



# THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2023

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



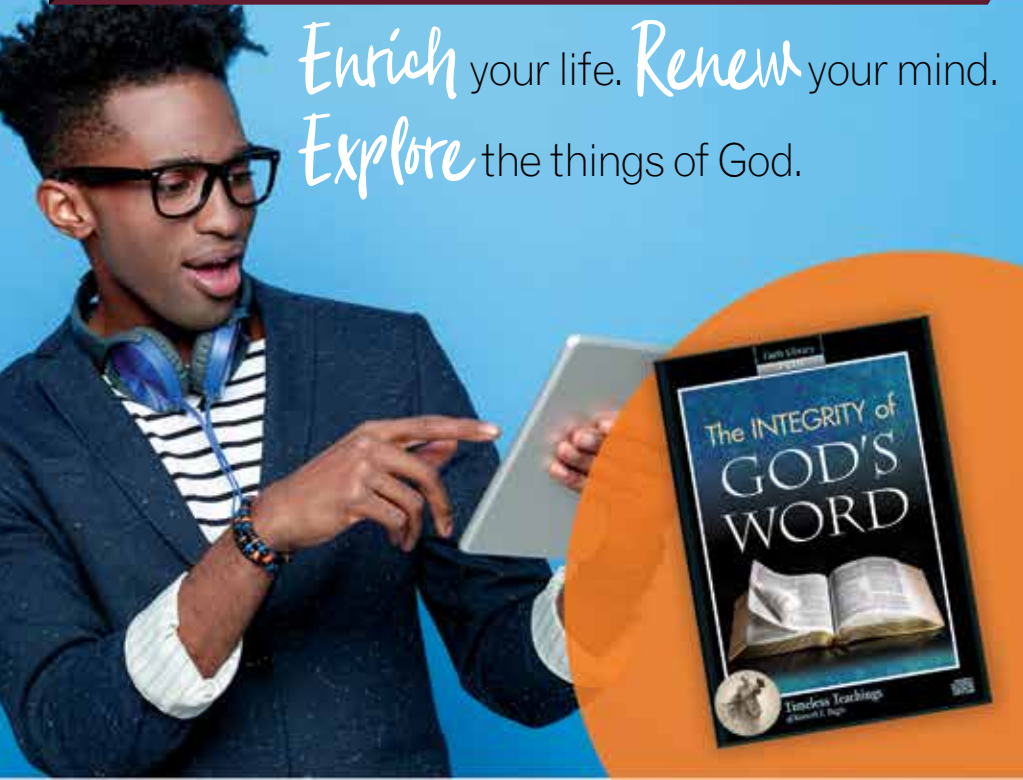
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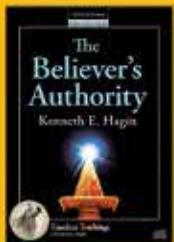
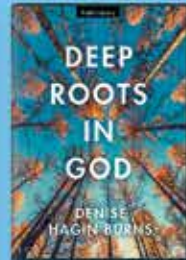
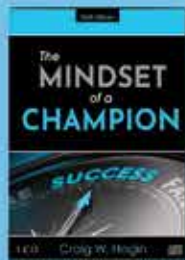


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# Let's Be Grateful

The Bible says that every good and perfect gift—every good thing—comes from God (James 1:17). When we realize that, we become more conscious of God's love. Even when our circumstances are negative, we can find something positive to thank Him for.

I have practiced this habit of thanksgiving all my life. For example, every time I drive into my driveway at home, I raise my hand and breathe a prayer to God. I tell Him, "Thank You for this house. It's my haven. It's a refuge and a place of rest and refreshing for Lynette and me. Thank You, Father."

I continually thank God for the wife, children, and grandchildren He has given me. And I thank Him that they're all healthy and strong.

It's important to thank God for the blessings we have. I've found that when we're grateful for what He's already given us, He gives us more. But when we murmur, gripe, and complain, we're expressing doubt and unbelief. And He can't bless us when we're in that position.

When we constantly thank God and praise Him for what we have, it strengthens our faith and blesses those around us. And our praise also blesses the Father. The Bible says He inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). We are His children, He is our very own Father, and He dwells in our praise!

Being grateful is a form of praise. Naturally speaking, we enjoy giving things to people who appreciate them. And God is the same way.

Let's begin this new year with grateful hearts. Let's acknowledge His goodness and thank Him in every situation, no matter what we are going through.

We've put together a great magazine for you this month. I hope it will help you start 2023 well. Live gratefully. And may this be your best year ever!



*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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#### Divine Strategy

Kolby and Afton Johnson's outreach to youth is kindling the flames of revival in South Dakota. Read their story.



# HOW TO HAVE A GREAT YEAR



CRAIG W. HAGIN

**IN CHARISMATIC CHRISTIAN** circles, people often look for a “word” from God to start off the new year. For me, it’s time to refocus and see more clearly. God wants us to accomplish things this year. And there are some scriptural strategies that, when we apply them, will guarantee us a great 2023.

The Apostle Paul shared one of those strategies with the Philippian church.

## PHILIPPIANS 3:13-14 (NLT)

**13** No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,

**14** I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.



## FORGET THE PAST

The first strategy is, we have to forget about what’s behind, good or bad, and look forward to what lies ahead. It doesn’t matter what happened in the past. We can only change our future, not our past. While 2022 might not have been the best for some of us, we’re still here. And as long as we are, we have an opportunity to change our lives.

If we’re always looking at what’s behind us, we’ll never reach what’s ahead of us. We can’t really walk forward when we’re looking backward. Some people often mention the “good old days” when they say things were better. Those days are gone, and we should get excited about the “good new days” of 2023 that are ahead.

“WE HAVE TO *forget* ABOUT WHAT’S BEHIND, GOOD OR BAD, AND *look forward* TO WHAT LIES AHEAD.”



## LEARN TO ASK

Another strategy to change our year for the better is from James 4:2, “*Ye have not, because ye ask not.*” To have a great 2023, we must start asking God for our needs. If we aren’t happy with what we have now or what we’re going through, we should ask Him for more. Scripture says we have not because we ask not. We must learn to ask.

Maybe we don’t need things—we need direction. Sometimes we aren’t very good at asking for directions or help. And because we don’t ask, it takes us a lot longer to get where we need to go. It’s time to start asking, “God, give me direction. I don’t want to wander in the wilderness for 40 years like Moses and the Israelites.”

Jesus also told us to ask.

### JOHN 14:13-14 (NKJV)

13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.

Jesus promised to do whatever we ask. We are to ask what we will and it will be done. I know people who don’t ask God for something because they think they don’t deserve it. With Christ, it’s not about what we deserve. It’s about what He wants to give us. He loves us and wants the best for us.

Sometimes what we do is gripe. But griping is not asking. We say, “God, why haven’t You done this?” But He’s probably thinking, “Why haven’t you asked?” Jesus told us to go ahead and ask Him. If we practice asking as scripture says we should, it will change our year and our lives!



## WRITE YOUR VISION

The Bible presents another strategy for a great year.

### HABAKKUK 2:2-3 (NKJV)

2 Then the Lord answered me and said: “Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.

3 For the vision is yet for an appointed time; but at the end it will speak, and it will not lie. Though it tarries, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.”

If we desire something, we should write it down. That’s how we make our vision plain. Whatever we wish to see ourselves accomplish in 2023 and beyond needs to be written down. Many people don’t see beyond the year in front of them. However, God doesn’t have just a one-year plan for us. He has a plan for our entire lives. That’s why we need to put our vision in front of us.

I heard a gentleman say that he doesn’t know of any head of a large corporation who doesn’t have a vision board. He said we should not only have a vision board, we should also make it the screensaver on our computers and mobile devices. Our vision isn’t really a vision if we can’t see it. When a vision isn’t in front

of us, we forget about it. Vision must be written down. Nobody will ever be a visionary if they don’t write things down.



## TELL PEOPLE ABOUT JESUS

Some people only have financial goals. We should have these, but our goals should be more than money. God’s vision is about people. They’re more valuable than money. That’s why it’s more important that we bring people to church than have a lot of money. If we make a change in people’s lives, the money will come.

Our whole purpose in life as Christians is to show Jesus to people—to show them His love for them. He died for us. He took the stripes on His back for our healing. He came to give us abundant life (John 10:10).

We’re here to change the world. But we do that by changing people’s lives. There are about two billion Christians on the earth. That means there are about six billion non-Christians. We need to care more about showing them Jesus than about walking on the streets of gold in Heaven. If they start seeing God at work, they’ll want to change.

I’m excited about this new year! God has a plan for us in 2023. Let’s forget the past, ask Him for what we need—including His vision for us—and write down what He gives us. I’m asking and writing things down. When I come to the end of this year, my life is going to be different in many ways. I hope yours will be too. ♥



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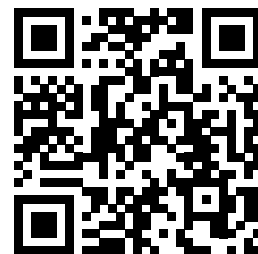
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# Praying for Our Nations

LYNETTE HAGIN

**GOD IS INTERESTED** in every nation of the world. And whatever nation you live in is where you can use the authority you have in Christ to pray for your country and your political leaders.

**PRAYER CHANGES THE WORLD AROUND US.** Not because it changes God but because God ordained that He works through our prayers.

We know that we are living in the last days. First Peter 4:7 says, “*The end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.*” Now more than ever, it is vital for us to pray for our nation.

I encourage you to make a commitment to pray for your nation this year. As you do, God will move. No matter what is going on or how hopeless a situation may seem, God can turn it around if you pray.

You can use the following prayer and modify it to fit your country. After you have prayed with your understanding, continue praying in the Spirit (Rom. 8:26).

*Heavenly Father, we come in the Name of Jesus—washed in His blood and robed in His righteousness. You said in Hebrews 4:16 to*

*come boldly to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in the time of need. We are urged in First Timothy 2:2 to pray for ALL who are in authority that believers everywhere may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.*

*We pray that divine wisdom, grace, and direction will be given to*

**“Make a commitment to pray for your nation this year.”**

*our leaders—our President, every member of Congress, the Supreme Court, the president’s cabinet, and everyone who is in authority.*

*We come against the powers of darkness, the forces of evil that would try to dominate and rule our nation. We rise up against those spirits and dispel the darkness.*

*In the Name of Jesus, we command the devil to take his hand*

*OFF the political scene of our nation. We pray that everyone who is in office will not be so concerned about politics, that they’ll not be so party conscious, but that they will be concerned about our nation as a whole—and above all, put God first.*

*We come against the powers of darkness, the forces of evil, and the demons of hell that would endeavor to dominate the financial scene of our nation. We pray for the economy of our country. We pray that the economy will be turned around and that we will be prosperous as a nation to continue carrying the Gospel around the world.*

*We come against the powers of darkness, the forces of evil that would endeavor to dominate the domestic scene of our nation. We command you, Satan, and all your cohorts: Take your hand OFF the domestic scene of our nation. May there be peace. May there be tranquility. May there be understanding, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border, from Alaska to Hawaii, in the Name of Jesus! ♠*



# DIVINE STRATEGY



◀ THE JOHNSON FAMILY



**WHEN KOLBY AND** Afton Johnson started Victory Life Church in Brandon, South Dakota, in 2017, their youth group consisted of two teens who met in a basement. By summer, seven youth were coming.

The Johnsons wanted the teens to experience summer camp. But with only seven youth, their number was too small to put on a camp themselves. Their solution was Summer Blitz, the youth services held during Campmeeting at Rhema USA.

“Rhema has a built-in youth leadership who are full of faith and full of the Word,” says Afton. “They’re on fire for Jesus.”

The Johnsons began what they call “family camp.” In addition to the seven youth, they pretty much brought their entire church to Campmeeting. That year, 15 people made the trip to Broken Arrow.

Kolby says exposing their church family to Rhema has been one of the best decisions they’ve made. “It’s like hooking them up to vitamin therapy on an IV,” adds Afton. “And it’s true. You catch the spirit of faith.” Spending one week at the end of July in Broken Arrow was life changing.

## TEENS ON FIRE!

Summer Blitz had the same impact on the youth as Campmeeting had on the adults. After returning to South Dakota, those seven kids were on fire for God and began multiplying themselves. They went to their schools and began telling their friends about God and the Wednesday evening youth meetings with the Johnsons.

The Victory Life youth group literally exploded. Today, up to 120

young people meet at the Johnsons’ farm, setting up lawn chairs on their front yard during the summer months. When the weather gets too cold to meet outside, they move into a large conference room at a local business.

At least 60 percent of the youth don’t attend church Sunday morning at Victory Life. They go to their denominational churches with their parents. “It’s like our youth group is its own outreach,” says Kolby.

The teens come from everywhere. Some drive up from Sioux City, Iowa, an hour away. They’re from every background and denomination. Some grew up as atheists. Very few have a Pentecostal background, and none had heard the faith message.

“We don’t have a rec center or something that’s a draw. They’re hearing the Word and that’s it,” says Afton. “We worship to YouTube videos. There’s no worship band. But I can tell you, the worship is anointed. It’s so pure.”

“Three generations of one family were transformed and **it started with the youngest.**”

## REVERSE ORDER

Often, youth who don’t want anything to do with God get dragged to church by their parents. That’s not the case in South Dakota.

At Victory Life, the kids come on their own. They don’t have to be told to put down their phones. They want to hear the Word. Youth services are not held in conjunction with adult services. It’s common for the youth to go to the altar crying. It’s not that they need to repent. They’re crying because they want their moms and

dads to have what they have. And they're interceding for their classmates to come to know God.

Victory Life is growing because the youth are bringing their parents to church. At least five families have joined because of their teenagers.

### “WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY SON?”

One time Kolby received a voicemail from a father. He wanted to talk to Kolby about his 17-year-old son, John.\* A young girl



who regularly attends the youth group brought John one Wednesday. When he got home that night, he was completely changed. Mark,\* John's dad, told Kolby, “I have a different kid.”

Mark had been going through a rough patch in his life, and because of the dramatic change in his son, he started coming to Victory Life. One Sunday morning, Mark came forward to be saved. John followed his dad to the altar. He put his hand on Mark's back and began praying. John looked at Kolby and whispered, “Whatever you did for my son, could you do that for me?”

Mark's life started to change, and he began bringing his parents to church. Before long, they were Spirit filled. Then Mark's sister attended a women's Bible study held in the Johnsons' living room,

and she gave her life to the Lord. Three generations of one family were transformed, and it all started with the youngest.

### STRATEGY

When the Johnsons started the church, God told them He would give them a strategy. “We were waiting for this big plan to unfold,” says Afton. “Like somebody saying, ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ or for God to download instructions.”

But there was no burning bush. The Johnsons just kept pouring into the youth and using Rhema's conferences as a way to supercharge their church family with faith. As they did, they found they'd actually stepped into the center of God's strategy.

The adults are inoculated with faith when they come to Broken Arrow. Their vision comes up higher because they're seeing miracles for themselves. Instead of Kolby and Afton telling them about miracles, they become a part of them.

The Johnsons have provided a place where young people encounter God every Wednesday. In doing so, the teens have become a catalyst for change in their schools and homes. They are kindling the flames of revival in their corner of South Dakota and neighboring states, ready and eager to change the world for Christ. ♥

*\*Names have been changed.*



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## A Dream Center

**“BRING ME THE PEOPLE THAT NOBODY WANTS, AND WATCH ME MAKE CHAMPIONS OUT OF THEM.”**

This is what God spoke to Kolby before Victory Life Church started. Kolby and Afton want to open a dream center on the north side of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Their goal is to help people obtain their GED, find a job, and get out of the situations they're in financially, emotionally, and mentally. The Johnsons also want to start a Christian K-12 school.



Kolby graduated from RBTC in 1996 and Afton attended in 2014. To **LEARN MORE** about them, go to Victory Life Church at [VictorySouthDakota.com](http://VictorySouthDakota.com)

# ARE YOU LABORING IN VAIN?



Timeless  
Teachings  
of Kenneth E. Hagin

**THROUGHOUT MOST OF** my ministry, I've based my life on Psalm 127:1, *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."* Before I do anything, I make sure the Lord is in it.

Notice that in this scripture, they did build the house. But their labor was in vain because the Lord wasn't in it. Many times in life or ministry, what we do is good, but it isn't God's plan at all. It's man's plan.

Psalm 127:1 refers to more than just building a house. Of course, in the natural, if God is not in what you are doing, it will fail. But this verse is talking about spiritual things as well.

Whatever you are doing for God, ask yourself, "Is this God's plan?" Remember, if the Lord is not building the house, all your labor is in vain. You can build an entire house—life, career, church, or ministry—and yet not have any part of it built according to God's plan. This scripture points out that *they* had to labor to build it because *God* wasn't in it. Get God involved in everything you do. Find out His plan first.

It is easy to stray from God's plan. Ministers especially are susceptible to straying from God's plan with something that seems right, good, and legitimate. But if God didn't tell them to do it, they end up pursuing the wrong plan. They also forfeit the fullness of God's blessing.

For example, in October 1979 we started Healing School on the Rhema USA campus at the Lord's direction. Our custom was to begin each class with someone leading the singing. Many times, we'd spend 45 minutes singing and worshipping the Lord.

One day as I was going to Healing School, the Lord spoke to me. It was so real it was as if someone were walking beside me. He said, "What is the purpose of this meeting?"

I answered, "It's a healing meeting."

"What kind of a healing meeting?"

"Well, we're teaching people who need to be healed how to receive healing, and we're teaching others how to minister to the sick."

The Lord said, "Then it's not a worship service."

"No," I said, "it's not a worship service."

"Then don't try to have a worship service. Only sing a few songs, just enough to get the congregation to participate, and go right into your teaching."

So we stopped conducting Healing School as we had been and got in line with God's plan.



**LEARN  
TO WAIT**

for the right time to implement  
God's plan—wait for the  
quickenings of the Holy Spirit.

## THE SECRET OF SUCCESS

I once attended a meeting called an “Idea Exchange.” Ministers from various churches and denominations across the country were invited. Some ministers asked me, “Brother Hagin, what is the secret of your success?”

I answered, “The only secret of success I know is walking in line with the Word of God, and praying and listening to the Holy Spirit. I simply listen to what the Spirit of God says to do, and then I do it.”

My entire ministry is the result of believing the Word, praying in other tongues, and being obedient to what God told me to do. Sometimes you have to pray and wait on God to find out what His plans are for your life, your ministry, your church, or whatever it is He has called you to do.

Once a minister friend and his wife came to visit my wife and me. We drove them around Rhema and showed them all the facilities. They said, “You must be carrying a heavy load.”

“No,” I said, “I’m not the least bit burdened by anything. It wasn’t my idea or my plan to start a training center.”

That’s why I don’t carry the burden! “*Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it.*” And I know God can get the job done! Rhema is the result of what *God* said to do, not what I wanted. It’s not my plan—it’s God’s.

## FIND YOUR PLACE OF ANOINTING

One reason many ministers miss God’s plan for their lives is that they try to be a “jack of all trades and a master of none.” When people find their area of anointing and stay in it—not trying to be someone they’re not—they become effective in whatever they are doing for God.

Years ago I announced during *Campmeeting* that we were going to start a Bible school. Shortly after, we received many letters that said, “God told us to start a Bible school, but we don’t know how. Could you tell us how?”

When God told us to start one, we didn’t know how either.

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We had to seek *His* plan for what He wanted *us* to do. We wrote those people back and said, “If God told you to start a Bible school, He will tell you how to do it. If He doesn’t tell you how to do it, He didn’t direct you to start one in the first place!”

Many people who have some sensitivity to the Holy Spirit sense what God *is* doing and what He *wants* to do. Then they run off with it and try to build something. They didn’t take time to wait before the Lord and get *His* plans for *them*. Because they add to God’s plan or take away from it, they get what God wanted to do in a mess and sometimes even ruin it entirely. Learn to wait for the right time to implement God’s plan—wait for the quickening of the Holy Spirit.

## REST IN HIM

Once we get God’s plan and begin to follow it, it is vital that we learn to rest in Him. So often God really does tell Christians to do something, but then *they* try to build it or do it *themselves*. They think *they* have to perform it. Some of them labor until the strain of it literally kills them.

Then someone will say, “See, that proves healing isn’t for everyone, because that fine fellow worked for the Lord, but he died in the midst of doing God’s will.”

No, in that circumstance, if you do all the laboring to bring God’s plan to pass and you don’t trust Him to do it, you may work yourself to death!

Hebrews 4:3 says, “*We which have believed do enter into rest.*” Seek God, and let Him bring His own plan to pass. When God tells you to do something, you need to rest as you go, glory to God! ♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from the article “*Except the Lord Build the House,*” which previously appeared in the October 2001 issue of *The Word of Faith.*]



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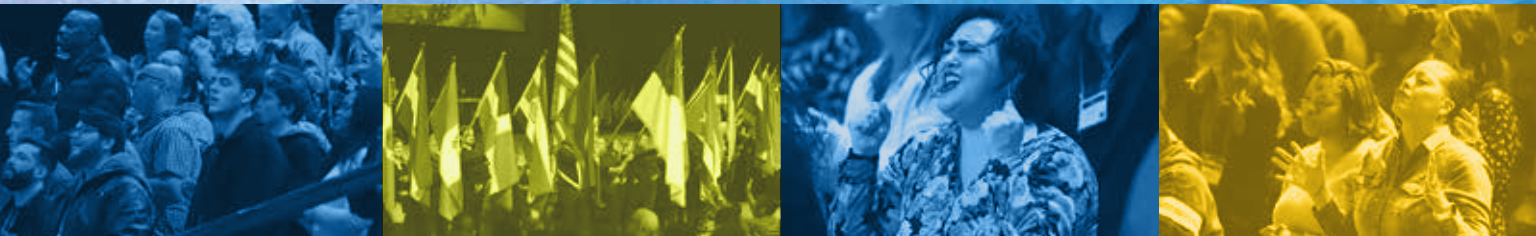
“I’ve learned so much from the speakers and people around me. **THE COMMUNITY HERE IS SO WELCOMING AND ENCOURAGING.** I’m excited to go back to my friends at home and share what I’ve learned.” - **KATHLEEN**

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ZACH MORRIS

# THE EXCHANGE ZONE



**EACH OF US** has a unique race to run. Hebrews 12:1 (ESV) tells us how to run it: *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us.”*

Running our race isn’t everything. If we’re focused only on *our* race, that’s a problem. Scripture teaches us the opposite. Others have run before us, and others will run after us. We must understand that we are part of a divine relay race, not an individual sprint.

It’s not about *my* race, *my* gift, or *my* anointing. We have to know the generation before us so we can pick up where they left off. Then we must pass on what we have to those who will run after us.

When we understand that we’re part of an eternal relay race, we’ll realize it doesn’t matter how fast, talented, or anointed any one runner is. Without a seamless exchange, what was done in one generation will be forgotten in the next.

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or online for  
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## 2000 SUMMER OLYMPICS

In relay races, runners have a 20-meter exchange zone in which to hand off a baton. The 2000 U.S. women’s relay team was considered the world’s best. Yet they didn’t win the gold in Australia because they got sloppy in the exchange zone. They grew puffed up and relaxed their focus.

The same thing happens in Christianity. We must understand our times and seasons. We can’t afford not to pray or read our Bible. **WE CAN’T GET SLOPPY WITH OUR CHRISTIANITY.** If we do, we might not have a seamless exchange with the next generation.

That next generation is watching what we do more than listening to what we say. There’s nothing worse than hearing kids say, “Mom and Dad tell me to read my Bible and pray, but I never see them doing either.”

Pastors have to live what they preach. It’s called anointing. A gifting will fill a room. But without the anointing, everyone who comes into that room will leave unchanged. Why? Because it’s the anointing that breaks the yoke. When we live what we preach, kids will want to know God the way we do.

## 2004 SUMMER OLYMPICS

Four years later, the U.S. women’s relay team lost in Athens, Greece, even though they were the fastest on paper. Why? One baton handoff happened outside the exchange zone.

As I thought about that, I realized we can miss divine opportunities to increase the momentum God has for ministry. Some people carry their entire ministry on their own. They say, “I’m the most gifted and anointed.”

But when they come to the end of their life, they’re too tired to hand off what should be passed on. **THEY FORGOT IT WASN’T THEIR MINISTRY; IT WAS GOD’S.** He entrusted them with it, and they missed the opportunity to increase its momentum. We must not focus on ourselves. Our focus should be on passing the baton.

“We are part  
of a divine relay  
race, not an  
individual  
sprint.”

## 2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS

The U.S. women’s relay team had four years to practice for this race. They arrived in Beijing as the fastest and best. But in the third exchange zone, they dropped the baton and again fell short of the gold.

Do you know how many dropped batons there have been in church history? Some people never picked up their baton of faith. Others had one but quit running because it got too difficult.

**WE MUST KEEP PRESSING TO FINISH OUR RACE.** Hebrews chapter 12 tells us we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. But we must prepare to pass the baton of faith to the next generation, no matter what difficulties we face. Let’s not get tripped up on our leg of this eternal relay race. Let’s make sure we take what God has entrusted us with and hand it off to the next generation. ♥

[Editor’s Note: Zach Morris is the youth pastor at Rhema Bible Church and an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College.]

# Reaching People . . . Together!

Reaching people with the Good News of Jesus Christ. That's what Kenneth Hagin Ministries is all about. But we can't do it alone. **IT TAKES ALL OF US PULLING TOGETHER** to see men, women, and children saved, healed, and set free. It takes partnership.

You see, **SUPPORTING THE GOSPEL IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS DELIVERING THE GOSPEL.** We need partners to help us reach more people with the message of faith and accomplish all that God has called us to do. We need *you!*

If you're not a Rhema Word Partner, there's no better time than right now to get involved! Will you join with us and help carry the Gospel to lost and hurting people around the world? Will you make a difference?

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# HEAR AND BE HEALED



**MATTHEW 9:35** SAYS that “*Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching . . .*” What did He teach? Jesus explained this to me once in a vision.

Jesus said, “Every place I went, the first thing I did was read from the Book of Isaiah and teach identically the same truth: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.’ Those who would hear and receive it would be healed. Those who would not receive it—*would not hear it*—were not healed.”

**DOES HEARING HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH BEING HEALED? EMPHATICALLY, YES!** Luke 5:15 says, “*But so much the more went there a fame abroad of him: and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by him of their infirmities.*”

The multitudes mentioned by Luke came to hear Jesus. What they heard must have had to do with healing because scripture says they came to hear and be healed. They heard Jesus read from the Prophet Isaiah and listened to Him say, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach . . . [and] to heal . . . This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears*” (Luke 4:18, 21).

I remember a woman who was given up to die of cancer. Her doctors had done all they could for her. When I met her, I sat by the bed and began to teach her the Word. It took a little time, but by hearing the Word she was perfectly healed of

**“In our time, many people want to be healed, but they don’t want to hear anything.”**

terminal cancer. The same doctors who gave her only 10 days to live couldn’t find a trace of cancer and pronounced her well. If you can get people to hear the Word, you can get them healed.

It’s important to note that God’s Word *always* works for anyone. That’s why Jesus taught people. And if they would hear His teaching, they would be healed.

People would hear about Jesus and bring the sick to Him. And these sick people heard something too. Others had passed on information about Jesus to them. When they found Him, “[*They*] *besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment*” (Matt. 14:36). Why did they want to do that? Because they’d heard that Jesus said He was anointed to heal, and the very clothes He wore absorbed that anointing.

For example, the woman with the issue of blood did not touch Jesus’ person. She said, “*If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole*” (Mark 5:28). This woman had suffered for 12 years. She was now hopeless. She’d spent all her money and suffered many things from many physicians and had grown worse

(Mark 5:25–26). But notice verse 27: “*When she had heard of Jesus, [she] came in the press behind, and touched his garment.*”

This woman *heard* about Jesus! Romans 10:17 says, “*Faith cometh by hearing.*” She must have heard something about healing. Somebody must have told her, “I heard Jesus teach. I heard Him say, ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me. He has anointed Me to heal.’” She heard that, she believed it, and she said, “*If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole!*” Then she *did* it! She “*came in the press behind, and touched his clothes.*” And Jesus said to her, “*Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole*” (Mark 5:34).

**DURING JESUS’ MINISTRY, MULTITUDES CAME TO HEAR HIM AND BE HEALED.** In our time, many people want to be *healed*, but they don’t want to *hear* anything—and people like that seldom get anything from God. If you want to be healed, *hear* God’s Word! Hear and be healed! ♡

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from Kenneth E. Hagin’s book *Hear and Be Healed*.]



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# OVERCOMING SATAN'S ATTACK

**OUR WORLD IS** becoming increasingly dark and evil. Satan is in an uproar because he knows the end is near. He is especially throwing everything he can at God's people to discourage us and get us off track and away from the Word.

Some Christians see what's going on and say, "It's just a sign of the times." And it is! Others have simply resigned themselves to accepting it. Still others pray, "God, help me hold out until the end!"

But throughout history, the devil has tried to wreak havoc on God's people. Therefore, the strategy of passively getting through life hoping the devil won't bother us is futile.

Once years ago after a meeting, a man came up to my dad and said, "Brother Hagin, would you pray for me that the devil won't bother me anymore?"

My dad looked at him and said, "Do you want me to pray for you to die?"

The Bible says, "*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy*" (John 10:10 NLT). As long as we are in this life, the enemy will come after us. It's not a matter of if; it's a matter of when. He is always looking for someone to devour. The Apostle Peter told us so.

## 1 PETER 5:8-9 (NLT)

**8** Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

**9** Stand firm against him, and be strong in your faith. Remember that your family of believers all over the world is going through the same kind of suffering you are.

If you've ever watched a TV show about the animal kingdom, you see that lions in particular don't attack a herd of buffalo or antelope. They wait for a straggler or one that is hurt and isolated.

That's how Satan operates. He goes around looking for people who have stopped going to church, reading the Word, and

spending time with God. Those people are easy prey for him.

So what do we do when Satan attacks? Here are several steps we can take.

## STAY CALM ♦

First, we must stay calm. During my time in the United States Army, one thing they drilled into us was, "Stay calm. Don't panic!" The reason is, if you panic, you can't think straight, and it messes up your strategy. Ultimately, it can get you and those you're serving with killed.

Throughout the Bible, the Lord repeatedly told His people, "Don't be afraid." When the Israelites' situation looked hopeless against Pharaoh's army, the Lord told them to stay calm because He would rescue them. (See Exod. 14:13.) Although it seemed as if their escape from Egypt would be in vain, they had a great victory.

Many times it seems like the enemy attacks us the hardest after great victories. But whatever he throws at us, we must remain calm.

Next, we must assess our situation. When I walk into a building, the first thing I do is assess my surroundings. That, too, was part of my army training. I'm always thinking, "How can I get out of this place in an emergency?"

It's the same with spiritual things. The more spiritually trained we are to be alert and aware of our enemy—the devil—the better we can combat him and see victory in our lives.

## A STRATEGY FOR VICTORY ♦

Satan can't take advantage of a child of God who knows the Word. The Apostle Paul encouraged the Corinthian church to do certain things "*so that Satan will not outsmart us. For we are familiar with his evil schemes*" (2 Cor. 2:11 NLT).

We need to also develop a plan of action. In the army, we trained to go into battle with a strategy. For Christians it should be no different. We can develop a strategy for whatever we need. For instance, if someone needs healing or finances, they should first find out what the Word says about it. Then they can supplement the Word with resources such as books and teachings that will help them form a strategy to defeat the sickness or lack.



KENNETH W. HAGIN

# CKS

We are never to  
face our enemies  
with our mouths  
**shut.**

When forming a strategy to overcome the enemy's attacks, here are four things to remember.

**1 KNOW THAT JESUS DEFEATED SATAN ON THE CROSS.** Several years ago someone came up to me and said, "Brother Hagin, I'm just having such a fight with the devil." "Why are you fighting the devil?" I said. "Jesus already defeated him." Our victory has already been won. Let's act like it, talk like it, and live like it.

**2 REMEMBER THE TESTIMONIES OF GOD'S PEOPLE.** Read the Old and New Testament stories of how God delivered His people. And listen to the testimonies of brothers and sisters in Christ. One of Satan's major tricks against God's people is to make us think we are the only ones who have ever faced a situation as bad as what we're in. Hearing how God delivered others from similar troubles lets us know we're not alone and He will deliver us too.

**3 KNOW WHAT GOD SAID IN HIS WORD.** Christians have been given authority. (See Luke 10:19.) We can use that authority to stop the enemy by speaking God's Word. We are never to face our enemy with our mouths shut. It's time to quit messing around with the devil. Let's knock the fire out of him with God's Word coming out of our mouths.

**4 TRUST GOD ALONE.** Our reasonings and opinions don't matter—only what is written in scripture. Our attitude must be, "God said it. I believe it. And that settles it." No matter what, we must resist the temptation to fear and only believe God's Word. In the midst of trouble, David said, "*The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold*" (Psalm 18:2 NKJV).

A fortress is something that can't be successfully attacked. It's impenetrable—impossible to get through. The devil may try to destroy you. But if you make the Lord your fortress, his attempts won't succeed.

The Word must be your anchor. When Satan comes against you with everything he has and it looks as if there is no way out in the natural, anchor yourself in God's Word.

Dr. Lilian B. Yeomans used to say, "God delights in His children stepping out over the aching void with nothing underneath their feet but the Word of God." So the next time the enemy comes after you, step out on the Word, stay calm, trust God, and watch Him rescue you. ♥

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# A Simple Way to Share Your Faith



JOHN GRUNEWALD

**THE WORLD'S GREATEST** need today is that the lost get saved. Jesus paid the price for every man, woman, and child ever born. He did that so they could have an eternal, living relationship with God the Father through Him. We get the privilege of going out and sharing that good news with everybody. But it seems we've been a little unsure about how to do that.

## 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 travel 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.

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**JESUS PAID THE PRICE  
FOR EVERY MAN, WOMAN,  
AND CHILD EVER BORN.**

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The first thing we  
can do is tell people,  
"Jesus changed my life,  
**AND HE'LL CHANGE YOURS."**

---

## 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, how He forgave you, His mercy, His love—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 them, 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 will 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 it's OK, 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 bit more time, then number four—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 can find another way that works for you, use that. But otherwise, practice this one when you meet people. All believers can say that Jesus changed their lives 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. This article was previously printed in the December 2013 issue of The Word of Faith.]

# 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)

### FOLLOWING GOD IN 2023

It's another day—another year, 2023. At the beginning of every year, I ask myself, “Where did last year go? It passed so quickly.” We live in such a fast-paced world that you may have had the same thoughts.

January is inventory time for many stores. It is a time that most of us take inventory of our lives. We look at what we accomplished during the past year. We also look at the unfinished business we desired to complete, but because of time restraints or other reasons, we were unable to complete those goals.

Instead of celebrating what I call “wins,” we focus on our “losses.” You may have made wrong decisions last year. Those decisions may have cost you dearly. Perhaps it wasn't a financial loss, but the results of those decisions affect your present circumstances. Know that you can gain experience from the past but you cannot undo it.

It is important to let go of the past in your thought life because that is the only place it can exist. The past does not define you, so don't allow it to destroy you. Use it as a strengthening tool. The Apostle Paul has a powerful word concerning this.

Philippians 3:12–14 (NLT) says, “*I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.*”

God has assignments for each of us to accomplish for Him. One of my favorite scriptures is Jeremiah 29:11 (NLT), “*‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ says the Lord. ‘They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.’*” The enemy would try to keep you looking at your failures. He would endeavor for you to focus on your past mistakes. If you are constantly looking backward, it is impossible to go forward.

In my teachings, I often illustrate endeavoring to walk forward while looking backward. It is a vivid illustration of while looking backward, the forward motion is significantly slowed down, if not even causing tripping and falling. That is exactly what happens in your life. Looking back at the past can cause the future God has planned for you to either be significantly slower in coming to pass or even coming to a complete halt.

It is important to take the Apostle Paul's advice about forgetting the past. He chose to forget how he had persecuted the Christians. And he chose to forget the successes he had experienced for God. We can also be stymied by continually looking at our past successes instead of pressing on to the next assignment God has for us.

God's thoughts about you are higher than your thoughts. The thoughts I had planned for my journey in life working for the Lord certainly fell short of what God had planned. However, in following God's plans, the journey has not always been easy.

I well understand the words penned by the Apostle Paul, “*I press on.*” The Merriam-Webster dictionary defines *press* as “to act upon through steady pushing or thrusting force; to take by authority.”

On my journey, I have had to completely immerse myself in God's Word and claim the authority He has given us through our Lord and Savior.

The enemy is always there to scream in your ear that you are a failure and will never succeed in life. At times it is necessary to scream in his ear that you cannot go under for going over by quoting the promises of God. It is of utmost importance that you immerse yourself in the Word daily. It is also important to make a daily habit of communing with the Lord in prayer.

The Lord is there to lead you and guide you daily. He wants to be involved in every decision you make. Proverbs 3:5 (TPT) says, “*Trust in the Lord completely, and do not rely on your own opinions. With all your heart rely on Him to guide you, and he will lead you in every decision you make.*” When you involve the Lord in your decisions, He always has the right solution.♥

Lynette





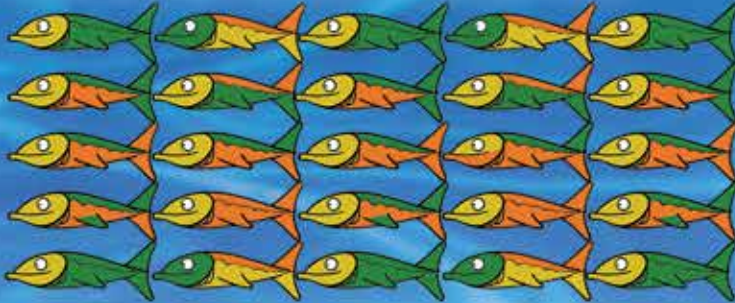
# Kids' Page

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

## the lost "school mate"



The fish in the light blue circle has lost his place in the school of fish below. Find his place in the group by finding the fish that looks EXACTLY like him.



## Find the Palindromes

A palindrome is a word that spells the same thing backwards and forward. . . like the word "MOM." See if you can find all 10 of the palindromes in the silly fish story below.

Bob wanted to go fishing one day at noon. So he got his kayak out and strapped it to the top of his Honda Civic, making very sure it was level. As he drove down the road, he gave his horn a toot as he passed by a racecar. When he got to the lake, he saw a nun fishing on the bank. "Madam," he asked, "what are you fishing for?" With a twinkle in her eye she replied, "Angelfish!"



## jokes & riddles



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

What do you call a fish with no eye?  
FSH!

What's the best way to communicate with fish?

Drop them a line.

Where does a fish keep its money?  
In the river "bank."

What did the boy octopus say to the girl octopus?

I wanna hold your hand, hand, hand,  
hand, hand, hand, hand, hand!

**Answers:**  
The Lost "School Mate"  
The identical fish is 3 rows down and 2 from the left.  
**Find the Palindromes**  
Bob, noon, kayak, Civic, level, toot, racecar, nun, Madam, eye  
**The Wishing Starfish**  
1, on the kayak  
2, on the letter "O" in "Gone Fishin"  
3, on the Faith Academy logo at the top by the red banner

## GONE FISHIN'

When Jesus called His first four disciples away from their jobs as fishermen he offered them a brand new job: "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). The job for all of His disciples today has not changed. We're still called to "fish for men [people]." So, the question arises: "What have you been using for bait?" Now, every good fisherman knows you've got to put something that either tastes good, smells good, or looks good on the hook before the fish will bite. Here are some scripture verses that tell about the **GOOD THINGS** of God that you can use to "LURE" people into His kingdom:



"O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. . . The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any **good thing.**" —Psalm 34: 8, 10

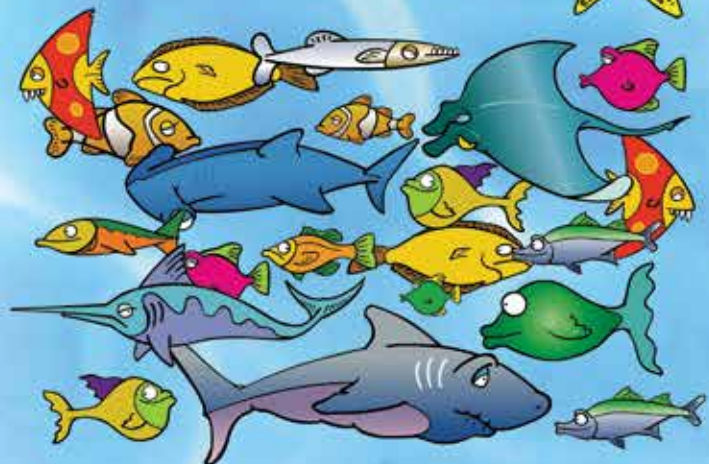
"No **good thing** will he withhold from them that walk uprightly." —Psalm 84:11

"Who satisfieth thy mouth with **good things**; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's." —Psalm 103:5

Now that you've baited the hook, "Let's Go Fishin'!"

## The Wishing Starfish

Mother starfish lost her three baby starfish when the schools of fish swam by, and now she wishes she could find them. But they're not too far away. They are somewhere on this page. Help her find all three missing starfish.



# It's time to come home

**WHAT WOULD YOU** do if you had all the money you ever wanted? Would you travel the world? Buy a mansion? Get a new car? All the above?

The story is told of a father whose son didn't want to wait for Dad to pass on to get his inheritance. He wanted it now. So, the father obliged. The young man then traveled to a faraway country and bought anything that caught his fancy. Before long, he'd spent all his money.

Then life got worse. The young man's new home country hit an economic downturn. Bare grocery store shelves were common. But that didn't matter—he had no money to buy food anyway. He sank so low he thought about going through the garbage to find something to eat.

Then the young man came to himself. He thought about his father's employees. Even his gardeners lived better than he was living. He thought, "I'll just go home. I'll ask Dad to forgive me and give me a job."

Meanwhile, the young man's father was concerned about his son. He'd never heard from him after he left. Day after day, he stood gazing out his front window, hoping he'd return.

One day the father saw a familiar figure approaching on the road. It was his son! He ran out with open arms to welcome him home.

The young man tried to give his father the apology he'd planned—his voice muffled by the older man's coat as he hugged him. But the father didn't hear a word. He was too focused on getting his son into the house to clean up and put on fresh, new clothes. While the young man washed and changed, the father told his staff not to waste any time putting together a lavish homecoming party. "My son is home!" he joyfully exclaimed.

God wants each of us to be His child. And just like the father in this story, He is waiting for each of us to come home. When we do, He will forgive us of anything. Jesus made that possible when He died on the cross.

Romans 5:8 (NLT) says, "*God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.*"

Your Heavenly Father is waiting for you. He wants to welcome you home. If your heart is nudging you in that direction, pray this prayer:

Dear God,

I need You. I want You in my life. I admit that I am not right with You, and I want to be right with You. I want You to be my Father. Please forgive me for my sins. I believe that You sent Jesus to die for me, and You raised Him back to life for my sake. I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for saving me! I'm so glad I'm now Your child!

If you have prayed this prayer for the first time, welcome home! We are glad you're in the family! Email us at [PartnerService@rhema.org](mailto:PartnerService@rhema.org) and let us know about it. We want to send you some free materials to get you started in your new life as God's child.





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