



THE Word of Faith

APRIL 2020

PUBLISHED BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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The Resurrected Christ

When Jesus Christ was crucified 2,000 years ago, it seemed like the darkest moment in the history of the world. The Son of God willingly hung on that old, rugged cross suspended between Heaven and earth. With those wooden beams and the nails driven into His hands and feet, Jesus built a bridge to God. He bore the sins of mankind and sacrificed His own life so every person on the face of this earth could be saved.

Those who had walked with the Lord and witnessed the miracles watched with incomprehensible agony as He was cruelly beaten and mocked. The day turned black and hopeless as Jesus drew His last breath in His mortal body and cried out, "It is finished!" Then His head slumped to His chest in death.

The religious rulers of the day crucified Jesus, thinking they could forever silence Him. They didn't know that by crucifying the Son of God, they would herald the message throughout the ages, "Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world!"

Because Jesus died and rose victorious from the dead, the apostle Paul could later write, "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor. 15:54-55). Through His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus Christ took the sting for each one of us!

On that first Easter morning, an angel appeared to Mary at the tomb and announced, "He is not here: for HE IS RISEN" (Matt. 28:6). Yes, Christ died 2,000 years ago. Centuries have come and gone since that first resurrection morning. But we can still repeat that same message: **Jesus Christ our Savior is risen! His tomb is empty today. He is the resurrected Christ, and He lives forevermore!**

Kenneth W. Hagin

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KENNETH W. HAGIN

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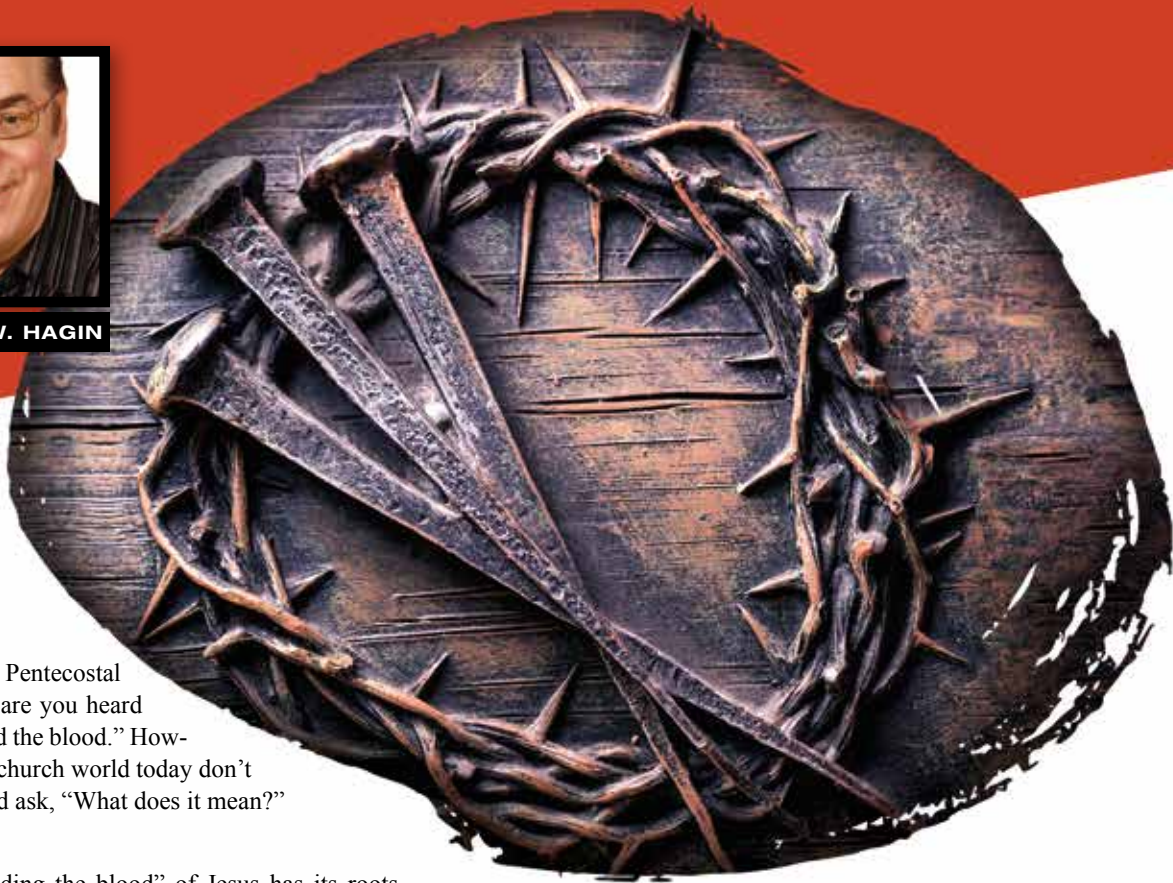
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I PLEAD THE BLOOD!



KENNETH W. HAGIN



IF YOU GREW up in Pentecostal circles as I did, chances are you heard and used the term “I plead the blood.” However, some people in the church world today don’t understand the phrase and ask, “What does it mean?”

The Concept

The concept of “pleading the blood” of Jesus has its roots in Pentecostal tradition. It’s a tradition that is necessary and important to continue upholding. The book, *The Azusa Street Mission and Revival*, contains stories where people came to receive prayer for healing. William Seymour, a leader in the Azusa Street revival, would “plead the blood” over the sick. They were healed and received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

PLEADING THE BLOOD
ACTIVATES WHAT
HAPPENED THROUGH
THE BLOOD OF JESUS
CHRIST ON THE CROSS.

already purchased. It’s a statement of faith about what happened at Calvary.

The Origin

The practice of applying the blood goes back to the Old Testament. Each year, the high priest applied the blood sacrifice of an unblemished lamb to cover the sins of the people. In the Book of Exodus, we see the blood administered as protection.

EXODUS 12:13 (NKJV)

13 Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

The Israelites applied the blood of an animal to the doorposts of their homes as protection against the plague. God promised to pass over them when He saw the blood.

A Counteragent

Jesus’ blood was not spilled merely for the covering of sin but for the remission of it. Through salvation, the blood is applied to our lives. The Son of God built a bridge between Heaven and earth with three nails and two boards. He became the way for mankind to pass from the degradation of sin to the glory of Heaven. Jesus made it possible to go from rejection to redemption.

Pleading the blood tells the devil that we are children of God. It’s like putting up a no trespassing sign that says, “You can’t come here. You don’t have any authority here.” Every aspect of our lives needs to be covered in the blood. It is a counteragent to all that Satan tries to throw at us. He is afraid of the blood.

The blood of Christ makes it possible for us to defeat the devil on every front.

Revelation 12:11 (NLT) says, “*And they have defeated him by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony.*” No matter the circumstance, disease, temptation, or addiction, there is power in the blood to deliver and set us free.

Obtaining Peace of Mind

Great spiritual battles are fought in the mind. When a person becomes born again, their spirit is made new, but their mind is not. That is why we must continually renew our minds with the Word of God. The power in the blood is activated when we speak scripture. Therefore, pleading the blood needs to be an active part of our confession.

When the enemy tries to attack with thoughts of fear and torment, pleading the blood of Jesus over our minds will bring peace. Colossians 1:20 (NLT) says, “*And through him God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross.*”

When Satan brings up guilt, shame, or condemnation from the past, we need to plead the blood and say, “The blood of Jesus has cleansed me. I am a new creation in Christ, and my past life and sins no longer exist.”

Covering the Affairs of Life

When we understand how to use the power of the blood, we can apply it to everything in our lives, including our homes, families, and finances.

Years ago, Lynette and I built a house. Before we moved in, we walked through every room pleading the blood of Jesus. When we bought our new home, we did it again.

Each night, I say the names of my immediate family members and apply the blood around them as a hedge of protection. I tell the devil, “You can’t cross the bloodline!” I also plead the blood over my car, finances, and health. And you can too!

The blood that ran down the cross and onto the ground is still flowing today! It never changes or loses its power. We can depend on it in any situation.

This month as we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, let’s enjoy every blessing that Christ obtained for us. Let’s apply the blood of Jesus and proclaim what He has done for us. And we will see all that God has provided through His blood become a reality in our lives.♥

FAITH NUGGET

Activating the Blood

Speaking scripture activates the blood of Christ. To walk in victory, your words must agree with what the blood says.

When the enemy accuses you of being unrighteous, you need to say, “I am the righteousness of God in Christ” (2 Cor. 5:21). If he tries to put sickness on you, say, “By the stripes of Jesus, I am healed” (1 Peter 2:24).

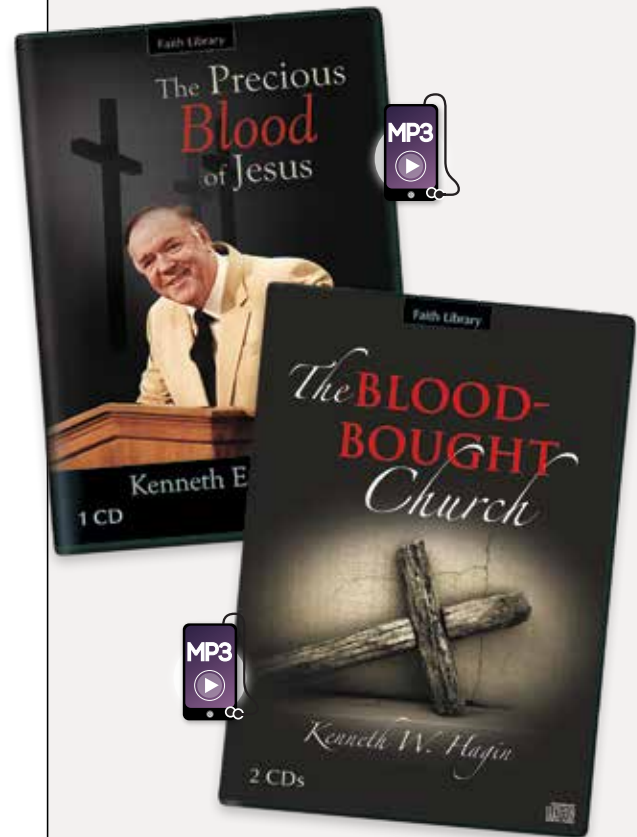
The blood of Jesus always speaks the Word. But what are you saying? Are you speaking the promises of God? Or are you saying things like, “What am I going to do?” “I don’t know how I will make it.” “The doctors say there isn’t any cure for this disease.”

When Jesus said, “It is finished,” He announced to the world that the supreme sacrifice had been paid. Satan’s hold was finished. Now the promises and blessings of God are available to you and anyone who comes through the blood of Christ.

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Your “There” May Be Here

KENNETH W. HAGIN

IN FIRST KINGS 17:3–4 (NIV), the Lord directed Elijah to a specific place: “*Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. You will drink from the brook, and I have directed the ravens to supply you with food there.*”

Notice the word *there*. “There” was the place of God’s will for Elijah. The prophet wasn’t told to go anywhere else but *there*. God has a brook for all of us. How do you reach that divine place in your life? You must do several things:

1 Be Assured BE ASSURED THAT GOD HAS A PLACE WHERE HE WANTS YOU TO BE.

“There” is a place of God’s blessing. If Elijah had gone to a different brook, the ravens wouldn’t have been there. When you go to where He instructs, you need not be concerned about what will happen next. You can take life one day at a time.



2 Be Willing WHEN GOD TELLS YOU TO GO “THERE,” BE WILLING TO GO.

Some people are not willing to do what it takes to get where God is leading them. You may have to leave some things behind to be in

His divine will. But know that your Heavenly Father has a purpose in everything He does.

3 Forget the Past FORGET ABOUT PAST MISTAKES.

Have you ever said, “If I could do it over again, I would do such and such”? You can never recall history. What happened yesterday will forever stand on the pages of yesteryear. But today you have an opportunity to write a new page. If you’ve made a misstep or failed, ask for forgiveness. Realize that the blood of Jesus has taken care of that. Leave it behind.

4 Trust God TRUST GOD, EVEN IF YOU DON’T UNDERSTAND WHY HE IS CALLING YOU TO A PLACE.

When you can’t see the light at the end of the tunnel, it may be hard to follow God *there*. If God says,

“*Go there,*” obey Him—whether or not you feel like it. The outward man is not always excited about following God, because he has his own ideas, plans, and purposes. So listen to your spirit man on the inside. He is ready and willing.

5 Dwell “There” DWELL WHERE GOD SENDS YOU.

Jesus said to the Father: “*I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do*” (John 17:4 NLT). He was always *there*. Jesus went wherever God told Him to go and did whatever God told Him to do. And equally important, He stayed *there* until He completed God’s plan.

6 Expect Provision YOU CAN EXPECT GOD TO PROVIDE FOR YOU “THERE.”

When you are where God sends you, you will see the miraculous happen. And when you find that place, you will experience blessings being poured out on you. When God sends you somewhere, He doesn’t expect you to take care of yourself. *He* will take care of you.

7 Never Quit DO NOT QUIT IN THE FACE OF HARD CIRCUMSTANCES.

Anywhere but *there* is where most people want to be. It can be a hard place, because you have to face your insecurities and inabilities. It’s

Your Heavenly Father has a purpose in everything He does.

easy to focus on your shortcomings. But working with God is working with the Greater One, and He is far superior to any issue you might encounter!

If God has called you to Rhema Bible Training College, get there! He has a purpose for your time at RBTC, and His provision is waiting for you *there*.♥



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PRAYING ABOUT THE UNKNOWN



THERE IS A realm of prayer in the Spirit that many Christians know nothing about and others have barely touched. It is only in this realm that we can fulfill God's command, "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints*" (Eph. 6:18). We don't know "all saints," so the only way we can pray for them is in the Spirit.

Many examples of operating in this realm of prayer stand out to me. One incident happened years ago when we had just started Prayer & Healing School at Rhema. One day as I ministered, I had a sudden, urgent burden to pray, but I didn't know what to pray about. I asked, "What is it, Lord?" Then I realized that someone's life was in danger.

I told the congregation, "I have to pray, and I have to pray *now*. I don't know who it is, but someone's life is in danger." We all knelt down, and I prayed hard and fast in other tongues for about 45 minutes. Then I had a note of victory that let me know I'd prayed through. I sang and laughed in the Spirit, and the burden lifted.

That evening my wife and I invited some people to our house to pray about certain matters. As we prayed, the telephone rang. It was a young lady going to school in Tulsa. She and her family were personal friends of ours.

The young woman said to my wife, "Momma called and wants you to pray. There was an explosion this afternoon in the refinery in Port Arthur, Texas!"

The girl's stepfather worked at the refinery. Seventeen men were trapped inside, and the fire was so intense that no one could

reach them. Rescue workers didn't know how many were injured or possibly dead.

When Oretha relayed what the young woman said, I told my wife, "Tell her we've already got the answer. The Holy Spirit alerted us this afternoon to pray. We prayed through and her stepfather's safe."

You may ask, "How did you know that this man and his co-workers were the people you prayed for?" The Holy Spirit let me know through the inward witness as soon as I heard what had happened.

That night Oretha and I went to bed after midnight. About 1:30, the young lady called again. She told us, "Momma just called. They finally got the fire out. When they went into the refinery, no one was hurt. Daddy's fine!"

Thank God, the Holy Spirit helps us pray for the unknown! These folks in Texas had been our friends for many years. When they had an urgent need, the Holy Spirit alerted us to pray many miles away. There is no distance in the Spirit. The Holy Spirit can help you pray about anyone, anywhere!

Supernaturally Delivered

I've read many testimonies in Pentecostal publications where missionaries found themselves in a crisis, but someone obeyed an urge to pray in other tongues. As a result, the missionary was delivered.

Brother Boley was a missionary to Africa at the beginning of the 20th century. I heard him relate this experience.

Off the west coast of Africa was an island whose inhabitants had not yet been reached for Jesus. Brother Boley leased a sailboat and crew and went to this island each week to preach the Gospel.

Late one afternoon as Brother Boley and his companions were returning to the mainland, a storm suddenly arose. They wanted to get home before dark since their boat didn't have lights or navigation instruments. As the crew fought to stay afloat, night overtook them.

Hours passed and the storm continued to rage in the black darkness. Around midnight, the boat captain said to Boley, "I don't know where we are in relation to the harbor we have to enter. There is only one narrow channel that is safe. The rest is dangerous because of the reefs. If we make a run for it, we'll probably be dashed to pieces on the rocks. But if we stay in the open ocean, we're going to sink, and everyone's life will be lost."

Brother Boley replied, "I don't know anything about navigation. You're the captain. What do you think we should do?"

"Our only chance is to try to make a run for it."

"Before we do," Boley said, "let's pray."

The captain and his crew got down on their knees with Brother Boley and committed their lives into God's hands.

Brother Boley got up and said, "Well, just let the boat go!"

Then Brother Boley testified, "As God is my witness, the moment the captain pointed the sailboat toward the harbor and let it go, it took off in the air like an airplane and sailed right over the reefs, landing in the harbor where the water was calm!"

A few days later, Brother Boley visited a mission station he oversaw. During his visit, a woman asked, "Did anything happen to you last Monday night? I went to bed early but was awakened around 10 o'clock with a burden to pray. I prayed in other tongues for two hours. The burden lifted, and I knew I'd gotten the victory. Then your face flashed before me. I thought maybe I was praying for you. Did anything happen to you last Monday night around midnight?"

THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN *help* YOU PRAY ABOUT ANYONE, ANYWHERE!

this? *Because folks are not praying in other tongues.* They may pray a little in other tongues to keep themselves in basic fellowship with God. But they don't take extended amounts of time to wait in His presence. That's when the Holy Spirit can take hold with them to pray through on matters that desperately need prayer.

I have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is continually searching for Christians He can use in prayer. When He finds believers willing to yield to Him and pray for as long as it takes, He helps them pray out God's perfect will in matters they often know nothing about.

The Holy Spirit knows what we should pray. Yet so many times when we get a burden to pray, we go right on about our daily business. If we would only yield more to Him and make ourselves available to pray in other tongues, we'd see more victories in our own lives. We'd also see more dramatic deliverances in the lives of those for whom we pray.♥

[Editor's Note: This article was adapted from *Tongues: Beyond the Upper Room* by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

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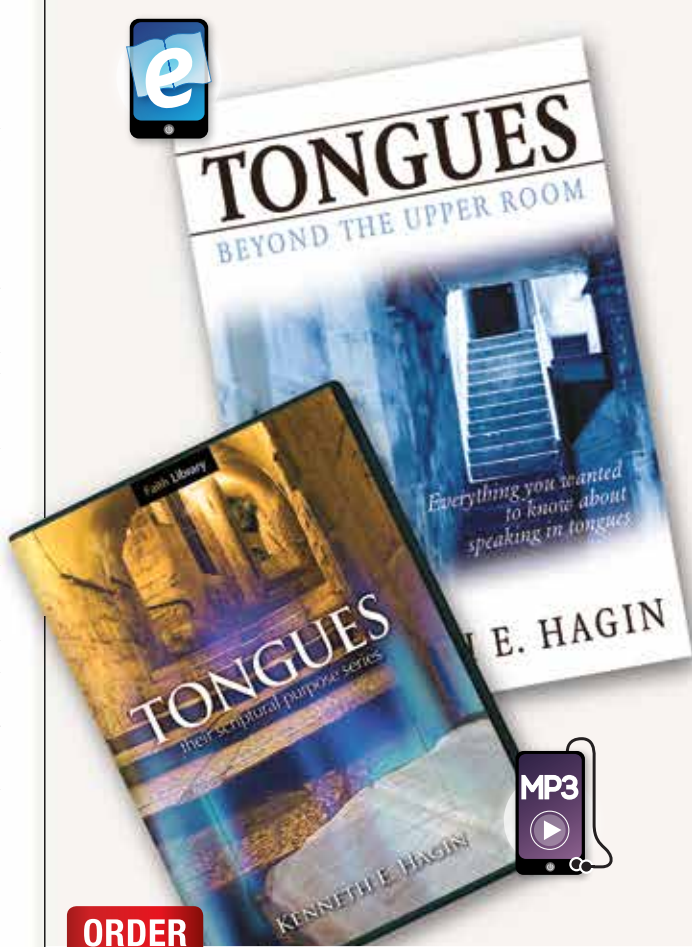
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Stir Up Your Dream

DARRELL HUFFMAN



CAMP MEETING

SPEAKER HIGHLIGHT

GOD DIDN'T RUN you through a cookie-cutter. He molded you into His handiwork (Eph. 2:10 NIV)! Before you were conceived—regardless of the circumstances that brought you into the world—God knew you were on the way and made plans for you.

JEREMIAH 29:11 (AMPC)

11 For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.

That verse is present tense. God thinks this about you *right now*. And His plans will work with you all the way to the end. He gives you a good start and finish—“to give you an expected end” (KJV). God wants you to have an expectation!

What is your expected end? Are you anticipating defeat? Or victory? Or to just make it through? Many have quit being overcomers and started being “hanging-on-ers.”

Expect Fulfillment

God has an expectation too—that you will accomplish what He called you to do. And whatever He has planned for you, He gives you the gifts and abilities to carry it out. Every gift comes with the grace to fulfill it, not just start it. He didn't give you a dream for only half of it to happen. **GOD WANTS YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS!**

ROMANS 11:29 (AMPC)

29 For God's gifts and His call are irrevocable. [He never withdraws them when once they are given, and He does not change His mind about those to whom He gives His grace or to whom He sends His call.]

Once God hands out gifts, He doesn't withdraw them. That means *He can still use you*, even if you messed up. Your mistakes didn't change God's thoughts toward you. The circumstances may have changed your thoughts, but not His.

Maybe something happened, and the enemy stole your dream. You knew God had something for you—it was *real* and burning in you. You were passionate. Stir it back up! If you don't watch out, the devil comes in little by little and pulls the Word away from you. He pulls passion and vision for your life out of you.

GOD LOVES YOU AND HAS A GREAT PLAN FOR YOU. He even set it up so that if you mess up, Jesus is there to straighten it out. The Spirit of God can put the anointing back on your life. Nothing is impossible with Christ! No mistake or sin is so deep or bad that God can't dig you out.

Laugh & Enjoy

Jesus said, “*I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)*” (John 10:10 AMPC). Are you enjoying life? When was the last time you had a good laugh? Do you have a vision for your future? What's your plan? What's your passion? We need our dreams operating again!

PSALM 126:1–2

1 When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them.

I don't see a lot of laughter and joy in the saints today. They're in bondage and don't even know it! **IF YOU DON'T HAVE A DREAM, YOU'RE IN CAPTIVITY.** You should be enjoying life! God wants you to have *great* expectations!

GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE SO MUCH OF HIS LIFE—HIS PLAN, PURPOSE, PASSION, AND GOODNESS—THAT IT FLOWS OUT OF YOU AND AFFECTS EVERYONE. People will *want* the Jesus you serve because your life is such a blessing! Even when you're down, you're up. Even when it's bad, you're good. Why? Because God is in your midst, and His dream in you is alive and well!♥

[Editor's Note: Darrell Huffman is a regular *Campmeeting* speaker. This article was adapted from one of his *Campmeeting* messages. He and his wife, Bonnie, travel preaching the Word of God.]

YOUR MISTAKES DIDN'T CHANGE GOD'S THOUGHTS TOWARD YOU.

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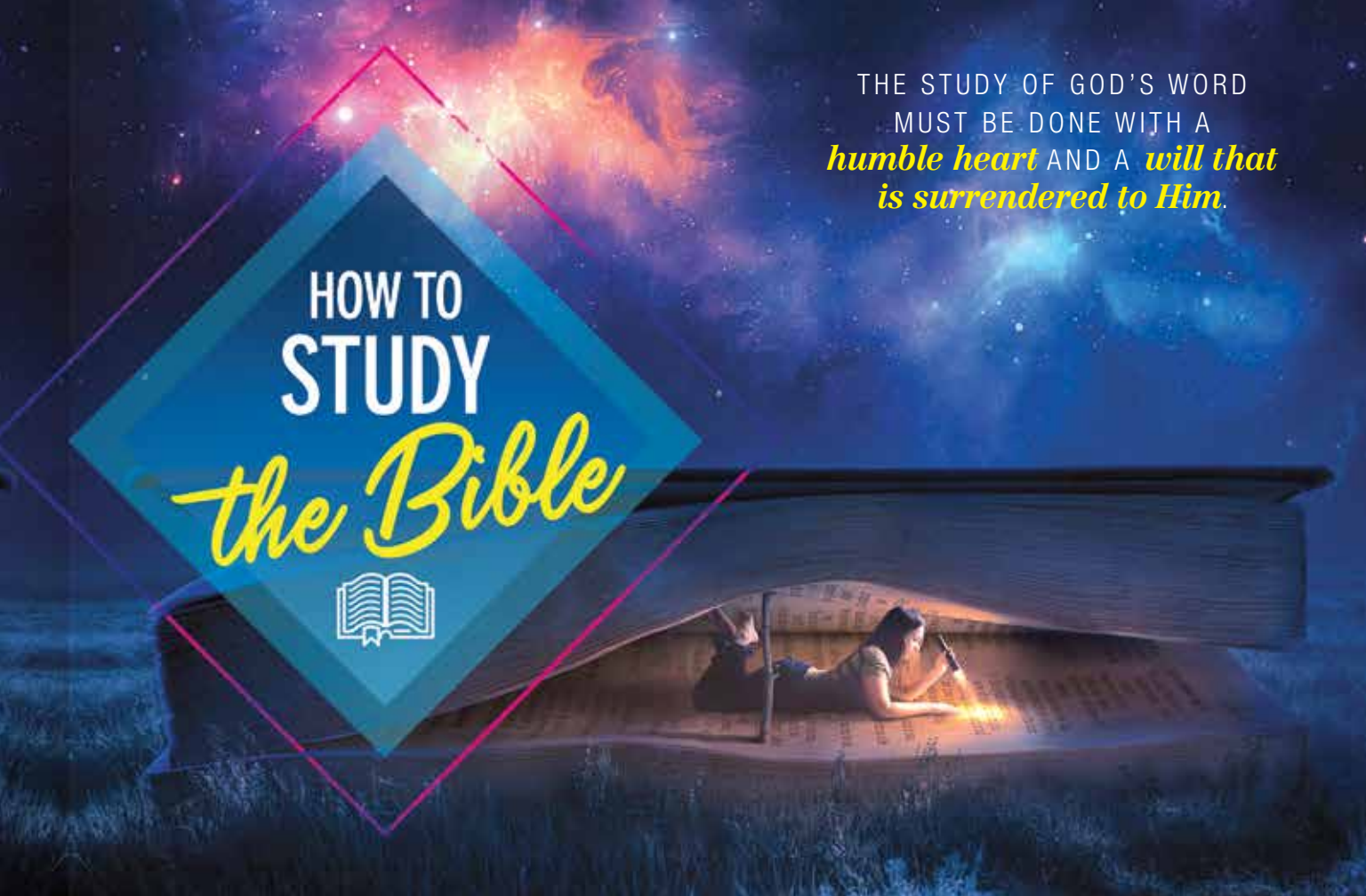
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THE STUDY OF GOD'S WORD
MUST BE DONE WITH A
humble heart AND A *will that
is surrendered to Him.*

HOW TO STUDY *the Bible*



Do not study the Bible to find a verse to corroborate your view or ideas. Instead, examine it to find out what it really says. Be careful when looking for scriptures to prove something. Keep your mind and heart open to the Holy Spirit.

TERRY LAWSON

THE BIBLE IS the well to the water of life. It contains the food your spirit needs for proper growth. Hearing the Word preached is a necessary part of your spiritual growth. But nothing takes the place of daily *feeding* on the Word of God for yourself. By learning to use the following Bible study methods, you can prepare a diet of God's Word that will enrich your life.

REMEMBER TO PRAY FIRST

The single most important aid to Bible study is prayer. Always pray before reading your Bible. It will help keep what you read in proper perspective. Clear your mind of all thoughts and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to your heart as you study. Ask the Lord to open the eyes of your spiritual understanding and give you revelation needed for daily living. Then after you have asked, thank Him for it.

KEEP A RIGHT ATTITUDE

As you prepare to study God's Word, remember to approach your study time with a humble heart and a willing attitude. Jesus said, *"I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes"* (Matt. 11:25 NKJV). The study of God's Word must be done with a humble heart and a will that is surrendered to Him. For it is only then that revelation will come.

LET GOD'S WORD SPEAK TO YOU

Study God's Word as if He was speaking to you personally because He is. Have you ever wished that God would speak to you the way He talked to Abraham? You have something better than Abraham had. The Lord didn't speak to Abraham all the time. But He speaks to you every time you open your Bible. Allowing the Word to speak to you each time you read it will make the Bible come alive.

PRACTICE WHAT YOU LEARN

James 1:22 (NKJV) says, *"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* Put into practice what you learn. People who read and study God's Word but do not practice it are only deceiving themselves. Read the Word to find out how to live pleasing to God, and then live that way!

EXAMINE THE SCRIPTURES

With so many people trying to explain what the Word of God says, it is best to learn for yourself exactly what it means. Too many people rely on their pastor or a television minister for their

spiritual nourishment. I could eat at the best restaurant in town and tell you how good the food is there. But if you don't go there, you will never know how good the food really is. What your pastor tells you is secondhand information until *you* examine what the Word of God says.

○ STORE THE WORD IN YOUR HEART

"Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." —Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)

Your heart, like any other storehouse, can hold a huge amount of God's Word. But just because it was full last week does not mean you can still draw from its resources. You must replenish the Word that is stored in your heart. One way is by meditating on scripture. Speak it over and over to yourself, turning it over in your mind, and dwelling on what it says.

○ STUDY MORE THAN FAVORITE SUBJECTS

There are certain subjects people like to study. They may be good topics such as healing, prophecy, judgment, and so forth. But spending all of your time on a specific item will cause other areas to be neglected, areas important for a balanced spiritual life.

For your body to get the nutrition it needs, you have to eat more than your favorite foods. In the same way, you need not be so selective with what you study from God's Word. Just as you need balanced eating habits, you also need balanced study habits. This does not mean you cannot focus on a particular subject of study. But you must remember to take the rest of the Bible into account.

○ STUDY THE BIBLE AS THE WORD OF GOD

"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." —Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

The Bible is not merely a good book that teaches you how to live; it is alive with the very life of God residing in it. It contains all the answers to your problems. It is your operator's handbook for daily living. God's Word is powerful enough to separate soul and spirit and to know the thoughts and intents of the heart.

○ READ FROM VARIOUS TRANSLATIONS

Reading the Bible from different translations can give you a fresh perspective on familiar scripture passages. When reading a book or passage through in several translations, start with the version you use for your personal study and reading. Then reread the passage in another version.

You may want to continue this for several days, then go back and read it again in your usual version. You will be surprised at the new insight this will bring to the passage you have read.

Keep in mind that reading and studying the Bible are not the same. Reading is not studying, but it is important and helpful. Occasionally, it is good to read a book or portion of scripture as though you were taking a relaxing drive in the country. You are not stopping to investigate any word or verse but reading for pure enjoyment. Reading the Word of God will do things for your spiritual life that study cannot.

You may want to find a Bible reading plan or perhaps check off the books and chapters as you read them. Either way, systematic reading of the Bible will give you a good overall picture of God's Word.♥

STUDY GOD'S WORD AS IF HE WAS SPEAKING TO YOU PERSONALLY BECAUSE HE IS.

[Editor's Note: Terry Lawson became interested in Bible translations through the ministry of Kenneth E. Hagin. Before he went home to be with the Lord in 2010, his library included more than 300 translations of the Bible. This article was adapted from his book, *How to Study the Word*.]

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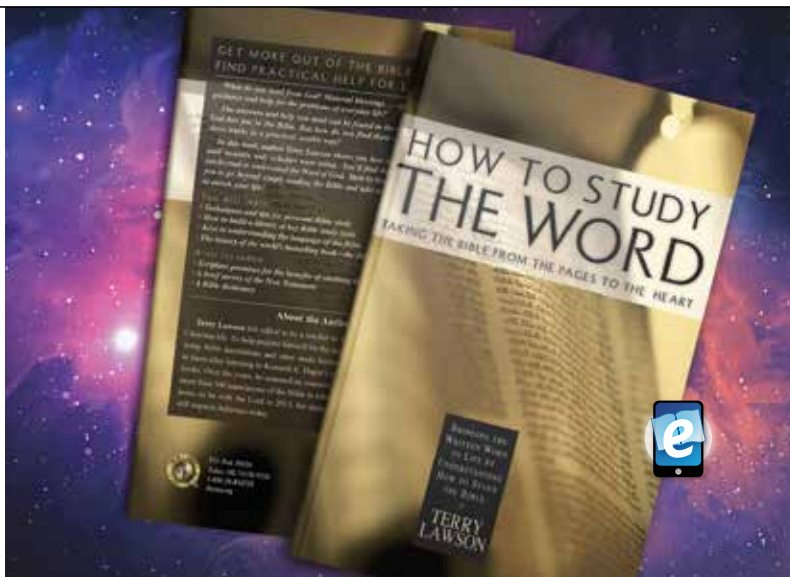
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WHAT'S YOUR ISSUE?

I LOVE THE Bible story of the woman with the issue of blood. This lady was a determined, desperate woman who courageously went against the laws of that time to get healed. Most of the time, when you hear a minister teach about her, it's a healing message. But I want to look at her situation from a different angle.

MARK 5:25-29

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

This woman had an issue! Hers was physical—an illness that wasn't curable. But we all experience difficulties that cause us to suffer. She dealt with her issue. Her passion to see her ailment removed was so strong that she willingly stepped outside her comfort zone.

So what is your issue? What causes you to suffer? What needs to be removed from your life? Sometimes you don't realize you have issues, but when you read the Bible, it's apparent that you do.

GALATIANS 5:22-23, 26 (NLT)

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

26 Let us not become conceited, or provoke one another, or be jealous of one another.



LYNETTE HAGIN

Are you challenged with patience? Or kindness—when you wake up in the morning with little sleep? Here's one we like to ignore: self-control! When you're on a diet, do you resist the temptation of cookies and pie, or do you yield to it? If you are jealous of others, let me tell you—you have an issue!

Everyone experiences challenges. Although you accept Christ as Savior and are born of the Spirit, you still have a carnal nature to conquer. It's easy to point out the issues of others and ignore yours. But you have to quit rationalizing and be courageous and determined to do something. It's when you deal with your challenge that you can be whole and follow God's plan.

1

Face the Situation

To deal with a matter, you must face it. Recognize it and be willing

Although you accept Christ as Savior and are born of the Spirit, you still have a carnal nature to conquer.

Look to God's Word

You can overcome any situation that threatens to hold you back through the truth of God's Word. Below are just a few challenges you may face and a scripture verse to help you overcome. Look intently into the Word of God as though it were a mirror and then act on it (James 1:22–25).

Unforgiveness? Resentment? *"Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you"* (Matt. 5:44 NKJV).

Self-Esteem? Self-Worth? *"I am fearfully and wonderfully made"* (Ps. 139:14).

Worry? Stress? *"Cast all of your anxiety on him [God] because he cares for you"* (1 Peter 5:7 NIV).

to do something about it. It's like looking in the mirror in the morning.

Mirrors are very honest, especially if you have one that magnifies! It shows everything. If you look at your reflection and don't *change* what it reveals, the world will see what is in the mirror.

Yet, people often turn away from their reflection, ignore problems, blame them on somebody else, or pretend they don't exist. You must acknowledge you have an issue before anything can be done about it.



No Cover Ups

Once you recognize the issue, don't hide it. Don't pretend to be something you're not in hopes that it resolves itself. Now is the time to work through it.

You may have been acting for such a long time, you believe you have no problems. Don't be deceived. Examine yourself.

Be who you are—and don't be ashamed of where you came from! Some people have trouble with the social status they grew up in. My family wasn't poor, but most of the time, our diet consisted of beans, potatoes, and sometimes bologna. Some people grew up that way and say, "I'll never eat bologna again!" Why not? I still love it. I know of people who had to wear hand-me-downs and now refuse to buy anything on sale—that's silly. Be yourself.



Share and Help Others

Don't be afraid to talk about your challenges. Doing so can help others. After overcoming your situation, fear can keep you from sharing your experiences. You may anticipate that others will think badly of you.

We're not here to judge! We are here to help and rescue people. You may have heard how I was afraid to fly. Once I began sharing my experience, people thanked me because it helped them overcome something they feared.

I love what Jesus said to the woman who was caught in the act of adultery: *"Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more"* (John 8:11 NKJV). God will help you get over all your troubles.

You must take care of things in your own life before you can minister to others. The fullness of the last day revival is on the horizon. I believe that one-on-one ministry will be more

widespread today than what the world has experienced at any other time. But you can't rescue someone if you're about to drown yourself!

People commit suicide because they feel as though they have no answers. But Jesus *is* the answer, *and we have the solution!* So let's get rid of our issues. Let's face them, uncover them, and look to God to help resolve them. Then we can go forth and do what He has planned for us! ♥



Visit rhema.org/studycenter for articles and downloads to help you overcome any issue!

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ARE YOU Called TO BE A MISSIONARY

Advice From Rhema Missionaries

Recognizing the Missionary Call

JOE AND MARY PURCELL
ALASKA → RUSSIA → SINGAPORE → ASIA



The primary way you know you are called to missions *in particular* is the same way you know you are called to the ministry *in general*: **by the inward witness of the Holy Spirit!** Your call may be spectacular or subtle, but in either event, you will know by the inward witness.

DEVELOP GRADUALLY. We did not set out to pioneer a work in Russia and had no spectacular guidance to move there. After graduating from Rhema and beginning to travel out to the bush in Alaska, we simply continued to follow the inward witness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts. Gradually we moved out in an ever-widening circle of ministry with confirmation all along the way that the Lord was leading us.

STAY CONNECTED. We made a point of attending RMAI (Rhema Ministerial Association International) regional meetings and other events at Rhema whenever we could. We never put pressure on people or churches. We share what the Lord is doing through us and give folks an opportunity to become a part of it.

God Leads Everyone Differently

FRED AND JUDY LAMBERT
→ AUSTRIA



When we received Jesus Christ, we instinctively knew God had a radical plan for our lives. We followed God's call not really knowing where we were going. We graduated from Rhema but still didn't know what God wanted us to do long term—full of ideas, but no real direction. So we did what everyone should do when they are unsure about the next step: we worked our secular jobs and remained faithful in the church.

TAKE THE NEXT STEP. We had several opportunities to work with various ministries in the USA, but none seemed right. We didn't have any specific leading about being overseas. But one day we got a call from a friend. He was visiting a man in Austria who needed help starting a church. Immediately, we *knew* this was what God had in mind. We had already been making preparations and getting our finances in order. In two months, we moved to Austria with our two children and eight boxes of clothes and household items!



When You Are Called

DENNIS AND JEANNE COOK
→ PANAMA



- 1 KNOW THAT YOU ARE CALLED.** If you don't *know* that you *know* you are called, you are not yet in faith. It's the *knowing* that puts you over!
- 2 GRADUATE FROM BIBLE SCHOOL.** Remember, God is not in a hurry! If He needed you to be somewhere sooner, then He would have called you sooner. Don't be *driven*, be *led* by the Spirit.
- 3 FIND A MINISTRY TO SERVE AND PROVE YOUR FAITHFULNESS.** Ask for the jobs that no other person wants to do. If you are not

RY?

willing to work on the least desirable jobs, then you probably will not make it on the mission field.

- 4 INVESTIGATE THE COUNTRY.** Learn about the laws, culture, and cost of living. Visit the country, or take trips to various countries and allow God to speak to your heart. If you don't have a love for the people of that country, you are not called there!
- 5 BEGIN TO LEARN THE LANGUAGE AND OTHER SKILLS.** The natural areas in which you develop (construction, mechanics, water systems, medicines, and so forth) will save you time, money, and frustration if you are in a primitive area.
- 6 GET OUT OF DEBT.**
- 7 FIND SOMEONE TO HANDLE YOUR BUSINESS AFFAIRS.**
- 8 PREPARE FOR HOMESCHOOLING IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN AND WILL BE MINISTERING IN A PRIMITIVE SETTING.**
- 9 RAISE "MORE THAN SUFFICIENT" SUPPORT BEFORE YOU GO.** Your previous trips to the country will help prove your commitment to living there. You will have immediate expenses upon entering a country, so go with plenty of money to get established physically and legally.
- 10 FIND AN ORGANIZATION YOU CAN WORK WITH.** Otherwise, find an area without a ministry and begin one there. Never compete! Always learn from and cooperate with other churches and ministries.

DON'T BE DRIVEN,
*be led by the
Spirit.*



WE ENJOY BEING WITH FRIENDS,
HAVING HOBBIES, AND
TAKING TIME TO LAUGH ON
THE MISSION FIELD.



Carry the Gospel Around the World

WALKER AND HALEY SCHURZ
→ ZAMBIA



Our journey to the mission field began with short-term missions trips during high school and college. God fanned into flame a desire and heart to minister outside of our home country while attending ORU and RBTC. After we graduated, we got married, and God dropped it in our hearts

to "go and help a Rhema missionary that needs help." We packed up a few possessions, moved with our 3-month-old son to South Africa, and served on Ed and Laurie Elliott's ministry team for six years. Every other step for us came as a result of that first step.

HAVE A NORMAL LIFE AND BE REAL. God made it clear to us early in ministry that accepting the call to the mission field did not mean we had to sign a waiver denying the abundant life Jesus came to give us! We enjoy being with friends, having hobbies, and taking time to laugh on the mission field. We purposely network and connect with many ministries and glean from their wisdom and insights.

EMBRACE DIFFERENT CULTURES. We chose to jump in with the people and get involved in the culture. Experience is the best way to understand their perspectives. This means weeping at funerals, dancing at weddings, opening up our home, eating weird food, and many other things. We realize that the culture we were brought up in is different, but we avoid an "us and them" mentality. We consider Africa our home.

Living on the mission field has given our family a new view of the world and an international perspective. We interact with some of the most precious people in the world and have friends who are truly family to us.♥

Are you called? Rhema can help you prepare! Visit rbtc.org to learn more about Rhema School of World Missions.

Confession: The Key to Faith



KENNETH E. HAGIN

ROMANS 10:10 SAYS, “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*” This text refers to confession and salvation, but it is also true concerning anything else you receive from God. **EVERYTHING YOU RECEIVE FROM GOD COMES THE SAME WAY—THROUGH FAITH.**

With the heart, man believes for healing; and with the mouth, confession is made. With the heart, man believes for the baptism in the Holy Spirit; and with the mouth, confession is made. **YOU RECEIVE WHAT YOU BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART AND CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH.**

The same thought appears in Mark 11:23, “*For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.*”

In this scripture, Jesus mentions believing once and confession—or saying something—three times. When the Lord spoke to me about this, He said, “You will have to preach three times more on the *saying* part as you do the *believing* part. **PEOPLE ARE NOT MISSING IT IN THEIR BELIEVING; THEY ARE MISSING IT IN THEIR SAYING—OR THEIR CONFESSION.**”

The Bible does not teach if you simply believe in your heart, you will receive an answer. It says if you *believe* with your heart and *say* it with your mouth, you will have whatever you say.

Romans 10:8 says, “*But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.*” Notice **THE WORD OF**

WHEN PEOPLE *know* AND *confess* WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT, THEY CANNOT FAIL IN THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE.

FAITH MUST BE IN YOUR MOUTH AND HEART.

Few Christians have recognized the place confession holds in their lives. Unfortunately, when the word “confession” is used, people invariably think of confessing sin, weakness, and failure. That is the negative side of confession. There is also a positive side, and the Bible says more about the positive side than the negative.

The dictionary says that to *confess* means “to make a confession of one’s faults, to acknowledge faith in.” If you only confess faults and failures, you will grow lopsided in your Christian life. You will build weakness, sin, and failure consciousness into your spirit.

CHRISTIANITY IS CALLED “THE GREAT CONFESSION.” What is confession?

FIRST, it is *declaring* what you believe to be true.

SECOND, it is *giving evidence* to what you know in your heart.

THIRD, it is *testifying* to the truth you have accepted.

But you must know what you are to confess. **CONFESSION CENTERS ON FIVE AREAS:**

FIRST, what God in Christ did for you in the plan of redemption.

SECOND, what God through the Word and the Holy Spirit did for you in the New Birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

THIRD, what you are to God the Father.

FOURTH, what Jesus is doing for you now, seated at the right hand of the Father, where He ever lives to make intercession for you (Heb. 7:25).

FIFTH, what God can do through you, or what His Word will do as you speak it.

You can’t confess about things you don’t know anything about. If you are a witness in a courtroom, it is what you have seen and heard that stands as evidence. Your opinion doesn’t count. What matters is what you know about Jesus and who you are in Him.

Many people know the Lord as their personal savior, but they don’t know their privileges in Him. **WHEN PEOPLE KNOW AND CONFESS WHO THEY ARE IN CHRIST AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THAT FACT, THEY CANNOT FAIL IN THEIR CHRISTIAN LIFE.** ♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from *How to Turn Your Faith Loose*, a slimline book by Kenneth E. Hagin.]

SPEAK GOD’S LANGUAGE

Start each day by saying what the Bible says! For more articles on confession, visit rhema.org/studycenter.

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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)

THINK ON THE RIGHT THINGS

HOW MANY TIMES have you heard someone ask, "What are you thinking about?" I used to hear the phrase, "A penny for your thoughts." If someone said that today, you might reply, "It will take more than a penny to give you my thoughts!"

It is estimated that you think between 60,000–80,000 thoughts a day. Using the lower number—2,500 thoughts an hour or 42 thoughts a minute go through your mind. You might think, "It's no wonder I am so tired having to process that many thoughts a minute."

I encourage you to quiet your mind for 60 seconds. Close your eyes and try not to think about anything. How did it go? How many thoughts did you have during that short time? If you are like most people, you may have had a few seconds of complete quietness, but your mind probably wasn't quiet the entire 60 seconds.

The mind often jumps from thought to thought as a monkey jumps from tree to tree. Your brain comes up with all sorts of things to think about. How many thoughts do you plant in your mind and then let it run wild?

One thought leads to another. For example, the first thought begins with, "I need to have a serious conversation with my co-worker today."

That thought leads to the following: "This person won't like what I have to say. They are difficult and don't support me. Nobody supports me here. This situation is hopeless. I could lose my job over this."

The thoughts go on and on until you are in a frenzy over the first thought of having a conversation with a co-worker.

Proverbs 4:23 in the *New Century Version* gives us some powerful advice. "*Be careful what you think, because your thoughts run your life.*" Your biggest battles occur between your ears—in your mind. You become what you think! If you think negative thoughts, your life becomes negative. If you think positive thoughts, positive things will happen to you.

Your mind is under siege every second of the day. Over time, you become on the outside what you believe on the inside. The Apostle Paul warned and admonished the church about the mind. He said in Philippians 2:5, "*Let this mind be in you which, was also in Christ Jesus.*"

The devil loves to take advantage of a mind ignorant of God's promises or one that is pushed around by emotions. The thief's number one area to work on is our minds, as stated in John 10:10 (NLT): "*The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life.*"

Satan will steal and destroy the abundant life God promised you if you allow him to control your thoughts. The enemy makes the mind his chief point of attack upon your life. J. Oswald Sanders is credited to have said, "The mind of man is the battleground on which every moral and spiritual battle is fought."

Second Corinthians 10:5 says, "*Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*"

It is vital to cast down every negative thought the enemy tries to bring into your mind. Thoughts create your emotional state and affect your health. They influence what you do and say to people.

To change a thought pattern, you must center your thoughts around God continually. Hardly a moment goes by that I am not thinking about God. I am usually talking to Him. First, I thank Him for always being there for me. Then I bring my requests to Him and thank God for hearing and meeting my every need. I have found that surrounding myself with good worship music keeps my thoughts on the right channel.

Paul so wisely advises us in Philippians 4:8–9 (NLT), "*And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise. Keep putting into practice all you learned and received from me—everything you heard from me and saw me doing. Then the God of peace will be with you.*"

God's thoughts always bring peace. Practice thinking His thoughts!♥

Lynette



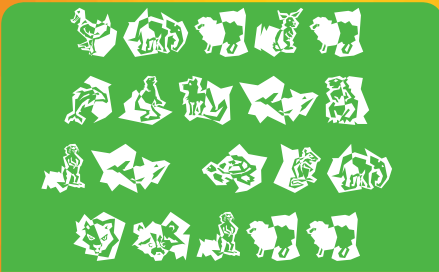


Kids' Page

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

THE GREATEST SACRIFICE!

When King Solomon dedicated the temple to the Lord, he sacrificed 22,000 oxen and 120,000 sheep! As big as that sacrifice was, there is an even greater sacrifice recorded in the Bible. Do you know what it was? The answer is revealed when you replace the animal pictures below with the letters they represent.



🐄=c 🐑=d 🐷=e 🐘=g 🐵=h
 🐊=i 🐉=j 🐉=n 🐉=o 🐉=r
 🐉=s 🐉=t 🐉=u 🐉=y

Find the Opposites

Below are two words which describe Old Testament sacrifices. Find the two words beneath them that are exact opposites and you will find the difference between Old Testament and New Testament sacrifices (according to Romans 12:1 and 1 Peter 2:5).

Fleshly

Dead

- | | | | |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|
| Asleep | Hairy | Magical | Short |
| Living | Joyful | Easy | Spiritual |
| Fresh | Loud | Complex | Breathing |

Spot the Impostors!

Five of the animals below were allowed to be used for sacrifices in the Old Testament. But three of them were not. Circle the three that you think were not acceptable sacrifices. If you need help, here are some clues to help you spot the impostors:

- Two of the impostors only have two feet.
- Peter heard one of them and cried!
- One of them has no horn but can still honk!
- One of the impostors has a long tail.
- Some folks think that this impostor's shoes are lucky.



You definitely would not have wanted to be a sheep in Old Testament times! Why? Because sheep were one of the main animals that people sacrificed to God. The purpose of a sacrifice was to give the life of an innocent animal for the sin of a guilty man. Thankfully, God does not require us to sacrifice animals anymore . . . but He **does** still ask us to offer sacrifices to Him! Open your Bible and follow the instructions below to find two New Testament scriptures that describe the sacrifices we are supposed to offer to God.

_____ book name _____ chapter number _____ verse numbers

- Turn to Genesis 40:15 and read it. You will find the name of a New Testament book there. That book is where the two scriptures you are looking for can be found. Write it in the blank above.
- Now, turn to First Kings 7:1 and answer this question: "How many years did it take Solomon to build his house?" Write that number down by the name of the book you wrote above from clue #1. It is the chapter number.
- Now, turn to Galatians 1:18 and answer this question: "How many days did Paul stay with Peter?" Write that number down by the number you wrote above from clue #2. It is one of the verse numbers.
- Now, turn to Second Chronicles 26:3 and answer this question: "How old was Uzziah when he became king?" Write that number down by the number you wrote above from clue #3. It is the other verse number.

Now you have written down the book, chapter and verses where you can find the sacrifices that God wants us to offer to Him. **How many are there? And what are they?**

jokes & riddles



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

Animal Jokes!

What does a crocodile cook in?
A Crock Pot

What happens to a frog when it turns 100 years old?
It croaks.

What did the elephant say when he suddenly felt chilly inside his house?
There must be a giraffe (draft) in here!

What animal on the ark was Noah most concerned about?
The Woodpecker

Josh: I don't think my uncle and aunt are getting along right now.
Billy: Why do you say that?
Josh: Because my uncle just went to the zoo and bought an "aunteater."

Why did the cow quit her job at the butcher counter?
Because her life was at "steak"

Answers:
IT'S SACRIFICE TIME!
Hebrews 13:15-16
There are three sacrifices.
1. Praise 2. To do good 3. To share
Jesus dying on the cross
THE GREATEST SACRIFICE!
FIND THE OPPOSITES
Opposite of flesh is SPIRITUAL
Opposite of Dead is LIVING
SPOT THE IMPOSTORS!
1. Horse 2. Duck 3. Rooster



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**SUNDAY,
MAY 3**

***Supporting Rhema—
Reaching the World!***

Dear Friend,
Countless people still have not heard what Jesus Christ has done for them. By working together, we can reach many more lives for Christ! **International Rhema Day** is on **May 3**. On that day, will you support Rhema Bible Training College with your prayers and financial gifts? Your gifts make it possible to train students to go around the world and preach the Good News. Together, we can make a difference.

Thank you for your generosity!

Kenneth E. Hagin



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