



THE Word of Faith

SEPTEMBER 2003

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The
Christmas
Catalog
Is Here!

heart to heart

with rev. kenneth hagin jr.

OUR GOD IS ABLE!

"... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king."

— Daniel 3:17

Throughout the pages of the Bible, we hear men and women echo the statement made by Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego: "Our God is able!" Maybe the words each person used were not identical to those found in Daniel 3:17, but the truth comes forth clearly that God is able to deliver!

If we asked Abraham, Moses, David, Luke, John, or Paul about God, all of them would gladly agree that *our God is able!* Hannah, Deborah, Mary, and Martha would also join their voices in the glad refrain, "Our God is able!"

The God of the past is still the same God today. In Malachi, He says, *"For I am the Lord, I change not..."* (Mal. 3:6). Since the God of the past was able, the God of today is able. *He's the same God!*

God is able to take the tragedy of an event and turn it around for our good. God can take the tears of tragedy and turn them into smiles of gladness. He turns our mourning into dancing and our sorrow into joy (Ps. 30:11).

Our God is able. He delivered the three Hebrew children from the fiery furnace. From what is our God able to deliver us? Anything that tries to come against us! Isaiah 54:17 says, *"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn..."* There is no God as big as our God!

So many times when we're in the midst of a test or trial — when we're being tossed to and fro in the storms of life — we fail to look to God to deliver us. We forget that He causes all things to work together for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28). Sometimes all we can hear is the howling wind and all we can see are the tossing waves. We must learn to focus our attention on God and the fact that *He is able!*

I am not saying that God brings the storms of life. I am saying that *He is able to deliver us from the storm!* God is able to take our requests and make them reality. God is able to take our dreams and make them come to pass in our life.

God's awesome ability stands as a light that illuminates Christian history! I could cite story after story of how God took the prayer requests of Christians and turned them into vivid realities. God *can* and *will* do the same thing in your life today. No matter what you may be going through right now, God is able! No matter what you need in your life today, God is able!

Many people are concerned with the *how* and *why*. But the *how* and *why* aren't our responsibility. We must simply ask



God in faith, believing He is able. And then we must *act* upon the truth of God's Word! Some people say, "Our God is able," and then turn around and do things that contradict their statement. They go on to act as if God *isn't* able.

It's time to believe and act on the fact that our God is able. Throughout the pages of the Bible, we see God delivering those who trusted in Him. Will He not do the same for us today?

Luke 18:27 says, *"... the things which are impossible with men are possible with God."* Our God is able! What is He able to do? Whatever we need for Him to do in our life! Our God is *"... able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"* (Eph. 3:20).

As governments fall, as there are wars and rumors of wars, as there are natural disasters and diseases and epidemics all around us, and as people's hearts fail them because of fear, let us realize that even in the midst of the greatest problems facing us today, *our God is able.*

Ask God for whatever you need. Tell Him about it, then begin to thank Him because He is able. Praise God that nothing can stand in your way, because God is able to deliver you and set you free. Put your faith in God and not in anything else. Your joy, your life, and your peace are found in Him. You may have a setback or two, but don't let that deter you. God will see you through, and you'll win the victory because *your God is able!*

Kenneth Hagin Jr.
Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

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

Kids! Check out this special page with Bible lessons, riddles, puzzles, and jokes just for you!



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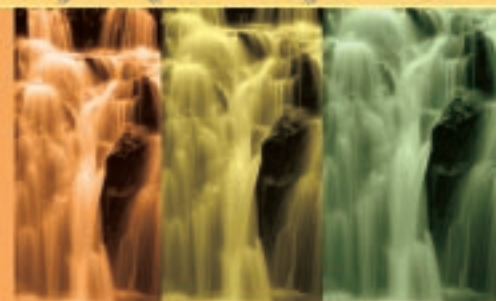
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IF WE SIN, DO WE LOSE OUR SALVATION? IF WE ARE TRULY SAVED, WILL WE EVER SIN? AND IF WE DO SIN, WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO GET RID OF THE GUILT AND THE GRIEF THAT HANG HEAVY IN OUR HEART?

If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

— 1 John 1:9,10; 2:1,2

The word “advocate” means *lawyer* or *one who pleads our cause or case*. Jesus acts as our lawyer, pleading our case before the Father. When we are tempted, if we sin, we can claim the promise of First John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*

After verse 10, the Apostle John went on to say, *“My little children . . .”* (1 John 2:1). Man put the divisions between these chapters; John did not write in chapter and verse like this. Therefore, reading the four verses of our text in *sequence*, we can see that John was not writing to sinners; he was writing to Christians.

First John 1:9 is often quoted to sinners, telling them to confess their sins. God didn’t tell them to. It would be impossible for a sinner to confess every wrong he had ever done, because his whole life is wrong! No, this verse was written to Christians.

John writes, *“My little children [because they were saved under his ministry and were his spiritual children], these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

This brings us to a very sensitive subject in the Church world. When you teach about God’s grace and forgiveness, someone always believes you are giving people a license to sin. I always say, however, that people do enough sinning without a license!

It is quite obvious that God does not want us to sin: *“. . . these things write I unto you, that ye SIN NOT”* (1 John 2:1). It is quite obvious that if we walked completely in the Word and in love, we wouldn’t sin. But it is also obvious that none of us has achieved this yet.



Kenneth E. Hagin

JESUS
IS OUR
Advocate

Considering the other side of the issue, when people continually want to sin and choose to sin, I doubt that they ever were Christians to begin with. Why? When people live any way they want and do anything they want — cheat, lie, steal, and so forth — I doubt that a true Christian conversion ever took place.

Some have said to me, “It doesn’t make any difference what I do. Christ is my advocate.” One man said, “I might steal something next week. I’m not planning to do it, but if I do, Jesus already has forgiven me for it.” I doubt seriously if a man like that is even saved.

This scripture in First John never was intended to encourage people to sin. John is simply telling us about God’s provision for sin. The Spirit of God will help us overcome sin — not encourage us to practice it! After all, John said, “These things write I unto you, that you *sin not*.”

In the first place, if a person is born again — if he has accepted Jesus Christ as Savior — he doesn’t want to do wrong. But often the devil tempts him through his flesh and overcomes him because he is not strong spiritually.

Paul said, “*Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a FAULT, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted*” (Gal. 6:1).

If it were just a fault Paul was talking about, we all would need restoring, and there wouldn’t be any spiritual people left to do the restoring. We all have faults. The Greek actually says, “If any man among you be overtaken in an *offense*, or *sin*, you which are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of meekness.”

God wants His people to be restored to full fellowship with Him. It is a different matter, however, when people do not want to be restored. If they want to be restored, it is our obligation to restore them in a spirit of meekness, not arrogance. Why? “. . . *considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted*” (Gal. 6:1).

When it comes to healing, James 5:14,15 says, “*Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick,*

and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.” We see here the possibility of sin in conjunction with sickness, and of forgiveness in connection with healing.

By way of illustration, if a man were to speak sharply to his wife, he is not eternally lost because of it. He *is*, however, out of fellowship with her! He needs to get back in fellowship with her by apologizing and asking her forgiveness.

Well, First John 2:1 says, “. . . *if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*” If we sin, we lose our sense of righteousness and cannot enter God’s Presence. Righteousness means right-standing with God. Righteousness means the ability to stand in the Presence of God

Jesus acts as our lawyer, pleading our case before the Father.

without any inferiority complex, without a consciousness of sin.

If you have sinned or failed, you cannot stand in the Presence of God without a consciousness of sin. But there is One who can go in on your behalf — Jesus Christ, the Righteous. He is the propitiation — the substitute — for our sins; and not for our sins only, but for the sins of the whole world (1 John 2:1,2).

As our advocate, Jesus restores to us our lost sense of righteousness, for He said, “*If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins . . .*” (1 John 1:9). But He does more than just forgive us of our sins; He cleanses us from all unrighteousness. He cleanses us from that sin-consciousness or spiritual inferiority complex that would keep us from going into God’s Presence.

There are those who live under a cloud of fear. They say things like, “I am so afraid of displeasing the Lord. If Jesus comes, I might not make it. I don’t know if I am ready or not.” And they are robbed of their joy in Christ. They are afraid that God is mad at them and will not have anything to do with them.

We do not have to live under such a cloud of fear and gloominess. We can know that if we have failed — if we are Christians — our hearts will be grieved about it. If you can keep sinning and failing, however, and are *not* grieved about it, you had better check up on your conversion experience. If you have been born again and have the life and nature of God in you, you don’t want to do wrong.

Many times new Christians miss God’s will and sin in ways they are not even aware of, but they are walking in the light they do have. “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*” (1 John 1:7).

As I look back now, after nearly seventy



years of being a Christian, I can see that I missed God many times when I didn’t even know it. At the time, I walked in what light I had, and the blood of Jesus Christ cleansed me from things I didn’t know about.

I can remember the first time I was conscious of the fact I had done wrong after I became a Christian. It nearly broke my heart.

If a believer is tempted and Satan gains mastery over him in something, when the believer cries out for mercy, he can hear Christ whisper, “*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).

And then we also can hear Him say in these marvelous words from Hebrews 4:16, “*Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace.*” Why? “. . . *That we may obtain mercy . . .*” It is *mercy* that we need when we have sinned. As long as we are doing right, we can get by on *justice*.

In Hebrews 4:14 we read, “*Seeing then that we have a great high priest . . .*” We have a High Priest who also stands in this

office of Advocate that we may “. . . come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need” (v. 16).

Grace is unmerited favor. When you fail is the time you need grace and mercy.

When you fail is the time you need grace and mercy.

Once while driving through a small town, a minister friend of mine drove through a red light. Before he knew it, there was a flashing red light behind him and the shrill sound of a siren. A policeman pulled him over and gave him a ticket for running a red light and for going 45 in a 30-mph zone.

When the minister had to appear in court, his case was stated and the judge asked if he had anything to say.

He answered, “Yes, I do.” He said that he was on his way to preach and explained that he ministered in small

country churches. Then he said, “Judge, I don’t have a dime. I’ll just have to go to jail or work it out on the county farm. I’m not going to ask you for justice. I would be in trouble if I got justice, because I’m guilty. So I am asking instead for mercy.”

He continued, “I’m like the woman in the Bible who was taken in the act of adultery. Her accusers brought her to Jesus, and He said, ‘. . . *He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her*’ [John 8:7]. Jesus stooped down to write something in the sand, and when He looked up, everyone was gone.

“*When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said*

unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: GO, AND SIN NO MORE” (John 8:10,11).

The preacher added, “I’m asking for mercy, and I’ll go and sin no more.”

The judge asked, “Is that story in the Bible?”

“Yes,” the preacher answered.

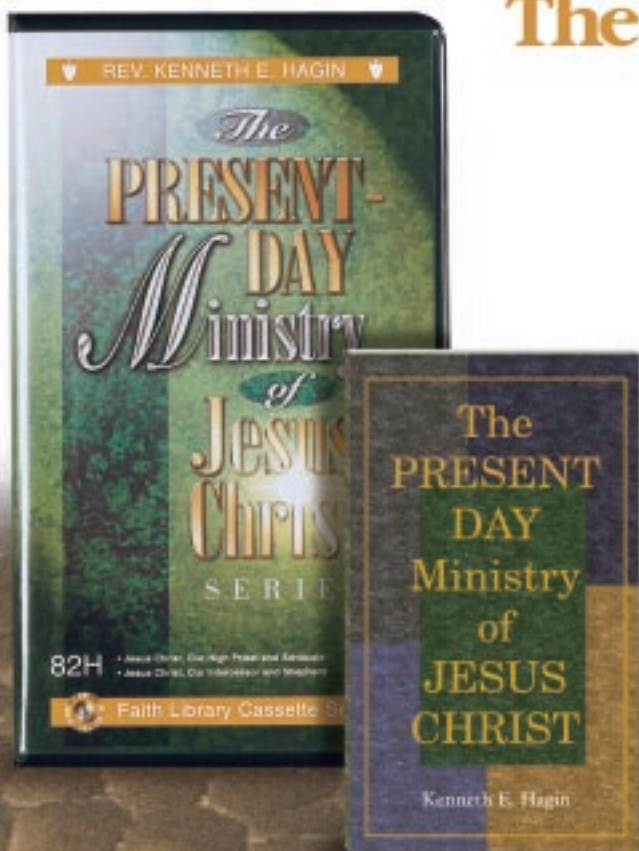
The judge said, “I wish you would show it to me.” The preacher had his New Testament with him, so he turned to that passage and showed it to the judge.

The judge said, “I teach a Sunday school in a local church, but I didn’t know that was in there. I’m going to teach on that. Case dismissed!”

The judge showed mercy. If the preacher hadn’t been speeding and hadn’t run that light, he could have gotten by on justice; he wouldn’t have needed mercy. But he broke the law and, therefore, needed mercy.

Mercy and grace are always available to us if we break God’s law. All we need to do is call on Christ our Advocate! ♠

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They Came. They Saw. They Conquered.

The sweltering Tulsa heat was no hindrance for thousands of believers who poured into the city to attend Campmeeting 2003. They were people of faith and purpose, in town for a reason — they had victory on their minds.

Many of them believed they would get powered up over the next six days to rout the enemy. With stalwart faith, they came *expecting more* than ever before . . . more revelation, more healing, more fellowship, more glory . . . more power of the Holy Ghost!

They came from near and far — from 49 states and 37 foreign countries — to celebrate the Presence and Glory of God. They swarmed into local hotels, laying claim to temporary living quarters. By sunrise that July Monday, hotel breakfast bars bustled with men, women, boys, and girls, ready to celebrate the power and Presence of God.

By mid-morning, faithful men and women had made their way to the Tulsa Convention Center auditorium and were singing and dancing to the anointed music of the Campmeeting praise and worship team. Waves of praise filled the room. Their worship and expectation of *a word in due season* charged the atmosphere.

That evening before the service, times of fellowship united the RHEMA family and friends. Some embraced and remembered the glory of Campmeetings past. Others recalled happy times together at RHEMA Bible Training Center. For many it was like “coming home” to family. Love filled the room.

Enhancing that love, Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr. introduced his mother, Oretha Hagin, and dedicated Campmeeting 2003 to her. While the crowd stood in ovation, she blew kisses all around.

An endearing exchange continued as Rev. Hagin Jr. introduced his father, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin, as “the greatest man alive — greatest preacher and greatest prophet on earth — my hero.”

Men and women once again stood to honor one who had been faithful for nearly 70 years to preach the message of faith, healing, and love. Because of his faithfulness to do so, many of their lives had been dramatically changed — from sickness to health, from poverty to wealth . . . from defeat to victory! The crowd extended their love toward this couple who had set an example of faith and love. The Hagins had sown . . . and now were reaping.

CAMPMEETING 2003

It was obvious that the spiritual force of love had set the stage for an inspiring word of admonition. It was God's plan unfolding that evening, for the very first message Brother Hagin preached during Camp-meeting 2003 was one of urgency for the Body of Christ: *We must love one another.*

"Too many times people bring their shovel to church," Brother Hagin said. "They hear a message that's meant to help them, and they say, 'Oh how wonderful,' but then they take their shovel and throw it all back to the pew behind them. Or they say, 'I wish old So-and-So could have been here to hear this.' But I'll tell you what you need to do: Just go ahead and hear it, because it belongs to you too."

As Brother Hagin expounded on the importance of walking in love, the quiet intensity of the crowd seemed to indicate that few, if any, were shoveling. It was a message taken to heart. It was all about that which makes faith work — *love.*

The following is an excerpt from the message Brother Hagin preached:

Love Is an Act

1 JOHN 3:14,15

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

My wife and I conducted a three-week meeting in the western part of the nation a number of years ago. The first night of our meeting, a couple, both ordained ministers, invited us to have a sandwich after the service. Sitting right across from me in the restaurant, the woman said, "Brother Hagin, you quoted First John 3:14,15, then you added, 'That means your mother-in-law too.' Now you have me all confused."

"No, Sister, I don't have you confused," I said. "You were confused before I got here. The light of God's Word just showed up your confusion. What is the problem?"

"I hate my mother-in-law."

Now I knew that she didn't; I knew what the problem was. She was letting her flesh, her natural human thinking, dominate her. But I said, "Well, if that's the case, then you're a murderer."

"But Brother Hagin, my parents were Pentecostal pastors. I got saved when I was four years old, and I was baptized with the Holy Ghost as just a child. Later I felt the call to preach, graduated from high school and went to Bible school, where I met my husband. We pioneered churches together."

"Well, it doesn't matter, Sister, which church you were raised in, what Bible school you went to, or how many churches you and your husband built. If you hate your mother-in-law, the Bible says you're a murderer."

I saw I had her "on the ropes" and she was just hanging on like a boxer who's taken too many punches. So I thought I had better rescue her.

"Sister, look me in the eye and say, 'I hate my mother-in-law.'"

"I hate my mother-in-law."

"Now what happened down on the inside of you?"

"Something was down in there 'scratching' me."

"Yes, that was the love of God trying to get your attention. The Bible says in Romans 5:5 that if you're born again, the love of God has been shed abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost. God commands us to love our brethren, but He gives us His love to do it with.

"Your heart's just trying to get your attention. You don't really hate your mother-in-law; you're just letting your flesh dominate you because of something your mother-in-law said or did."

"So what do I do?"

"Act like you would if you *did* love her.

"Love, like faith," I explained, "is revealed in word and action. It's safe to say that there is no love without word and action, just as there is no faith without word and action. Now, you can't say, 'I don't have love,' because the Bible says the love of God is in your heart. You just need to yield to it and act on it.

"Galatians 5:22 says the first fruit of the born-again human spirit is love. Fruit can grow. So love, being a fruit, can grow and develop. But how does it grow? By feeding that love nature on the Word — and by putting it into practice.

"For instance, when someone says something about you that you don't like, instead of griping and complaining about it, say, 'Well glory to God, here's another opportunity to exercise my love.' Exercising your love will develop it just like exercising your muscles will develop them. Love is an act."

By the end of the second week, she had decided to act in love. She invited her mother-in-law and two sisters-in-law and their husbands to her house for refreshments after church.

She invited my wife and me to come, too, and when we got there, we found out that this couple's youngest child had epilepsy. The first two years of her life were perfect, but she had just begun to have severe epileptic seizures. Local doctors



**... if you want
your faith to
work, you'll have
to walk in love.**

had referred her to one of the best specialists in the world.

After running all the tests on the child, the specialist said, "In 38 years of treating epileptics from all over the world, this is the worse case I've ever seen."

Now, I had been preaching faith and healing for two weeks, and the mother and father were endeavoring to

Don't let selfishness keep you out of the blessings of God.



exercise their faith and believe God for their child's healing. But as we were getting ready to go to church one night, the mother called to tell us that the child was going into a seizure and to ask if we'd stop by on the way to church and pray for her.

On our way to their home, my wife and I were sitting in the front seat of the car. No one was in the back seat, but I heard a voice that sounded just as real as someone talking in the back seat. The voice of the Lord said, "Don't pray for the child. Don't anoint the child with oil. Don't lay hands on the child. Say to the mother, 'Mother, under the Old Covenant I said to Israel, "Keep My *statutes* and My *commandments*, do that which is right in My sight, and I'll take sickness away from the midst of you . . . and the number of your days you'll fulfill.'" ' [See Exod. 15:26.]

"Paraphrasing that in New Testament language I said, "A new commandment I give you, that you *love* one another even as I loved you." So walk in My statute of *love* and keep My commandment of *love*. Do that which is right in My sight, which is *to walk in love*, and I'll take sickness away from the midst of you . . . and the number of your days you'll fulfill.' "

The Lord said to me, "Say to the mother, 'Mother, say to Satan, " I'm walking in love. Take your hand off my child! " ' ' "

I told the mother just what the Lord told me. She didn't hesitate a moment. She whirled and pointed her finger at her little girl, who was having a severe seizure, and said, "Satan, I'm walking in love now! Take your hand off my child!"

As fast as you can snap your fingers, that seizure stopped. And the child never had another one.

Right now you might be thinking, *Yes, Brother Hagin, my child needs healing, too, but I haven't been walking in love.* That mother hadn't been either, until a few days before!

Sometimes when I preach on love, some will say, "Why aren't you preaching a good healing message?" I am! You see, according to Galatians 5:6, faith works by *love*.

So no matter what you're believing God for, if you want your faith to work, you'll have to walk in love. You're in a dangerous position when you're not walking in love. Satan has the authority to attack you when you get on his territory. So if you get out of love, get back in as fast as you can; run and get back under the umbrella of love. Always consider how your actions will affect another person. Don't let selfishness keep you out of the blessings of God.

God has given us His love. What have we done with it?

Tongues and Interpretation

This message came forth from Brother Hagin at the conclusion of the Monday evening service:

Remember that it is written in the Word: be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only. For he that hears the Word and does not do it, according to the Scripture, has deceived himself. So do not deceive yourself and walk away and not become a doer. But purpose in your heart: I am and I will be, tomorrow and the next day as well, a doer of the Word. Read the Word for yourself. Act upon it. Take the scriptures that have been given this very night. Write them down on a sheet of paper or on a card. Read them almost constantly. Act just like it is so and it will become so, and become real in your life. And you'll find that Satan will flee away. And he'll take his hand off you. And he'll take his hand off your loved one. And he'll take his hand off your affairs. And the blessings, the blessings shall flow. And ye will know.

Campmeeting 2003 blessed the hearts of many people. They came from near and far. And through the anointed preaching, the eyes of their understanding were opened to see more clearly. They received answers to some of life's questions and problems through the light of God's Word. And they were empowered to take back things the devil had stolen from them.

They came. They saw. They conquered.

If you attended Campmeeting 2003, thank you for joining us. If you didn't, you can purchase audio and video recordings of the entire six-day meeting by visiting us online at www.rhema.org/campmeeting or calling, toll-free, 1-800-543-2484.

We'll have more Campmeeting 2003 highlights, including reports from guest speakers, youth, and children's services, in the next issue of *The Word of Faith!*

Campmeeting 2003 was the end of one era and the beginning of another. After 31 years at Tulsa Convention Center, Campmeeting will be moved to the RHEMA campus in 2004. We are excited about the change, and we hope you will join us next year!



FORGET NOT!



Kenneth Hagin Jr.

When you meditate on all of God's promises and establish them deep in your heart, you will begin to reap those blessings as you walk according to God's Word. In fact, the blessings of God will overtake you as you forget not all His benefits!

Do you want to live in the fullness of what God has provided for you in Jesus Christ? Then you will have to do what Psalm 103:2 says: Forget not all of God's benefits!

You see, the blessings you don't know about or the ones you forget about are the blessings you won't enjoy.

And if you're not enjoying all the blessings God has for you right now, there are probably two reasons why you aren't. Either you don't know about His blessings and benefits, or you're forgetting to act on God's Word concerning them. Those are the two main reasons why God's blessings aren't manifested in believers' lives.

God's Word is full of blessings for you. But the only way to take advantage of those benefits is to find out what God's Word has to say about them and believe His promises are true. Then you must continually remember to act on those promises in your everyday life.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS:

Who FORGIVETH ALL THINE INIQUITIES; who HEALETH ALL THY DISEASES;

Who REDEEMETH THY LIFE FROM DESTRUCTION; who CROWNETH THEE WITH LOVINGKINDNESS and TENDER MERCIES;

Who SATISFIETH THY MOUTH WITH GOOD THINGS; so that THY YOUTH IS RENEWED LIKE THE EAGLE'S.

— Psalm 103:2-5

It's the same way in the natural world. For instance, if you went to work for a company, the personnel manager would probably give you a rundown of your employee benefits. But you could leave that office and begin working on your new job and forget all about the company benefits that belong to you.

If you forget about your employee benefits, you won't be able to enjoy them. For example, as time passes, another employee may ask you, "Why did you take a day off *without* pay? You could have taken that day off *with* pay."

You might ask, "What? Are you sure?"

All too often we forget about the benefits that belong to us in Christ.

"Yes, don't you remember? They told you about that benefit when they hired you."

When someone reminds you about the benefit you forgot, it jogs your memory. But because you had forgotten about it, you hadn't been enjoying that particular privilege — even though it belonged to you.

Believers do the same thing. All too often we forget about the benefits that belong to us in Christ. All of God's wonderful benefits belong to us because they were secured for us by Jesus Christ in His redemptive work on the Cross of Calvary.

Everything we have in Christ, everything we receive from God, and every benefit given to us by God has already been provided for us by Jesus. All of God's blessings belong to us now. But we will have to learn how to take advantage of what belongs to us before it will benefit us.

What are our benefits in God that we should forget not? Some of these wonderful benefits of our salvation are listed in Psalm 103.

PSALM 103:2,3

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS:

3 WHO FORGIVETH ALL THINE INIQUITIES . . .

Number one, we must *forget not God's forgiveness*. The Bible says He forgives *all* of our iniquities — not just a few.

Some people live their daily lives dwelling on past failures, mistakes, and sins. A person who dwells on past failures can't receive all the benefits God has for him because he forgets that God provides forgiveness of sin. Therefore, he never really lives free from condemnation.

Suppose you failed God in the past. You messed up. And while it's true that it happened, you can't change the past. But your past mis-

take doesn't need to dictate your future. If you've asked for God's forgiveness, He has forgiven you, and as far as He is concerned, that past sin doesn't exist anymore.

So instead of dwelling on your past, forget not God's love and mercy! Forget not His forgiveness! Forget not that when God forgives, He forgets!

JEREMIAH 31:34

34 . . . for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I WILL FORGIVE THEIR INIQUITY, and I WILL REMEMBER THEIR SIN NO MORE.

This verse says that when God forgives your iniquities, failures, and mistakes, He will not remember those sins anymore.

Forget not God's forgiveness! Yes, the devil will try to bring up your past and all of your mistakes. But stand your ground on the Word. The Bible says, "*If we confess our sins, he [God] is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*" (1 John 1:9). This verse wasn't written to sinners; it was written to Christians. God is a big God, and He can forgive any sin you

may commit. So forget not God's forgiveness.

However, if you are unsaved and have not become a Christian, you must ask Jesus into your heart so He can forgive you of all sin. You can be born again and become a new creature in Christ, with old things passing away (2 Cor. 5:17).

Once you have confessed your sins to the Lord, as far as He is concerned, your past doesn't exist anymore. God cleanses you from all of sin's guilty stains!

Another of God's benefits we are to *forget not* is healing.

PSALM 103:2,3

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and FORGET NOT ALL HIS BENEFITS:

3 . . . WHO HEALETH ALL THY DISEASES.

Some believers forget this benefit too! They've either forgotten about it or they don't know about it, so they can't enjoy healing — even though it belongs to them!

Then there are other believers who know all about the doctrine of healing. They can quote Isaiah 53:4 and 5, Matthew 8:17, and First Peter 2:24. But the problem is, they aren't acting on those scriptures.

You see, if you are waiting for God to heal you, then you're forgetting *to act* on the scriptures that say He has *already* healed you!

For example, First Peter 2:24 says, ". . . *by whose stripes ye WERE healed.*" That's past tense! We need to act on the Word!

Some people say, "I'm waiting on God." But it's unscriptural for us to wait on God to give us a benefit He's already provided in His Word.

We may have to wait before God in prayer about something He hasn't specifically talked about in His Word. But we don't have to wait on God for any of the provisions He has already said belong to us in Christ.

Someone may say, "Well, I'm just waiting on God to come through." But it's not scriptural to wait on God to come through. God already "came through" for us at the Cross of Calvary!

Now there is such a thing as being in a time of transition from the

moment you ask God to perform His Word in your life to the time your answer is actually manifested. But that's not passive waiting time.

If you are in faith, you are involved in activity because you're actively believing God. You're not just passively waiting around for something to happen. Faith is not inactive or passive. Faith is active, praising God that His Word is being accomplished in your life.

What should you do between the time you ask God in faith for your answer and the time it actually manifests in your life? That's the time to demonstrate your faith by thanking and praising God for your answer. Continually declare, "Thank You, Father, for my answer! You said it; I believe it; and it's going to manifest!"

One of the ways to tap into God's wonderful healing benefit is to praise God for your healing before you see your answer — just because the Word says you are already healed. That's

how you make sure you forget not God's healing benefits!

Forget not that God forgives all your iniquities and heals all your diseases. Then walk in the light of these benefits, so you can begin to enjoy what God has provided for you.

God's blessings by allowing the enemy to pull you away from the Word of God.

Get hold of the Word the same way you learned to remember other truths that were important to you. If you

It's unscriptural for us to wait on God to give us a benefit He's already provided according to His Word.

All the benefits of God are there for you to enjoy. It's up to you to establish them firmly in your heart so you can forget them not! Keep them before your eyes. Meditate on them so they're firmly established in your heart. Don't be robbed of experiencing

constantly think about God's benefits, you won't forget them!

Forget not all of God's benefits. Act on God's Word in faith, and enjoy the blessings that are yours in Jesus Christ! 🕊

Forget Not All of God's Benefits!

You don't have to be sick, weak, or tired! You can be full of strength, life, and vitality as your spirit is renewed daily. Christ secured all of God's blessings for us in His redemptive act on the Cross. But we must know what God's Word says about those blessings in order to enjoy them.

In this book and two audiotape series by Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr., you will discover how to:

- Receive the wonderful benefits God has provided for us in Christ.
- Appropriate all of God's benefits so you can enjoy a long, satisfied life.
- Live in the fullness of God's abundance as you remember to forget not!

Book

Offer #3893 | \$3.95 | (\$5.50 Canada)
Plus Shipping and Handling

2 Audiotapes

Offer #3894 | \$10.00 | (\$13.50 Canada)
Plus Shipping and Handling



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)

Seed Thoughts *by* Lynette

It seems impossible that summer has already come and gone. Your thoughts may be the same as mine: I did not get to recoup as much as I would have liked to during the summer months. I think we all desire for summer to be a slower time in our life. We want some time off just to relax, but that doesn't seem to happen. Once again we must face the reality of busy fall schedules — busyness that will continue until next summer rolls around.

I seem to live my life by the clock and the calendar. The other day I was running late and left my house without my watch. My husband and I were halfway to the office before I discovered that I had forgotten my watch. When I realized that I wasn't wearing it, I was in a panic. I said to my husband, "Honey, we have to go back home. My schedule is too tight today for me not to be aware of the time." Thank goodness, he graciously turned around, and I retrieved my watch.

I knew that not having a watch that day would have been very stressful for me. However, I think that we are often too time-conscious. We live such a scheduled life that we want to schedule God's time as well. We want to tell Him what to do and the time frame in which we want it done.



We live in an age of instant gratification. We complain if the microwave takes longer than thirty seconds. People become irritated when they have to wait in any kind of line. When we go to a restaurant and our food takes longer than usual, we become agitated.

God's timetable is not always synchronized with ours. I'm grateful when God answers my prayers instantly. It thrills me when my requests are answered quickly. But I must say that an instant answer or resolution is the exception and not the rule. I sometimes think that God tests our patience. In those times when it seems like forever passes before God intervenes in my life, I half-wonder, "Does my patience need that much testing?"

I think one of the reasons David was called a man after God's heart was because he knew the value of waiting on God. Psalm 27:14 says, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord."

It is so important for us to learn to daily wait on God rather than rush Him.

I used to have difficulty waiting for God's timing. I wanted everything in my timing. I soon found out that God's plan and God's timing were far superior to mine. In my way and my timing, things become catastrophic. God does not get in a hurry. He is never early or late, but He is always on time.

My father-in-law is a fine example of someone who does not make a move until he waits on God to give him specific directions. I used to get very frustrated as Brother Hagin waited on God's timing, because my husband and I were often responsible for carrying out the projects that God revealed to him. When God finally did give directions, we often had a very short time to meet deadlines.

I used to jokingly say to Brother Hagin, "Can't you get God to respond just a little faster, because these last minute projects are stressing me out!" But he would just smile and quote Isaiah 40:31, which says, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint." And now I find myself saying the exact same thing to my editors. They smile . . . and frantically wait for my column each month.

When I first began Seed Thoughts, I wanted each month's column to be "a word in season" for my readers. Therefore, I am unable to write it until I hear that word. I thank each and every one of you who have written and said, "What you wrote this month was exactly what I needed."

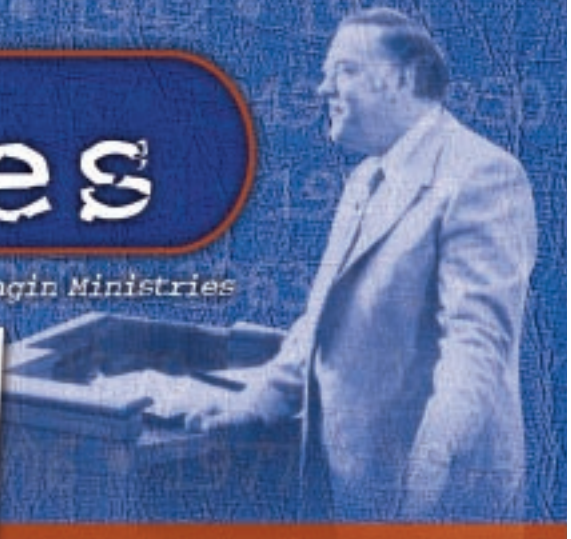
I encourage you to learn to rest in the Lord. Wait upon His timing and His plan for your life. Wait for Him to reveal His will in the many situations of your life. As you do, you will find that your strength will be renewed. You will no longer worry or fret or feel stressed out. But you will rest in confidence, knowing that whatever challenges you may be facing, God will work out all things for your good (Rom. 8:28).

Lynette



From the Archives

A nostalgic look at the beginnings of Kenneth Hagin Ministries



'It Won't Take Me Long To Receive!'

This month, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin continues his account of how he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 * * * * *

Once I had decided that the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues was as much for me as it had been for Jesus' early disciples, I went right over to the Full Gospel parsonage and told the pastor that I wanted that experience. And he told me to wait.

Waiting to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit isn't scriptural. Yes, Jesus told His disciples to ". . . tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). But they weren't waiting to prepare themselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They were waiting for the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit could not be given until then. Acts 2:1 reads, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . ."

Someone said, "Well, waiting gets you ready." No, it doesn't. *Getting saved* gets you ready. By saying a person has to wait in order to receive the Holy Spirit, people are really saying a person has to clean himself up first. But you can't clean yourself up except through repentance of unconfessed sin (1 John 1:9). The blood of Jesus Christ is what cleanses believers from all sin (1 John 1:7). If you are blood-washed, you are ready right now to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit!

Cornelius and his household were not only saved but also filled with the

Holy Spirit — in almost the same instant (Acts 11:14,15). They didn't have time to get ready. The Holy Spirit fell upon them, and they began to speak with tongues.

If it hadn't been for speaking in tongues, we Gentiles may never have gotten into the Church. It was strictly Jewish until the Spirit fell at Cornelius' house. Even Peter himself didn't know that the Gentiles could be saved until he had the vision which is recorded in Acts chapter 10. It astonished the Jews who went with Peter to Cornelius' house when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles: "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. . ." (Acts 10:46). Speaking in tongues is what convinced the Jews that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles!

When I told the Full Gospel pastor, "I have come here to get the Holy Spirit," and he told me to wait, I blurted out, "But it won't take me long to receive!"

Because the church was having a revival service that night and it was already six o'clock, he wanted me to wait and seek the baptism in the service. But I knew I would have to wait until the preliminaries and the preaching were over. It would have been nine o'clock before I could have gotten to the altar, and who wants to wait for a gift?

I have been associated with Full Gospel people for many years now, and in all that time I have never told anyone to wait for the baptism in the Holy

Spirit. If people say they want to get saved tonight, you don't say, "Wait and come to church on Sunday and seek for it." If someone wants you to pray for their healing, you don't say, "Wait." They want to get healed immediately, especially if they are in pain. Salvation is a gift, healing is a gift, and so is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A pastor once said, "I know you can receive the Holy Spirit right away, because we read about it in the Acts of the Apostles. But when you have to wait a long time, that experience means so much more to you. Take me, for instance. It took me three years and six months to get the Holy Spirit. I waited and waited. Now the Holy Spirit really means something to me."

I said, "Well, poor old Paul didn't know that. I wish you could have gotten to him and told him about it. He got the Holy Spirit immediately when Ananias laid hands on him. He didn't wait, tarry, or seek. But then, all he ever did was write half of the New Testament. Of course, he did more single-handedly in his 38 years of ministry than any denomination has done in 500 years. But if you could have gotten to him and told him to wait for three years and six months, maybe the Holy Spirit would have meant something to him."

Seeing my eagerness to receive, the Full Gospel pastor reluctantly said, "Well, come on in, then." I went into the living room and knelt down in front of a large chair. I closed out everything around me, shut my eyes, and lifted my hands. No one told me to do it; I just lifted my hands. And I was right; it didn't take me long to receive.

To be continued . . .



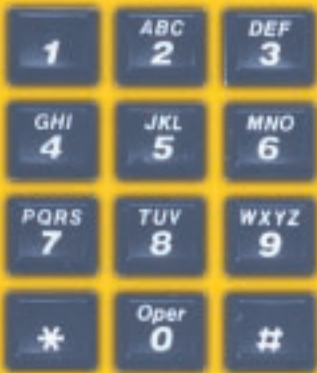
Disorder in the COURT!

Unscramble the letters below to discover words that you might hear in a courtroom. Unscramble the letters in red to discover something that we need more than justice.

WAYREL
LAVEG
TORATYEN
LITAR

SUTIJEC
LITUGY
NOCENINT
MICER

□ □ □ □ □



NEED HELP?
CALL TODAY!

Using the numbers and letters on the phone buttons above, see if you can figure out what each phone number below stands for.

We'll give you the first letter . . . here's an example!
If you need someone to talk to just call: **1-777-P72-937**
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1. When you're not feeling well, call: **1-777-H32-5464**
2. If you need to get close to God, call: **1-777-W67-7447**
3. When you feel afraid, call: **1-777-C68-7243**
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CALL TODAY! - ANSWERS: 1: 1-800-HEALING 2: 1-800-WORSHIP 3: 1-800-COURAGE 4: 1-800-CONFESS 5: 1-800-HOPE-JOY
JUDGE THE DIFFERENCES - ANSWERS: 1: JURY is spelled wrong in B. 2: Elephant tusk missing in B. 3: Dog in blue suit has eyes closed in A. 4: Brown dog on back row has blue nose in A. 5: Brown dog on front row does not have a tail on in A. 6: Frog has eyelashes in A.

Call on YOUR LAWYER in HEAVEN



When police arrest a person who has done something wrong, they let him make one phone call to contact a person who can help him. Well, there are times in your life as a Christian when you do something wrong and you sin. In those times, you also need to make a call to someone who can help you too. The Bible tells us in I John 2:1 that "... if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." An advocate is a person who is a legal advisor, or a **LAWYER**. Jesus is our lawyer who represents us before God! If we sin, First John 1:9 tells us to "confess our sins." When we confess our sins, Jesus goes before the Father (the Judge) on our behalf to plead our case. And the Father forgives us and clears our record. Always remember, there are 2 good things about having Jesus as your lawyer: 1. He's the Judge's son, and 2. He's already received the punishment for your sin. So, the next time you sin, quickly confess your sin and call on Jesus . . . **YOUR LAWYER IN HEAVEN!**

Judge the Differences

You be the judge of what the differences are between the two pictures below. There are 6 in all!



jokes & riddles

A merry heart does good like medicine.
- Proverbs 17:22



How many seconds are there in a year?

12 — January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd . . .

There is a word, six letters it contains. When I subtract one, twelve is what remains. What is the word?

Dozens

What do you get when you cross a porcupine and a turtle?

A slowpoke

What's in the middle of nowhere?

The letter H

What is more dangerous than pulling a shark's tooth?

Giving a porcupine a back rub

What happened to the lady who dreamed she was eating a huge marshmallow?

She woke up and her pillow had disappeared.

What letters are bad for your teeth?

D K

A frog, a duck, and a skunk went to a movie. Tickets cost \$1. Which animal didn't get in?

The skunk, because the frog had a greenback, the duck had a bill, but the skunk only had a scent.