



# THE Word of Faith

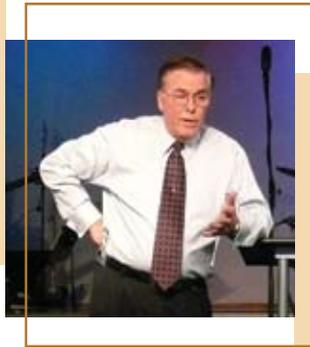
MARCH 2008

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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CHRIST!  
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# Because He Lives!



# Heart to Heart

*With Kenneth W. Hagin*

As we celebrate Easter, we celebrate the Lord's resurrection from His death on the Cross. But some people may not fully comprehend the suffering Jesus experienced on the Cross—suffering that He experienced for you and me.

History tells us that the Romans first beat a condemned man with rods. Then the person was flogged with a whip made of leather strands, with pieces of crushed glass attached to each strand. As the whip struck the body, the crushed glass tore into the condemned man's flesh. Often the whip wrapped around the body, tearing open the man's stomach, chest, and face.

Jesus experienced this gruesome suffering on our behalf. The Prophet Isaiah said of Jesus “. . . *his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness*” (Isa. 52:14 NIV). Jesus was so brutally beaten that He became unrecognizable.

After Jesus' death, His disciples were filled with despair. It was a dark and hopeless time for the followers of Christ. But early on the third day, well before the sun had risen, Mary Magdalene made her way to the tomb of Jesus. To her surprise, she saw the stone had been rolled away from the front of His tomb. And peering inside, she found an empty tomb!

This was the darkest morning of Mary Magdalene's life, but it became a day of hope. That dark day became a day of hope for all mankind.

You see, all of us have sinned. We all have fallen short of the glory of God. We were doomed to be eternally separated from God. None of us could pay the penalty for our sins. Only Jesus' death on the cross could meet the demand for justice that was required. Jesus went through what no one else could go through. He paid the penalty that no one else could pay. He voluntarily took sin upon Himself so you and I could live.

Jesus suffered a brutal death and was buried in a tomb. But the good news is that He did not remain in that tomb. He descended into hell, gloriously conquered Satan, and rose victorious from the grave!

Because of the Resurrection, now even in the worst situations imaginable, there is new life available in Christ Jesus. It may seem that your hope—or the hope of a loved one—has faded. It may seem as though your dreams have

died. Your life may look bleak and dark. You may have given your best effort to turn things around without any success.

But in the midst of your darkness, in the midst of your despair, and in the midst of your shattered dreams, the resurrected One can give you hope. Jesus is saying to you today, “*I have come that you may have life and have it to the full*” (John 10:10 NIV).

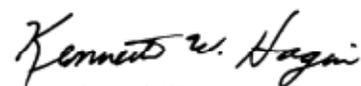
No matter how your life may look at the moment, there is hope for you. Because of the new life you can have in Christ Jesus, you can sing with gusto the song made popular by Bill and Gloria Gaither: “*Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. Because He lives, all fear is gone. Because I know who holds the future, my life is worth the living, just because He lives.*”\*

Because Jesus lives, you can have eternal life today. No longer do you have to be separated from God. Jesus paid the penalty for sin with His own blood so you could have fellowship with God.

Once you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, He will never turn His back on you, even if you turn your back on Him. He is always ready to welcome you into the family of God with open arms. Simply rededicate your life to Him, and you will begin to experience that new life again.

Jesus' resurrection means that He obtained victory for us. Jesus arose victoriously over hell and the grave. He arose victoriously over sin and death. He arose victoriously over depression, hopelessness, and despair. He arose victoriously over defeat and failure. He arose victoriously over sickness and disease. He arose victoriously over poverty and lack.

Thank God, Jesus arose victoriously! He Who was dead is now alive! And if we follow Him, His victory is our victory. And because He lives, we can live a victoriously full and abundant life!

  
Kenneth W. Hagin

\*William and Gloria Gaither, “*Because He Lives,*” ©1971  
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THE WORD OF FAITH has no subscription or newsstand price and is supported through contributions from readers worldwide. All gifts to this ministry are tax deductible.

**PUBLICATION MAIL AGREEMENT #40032023**

VOLUME XLII.....Number 3  
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# He Is the Chris



kenneth w. hagin

*(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth W. Hagin's book Because of Jesus.)*

*When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

— Matthew 16:13–16



In this day and age, people are still splitting theological hairs over the question: “Who is Jesus?”

Some say Jesus was a great this or that. “He was a great teacher.” “He was a great prophet.” “He was the greatest moral person who ever lived.”

Yes, Jesus was the greatest teacher and preacher the world has ever known. But He is more than that.

Jesus is the Husband to the bride.  
He is the Friend to the friendless.  
He is the Physician to the sick.  
He is the Psychiatrist to the confused.  
He is the Banker to the poor.  
He is the Compass to the traveler.  
He is the Healer of all sickness.  
He is the Savior from every sin.  
He is the Deliverer from every habit.  
He is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit and fire  
to everyone who hungers and thirsts.  
He is the Beginning and the End.  
He is the One Who was. He is the One Who is.  
He is the One Who is coming again.

He is the One Whom the devil could not entice into sin.

He is the One Whom the grave could not hold.

He is the One Who arose from the dead.

He is the Victor.

He is the One Whom God has highly exalted and given a Name above every name—the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

He is the One Who spoke and the blind could see, the lame walk, the deaf hear, and the mute speak.

*He is the Christ, the Son of the living God!*

When we get to the Book of Revelation, we see Jesus riding a white horse. Across Jesus' vesture is written: “. . . King of Kings, and Lord of Lords” (Rev. 19:16).

Jesus became all of this because of what He did at Calvary, because of the work of redemption that He wrought for mankind. God is still the same miracle-working God, and because of what Jesus did, we have the same power available to us today that was available to Jesus when He walked on the earth.

To understand what Jesus accomplished for us, let us imagine a garden outside the city of Jerusalem.

I can see the Lord with His disciples, who had been with Him throughout His ministry. He has just finished ministering to them.

I see Him as He enters the garden, taking Peter, James, and John with Him, leaving the other disciples behind.

But now, as the sins of the world are about to be placed upon Him, Jesus is stepping out of that place as the **Son of Man** and is becoming the **Lamb of God.**



He says to them, “Would you pray with Me?” Then He goes a little farther into the garden alone. He finds a place, drops upon His knees, and begins to pray to the Father.

His heart is heavy. Tears start coming from His eyes. Perspiration appears on His brow as great drops of blood (Luke 22:44).

The time has come. The sins of mankind are going to be placed upon His shoulders.

He looks toward Heaven and says, “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me.” What cup? The cup of bitterness—the cup of sin for all of us. This cup includes sin and sickness. It includes all that came upon mankind as the result of Adam’s fall.

Here is Jesus, the Son of God, stepping out of the role He has ministered in for three years: the Son of Man anointed by the Holy Spirit. People say, “He did all those miracles because He was Deity.” No, it was because He was anointed with the Holy Spirit that He was able to do all the miraculous things He did (Acts 10:30; Phil. 2:5–8).

But now, as the sins of the world are about to be placed upon Him, Jesus is stepping out of that place as the Son of Man and is becoming the Lamb of God.

I see Him as He stands up in the garden where He has been praying and returns to His disciples. He is waiting for the armed mob to come and arrest Him. They come.

I see Him as He stands in that judgment hall and they begin to mock Him. They ask Him questions. He says not a

word. They ask Him, “Are You the King of the Jews?” He answers in neither the affirmative nor the negative. He simply says, “You have stated it.”

Pontius Pilate decides there is nothing wrong with this man named Jesus. In fact, the Bible infers that Pilate is touched by the good in Jesus

and perhaps wonders if He is the Son of God.

Pilate says to himself, *I know how I can get them to turn this man loose. It is a custom to release a prisoner at the Passover. I will offer to release either Jesus or the most horrible criminal in their nation.* He gives the mob the choice. But they accept the notorious criminal Barabbas! “Release Barabbas and crucify Jesus!” the mob screams.

I envision Jesus as He stands there. They bring out a purple robe, which represents royalty. They throw it around Him. “He needs a crown!” someone yells. The soldiers weave thorns into a crude crown and slam it on Jesus’ head. I can see the blood begin to trickle down His face.

Jesus stands there. I see Him as they begin to rip the beard from His face. Blood begins to appear in those pores. Someone walks up to Him and says, “You think You are the Son of God, huh?” and slaps Him across the face. Jesus says not a word. He just stands there.

I go back to Isaiah 52 and 53 and read how the Bible talks about Jesus’ face being marred almost beyond recognition (Isa. 52:14).

I see Jesus as the soldiers take Him into the lower part of the fortress. They strip the garments off His back and lay them aside. I see them take the leather cords and tie Him with His back exposed.

I see a Roman soldier—a big, strong, robust man with huge shoulder and arm muscles. I see him reach out and grab that big whip. At the end of each strand of leather in that whip is a round lead ball about the size of a quarter. Inside it is crushed glass.

## FAITH IN ACTION

### Because of Jesus

Colossians 1:12 says, “*Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light.*”

You have an inheritance that includes all the provisions God made for you through the covenants He established in His Word. Because your inheritance is found in the New Testament, you should carefully study these scriptures, paying particular attention to the epistles.

In the epistles, you learn how the Church should be operating, who believers are, how they should be living, and what belongs to them in Christ.

The epistles are where your strength and power come from—the power of knowing what belongs to you *because of Jesus.*

If you do not know what belongs to you, your voice will lack authority,

and you will hesitate when you talk about your rights and privileges. When this happens, you are not going to convince anyone, including Satan, that you have any power or authority.

Therefore, go through the epistles and find out what belongs to you. There are approximately 140 key phrases in the New Testament that describe your inheritance. They tell you who you are, what you are, or what you have *because of Jesus.*

Underline the scriptures that contain the phrases “in Christ,” “in Him,” “in whom,” and “through whom.” As you study these scriptures about who you are and what you have *because of Jesus*, you need to *believe* them in your heart and *confess* them with your mouth daily. Confessions from God’s Word of who you are in Christ make the reality of who you are in Christ become real *to you!*

I see Jesus as the whip begins to slash across His back. The soldier gives it a jerk so one of the balls with the crushed glass will come raking across the skin. Not only is the leather thong breaking the skin, but Jesus' back is being ripped open by crushed glass.

are stripes for the healing of mankind. Some theologians say there were 39 stripes to represent the 39 principal causes of disease.

The Bible says, "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree . . . by whose stripes ye were healed"

Because of Who Jesus is, crooked legs can be straightened. Arms and legs can grow out.

The Word of God says that when Jesus Christ died on the Cross, He did combat with Satan and defeated Him (Col. 2:15). Because we are in Christ, we have the victory that Christ won for us.

Jesus is the mighty Conqueror, the mighty Deliverer, the One Who can transform lives.

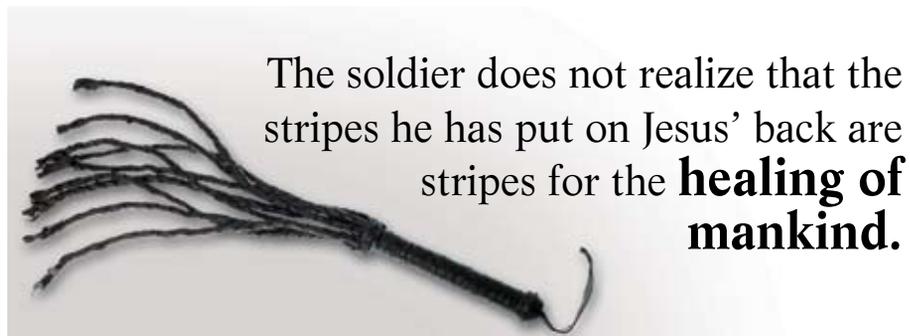
Jesus is the Deliverer to the one bound by alcohol, dope, or any kind of habit.

Maybe you have vowed that you were going to quit smoking, quit drinking, quit taking dope, quit doing this or that, but you never have been able to. With Jesus you can be delivered from sinful habits.

At the mighty Name of Jesus, all knees shall bow.

Because of the mighty Name of Jesus, we can receive anything that the Word promises. All things are ours because of Who Jesus is (1 Cor. 3:21).

Jesus is our Victor. And because of Jesus, we have victory over sin, disease, and any other thing that would hinder us from living the God-kind of life. ♠



I see Jesus' back begin to bleed. Blood begins to splatter all over the soldier—the precious blood of God's Son! Blood that could save him. Blood that could cleanse him. But he doesn't even realize it!

The soldier does not realize that the stripes he has put on Jesus' back

(1 Peter 2:24). Salvation and healing go hand in hand, and we see this truth in this verse of Scripture.

Yes, with Jesus' stripes, your cancer died. Your asthma died. Your rheumatism and arthritis died.

Because of Who Jesus is, every problem must bow its knee.

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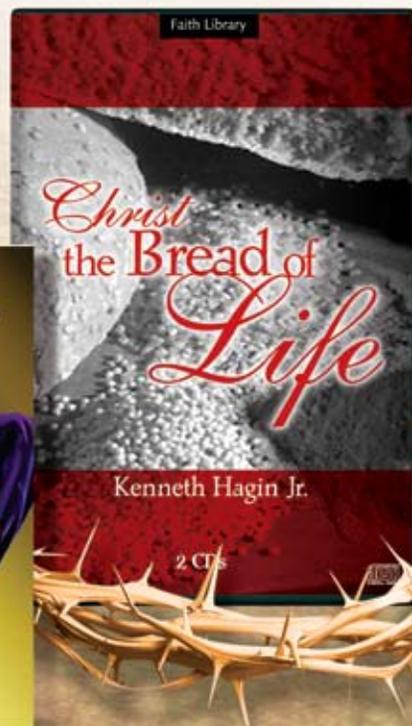
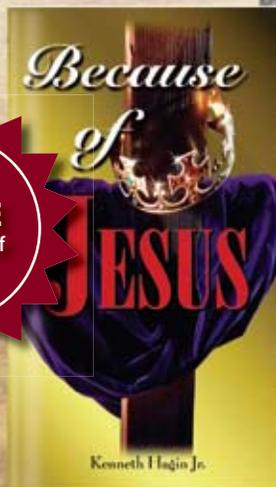
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**Pastors:**  
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for special  
information!



**Sunday  
May 4**

# Help Take the Gospel to the Ends of the Earth



“The goal of International RHEMA Day is to create a global network of people to pray for and support RHEMA Bible Training Center, which trains and equips ministers for tomorrow. For over 30 years, RHEMA Bible Training Center has offered sound biblical teaching and practical instruction in the field of ministry.”

—Kenneth W. Hagin

On May 4, 2008, an international family of believers will band together in a special show of support for RHEMA Bible Training Center USA. Join us on International RHEMA Day and help take the Gospel to the ends of earth. With your prayer and financial support, RHEMA students are being trained as able ministers—ministers who will spread the Gospel and the message of faith throughout the world!

You can make a difference in the advancement of God’s Kingdom by joining believers in churches worldwide as they offer their prayers and financial support for RHEMA USA. Be a part as hundreds of local congregations lift up the school in corporate prayer, receive special offerings, and explain RHEMA’s biblical foundation and spiritual focus.

For over 30 years, RHEMA has trained more than 25,000 men and women to take the Gospel around the globe. The sun never sets on a RHEMA graduate preaching the Gospel somewhere in the world. And the sun never sets on RHEMA’s commitment to teach God’s people to pursue Him in faith.

## How You Can Help

Please join your faith with thousands of Christians in churches worldwide on May 4 in a show of support for RHEMA Bible Training Center USA.

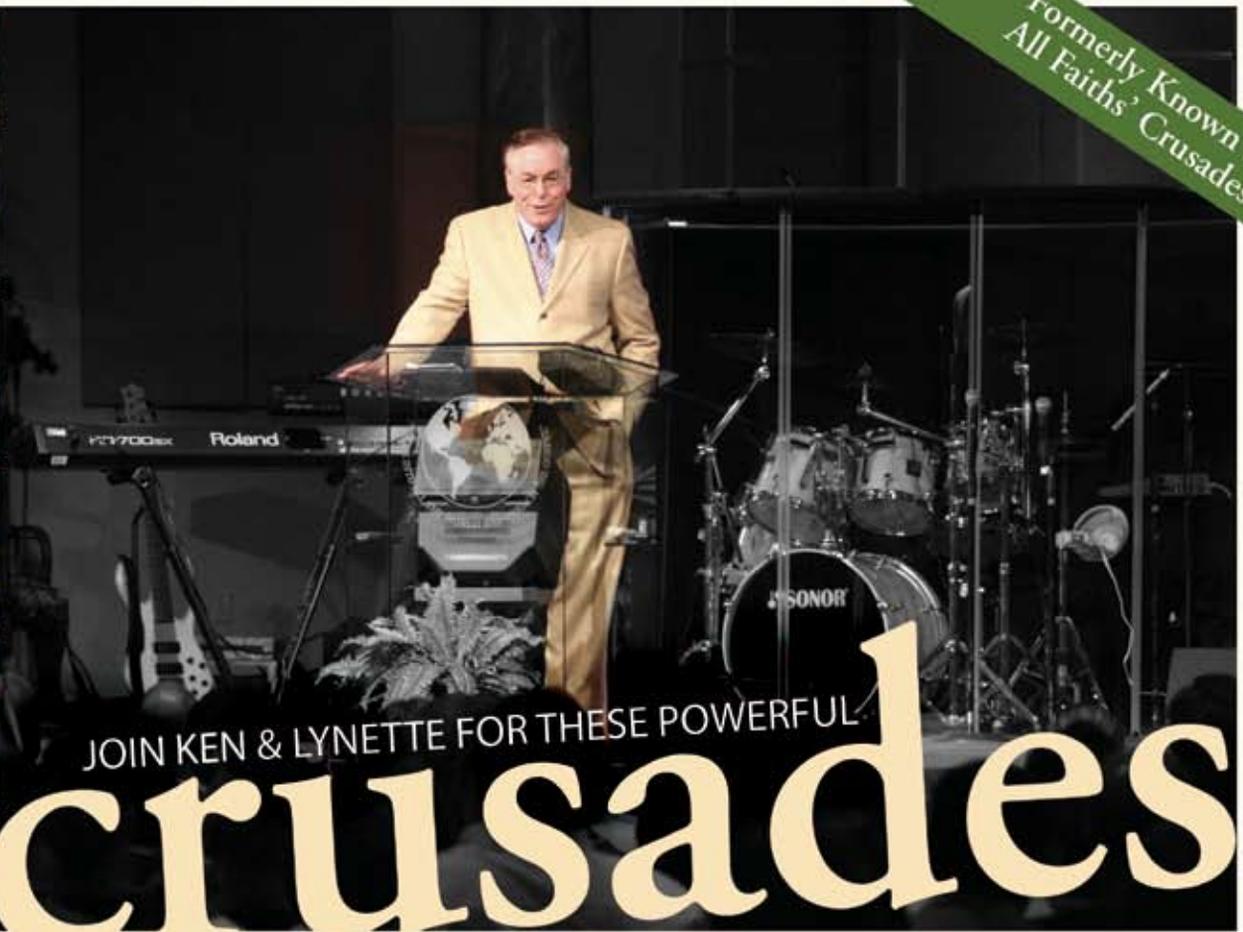
- **Pray** for RHEMA Bible Training Center USA, its staff, and the current student body.
- **Support** RHEMA Bible Training Center USA financially.
- **Share** with others about RHEMA Bible Training Center.

Thank you for supporting RHEMA Bible Training Center USA. *Together*, we are preparing laborers for a great harvest of souls and fulfilling the Lord’s command to “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature*” (Mark 16:15).

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(626) 914-1229

[www.familylifechristiancenter.com](http://www.familylifechristiancenter.com)  
Pastors Ray & Esther Almaguer

**Service Times:**

Monday–Tuesday  
10:30 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.

**25th Church Anniversary Service**

Sunday, March 2—6:30 p.m.  
at Shilo Inn Hilltop Suites

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Father's House Church  
8691 Echo Dr.  
La Mesa, CA 91941  
(619) 741-0630

[www.fathershousesd.org](http://www.fathershousesd.org)  
Pastors Greg and Michelle Stephens

**Service Times:**

Wednesday 7:00 p.m.  
Thursday–Friday  
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March 30–April 2, 2008

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Saint Joseph, IL 61873  
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[www.lwfstjoe.org](http://www.lwfstjoe.org)  
Pastor Larry & Pam Millis

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Pastor Ken & Kathy Vance

**Service Times:**  
Sunday 7:00 p.m.  
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10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

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Sterling Heights, MI 48312  
(586) 258-4390  
[www.gracesterling.com](http://www.gracesterling.com)  
Pastors Jerry & Joy Weinzierl

**Service Times:**  
Monday–Wednesday  
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**Building Dedication Service**  
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Pastor Ray & Liz Eppard

**Service Times:**  
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10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

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(870) 741-9099  
Rev. Tim Phillips

**Service Time:**  
Sunday 10:00 a.m.

**MAY 27–30, 2008  
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Gospel Conference**  
Paris, France

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Wednesday–Friday 10:00 a.m.; 7:30 p.m.  
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Register online at:  
[www.shekinahglory.com](http://www.shekinahglory.com)  
For more information contact:  
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# THE WISDOM OF GOD

Timeless Teachings  
of Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin

(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin's book *The Triumphant Church*.)

God has provided a glorious inheritance for every believer. That inheritance includes dominion over all the works of darkness, including sin, sickness, disease, and spiritual death. But in order for us to take advantage of our authority in Jesus so that we can successfully stand against the devil's strategies in every circumstance, the eyes of our spiritual understanding must be enlightened.

**T**he believer's inheritance in Christ is the wisdom of God, and it was hidden throughout previous ages until it was revealed through Jesus Christ. Grasping that truth and walking in the reality of God's inheritance for us as saints is the key to taking our place as the triumphant Church, reigning as kings in *this* life.

The riches of our inheritance are revealed more fully in the Book of Ephesians than in any other book of the Bible. Ephesians 1:16–23 and 3:14–21 are Holy Spirit-inspired prayers that apply to believers everywhere.

In these prayers, the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to believers “the spirit of *wisdom* and *revelation* in the *knowledge* of Jesus” (Eph. 1:17). What is the wisdom and knowledge God wants to reveal to the believer about Jesus?

The Holy Spirit wants the eyes of our understanding opened to understand Jesus' complete victory over Satan in the triumph of the Cross. He wants us to understand what Jesus' seating on High really means to the believer. The wisdom and knowledge the Holy Spirit wants to reveal to

us is the believer's joint-seating with Christ as a benefit of our redemption. Joint-seating with Christ is a position of authority and triumph over Satan. God wants us to see what we have as rights and privileges by being in Christ.

In 1949 in the last church I pastored, I did a lot of extra praying and seeking God. Every opportunity I'd have, I prayed these prayers in Ephesians over myself.

The Holy Spirit, writing through Paul, wants you as a believer to pray for the eyes of your understanding to be enlightened. The word *enlightened* means "illuminated" or "flooded with light."

After praying these prayers for a number of months, one day I was praying at the altar and the Lord spoke to me and said, "I am going to take you on to revelations and visions." That came as a result of praying these prayers thousands of times for myself. Revelation in line with the Word of God began to come to me and kept on coming.

That's what Ephesians chapter 1 is talking about—insight into the knowledge of *Jesus* and understanding of the knowledge of His Word.

It was in the winter of 1947–1948 that understanding in line with God's Word by the Holy Spirit began to come to me. Then in the 1950s the visions started coming. From 1950 through 1959, the Lord Jesus Himself appeared to me eight different times. Three out of the eight times He talked to me for an hour and a half and brought me further revelation concerning the Word of God.

One revelation the Spirit of God brought to me was the believer's authority in Christ over Satan. In fact, in the 1952 vision when Jesus talked to me, I received understanding concerning demons and evil spirits. Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, gave me biblical truths in that vision so believers could be enlightened about Satan's wiles and strategies.

Believers have been ignorant of Satan's devices, so he has been able to take advantage of them. But the Spirit of God wants believers to get the wisdom and revelation of the knowledge of Jesus and His Word so the eyes of their understanding will be enlightened to know their authority *in Christ*.

God wants believers to know they are no longer subject to Satan because they have been delivered from his dominion and authority (Col. 1:13). God wants the Body of Christ to know that we aren't a defeated Church—we are a *triumphant* Church. We are to reign in life through Jesus Christ because we have a position of authority over the devil. When the eyes of our

the knowledge of the inheritance that God has already prepared for them in Christ; it is the wisdom of knowing who they are *in Christ*. The wisdom of God is that believers only need to stand against demons in the finished work of the Cross—in the victory that Jesus Christ already won *for* them.

If believers would stand in their position of authority in Christ against

The Holy Spirit wants the eyes of our understanding opened to understand Jesus' complete victory over Satan in the triumph of the Cross.



understanding are enlightened, we can stand in our place of authority as the triumphant Church upon the earth.

The Body of Christ needs the eyes of their understanding enlightened to understand Jesus' complete defeat of Satan. This is *the wisdom of God* that God wants each believer to understand.

#### 1 Corinthians 2:6–7

**6 Howbeit we speak WISDOM among them that are PERFECT [mature]: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of THE PRINCES OF THIS WORLD, that come to nought:**

**7 But we speak THE WISDOM OF GOD. . . .**

What is the wisdom of God that those who are spiritually mature in the Word will see and understand? It is

a foe that has already been *defeated* and *dethroned*, it would solve so many of their problems.

Many well-meaning believers have fallen into the error of thinking *they* have to do something to *overcome* the devil. They seem to think that somehow they have to "fight" the devil and conquer him.

According to First Corinthians 2:6, one reason believers have fallen into this error is that they aren't mature in the Word: "We speak the wisdom of God to those who are *mature*."

People who are wrestling against the devil in their own strength, always trying to defeat a "dethroned power," are not yet *mature* or *full grown* in the Word. I didn't say that—the Bible said

## FAITH IN ACTION

### Reigning in Life

Because of Jesus' victory over Satan at the Cross, we can *reign* as kings in *this* life here in *this* world. Because we are *in Christ*, Satan is under our feet. We don't have to struggle to be victorious; we just need to stand our ground using God's Word against a defeated foe. Here is how to do that:

#### 1. Speak the Word of God in the Name of Jesus.

Our fight against the enemy is accomplished with the Word of God. By standing on the Word, you are standing in Jesus' victory.

#### 2. Plead the blood of Jesus against the devil.

Our victory over Satan is because of the shed blood of Jesus. When we plead the blood against the devil, we are really pleading our covenant rights of protection against the enemy (Isa. 54:17; Luke 10:19; Phil. 2:9–10; Col. 1:13).

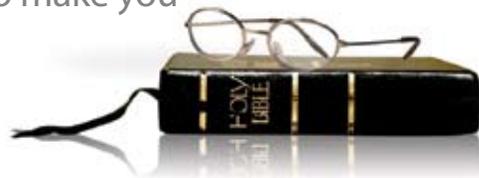
#### 3. Stand

Since Satan is a defeated foe, it is up to us to *stand* against him with the Word of God, the Name of Jesus, and the blood of Jesus. When we do, we will overcome the enemy's attacks every time.

that: “. . . we speak wisdom among them that are perfect [mature or full grown]: yet not the wisdom of this world. . . . But we speak THE WISDOM OF GOD. . . .” (1 Cor. 2:6–7).

The wisdom of God is the wisdom of His Word. Your mind will have to be renewed to the wisdom of God—the wisdom of *God’s Word*—to see what Jesus has already wrought for you

You will have to stand your ground with the **Word of God** against Satan because his wiles are deceptive, and he will try to **blind your eyes** to make you think he has power and authority over you.



in your redemption. That’s what will make you mature in your knowledge of being in Christ.

When believers have the eyes of their understanding enlightened, they will understand exactly how complete the plan of redemption really is. Those who are still waging war on the devil haven’t had the eyes of their understanding enlightened to see the wisdom of God. But when you are mature in the Word and have the wisdom of God—*Bible* wisdom—you know Satan and his hosts are already conquered,

defeated, dethroned, and deprived of their power and that *you* are the triumphant one in Christ.

You will have to stand your ground with the Word of God against Satan because his wiles are deceptive, and he will try to blind your eyes to make you think he has power and authority over *you*. He will always try to get you out of the realm of faith in God’s Word

by making you doubt the Word, doubt God, and doubt what God has told you. That’s why the fight against him is in the arena of faith—faith in God and faith in God’s Word—not in trying to defeat an enemy who is already defeated.

One reason many believers are having so much trouble with the devil is that they are always trying to do something *themselves* about the devil, instead of *acting on* what the Word says *Jesus* already did about the devil. That means they aren’t doers of the

Word. They say, “Let’s declare war on the devil!” and they try to carry out some kind of combat against him.

But when you understand that Satan is dethroned, you know war has already been declared on the devil, and the victory has been won by the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ arose the Victor! So just take your position of joint-seating with Christ in his victory over the devil.

If Satan and his cohorts have been dethroned, then why are the hosts of darkness ruling over so many *believers*? Either believers don’t *know* their authority in Christ, or they aren’t *exercising* their authority in Christ.

Satan will keep on ruling people in the world who aren’t saved, of course, because they don’t know any better. But if believers will preach the Gospel to unsaved folks, those non-believers can get saved and come out from under Satan’s dominion.

The Church is to preach the Good News to every person and tell them that they don’t have to be dominated by the devil anymore. That’s how we are to “wage war” on the devil. When people get hold of the Good News in Christ and are born again, Satan won’t be able to rule over them anymore. That is how believers are to put Satan’s kingdom to nought and reduce it to nothing. ♠

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# Pray for Your Nation

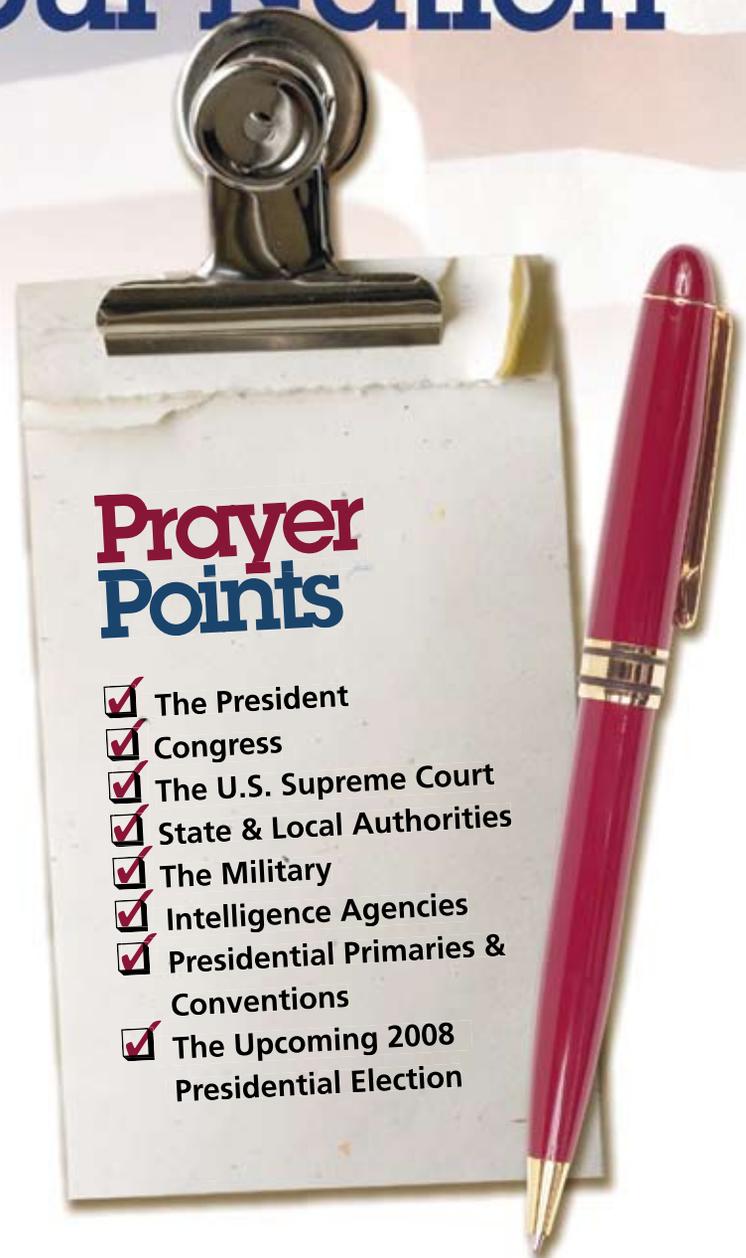
**J**ohn Wesley, one of the founders of the Methodist Church, once said, "It seems God is limited by our prayer life—that He can do nothing for humanity unless someone asks Him." It is vital that Christians pray, not just for themselves and their own needs, but also for their nation and those in authority.

In the United States, 2008 is a presidential election year, and during election years, we are constantly bombarded with radio and television ads telling us whom we should and should not vote for. But it is of utmost importance that we seek the wisdom and direction of our Heavenly Father before voting for our future national, state, and local leaders so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life (1 Tim. 2:1–2).

The Bible tells us in James 5:16 (NLT), "*The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.*" With that in mind, pray for our leaders, our nation, our military, and the upcoming elections. Listed on this page are points to focus on during your prayer time. When you pray, believe that you receive the answers to your prayers (Mark 11:24). And let the following scriptures guide and encourage you as you pray.

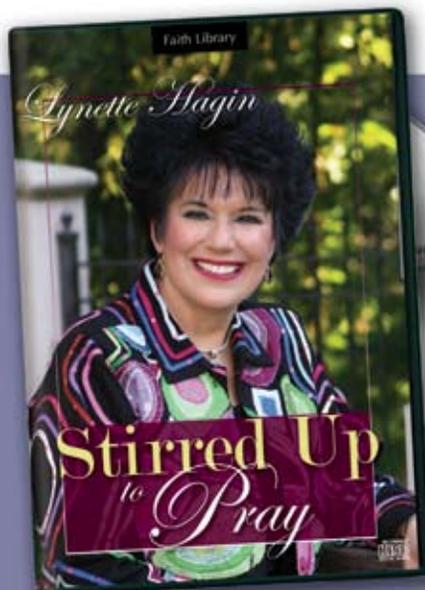
**2 Chronicles 7:14–15 (ASV)** *If my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. Now mine eyes shall be open, and mine ears attent, unto the prayer that is made in this place.*

**1 Timothy 2:1–2 (Amplified)** *First of all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that [outwardly] we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life [and inwardly] a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way.* ♥



## Prayer Points

- The President
- Congress
- The U.S. Supreme Court
- State & Local Authorities
- The Military
- Intelligence Agencies
- Presidential Primaries & Conventions
- The Upcoming 2008 Presidential Election



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# April 18–20, 2008

# Life Is Full

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### Best Western Kenosha Inn

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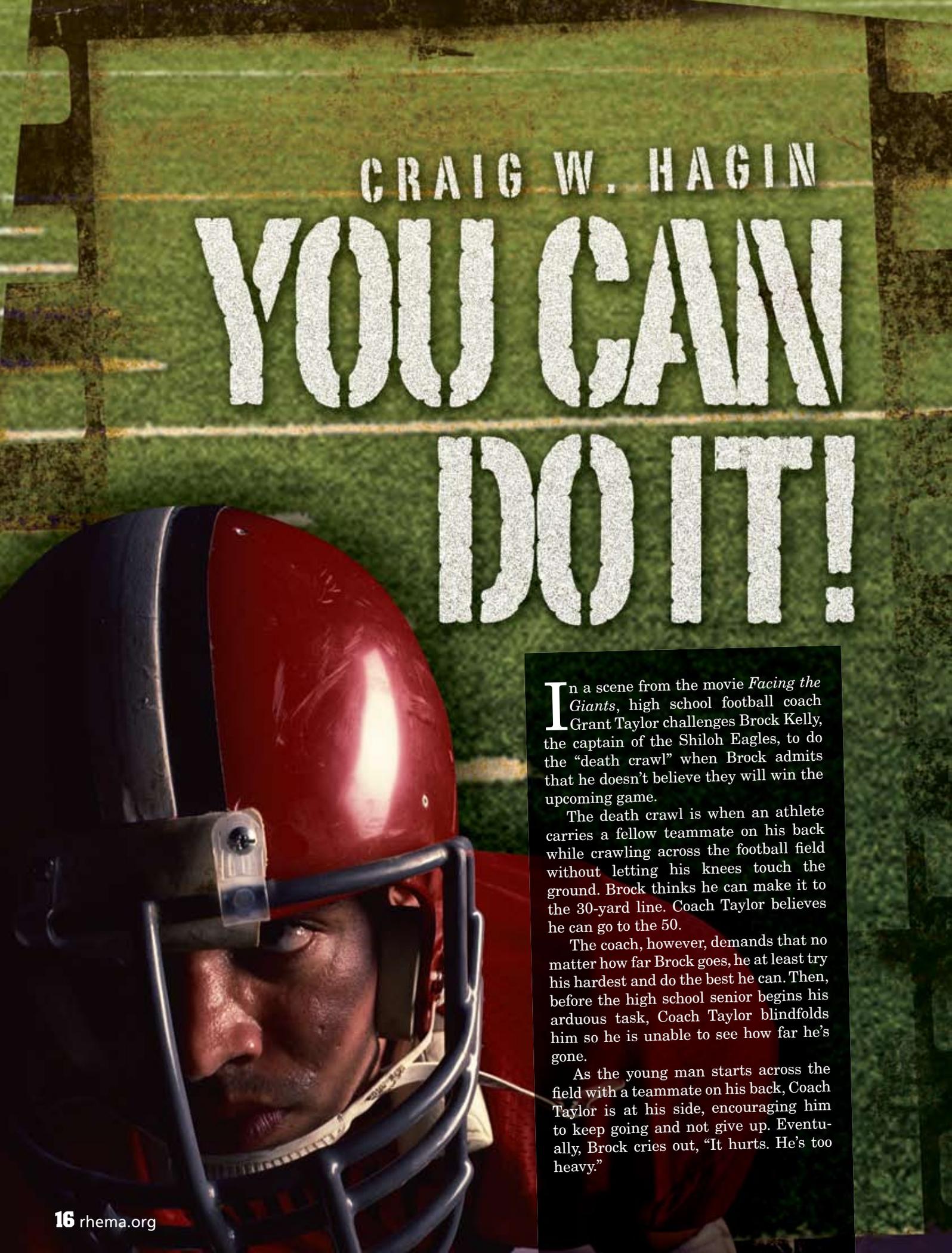
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CRAIG W. HAGIN

# YOU CAN DO IT!

In a scene from the movie *Facing the Giants*, high school football coach Grant Taylor challenges Brock Kelly, the captain of the Shiloh Eagles, to do the “death crawl” when Brock admits that he doesn’t believe they will win the upcoming game.

The death crawl is when an athlete carries a fellow teammate on his back while crawling across the football field without letting his knees touch the ground. Brock thinks he can make it to the 30-yard line. Coach Taylor believes he can go to the 50.

The coach, however, demands that no matter how far Brock goes, he at least try his hardest and do the best he can. Then, before the high school senior begins his arduous task, Coach Taylor blindfolds him so he is unable to see how far he’s gone.

As the young man starts across the field with a teammate on his back, Coach Taylor is at his side, encouraging him to keep going and not give up. Eventually, Brock cries out, “It hurts. He’s too heavy.”

“Keep going,” demands Coach Taylor. “I know he’s heavy. Negotiate with your body and find more strength. But don’t you give up on me, Brock.”

At this point Coach Taylor is on his knees shouting at the blindfolded player. “Keep going! Don’t quit! Give me your best!”

Finally Coach Taylor shouts, “Twenty more steps, Brock. Don’t quit! Ten more steps. Give me your heart! Five more. Come on, Brock! Don’t quit. Don’t quit. Two more. One more!”

When the exhausted player collapses on the field, he’s sure he’s made it to the 50 yard line. Imagine his surprise when he realizes he’s crawled 100 yards with a 160-pound teammate on his back!

Coach Taylor blindfolded his team captain because he didn’t want Brock to quit before he gave his all. You see, Brock could have reached the 50-yard line and quit. Everyone would have congratulated him for going 50 yards—it was certainly farther than he originally thought he could go. But if he had stopped there, he would have reached only half of his full potential.

Philippians 4:13 says, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*” This verse doesn’t say that you can reach only half or a quarter of your potential. No, you can do *everything* you are called to do.

Are you falling down at the 50-yard line, thinking that’s as far as you can go? If so, what’s holding you back from going all the way? Have you allowed fear, pain, or hardship to stop you?

It’s so easy to quit when things get hard. Anybody can quit. It doesn’t take any kind of talent to quit. But why be satisfied with halfway when you can push yourself and go the full distance?

It may be hard to reach your full potential, but you can do more than you think you can. Like Brock Kelly, you have a lot more inside of you than you realize. Maybe you don’t have a coach who will walk beside you, encouraging you every step of the way, but you have the Holy Spirit within you. And He will never leave you or

forsake you—He is walking with you to help you and strengthen you every step of the way. Make up your mind to push yourself and encourage yourself in the Lord.

The closer Brock got to the end zone, the more his body screamed in pain. He cried out in agony, “It hurts! He’s heavy! I can’t!” But he found the strength to push through the pain.

You may be going through something right now and experiencing intense pain. But if you keep pushing, you *will* reach the finish line. Then, when you have accomplished what you set out

to do, you will hardly remember the pain. When it’s all said and done, you won’t talk about the pain. No. You’ll savor the victory!

In the movie, Brock carried a 160-pound teammate on his back. You may feel as though you are doing a “death crawl” through life. And you may feel like you’re carrying a 200-pound weight on your back. But don’t focus on the weight or the obstacles between you and where you want to be.

Like Brock, you will have to blindfold your eyes to the things that are holding you back from your goal. You can’t allow yourself to think about how bad things are or how much it hurts. Instead, you must keep your focus on the prize, on the goal line.

Close your eyes to your circumstances and focus on Jesus. When you do this you can accomplish something that is impossible. Peter did this when he stepped out of the boat and walked on water (Matt. 14:28–31).

Many Christians concentrate on the fact that Peter looked at the wind and the waves, and then began to sink. Although he lost his focus, he did accomplish something that was impossible—he walked to Jesus on water!

No matter what you are going through and regardless of how bad it looks, you can make it to the finish line. If you will determine to focus on Christ rather than on what is going on around you, then you will succeed.

Jesus said, “*If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth*” (Mark 9:23). Faith believes in spite of the circumstances. Even when it hurts. So even when things don’t look good, keep believing in God, and keep pressing toward the mark.

#### LUKE 1:37

**For with God nothing shall be impossible.**

With God, there is nothing you can’t accomplish.

#### LUKE 18:27

**... The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.**

It doesn’t matter whether what you’re facing seems impossible, or not. If you need a miracle, we serve a God of miracles. We serve a God Who is able!

#### ROMANS 8:31

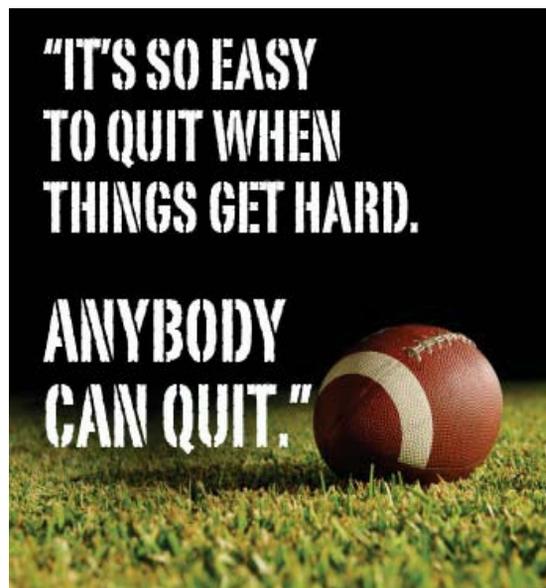
**... If God be for us, who can be against us?**

If God is for you, you can make it! As long as you don’t quit, there is not any reason why you can’t make it.

Let me encourage you to not be



CRAIG W. HAGIN



moved by your circumstances. Stop looking at the wind and the waves, so to speak, and concentrate on Jesus Who is your answer. Focus on the finish line and keep pushing until you get there. You can do it when you realize Who is on the inside of you. You *can do* all things through Christ Who strengthens you! ♣



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# HE IS RISEN...

## AND SO ARE YOU!

Easter gives believers the opportunity to contemplate a glorious truth—we are risen with Christ! Consider taking the time to meditate on **your condition before you received Jesus as Lord, the price Jesus paid to set you free, and how your life has changed as a result of having Jesus in your heart.** Share your experience with someone who doesn't know the Lord. You can review this information with them and then lead them in a prayer to receive salvation. All scriptures are from the *New King James Version* of the Bible.

### Before we knew Jesus . . .

**We were shackled to a sinful way of life and subject to the demands of the devil.**

- But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. —Isa. 59:2
- And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. —Eph. 2:1–3

**We were in a spiritual dungeon, without hope and bound for an eternity banished from the presence of a holy God.**

- . . . for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. . . . —Rom. 3:23
- For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. —Rom. 6:23

**We faced a dilemma—we weren't good enough to save ourselves.**

- Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. —Rom. 3:20



### We came to Jesus when . . .

**We heard that God sent His sinless Son to die on the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.**

- For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. —John 3:16
- Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." —John 14:6

**We partook of God's free gift of salvation by asking the risen Christ to be our Lord and Savior.**

- . . . that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. —Rom. 10:9
- For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. —Eph. 2:8–9



## Because Jesus is our Lord . . .

**We are God's very own children.**

- But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. —John 1:12–13
- Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. —1 John 3:1–2



**We are delivered from the power of sin and Satan.**

- Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you. —Luke 10:19
- Our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. . . . —Rom. 6:6–7
- He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins. —Col. 1:13–14

**We are brand-new people, and our failures are history.**

- Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. —2 Cor. 5:17
- For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more. —Heb. 8:12

**We are accepted by God and have right-standing with Him.**

- For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ. —Rom. 5:17
- For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. —2 Cor. 5:21
- . . . to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved. —Eph. 1:6

## How You Can Know Jesus

**The Bible says whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.**

- Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." —Acts. 2:38–39
- For "whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." —Rom. 10:13



**Pray this prayer right now to receive Jesus and the New Life He offers:**

Almighty God, thank You for loving me. I know that without You I am lost. I accept Your forgiveness for my sins by confessing Jesus Your Son as my Lord and Savior. Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to die on the Cross for me and for raising Him from the dead. Thank You, Jesus, for saving me and coming into my heart. Thank You, Father God, for new life. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.



### This Month's Topic: **Risen With Christ to a New Life**

Christians celebrate Easter as the anniversary of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. But the holiday also serves as a reminder to believers of all ages that *they also* are resurrected with Christ!

As Easter approaches, *Family Builders* encourages Christians to meditate on the meaning of their new life in the risen Christ and the glorious benefits that come with it. Along with benefits comes the responsibility to live according to God's Word and walk in His holiness—vital characteristics of the resurrected life. Failure to submit to the power of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God can prevent believers from receiving the benefits Jesus purchased for them through His death, burial, and resurrection.

### Family Builders for Adults

#### Living in the Resurrection

As you meditate on the reality of the Resurrection this month, start by taking the time to realize that *you*, too, are risen with Christ! The Scripture says, "Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the earth" (Col. 3:1–2 *NASB*). One of the reasons you should consider things above is because in God's eyes that's where you are (Eph. 2:6). You are seated in a place of blessing and spiritual strength to live and walk in the newness of resurrection life.

Our resurrected life brings countless benefits, including forgiveness (1 John 1:9), right-standing with God (2 Cor. 5:21), a brand-new existence (2 Cor. 5:17), physical healing (1 Peter 2:24), wisdom from God (1 Cor. 1:30; James. 1:5), supernatural strength (Phil. 4:13), authority over the devil (Mark 16:17), freedom from sin (Rom. 6:5–7), everlasting life (John 5:26; 1 John 5:11), and the glorious privilege of being a child of God (John 1:12; 1 John 5:1). There are many others. Consider taking the time to write down the benefits and the scriptures



**Consider taking the time to write down the benefits and the scriptures that explain them. Make confessions of the scriptures and declare them often.**

that explain them. Make confessions of the scriptures and declare them often.

As you meditate on your position in Christ and confess the Word, remember that a resurrected life means a holy life. In addition to revealing the benefits of the Resurrection, the Bible tells us how to live each day. Resurrected people shouldn't lie, cheat, steal, commit adultery, or engage in other ungodly activities (see Ephesians chapters 4–6, Col. 3:5–17). Failure to walk in the Spirit can keep us from receiving the benefits that the Lord Jesus Christ provided for us at the Cross. As Christians, even though we might confess the right things, our disobedience can prevent us from receiving from God. Obedience to God and His Word are paramount to receiving and walking in the blessings of the resurrection life. Be determined this month to do both—walk in the Spirit *and* partake of the blessings Jesus died to give you!

### Family Builders for Children

#### Bringing the Resurrection to Life for Children

This is the time of year for Easter egg hunts. This traditional Easter event gives parents the opportunity to teach the meaning of the resurrected life through object lessons. A real egg with a baby chick inside symbolizes the promise of new life. An empty egg can illustrate the tomb after Christ rose from the dead.

Object lessons are just one way to help children realize that Christ is really alive—and that *His* life provides *them* with a new life and glorious promises from God's Word. Illustrations help impart the truth that, instead of being lifeless in a tomb, the risen Jesus lives at the right hand of God to intercede for believers (Heb. 7:25). During His life on earth, Jesus welcomed children with open arms (Matt. 19:13–14), and the Scriptures say He is the same now as He was then



(Heb. 13:8). Jesus loves and welcomes children today. He listens to them and represents them before the Father.

Parents should take the time this month to talk with their children about the promises of forgiveness, love, acceptance, healing, and provision that are available because of the Resurrection. As parents meditate on these truths, they can teach their children to do the same thing. Parents also have the opportunity to make their children aware that in addition to loving us intensely, the Lord sympathizes with us when we face problems and challenges (Heb. 2:17–18).



**A real egg with a baby chick inside symbolizes the promise of new life. An empty egg can illustrate the tomb after Christ rose from the dead.**

Jesus was once a child. Jesus knows the challenges of growing up with brothers and sisters (Mark 6:3), and He wants His young followers to love their siblings the way He loved His. Jesus also respected and served His parents (Luke 2:51).

Living a resurrected life today means children can live like Jesus did when He was a child, because the life of God is in all believers and empowers them to live the resurrected life (Eph. 3:16; Col. 1:27). The Living God understands what it's like to be a child. God loves children dearly and empowers them for spiritual success when they seek Him.

### Family Builders for Teenagers

#### Resurrection Provision From the 'All-Sufficient One'

Teens sometimes struggle with feelings of inadequacy. One great truth of the Resurrection is that the Bible promises believers of all ages that God is able to make up for any deficiency in their lives! He is adequate for any occasion and can empower His people to meet any challenge and overcome any shortcoming (2 Cor. 3:5).

This month, encourage your teen to focus on the spiritual reality that God is the "All-Sufficient One"—El Shaddai (Gen. 17:1)! Because of the work of Jesus at the Cross and His resurrection from the dead, God can transform unsuccessful people

into conquerors who are destined for success (Rom. 8:37). He can overcome any weakness with His strength (2 Cor. 12:9). The Resurrection means God will empower His people to walk in the reality of the resurrected life (Rom. 8:32; Eph. 1:19).

Dwelling on God's truths can transform a teen who feels socially insignificant. Remind teens that the Word will grow up in them and produce fruit as they expose themselves to God's truths through reading the Bible and praying. They need to simply get into the Word. They can't produce spiritual fruit in their own strength (John 15:5), but the Word activated in the human heart by the Holy Spirit imparts *the work* and *the benefits* of the Resurrection.

If teens heed the Word and walk in it, God will grant their heart's desire for personal confidence and a sense of fulfillment because their focus is on God's provision instead of their perceived shortcomings (John 14:13,15:7; Psalm 37:4).

Other people may appear to "have it all together," but they may really feel inadequate and be putting up a false front to compensate for their true feelings. Youth shouldn't compare their sense of worth and adequacy with their perceptions of others. Teach them to focus instead on the Word of God. The Word will change the way they think and feel about themselves (Mark 4:26–28).

This Easter, consider giving your teen a booklet of God's promises. Buy one that is written from a modern translation of the Bible. Talk to your teen about their feelings of inadequacy. Then encourage them to look up scriptures under the category that addresses their need. Challenge your teen to read the scriptures every day and personalize them by making confessions of the passages. They will be on their way to realizing the sufficiency that comes from their resurrected Lord! ♥



**Challenge your teen to read the scriptures every day and personalize them by making confessions of the passages.**



# Seed Thoughts

by Lynette

*"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)

I believe that each of us has special areas of ministry that God uses us in. One of the areas in which God uses me is helping people hear His voice so they can learn His will for their lives. It is so important to walk in the perfect will of God. When we walk in His perfect will, we will experience peace even in the midst of the storms of life. However, to discover God's will for our lives, we must listen to His instructions. In order to do that, we must be able to recognize His voice.

In the day in which we live, it is vitally important that we recognize and listen to the voice of God. Recent generations have been affected by and followed the voices of many leaders. President Ronald Reagan was known as "the great communicator." He could stand before the people of the United States in the midst of chaos and turmoil, and at the sound of his reassuring, soft, and kind voice, our nation would become calm. That calmness came because we listened to and trusted his voice.

There are many voices in the world today. Some will try to get you to question your faith in God. Others will discourage you and try to tear you down. Still others will present lucrative opportunities to you—but they may take you from God, instead of to God.

I am often amazed at today's generation. It is as my father-in-law used to say: "They are like little birds with their mouths open—accepting everything that someone tells them." Then he would say, "We need to be as wise as an old cow: 'Eat the hay, and spit out the sticks.'" He meant that we should accept the good and reject the bad. My parents taught me to listen to those who were instructing me but to always judge their instruction by what the Bible says. In other words—don't be so gullible; check things out. God will confirm or correct what you are hearing if you'll just listen to Him.

It is ever so vital that we listen to and trust the voice of God. Psalm 95:7-8 says, "For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day of temptation in the wilderness." The children of Israel did not always listen to the voice of God. Some did not enter the Promised Land because they refused to listen to and obey His voice.

But you may ask, "How do I know when God is speaking to me?" That same question came to me many years ago. I would ask ministers, "How do you know when God is speaking to you?" Their

answer was always the same: "You just know." So I began my journey to find out *how* you know. The best person I knew to ask was God Himself. More than anything else, I wanted God's perfect will for my life.

I began to appropriate the scripture "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Prov. 3:5-6). I would say, "Lord, you direct my path. You let me know if I'm going down the wrong path." As I submitted my will to His, He began to show me the right path.

God talks to us in various ways. At times He has spoken to me through a scripture. I have found that, more often than not, God does not speak instantly after I have brought my petition to Him. However, I have found that as I stay tuned in to His voice, He answers my question or gives me direction when I least expect it. Often I receive my answers as I am meditating on Him in the morning when I'm getting ready for work. At times I've received answers as I'm driving. There are other times when God has given me His answer through another person.

It is important that we don't put God in a box as to how we hear His voice. Elijah expected God's voice to come through a great manifestation. But God spoke to him in a still, small voice. God wants to speak to you, too, but you must take time out of your schedule to commune with Him. Get acquainted with His voice and learn to instantly obey His commands.

*Lynette*



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# Kids' Page

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

## What Have You Been Saying?!

## Jokes & Riddles

**Who was the smallest man in the Bible?**

*Some think it was Kneehighmiah, but others say it was Bildad, the Shuhite (Shoe-height).*

**Mr. Bigger and his son, Junior, were going to explore a cave. The opening to the cave was small, but Mr. Bigger squeezed through the hole. But his son, Junior, could not fit through the hole. Why was this?**

*Because he was a "little" Bigger*

**What did the science book say to the math book?**

*I've heard you have a lot of problems!*

**What 10-letter word starts with g-a-s?**

*Automobile*

**Why is Alabama the smartest state?**

*Because it has four A's and one B*

**Who invented fractions?**

*Henry the Eighth*

**Who was the best actor in the Bible?**

*Samson... he brought the house down.*

*Some jokes courtesy of kidsjokes.co.uk*

Confession is good for the soul . . . but it's also good for your faith. That's because what you say (or confess) shows what you believe. You might believe that Jesus is Lord, but Romans 10:9 says that you must say it with your mouth in order to be saved.

**JESUS IS LORD!**



Your science teacher will tell you that your mouth is connected to your esophagus and stomach. That's a scientific fact. But spiritually, Jesus said that your mouth is connected to your heart (or your spirit). He said, "Out of the abundance of the heart [or spirit] the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34). A person can tell what is in your heart just by listening to the words you've been saying.

**So what have you been saying?** Have you been speaking words of faith from God's Word or words of doubt and unbelief?



Can anybody hear me?

Below are a few bad confessions that you might be tempted to say. Find the good confessions from God's Word beneath these bad confessions. Then use the good confessions to defeat the bad confessions you've been saying.

Match the number of the Bad Confession with the letter of the Good Confession that will defeat it.

### BAD CONFESSIONS

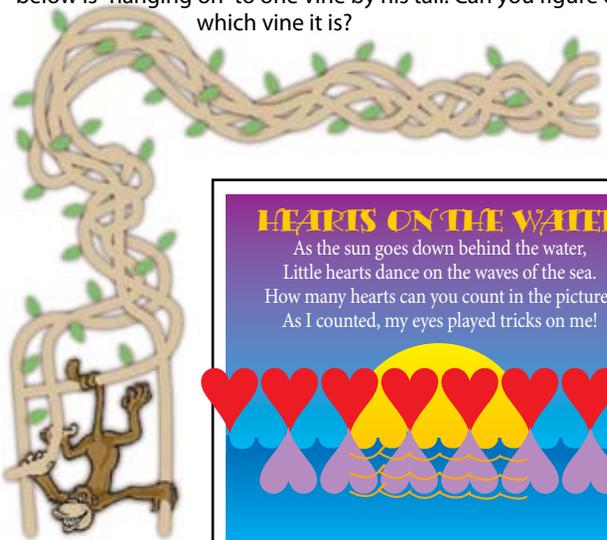
- "I'm not very smart when it comes to math!"
- "I can't do that! It's too hard!"
- "I'll never get over this sickness!"
- "I'm afraid something bad is going to happen!"

### GOOD CONFESSIONS

- "By Jesus' stripes I am healed." 1 Peter 2:24
- "The Lord is the strength of my life. Of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1
- "I have the mind of Christ." 1 Corinthians 2:16
- "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

## HANG IN THERE WITH FAITH!

Faith helps us "hang on" to the promises of God. The monkey below is "hanging on" to one vine by his tail. Can you figure out which vine it is?



- A
- B
- C
- D

### HEARTS ON THE WATER

As the sun goes down behind the water, Little hearts dance on the waves of the sea. How many hearts can you count in the picture? As I counted, my eyes played tricks on me!



### ANSWERS:

S P T P D P O Q P F G  
P T H E A L E D R R S  
A E R O P S A L M S O  
M V L I L G V Q S C V  
E P E A P E I A E U Q  
P M S T R E N G T H R  
H P N L H B S E B S B  
I O A C C H R I S D S  
L M I H L I F E I N T  
I I H R S S Q A I G H  
P N T I F E R S S I I  
P D N S D F I U R R N  
I Q I T A S S N S E G  
A Q R T T E W T G T S  
N O O Q J I R E O E R  
S P C F R A I R S P P

1. "I'm not very smart when it comes to Math!" - C  
2. "I can't do that! It's too hard!" - D  
3. "I'll never get over this sickness!" - A  
4. "I'm afraid something bad is going to happen!" - B  
Hang In There With Faith - Answer: - B  
Hearts on the Water - Answer: 21  
Where the tops of the waves touch the bottoms of the hearts an upside down heart is formed. Can you see it?

# Attention Pastors!



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