



# THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2008

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

# 2008

## CONSECRATION IN THE NEW YEAR



## Committed to the Call



# Heart to Heart

*with Kenneth W. Hagin*

Many years ago, there was a missionary to Burma by the name of Adoniram Judson. And for nearly 40 long years, Judson sweated in the heat of Burma preaching the Good News of the Gospel to the Burmese people. Only once during his stay did he take time off and go home for rest and relaxation.

At one point during Judson's time in Burma, his wife's health broke, and he had to put her on a homebound ship. When he saw her off, he knew he wouldn't see her again for at least two years. He later wrote in his diary, "If we could only find some quiet and restful place on this earth where we could spend the rest of our days . . ." But then he got hold of himself and wrote a postscript in his journal that said, "Life is short. Millions of Burmese are perishing, and I'm almost the only person on earth who has learned enough of the Burmese language to communicate the good news of salvation to this people."

There is something about the call of God on a person's life that will make him or her go out into the highways and hedges of humanity to gather in the lost. There is something about the call of God that will make a man or a woman work like someone who is obsessed when others will do nothing. Those committed to God's call will speak with the oracles of God when others will remain silent. Those committed to God's call will endure when others give up, and they will accomplish the seemingly impossible against all odds.

In his letter to Timothy, the Apostle Paul encouraged the young minister concerning his call. At that time, Nero was the Emperor of Rome. History tells us that Nero severely persecuted Christians in the most grotesque and sadistic ways. Timothy realized that at any moment, Nero's soldiers could seize him and subject him to gruesome and sadistic persecution.

Timothy was battling a spirit of fear that was attacking his mind. You see, fear wanted to grip Timothy until he was tempted to compromise his preaching of the Gospel.

The veteran Apostle Paul wrote a letter to his son in the faith telling him that God did not give him a spirit of fear but a spirit of power and of love and of a sound

mind (2 Tim. 1:7). Paul also reminded Timothy that God had "saved [him] and called [him] with a holy calling, not according to works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to [him] in Christ Jesus" (2 Tim. 1:9).

How those words must have encouraged Timothy, a young minister of the Gospel. But those words were also written to you and me. And no matter what your vocation in life, you are also called. Whether you are a businessman or business woman, a stay-at-home mom taking care of children, or a minister who is struggling with quitting the ministry, all born-again believers are called of God.

Paul encouraged Timothy not to hold back in his commitment to God. Likewise, I want to give you three keys that will help you successfully fulfill your call.

First, remember to keep the call of God precious in your heart and mind. It is a great honor to be called of God. And there is nothing in this world that can compare to it.

Second, always persevere in what God has asked you to do. It's been said that the race does not belong to the swift but to those who persevere. Fulfilling the call of God is not an overnight event. Rather, it is something you will do for the rest of your life.

Third, payday will come when you remain faithful. You must become convinced and persuaded that God rewards those who do His will. When you commit yourself to the call, you will become a vessel through which Heaven's blessing meets Earth's greatest need.

As we begin this New Year, let's determine to never give up on the call of God on our lives but to always be committed to running our race to its successful completion.

*Kenneth W. Hagin*  
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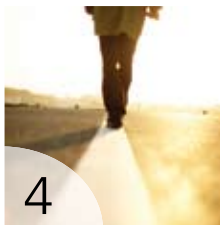
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# In this issue...

## Articles



### Experiencing the Glory Through Obedience

Kenneth W. Hagin

Do you want to experience a greater measure of the glory of God? Learn how obedience plays a part in receiving from God.



### Consecration to God's Plan

Kenneth E. Hagin

Discover how making a quality decision to follow God's plan anchors your soul to God's perfect will.



### The Missing Ingredient

Michael Cameneti

Michael Cameneti reveals the missing ingredient that will cause you to be successful in everything you do.



### Relying on the Holy Spirit in Order to Fulfill Your Call

Lynette Hagin

If you're not sure how to walk out the call of God on your life, learn how the Holy Spirit wants to help you run your race and finish your course.

## Features

### 20 Family Builders

If you desire to strengthen your family and help each member grow in their walk with God, this article is for you! Discover ways to minister to your spouse, teenagers, and young children. This month's topic: practical steps to sanctification.

### 22 Seed Thoughts

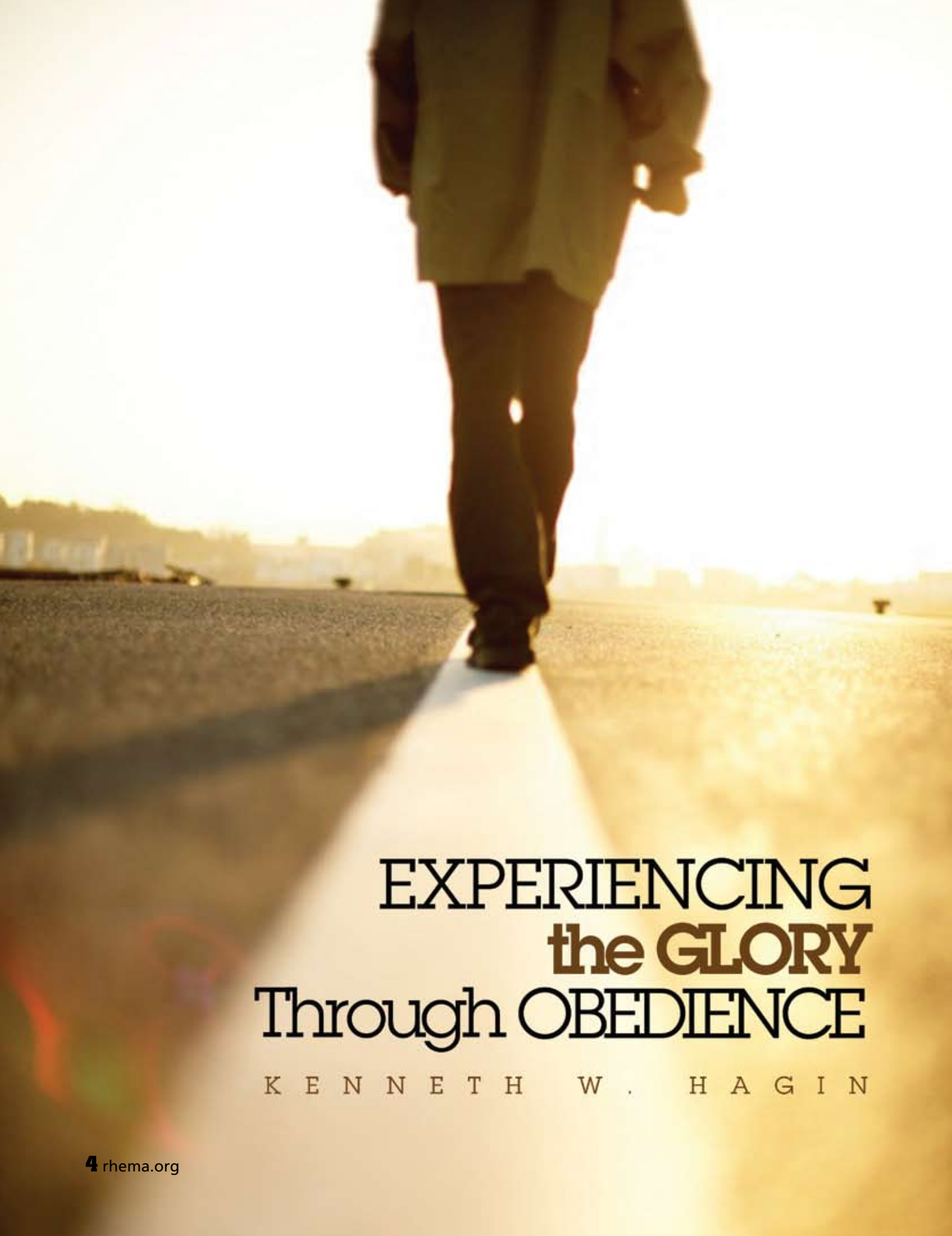
When negative circumstances come, we sometimes can develop a bad attitude toward life. This month, Lynette Hagin encourages us to enjoy life in 2008 by remembering that the Lord is working on our behalf to turn every situation around for our good.

### 23 F.A.I.T.H. Academy Kids' Page

(F-earless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy H-eirs of God) If you're a kid, this page is for you. We've included Bible lessons, puzzles, and riddles for you to enjoy. Have fun!

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EXPERIENCING  
**the GLORY**  
Through OBEDIENCE

K E N N E T H   W .   H A G I N

**My father, Kenneth E. Hagin, lived a life of faith, consecration, and obedience before the Lord. Not only was he 100 percent dedicated to doing the Lord's will, he was also diligent to study, diligent to pray, and diligent to obey the Word and the direction he received from the Lord.**



**M**y father saw great results in his ministry. He experienced marvelous moves of the Spirit of God. Dad saw the glory cloud many times and had many spectacular experiences with the Spirit of God.<sup>1</sup> As a part of this generation, we need to take the torch that he and others like him were so faithful to carry and use it through our own obedience to set

the world on fire with the power and glory of God!

Let's take a look at a key that caused God's glory to be manifested.

**LEVITICUS 9:5-6,23 (NIV)**

**5 They took the things Moses commanded to the front of the Tent of Meeting, and the entire assembly came near and stood before the Lord.**

**6 Then Moses said, "This is what the Lord has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you."**

**23 Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.**

Notice in verse 23 it says, "Moses and Aaron went into the Tent of Meeting. . . ." In the Old Testament, the people couldn't go into the place where the Presence of God dwelt. Only the prophet, priest, and king were anointed with God's Spirit. The priests could enter the Holy Place near the place of God's Presence *on behalf of* the people, but the general population could not enter. And only the High Priest was able to go before God in the Holy of Holies.

Although the priests could enter the Holy Place, they could do so only after going through a special cleansing process. And even when they experienced manifestations of God's glory, they only experienced Him *outwardly*, on a lower dimension than we as believers are capable of experiencing today.

What gives us the right to experience the Presence of God as we do? We don't have to undergo any special ceremony to enter His Presence, because the blood of Jesus Christ has made us clean, holy, and righteous. It is through Jesus that we have access to the glory of God.

Jesus has made a new and living way (Heb. 10:20) for us to approach that same holy God and have access to His Presence and glory. One way to experience the glory of God for ourselves and enter into greater measures of God's glory is through *obedience*.

We already read in Leviticus 9:6 that Moses said, ". . . 'This is what the Lord has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you.'" If you read verses

8 through 22, you'll find that Aaron the priest obeyed and offered the sin offering for the people "in the prescribed way" (v. 16). We know it must have been acceptable to God, because verse 23 says, "Moses and Aaron then went into the Tent of Meeting. When they came out, they blessed the people; *and the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people.*"

The glory of the Lord appeared! If we're going to experience God's glory, we're going to have to obey Him. We have to obey what He says to do in His Word, because God's Word is God speaking to us. We also have to obey Him when He specifically speaks to us. When we do these things, the glory of the Lord will appear, and God will manifest Himself in a greater measure than we've experienced before.

What happens many times is that God will speak something to our hearts that He wants us to do, and we'll only *partially* obey it because we're too busy with our plan, or what God is saying doesn't fit in with our plans. But obedience without compromise is the key to experiencing the glory.

God may speak to you about some things you need to change in your personal life. He may speak to a pastor about changing the format of his church services. He may speak to someone else about his prayer time, because he's not doing everything God told him to do concerning prayer.

Let's look at a New Testament scripture about obedience.

**JOHN 14:21 (NIV)**

**21 "Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me. He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love him and show myself to him."**

Yes, we have to want the glory. We have to hunger and seek God for it. But we also have to *obey* God. The key to the glory is obedience to God in everything, *including changing whatever needs to be changed*, so that we can experience the full measure of God's blessing and power.

Obedience to God puts us in position for God to bless us and display His glory in our lives. When we obey Him, we put ourselves in God's "pattern" so He can bless us.

To give you a natural illustration, if I were playing foot-

**Jesus has made a new and living way for us to approach that same holy God and have access to His Presence and glory.**

ball and the quarterback told me to run a certain pattern, then I would have to run that pattern as practiced so I would be in the right position on the field. If I broke the pattern and went somewhere on the field that I wasn't supposed to go, I would cost my team the opportunity to score.

Have you ever heard a sports announcer say, "The receiver broke the pattern, and the pass was no good"? The receiver wasn't where he was supposed to be on the field.

There are believers who have received specific instructions from God concerning something they are supposed to do. But then they get distracted and forget what God said. Pretty soon, things aren't working out for them the



way they think they should, and they wonder why God isn't blessing them.

They're not receiving God's blessings because they're out of position. They've broken the pattern, so to speak.

Then there are other believers who haven't necessarily received any specific instructions from God, yet they have *general* instructions from God's

they're still not obeying God's instructions in His Word.

We are also instructed to feed the hungry, give to the poor, and do good to one another. Some people will obey God to an extent. They will attend church and maybe even pay tithes. Or they will feed the hungry when it is convenient for them. But they want God to leave them alone concerning

## One way to experience the glory of God for ourselves and enter into greater measures of God's glory is through obedience.

Word that they're not obeying. Remember, God's Word is God speaking to us. And God's Word says that we are to forgive others and walk in love. If we're not doing that, we've broken the pattern; we're out of position to receive God's best.

The Word also tells us not to forsake the assembling of ourselves together (Heb. 10:25). Yet many Christians are sitting at home on Sunday mornings instead of attending their local church. They might be at home watching a good Christian teaching program, but

His specific plan for their lives. They are comfortable in their job and don't want to hear that they may not be doing exactly what God had planned for them to do.

Following God means putting His desires and His will above your own, and doing that may mean giving up some things. To obey God fully, you may need to give up *your* idea about what you want to do in life, such as following a career path that you have chosen.

To be wholly submitted to God and wholly obedient to Him takes faith. You have to be more committed to God,

Whom you can't see, than to the things that you can see. Our walk with God is a journey of faith. But we will do well if we are obedient to Him!

There is a definite connection between obedience and faith. For example, a person could be obedient to God's specific will and plan for his life, but fail to obey God's Word and lose out on the blessings. He could fail to use his faith in God's Word and allow himself to be robbed of many of the blessings that God intended he have.

On the other hand, a person could use his faith and believe God according to His Word, yet refuse to obey God in something specific, and God would be unable to bless his disobedience.

You have to have both working together: obedience to God's *Word*, which is His general will, and obedience to His *plan*, which is His specific will for you. When you get both of these working together, you will be in position to receive the blessings and glory of God. ♥



<sup>1</sup>For in-depth accounts of Kenneth E. Hagin's experiences in life and ministry, see his book, *I Believe in Visions*.  
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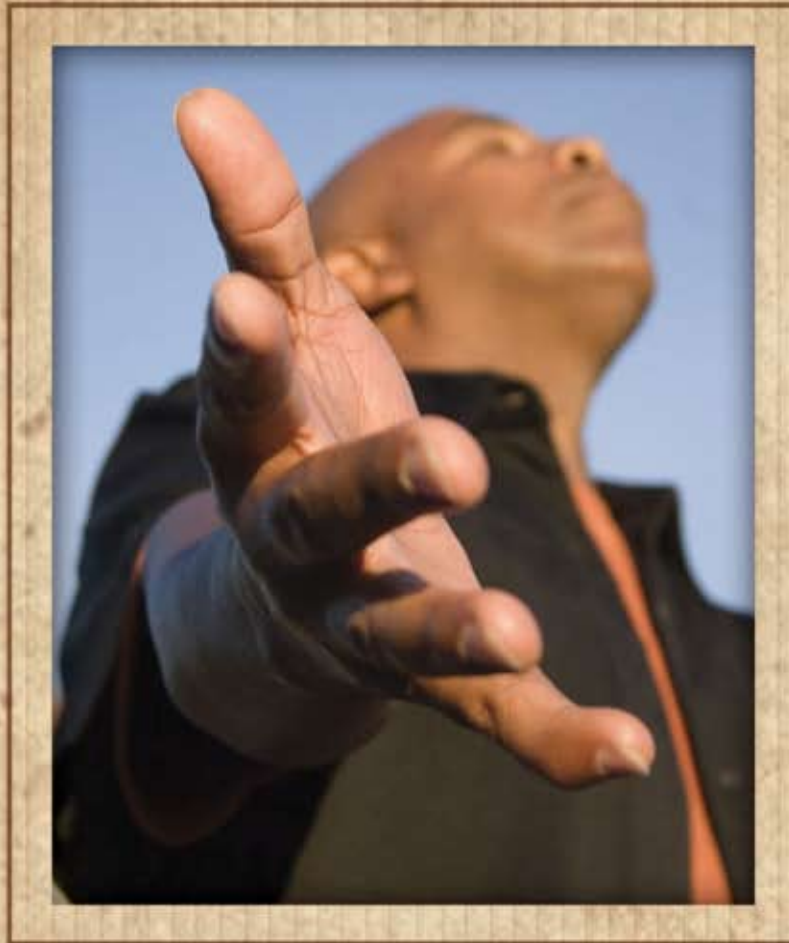
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# CONSECRATION



## TO GOD'S PLAN





(Editor's Note: This article was adapted from the book  
Following God's Plan for Your Life.)

*Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. . . . And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt (Matthew 26:36,39).*

In this passage, we can see the Lord Jesus Christ in His prayer life praying the prayer of dedication. These verses give us an example of Jesus' dedication as He consecrated Himself to do the Father's will. What was Jesus talking about when He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, ". . . if it be possible, let this cup pass from me . . ." (Matt. 26:39)?

Jesus knew the Cross lay before Him. He knew He was about to be made the sacrifice for sin on our behalf (Heb. 9:26).

Think of all the sins committed by mankind throughout the ages—all the immorality, debauchery, murder, and hatred! Jesus was made sin for us so we might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Cor. 5:21). But in the Garden of Gethsemane, knowing He was going to the Cross, the pure, spotless Son of God drew back from the prospect of bearing the sin of all mankind and experiencing separation from God.

No wonder when those final hours drew near, Jesus was sorrowful and heavy (Matt. 26:38; Mark 14:34). Even though Jesus knew His substitutionary death for mankind was the reason He had come into the world, He battled the temptation to draw back from what was to come. He prayed to God, "If it be possible, let this cup pass from Me!"

The Bible says He sweated as it were great drops of blood as He wrestled with the temptation to draw back from the Cross in the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:44). It wasn't easy for Jesus to fulfill the Father's plan for Him. In fact, going to the Cross to be crucified for the sins of the world was a bitter cup to drink.

But Jesus knew the outcome of redemption would be the salvation of mankind, so for the joy set before Him, He surrendered to His Father's will (Heb. 12:2). Jesus prayed a prayer of consecration and dedication, saying, ". . . O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, **THY WILL BE DONE**" (Matt. 26:42).

God is looking for believers who will dedicate and consecrate themselves to carry out *His* plan for their lives, just as Jesus did at Gethsemane and throughout His earthly ministry. The Lord's eyes roam throughout the earth to find people whose hearts are dedicated to Him (2 Chron. 16:9 *NIV*). God is looking for believers who will say as Jesus did, "Not *My* will, Father, but *Your* will be done."

Also, notice Jesus didn't just pray this prayer one time. He prayed virtually the same prayer three times (Matt. 26:39,42,44).

The prayer of consecration is not a one-time prayer, as is the prayer of faith. The prayer of consecration is a prayer you pray throughout your life. You will only be able to follow God's plan for your life if you constantly maintain an attitude of consecration and surrender to the Lord's will, whatever it might be.

There seems to be a lack of deep consecration to do God's will among some Christians today. One time I was thinking about the difference between my experiences in the Full Gospel circles 50 years ago and today. As I compared Full Gospel believers then and now, I realized there wasn't nearly as much sickness among Spirit-filled Christians 50 years ago as there is today.

I remembered the great manifestations of the Holy Spirit we used to experience in our meetings. The move of the Holy Ghost was also much greater and in more consistent demonstration back then than it is today. As I was thinking about this, the Spirit of God said to my spirit, "Yes, and the consecration of My people was greater too."

Let that soak in! Whether we choose to consecrate ourselves to obey or not obey God affects every other area of our lives as well!

I'm thoroughly convinced of the truth of what the Lord said

to me. The consecration of believers was much deeper 50 years ago than it is today. Believers' appreciation and reverence for the things of God and the move of the Holy Spirit was much deeper too. As a result, God honored that depth of consecration and reverence by giving His people great manifestations of the Holy Ghost.

Believers today need greater consecration and dedication to God. In the churches I pastored in the 1940s, we used to gather around the altar and pray at the end of nearly every service. We often sang the old hymn, "Is Your All on the Altar of Sacrifice Laid?"<sup>1</sup> We don't sing hymns like that much anymore, but many folks today need to heed the message of some of those old scriptural hymns.

It seems that many believers are willing to lay *some* things on the altar,

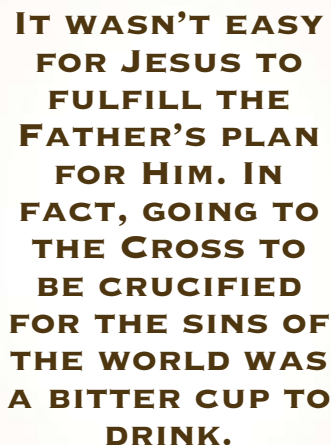
but not *all*! God's plan for their lives is hindered and many of His blessings are withheld because they haven't totally consecrated themselves to do God's will instead of their own.

Ministers need to teach about consecration so people's hearts will be stirred to surrender everything to God and consecrate themselves wholly to follow God's plan for their lives.

Consider your own consecration to the Lord. Consider whether you are able to say from your heart, "Lord, I'll do whatever You ask me to do. I'll go anywhere You want me to go. And I'll stay where I am if You tell me to stay. No matter where You lead me, I'll carry the Good News of Jesus Christ to others."

You need to be willing to do *anything* God wants you to do. You need to commit yourself to obey God and do His will every day for the rest of your life.

I was born again at the age of 16, and I've understood the importance of total consecration to the Lord. Since that time I've prayed the same prayer of consecration for more than 50



**IT WASN'T EASY  
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FOR THE SINS OF  
THE WORLD WAS  
A BITTER CUP TO  
DRINK.**

years: "Lord, I'll go where You want me to go. If You want me to go to Africa, I'll go. If You want me to stay where I am, I'll stay. I'll do what You want me to do."

It's important for you to be willing to do anything God tells you to do. Unwillingness to obey God can hinder or delay His plan from being fulfilled in your life.

night at a revival meeting when he was almost 30 years old, he went to the altar to recommit his life to God. This time he was serious about serving the Lord, no matter what it might mean. He threw up his hands and cried, "Lord, I surrender! I'll go to China if you want me to. Not my will but *Yours* be done."

Immediately, he heard the Lord say,

and hinder us from running the race He set before us.

Many Christians have never surrendered everything to the Lord. They are willing to make Jesus Lord of *part* of their lives. But sometimes they aren't willing to give up control of certain areas that their carnal nature holds dear. Some believers profess they've laid everything on the altar, but in reality they're holding back a part of themselves from the Lord.

It's so important to make a quality decision to follow God's plan for your life. That decision and consistent consecration will be an anchor to your soul to keep you in God's perfect will. By staying consecrated even when it's difficult to do so, you'll have learned the great lessons of obedience, consecration, and faith. ♥

<sup>1</sup> "Is Your All on the Altar of Sacrifice Laid?"

by Elisha Hoffman.

## THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION IS NOT A ONE-TIME PRAYER.

The truth of that statement can be seen in a testimony I once heard about a nationally known Full Gospel evangelist.

This evangelist related how he had been born again when he was 13 years old. At that time he also sensed a call to the ministry. However, he was afraid God would send him to China if he answered the call to the ministry. For many years he struggled with the prospect of going to China and eventually backslid. One

"I don't want you to go to China. I just want you to be *willing* to go."

Christians will only experience the fullness of God's plan and the full measure of His anointing and blessing on their lives if they are willing to obey Him in every area of their lives. God wants us *fully* surrendered to His will. He knows if we're not willing to obey Him in one area, that unwillingness will carry over into other areas of our lives

## Following God's Plan for Your Life

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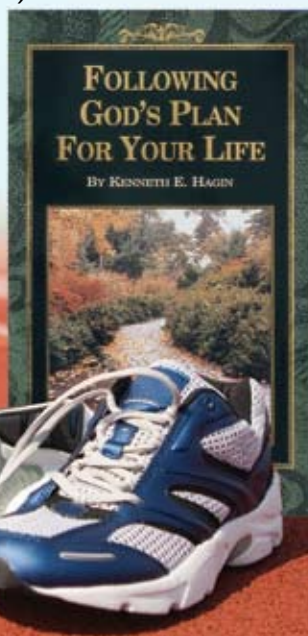
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## FAITH IN ACTION

### The Prayer of Consecration

When was the last time you prayed the prayer of consecration, dedicating yourself to the Lord and committing to obey His plan for your life—no matter what His plan might be?

Each of us will experience many crossroads in our lives—some more crucial than others. At each crossroad, we must renew our commitment to do the Lord's will, not our own.

That's why we must pray the prayer of consecration over and over in our walk with the Lord and dedicate ourselves to fully obey Him and His Word.

Take time today to once again consecrate yourself wholly unto the Lord. Even though in your natural mind you want to follow your own plans and desires, consider yourself dead to carnal inclinations.

And although it may seem difficult at times to say no to your own will and plans, the end result of obedience will cause you to rejoice. You will make your way prosperous, and you will be fulfilled beyond anything your natural mind can imagine.





April 18-20, 2008

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# the missing ingredient

michael cameneti

The title 'the missing ingredient' is rendered in a mix of red and brown fonts. The word 'the' is in red, 'missing' is in brown, and 'ingredient' is in red. The letter 'i' in 'missing' is replaced by a cluster of coffee beans. The letter 'i' in 'ingredient' is replaced by a red chili pepper. Another red chili pepper is positioned to the right of the word 'ingredient'. Below the title, the author's name 'michael cameneti' is written in a simple, lowercase, brown font.

**W**hat if your life was missing a vital ingredient—an ingredient that if added to your life would help ensure the success you desire? There is such a vital ingredient. Could it be missing from *your* life?

This missing ingredient is probably not at all what you think it is; nevertheless, it is absolutely necessary if you want to enjoy success and receive the promises of God in every area of life. The missing ingredient is found in Romans 3:18: “*There is no fear of God before their eyes.*”

I pray you realize that “fearing God” doesn’t mean you live in terror of Him or of what He may do to you. God is *not* out to get you! In fact, there is great benefit in fearing God, for He loves you and wants to bless you.

The first step in understanding the fear of the Lord is to define it. One of the best definitions for the “fear of God” comes from the *Vine’s Complete*

*Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. It says that the fear of the Lord is “. . . not a mere ‘fear’ of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him.”<sup>1</sup>

The first part of this definition addresses a misconception many people have by telling us what the fear of the Lord is *not*. It is not a fear of His power. People mistakenly think that to fear God means to live in terror of Him. But that’s wrong! God loves us and cares for us. He would never do anything to harm us. The second part of the definition tells us what the fear of the Lord *is*: a wholesome dread within us of ever displeasing God.

The key issue is the origin of that dread. It should not come from a fear of what God might do to us, but from an understanding of how much God loves us. When we truly begin to understand how great God’s love is toward us, we’ll never want to do



anything that would cause Him to be disappointed in us.

How does the fear of God affect our everyday lives? When we choose to fear the Lord, our goal becomes to please Him in everything we do. This is why the

our lives. He's *always* ready and willing to show His power on our behalf.

The way you reverence God is by doing what some have called "practicing the Presence of God." This simply means that you always acknowledge God in

## When we truly begin to understand **how great God's love is toward us**, we'll never want to do anything that would cause Him to be disappointed in us.

fear of God is such a crucial ingredient to success in life.

We need to realize all of the benefits we receive from fearing the Lord, from not wanting to displease Him. The first benefit, or reward, can be found in Proverbs 10:27: "*The fear of the Lord prolongeth days, but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.*" The word "prolongeth" means *adds to*.<sup>2</sup> If we fear God, our days will be prolonged. Who wants their life to be shortened? No one. We want a long life!

A second reward is *a satisfied life*. Long life is a wonderful thing but not if life is miserable! Proverbs 19:23 says, "*The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*" The phrase "tendeth to life" is referring to living a long life. But the second part of the verse tells us not only will we live long, but we'll live *satisfied* and *without evil*!

A third reward for fearing the Lord can be found in Malachi 4:2: "*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings . . .*" If you fear God, then the "Sun of righteousness," Who is Jesus, will manifest His healing power to you. Not only does God want us to live long, satisfied lives; He also wants us to live free of pain and sickness.

Another aspect of fearing the Lord involves *reverence*. Reverence for God should be something every Christian practices every day. One aspect of reverencing God is simply acknowledging that He is in you everywhere you go. That attitude of awareness will keep you in a position for God to continually move through you in every situation of life.

Because people don't stay in fellowship with God all the time, they feel like they have to "work up" God to get Him to move on their behalf. But God doesn't need us *to make* Him willing to move in

you. As you do that, you'll begin to recognize God's Presence in your life more and more.

The key is to be consumed with God and His Presence—to keep uppermost in your heart and mind the awareness that He is with you and in you. Make it a practice to acknowledge Him everywhere you go and in everything you do. For example, acknowledge Him while you're watching television; while you're

getting ready for work; or while you're buying groceries.

As you do this, you'll become sensitive to God and begin to hear His voice more clearly. This will allow God to lead and direct you throughout each day.

The stakes couldn't be higher, friend. For whether you walk in the fear of God is a decision that will determine the outcome of your life. So what kind of harvest do you choose to reap? A continual cycle of unanswered prayer and chronic defeat? Or an upward climb toward prosperity and success as you walk through each day in the fear of the Lord? ♥

<sup>1</sup> W.E. Vine, Merrill F. Unger, William White, Jr., *Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1985) p.230.

<sup>2</sup> Strong, "Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary of the Old Testament," p.50 #3254.

## The Missing Ingredient to Success Offer

You need only one ingredient to ensure your success in life. And it's not education or being born into a family of status and means. This ingredient will break the never-ending cycle of defeat and discouragement as you make your way through life's storms. Discover this vital ingredient in Michael Cameneti's book *The Missing Ingredient to Success*.

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# Relying on the Holy Spirit *in Order to Fulfill Your Call*

L Y N E T T E H A G I N

**Are you ready to wholeheartedly consecrate your life to the Lord? Are you ready to humble yourself before Him? Are you ready to be patient and stand strong until He brings His plan to pass in your life?**

**T**he truth is, in and of yourself, you *can't* answer yes to these questions. You need the power and the Presence of the Holy Spirit to accomplish God's plan.

You don't know what lies ahead of you; it's impossible for you to know all that the future holds. For years I didn't know how God's plan for my life would unfold. Thank God, He keeps some of His secrets for *a long time!* If I had known from day one everything God had planned for me, I probably would have quit before I ever started.

You don't need to know how every detail of God's plan for your life will take place. You just need to trust Him and follow the Holy Spirit as He leads and guides you. Remind yourself of what Paul said in Acts chapter 20, not knowing what his future held, but trusting in the One Who held his future.

**ACTS 20:22–24 (Amplified)**

**22 And now, you see, I am going to Jerusalem, bound by the [Holy] Spirit and obligated and compelled by the [convictions of my own] spirit, not knowing what will befall me there—**

**23 Except that the Holy Spirit clearly and emphatically affirms to me in city after**

**city that imprisonment and suffering await me.**

**24 But none of these things move me; neither do I esteem my life dear to myself, if only I may finish my course with joy and the ministry which I have obtained from [which was entrusted to me by] the Lord Jesus, faithfully to attest to the good news (Gospel) of God's grace (His unmerited favor, spiritual blessing, and mercy).**



Paul followed the leading of the Holy Spirit, knowing his obedience to the Spirit's leading would enable him to finish his course with joy.

It's important to obey what the Holy Spirit is leading you to do. Whatever your course in life, rest assured that if you follow the Holy Spirit, you *shall* finish your course with joy!

If you will obey the Holy Spirit, He will lead and guide you. He will be your Comforter and Helper. The Holy Spirit will be your *Counselor*. What are you going to do when you don't know what to do? You're going to rely on the Holy Spirit for counsel and help. The Holy Spirit is your *Intercessor*, your *Advocate*, your *Standby*, and your *Strengthener* (John 14:26 Amplified).

The Holy Spirit will also bring things to your remembrance. John 14:26 says, "*But the Comforter . . . shall teach you all things, and bring*



*all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*" Now don't misunderstand me. You cannot ask the Holy Spirit to bring something to your remembrance that you never studied and learned in the first place.

The Holy Spirit will teach you all things and show you things to come (John 16:13). There's no way you can see into the future and prepare for everything you will encounter in life. What should you do? Call upon the One Who lives inside you, because He is the Great Teacher (Luke 12:12).

As you rely on the Holy Spirit, determined to follow God's plan for your life, you will be able to finish your course with joy (Acts 20:24). You will echo what the Apostle Paul said: "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith*" (2 Tim. 4:7).

The Great Teacher, the Holy Spirit, can teach us everything we need to know to fight the good fight of faith and finish our race victoriously. But we must invite Him to teach us to. It is the anointing that breaks the yoke (Isa. 10:27), and there is nothing like the power of God!

At times we have to fight battles to reach a new level that God wants to take us. Perhaps you have been fighting battles for quite some time. And you may not be able to see how God will turn your situation around for your good. You may be asking, "How will this work out for me?"

Stand and see the salvation of the Lord (see 2 Chron. 20:17)! Watch God work on your behalf. The road to fulfilling God's plan for your life isn't always easy, but He is calling you. Yes, there will be tests and trials. Will you be faithful to God's call? Those who are faithful and

those who are committed shall witness a glory that has not been seen before.

Yield to the Lord's calling. Be consecrated to God's call upon your life. Walk with Him, and He will teach you what you need to know to accomplish His plan. You will experience a great victory in the battles you have been fighting. Be strong and courageous and keep fighting the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12).

I encourage you to stay prayed up. Stay sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading. Opportunities will come to you. In the meantime, you are being prepared for your calling. So lay aside every weight that could easily beset you and hinder you from fulfilling your calling and winning your race (Heb. 12:1).

Weights will distract you from your mission, so lay them aside. They may not be sin, but they will keep you from fulfilling your divine purpose. Distractions are part of the enemy's device. He uses distractions to keep you from walking in God's divine purpose.

Go before the Lord; seek His face, listen to His voice, and He will speak to you strongly and clearly. As part of the preparation for your calling, He will teach you how to hear His voice.

To accurately follow God's plan for your life, you have to be able to understand the directions He gives you. You have to clearly see what He has ordained you to do. And you must be divinely led by Him. When the Lord leads you, there is divine protection, divine guidance, and divine wisdom.

As you seek His face, you will be emboldened as never before. When you know what He's called you to do, there is a boldness that accompanies His calling. As you yield to that boldness, doors will

open for you. You will have more opportunities and supernatural favor than you can fathom. The plans God has for you are far greater than what you have imagined for yourself!

Be faithful and committed to walking one step at a time. As you do, only time and eternity will tell all the great things that will be accomplished through you and by you as you are empowered by the Holy Spirit and the grace of God. ♥

## FAITH IN ACTION

In Second Timothy 4:7, the Apostle Paul instructs us to fight the good fight, finish our course, and keep the faith. Here are some tips to help you do these things as you fulfill God's plan for your life.

1. Become firmly established in Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Determine not to allow anything or anyone to distract you or become more important to you than Jesus.
2. Be equally determined to fix your eyes upon Jesus and Him only. Build your foundation firmly on the Rock of the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Be as unwavering as Daniel in the Old Testament that nothing will stop you from serving God.
4. Be quick to speak the Word in the midst of adversity. It will build your faith and strengthen your heart.
5. Spend time in prayer—especially praying in the Holy Ghost, which helps build you up on your most holy faith (Jude 20) and pray out God's perfect plan for your life.

## NAVIGATING THROUGH LIFE

Have you ever felt like you're wandering aimlessly, trying to figure out the plan of God for your life? Lynette Hagin's book *Hey, God, Why Is It Taking So Long?* shows you how to discover your purpose in life and how to walk it out step by step.

*Hey, God, Why Is It Taking So Long?* | (book, Lynette Hagin)

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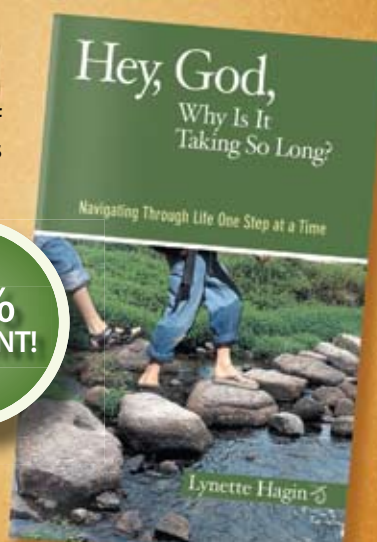
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kenneth hagin ministries

# events 2008

**January 27–30 | Miami, FL**

Words of Life Fellowship Church • 20051 NE 16th Ave • North Miami Beach, FL 33179

**February 2–3 | St. Thomas, Virgin Islands**

Virgin Islands Christian Ministries • 1905 Bolongo Bay • St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

**March 2–4 | Pomona, CA**

Family Life Christian Center • 3101 Temple Ave • Pomona, CA 91768

**March 5–7 | La Mesa, CA**

Father's House Church • 8691 Echo Drive • La Mesa, CA 91941

**March 30–April 2 | Saint Joseph, Illinois**

Living Word Fellowship • 1000 Park Ave • Saint Joseph, IL 61873

**April 6–9 | West Haven, Connecticut**

Living Word Ministries • 225 Meloy Rd • West Haven, CT 06516

**April 28–30 | Sterling Heights, MI**

Grace Christian Church • 33801 Van Dyke Ave • Sterling Heights, MI 48312

**June 8–11 | Staunton, VA**

Victory Worship Center & World Outreach • 200 Hammond Lane • Staunton, VA 24401

**September 7–10 | Virginia Beach, VA**

Rivers of Living Water Church • 1001 Indian Lakes Blvd • Virginia Beach, VA 23646

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**EVENTS**

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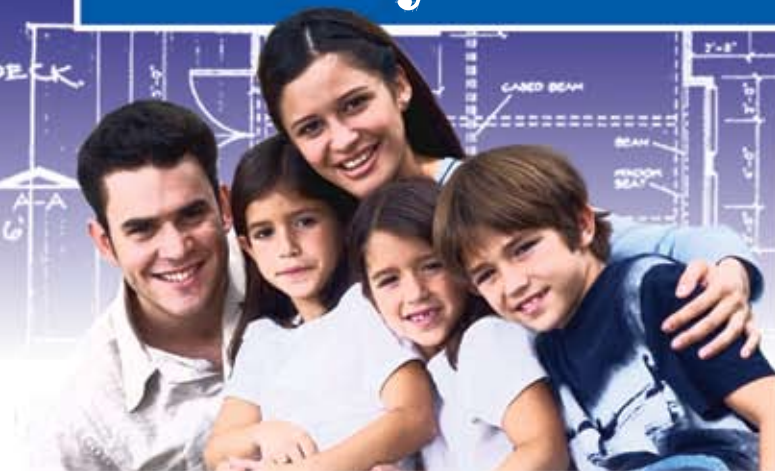
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### This Month's Topic: **Practical Steps to Sanctification**

The word *sanctification* means a dedication to seeking God and becoming more Christ-like while turning away from sin and a world-centered lifestyle. Sanctification is the process of pursuing God and becoming more like Jesus. In December, *Family Builders* challenged adults, children, and teens to present themselves as gifts to God and dedicate their lives to seeking Him and doing His will. This month, *Family Builders* provides practical tips on how believers of all ages can maintain the process of sanctification.

### Family Builders for Adults

#### Exposing Yourself to God

Growth in God comes from exposing ourselves consistently to Him by reading and thinking on His Word, doing what God's Word tells us to do, maintaining a consistent prayer life, and wholeheartedly serving God.



Begin the sanctification process by putting God's Word in your heart. Read it, believe it, study it, memorize it, think on it, and obey it. Start by establishing a time of daily Bible reading. Some Bibles provide a schedule to help you read through God's Word in a year.

Prior to each reading, ask God to give you insight into His Word and thank Him in faith for doing so. Write down scriptures that the Holy Spirit quickens to you. During the day, memorize and think about what you've read. Prayerfully ask God to show you how the scriptures apply to your life. Do what the Word and the Spirit—both are always in agreement—tell you to do.

You can also supplement your daily Bible reading with a devotional. Devotionals from Faith Library Publications such as Kenneth E. Hagin's *Faith Food Devotions* and *Health Food* provide a brief but powerful Bible-based reading for each day of the year. *From a Pastor's Heart* by Kenneth W. Hagin provides short, inspirational readings without specific dates assigned to each teaching. You can read your devotional before or after your daily Bible reading.

In addition to a daily intake of the Word, Christians need to pray regularly in order to hear from God and remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Dedicate a time for prayer each day. Perhaps you could start by committing to pray for at least 15 minutes in the morning or evening, whichever time works best for you. Begin by praising God and thanking Him for salvation, for other benefits He has provided for you in Christ, and for specific things He has done for you in your life. Pray for those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1–2) and for your pastor, family, local church, and personal needs. Pray with your understanding and in the Spirit. You will soon find your prayer time growing.

Start actively serving God. You can sow your talent to help in the work of the Lord. Your talent may be painting, cleaning, organizing, or something else. But whatever your talent is, you can get involved in your local church by using the talents God has given you to bless others.

### Family Builders for Children

#### Children Can Grow in the Word

Children's lives are shaped first and foremost by their parents' lifestyles. When children see their parents focusing on personal sanctification, they, too, can be influenced to follow God's plan for their daily lives. One practical way for children to expose themselves to the Word is by memorizing Scripture.

Children may be encouraged to memorize Scripture through programs at church, or parents can ask their children's pastor about a suitable scripture memorization program to use at home. Children and their parents can start by memorizing salvation scriptures. Parents should consider setting aside time in the evenings for a short devotional time. During the





devotional time, which can be each evening or on predetermined evenings during the week, both children and parents can recite the scriptures they have memorized.

Scripture memorization can be fun. Parents can establish a sticker chart so their children will be encouraged when they see how many stickers they have earned for each scripture memorized. Parents can also consider periodic rewards for children who apply themselves to the task. One of the greatest rewards is showing children how the Word specifically applies to their lives and how they can use the Word to bless others. Through memorization of salvation scriptures, children can be encouraged to share their faith with other children in the appropriate setting.

Parents can also introduce their children to daily Bible reading through the use of a children's Bible. Some children's Bibles or Bible-based books include illustrations that allow young minds to understand the meaning of a scripture with the aid of appealing art.

Whatever strategy parents and their children adopt, consistency is key to pursuing the things of God. Sanctification is a lifetime process, but parents can show their children that it can be an exciting adventure with God.

## Family Builders for Teenagers

### Teens Can Focus on Doing the Word

Teens face huge pressures to conform to the popular whims of their peers. But Christian teens can determine to pursue a sanctified life instead of following the flow of what is culturally acceptable.

First, teens should be encouraged to become active members of their church youth group. In addition to instructing them on walking in the Word of God, church offers young

people mutual support that influences them to say no to worldly desires and yes to serving God.

Along with consistent attendance at youth services, teens can grow in sanctification through Bible-based instruction on the spiritual reality that they are new creatures in Christ. By reading the Bible for themselves, teens learn how new creatures are to behave. Youth can challenge themselves to read and discover what the Bible tells them to do and what the Bible tells them to avoid as new creatures in whom God's nature now dwells.

For example, youth could be challenged to read Ephesians 4:11–5:20. Have them underline or highlight what the Word tells them about how children of God should act as a reflection of who they really are on the inside. Encourage youth to make a list of what the passage says new creatures in Christ should do and not do.

Ephesians 4:28 says to stop stealing, and verse 29 tells believers to avoid using foul or abusive language. Ephesians 5:2 tells believers to live a life of loving others just as Christ did. In other words, believers should think about other people's needs and preferences ahead of their own.

This is just one example of how teens can pursue sanctification. Armed with the essential awareness of who they are in Christ, youth can embark on a systematic approach to learning how new creatures act so that their inward nature is reflected in their outward lives. ♡



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"The Lord will guide you always: he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail." — Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)



# Seed Thoughts

by Lynette

I think one of the things that each of us must constantly keep in check is our attitude. If we are not careful we can have what some often call "stinking thinking." When I find myself needing to make an attitude adjustment, I look for something that will turn my thoughts to the positive things in life rather than the negative.

Recently I came across a story that really spoke to me. A little boy was overheard talking to himself as he strutted through the backyard wearing his baseball cap and toting a ball and bat. "I'm the greatest hitter in the world," he announced. Then he tossed the ball into the air, swung at it, and missed. "Strike one!" he yelled.

Undaunted, he picked up the ball and said again, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" He tossed the ball into the air. When it came down, he swung again and missed. "Strike two!" he cried. The boy then paused a moment to examine his bat and ball carefully. He spit on his hands and rubbed them together. He straightened his cap and said once more, "I'm the greatest hitter in the world!" Again he tossed the ball up in the air and swung at it. He missed. "Strike three! Wow!" the boy exclaimed, "I'm the greatest pitcher in the world!"

Your attitude determines how circumstances impact your life. The little boy's circumstances hadn't changed, but his optimistic attitude prompted him to give encouraging meaning to what had happened. Perhaps the year 2007 brought some negative situations into your life. Perhaps it caused you to have attitude issues. If so, I encourage you to begin 2008 by getting a complete overhaul in your attitudes.

It is true that life is not always fair. Sometimes we are handed lemons instead of lemonade. We can choose to cry over our circumstances, or we can choose to live victoriously in spite of them. When it comes to attitudes, the two Bible characters that I refer to so often are King David and the Apostle Paul.

When you review the lives of these two men, you will find that both of them found themselves in many difficult circumstances. In those situations, David continually cried out to his God. When he was surrounded by enemies, he wrote in Psalm 56:3-4, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee. In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me." And in verse 9 of that same psalm he said, "When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back; this I know; for God is for me." If David had taken the attitude, "My enemies are going to destroy me," he would have been destroyed. However, he kept his focus on his deliverer, the Lord God.

We find that Paul also encountered many difficult situations in his life. He was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, and imprisoned for the sake of the Gospel. Yet he expressed the following attitude in Second Corinthians 2:14: "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place." Regardless of the circumstances that the Apostle Paul found himself in, he kept the attitude that, in Christ, he could triumph.

In life we need to maintain the attitudes which both King David and the Apostle Paul possessed. We may not be surrounded by enemies, and we may not have been literally beaten, but perhaps the circumstances in our lives have beaten us down.

I want to encourage you today—keep your eyes on your Heavenly Father. In Him you will find strength, peace, and help to bring you out of every circumstance in your life.

John 16:33 in *The Amplified Bible* says, "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you.]"

Regardless of the situations that you may encounter this year, choose to adjust your attitude. Realize that you can relax and enjoy life in 2008 because the Lord is on your side, and He is working on your behalf to turn every situation around for your good.

A handwritten signature of Lynette in a cursive script.





# Kids' Page

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

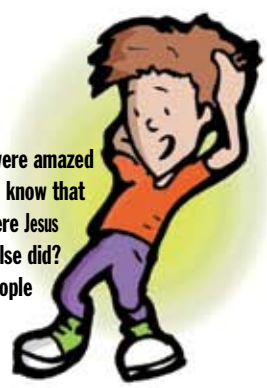
**DON'T FORGET!**

Psalm 103:1-5 tells us not to forget God's benefits. See if you can find five of His benefits contained in these rings of letters.

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 nebiblikerehredemsnxnotpelcihtiehcrownnsyoulekkbk  
 abctthetforivesbvneirellknshuehthealsatisfjessgscnmopelekc

## Jesus was Amazed?!

Everywhere that Jesus went, people were amazed by the things that He did. But did you know that there were two times in the Bible where Jesus was amazed by something someone else did? Circle the two people or groups of people below who you think amazed Jesus.



- A. Simon Peter
- B. The Centurion with a sick servant
- C. King Herod
- D. Superman
- E. The people in His hometown

Read Mark 6:6 and Luke 7:9 in the New International Version to find the answers.

## This Is Puzzling!

Place the puzzle pieces below in the right order and you will discover a word that no Christian should be without. Write the number order of the puzzle pieces in the circle above each piece. The first piece has already been put in the correct number order.

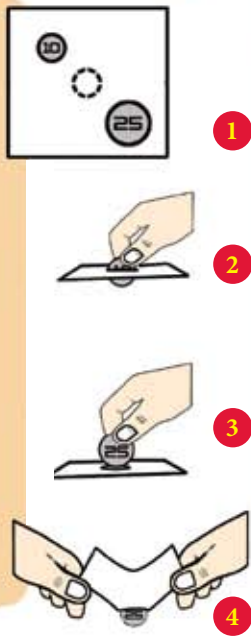


With this little object lesson, you will discover that some things that look like impossibilities really aren't.

- 1 Get a piece of plain paper and cut it into a square about 6 inches wide by 6 inches long. Find the center of the piece of paper and place a dime in the center and trace around its edges. Cut out the hole in the center with scissors.
- 2 Show your friends that a dime can easily go through the hole that was cut in the paper.

Give them the opportunity to slip the dime through the hole.

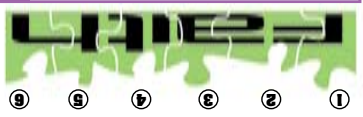
- 3 Then have one of your friends try to put a quarter through the same hole. They will be unsuccessful, because the hole is too small. Announce that you can make the quarter pass through the hole without tearing the paper or doing any "hocus-pocus," but you will not do it unless your friends "have some faith" in you.
- 4 When they show that they have faith that you can do it, simply fold the paper in half and place the quarter into the hole. A small edge of the quarter will appear through the hole. Then hold the folded paper on both ends of the fold and gently bend the edges upward as shown in the picture (4). The hole will widen as it is stretched and the quarter will easily drop through the hole. Tell your friends that Jesus faced a situation just like yours. He had the ability to do things that to others seemed impossible, but He couldn't do it in His hometown because they didn't believe Him.



## HAVE SOME FAITH!

**ANSWERS:**

Jesus Was Amazed?!. Answer: B. The Centurion with the sick servant - Luke 7:9; E. The people in His hometown - Mark 6:6  
 Don't Forget?!. Answer: forgives, heals, satisfies, redeems, crowns you



## Jokes & Riddles

What do you get when you cross a cocker spaniel with a poodle and a rooster?

A cockerpoodledoo

What did the light say when it was turned off?

I'm de-lighted!

Why did Cinderella get thrown off the basketball team?

Because she ran away from the ball.

Why was Cinderella such a poor athlete?

Because her coach was a pumpkin.

Can April March?

No, but August May!

### think about it!

If a person without shoes is called "bare-footed," what is a bear without shoes called?

Can you ever pronounce the word "WRONG" right?

If a poisonous snake bites its tongue, will it die?

get the gear ...  
 make the statement ...  
 tell the world ...

# i believe.®

Official i believe® gear...



T-shirt



Hooded Sweatshirt



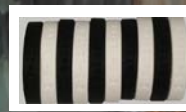
Pink Splash T-shirt



Spanish T-shirt



Camo & Trucker Hats



Wristband

... and more!

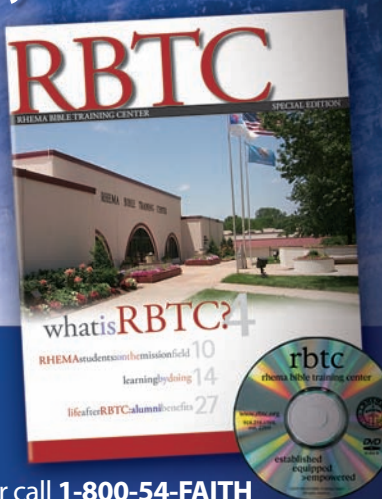
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