



THE Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2013

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE BEFORE ALL MEN

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*Merry
Christmas!*



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the Word of Faith



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PLEASE SHARE WITH A FRIEND OR RECYCLE.

You Can Have Christmas Joy

For many people, Christmas is just another day—only a little more expensive and a lot more work. I've even heard Christians say, "Oh, this is so much trouble. Do we have to go through all this?"

How sad it is that an event that brought so much joy in Heaven should bring so little joy on earth. Remember how joyful the angels were when they appeared to the shepherds? They sang, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace on earth! Goodwill toward men!"

I want to encourage you this month to slow down and enjoy the season. Let this Christmas be a time of joy—not one of heart-ache and distress. Joy is like love. It's not merely an emotion; it's a *decision*. And I believe we can be as joyful as we want to be. It all comes down to where we choose to put our focus.

It's so easy to get wrapped up in celebrating Christmas that we forget *Who* and *what* we are supposed to be celebrating. Christmas is not primarily about us, our family, our friends, our church, or presents. It's about Jesus! And focusing on Him means that we remember not only the baby born in a Bethlehem stable, but the man who died to pay for our sins and rose to give us new life.

Galatians 2:20 (NLT) says, "My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." Jesus not only gave His life and rose from the grave, but He lives inside of us! That should be the joy that fills us this Christmas! Jesus Christ—our Savior—dwells in us!

Don't let this Christmas be filled with worry, distress, and fear. God has a gift for you—His joy. Unwrap it now, and let it be in your life—not just during this wonderful season, but every day!

Have a joyful Christmas!

Kenneth W. Hagin



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WHAT YOU LOOKIN' AT?

Have you ever looked around and thought, “Where’s the peace that God promised?”

WHERE’S MY JOY? Where’s the hope of better things to come?”

IF YOU’VE SEEN the movie *It’s a Wonderful Life*, you probably remember the scene where George Bailey’s guardian angel asks his angel superior about George. “Is he sick?” he questioned. His superior answered, “No, worse. He’s *discouraged*.”

We laugh at this, but discouragement comes to all of us. Why does it come? It’s because we’ve been looking at the wrong thing!

‘WORSER AND WORSER’

Focusing on our situations and problems is not going to solve anything. In fact, doing this will only cause us to be more depressed and down! As one little boy said, things will just get “worser and worser.”

You see, discouragement causes us to look at everything the wrong way. When we’re discouraged and in despair, we think everybody’s against us.

We must stop looking at our problems, situations, and difficulties, and get our eyes on the right thing. God has given us something to look at—His Word. But it’s up to us to focus on His promises.

In Psalm 121:1–2 (NIV 1984), the psalmist said, “*I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.*”

In other words, the psalmist was saying, “I’m not looking around me; I’m looking upward. I’ve lifted my eyes and found out that my help doesn’t come from the natural. My help comes from the supernatural.”

Let’s look at more of Psalm 121 from *The Living Bible*.

PSALM 121:1–8 (TLB)

- 1 Shall I look to the mountain gods for help?
- 2 No! My help is from Jehovah who made the mountains! And the heavens too!

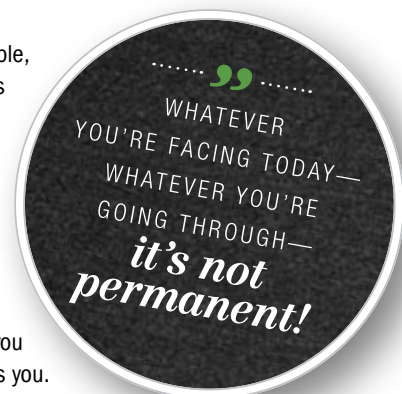
3–4 He will never let me stumble, slip or fall. For he is always watching, never sleeping.

5 Jehovah himself is caring for you! He is your defender.

6 He protects you day and night.

7 He keeps you from all evil, and preserves your life.

8 He keeps his eye upon you as you come and go, and always guards you.



Our help comes from Jehovah! He is ever present and full of compassion. When it seems as if all hell is breaking loose in our lives, He brings comfort, hope, and victory!

David understood this. He wrote many of the psalms and he had *a lot* of problems. Saul chased him all over the countryside trying to kill him. His own son tried to take the throne away from him. Plus, all kinds of other things happened to him. Yet look at what David said in Psalm 3:

PSALM 3:1–3 (NIV)

- 1 Lord, how many are my foes! How many rise up against me!
- 2 Many are saying of me, “God will not deliver him.”
- 3 But you, Lord, are a shield around me, my glory, the One who lifts my head high.

In spite of all his circumstances, David said, “Lord, *You* lift me up!”

Like David, we need to lift up our eyes and understand that God is there for us—all the time, every time—in every situation. No problem can come our way that our Heavenly Father hasn’t already taken care of in His Word.



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The prophet Isaiah said it this way: "No weapon formed against [me] shall prosper" (Isa. 54:17 NKJV). Paul said, "I've not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Tim. 1:7). In Philippians 4:19, Paul also said, "My God will supply all of my needs according to His riches in glory." Instead of looking at the problem, we must look at the *answer*!

BEGIN TO SPEAK!

In my own life, I could easily get bogged down with all the things that cross my desk every day—the phone calls, memos, emails, and text messages. I'm responsible for Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Rhema Bible Training College, our television and radio programs, and all of our books that we put out all over the world.

When all of this starts pouring in on top of me, I could cry, "Lord, what am I going to do?" Instead, I begin to say, "I've not been given a spirit of fear!" "No weapon formed against me will prosper!"

You see, other people can talk to us and pray for us. But ultimately, it's up to us to get ourselves out of discouragement. Situations do exist; we can't deny that. But armed with the greater facts of God's Word, we can begin to *speak*!

Trials are not permanent, but the Word of God is! Second Corinthians 4:17–18 (NKJV) says, "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

Whatever you're facing today—whatever you're going through—it's not permanent! The Apostle Paul was left for dead, beaten, and jailed on numerous occasions. But he said, "I thank my God that I always triumph in Christ Jesus" (2 Cor. 2:14).

Praise the Lord! It's time to lift your eyes from the problems and defeat that surround you and look to the power of God that's inside you. Because of Jesus, victory is yours! 🙌

.....
WE NEED TO LIFT UP OUR EYES
AND UNDERSTAND THAT GOD
IS THERE FOR US—*all the
time, every time*—IN
EVERY SITUATION.
.....

FAITH IN ACTION

Staying Focused

The devil is always trying to shift our focus away from God and His Word—especially in the midst of adversity. Here are some important keys that will help you stand strong and keep your focus where it should be. Remember, whatever you're going through today, *it's not permanent*! God is faithful to perform His Word in your life.

1 REMEMBER THAT GOD IS WITH YOU AND WANTS TO HELP YOU OUT OF YOUR TROUBLE. //
Ps. 91:15; Rom. 8:31

2 RESIST FEAR. //
2 Tim. 1:7; Rom. 8:15

3 REALIZE THAT GOD ALWAYS HAS A WAY OUT. //
1 Cor. 10:13

4 ALWAYS MAINTAIN A GOOD ATTITUDE. //
James 1:2

5 WALK IN LOVE. //
1 Cor. 13:4–7; John 13:34

6 USE YOUR FAITH. //
Mark 11:23–24

7 MAINTAIN THE PROPER CONFESSION. //
// Heb. 10:23

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"MY SON, *attend to my words*; INCLINE THINE EAR UNTO MY SAYINGS. LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM THINE EYES; *keep them* IN THE MIDST OF THINE HEART. FOR THEY ARE *life* UNTO THOSE THAT FIND THEM, AND *health* TO ALL THEIR FLESH."

— PROVERBS 4:20-22

TWO THINGS people strive for above everything else are life and health. In the verses above, God has given us a four-step recipe for attaining both of these blessings.

'ATTEND TO MY WORDS'

First God tells us, "*Attend to my words*." We can find life and health *only through His Word*. The Bible calls Jesus the living Word of God (John 1:1). And Jesus, the living Word, came that we might have life (John 10:10).

It is in the epistles that we learn what the living Word—Jesus—purchased for us in His death, burial, and resurrection. For instance, Second Corinthians 5:21 tells us that we were made righteous in Christ. And Galatians 3:13-14 shows us that Jesus redeemed us from the curse of the law and made us partakers of Abraham's covenant blessings. Attending to truths like these brings us *life* and *health* in every area of our lives.

'INCLINE THINE EAR'

Next God says, "*Incline thine ear unto my sayings*." To walk in the fullness of life and health, we must give God's Word our undivided attention and put out of our minds everything that contradicts it. By believing God's Word and accepting it, it will work for us.

While praying to the Father, Jesus said, "*Thy word is truth*" (John 17:17). Jesus also said, "*Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32). No one will ever know life, freedom, and truth without giving full attention to knowing God's Word.

'LET [MY WORDS] NOT DEPART FROM THINE EYES'

Third God says, "*Let them* [His words] *not depart from thine eyes*." We are to look at—as well as listen to—God's Word. The Bible tells us to keep our vision fixed on Jesus (Heb. 12:2). How?

By continuing to feed upon the written Word. As we do that, Jesus will become more real to us.

The Bible also tells us what *not* to consider and what we *should* consider. We are to "consider not" physical symptoms and contradictory circumstances (Rom. 4:19-21). And we are to "consider Him" (Jesus) and what God's Word says is ours through Him (Heb. 3:1).

'KEEP [MY WORDS] IN THE MIDST OF THINE HEART'

Finally God tells us, "*Keep them* [His words] *in the midst of thine heart*." Walking in life and health always starts in your heart, or spirit.

It's a mistake to look at your body to see if you are healed. The Bible says, "*God is a Spirit*" (John 4:24), and He heals you through your spirit. Healing begins in your heart and then is manifested in your body.

Continually listen to God's Word. Give it your undivided attention. Fix your vision on Jesus—the Living Word. And keep God's Word in the midst of your heart. Why are these steps so important? Because God's words are "*life* unto all who find them and *health* to all their flesh"!♥

FAITH NUGGET

Jesus didn't come to give mankind new rules to use to climb a heavenly stairway to the glory world. He didn't come to give man a new code of conduct or a system of teaching that would enable him to become more God-like. Jesus came to bring *life*. He came so we might have life *more abundantly* (John 10:10).

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"When we find out what Christ did for us and what the Word says about us, our perspective changes and faith arises. We need to look through the eyes of God and see ourselves the way He sees us. He sees us through Jesus' blood and stripes. He sees us through the lens of holiness, the lens of purity, the lens of right standing. He sees us accepted. We're brand-new on the inside. **WE'RE STRENGTHENED BY MIGHT IN THE INNER MAN. THAT'S US. THAT'S OUR REALITY!**"

SHERLYN SMUCKER



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"The world will say it's normal to be full of unforgiveness when you've been hurt. It's normal to be depressed when you've faced a tragedy. It's normal to give up when life gets hard. But **WE ARE NOT NORMAL! WE ARE NOT COMMON OR AVERAGE! WE ARE SUPERNATURAL BEINGS SERVING A SUPERNATURAL GOD, AND WE ARE EQUIPPED WITH SUPERNATURAL DIVINE HELP.** God created us to be royalty, and we are not to live '*like mere (unchanged) men*' (1 Cor. 3:3 Amplified). God has a plan and purpose for our lives!"

BRENDA THOMAS

"It wasn't in Jesus' personal, amazing strength that He took away the sin of the world. It was because He was completely lamb-like (John 1:29). He was submitted to God. And His submission activated raising power—resurrection power—that flowed through Him. **WHAT PEOPLE SAW IN JESUS FROM THE OUTSIDE WAS PURE DIVINE STRENGTH NOT MIXED WITH HUMAN EFFORT.** He wasn't giving bits of Himself to people. He was giving them the life of God. What would you look like if you gave complete access and total permission to God? You'd look like Jesus."

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FORGIVENESS IS A WORD we can love and hate. We're thankful that God has forgiven us. Scripture says, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins"* (1 John 1:9). When we ask for forgiveness, God never remembers our wrongdoing again or holds it against us. There's another facet of forgiveness that is more difficult. And that's exercising the same forgiving power toward others.

The reason we often struggle with forgiving others is that it's contrary to our human nature. When somebody hurts us or does something mean to us, our natural tendency is to retaliate. It's much easier to bear a grudge than to pardon someone.

When children get mad at a friend, their mothers may say, "You need to kiss and make up." Although the kids say they're sorry, they sometimes don't mean it. The same thing can happen with adults. We sometimes mouth words of forgiveness without meaning them. We can tell if we've truly forgiven someone when that person's name comes up in conversation. If we start to burn on the inside or start bashing him or her in conversation, we really haven't forgiven.

True forgiveness involves the resolution and healing of our pain, anger, and ill will. The forgiveness Jesus talked about

requires a journey of the heart. It's something we can't do in ourselves. It's something God has to help us with.

The object of forgiveness is to cleanse ourselves from the poison of bitterness. It's not denying or excusing sinful behavior. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. It's a decision we make from our hearts.

Sometimes we shut the hurt, anger, and bitterness we've experienced behind a door, hoping it will go away. But it doesn't. As long as we ignore it, the pain from that situation will continue to hurt. Jesus gave us a key that will remove the hurt, and that key is to forgive. Forgiveness is what allows us to get rid of the junk that has bound us up. And that's when God is then able to restore us. ♥

.....
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allows us TO GET RID OF THE JUNK
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My Struggle

I was born again a week after I graduated from high school. **I WAS AN ATHEIST, AND JESUS DRASTICALLY CHANGED MY LIFE.** After I got saved, my friends would take me out on the street to witness, and I hated it. It's not that I didn't want to see people saved; it's just that I didn't know how to do it. I was so horrible at it. Now today, because of all my experiences, it's not as hard for me to tell somebody about Jesus. I've followed these four steps I'm going to share with you. I believe that every believer can use these to share the Gospel and meet the world's greatest need.

Jesus Changed My Life

The first thing we can do is tell people, "Jesus changed my life, and He'll change yours." He did, didn't He? That shouldn't be too hard for us to say. What happens if they reject you? Don't worry about it. Some will. Some won't. We just have to be willing to share.

Share *Part* of Your Testimony

The second thing we can do, if they give us an opportunity, is share a very short and relevant part of our testimony. You might have 30 seconds to share how God healed you and forgave you, or how His mercy and love changed you. Just do whatever is relevant for the moment. Don't worry about the scripture you're going to quote. They don't know any scriptures. If you misquote something, it'll still be OK. You don't have to quote everything perfectly to share the Gospel.

Be Willing to Demonstrate the Resurrection

If they give you a little more time, be willing to demonstrate the resurrection to them. Mark 16:18 says believers lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. So you just ask, "Are you hurting in any part of your body? Do you mind if I pray for you?" If they say yes, you don't have to pray long. You can just say, "In Jesus' Name, be healed."

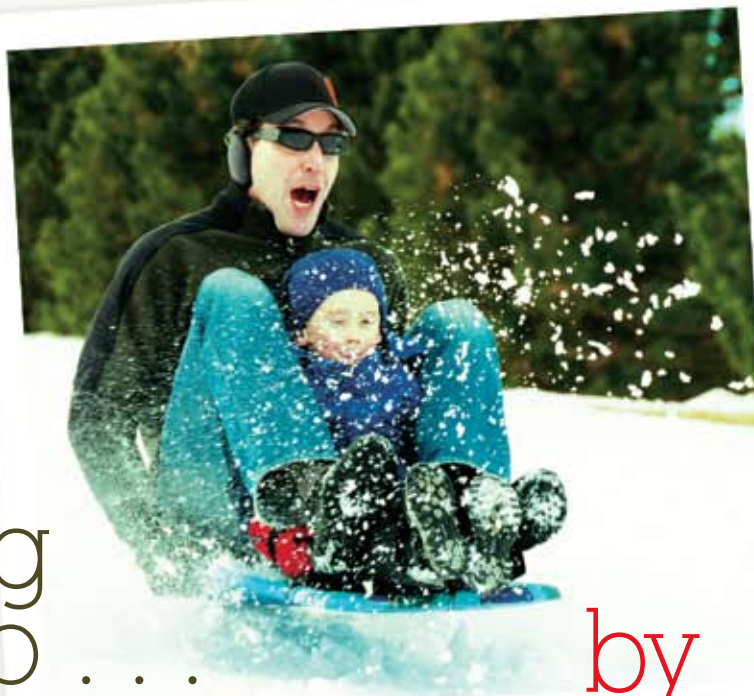
Invite Them to Receive Christ

If they give you a little more time, then number four is to close the deal. Invite them to pray with you to receive Christ into their heart. You will be amazed how many people will do it.

God wants us to reach our generation. If you find another way that works for you, use that. But otherwise, practice this one when you meet people. Every believer can say that Jesus changed his life, and that's what He wants to do with everyone else.♥

[Editor's Note: John Grunewald is Rhema international director for Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, and a past speaker at Winter Bible Seminar.]





Letting Go . . . by Hanging On

THERE ARE BELIEVERS TODAY who are holding unforgiveness in their hearts, and some don't even realize it! They can't get over certain situations in their past, and because of that, they can't move forward in life.

In Philippians 3:13–14 (NKJV), the Apostle Paul said, “*One thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*”

“*Forgetting those things which are behind . . .*” How many of us would say, “Easier said than done!” But we can do all things through Christ Who strengthens us! We can get over that situation and get over ourselves.

I understand that things have happened to some of us that really aren't good. Others of us may have done something in our past we wish we hadn't done. But we can't change those things. I'm not saying what was done to us was right, or that what we did was right, but for our own sanity, we've got to move forward. And we can never move forward looking back.

I believe that's why Paul was so big on forgetting those things which are behind. There were things in his past he probably wished he'd never done. But if he had continued to think about those things, he would never have accomplished all that he did.

UNFORGIVENESS CHECKUP

Many of us are familiar with Mark 11:24: “*What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*” But did you ever notice what verse 25 says? “*And when ye*

stand praying (that's the same praying you were doing in verse 24), *FORGIVE, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.*”

The word *ought* in this verse is not one we use a lot. It means to have unforgiveness toward someone.

In the Christian world today, most people you talk to say, “I've gotten over that. I've forgiven that person.” Well, if that's true, why does your blood pressure rise when you're in the room with that person? Why do things feel awkward and uncomfortable? It's because you're holding ought, and you ought not to do it!

We need to check up on ourselves. If we don't, unforgiveness will keep dwelling and growing on the inside. And pretty soon, we'll have stage-four unforgiveness eating us up.

My grandfather Kenneth E. Hagin always talked about how he would check up on himself when it seemed as if things weren't going right in his life. He'd ask, “Do I have unforgiveness in

my heart toward someone? Is there something that is holding me back?”

You see, forgiving others needs to become a habit. In my own life, there have been times when people did some things to me that weren't very nice. And I could have had reason to hold unforgiveness against them. When things like that happen, I try to put myself in the other person's situation: “Maybe they did this because this happened or that happened.” Whatever it may be, I've decided that I'm not going to let those things bother me.

Actually, one of my favorite things to do when someone is mad and unforgiving toward me is to pour out love toward



CRAIG W. HAGIN

them. I do not want to be bound by unforgiveness!

HOW TO LET GO

I've found that the only way we can truly let go of something is to hang on to Someone else. God is the only One Who can help us obliterate our past. When we need to let go, we have to hang on to Him—His Word, His ability, His strength, and His power.

What you're looking at today might not be the best situation in the world. But God doesn't just see today; He sees tomorrow. And when you start to hang on to Him, you can think about tomorrow too!

"Yeah, but things haven't changed," someone may say. That's where faith kicks in. That's where you have to believe things you can't see and let go of what you're holding on to.

"Well, I don't know how we can restore this situation." It's not about what you can do! The Bible says that God's love has been shed abroad in our hearts (Rom. 5:5). It's about His mercy, forgiveness, and love working in us.

The Love Exchange

When someone hurts us, it's not natural for us to say, "That's OK. I love you." But it's because of God's love in us that we can love others.

When we die to ourselves and let Him live in us, we'll begin to see through His eyes and hear through His ears. That changes everything! All of a sudden, we can't help but love that person who used to annoy us. That's the exchange!

First Corinthians 13 in the *Amplified Bible* will make God's love come alive to you. I encourage you to set aside time to be with your Heavenly Father and read this passage of scripture. Then pray, "Father, I ask You in Jesus' Name to give me a revelation of Your love. I want to see things through Your eyes."

I dare you to do this! You'll be shocked at what takes place. God loves you, and He wants you to be happy and victorious—not ever looking back.

YOU HAVE A FUTURE!

I know that letting go is not always easy, and it's uncomfortable. But in order to move forward, we've got to be willing to let go of the wrong things.

Think about a trapeze artist at a circus. When he lets go of the bar, he has to focus on what's next. But he'll never have "what's next" if he never lets go.

God has a future for you—a plan! Don't hold yourself back by holding on to unforgiveness. Instead, do as it says in Hebrews 12:2—"Look unto Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of your faith." Put Philippians 3:14 into practice and "*press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus*" (NKJV).

Your Savior didn't come so that you could remember all the bad things that have happened to you all the days of your life! Jesus said He came that you might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10).

You've got to let go, and let God. He's able, He's willing, and He has something better for you. Your best is yet to come!♥

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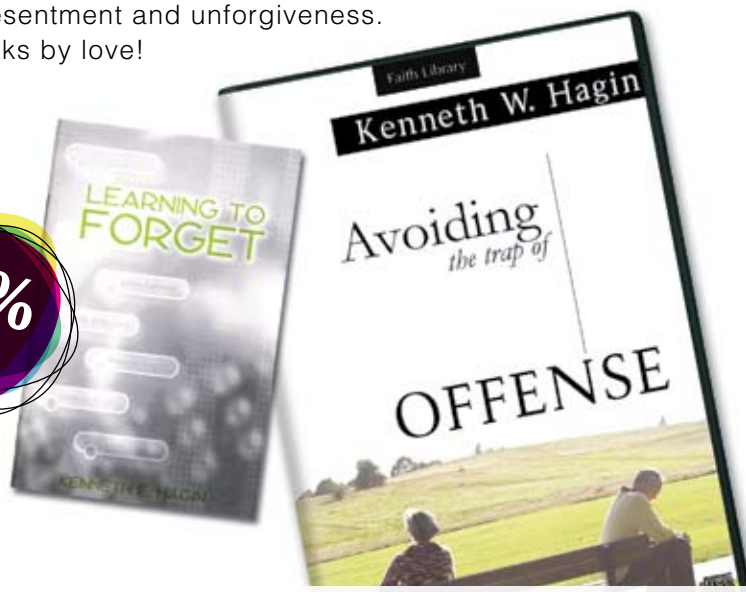
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IT WAS THE *original* CHRISTMAS CARD . . .
sent BY GOD, *delivered* BY ANGELS:

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David A SAVIOR, who is CHRIST THE LORD” (Luke 2:10–11 NKJV).

IT WAS A MESSAGE OF HOPE—

HOPE FOR *happiness* . . .
 HOPE FOR *help*.

Do you need hope today?

Could you use some peace and joy in a world filled with fear and turmoil?

Why not respond to that first Christmas greeting? It still rings true today. God sent His only Son—Jesus—to be your Savior (John 3:16). He sent Jesus so you could live without fear . . . not worrying about what tomorrow will bring. You can have hope and peace—today.

Just say the following prayer aloud, from your heart:

God,

I come to You in Jesus' Name. I admit that I need help in life. The Bible says, “If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved” (Rom. 10:9 NLT). I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus, Your Son, from the dead. And I confess Jesus as my Lord. Therefore, according to your Word, I am saved. I look to You to take care of me now. Thank You for your joy and peace!

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

"WE'VE INTRODUCED *the Gospel* TO [THE PEOPLE THERE]," SAYS JEANNE, "AND IT'S *changed* THEIR SOCIETY."

GOD'S WORD LIGHTS 'THE DARKEST JUNGLE'

DENNIS & JEANNE COOK



NIGHTTIME COMES EARLY in Panama's Darien jungle. The triple-canopy rainforest refuses to let twilight cast its shadows on the thick carpet of plants and leaves on the jungle floor. By six o'clock, it's pitch-black. There was a time in the Darien when darkness welcomed the sound of witch doctors' drumbeats. Night after night their hypnotic rhythms resonated throughout what some call "the darkest jungle." "The presence of the devil was so strong then," says Jeanne Cook. "You could just feel him breathing down your back."

For 33 years Dennis and Jeanne Cook, 1980 RBTC USA graduates, have made the Darien their home. Today, it's no longer a haven of witchcraft. "We've introduced the Gospel to [the people there]," says Jeanne, "and it's changed their society."

When the Cooks moved to the Darien in the early '80s with their four children, they lived among the Chocó Indians to learn how to survive. There aren't any grocery stores, so they hunted, fished, and picked fruit from trees for their food. In the early days, Jeanne washed the family's clothes on a rock in the river and cooked in the earth on corncoobs.

Dennis didn't immediately begin to evangelize the Chocó Indians. He went from village to village meeting people and building relationships. Only after he gained their trust did he begin sharing the Gospel. Sometimes Dennis

spent six months fellowshipping with a chief before asking permission to hold an open-air gospel meeting in his village.

As a result, the Cooks are the only ministry the Chocó Indians allow to come on their reservations without prior permission. However, Dennis always asks. "God teaches us to honor those who deserve honor," he says. "Even if we've gone into a village for 15 years, I always ask if we can come in."

DENNIS WALKS TO A VILLAGE TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE CHIEF

THE JUNGLE AMBULANCE

Early in their time on the field, Dennis and Jeanne had one of the few four-wheel-drive vehicles in the Darien. They volunteered at the only clinic, and their jeep became the jungle ambulance. For seven years, they transported sick, dying, and seriously hurt people to a hospital in Panama City. The 90-mile trek took 10 hours through mud and rugged terrain.

On more than one occasion, an ailing or injured person wasn't expected to survive the difficult trip. But many people were miraculously rescued from the clutches of death. Over the years, an unbreakable bond was formed between the Indians and the Cooks. Little did Dennis and Jeanne know that God would use this later to save their lives.

SAVED FROM CERTAIN DEATH

When the U.S. invaded Panama in 1989, Gen. Manuel Noriega, the military dictator, ordered that all Americans be killed. One



THE TENT THE COOKS LIVED IN WHILE PIONEERING THEIR WORK IN THE DARIEN JUNGLE



night as Dennis, Jeanne, and their children were on their way home from Panama City, a soldier stopped them. He told them to get out of the jeep and step behind a building. Dennis and Jeanne knew immediately they were going to be shot.

While the soldier was talking to the Cooks, another soldier came up.

"What are you doing?"

"I have orders to kill them."

"Don't you know who these people are?"

"I don't care who they are. I have orders."

"They use their jeep to take people to the hospital. My wife had a heart attack and is alive today because of them."

Another soldier came on the scene. When he found out what was happening, he said, "You can't kill them. My son was bitten by a poisonous snake. He's alive today because they took him to Panama City and he was given antivenin."

The two soldiers then aimed their assault rifles at the first soldier. They told him he would have to shoot them first before he killed the Cooks. One of the two soldiers turned to Dennis and said, "Get you and your family in the car. We never saw you tonight."

Over the years Dennis and Jeanne faced death four times. But they have never let anything keep them from bringing God's light and life to the jungle.

ESTEREO VIDA—LIFE RADIO

The Cooks overcame many hardships to start Estereo Vida, the first and only Christian radio station in the Darien jungle. Every day the station reaches approximately 70,000 people throughout the jungle and into parts of Colombia. Programs are broadcast in Spanish and one of the Indian dialects.

One of the programs broadcast on Estereo Vida is a two-year Bible school. National pastors from all denominations throughout the jungle have received Rhema-type training over the radio!

Every year, Estereo Vida holds a special celebration. At one recent gathering, 4,500 people came to



▲ ANNUAL RADIO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



▶ THE COOKS' RADIO TOWER BEAMS THE LIFE-CHANGING GOSPEL THROUGHOUT THE DARIEN JUNGLE

PRAYER FOCUS

- » An outpouring of God's Spirit on the **YOUTH**
- » Continued **UNITY** among the denominational churches in the jungle
- » Faithful **LABORERS**, especially those familiar with radio, to work alongside Dennis and Jeanne in Panama
- » To live in divine **HEALTH**

FAST FACTS

- » The Cooks have started **SEVEN CHURCHES** inside the Chocó Indian Reservation.
- » Nine people have been **RAISED FROM THE DEAD** under their ministry.
- » Dennis and Jeanne helped develop a vaccination program that **REDUCED THE DEATH RATE** among children from 65 percent to less than 10 percent.

the Cooks' compound in Quebrada Honda. They testified about what the Word of God has meant to them.

On the last night of the celebration, a minister preached on the walls of Jericho falling down. The power of God not only fell on the people in attendance, but it also went out over the airwaves. One 14-year-old boy in the crowd was healed of blindness. His healing set off a chain reaction and miracles started happening everywhere!

Life in the Darien has changed dramatically since the Cooks arrived in 1981. Yes, it still gets dark by six o'clock. But now the jungle is full of churches. And the drums of witchcraft have been replaced by the sweet sound of believers worshipping the living God! ♥

▼ OVER 100 YOUNG PEOPLE FROM ACROSS ALL DENOMINATIONS ATTENDED A YOUTH CONFERENCE



READ MORE <<

Ever wonder what happens when teenagers, tarantulas, and poisonous snakes are mixed together? Log on to rhema.org/wof and find out!

TO LEARN MORE

about Dennis and Jeanne Cook, go to vidaministries.com.



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A MOTHER'S ANSWERED PRAYER

Four years ago, I was on a retreat in Colorado praying in earnest for my son, who was becoming involved in drugs. The Lord spoke to my heart and said, "Vicki, will you trust Me with Preston?" A gift of faith dropped into my heart and I was able to say yes. I was crying and thanking the Lord.

On December 14, 2012, my son entered a drug rehab program. He is now 10 months clean and sober. When I was at Campmeeting, I saw that Rhema Bible Training College was starting a January enrollment program! Preston has sent in his application for admittance to school second term. God is so faithful. Thank you, Rhema.

Vicki



Word Partner Club members make it possible for Preston—and others like him—to attend Rhema and receive a fresh start. Thanks to our partners, these students are building a **STRONG FAITH**—a **STRONG FOUNDATION**—and they're setting themselves up to enjoy a **STRONG FUTURE** with God.

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RBTC: A YEAR OF CHANGE AND GROWTH

A key way Kenneth Hagin Ministries shares the Gospel and impacts people's lives is by training men and women to labor in the world's harvest fields. This year, Rhema Bible Training College saw changes to make its work more effective. Rhema USA now offers both September and January enrollments. The school also is newly accredited with Transworld Accrediting Commission International. This organization does not restrict Rhema's Spirit-filled program, curriculum, or instructor qualifications. Rhema also began a revised two-year core program with more third- and fourth-year specialty options.

Rhema's mandate to "go teach My people faith" is bringing rapid growth around the globe, with over 60,000 graduates worldwide. At the time of this printing there are 171 RBTC international campuses in 45 nations.



2013: A LOOK BACK AT A BUSY YEAR!

KENNETH W. HAGIN OFTEN SAYS, *"The natural and the supernatural coming together make an explosive force for God."* AND 2013 HAS PROVIDED GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES TO HELP PEOPLE . . . BOTH SPIRITUALLY AND NATURALLY.

MOTIVATED BY

Love

"One way to minister is to touch a life that's in need," says Craig W. Hagin. And a string of tornadoes ripping through central Oklahoma in May left plenty of needy lives. Craig and his wife, Mia, searched tirelessly in remote, hard-to-reach areas for people who were largely ignored after the storms.

Over 370 volunteers from Rhema Bible Church donned bright yellow T-shirts to sift through rubble, remove downed trees, and offer prayer and encouraging words. Motivated by God's love, "the yellow shirts," as they came to be known, did whatever they could to bring hope, help, and healing to hurting people.

One family whose home was destroyed by the storms lived in a donated tent for two months in the rain and heat. With their health suffering, they contacted Rhema for help. Through the generosity of a donor, the church provided a mobile home the family could live in while putting their life back together.



HELPING FAMILIES START SCHOOL

For many kids, going back to school means getting new clothes and cool-looking supplies. But the devastating storms left some families with no resources to equip kids for classes. To remedy this, Rhema joined other churches in throwing a special back-to-school celebration. Rhema's part was to give 93 surprised elementary through high school kids \$100 Walmart gift cards. The help shocked and amazed young people and their parents. Although many of them are far from being back on their feet, one heavy weight was lifted from their shoulders.



SPECIAL DELIVERY

When a tornado can blow away a brick home, a mere rural mailbox doesn't stand a chance. Because the Postal Service won't deliver mail without a mailbox, some storm victims weren't receiving much-needed government assistance checks. Partnering with Home Depot, Rhema purchased and installed 30 mailboxes at home sites near Little Axe. Though much work remains, with mail arriving again residents drew one step closer to normalcy.

RHEMA'S MANDATE TO "GO TEACH MY PEOPLE FAITH" IS BRINGING *rapid growth* AROUND THE GLOBE.

SPECIAL REPORT: YEAR IN REVIEW ■

Lighting Up THE NIGHT IN SUMMER AND WINTER

SETTING *Asia* Ablaze WITH THE POWER OF GOD

Kenneth W. Hagin and his wife, Lynette, are carrying the Gospel and the message of faith in God throughout the earth. On their spring trip to Asia, they stopped first in **MINDANAO, PHILIPPINES**, where he fired up over 1,000 kids attending the Ignition Youth Conference. As the young people keep that flame burning, they'll make an explosive impact for God in the Philippines.

In both **SINGAPORE** and **INDONESIA**, Rev. Hagin preached on God's healing

power, and nearly everyone in the auditoriums came forward to be healed. God demonstrated His mighty power and the sick were healed and the captives set free.

In **BANGKOK, THAILAND**, the Hagins wrapped up their 24,000-mile trip by teaching believers who they are in Christ. Christians packed an auditorium to hear four sessions on "in Him" realities.

This year *Rockets Over Rhema* celebrated a decade of booms, pops, and sizzles. One of eastern Oklahoma's most spectacular fireworks displays, the event helps Rhema both honor Independence Day and give back to the community.

Jesus said, "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me" (John 12:32). From Thanksgiving Eve through New Year's Day, the Rhema USA campus will be aglow again this year with a Christmas lights display that lifts Jesus high. It's estimated that more than 200,000 people will enjoy the dazzling scene created by more than two million lights. Young and old alike are oohing and aahing their way through the shimmering display.

Both at home and abroad, the Hagin family and Kenneth Hagin Ministries worked hard this year sharing the love of Christ with a desperately needy world.



LIVING FAITH CRUSADES

The Hagins were busy ministering at home, too, holding Living Faith Crusades around the U.S. This year crusades were held in these cities:

- » NAPLES, FLORIDA
- » HAMPTON, VIRGINIA
- » TOPEKA, KANSAS
- » LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY
- » VANCOUVER, WASHINGTON
- » SPOKANE, WASHINGTON
- » ALGOOD, TENNESSEE
- » RUSHVILLE, ILLINOIS
- » DUBUQUE, IOWA

Kenneth and Lynette Hagin's travel schedule would be impossible to keep without the Rhema aircraft. In April, Kenneth Hagin Ministries made the final payment on the plane. The Hagins continue to use the aircraft to spread the Gospel. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make this possible!



LIVING FAITH
crusade

SEED

Thoughts

// LYNETTE HAGIN

"THE LORD WILL GUIDE YOU ALWAYS; HE WILL SATISFY YOUR NEEDS IN A SUN-SCORCHED LAND AND WILL STRENGTHEN YOUR FRAME. YOU WILL BE LIKE A WELL-WATERED GARDEN, LIKE A SPRING WHOSE WATERS NEVER FAIL."
— ISAIAH 58:11 (NIV 1984)

AS I THOUGHT ABOUT the upcoming Christmas holidays and all that is involved in getting ready for the season, the words *kind* and *kindness* came to mind. I have endeavored to live by those words. Even so, I realized that in the hustle and bustle of Christmas, it can be easy for each of us to neglect this fruit of the Spirit that the Bible encourages us to practice.

In chapter 5 of his letter to the churches of Galatia, the Apostle Paul reminded them to let the Holy Spirit guide their lives. He told the churches that the carnal nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants.

Here is how Galatians 5:19–26 reads in the *New Living Translation*:

19 When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that any one living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

22 But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there.

25 Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.

Every day, we should be putting our carnal nature down and allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us. It is important to practice every one of the fruits of the Spirit.

However, I want to concentrate here on kindness. What does it mean to be kind? One dictionary says it means to be "gentle, tender, compassionate, kindhearted." It goes on to say, "*Kind* implies a deep-seated characteristic shown either habitually or on occasion by considerate behavior."*

Ephesians 4:31–32 (NLT) admonishes us, "*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior. Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.*"

I think kindness has been neglected in our self-centered world. Instead of looking for what we can do for others, we seem to concentrate on what others can do for us. We can demonstrate kindness in many ways. It can be through a smile and a kind word such as, "I'm thinking about you and praying for you." That can lift a person's morale.

It's important to be sensitive to those around us. We can extend a helping hand by simply opening a door or offering to carry someone's package. Just yesterday I was checking out of a store and thinking of the effort it was going to take to lift some heavy items into the car. Suddenly a store employee who was leaving for the day called my name and said, "Let me unload your shopping cart." I had purchased some large cans. Even though they were in a box, I would have had to lift them one at a time into the car. He was able to lift the entire box at once. I marveled at his strength and thanked him for his kindness. My, what a blessing he was to me!

That same evening I was in a restaurant waiting to be seated. There was quite a long wait and there were no vacant chairs. Suddenly a man sitting and waiting with his family got up and offered me his chair. I began to be thankful that there were still people in this world who exemplify kindness.

Acts of kindness are so satisfying. Last year our church had a campaign where we looked for ways to show kindness toward others anonymously. It was so rewarding for me to pay for a family's meal and watch them look around to see who had blessed them. It blessed me to see others blessed. That brought Acts 20:35 to light: "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*"

I encourage you to look for ways each day to show kindness to others. I also encourage you to teach your children the meaning of that word. Have a blessed Christmas, and most importantly, remember the reason for the season: God showed His love and kindness to us through the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.♥



* kind. Dictionary.com. Dictionary.com Unabridged. Random House, Inc. <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/kind>





Kids' Page

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

FROM 'GUY-NO-MIGHT' TO DYNAMITE!

God has a way of taking powerless people and making them powerFULL for Him. Read the story below and then, on a separate piece of paper, write all of the bold and red letters in order. You will discover a key verse in the Bible that shows how God turns a "guy with no might" into DYNAMITE for His kingdom. Each red letter ends a word within the verse.

A MAN NAMED GIDEON

There **o**nce lived a man during **t**he **t**ime of the Judges **w**hose name was Gideon. The **w**hole nation of Israel was **s**ubject to the **K**ing of Midian in Gideon's **d**ay. Gideon **m**ust have been **a**fraid of the Midianites because when the **a**ngel of the Lord appeared to **h**im he was **h**iding **o**ut in a wine press. But, **t**he **a**ngel told Gideon that God **c**onsidered him to be a "val-**i**ant warrior" who would deliver Israel from Midian's rule. Gideon's **r**epl**y** to the angel was "Behold, my family is least in Manasseh and I am the youngest in my father's house." Though Gideon knew he was young and weak he trusted the **p**romise of the Lord. Several days later the **w**ord of the Lord came to pass when Gideon took an army of only 300 **m**en and defeated the whole Midianite **a**rm**y**.

it's greek to me!

There's a Greek word for POWER in the Bible that we get our word DYNAMITE from. Use the key to the right to change the symbols below into the answer.





Code Key


A=☆, C=✧, D=✧,
E=✧, G=✧, H=★,
I=☆, L=★, M=✧,
N=★, O=★, R=★,
S=✧, T=✧, U=✧


THREE LITTLE CIRCLES


Read the poem below and, on a separate piece of paper, see if you can turn the three little circles into the pictures below.


What can you do with these three little circles? 


First thing you could do is color them purple. 


Put some leaves at the top of these three little shapes. 


Put stems on each one and now you have grapes. 


What else could you do with these lonely three? 


Bring over some friends to keep them company. 


Gather them in order, please don't be wreckless, 


And before you know it you've made a necklace. 


And, with these three, what else could you make? 


Add flames and some lines for something on a birthday cake. 


Now blacken the circles . . . let's keep the ball rolling, 


Draw a circle around them, it's time for bowling. 


Take the bowling ball, add hair, brows, and ears 

And, lo and behold, a face now appears. 

The point we are making, though they seem plain, 

With some outside help they had something to gain. 

And you may feel plain, like a lamp with no light, 

But with help from the Lord 

You can be **DYNAMITE!**

jokes & riddles

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



What is one can in your kitchen that can't be opened with a can opener?
The Garbage Can

Why did the ponies get in trouble at school?
Too much "horse play"

Johnny: If dogs live in a dog house and birds live in a bird house then where do flies live?
Sam: In a fly house?
Johnny: No, in an out house!

What kind of crackers should you never eat?
Firecrackers!

Why is the word SMILES one of the longest words in the English language?
Because there's a MILE between the two S's.

Answers:
"To him who lacks might he increases power"—(Isa. 59:29)
It's Greek to Me—DYNAMITE



Kenneth Hagin Ministries

P.O. Box 50126 • Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

IT'S COMING . . .

SUNDAY, MAY 4

"AND HE SAID TO THEM,
GO INTO ALL THE WORLD,
AND GIVE THE GOOD NEWS TO EVERYONE." —MARK 16:15 (BBE)



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