



# THE Word of Faith

SEPTEMBER 2020

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## Word of Faith



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# When Life Gets Interrupted

Life's interruptions happen when things don't go the way we had planned. Misfortune can either make or break us. We can learn from our experiences or become resentful and close ourselves off to what God has for us.

For example, in the Old Testament, Joseph's life was disrupted by several experiences that could have left him bitter and resentful. His brothers sold him into slavery, Potipher's wife lied about him, he was thrown into prison, and the cupbearer forgot about him. Joseph had every opportunity to lose faith, not only in people but also in his dreams! At each setback, he had a choice to make. But instead of letting trouble break him, he allowed the circumstances to make him into the man God needed him to become.

Our success or failure depends on how we handle adversity. We can become disillusioned or let the experiences mold us into the people God needs us to be. That way His work on the earth is accomplished. Rather than complaining, let's allow God to teach us in every situation. We will then grow spiritually and profit from our struggles. Hardship can prepare us for greater service to God if we let it.

When life doesn't go exactly as we think it should, instead of becoming negative and discouraged, we should look for the light of God at the end of the tunnel. The Lord turned every interruption in Joseph's life into a benefit. That only happened because he trusted in God and did not allow his heart to become hardened. He depended on God and refused to let any setback keep him down! The Lord could then bring Joseph to a place of great prominence and success.

Any time you are confronted with life's interruptions, stay in faith and declare, "My situation may be impossible with man, but it is possible with God" (Luke 18:27). Then allow your Heavenly Father to turn around the seemingly impossible circumstances to your good and His glory!

*Kenneth W. Hagin*

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# YOU CAN



# BOUNCE BACK

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LET THE DEVIL KNOCK YOU AROUND.  
THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN YOU IS GREATER THAN  
SATAN WHO CAUSED THE STORM.



**CRAIG W. HAGIN**

**IT'S NO SECRET** that one of my favorite scriptures is John 10:10. The *New King James Version* reads, *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."*

The first part of that verse in the *New Living Translation* says, *"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy."* **SATAN HAS A PURPOSE, AND IT IS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE WORSE.** When you know the devil's goal in any battle, you shouldn't be surprised when he attacks.

Jesus also defined His purpose in John 10:10. It's so that you and I will have an abundant life. When you focus on what Jesus said, the devil's objective should not be a big deal.

I can't count the number of times I have talked to people who have said, "Craig, you wouldn't believe what I'm going through. I don't know how I'm going to make it."

Their comments make me wonder what Bible they are reading from! They are too caught up in what the devil is doing. **CHRISTIANS ARE TO LIVE WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT GOD SENT JESUS, AND BECAUSE OF HIM, THEY CAN BE VICTORIOUS IN ANY SITUATION!**

Too often, believers act like Jesus isn't with them or in them when Satan attacks. They behave as if they are defeated and have no hope of winning. You have been given the victory, so why are you getting upset in the middle of a battle? Yes, the devil is trying to kill you, steal from you, and destroy your life. But if you knew you already won, your attitude would be different.

It's futile to pray and ask Jesus to come back and do something about your situation. It's like asking Him to be crucified again. Jesus doesn't have to do anything more. He did it all on the cross. He told us to use His Name to ensure Satan's defeat. At times, you only need to speak the Name of Jesus. When everything seems to be falling apart, you can say, "Thank you Jesus. I will get through this. Thank you for providing me with the victory. It may not look good right now, but I am victorious."

You also have the Word. Scripture tells you to *"Resist the devil, and he will flee from you"* (James 4:7 NLT). When the enemy keeps hitting you with everything he has, knock him out with the Word. Tell the devil, "It is written," and insert the scripture you are standing on for your situation.

## Get Grounded in the Word

To effectively use scripture against the attacks of the enemy, it is crucial that you are established in the truth. I am reminded of a bop bag—an inflatable punching bag toy. No matter how hard the bop bag is hit or kicked, it pops back up every time. That's

because the bottom of the bag is filled with sand or water. It may wobble at first, but it doesn't take long to become stable because of how it is grounded.

You, too, can stand strong against the enemy's blows. The bob bag is filled with sand, but believers are filled with the Solid Rock Who is immovable. It doesn't matter how many times the devil tries to knock you down, when you are established in the promises of God, you can get back up. You may wobble a little, but that doesn't mean it's over—it's only temporary. You will bounce back!

## What Is Your Problem?

Sometimes the hits keep coming, the storms of life seem impossible, and it looks as though there's no way out. During those times, remember that **JESUS IS THE ANSWER!** And when you have the solution, you don't have a problem! Jesus' disciples learned this the hard way.

### MARK 4:35-40 (NLT)

**35** As evening came, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

**36** So they took Jesus in the boat and started out, leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed).

**37** But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water.

**38** Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?"

**39** When Jesus woke up, he rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Silence! Be still!" Suddenly the wind stopped, and there was a great calm.

**40** Then he asked them, "Why are you afraid? Do you still have no faith?"



Following Jesus' instructions turned into a scary situation for the disciples.

One minute they were crossing the lake to their next destination.

Then out of nowhere, a fierce storm arose. They thought they were going to drown.

Because the disciples focused on the storm, they didn't remember what Jesus said: "Let's cross to the other side of the lake."

The wind and the waves didn't bother Jesus. He was sound asleep. The disciples began shouting at him—not with voices of triumph but fear-filled cries for help. He woke up and took care of the

situation. Then He turned to the disciples and essentially said, "What is the problem? Why are you fearful? Don't you have any faith?"

I believe Jesus says the same thing to you and me when we are in a storm. He asks, "Why are you afraid? I am right here with you. Where is your faith?"

Unfortunately, life's storms aren't going to stop. You have an enemy who is determined to fulfill his purpose. But you don't have to let the devil knock you around. **THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO LIVES IN YOU IS GREATER THAN SATAN WHO CAUSED THE STORM.** Jesus gave you everything you need to bounce back—His Name, His authority, and His Word. Most of all, He gave you Himself.

You are not alone. And trying to figure out how to get through a storm is not your responsibility. Jesus has the solution for any adversity you encounter. He doesn't need your help in coming up with a remedy. He simply needs you to trust and believe. Too many people are looking for what they already have. When you have the answer, you don't have to look for it. Jesus is your answer!♥

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# Born Again

TAD GREGURICH

I WAS 4 years old when my family began attending a denominational church. No one talked about being born again, so I never gave my life to Christ—I didn't know you were supposed to! We thought if we were in church, we were Christians.

During junior high and high school, I went to a basketball camp every year for seven years at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. When I was in college, Ted Owens, the KU coach at the time, asked me to coach the camp, so I did.

When I was away, I called and talked to my dad. He sounded different. He had gotten "saved" when I was gone! "When you get back," he said, "I have a book I want you to read." After returning from coaching, Dad handed me *The New Birth* by Kenneth E. Hagin.

I read the small book with interest. There was nothing in it that was against what I had been taught, but neither did it contain anything I had been taught! At my church, we learned about the Passion Week, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection. But that was about it.

The following Monday night, my parents and I attended a charismatic Bible study in someone's home. People were there from every kind of church in our town. After we sang some songs, someone asked, "Does anyone have anything to say?"

***No one talked about being born again, so I never gave my life to Christ—I didn't know you were supposed to!***

I don't know what possessed me to share, but I said, "I just read the book, *The New Birth*, by Kenneth E. Hagin. I want everyone to know that I believe God raised Jesus from the dead and that He is my Lord and Savior." At that moment, I knew something happened.

## ROMANS 10:9–10 (NKJV)

**9** If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

**10** For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

I had never heard that if I confessed with my mouth the Lord Jesus, I would be saved. My church didn't teach us that. I never acted on Romans 10:9 when I first read it. But that night when I confessed Christ as my Savior, I felt something change inside me.

Those folks got excited and started singing again. A little Catholic lady from the Philippines walked up to me and said, "I'll hold your hand, and you will speak in tongues." She did, and I did!

I credit *The New Birth* with teaching me the doctrine I needed to act and receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior.♥

[Editor's Note: Tad Gregurich has been the dean of Rhema Bible Training College since 2008. He is also an associate pastor at Rhema Bible Church.]



FAITH IN ACTION

## A Fresh Start

Jesus taught that you must be born again to have a right relationship with God. Great benefits belong to Christians, but before you can claim any of them, you must experience the new birth. You don't have to have a feeling like Tad did, you just need to act on Romans 10:9–10. If you would like to receive God's gift of salvation, pray the following prayer:

*Dear God,*

*I realize that no one is righteous and all have sinned (Rom. 3:10, 23).*

*I believe that Jesus came to bring righteousness by dying in my place, and I receive His gift of salvation (Rom. 5:15–17).*

*I believe in my heart that You raised Jesus from the dead, and I accept Him now as my Savior and my Lord (Rom. 10:9–10).*

*I ask You to fill me with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue, enabling me to speak in a heavenly language (Acts 2:4).*

*Thank You, Father, for accepting me into Your family and giving me a new start in life!*

If you prayed this prayer for the first time, welcome to God's family! Please email [partnerservice@rhema.org](mailto:partnerservice@rhema.org) or call 1-800-54-FAITH (543-2484). We want to celebrate with you and send free resources to help you get started in your new life as God's child.

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# You Are Amazing!

LYNETTE HAGIN



A **TEACHER ONCE** asked her class of 11-year-olds, “What is in the world today that was not here 15 years ago?” She expected their answers to be new inventions or discoveries. One boy quickly raised his hand and replied, “Me!” How right he was!

**IT IS IMPORTANT TO FEEL GOOD ABOUT YOURSELF.** For one thing, to complete the work God has for you, you must believe you can accomplish His plan. That is key to walking out your assignment. Unfortunately, people are often defeated because they have a low self-image and don’t believe in themselves.

## You Are Valued!

As a child, you may have had negative words spoken to you. Those damaging words may still echo in your ears every time you try to accomplish something. **IT’S TIME TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THAT NEGATIVE INFLUENCE.**

You do that by seeing yourself as God sees you. Start thinking of yourself the way that little boy did. Your outlook on life will be different. You will realize that you are special to God and that He has a divine purpose for you.

Psalms 139:14 (TLB) says, “*Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! It is amazing to think about. Your workmanship is marvelous—and how well I know it.*” The psalmist praised God for His workmanship. We should do the same.

## You Are Gifted!

**GOD MADE YOU THE WAY YOU ARE, AND HE NEVER CREATED A FAILURE. SUCCESS IS HIDDEN INSIDE YOU.** It is necessary to be confident in your ability and in God’s ability. When you trust in God’s ability, the success He placed in you will be displayed in your life.

Philippians 4:13 helped me to believe that I could be successful. It says, “*I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.*” Many times when I thought I couldn’t complete the task God had given me, I quoted that verse. The enemy often screamed in my ear, “The job is too big for your ability.” I screamed right back at him, “It might be too much for me, but I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me! It is not beyond God’s ability in me!”

Some people use the excuse, “If only I had such and such, I would be successful.” None of us can live our lives based on what we don’t have. Start with what you do have, and make your life a success.

What did the Apostle Peter say to the man at the Gate Beautiful? “*Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you*” (Acts 3:6 NKJV). **RECOGNIZE YOUR ABILITIES, GIFTS, AND STRENGTHS, AND STRIVE TO MAXIMIZE THEIR USE.** Dedicate your talents to the Lord to be used for His service.

## You Are a Winner!

Set your goals high. My father-in-law used to say, “I’d rather set my goals high and reach some of them than not to have any goals and reach all of them.” If you have not set goals for yourself yet, perhaps you are afraid of failure. Many people feel that way. But remember, failures are never final. **YOU HAVEN’T FAILED**



**UNTIL YOU FAIL TO GET UP.** Rise every time you fall. In fact, it’s biblical. Micah 7:8 says, “*When I fall, I shall arise.*”

No one likes to fail, but trying and failing is better than not trying at all. Recognize failures as opportunities. You do not win in life because you never make mistakes; you learn through mistakes how to win. Start living this way and see the difference it makes in your life.

## You Are Unique!

So be proud of who you are. Don’t be a clone of someone else. **GOD HAS A PLAN ONLY YOU CAN FULFILL. HE HAS A REASON FOR YOU TO BE ALIVE.** You are unlike anyone who is on the earth now or who will ever live. Thank the Lord for being His unique creation and start walking out His plan today!♥

# WHAT WILL

# INTEGRITY DO?



IN THE FACE OF TESTING AND TRIALS, *you choose* WHETHER TO HOLD ON TO INTEGRITY OR LET IT GO.



**DENISE HAGIN BURNS**

**DURING MY DEVOTION** time, I came across a phrase and couldn't get away from it: "*Search me, O God, and know my heart*" (Ps. 139:23 NKJV). I rolled it over in my mind, "God, don't You know my heart? You made me, and You live within me. What else do You want to know?"

As I began to study, one reference took me to Job 31:6 (NKJV), "*Let me be weighed on honest scales, that God may know my integrity.*" I wondered if that's what the Lord meant and plugged the word "integrity" into Psalm 139 in place of the word "heart."

*Search me, O, God, and know my integrity.*

But what does that *really* mean? Integrity seems hard to come by these days! I looked up definitions and found things like being honest, having such strong moral principles that you refuse to change, and being complete or undivided. These are all things of the heart.

## 1 Integrity Is a Heart Issue

The first thing I discovered is that integrity is a matter of the heart. It doesn't deal with actions as much as it deals with the inner man.

**PSALM 7:8 (NKJV)**

**8** The Lord shall judge the peoples; judge me, O Lord, according to my righteousness, and according to my integrity within me.

2

## Integrity Preserves You

This is a serious issue! I believe we are in the last days. God needs His people not only to do the right things but also to have *integrity of heart* so He can protect us.

**PSALM 25:21 (NKJV)**

**21** Let integrity and uprightness preserve me, for I wait for You.

**PSALM 41:11–12 (NKJV)**

**11** By this I know that You are well pleased with me, because my enemy does not triumph over me.

**12** As for me, You uphold me in my integrity, and set me before Your face forever.

3

## Integrity Guides You

When you don't know what to do, integrity will help you make the right decision.

**PROVERBS 11:3 (NKJV)**

**3** The integrity of the upright will guide them, but the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

4

## Integrity Brings Confidence

You are confident when you know you have nothing to hide. You can say, "Bring it on! Test me! I'll come out clean."

**PSALM 26:1–2 (NKJV)**

**1** Vindicate me, O Lord, for I have walked in my integrity. I have also trusted in the Lord; I shall not slip.

2 Examine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my mind and my heart.

## 5 Integrity Is a Choice

In the face of testing and trials, you choose whether to hold on to integrity or let it go. The devil tried to destroy Job without cause. But God said, “*he holds fast to his integrity*” (Job 2:3 NKJV).

### JOB 27:3–5 (NKJV)

3 As long as my breath is in me, and the breath of God in my nostrils,

4 My lips will not speak wickedness, nor my tongue utter deceit.

5 Far be it from me that I should say you are right; till I die I will not put away my integrity from me.

Let me ask you the same question Job’s wife asked, “*Do you still hold fast to your integrity?*” (Job 2:9 NKJV). When the world around you becomes corrupt, do you cling to purity? When life gets tough and temptations come, do you remain firm in your principles? Do you still trust God? Will you swerve in your commitments or persist in your faith?

## Three Ways to Keep Integrity Intact

**1) WEIGH WITH HONEST SCALES (JOB 31:6).** Dishonest merchants in those days could tamper with the scales to make more money. If you have seen a judge’s scale with two sides that balance, imagine if the seller secretly added rocks when he weighed the product. The buyer would be swindled!

That’s what the world does. They use perverted scales. What seems to be true is not, and we weigh ourselves against a lie. Satan’s plan is to twist the truth, so we do not have integrity! We get into grey areas and allow ourselves to drift into simple little things that everyone is doing. But it’s still a heart issue.

What do you think about when nobody is around? They might not be things you would ever act on. But that’s where sin starts—in the heart. Proverbs 4:23 says we are to guard our hearts with all diligence because out of it spring the issues of life. So weigh your thoughts against the Word of God! Does it line up? Does it balance? Or are they opposed and out of sync?

### FAITH NUGGET

## A Heart of Gold

*“Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.”*  
—Psalm 139:23–24 (NLT)

**2) REFUSE TO LET CIRCUMSTANCES IMPAIR YOU.** Definitions of *integrity* include “having unchanging moral principles and an unimpaired condition.” Christians often start out great, so what changes? Usually it’s circumstances.

When you are hurt by a situation and your heart becomes calloused, it affects the way you think and eventually your actions. It’s easy to be offended when someone lies about you. If someone you

respect has a moral failure, you can become cynical and jaded. It hardens your heart, and now you are impaired!

We are human and make mistakes. God is not so concerned about you messing up (your actions), but He is concerned about the integrity of your heart. Don’t let someone else’s failure or sin change your principles! Pray for them. Galatians 6:1 says that those who are spiritual are to restore those who have fallen.

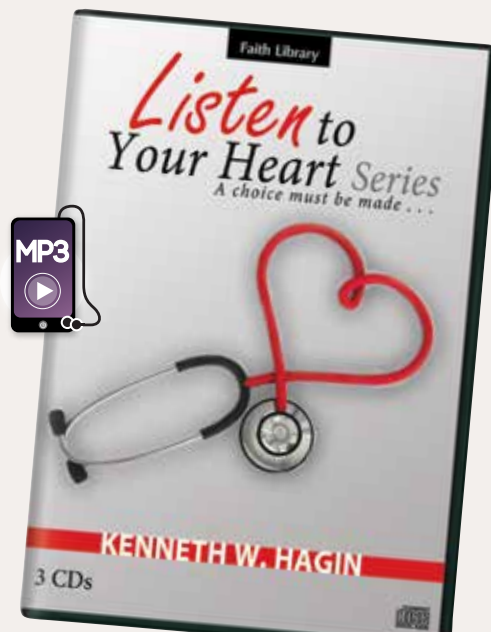
**3) ALLOW GOD TO CHANGE YOU.** When the Bible speaks of being tested or tried by fire, it often refers to gold. That is how it is refined and purified. Here’s the thing about gold: the purer it is, the softer it is. That’s why people don’t have jewelry of pure gold. It’s too soft. It would bend if you pushed on it!

We need to be like pure gold. We need a heart of gold that is soft and pliable. When God touches us, we will instantly mold and shape to Him. So what are we waiting for? Let’s desire integrity and let Him search us.♥

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# What Real Men Do



JOE MCGEE

**HELL HATES YOUR** guts, men of God. **BUT WE ARE HERE TO WHIP HELL!** Jesus said, “I’m going to build my Church, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matt. 16:18). We should make hell break out in a cold sweat every day.

Our job is to be in a hell-whipping mode! How? By serving our families and fellow man and by being a blessing in our communities and churches. We want to leave everybody better than we found them. Jesus did, so that’s what we are to do.

## Three Things Men Do

**1 MEN ARE LOVERS.** They are to love their wives, children, and fellow man. “*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her*” (Eph. 5:25 NKJV). This verse speaks of agape love—the when-you-don’t-feel-like-it-you-still-do-it kind of love. It’s not saying, “I’m tired.” I don’t care how tired you are; get up and serve your wife. My job is to be a lover. I love my wife whether or not she loves me back.

**2 MEN ARE LEADERS.** They are to lead at home and in their careers and communities. “*The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God*” (1 Cor. 11:3 NKJV). There’s a pecking order in God’s Kingdom. God is the head of Christ. Christ is the head of man. Man is over the woman. Woman is over children. Children are over the dog. Dog over cat. Cat over mouse. Mouse over cheese. And cheese over cracker. If you look up the word *head*, it does not mean “dictator.” The word translated *head* means “source.” God is the *source* of Christ. When you love someone, you *serve*, not dominate them.



is what brings success. God watches over His Word to perform it (Jer. 1:12). It works just as much today as when it was first spoken. If God told us to do something, He will help us.

We are godly men, and we live in the greatest time in human history. We are lovers, leaders, and providers for our wives, children, families, businesses, and communities. Let’s be who God created us to be. **THIS IS OUR DAY!**♥

[Editor’s Note: Joe McGee travels across the U.S. teaching people how to build better families and marriages. This article was adapted from his message at *A Call to Arms Men’s Conference 2019*.]

## FAITH IN ACTION

### A Man’s Prayer

God loves to show off, but you have to keep Him involved in your life. Start the day by worshiping Him. God made it, so rejoice and be glad in it (Ps. 118:24)! Declare that wherever you are, you are there by divine appointment—either to be a blessing or to receive a blessing. Begin your time with the Lord with this prayer:

Heavenly Father,  
I thank You for Your Word.  
Your Word is truth.  
It sets me free,  
and it keeps me free.  
According to Your Word, I declare:  
I am a lover,  
I am a leader,  
and I am a provider for my family.  
I receive your grace with thanksgiving.  
I am blessed and highly favored!  
In Jesus’ Name, amen.

**WHEN YOU LOVE SOMEONE,  
YOU SERVE,  
NOT DOMINATE THEM.**

**3 MEN ARE PROVIDERS.** God wired them to provide for their households. “*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*” (1 Tim. 5:8 NKJV). Uncertainties in the economy can make their responsibility difficult. The Word, however,

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# THE BLAME GAME



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IT'S A LOT EASIER TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE RATHER THAN PLACE THE BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS—  
*squarely on our shoulders.*

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON to hear people ask, “Why did God permit this?” “Why doesn’t God do something about this?” or, “Why did Jesus let that happen to me?” The answer may surprise you, but God can’t do anything about it. It’s up to the ones asking the question to exercise their authority in Christ and enforce the Word of God in their lives.

Jesus is the Head of the Church, and we in the Church are His body (Eph. 5:23, 30). Authority is conferred not only upon the Head but also upon the body. The same authority the Head has, the body has. Our physical head cannot do a thing without our body. In fact, our head can’t do anything *except* through our body.

The same is true with Christ and the Church. Jesus is not here in a physical body, so **IT'S UP TO THE CHURCH TO ENFORCE HIS WILL ON THE EARTH.** Instead of doing this, many Christians don’t do anything and blame God for what they are experiencing. It’s not a matter of God letting bad things happen to them. *They* have actually allowed bad things to happen because they haven’t accepted their responsibility and exercised their authority in Christ.

This is what happened in the Garden of Eden. We see clearly from the following passage that Adam never took responsibility for his actions.

**GENESIS 3:8-12**

**8** And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

**9** And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

**10** And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

**11** And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

**12** And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

When God asked Adam if he ate the forbidden fruit, Adam immediately blamed Eve and God. Adam turned the situation around by saying, “*The woman whom **thou** gavest to be with*

me.” In other words, Adam was saying, “It’s Your fault, God. You and the woman are to blame!”

People today aren’t much different. It’s a lot easier to blame someone else than to place the blame where it belongs—squarely on our shoulders. God made provision for us to be *overcomers*. **WE CAN BE VICTORIOUS EVEN IN THE MOST TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES.** It may feel as though our situation is beyond our control, but God has provided a way of escape from everything that comes against us. Our victory is found in His Word, the Name of Jesus, the blood of Jesus, and our authority in Christ.

We’d like to think we’re not responsible for the adversity we encounter, whether it’s sickness, financial lack, or some other trouble. But we are more responsible for what happens to us than many of us would like to admit. It’s up to us to use what He has given us to change our circumstances.

We cannot allow ourselves to become so caught up in day-to-day affairs that we don’t hear God’s still, small voice when He tries to warn us and direct our paths to safety. **WE MUST BE QUICK TO USE OUR AUTHORITY** when symptoms come on our bodies. And during adversity, **WE MUST GUARD OUR LIPS AND ONLY SPEAK WORDS OF FAITH.**

When we realize that Christ’s authority also belongs to every member of His Body, we will never be the same. We will dominate the devil instead of letting him dominate us!♥

[Editor’s Note: This article was adapted from *The Believer’s Authority Study Guide* and *The Believer’s Authority: Legacy Edition*.]

#### FAITH NUGGET

## How to Deal With the Devil

As long as Satan can keep you in unbelief or hold you in the arena of reason, he will whip you in every battle. But if you will hold him in the arena of faith and the Spirit, you will whip him every time. He won’t argue with you about the Name of Jesus—he’s afraid of that Name.

The most effective way to pray can be when you demand your rights. Peter at the Gate Beautiful did not pray for the lame man. He demanded that he be healed (Acts 3:6). You are not demanding of God when you demand your rights—you’re demanding of the devil.

Jesus said in John 14:13–14, “*And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do. . . . If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*” These verses are not talking about prayer. The Greek word here is “demand,” not “ask.”

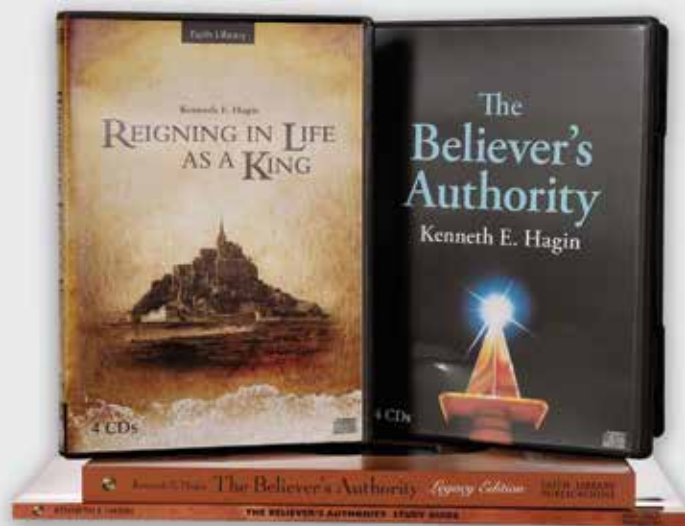
On the other hand, John 16:23–24 is referring to prayer. “*And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.*” The Father is mentioned here in connection with prayer, but He is not mentioned in the passage from John chapter 14.

The Greek actually reads, “Whatever you demand as your rights and privileges.” The Body of Christ must learn their rights and begin to demand them!

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Do we have authority that we don’t know about, that we haven’t discovered, that we’re not using? Yes! When believers understand this and use the authority God gave them, they will be able to dominate the devil and do what God intended in their lives. Get ready for change!



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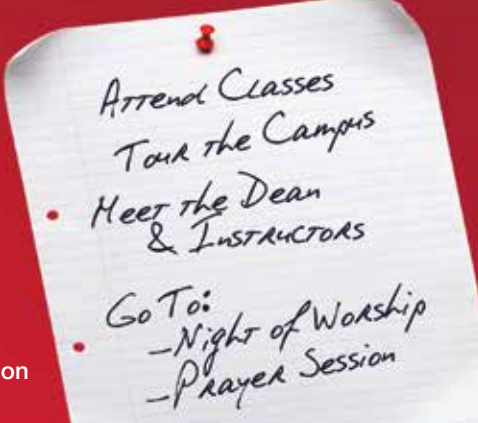
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# Be Led by Truth

DAN TAYLOR

**IN THIS ERA**, people have made truth relative to the situation they are in. But truth is not relative—it's absolute. I like to say that it is stationary. It doesn't move. To get closer to the truth, I have to change my position.

How do we recognize truth? Jesus said that God will give us *"another Helper . . . the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you"* (John 14:16–17 NKJV).

The world can't see the Spirit of Truth! That means I can't watch CNN or Fox News and know what truth is. I won't be able to find it in my newspaper or on my Facebook newsfeed. If I use exterior ways to determine truth, I'm looking in the wrong places because the Spirit of Truth dwells within me!

**THERE IS ALSO A CORRELATION BETWEEN TRUTH AND GOD'S WORD.** Jesus said, *"If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:31–32 NKJV).

If I want to be led by truth, I have to get into the Word. Then I can know the truth and be free. That's a different narrative than what the world has! People without God say the Bible is too restrictive—that they can't live or move in its truths and have freedom. But when you know the truth, that knowledge frees you!

**AS CHRISTIANS, WE KNOW THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.** We carry it! God's power and knowledge are within us! We find core truths in God's Word and have the opportunity to hear His voice within us. Jesus explained it to Pilate like this: *"For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice"* (John 18:37 NKJV).

So if I am not walking in truth, guess what I have a hard time hearing? God's voice! But if I am operating within truth, I can hear His voice anytime, anywhere. Even at McDonald's, the voice of the Lord can say, "Put that Big Mac away!" It's up to me to listen and obey or override His instructions and eat the hamburger anyway.

*"If you love Me, keep My commandments"* (John 14:15 NKJV). Jesus said that right before He talked about the Spirit of Truth (vv. 16–17). **OUR LOVE LANGUAGE TO GOD IS DOING WHAT HE SAYS.** But we sometimes get it mixed up. We flip what Jesus said in verse 15 and think we have to keep God's commandments before He will love us. No! God loves every person whether or not they serve Him. That is absolute truth and that small difference can set people free.

**WE ARE OBLIGATED TO ASK GOD, "WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?"** He has detailed instructions for us to follow. Read what God said to Noah in Genesis 6:14–16. Guess what you'll find? Boring details! Why is that important? *Noah was in a position to hear every detail!* He built a boat in a place where there were no boats. There was no YouTube video for him to watch. Noah had to get his directions from God.

Are you in a position to be led like that? Can you hear the details? Are you ready to follow a plan where all your directions come from God? I challenge you to get ready! Go to the Creator and figure out what He wants you to do. Then walk out the details He gives you and make an impact on the world!♥

[Editor's Note: Dan Taylor is an instructor at Rhema Bible Training College. This article was adapted from his *Winter Bible Seminar 2020* message.]



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#RhemaWOF

# No Fear!

CRAIG W. HAGIN

**THE BIBLE CLEARLY** says that God has not given us a spirit of fear (2 Tim. 1:7). So where does it come from? The devil.

When people say, “I’m afraid of this or that,” they are actually saying, “I’m allowing the devil to rule over this area of my life.”

It’s no fun to live life afraid. When I first began snow skiing, fear gripped me every time I went. I crashed a lot, and it wasn’t fun.

I discovered that music would take my mind off how tough the hills were. I became a fairly decent skier when I had my music going because I wasn’t afraid.

We can never be afraid of what *might* happen. There are a lot of “mights”! But we can’t worry about those things. We can’t become frightened when something tragic happens or because of the dangerous times facing our generation. We have to trust God.

## The Power of God’s Protection

We need to understand the power of the Lord’s protection. My mom taught me Psalm 91 when I was very young. She always claimed it over our family, and today, I do the same with mine. It is also a psalm to read when we are filled with fear.

One time when I was around 10 years old, I was playing in the backyard with one of my friends. Mom went somewhere and left us at home. When we came inside to get something to drink, a man was banging on the front door. He could have been a salesman, but I immediately felt afraid. And he wouldn’t leave!

So I took my friend, grabbed a Bible, and said, “We are going to read

Psalm 91.” By the time I finished reading, the man had left. It might have been no big deal, but my first instinct was to speak the Word when I felt danger. The Word works! But we have to know what it says.

Psalm 91:7 says if 1,000 people fall on one side of us and 10,000 on the other side, we won’t be hurt! Verse 3 (NLT) says we are protected from deadly diseases, and verse 10 (NLT) says that plagues won’t come near our homes. We don’t have to get the flu, the coronavirus, or any deadly disease that is going around. Jesus took stripes on His back so we could be healed!

Quit worrying about every situation and circumstance. Quit letting fear enter your heart because God did not give you a spirit of fear!

## Being Led by the Spirit

Psalm 37:23 says the Lord orders our steps. Romans 8:14 (NKJV) says, “*As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.*” We should endeavor to be led by the Holy Spirit. But what does that mean?

It means that if we ever get a check in our heart about doing

something, we shouldn’t do it. If something on the inside tells us not to go, we don’t go.

As my grandfather Kenneth E. Hagin always said, it’s like taking a bath with your clothes on. It doesn’t feel right. And if you don’t feel right, don’t do it!

My grandfather told about a time when he and the family were in Texas visiting minister friends. They were on the porch getting ready to leave when he said to the pastor, “I don’t feel like we should leave yet. I don’t know why, but we’re not going.”

They sat down and talked for another 15 or 20 minutes. Then my grandfather said, “I think it’s time to go.” After they left, they came across an accident where people had died. If they had left earlier, they would have been right there when it happened!

The Lord will lead, guide, and protect us, but we have to follow Him. We must listen to His still, small voice on the inside. And we need to speak the 91st Psalm over our families. We *can* have whatever we say and believe. We don’t have to fear!♥



WE CAN NEVER BE AFRAID OF WHAT *might* HAPPEN. THERE ARE A LOT OF “MIGHTS”! BUT WE CAN’T WORRY ABOUT THOSE THINGS.

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# Faith

## That Won't Quit



KENNETH W. HAGIN

**PERSISTENT FAITH IS** tenacious. It never lets go of a goal—no matter what Satan tries to throw in its way. It believes God regardless of circumstances and hindrances. Persistent faith fights the good fight of faith.

An example of this kind of faith is found in the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25–34). She never quit no matter how many obstacles she encountered. And that is why she was the only person in the crowd who left healed.

### Relentless Faith in Action

Another example of faith that did not quit is seen in the story of the paralytic. This man was lowered through the ceiling of a roof by four of his friends. It is a dramatic account of faith that would not take no for an answer regardless of the obstacles!

#### LUKE 5:17–25 (NKJV)

**17** Now it happened on a certain day, as He [Jesus] was teaching, that there were Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting by, who had come out of every town of Galilee, Judea, and Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was present to heal them.

**18** Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him.

**19** And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

**20** When He saw their faith, He said to him, “Man, your sins are forgiven you.”

**21** And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, “Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

**22** But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, “Why are you reasoning in your hearts?”

**23** “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’?”



YOUR SITUATION MAY FEEL  
OVERWHELMING,  
BUT AN UNCOMPROMISING FAITH IN GOD  
*will see you through to victory.*

**24** “But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

**25** Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God.

Faith that never gives up gets what it needs from God. It refuses to be discouraged by hindrances that are in the way. People with persistent faith will receive when others do not.

Jesus was teaching in a home packed full of people, including Pharisees and teachers of the law. Verse 17 says, “*The power of the Lord was present to heal them.*” God’s power was available to heal everyone present, but only one person was healed!

Why was the paralytic healed when no one else was? Because he *demonstrated* his faith. He allowed his friends to carry him up to the roof. They had to remove tiles in the roof to lower him in front of Jesus (v. 19). The men who carried him up to the rooftop had faith too!

The Bible says Jesus *saw* their faith (v. 20). Faith isn't visible, but the *actions* that faith produces are! The paralytic and his four companions refused to quit! When their faith was challenged, they simply found another way.

Hebrews 11:6 says that without faith, it is impossible to please God. Unwavering faith pleases God! The paralytic man wasn't healed because his faith was any greater than yours or mine. He was healed because he and his friends kept going despite the challenges. They refused to accept failure as part of their thinking.

In ministry, we see people come to meetings, and in five seconds, they want to get everything from God and then leave. It doesn't work that way. Sometimes it takes determination—not because God is withholding from you but because you have an enemy who is against you. He will put every obstacle imaginable before you to keep you from receiving what is yours.

Like the paralytic, you may have to push past some obstacles before receiving what you need from God. Even when it seems as if the Word isn't working, continue to hang on to God's promises.

### Keep Your Eyes on the Goal

When you decide to believe God for what is promised in His Word, you have to be one hundred percent dedicated to your commitment to succeed. It's like running a race; you cannot quit halfway. Once you start, there is no stopping to rest. If you want to win, you have to run with your gaze fixed on the goal in front of you.

The devil will talk to your mind. If you believe what he says and take your eyes off God, you will lose ground. Don't allow the enemy to captivate your thinking with thoughts of discouragement, doubt, and unbelief. And stop looking at your shortcomings and mistakes, and focus on Jesus!

It doesn't matter what the symptoms are, who said you were a failure, how many times your bank account shows a zero balance, or how desperate your circumstances are. The only thing that matters is what is recorded in God's Word. Jesus said in Matthew 7:7 that if you knock, He will open. If you ask, He will answer. Luke 1:37 says, "*For with God nothing shall be impossible.*" If you refuse to quit and entirely trust in the Word, you can have whatever you need from God.

### Jesus Is Our Example

Defeat isn't part of Jesus' nature. The One Who did mighty exploits while on the earth, died on the Cross of Calvary and took the keys of death and hell from Satan. That same Jesus knows no defeat! Why then should the Church—we who are part of His body—accept defeat!

Because Jesus paid for your total redemption, no problem is unsolvable, and no fear is unconquerable if you believe God. Your situation may feel overwhelming, but an uncompromising faith in God will see you through to victory.

The enemy will try to bluff you. He wants to trick you into thinking that he can rule

over you. But the Word says that Satan has been defeated. No attack from hell can overwhelm a steadfast, unyielding faith in the Lord. So refuse to compromise your faith. God will see to it that the power of Christ will be effective in your life!♥

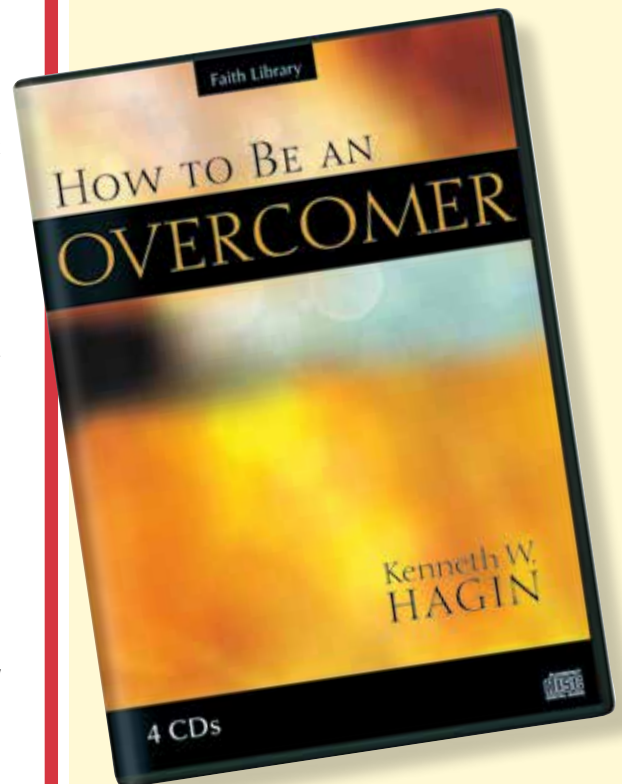


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# SEED

## 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)

### ASKING THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR HELP

**I HAVE CONCENTRATED** often on the Book of Matthew where Jesus was preparing the disciples for His departure from the earth. The disciples were asking Jesus a question. *"Later, Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives. His disciples came to him privately and said, 'Tell us, when all this will happen? What sign will signal your return and the end of the world?'"* (Matt. 24:3 NLT).

Jesus answered them with vital information and instructions. For lack of space, let me give you a small part of it. *"Jesus told them, 'Don't let anyone mislead you, for many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah.' They will deceive many. And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. . . . Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold'"* (Matt. 24:4-8, 12 NLT).

I am sure the disciples were in a state of panic. Imagine being with Jesus on a daily basis: receiving instruction, gaining wisdom, and being comforted. We would probably respond in the same manner. The disciples were probably thinking, "What are we going to do now? Jesus is going away, and we will have no one to teach, direct, and encourage us."

And isn't it just like the Lord to give us the answer to our question before we even ask? Jesus answered their question in John 14:16-17 (AMPC), *"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—the Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you."*

Jesus gave further instruction in John 16:13 (NKJV), *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

I am so thankful for the Holy Spirit. It is important that we train our ear to listen to His instructions. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. Satan will holler in your ear; the Holy Spirit whispers. That is why it is important to quiet our minds and open up our spirit to hear instructions from the Holy Spirit.

Whatever you need, He is there to provide. He is there to be your counselor. I always say it this way: The Holy Spirit has unbiased opinions. He is only saying what the Heavenly Father instructs Him to say. He will always give you the correct answer. If you need help, the Holy Spirit is there to be a help and give you wisdom for any situation. He is there to strengthen you. When I have many tasks to perform in a limited amount of time, I call on the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit.

As I said previously, the Holy Spirit is a gentleman. Therefore, to take advantage of the many provisions that have been made available to us, we must ask. In the natural, the company you work for has provided you with benefits, such as a vacation. But you will not receive a vacation unless you apply for it.

The same is true with the Holy Spirit. You must ask. Recently, I was overwhelmed and distressed by the situations around me. My mind was bombarded with negative thoughts. All of a sudden I said, "Heavenly Father, I need help. I need words of comfort." I can just imagine the Father saying to the Holy Spirit, "Go tell my child this." As I was sitting quietly meditating on the Lord, a chorus I had not thought of in years came to mind.

"Turn your eyes upon Jesus. Look full in His wonderful face. And the things of the earth will grow strangely dim. In the light of His glory and grace."\* That brought me such peace and comfort and got my focus on Jesus instead of the situations I was encountering. I encourage you to call upon the Holy Spirit. He is there to function in the areas He has been assigned to by the Heavenly Father.♥

Lynette

\*"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus," written by Helen Howarth Lemmel, 1918.





# Kids' Page

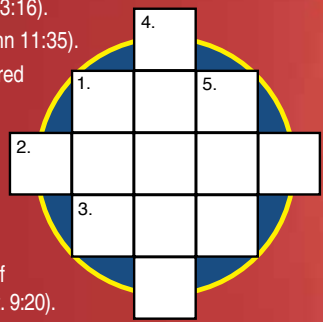
Fearless, A-nointed, I-nward-Led, T-rustworthy, H-eirs of God

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fill in the blanks to fill in the puzzle.

### Across:

- God so loved the world that He gave \_\_\_\_\_ only begotten son (John 3:16).
- \_\_\_\_\_ wept (John 11:35).
- Jesus was delivered into the hands of sinful \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 24:7).



### Down:

- A sick woman touched the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus' garment (Matt. 9:20).
- He is not here, but is \_\_\_\_\_ (Luke 24:6).
- At Jesus' crucifixion, the \_\_\_\_\_ was darkened (Luke 23:45).



## Do You Have Spiritual Amnesia?

Amnesia is a medical condition that leaves a person with a temporary or permanent loss of memory. People who get amnesia forget important things about themselves, their past experiences, and even people that they once knew. Did you know that there was a whole group of people in the Bible that got SPIRITUAL AMNESIA? Read these portions of scripture from Psalm 106 and you will see what we mean!

*Our fathers in Egypt did not understand Your wonders; They **did not remember** the multitude of Your mercies, But rebelled by the sea—the Red Sea. . . . He rebuked the Red Sea also, and it dried up; So He led them through the depths. . . . He saved them from the hand of him who hated them. . . . The waters covered their enemies. . . . Then they believed His words; They sang His praise. They **soon forgot** His works; They did not wait for His counsel. . . . They made a calf in Horeb, And worshiped the molded image. . . . **They forgot** God their Savior, Who had done great things in Egypt (vv. 7, 9–13, 19, 21 NKJV).*

The one main problem we find in this story about the Israelites is that they **forgot** too many things. They forgot God's mercies, His works, and His salvation. They had **SPIRITUAL AMNESIA!** So, how can you prevent this spiritual problem? Remind yourself daily of God's blessings in your life and recount all of the things that He has done for you and you will never get **SPIRITUAL AMNESIA!**

## Add-'Em-Up!

A great scripture verse to defeat Spiritual Amnesia is in verse 2 of a chapter in the Book of Psalms. You can find the chapter number by reading the verses below and adding together all of the numbers found within the verses.

Luke 3:23	=	_____	} <b>TOTAL</b>
John 5:5	=	_____	
Luke 17:12	=	_____	
Revelation 4:10	=	_____	
John 10:30	=	_____	

## Test Your Memory

Carefully study this picture for 30 seconds. Pay close attention to colors and numbers of things. Then cover the picture with your hand or a piece of paper and see how many of these questions you can answer . . . **WITHOUT PEEKING!**

- How many kids are there in the picture?
- How many kids are on the slide?
- What color jacket is the boy on the swing wearing?
- What kind of ball is in the picture?
- What season of the year is it?
- How many kids are wearing blue jeans?
- How many kids are wearing red shoes?
- How many red-headed kids are there?



## jokes & riddles



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

Did you hear about the ant that died from a stomachache?  
**He had too much ANT-ACID**

What is the favorite TV dinner of astronauts?  
**A Satellite Dish**

What's the favorite game of wild Australian dogs?  
**Dingo Bingo**

What did Adam and Eve do when their first son was born?  
**They raised Cain**

What has eight legs and catches flies?  
**The infielders of a major league baseball team.**

**Patient:** Doctor, I have this problem.  
I think I'm a dog.  
**Psychiatrist:** How long have you had this problem?  
**Patient:** Ever since I was a puppy.

**Answers:**

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS:

1. HIS 2. JESUS 3. MEN

DOWN:

1. HEM 4. RISEN 5. SUN

ADD-'EM-UP!

LUKE 3:23 (30)

JOHN 5:5 (38)

LUKE 17:12 (10)

REVELATION 4:10 (24)

TOTAL—103 (PSALM 103:2 SAYS TO BLESS THE LORD AND TO FORGET NOT ALL OF HIS BENEFITS.)

JOHN 10:30 (1)

TEST YOUR MEMORY

1. 11 2. 6 3. RED 4. BASKETBALL

5. FALL (ORANGE AND BROWN LEAVES ARE FALLING TO THE GROUND)

6. 5 7. 2 8. 3



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