



# THE Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2002

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES



## ARTICLES

- *Are You Knocking or Entering In?*
- *Holding On To Your Victory*

## FEATURES

- *Seed Thoughts From Lynette*
- *From the Archives*
- *F.A.I.T.H ACADEMY Kids' Page*



with Pastor Kenneth Hagin Jr.

## Our Hopes and Fears



This is the time of year when Santa Claus appears at the mall, radio stations begin playing holiday carols, and stores and homes are decked with lights, trees, and gifts. These are the sights and sounds of Christmas. But is this really Christmas?

To some people it is. To others, Christmas is shepherds, magi with their camels, angels, and nativity scenes. Yes, that is how Christmas began, but the reason for the season doesn't end with Jesus' birth.

The real meaning of Christmas lies in the life Jesus lived on earth — in His miracles, His love, and His teachings — and in His death, burial, and resurrection. One phrase in the classic Christmas carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem" says it all: "The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

As we approach the Christmas holidays, our thoughts and hearts are turned toward the birth of Jesus. Many people think of Jesus only as a babe in a manger. But the story only begins there.

For a moment, go with me in your mind as we look back in time. See the stable, with the newborn babe in the manger. See the shepherds as they worship and magnify God for the Savior who is born.

Now move forward thirty years, and go with me to the wedding in Cana, as Jesus turns the water into wine. Walk with Jesus down the dusty roads of Judea from village to town to village. Sail with Jesus upon the Sea of Galilee. Sit with Him on the mountainside and hear Him teach the Beatitudes.

Go to Capernaum and see the miracles Jesus performs. See Him deliver the wild man tormented by devils. See Him at Peter's house healing Peter's mother-in-law. Walk with Him on the road to Jairus' house. Watch as He heals the woman with the issue of blood.

See Jesus just outside the city of Jericho, and listen as Bartimaeus cries out, "Jesus, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me!" Experience the joy as Jesus gives sight to the blind!

Walk to the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus prays, "If it is possible, let this cup pass from Me. But if not, Your will be done." See Jesus drink the cup of

sin, sickness, and degradation. Watch Him walk from the garden to the judgment hall where a crown of thorns is placed upon His head and where His back is beaten so that you may be healed.

Walk up Calvary's hill; watch as soldiers nail Jesus to the cross. See Him hang suspended between Heaven and earth. Listen as He cries out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" and, "It is finished!" See His head slump to His chest. Hear the thunder roll. Watch the lightning flash, and feel the earth shake.

See the disciples take Jesus from the cross and place Him in the grave. Go with Peter and John to visit the tomb, and hear the angels say, "He is not here. Why do you seek the living among the dead?" Join the disciples and watch as Jesus ascends into Heaven.

At Christmas we celebrate Jesus' birth, but I do not believe we can celebrate His birth without seeing the whole picture as I just described it to you.

There could be no death without a birth. There could be no death without a life. Yes, Jesus was born. But He lived and died for one purpose. And that one purpose was to redeem mankind from sin, sickness, and death.

This Christmas as we celebrate Jesus' birth, let us also celebrate His life, death, and resurrection. And let us remember that we are waiting in patient expectation for His soon return. "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17).

But we don't have to wait for Christmas to celebrate Jesus and all that His life and death gave to us. Before Jesus went to the Cross, He instituted Communion as a means of remembrance. Each time we take Communion, we are to celebrate Jesus' birth, His life (the miracles He performed and the lessons He taught), His death (the supreme sacrifice that set us free), His resurrection, and His coming again.

The Communion bread and cup say it all: His broken body and His shed blood. Because of Jesus, we have eternal salvation, bodily healing, and life more abundant. Jesus is indeed the reason for every season, and the hopes and fears of all the years are met only in Him.

*Kenneth Hagin Jr.*  
— Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

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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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# Walking Through *the* Open Door

The Lord has set before us wonderful doors of opportunity, blessing, and provision. What's more, they are not *closed* doors, but they are *wide open* doors of divine blessing!



*Kenneth E. Hagin*

*And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is HOLY, he that is TRUE, he that hath the key of David, HE THAT OPENETH, and no man shutteth; and SHUTTETH, and no man openeth; . . . behold, I have set before thee AN OPEN DOOR, and NO MAN CAN SHUT IT . . .*

— Revelation 3:7,8

**D**uring the Apostle John's exile on the Isle of Patmos, the Lord first gave him the revelation of Jesus as the One who opens doors. During this time, the Lord also gave John messages for the seven churches that existed in Asia Minor at that time. In Revelation 3:8, Jesus told John that He was setting an open door before the Philadelphia Church, a door that no *man* could open or shut.

The messages Jesus gave John for the churches also teach us a lesson. They contain messages from God to us. For example, in Revelation chapters 2 and 3, notice something that Jesus repeated over and over again: "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:7,11,17,29; 3:6,13,22). I believe that includes those of us living today. We, too, need to hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church. We are the Church — the Body of Christ.

What is the message for the Body of Christ today? It is found in Revelation 3:7 and 8.

The Lord Jesus Christ is speaking in these verses. We know Jesus is the One speaking because verse 7 says, ". . . These things SAITH HE THAT IS HOLY, HE THAT IS TRUE . . .



*HE THAT OPENETH . . .*” Jesus is the One Who qualifies as the Holy One and the True One.

By saying this, Jesus is giving us a description of Himself. He is revealing His *character* to us. What is His character? Jesus is *holy* and *true*. Those qualities are aspects of His character.

Therefore, the first things Jesus revealed about His character in Revelation 3:7 are that He is holy and true. You see, Jesus could say that He is *holy* because no fault was found in Him by God, by man, or by the devil.

When Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River, as He came up out of the water, the Spirit of God descended upon Him in bodily shape and form like a dove. Then a Voice spoke from Heaven, saying, “*Thou art my beloved Son; IN THEE I AM WELL PLEASED*” (Luke 3:22).

God also spoke from Heaven on another occasion about Jesus. When Jesus took Peter, James, and John and went up onto the Mount of Transfiguration, the Bible says that the cloud of God’s glory overshadowed them.

#### MATTHEW 17:5

5 . . . A BRIGHT CLOUD overshadowed them: and behold A VOICE OUT OF THE CLOUD, which said, THIS IS MY BELOVED SON, IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED; hear ye him.

Jesus pleased God because He was and is the Holy One. In other words, God found no fault in Him.

Men tried to find fault in Jesus, but they couldn’t find any sin in Him. Men even examined Jesus before the courts of men; they tried to find fault in Him and trap Him in His words. But they couldn’t find any error in Him because His character is pure, holy, and true.

In fact, throughout His ministry, men brought Jesus before human courts of public opinion and judgment. For example, the Word of God tells us that the Pharisees thought surely they could challenge Jesus and that He would say something that would get Him in trouble with the Roman government.

#### MARK 12:13-17

13 And they send unto him [Jesus] certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, TO CATCH HIM IN HIS WORDS.

14 And when they were come, they say unto him, Master, we know that THOU ART TRUE, and carest for no man: for thou regardest not the person of men, but

teachest the way of God IN TRUTH: Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not?

15 Shall we give, or shall we not give? But he, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, Why tempt ye me? bring me a penny, that I may see it.

16 And they brought it. And he saith unto them, Whose is this image and superscription? And they said unto him, Caesar’s.

17 And Jesus answering said unto them, Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s. And THEY MARVELLED AT HIM.

The Pharisees thought they would catch Jesus in an error. However, Jesus answered in such a way that no fault could be found in Him by anyone. Even the Pharisees, the strictest religious sect of the day, could find no fault in Jesus. Jesus, the Holy One, could not be found in error.

Then the Sadducees had their try at Him. The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection from the dead, nor did

(Matt. 27:23). Pilate had no accusation to bring against Jesus, because Jesus had done nothing wrong.

#### MATTHEW 27:24

24 When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing, but that rather a tumult was made, he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of THIS JUST PERSON: see ye to it.

At every single human tribunal, man found no fault in Jesus. His character stood the test of man because He is holy and true.

Even the devil tried to find fault in Jesus.

In Matthew chapter 4, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. After Jesus had fasted forty days and nights, Satan came to Him and said, “If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread” (Matt. 4:3). Jesus

## What is the message for the Body of Christ today? It is found in Revelation 3:7 and 8.

they believe in angels or spirits. So they came to ask Jesus a question concerning Jewish law, hoping to catch Him in an error (see Mark 12:18-27).

Jesus answered with such wisdom and authority that the Sadducees could find no fault in Him either. The officers of the chief priests and Pharisees also wanted to question Jesus to try to trap Him in His words. But they could not.

No wonder they came back and reported, “*Never man spake like this man*” (John 7:45,46). No matter what the religious leaders tried to do to trap Jesus, they could not catch Him in His words because Jesus is the Holy One. He is the True One, and there is no fault or flaw whatsoever in His character.

Even when Jesus stood before a human tribunal to be crucified, man could find no charge against Him. Even Judas, His accuser, could find no fault in Him. Judas said, “. . . *I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood . . .*” (Matt. 27:4).

Pilate asked the crowd of Jesus’ accusers: “. . . *what evil hath he done? . . .*”

answered, “. . . *It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (Matt. 4:4).

Satan was trying to tempt Jesus and trap Him in His words. But Jesus rebuked him with the Word of God, saying, “*It is written . . .*” (Matt. 4:4,7,10). Jesus stood steadfast by declaring what the Word said. Jesus whipped Satan with the Word. Jesus’ character stood the test of temptations and trials because He is the Holy One and the True One. Satan couldn’t find any fault in Jesus.

No fault was found in Jesus by God, by man, or by the devil because Jesus is holy and true.

Our key text, Revelation 3:7, reveals two things to us: Jesus’ *character* and Jesus’ *work*. We’ve seen His character. But in this passage, we also see something concerning the *work* that the Holy and True One does.

#### REVELATION 3:7

7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he

that is HOLY, he that is TRUE, he that hath THE KEY OF DAVID, HE THAT OPENETH, and no man shutteth; AND SHUTTETH, and no man openeth.

One aspect of Jesus' work is to open and shut doors. Jesus said about Himself, "I am He that *opens* and no man shuts. I am He that *shuts* and no man *opens*." Opening and shutting doors are acts symbolic of Jesus' authority.

In the Gospels, Jesus called Himself the Door. He said, "I AM THE DOOR: by me if any man enter in, he shall be

Jesus is not shutting His doors of blessings on His people! His doors of blessings are open to all. Are you walking through those open doors?

It is important to know that when Jesus opens a door for you, no man can shut it. Your family can't shut it; your friends can't shut it. No man can shut a door that Jesus opens for you.

Actually, *you* are the only one who can in effect shut the doors of God's blessings in your life. How? By a lack of understanding or by disobedience. You

visions of God, Jesus has already set before us an *open door*.

Ephesians 1:3 says, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who HATH BLESSED US WITH ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS IN HEAVENLY PLACES in Christ.*" In other words, the open door of God's blessings is already there for us to walk through because God has provided us with *all* spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

Some of Jesus' open doors to God's blessings are the open door of salvation, the door of service and opportunity, the door of divine healing, the door of utterance, the door of financial blessing, and the door of Heaven.

Since Jesus has opened wide His doors of blessing for us, the responsibility of whether or not we ever walk through those open doors belongs to us.

Again and again throughout the Bible, the Word of God puts the responsibility for receiving the blessings of God upon each individual person. There are some things you have to do to receive God's blessings and provisions. *You* have a part to play in what you receive from God.

Jesus has done His part because He's already opened the doors of blessing. And since Jesus has set before you open doors that no man can shut, it's up to *you* to walk through them! ♥

## Since Jesus has opened wide His doors of blessing for us, the responsibility of whether or not we ever walk through those open doors belongs to us.

saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture" (John 10:9).

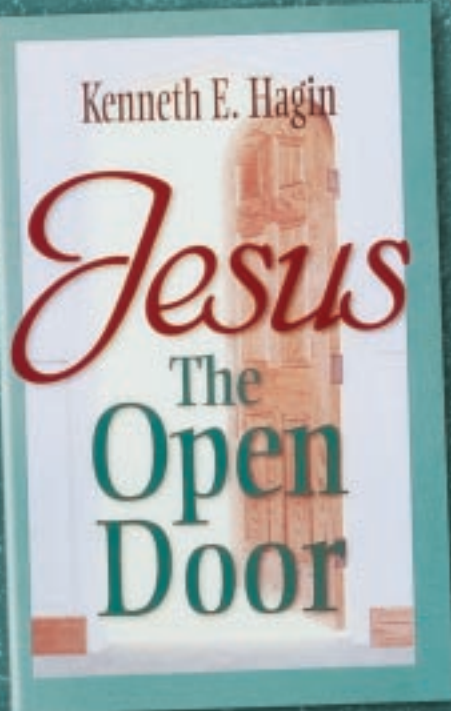
Jesus alone is the Door to salvation. Jesus is the open Door to all who will believe and receive Him. The Bible says, "*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12).

In Revelation 3:8, Jesus said, ". . . behold, I have set before thee AN OPEN DOOR . . ." Everyone is invited to walk through the open door of salvation.

see, there is a God-ward side and a man-ward side to everything we receive from God.

Many times people want to leave it all up to God. They say, "Whatever I need, I know the Lord will send it. If I need healing, He will send that. Whatever it is, God will just send it."

That sounds good, and that sounds religious. But putting it in the context of what Jesus said, it really isn't true. Why? Because when it comes to the pro-



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***And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. - John 8:32***



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what comes after

# VICTORY?

It's important to know how to gain the victory through the good fight of faith. But it's also important to know what to do **after** we win great victories in God, because many times, that's when Satan will try to set up roadblocks in our lives.



*Kenneth Hagin Jr.*

Everyone likes to talk about victory and success and how to receive from God. But we don't hear people talk too much about what to do after great victories to protect ourselves from the devil's schemes. However, there are some important lessons we must learn if we're going to stand strong in God, not only to gain the victory, but also to *keep* the victory.

It's easy to sing and shout when you've experienced a major triumph. If you receive a victory of healing or if a financial need is met, you rejoice. You're so excited about what God has done that you want to run and jump and tell everyone about it. But what happens after all the excitement has died down?

When we're at church and God has met our needs, it's easy to rejoice with our friends and have a high time in the Lord! But then, when we go home and are alone, sometimes there's a letdown from all the excitement. That's when the devil tries to come in to attack us.

There's an old saying: "Let us be as watchful *after* the victory as *before* the battle." That's a good statement because it tells us to be forewarned and forearmed against the devil's strategies.

We've also heard it said that life is not a *playground*; it's a *battleground*. And when we look at this statement from a spiritual standpoint, we see in the Word of God that this is the truth. The Bible says that we wrestle in spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12-18).



We know Satan is going to try to hinder us, but many times we don't know exactly *how* he's going to do it. If we knew exactly how he was going to hinder us, we would block him before he ever got to us.

It would be stupid for me to just sit and watch Satan come into my house and attack me or my family. If I knew a thief was going to try to break into my house and rob me by slipping in the back door, I would be foolish not to try to do something to keep him out. But that's what some believers do with the devil! They just sit and do nothing and allow Satan to come in and devour their homes and lives.

If we don't take authority over the devil, that's exactly what we're doing — we're just letting the devil come in and take over!

Most of the time, we are on guard against Satan, so he has to slip in like a thief. One way he sneaks in is by finding our weak point. He finds the place in our lives that we're not guarding so he can take us unaware.

We need to be careful to guard our lives with the Word of God and prayer. How do we do that?

When I was in the United States Army, we posted sentries around the perimeter of our area to keep the enemy from coming in and attacking us. The sentries also gave us advance warning.

The Word of God is *our* sentry. It's our defense against the enemy. If we will walk according to the Word of God, we will be safe from falling prey to the enemy's devices.

#### 1 PETER 5:8

**8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR.**

You must be alert and abiding in the Word if you're going to be able to detect the enemy trying to slip in unaware. The devil prowls around like a roaring lion, trying to devour you.

The Bible compares him to a roaring lion because if he catches you off guard, he can be that ferocious. The Bible also says Satan will try to come in as a deceitful spirit. In other words, he is sneaky.

#### 2 CORINTHIANS 11:13,14

**13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.**

#### 14 And no marvel; for SATAN HIMSELF IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.

One of the times to really be on the lookout for the devil's wiles is after we've won a great victory. Normally, when we've been believing God for certain things to come to pass and we finally receive our victory report, we have a tendency to let our guard down (1 Cor. 10:12). And that's exactly when the enemy tries to move in.

We think, *Thank God! It finally happened!* In that time of relief and rejoicing and praising God, the pressure is finally off, and we forget to beware of the enemy who is still roaming around trying to devour us.

... Life is not a playground;  
it's a battleground.

Sometimes it's in our times of rejoicing that the enemy will come in and deal us a harsh blow because we're not alert to defend ourselves. The reason we're not alert is that we're so busy rejoicing because our need has been met that we let our guard down.

It's great to rejoice and praise God. We're supposed to do that — the Bible says so. But while we're rejoicing, let's post some sentries, so to speak, to guard our territory so the enemy can't come in and take us unaware.

The prophet Elijah experienced a lapse of faith after a great victory. Evidently he didn't guard himself after his victory, so the enemy was able to come in to try to devour him. *His lapse of faith started when he began expecting the worst.*

In First Kings chapter 18, Elijah went up to Mount Carmel with God and won a tremendous victory against the prophets of Baal. Elijah stood by nonchalantly while the prophets of Baal cut themselves, trying to get their god to answer them. Elijah mocked them, saying, “. . . Cry aloud: for he is a god; either he is talking, or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey, or peradventure he sleepeth, and must be awaked” (1 Kings 18:27).

So the prophets of Baal just cried louder and cut themselves some more. Elijah was clothed with the power of the Spirit, and he knew that God was

going to show Himself mighty on Elijah's behalf.

Then Elijah stepped up to the altar of the Lord that he had built. He prayed, and the power of God fell like fire, burning up the sacrifice and licking up the water in the trench around it.

The prophets of Baal had prayed and screamed to their god all day long. But Elijah prayed, and probably in less than two minutes, God demonstrated Himself with mighty power. God showed up!

#### 1 KINGS 18:31-38

**31 And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came, saying, Israel shall be thy name:**

**32 And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord: and he made a trench about the altar . . .**

**33 And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood.**

**34 And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time.**

**35 And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water.**

**36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.**

**37 Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.**

**38 Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.**

Elijah, the great man of God, called fire down from Heaven and watched in triumph as the fire consumed his sacrifice — a sacrifice soaked with *twelve barrels* of water! Then Elijah killed all the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:40). Now that's a tremendous victory over the enemy!

But when the wicked Queen Jezebel heard what Elijah had done to her prophets, she sent a messenger to tell Elijah, “. . . *let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time*” (1 Kings 19:2).

So what did this great man of God do after he heard the queen’s threat?

## expecting the **WORST** is really expecting **Satan to triumph** over God.

Remember, this was the prophet who had just defeated all the prophets of Baal by the power of God. When he heard Jezebel’s threat, he turned and ran away in fear.

Sometimes after you’ve experienced a great spiritual victory, the devil will hit you with a counterattack, and if you’re not on your guard, it can cause you to turn and run.

That’s exactly what happened to Elijah. After his great victory, when Jezebel threatened him, Elijah ran for his life! Think about it! Elijah had just called down fire from Heaven, so why should he have been worried about Queen Jezebel?

If God could take care of Elijah once, God could take care of him again. But Elijah didn’t guard himself after the

victory, so he began to expect the worst. Expecting the worst is really expecting Satan to triumph over God.

If Elijah had depended on God to deliver him from wicked Queen Jezebel, he would have walked in God’s victory plan for his life. There’s no way Jezebel could have harmed him! God had His victory plan all figured out. He knew

exactly what He was going to do to rescue Elijah.

But instead of staying in faith and expecting the best, Elijah had a lapse of faith and ran away in fear. He wasn’t on guard against the enemy’s wiles. He didn’t know Satan would try to sneak in to devour him after a great victory.

We need to learn from Elijah’s experience. It’s important that we realize that some of the greatest tests we will ever face will hit us right after we’ve experienced some of our most tremendous victories.

God demonstrates His power to us in our victories so we will know that the same power is available to us in any situation or problem. But how many of us have learned that lesson? Instead, a lot of us run from the problem as if we’ve

never seen the power of God demonstrated on our behalf!

What can we learn from Elijah’s experience? For one thing, once we’re walking in God’s victory plan for our lives, we shouldn’t jump out of it. Stay in the victory! To do that, we have to guard ourselves with the Word in our area of weakness, so the devil won’t take us by surprise. Then we can walk on in faith.

When we trust God, it becomes His responsibility to see that we are delivered. When we rest our faith entirely upon Him, there is no such word as “impossible.” Jesus said, “. . . *If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth*” (Mark 9:23). He also said, “. . . *The things which are impossible with men are possible with God*” (Luke 18:27).

Right after experiencing a great victory is no time to let our guard down. We must keep on fighting the good fight of faith, because as long as we’re on this earth, the enemy is going to keep trying to defeat us.

But we can depend upon God and His Word! There is no test, trial, or circumstance that is too hard for Him. If we’ll look to God’s Word in every situation, we’ll come out the victor and fulfill God’s plan for our lives! ♡

# V GOD'S VICTORY PLAN

Throughout the Bible, you will find that God used the most unlikely and ordinary people — people just like us — to bring about His victory plan upon the earth. God always plans for victory because He wants His children to succeed and triumph in life. Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.’s book *God’s Victory Plan* explains how to take your place as a partner with God and succeed in everything you do.

#### Chapter titles include:

- Following God’s Plan Brings Victory
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*“For there is born to you this day in the city of David  
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11 NKJV).*



**Thank God for His Son,  
Jesus, Our Lord!**

*We join with you in thanks and praise  
this holiday season and pray that  
the Lord will richly bless you and yours  
as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.*

*Merry Christmas From Our Family to Yours.*

*The Hagins*



# Merry Christmas



God Ble



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# From the Archives

A nostalgic look at the beginnings of Kenneth Hagin Ministries



## ‘With Long Life Will I Satisfy Him’

*On August 8, 1934, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin was healed by the power of God through faith and prayer after lying bedfast for 16 months. This month, Rev. Hagin continues an account of how he had to learn to stand in faith to keep his healing.*

\*\*\*\*\*

My Bible was lying on the floor under my chair. It had been lying there for the entire six hours that I had been sitting there waiting to die. I thought God had spoken to me supernaturally to tell me that I was going to die that day, and I was just waiting for it to happen. Really, it was the devil who had spoken to me. But I didn't know then what I know now.

I hadn't looked at my Bible the whole time. I reached down under the chair, picked up my Bible, opened it to the 91st Psalm, and read the whole psalm. When I got to the end I read, "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation" (v. 16). Those were the same words that had floated up to my mind earlier from somewhere inside me.

Do you think the devil gives up easily? It would be wonderful if more Christians had as much persistence as the devil does. A voice spoke to my mind, just as a thought comes, "Well, yes, but that's in the Old Testament.

That was just for the Jews. That's not for the Church." You see, the devil knew that I didn't know that verse is for the Church as much as it was for the Jews.

I was crestfallen. I thought, *Maybe it isn't for the Church. Maybe long life is not for us.* I sat for a moment, stunned. *What am I going to do?* I thought. Then it came to me. *I know what I'll do. I'll run my references. If I can find anything in the New Testament on long life, I'll know it belongs to me.*

I started checking the references given in the margin of my Bible for other passages on long life, and they led me to Proverbs. My, my — Proverbs has a whole lot to say about long life!

I saw that whatever voice had spoken audibly to me to tell me that I would die had misinterpreted Hebrews 9:27: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." The voice had said, "Everyone has an appointed time to die, and when that time comes, you're going to die." But you see, that's not what that verse is saying. It just means that, universally speaking, the appointment of death is out there for all men.

As I began to read in Proverbs, I could see that whatever voice was speaking to me was not the Holy

Spirit, because I read in Proverbs that doing certain things will shorten your life, and doing other things will lengthen your life. Well, if you can shorten or lengthen your life — and the Bible says you can — then you couldn't have an appointed time to die. You couldn't have a time when you're going to die regardless of whatever else you do, could you?

I kept reading and moved over into the New Testament. And among other scriptures, I saw First Peter 3:10. Here Peter quotes from the Old Testament: "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." [See Ps. 34:12-16.] When I saw that, I knew that long life belonged to me.

Holding my Bible in one hand, I leaped out of the chair, doubled up my fist, kicked my foot, and said, "Devil, you get out of this room! I'm not going to die today, or next week, or next year, or in the next five years, or the next ten years, or the next twenty or twenty-five or thirty or thirty-five or forty or forty-five or fifty or fifty-five years!"

I believe that I can dwell in the secret place of the Most High, and that the blessings of Psalm 91 are mine. Now if a person leaves the secret place of the Most High, that's another story. But to him that dwells in the secret place of the Most High, God says, "With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation" (Ps. 91:16). I settled that in 1934, and it hasn't bothered me since.

*(To be continued . . .)*



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# Kids' Page

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

## Find the OPPOSITES!

In every situation that you UNDERGO, the Lord wants you to OVERCOME! The two capitalized words above are "opposites." See if you can find all of the opposites in the story below. There are 11 in all.

There once was a young boy who tended sheep for his father. His name was David. His father was old and had many sons, but few of them could tend the sheep like David. David was strong and handsome but he was quite small. One day a very big man named Goliath came and challenged Israel to a fight. He said that the men of Israel were weak and cowardly. When the men of Israel saw how big, rough, and ugly Goliath was, they were all afraid. But David heard about the challenge and was very brave. He wanted to go up to fight Goliath. He went down to a creek and collected 5 smooth stones. He ran toward Goliath with a stone in his sling. Goliath laughed at David because he was so small. But David slung the stone and it came out of his sling and hit Goliath in the forehead. Goliath fell down dead. When Goliath's friends saw it, they cried and ran away.

## THE SIGN FOR VICTORY

The Bible tells us what it takes to overcome the world. The hand signs below spell out the answer. Can you figure it out? The answer is found in 1 John 5:4.



## ARE YOU AN OVER-COMER?



What does it take to be an OVERCOMER? Well, the very first thing it takes is "SOMETHING TO OVERCOME"! What would have happened if the great heroes of the Bible hadn't overcome? This is how some of the great stories of the Bible would have turned out if someone hadn't overcome in the situation.

**1. THUS, ALL THE ISRAELITES BECAME SLAVES TO THE PHILISTINES BECAUSE NO ONE WAS BRAVE ENOUGH TO FIGHT THE PHILISTINE CHAMPION.**

2. And all of the people bowed before Nebuchadnezzar's image of gold and worshipped, and he was very happy that all of the people obeyed his command.

**3. The walls of Jerusalem lay in ruins, and so they remain to this very day.**

4. And because the king's decree could not be changed, all of the Jews were put to death on the thirteenth day of the twelfth month.

**5. And since the walls of the city were so tall and thick, the Israelites turned around and headed back to Egypt.**

Thank God for overcomers!

Now, see if you can figure out which Bible heroes change the stories written above.

## Jokes & Riddles



What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment and never in a thousand years?  
**The letter "M."**

Why do sharks only swim in salt water?

**Because pepper water makes them sneeze.**

Why did the cookie go to the doctor?

**Because it was feeling crummy.**

How many animals did Moses take on the ark?

**None. Moses wasn't on the ark . . . it was Noah.**

How much is a skunk worth?

**One scent.**

What's the difference between a train and a teacher?

**A train says "Choo-Choo" and a teacher says "Spit out your gum."**

A man left home running. He ran a ways and then turned left, ran the same distance and turned left again, ran the same distance and turned left again. When he got home, there were two masked men. Who were they?

**A catcher and an umpire . . . the man was a baseball player**

## ANSWERS:

**Are You an Overcomer? - ANSWERS:**  
1. David 2. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego 3. Nehemiah 4. Esther 5. Joshua  
**Find the Opposites - ANSWERS:**  
1. young - old 2. many - few 3. strong - weak 4. handsome - ugly 5. small - big 6. cowardly - brave 7. rough - smooth 8. up - down 9. ran toward - ran away 10. laughed - cried 11. in - out  
**The Sign For Victory - ANSWERS:**  
F A I T H



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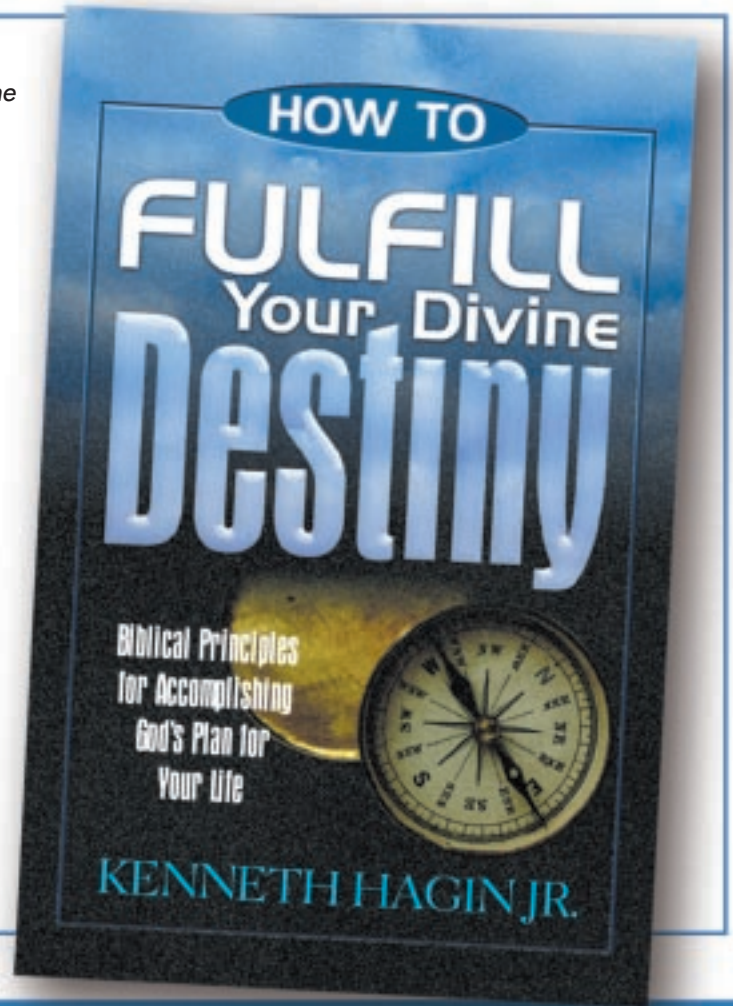
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