



# THE Word of Faith

MAY 2026

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



## Open Your Joy Umbrella

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# the Word of Faith



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# Beloved Friend

First Samuel 1:18 says, “And it came to pass ... that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul” (NKJV). What a wonderful example of a friend’s love and loyalty! Jonathan’s father, King Saul, was trying to kill David, who had been anointed to take Saul’s place as king of Israel. But Jonathan remained devoted to his friend, David, even though it meant giving up his own right to his father’s throne. Jonathan’s friendship saved David’s life and prepared the way for him to take his rightful place as God’s chosen king for God’s people.

Too many people know little about the kind of friendship Jonathan showed to his beloved friend, David. They know even less about God’s unconditional love. People long for relationships motivated by such a love. God has made a way through Jesus Christ for each of us to have that kind of relationship *with God Himself!* Jesus said, “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). Jesus initiated the greatest friendship man could ever know when He willingly came to the earth and laid down His life to redeem every person. Jesus’ act of love proved His commitment to befriend man.

The Bible says that in Christ, nothing can separate us from God’s great love (Rom. 8:39). There is no safer place to find a refuge of peace than with Jesus, your Beloved Friend. You can begin this relationship with Jesus Christ by accepting Him as your Savior and Lord. And you can continually enjoy communion and fellowship with Him by desiring His matchless companionship and by drawing near to Him through His Word.

To know Jesus better is to trust Him more. The more you know about Jesus and His love for you, the more you will come to rely on His faithfulness and embrace Him as your Beloved Friend.



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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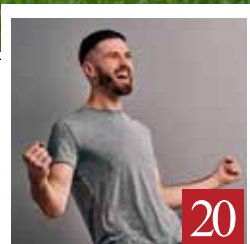
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# LET YOUR LIFE GLOW

→  
LIVE SPIRIT-FILLED



**Timeless  
Teachings**  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

If you're filled with the Spirit and maintaining the glow, **you will have a song in your heart.**

**EPHESIANS 5:17–18 SAYS**, “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.*” These verses indicate that it is possible to know the will of the Lord for our lives. God’s will is that believers be filled to overflowing with His Spirit.

How can you tell if a person is filled with the Holy Spirit? Someone said, “I’m filled with the Holy Spirit because I spoke with tongues years ago.” (See Acts 2:4 and Acts 10:45–46). But I agree with D. L. Moody, who once said, “Living only on past experiences is living on stale manna.”

Ephesians 5:18 says, “*Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but BE filled with the Spirit.*” In other words, to be filled with the Spirit is to be filled *now* in the *present tense*. It’s a continual, ongoing action, not something that occurred once, sometime in the past.

Greek scholars note that in Ephesians 5:18, the Greek words for “*be filled*” mean “*be being filled*” with the Holy Spirit. That

is to say, we are to maintain a constant experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Romans 12:11 says, “*Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.*” Notice the expression “*fervent in spirit.*” In the *Revised Standard Version*, this same phrase is translated “*be aglow with the Spirit.*” James Moffatt’s translation (*The Bible, A New Translation*) says, “*Maintain the glow.*” I like that one best. That’s what the Lord wants us to do: maintain the glow of the Holy Spirit.

The Bible is God speaking to us personally. And we know that God’s *Word* is His *will*.

#### **HEBREWS 1:1–2**

1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,  
2 Hath in these last days SPOKEN UNTO US BY HIS SON, whom he hath appointed heir of all things.

Romans 12:11 states that it is God’s will for us to be “*fervent in spirit*,” or to maintain the glow of the Holy Spirit. Another translation of Romans 12:11 tells us to be “*on fire with the Spirit*” (Goodspeed).

In following God’s plan for your life, maintaining a Spirit-filled life is just as important as receiving specific direction from the Lord about something He wants you to do. For example, you could receive specific direction from God about part of His plan for you, and you could obey it. But if you obeyed His direction strictly from a sense of duty, it still wouldn’t be God’s best for your life. There would be no fervency of spirit or glow about it, and it would be tough sledding! In other words, God’s will for your life would be difficult to fulfill.

Being filled with the Spirit, or being fervent in spirit, is recognizable. If it weren’t recognizable, you wouldn’t know whether or not you were aglow with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 6:1–3, we see men chosen to do work for God because they were filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. They were aglow with the Spirit, and it was recognizable:

### ACTS 6:1–3

**1** And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.

**2** Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.

**3** Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men OF HONEST REPORT, FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST AND WISDOM, whom we may appoint over this business.

The disciples didn’t look out in the world among sinners for seven honest men; they looked among *Christians*. Isn’t it strange that among believers they would have to say, “Look for those who are honest”? Evidently, there were some in the Church who didn’t have a reputation for being honest! An honest report was something the disciples were looking for. A person’s honesty and integrity are recognizable. These qualities can be *seen* in a person’s life.

Notice the second characteristic the disciples were to look for in choosing seven men to assist them: “*Look ye out among you seven men...FULL OF THE HOLY GHOST*” (Acts 6:3). In much the same way an honest reputation is recognizable, being filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit is also recognizable.

If you’re filled with the Spirit and maintaining the glow, you will have a song in your heart. Notice Ephesians 5:18 says, “*Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.*” If you’ve got a song in your heart, you can’t help but speak it out of your mouth, because the Bible says that “*out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks*” (Matt. 12:34 NKJV). Speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs is something you do from your own heart—to yourself and to God.

A psalm is a spiritual poem or ode. It may rhyme or it may not. There are 150 psalms in the Old Testament that were given by the Spirit of God. Those psalms are also to benefit us today

(2 Tim. 3:16). And just as those psalms were given to encourage David, the Holy Spirit will do the same for you. He’ll give you a psalm, a hymn, or a spiritual song—a supernatural utterance—to encourage you in the midst of tests and trials. It doesn’t have to be one written in a songbook.

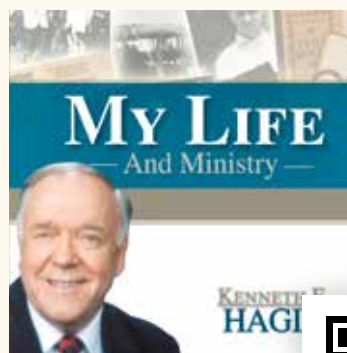
The psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs the Holy Spirit gives register on your heart and minister to your soul because they are Holy Spirit-inspired. He’ll lift up your spirit so you can maintain the glow!♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *Following God’s Plan for Your Life*.]

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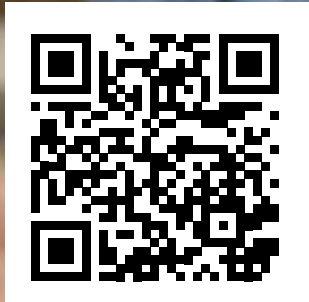
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# Seeing the Possibilities . . . From the Inside Out

KENNETH W. HAGIN



**DO YOU KNOW** that with God and His Word, you can accomplish more than you think is possible? But until you begin to see your dreams—your vision—on the inside, you’ll never see the true potential and the real possibilities that exist with you and God.

In sports, coaches often tell their athletes, “See yourself making that big play. See yourself scoring.” When I ran track, I’d see myself winning the race. As we stepped onto the track and put down our starting blocks, I’d look at the guys around me. And I would see myself beating every one of them. That was my vision. That’s what I could see on the inside. And I always backed that up.

## Change What You’re Looking At

If you can see something on the inside, you can make it happen on the outside. But you’re never going to receive anything as long as you’ve got yourself in a little box. The Bible tells us in Isaiah 54:2 to “enlarge the place of our tent.” We need to enlarge our tent—our vision—so that we are looking at more than what we can think or do. It’s when we see ourselves in God’s Word and see the things that He has promised us coming to pass that they will become a reality in our lives. It’s not up to God—it’s up to us!

Time and time again in his healing ministry, my dad would tell sick people to see themselves well. I’ve been with him in hospital rooms when he’d tell the person, “See yourself getting out of bed.” He wasn’t telling them to see it with their natural eye, but on the inside.

Michelangelo, the great artist, saw a block of marble one day whose owner had said it had little value. But Michelangelo said,

“It has value to me. There is an angel imprisoned in it and I must set it free.” With his natural eye, Michelangelo saw a block of marble, but on the inside, he saw a statue. And that statue took shape under his hands.

That’s what we’ve got to do. Just like those athletes, just like those sick people, just like Michelangelo, we’ve got to see our dreams coming to pass on the inside. **What you continually see, dream about, and imagine determines where you will go and what you will do.** We see this in the Bible with Abram and Lot. Genesis chapter 13 tells us that these men had to part ways because their herds had grown so large. Abram gave Lot first choice of the land. Verses 10 and 11 say, *“Lot looked up and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan was well watered, like the garden of the Lord. . . . So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan . . .”* (NIV).

Lot took what looked good in the natural, and after he left, the Lord spoke to Abram: “. . . *Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. . . . So Abram moved his tents and went to live near the great trees of Mamre at Hebron, where he built an altar to the Lord*” (vv. 14–15, 18 NIV).

Abram and Lot both looked in certain directions, and then they went in those directions. However, while Lot went with what looked good to his natural eye, Abram went with the Lord—with what he couldn’t see in the natural. In the end, Lot lost everything (Gen. 19), while Abram prospered and became a great nation. Lot’s vision—what he saw on the inside—was hindered by what he saw with his physical eyes.

## Keep the Vision Alive

Don’t let what you’re seeing in the natural hinder your vision. Don’t look to the past or to what other people may tell you, but stay focused. Our lack of reading the Word and dreaming with the Holy Spirit is keeping us as believers from doing what God really wants us to do. We must allow God’s Word to rise up on the inside, dream with the Holy Spirit, and get a new outlook on our future.

Don’t see your future with eyes of worry and fear. **There are more possibilities for you than you’re seeing right now.** There are ideas and opportunities waiting on you! Determine to be a person who isn’t afraid to move, who isn’t afraid of defeat, and who will experience the great joy of victory. Remember that God is a big God, and He’s the One in control.

Learn to see with the eyes of your heart. Stop thinking about all that is against you, and start thinking about what you’ve got. Let the vision become real inside you and set your goals high. Start seeing yourself as the person God designed you to be—an overcomer and a victor in Christ Jesus through faith. See yourself successful, because with God, you can do anything you want to do and be anything you want to be.♥



# We Remember . . .

Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. For many people, Memorial Day is just another day off. But for those who have lost loved ones in military action, it's a whole lot more. As our patriotic duty, every American should honor those who have spilled their blood to make America free and strong. Because men and women have died, we have the right today to preach the Word of God freely, to live at peace in our homes, and to pursue peace, prosperity, and happiness. Thank God for those who died to make us free!♥

—Kenneth W. Hagin

*Dear Madam,*

*I feel how weak and fruitless must be any words of mine which should attempt to beguile you from the grief of a loss so overwhelming. But I cannot refrain from tendering to you the consolation that may be found in the thanks of the Republic they died to save. I pray that our heavenly Father may assuage the anguish of your bereavement, and leave you only the cherished memory of the loved and lost, and the solemn pride that must be yours to have laid so costly a sacrifice upon the altar of freedom.*

★ **President Abraham Lincoln** wrote the following in his letter to a mother who lost five sons during the Civil War. His words could easily be spoken today to those whose loved ones have sacrificed their lives for their country.

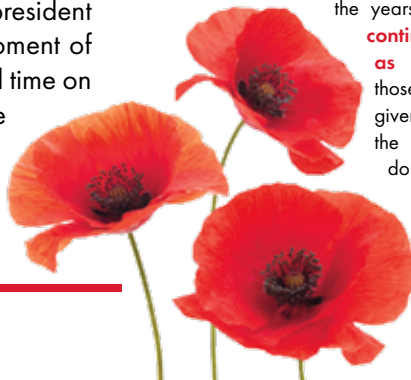
Memorial Day was first called Decoration Day. The first large observance was held on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery. However, local springtime tributes to the Civil War dead already had been held in various places. One of the first occurred in Columbus, Mississippi, on April 25, 1866, when a group of women visited a cemetery to decorate the graves of Confederate soldiers who had fallen in battle at Shiloh. Nearby were the graves of Union soldiers, neglected because they were the enemy. Disturbed at the sight of the bare graves, the women placed some of their flowers on those graves as well.



On Memorial Day the U.S. flag should be flown at half-staff from sunrise until noon. The flag should be briskly run up to the top of the staff before being lowered slowly to the half-staff position. At noon it should be raised briskly to the top of the staff until sunset, in honor of the nation's battle heroes.

To ensure the sacrifices of America's fallen heroes are never forgotten, in December 2000 Congress passed and the president signed into law "The National Moment of Remembrance Act." At 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day, all Americans are encouraged to pause wherever they are for a **minute of silence** to remember and honor those who have died in service to the nation.

This poem, written in 1915 by Lt. Col. John McCrae, a Canadian Army surgeon, prompted the idea of using artificial poppies to remember those who died in battle during World War I. In 1922 the Veterans of Foreign Wars adopted the poppy as its official memorial flower, and veterans eventually began assembling them. Today, veterans at VA medical facilities and veterans homes help assemble the poppies, which are distributed by veterans service organizations throughout the country. Donations received have helped countless veterans and their widows, widowers, and orphans through the years. **The poppy continues to serve as a tribute** to those who have given their lives for the nation's freedom.



## ***In Flanders Fields***

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly.  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow  
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.*

[Editor's Note: Some items on this page have been adapted from information provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. [www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/](http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/memday/)]

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# STOP, LOOK, AND LISTEN

We need to wait on the Lord  
and allow Him to direct us.

**LET'S FACE IT.** We have to make decisions all the time. Some decisions can have little consequence—like what color shirt we wear, what type of car we drive, or where we go on vacation. Others have a profound impact on our lives—for example, who we marry, what college we attend, which job we take, and so forth. For significant decisions, it's important that we make the right choice, because decisions determine direction. And direction determines destiny.

I remember a humorous story about a young man who was just entering the world of business. He asked an older and very successful businessman for advice.

"How did you succeed in business?" the young man asked the older.

"Right decisions, son. Right decisions," the older man said.

The younger man paused, and then he asked, "But how did you learn to make right decisions?"

"Wrong decisions, son. Wrong decisions."

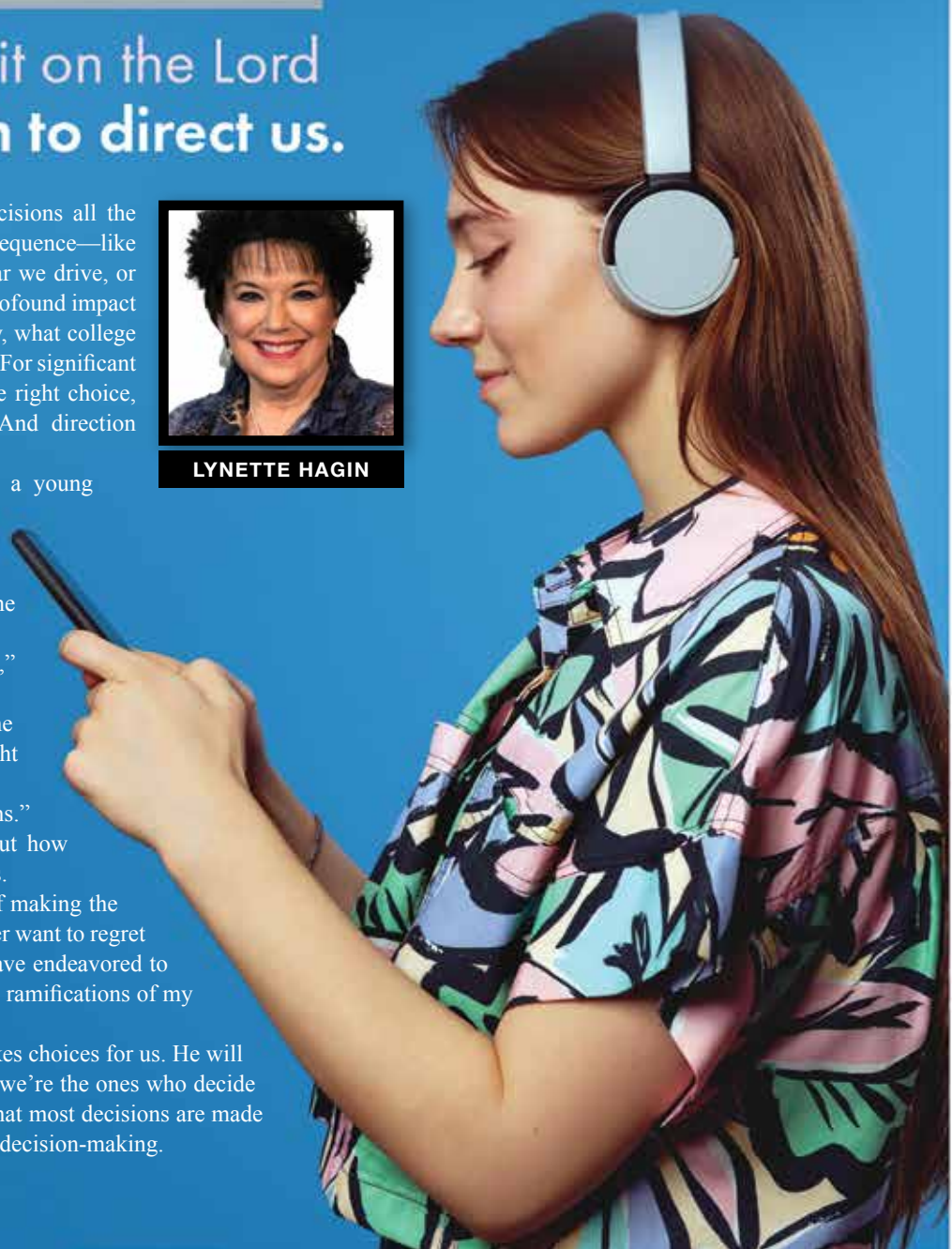
That is a funny story, but it points out how important it is for us to make right choices.

My father taught me the importance of making the right choice. He would say, "You don't ever want to regret the decisions you make." All my life, I have endeavored to follow his advice and look carefully at the ramifications of my decisions.

Now, keep in mind that God never makes choices for us. He will lead, guide, and direct us. But ultimately, we're the ones who decide what we do or don't do. I've discovered that most decisions are made in three ways—what I call the three Rs of decision-making.



LYNETTE HAGIN



# The most important thing to remember when making a decision IS NOT TO get in a hurry.

## RISK—Don't take risks!

Often when we make hasty decisions, we end up regretting them. Many of us have been influenced by a salesperson who pressured us to buy something because the “opportunity” would not be there tomorrow. But how many of us have jumped at such an opportunity, only to regret it later?

My husband and I have made it a practice to never make instant financial decisions. We'll go home, sleep on it, and meditate on it. And we check with the Lord to see what His leading is.

## REASON—Think things through.

We also need to take time to gather data and review our findings. How will our decision affect us and others? It's good to reason things out.

I've found the value of not rushing into decisions. We need to wait on the Lord and allow Him to direct us. Although we can get good advice from others, we should not be led or influenced by them. Our friends can have good intentions, but their advice can be biased. We need to first check how we feel in our own spirit and only follow their advice if it agrees with what is in our hearts.

## REVELATION—Receiving divine direction from God.

Psalm 25:4 (NKJV) says, “*Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.*” Our direction needs to come from the Lord. A good way to get direction is from the Word of God. Scripture says that God's Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path (Ps. 119:105).

On occasion, we may receive a personal prophecy. But we should never be led by prophecy, unless what is prophesied agrees with what is in our spirit. God is no respecter of persons—He can speak clearly to each one of us individually.

I have never made a decision based on what someone has prophesied to me. I've also found that prophecies aren't fulfilled overnight. And when they do come to pass, it's usually in ways that are very different from how I thought they would.

The most important thing to remember when making a decision is not to get in a hurry. Many times when we're waiting on the Lord for direction, the devil tries to get us focused on what we don't know, don't have, and can't do. He screams in our ears, “What are you going to do?” I've learned to just holler back, “I'm going to obey God! And I'm going to wait until I know what to do before deciding anything.”

Making the right decisions is so important. If we learn to just stop, look, and listen for God's direction, we will become sensitive to His voice. As we do, we will consistently make the right choice.♥

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“When apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, and evangelists operate within the boundaries that God has established in the Word of God, then the church and the people will be equipped to not be led astray and not be deceived.” // **Kenneth W. Hagin**



“It's important that we are *all in* for God. One of the greatest dangers of long-term Christianity is not backsliding—it's coasting. But in these last days, God will not allow us to coast because we have to be all in to do what He has called us to do.” // **Lynette Hagin**

“Don't rush the moment. God's pace is relationship. And in order to have a relationship with somebody, you have to spend time with them. You can't rush or microwave it. You have to sit down at the table, eat that five-course meal, and take your time.” // **Denise Hagin Burns**





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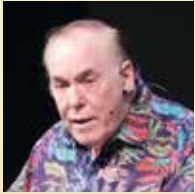
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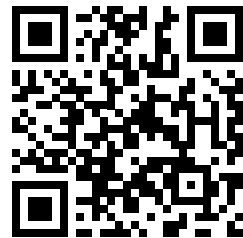
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# How to Sustain a Vibrant Faith Life

CHARLES COWAN



KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES  
CAMPMEETING

**SPEAKER  
HIGHLIGHT**

**I'VE HEARD IT** said that faith will never remain status quo. It will either grow or go. In other words, you can reach a certain level in your faith, but you won't remain there forever. To sustain your current level of faith and progress to the next, some faith maintenance is required.

First Thessalonians 5:23 says, *"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* Some commentaries and Bible dictionaries use the word "maintain" instead of *preserved*. I like that. You could say, "I pray your whole spirit, soul, and body be *maintained* together."



You see, as born-again believers, we can't give attention just to feeding our spirits. That's important, but we also have a soul (mind, will, and emotions) and we live in a body.

The first part of 1 Thessalonians 5:23 says, *"The very God of peace sanctify you wholly."* The word *sanctify*—in its simplest definition—means "to set apart." You could say, "The very God of peace *set you apart* wholly." God desires us to set our whole being apart unto Him! To live a sanctified life of faith, we must manage not only our spirit, but our mind, will, and emotions as well.

What exactly is Paul instructing us to do in this verse? He's saying that our whole spirit, soul, and body should be maintained unified together in our faith life. Our soul should agree with our spirit, and our body should obey the instructions of God's Word. To see and experience the full impact of the life of faith, this must be our lifestyle. Then we'll have the kind of power Jesus had when He walked the earth.

Remember, every time Jesus spoke, demons trembled. The wind and water obeyed, and the sick were healed. When words came from Jesus' mouth, they carried the full power and life of God. Satan had no choice but to bow his knee. That's the result of a sanctified life of faith!

**To reach and sustain that level of faith, what kind of maintenance is required?**

First, we've got to avail ourselves of reading and studying the Word. The Spirit of God is at work when we read the Bible.

We're feeding our inner man—our spirit—but we're also doing something where our soul is concerned. The Holy Spirit is taking the Word and changing our thinking. (Some squirrely stuff is going on in our minds that needs to get out of there!) It doesn't matter whether we feel or sense something, or even understand completely what we're reading. Something is happening to our souls.

Second, we must maintain our bodies. Romans 12:1 says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

We can't hide behind our flesh and say, "I just can't do that." No! We've got to bring our bodies in line with the Word. We have to sacrifice what the body wants to do—and would do—if we didn't present it to the Lord.

Some people may argue, "That's too hard." No, it's not. Romans 12:1 says it's our *"reasonable"* service. It's not anything out of the question. And Philippians 4:13 says we can do all things through Christ Who gives us strength! What are we doing? We're unifying. We're feeding our spirit and aligning our soul and body with God's Word to live a sanctified life of faith. When we do this, we're following Jesus.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Charles Cowan's Wednesday morning message at *Campmeeting 2013*.]

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# Open Your Joy Umbrella



**DENISE HAGIN BURNS**

**SO MANY BELIEVERS** are saved but sad. Anointed, but burned out. Sometimes I think we are sad saints. Yet we are not called to live a depressed life. We are called to live a joy-filled life. There's an unshakeable joy of the Lord that stands firm, no matter what goes on around us. Let's take a closer look at it.

## The joy of the Lord ...

... is the result of our connection to the Heavenly Father, who lives on the inside of us. Because of this connection, we can experience joy even in our greatest trials. John 16:33 says, *"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world"* (NKJV). Jesus is saying, "Don't worry about it. You can be cheerful and have peace because you have Me." Happiness is a response to the conditions around us; joy comes from within. We will face unhappiness in life, but because of Jesus, we can experience joy in the midst of our battles.

... is not a hype. It's holiness. It's a fruit of the Spirit-filled life (Gal. 5:22). Sometimes life gets hard, and we have to choose joy by faith. It's not always a dance or song. Dancing, shouting, and laughing are all great, but they are a result of being joyful. In James 1:2-4, we read, *"when troubles of any kind come your*

way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing” (NLT). When we choose to be joyful in our trials, we develop endurance. And endurance keeps us from lacking anything.

... is the greatest weapon in our God-given arsenal. We need to pull out our joy when we’re facing problems. The armor of God gives us many tools to defeat the enemy. The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking those whom he may devour (1 Pet. 5:8). Instead of letting him devour us, we have to be on guard and use our joy as a weapon. We need to learn how to express our joy because no one ever won a spiritual battle with their mouth closed. Like Paul and Silas in prison, we can sing hymns and pray to God (Acts 16:25). The two apostles had a great opportunity to choose joy in the midst of their trial. They wisely chose to wield the spiritual weapon of joy. Remember, joy shifts our focus from our problems to God. When we change how we see what’s going on around us, we will see miracles happening on the inside of us. We don’t fight life’s battles empty-handed. We fight them with joy.

... covers us like oil. In Hebrews 1:9, it says: “Therefore, O God, your God has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else” (NLT). What does oil do? It coats and causes things to roll right off. I like to imagine that God in Heaven has a huge jar of joy. And when we spend time in His presence, He tips the jar, and oil starts pouring over us from the top of our heads to the soles of our feet. That way, we are covered in the oil of joy. When people say something rude, trying to get us depressed, the oil of joy makes those hurtful comments slide right off. Depression can’t stick to us—it slides

right off. Lack, anxiety, and panic cannot stick to us because we’re coated in God’s joy. But we need to stay coated. Joy overflows in the presence of the Lord. It doesn’t come from escape; it comes from an encounter with God. That’s why it’s so important that we seek Him all the time.

... is the very foundation of our salvation. In Psalm 51:12, we read, “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit” (NKJV). When we get saved, we get filled with joy. Joy is the evidence that we have Jesus in our lives. It is the outward manifestation that we are still connected to the root of our salvation. Not having joy is a connection problem. When we’re connected to the vine, we will have joy (John 15:5; Gal. 5:22). It doesn’t matter if our soul and body fight us on this—ultimately, our spirit man on the inside of us has to choose joy. If we have our salvation by faith, we have our joy by faith. And as faith without works is dead, we have to put action to our joy.

Joy is like an umbrella that we carry around with us all the time. It would be silly if we held it in our hand and when it started pouring, we just stood there saying, “Help! I’m getting all wet. What am I going to do?” We only need to open the umbrella, and we won’t get rained on anymore. This is our joy. We constantly carry it around on the inside. And when those problems start raining down on us, we can choose to activate our joy and open our umbrella. Does the umbrella stop the rain? No. But it protects us. That way, anxiety, depression, and sadness just slide right off. Those difficulties can’t get on us because we are covered by the joy of the Lord. We need to get out our joy umbrella. Let’s open it and let it cover us.♥

[Editor’s Note: This message was adapted from Denise Hagin Burns’ 2025 Campmeeting message “Living a Joy-Filled Life.”]

## We need to get out our joy umbrella. Let’s open it and let it cover us.

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**FROM YOUR**

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**We need to realize that the obstacle is temporary, but God's Word is permanent.**

Joseph had a dream, but he was betrayed. David was anointed king, but he had to run for his life. Daniel prayed to God, but he was thrown to the lions. All of these people encountered disappointment, but they all overcame it.

Let's look at Abraham's situation as an example. Abraham believed God for a son for many years before something happened:

**GENESIS 15: 1–6 (NLT)**

**1** Some time later, the Lord spoke to Abram in a vision and said to him, "Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you and your reward will be great."

**2** But Abram replied, "Oh, Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don't even have a son? Since you've given me no children, Eliezer of Damascus, a servant in my household, will inherit all my wealth."

**3** You have given me no descendants of my own, so one of my servants will be my heir."

**4** Then the Lord said to him, "No, your servant will not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own who will be your heir."

**5** Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, "Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That's how many descendants you will have!"

**IF YOU'VE LIVED** long enough, you've probably experienced some disappointments. Even as a child, you dealt with them. They come for all kinds of reasons. Your dream job turned out to be a nightmare, or you didn't get the promotion you thought was yours. Maybe the kids are causing problems, or you had a friend who wasn't loyal to you. Maybe your investments didn't perform well, or you received a bad medical report. Maybe your team lost the game. And sometimes, stuff just breaks.

We make plans, but they don't always turn out exactly as we expect. We live in an imperfect world, and the devil wants to destroy us because of what the Bible says. If we are breathing God's oxygen, we have faced disappointment.

Look at these people in the Bible who experienced disappointment.



**KENNETH W. HAGIN**

6 And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith.

In verse two, Abraham says, “*Oh, Sovereign Lord, what good are all your blessings when I don’t even have a son?*” Abraham was disappointed. Time had passed, and he still didn’t have a son. It seemed too late for him and Sarah to have children. But God had told him earlier that he would have descendants (see Genesis 12). He spoke to him again in Genesis 15:4, saying, “*You will have a son of your own who will be your heir.*” Abraham chose to continue believing God. As a result, he bounced back from disappointment (see Genesis 17:17 and Genesis 21). And you can, too.

Three things caused Abraham to bounce back when he wasn’t receiving God’s promises:

**1. God stayed with Abraham and took care of him.**

God was there to take care of Abraham and bless him. He said, “*Do not be afraid, Abram, for I will protect you, and your reward will be great*” (Gen. 15:1 NLT). God was there to help Abraham, and He’s there today to do the same for you. If you look in the Word of God, you’ll find that He promises to be with you in the good times and the bad times.

Hebrews 13:5—6 (NLT) says, “*For God has said, ‘I will never fail you. I will never abandon you.’ So we can say with confidence, ‘The Lord is my helper, so I will have no fear.’*” We need to see God as being there with us. Even when we don’t see anything, even when we don’t feel anything, even when we see no change, God is still there helping us.

There’s a true story about Bethany Hamilton that was later made into a movie. When she was 13, while she was swimming, a shark suddenly bit Bethany’s left arm off. She lost 60 percent of her blood. As she was receiving medical treatment, a paramedic whispered in her ear, “God will never leave you nor forsake you.” She remembered that moment of hope and went on to recover. With just one arm, Bethany became one of the top surfers in the world.

**2. God stayed faithful to His promise to Abraham.**

In Genesis 15:4, God said to Abraham, “*No, your servant will*

*not be your heir, for you will have a son of your own*” (NLT). God remained faithful to His promise even when Abraham didn’t see anything happening.

“Faithful” means to be trustworthy, dependable, and reliable. My grandfather, E. H. Rooker, told me one time, “Son, you’re only as good as your word.” He would make a deal with someone and shake their hand, and that person knew my grandfather would do what he said he would do.

God is the ultimate example of someone who is trustworthy. You can trust that He will be faithful to deliver you out of your discouragement and despondency. Deuteronomy 7:9 says, “*He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands*” (NLT).

**3. God gave Abraham something to remind him that He was still at work.**

In Genesis 15:5, God said to Abraham, “*Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!*” (NLT). Seeing the stars at night showed Abraham that God was still working on his behalf.

Just because situations arise and disappointment comes, it’s not a sign that God is not at work. We live in a world that wants everything now, but sometimes God has to work some things out before He can bring our answer. When we’re disappointed, we must remember that God is able to turn things around. Abraham didn’t give up on God’s promises. He didn’t say, “I don’t know why it’s not happening.” Instead, he was determined to trust God.

We need to realize that the obstacle is temporary, but God’s Word is permanent. If we keep believing His Word, our disappointment—our trouble, whatever it is—will have to disappear. We can count on Him to do what He said.♥

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## Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

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

— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV)

### LIVING IN CONTINUAL JOY

**IN A WORLD** full of constant change, unexpected challenges, and daily pressures, it can be easy to slip into a pattern of focusing on what is wrong rather than what's right. Many people unknowingly train their minds to rehearse disappointments, replay frustrations, and anticipate negative outcomes. Over time, this way of thinking creates a life overshadowed by heaviness—where joy feels distant and despair becomes familiar. But this is not the life God intends for His people.

The Lord has called us to a higher way of living—one that is not dictated by circumstances but anchored in Him. Continual joy isn't the absence of problems; it's the presence of God in the midst of them. It's the quiet confidence that, no matter what season we are in, we're not walking through it alone.

Joy begins with perspective. What we choose to focus on determines how we experience life. If we focus only on what is missing, broken, or uncertain, our hearts will naturally follow that direction. But when we intentionally shift our focus to God—His goodness, His faithfulness, and His promises—our outlook begins to change. We start to see not just what is happening to us, but what God is doing for us and within us.

Psalms 118:24 (NKJV) reminds us, *"This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."* Notice that rejoicing is a choice. It is not based on whether the day unfolds perfectly, but on the simple truth that God has given us another day filled with His presence and opportunity. Joy is cultivated when we decide to see each day as a gift rather than a burden.

One of the greatest hindrances to continual joy is dwelling on negativity. When we magnify problems, they grow larger in our minds than the God who is able to solve them. This causes discouragement, anxiety, and even despair. But when we magnify the Lord—when we think about His power, His wisdom, and His unfailing love—we start to rise above the heaviness of our circumstances.

This does not mean we ignore difficulties or pretend they do not exist. Rather, we face them with a different attitude. We bring our concerns to God, trusting Him to give us wisdom, guidance, and strength. Philippians 4:6–7 encourages us not to be anxious but to bring everything to God in prayer. As we do, His peace guards our hearts and minds. That peace is a foundation for joy.

Another key to living in continual joy is learning to trust God through every season. Life is made up of different seasons—times of growth, waiting, celebration, and challenge. Each season brings its own set of circumstances, but God remains constant through them all. When we rely on Him for direction and strength, we can face every season with a sense of steadiness and hope.

Too often, people postpone joy, telling themselves they will be happy "when things get better." But joy is not meant to be delayed. It is meant to be experienced now. God's grace is available today, not just for some future moment when everything aligns perfectly. When we lean on Him daily, we realize that joy does not depend on external conditions—it comes from an internal relationship with Him.

Living in continual joy isn't about perfection; it's about consistency. There will be moments when emotions fluctuate and challenges feel overwhelming. But during those moments, we can choose to return to God, refocus our thoughts, and declare His goodness over our lives. Joy is sustained by staying connected to the Source.

The Lord does not want us to live under a cloud of heaviness or despair. He has provided everything we need to live with joy, strength, and peace. As we look to Him for wisdom, guidance, and support, we find that joy becomes more than an occasional experience—it becomes a way of life.

No matter what season you are walking through today, remember this: joy is available to you.

Lift your eyes from your circumstances and focus on the One who never changes. As you do, you'll find that even amid life's ups and downs, you can live in continual joy. ♥



Lynette



# Kids' Page

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



## Who Has More Authority?

One of the police officers pictured above has more authority than the other. Based on what you learned in the lesson to the right, which of these two officers has more authority and why?

## You Have AUTHORITY



Have you ever seen a police officer directing traffic in the middle of a busy street? If so, did you notice that even the biggest trucks on the road obey his instructions when he holds up his hand to stop the traffic? Is it because the police officer is strong and powerful that the traffic stops for him? NO! It's because he has **AUTHORITY!** When people see the badge that he wears, they realize that he has power, or authority, to enforce the law and to arrest those who disobey it.

Did you know that, just like that police officer, you have authority? Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10:19, "Behold, I give you the authority . . . over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you" (NKJV). So the next time you see the devil at work, just do like the police officer: Hold up your hand and say "STOP!" But be sure to show your badge! "What badge?" you ask! **The Name of JESUS is your badge!** Jesus told His disciples in Mark 16:17, "In MY NAME they will cast out demons" (NKJV). The devil knows that there is authority in JESUS' Name, so use it often as your badge of authority!

### POWER PUZZLE

Fill in the blanks with words from the lesson above

		1.			2.
	3.				
	4.				
5.					
			6.		

- DOWN**
- another word for "power"
  - who gives authority over the devil
  - a symbol of authority that police officers wear
- ACROSS**
- what the disciples cast out in Jesus' name
  - what you should do when police officers give instructions
  - what you should say when you see the devil at work

## jokes & riddles



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

What has four wheels and flies?

A garbage truck

Johnny: Were you long in the hospital?

George: No, I was the same size that I am right now.

How did the farmer fix the hole in his pants?

With a cabbage patch.

Why did the policeman have a blanket over his head?

He was working under-cover.

What happened when the lion ate the comedian?

He started feeling "funny."

What do a bad boy and a canoe have in common?

They both get paddled.

## The Badge Scramble

Unscramble the letters in the badges below to reveal one of the things Jesus told his disciples they had authority over. (Luke 10:19)



### A Little Riddle

We knew the authority in Jesus' Name.  
We used it to heal a man who was lame.

Who were we?

(Answer found in Acts 3:1)

**ANSWERS:**  
**Who Has More Authority?** • Answer: B. Because he is wearing his badge.  
**POWER PUZZLE**  
 1. AUTHORITY 2. JESUS 3. BADGE 4. DEMONS 5. OBEY 6. STOP  
**THE BADGE SCRAMBLE** • Answer: SERPENTS  
**A LITTLE RIDDLE**  
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