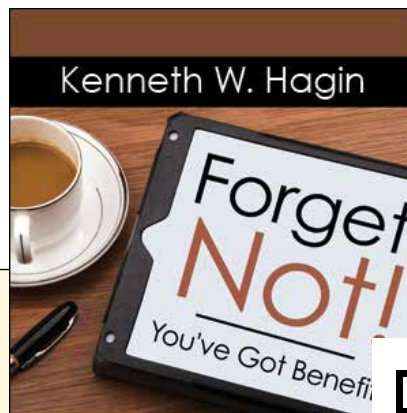
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Principles of Faith

DOUG JONES

MANY PEOPLE IN faith circles have the misconception that all faith does is believe that it receives. This, however, is a narrow view of what faith is all about. Faith is so much more than getting our needs and desires met.

We please God by faith. We live and walk by faith. We receive protection through faith. Ephesians 6:16 says, “Above all, taking the shield of faith.” For Christians to “take” the shield of faith, they must first recognize it when they see it.

Years ago, I was trying to fix a leak in a bathroom sink. My son was just a little tyke at the time. “Son,” I said, “I need a crescent wrench.” He was so happy to go to my toolbox. You could hear tools flying everywhere as he looked for the wrench.

He came running into the bathroom asking, “Daddy, is this it?”

“No son, that’s a pair of Channellocks.”

He ran back to the toolbox—tools are flying everywhere. He came running into the bathroom again. “Daddy, is this it?”

“No son, that’s my pair of Vice-Grips.”

During the nine years I taught in Rhema’s Healing School, people often came to me the same way my son did.

WHAT IS FAITH?

In Healing School, people would ask about faith. “Brother Doug,” they’d ask, “is this faith? No? What about this—is this faith?”

When I saw they had difficulty recognizing what faith was, I realized we had a definition issue.

According to Strong’s concordance, *faith* is simply “a persuasion.” Vine’s dictionary goes one step further. It says that faith

is “a firm persuasion; a conviction based on what you have heard.”

Based on Vine’s definition, we could quote Hebrews 10:38 as “the just shall live by their convictions.” We all have *convictions* and persuasions on how to conduct our lives.

We’re all persuaded about how we should conduct ourselves on our jobs. We’re persuaded that we should work as unto the Lord and not as unto men. We have convictions that we’re to work not only when the boss’s eyes are upon us, but also when they’re not. Isn’t that right?

This is faith. It has nothing to do with a need or desire. It has to do with life. It has to do with “walking by our convictions and not by what we see” (2 Cor. 5:7).

RECEIVING THE END OF OUR FAITH

If change and blessings are going to come into our lives, we must act on our faith—our convictions and persuasions.

James 2:18 says, “A man may say, *Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith* [your convictions and persuasions] *without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith* [my convictions and persuasions] by my works.” Verse 20 goes on to say that “*faith without works is dead.*”

The word *dead* here means “unproductive, inactive, idle.” Although we have faith, it’s not doing us any good because it’s idle. Friend, a lot of us have more faith that is lying inactive than we have faith that is active.

I mentioned earlier that we believe we ought to work on our jobs as unto the Lord, not as unto men. But if we’re not releasing our faith through corresponding action, then our faith in that area is dead. As a result, we shouldn’t expect to be promoted or

receive a raise. We shouldn’t expect blessings to come to us through our place of employment.

To receive what we’re standing in faith for, there’s a team that must work together. It’s the team of faith—persuasions, convictions—and corresponding actions. If this team doesn’t work together, then our faith becomes dead—inactive, idle, and unproductive. Let’s put our faith to work. Let’s act on our convictions and persuasions. Let’s live by our faith.♥

[Editor’s Note: Doug Jones is a Rhema Bible Training College instructor and national director of the Rhema Alumni Association and Rhema Ministerial Association International.]



INSTRUCTOR HIGHLIGHT



WHOSE VOICE ARE *you* LISTENING TO?



THE VOICES WE listen to will shape our lives. In the world today, we have so many voices vying for our attention. Some are good; others are not. There are voices of the enemy that will tear us down. The enemy can't attack our spirit, so he attacks our minds. We must learn not to heed him, but to recognize and understand God's voice.



LYNETTE HAGIN

God has communicated with His people from Old Testament times until now. In the Old Testament, He spoke through the prophets. In the New Testament, He spoke through His Son, Jesus. He continues to

communicate with us today through the Holy Spirit. God sent Him as His voice to lead, guide, direct, comfort, and strengthen us. We need to tune into His frequency.

How do we hear from God? I want to illustrate this with Samuel's story in the Bible (1 Sam. 1:1–3:21).

Hannah didn't have any children, and she longed for a child. She prayed fervently, "God, if You'll just give me a son, I'll dedicate him to You all the days of his life. I'll bring him to the temple and give him to You."

That's what happened. When Samuel was old enough, he was brought to the temple of God. He grew up there and was trained

by Eli, the priest. Samuel learned three things that prepared him to listen to the voice of God. And these three things will help us hear the Lord as well.

1. Samuel was practicing his *purpose*. What was his purpose? He faithfully served the Lord by assisting Eli. He was doing everything he needed to do and everything he knew to do by serving in the temple. Now, even before Samuel was born, just as before we were born, God had a plan.

In Jeremiah 29:11, it says, "*For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord. They are plans for good and not for disaster*" (NLT). God had plans for Samuel, and God has plans for us. You might be thinking, "Well, Samuel knew the plans God had for him. I don't have a clue what He has for me." Think again.

Samuel didn't know the whole story. He didn't know that God would make him a great prophet and judge over Israel. All he knew was that he was to be in the house of God and serve Eli. Therefore, he faithfully did what he knew to do.

Many times in our lives, we're so focused on the future that we're not fulfilling the purpose God has for us right now. God is not going to give us our whole life plan. Usually, He only gives us a two-month or a three-month plan. He doesn't tell us the whole story.

2. Samuel was in the proper *position*. In First Samuel 3:2–7, we read that the Lord called Samuel repeatedly one night. Every

time the young boy rushed to Eli, thinking he had summoned him. Every time the priest sent the boy back to bed.

1 SAMUEL 3:8-10 (NLT):

8 So the Lord called a third time, and once more Samuel got up and went to Eli. "Here I am. Did you call me?" Then Eli realized it was the Lord who was calling the boy.

9 So he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down again, and if someone calls again, say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went back to bed.

10 And the Lord came and called as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" And Samuel replied, "Speak, your servant is listening."

It was nighttime. It was quiet. There were no distractions. In that environment, Samuel was in the proper position to hear from God. In order to hear from God, we have to get rid of distractions and 'declutter' our lives. We need to evaluate what distracts us from hearing the Lord.

In Psalm 46:10, we read, "Be still, and know that I am God." Most of us are not comfortable with quietness. We want noise all around us instead. The Lord can speak above the noise, but so many times, we just have to be still.

3. Samuel was in the proper place. He was close to God. Hebrews 12:1 instructs us to "... lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us." All of our weights and sins can put us in an improper place to hear from God. Having them in our lives is like putting earplugs in our spiritual ears. We can't hear from God that way. Weight and sin deafen our hearts to His voice.

And if we're not careful, all of a sudden, God doesn't speak to us at all because we're too far from Him.

Anything but close to God is too far away. In our relationship with the Lord, we must be like David, who wrote, "As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God" (Ps. 42:1-2).

Samuel was living in the presence of God. He was living as close to the Heavenly Father as he could. What about us? Are we living in His presence every day? Now, that does not mean we must spend our entire day reading the Bible. It does not mean we must spend hours on our knees praying. But it does mean that every moment of our day, our ears are connected to God. It's so important that we are in the proper relationship and the proper place to hear from the Lord.

We need to practice our purpose, remain in the proper position, and be in the proper place—in right relationship with God. When He speaks, we must be willing and obedient to His voice. As Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." There is a hurting world out there. And I encourage us to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and let Him lead and guide us. He will direct us every day of our lives.♥

The Lord can speak above the noise, but so many times, we just have to be still.

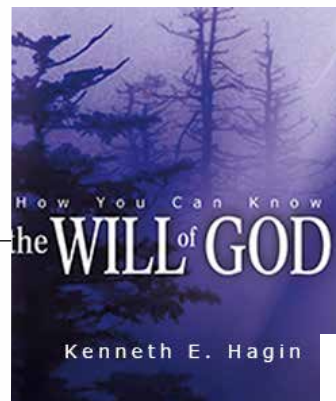
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HEALING IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU

ESSENTIAL TRUTH:

Healing is God's will for you. Sickness and disease belong to the enemy. Healing belongs to you.



KENNETH E. HAGIN

SOME CHRISTIANS WHO need healing have said to me, "Maybe God put this sickness on me for some purpose."

Did Jesus ever put sickness on anyone? When people came to Him for healing, did He ever turn even one away saying, "No, it's not My will. Just suffer a little longer. You're just not pious enough?"

No! Not once!

And the Scriptures tell us that to see God, we look at Jesus. Look at what Jesus Himself said:

JOHN 14:9-10

9 Have I [Jesus] been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?

10 Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I

speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.

Do you want to know what God is like? Look at Jesus. Do you want to see God at work? **Look at Jesus.** Do you want to know the will of God? Look at Jesus. Jesus is the will of God in action (John 6:38). Did Jesus go about making people sick? No! He went about doing good and healing!

ACTS 10:38

38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

From a natural standpoint, it is difficult for people to understand that most laws governing this earth today came into being through the fall of man, when Adam sinned and the curse came upon the earth. Because people don't understand this, they accuse God of causing accidents, sickness, and the death of loved ones. God is not the author of any of these things. They are acts of the devil. Their author is Satan.

Notice in Acts 10:38 who was healed by Jesus: "*ALL that were oppressed of the devil.*" Now, that's a plain statement, ALL. That means everyone who was healed under the ministry of Jesus was oppressed

of the devil. In other words, the devil had something to do with their sickness.

In John 10:10, Jesus tells us that anything which kills or destroys is from the enemy—the thief. Jesus came to do the will of God and set men free, not to hurt or destroy lives.

Jesus purchased healing for us in the plan of redemption through His death, burial, and resurrection. The Bible says, "*Himself [Jesus] took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*" and "*by whose stripes ye were healed*" (Matt. 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24)! If we *were healed* by Jesus' stripes, then we *are healed now* by His stripes.

Unless our minds are renewed with the Word of God, we won't understand that Satan is the author of sickness, disease, and everything else that destroys. Our thinking will be wrong. But once our minds are renewed with God's Word, we will be able to see that Jesus came to redeem us from Satan's power and give us life more abundantly (John 10:10).

It is through the Word that we can be assured that it is God's will to heal us. **Let the Word of God, not man's ideas or opinions, settle this issue once and for all. Healing is the will of God for you!**♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's *God's Word on Divine Healing Study Guide*.]

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In It to Win It

MARTY BLACKWELDER

THE JUDGMENT SEAT of Christ is exclusively for believers. It will be the time and place where our deeds and motivations will be examined and where we will be rewarded accordingly. But until we get there, there's a race for us to run. Here are three keys that will help us optimize our spiritual endurance and run our race effectively.

1. *Tear out any roots of bitterness.* Bitterness gets inside us through reflection. It happens when we constantly dwell on offenses and rehearse them in our minds. But we

us, "If I can offer you that kind of love, can't you offer the same love and courtesy to one another?" We can. We're going to make mistakes at times, but we have to extend the same love to others that God extends to us.

3. *Be careful what you consume.* Even as a new creation in Christ, we have the responsibility of guarding the gateways to our hearts. The gateways to the heart are the eyes, the ears, and the meditations of the mind. If we find ourselves flying off the handle, we need to investigate

wrong things. How can I get that bad seed out?" I'll tell you how: It's called 'the law of displacement.' Put yourself under the influence of the Word. You can override the past seed, plant a new harvest, and get a new fruit.

If we implement these things and keep our eyes on Jesus, we will run our race unhindered and on fire. We have to keep our primary pursuits on things above. I believe it's God's purpose for each of us to have the same testimony as the Apostle Paul, who said, "*I have fought a good*



overcome bitterness with forgiveness. There's freedom in letting go of past offenses, which accelerates our spiritual growth.

2. *Love others.* Love is of God. In First John 4:11, it says, "*Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.*" Notice that He first loved us. This is the nature of God's love, irrespective of our faults and imperfections. He loved us unconditionally while we were yet sinners. Christ died for the ungodly. It's like God is saying to

where a negative seed was planted. It could be through the music we're listening to, the movies we're watching, or the companionship we're keeping.

All of these avenues are seed-bearers. And the heart doesn't discriminate where seed is concerned. That's our job. We're the gatekeepers. In Proverbs 4:23, we're encouraged, "*Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*" You might say, "Well, I've been consuming the

fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Tim. 4:7-8). ♥

[Editor's note: Marty Blackwelder is a RBTC alumni who served on the staff of Kenneth Hagin Ministries for 11 years. He and his wife, Lola, have two daughters. This article was adapted from his message at *Campmeeting 2024*.]



KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES' **CAMPMEETING**

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT



The Simple Approach

KENNETH W. HAGIN

FAITH ANTICIPATES THE victory! Begin to expect the best and talk the best. Don't talk about what you don't have; talk about what you do have. Talk about who you are and what you have in Christ. Don't sit around talking negative. If you allow your ears to become garbage cans, always listening to junk, you'll start talking junk. But if you always listen to the Word of God, you will talk the Word.

You become like the people you hang around with. And you become what you hear. If you allow a

It doesn't matter what anyone else says is going to happen in the future. God's Word says that He will take care of you. Even if inflation goes sky-high, God's Word still works.

God took care of the Israelites as they wandered around in the desert, and He will take care of you too—even if He has to rain down manna in your front yard! God did it for His children in the Old Testament, and if He needs to, He will do it for His children today.

My trust is in God's Word. It doesn't matter what comes or goes,

you said, and he doesn't keep coming back and asking you if it's going to happen. He expects it to be just as you told him.

Let us be the same way with God. If God said He would do something, then expect Him to do it. Expect it to be done, not because of who you are, but because of who you are in Christ Jesus.

You don't ever have to anticipate the worst or have a lapse of faith again, but you will if you feed on junk instead of on the truth of God's Word. You can't get the victory with just head knowledge



negative seed to be planted in your heart, the devil will try to bring that seed to fruition. When you feed on junk, it will steal the Word of God from your heart. It will keep you from living for God, and you'll begin to expect the worst. Your faith will not be strong enough to expect the best.

Keep your faith strong and stop anticipating the worst. Begin to claim what the Word says is yours by saying, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Phil. 4:13 NKJV).

who's in or out of office, what political party is ruling or not ruling—God's Word will work.

Someone might say, "That is a very simple approach."

Well, Jesus said that's the kind of approach we're supposed to have. In Mark 10:15, Jesus said, "Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein."

When you tell a little child something, he believes you. He doesn't go worrying about what

or by simply wishing it's going to happen. You have to expect it and believe it in your heart. You have the victory when you believe God's Word, no matter what comes or goes—no matter what you feel, see, taste, touch, or smell.♥

[Editor's Note: This message was adapted from Kenneth W. Hagin's book *I Cannot Be Defeated and I Will Not Quit.*]



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ADVANCING TOWARD *Spiritual Maturity*



IN THE BOOK of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul talks about the spiritual growth of Christians.

EPHESIANS 4:11-15

11 And he [Jesus] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Did you notice in verse 15, Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus to “*grow up into him in all things*”? Evidently, Paul didn’t think that the Church at Ephesus had grown up yet. He also said in verse 13, “*Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, UNTO A PERFECT MAN.*”

Throughout the New Testament, we see a striking similarity

between spiritual and physical development. In fact, there are three stages of spiritual development that correspond to physical development: babyhood, childhood, and manhood.

BABYHOOD

First Peter 2:2 says, “*As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.*” Newborn babies require a lot of work. They don’t do much except eat and sleep. You have to do everything for them; you have to dress them, feed them, change their diapers, and so forth. And they can’t eat solid food. They can only digest their mother’s milk or baby formula.

In the same way, you can’t expect young Christians to do for themselves. You need to follow up with them after they first come to your church and encourage them to return, or at least to get involved in another good church. They don’t understand much about the things of God, so you have to spend a lot of time teaching and counseling them.

Now there comes a day in all babies’ lives when they have to be weaned from their mother’s milk. On the day that Isaac was weaned, the Bible says that Abraham made a great feast (see Gen. 21:8). Similarly, there comes a time in every Christian’s life when he has to learn to do things for himself. David said, “*Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child*” (Ps. 131:2).

Christians ought to grow up enough so that they don't always need someone to visit them, pump them up, pray for them, and feed them. They ought to grow up so they can help somebody else.

CHILDHOOD

Ephesians 4:14 says, "That we henceforth be no more children. . . ." Children can be a handful! They are often curious and like to get into things. One time, I came in with a sack and put it on the kitchen table. In no time at all, one of my young granddaughters was in the sack, wanting to know what was in it. Spiritually immature children get into things, too. They poke their noses in places where they shouldn't. They are always in other people's business.

Another thing about children is that they have never learned the value of silence. They talk too much! And it's the same way in the childhood stage of spiritual growth. The Word of God has a lot to say about talking too much.

PROVERBS 10:19

19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin. . . .

ECCLESIASTES 5:3

3 . . . a fool's voice is known by multitude of words.

People who talk all the time are usually guilty of at least three sins: *evil speaking*, *vain speaking*, and *foolish speaking*. *Evil speaking* is talking about and discussing the faults of people who are not present. In my 12 years of pastoring, my children thought that all the members of my congregations were perfect. Never once did they hear Oretha or me ever say anything negative about any member.

Vain speaking is talking about oneself all the time—what he has done, where he has been, and what he is about to do. By hearing him talk, you would think that no one else existed except him and his family! We should not be self-centered—we should be concerned about the needs of others.

Foolish speaking is constantly jesting and joking about things that are unprofitable. The Bible says that jesting and joking are "not convenient."

EPHESIANS 5:4

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* translates "not convenient" as *not fitting or becoming*, and the *New International Version* translates the phrase "which are not convenient" as *which are out of place*.

MANHOOD

One characteristic of spiritual maturity, or manhood, is esteeming earthly things lightly—in other words, putting God first in every area of your life.

HEBREWS 11:24–25

24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.

Moses is an example of someone who esteemed earthly things

lightly. Moses could have had all the riches of Egypt. Instead, he chose to "suffer affliction with the people of God."

Another characteristic of the mature believer is that he is *God-conscious* and seeks after the Kingdom of God. Baby Christians, on the other hand, are self-conscious and materialistic-minded.

Every believer has received the same New Birth, the same measure of faith (Rom. 12:3), the same measure of grace (Eph. 4:7), and the same love of God (Rom. 5:5). It's up to each of us to develop what we have been given. You won't mature overnight. But as you meditate on the Word of God, especially the Word concerning love, you will leave the baby and childhood stages behind you and move into maturity so that you can be a blessing to the Body of Christ and the world.♥

(Editor's Note: The following article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *Growing Up, Spiritually*. For a more in-depth study of this subject, please see the ad at the end of this article to order our special product offer this month.)

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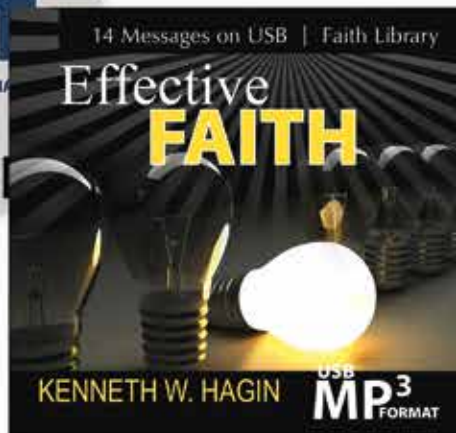


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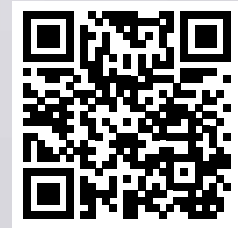
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God, I come to You in Jesus' Name. I don't want to perish. I want to have eternal life. The Bible says, *"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Rom. 10:9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

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IN A DIGITAL WORLD

WHAT STARTED AS a remarkable tool to connect families, share testimonies, celebrate milestones, and spread the Gospel across the globe has, in many ways, become a battlefield. Social media has given every individual a microphone. With one click, we can broadcast our thoughts to hundreds or even thousands of people. That can be a blessing or a snare.

In recent years, I have observed something concerning. Many believers who genuinely love God are using unfiltered words online in ways that do not reflect the character of Christ. Reactions are posted in seconds. Opinions are shared without prayer. Responses are written in emotion rather than wisdom. What began as "connection" has too often turned into contention.

The Bible clearly instructs us on how we are to conduct ourselves. In Ephesians 4:3, we are told to be "*endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*" Unity is not automatic. It requires effort. It requires humility. It requires restraint. Social media, however, rewards the opposite. It rewards quick reactions, sharp retorts, and bold declarations. But as believers, our reward is not found in likes or comments—it is found in obedience to Christ.

The enemy understands something powerful: a divided church loses its voice. Jesus said in Matthew 12:25 that "*every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.*" When Christians attack Christians publicly, the world watches. When believers engage in harsh debates without grace, the world forms conclusions. When love is absent, the Gospel message becomes clouded.

We must ask ourselves: Does my online behavior reflect the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:22-23 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. These qualities are not seasonal. They are not situational. They are to be evident in every conversation—including digital ones.

Temperance or self-control may be one of the most needed fruits in this hour. Just because we can respond does not mean we should. Just because we have an opinion does not mean it must be posted. There is great wisdom in pausing before typing. Often, what feels urgent in the moment loses its intensity after prayer.

The book of James gives us clear instruction: "*Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath*" (James 1:19). Social media reverses that order. It tempts us to be swift to speak, quick to wrath, and slow to listen. But as believers, we must live differently. Our responses should be filtered through Scripture, not emotion.

Another danger is comparison and competition. Social media can foster envy, pride, and insecurity. Instead of celebrating one another, believers sometimes subtly compete for influence, followers, or recognition. Yet Philippians 2:3 reminds us to "*let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*" If our posts are driven by pride or a desire to prove a point, we have stepped outside of the spirit of Christ.

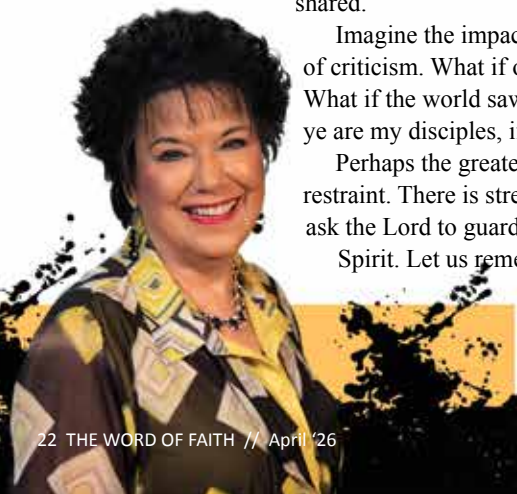
We must also remember the greater mission. Jesus commissioned us in Matthew 28:19 to "*go ye therefore and teach all nations.*" The Gospel must reach the whole world. Every time we create unnecessary division, we distract from that mission.

The enemy would love nothing more than to keep the Church entangled in arguments while the lost remain unreached. Division drains energy. Strife consumes focus. Offense builds walls. Meanwhile, souls are searching for hope, families are needing healing, and hearts are longing for truth.

Before posting, consider three simple questions: Is it true? Is it necessary? Is it loving? If it fails any of those tests, it may not need to be shared.

Imagine the impact if every believer committed to using social media as a tool for encouragement instead of criticism. What if our timelines were filled with Scripture, testimonies, gratitude, and words that build up? What if the world saw unity instead of hostility? Jesus said in John 13:35, "*By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.*"

Perhaps the greatest discipline in this digital age is learning when not to speak. There is power in restraint. There is strength in silence. There is wisdom in prayer before posting. As we move forward, let us ask the Lord to guard our mouths—and our keyboards. Let us be intentional about protecting the unity of the Spirit. Let us remember that our words carry weight far beyond the screen. Social media is a tool. And like any tool, it can build or destroy. The choice is ours. Before you post—pause—pray—and remember who you represent. ♥



Lynette



Kids' Page

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



PSALM 100 SPIRAL

See if you can find 10 words from Psalm 100, verses 1-4, in the spiral of letters above. Use the King James Version of the Bible.



A. The Sheep of His Pasture

Psalm 100 says that we are the sheep of God's pasture. One of these four sheep is different from the others. Can you figure out which one it is?



THANKSGIVING SCRAMBLE

Enter His gates with thanksgiving! What? Can't think of anything to be thankful for? Here are a few things you should be thankful for, but the words are scrambled. Unscramble them and then put the letters in the colored circles in the correct order to discover someone to be thankful for.

ationalals

theahl

malify

sanwered rapreys

refinds



jokes & riddles



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

What has forty feet and sings?

The school choir

Why did Humpty Dumpty have a great fall?

Because he wanted to make up for a boring summer.

What do you call the first person to get in the bathtub?

The ring leader

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To show the possum that it could be done

Knock Knock!
Who's there?
Cockadoodle . . .
Cockadoodle who?
It's not Cockadoodle who, it's
Cockadoodle doo!

Knock Knock!
Who's there?
Atch . . .
Atch who?
God bless You!

What do you call a frog with no legs?

Unhappy!!

ANSWERS:

Thanksgiving Scramble
salvation, health, family, answered prayers, friends
Colored letters: Holy Spirit
PSALM 100 SPIRAL
(Starting from center) GATES, COURTS, PRAISE, ENTER, SINGING,
JOYFUL, SHEEP, PASTURE, THANKSGIVING, GOD
THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE - Answer: A.



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