



THE Word of Faith

MARCH 2001

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

**Praying for
Those in Authority**

.....

**The Greatest Name
Ever Known**

.....

**What in the World Is
RHEMA Doing Now?**

Living Sensibly

I often hear people say the following things: "There's not enough time in the day to get everything done. I never catch up. I'm so tired. It seems like I'm doing more and enjoying it less. Let me sleep just ten more minutes. How many weeks until vacation? How many years until I can retire?" Does this sound familiar?

I want to talk to you about living sensibly. Many of us are worried and distracted by all the things around us and all the things in which we're involved. They are not necessarily bad things. They may not even be sins. But they distract us from the things of God.

In Luke chapter 10, Jesus visited the home of Martha. Martha was so attuned to all of the things that had to be done that she failed to be sensible. However, her sister Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

Jesus answered, "Martha,

Martha, you are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her."

Are you living sensibly in the world that we live in, or are you so busy that you don't have time to sit at Jesus' feet? Jesus was in Martha's house, but she didn't have time to sit with Him. Jesus can be in your house, so to speak, but you don't make time to commune with Him. That's not being very sensible.

Mary, on the other hand, sat with Jesus. She understood that it's more important to sit with Jesus than it is to be distracted with straightening up or getting ready.

If we don't take time to live sensibly, the pace of life will get to us. Vince Lombardi, one of the greatest motivators of the last century, said, "Fatigue makes cowards out of all of us." In other words, you can wear yourself down to the point where you are susceptible to ungodliness and unholy.

The Apostle Paul warned us not to be weary in well doing (2 Thess. 3:13). As you are living for God, don't get so wrapped up in everything that you are not sensible and find yourself in a position of compromise. You can be going to church, but be so wrapped up in the things of the world — not bad things, just everyday necessities. There are things you must do if you're going to live in this world, but there comes a point when you have to say, "Whoa!" and go and sit with Jesus.

Instead of sitting with Jesus, Martha was

distracted by everything that had to be done. Have you ever been distracted by all of the things that have to be done? I didn't say they weren't important. I didn't even say they were sinful, because nothing Martha was doing was sinful. She was distracted by the preparation of getting the meal ready for Jesus, the disciples, and the other people in the house. Sometimes we just need to say, "Preparation, you can wait! I have to sit with Jesus."

The Bible doesn't say that Mary was asking questions. It doesn't say she was praying. It just says she was sitting with Jesus. Sometimes we just need to sit with Jesus. When you stop and take time for Him, you'll be surprised at what happens in your life.

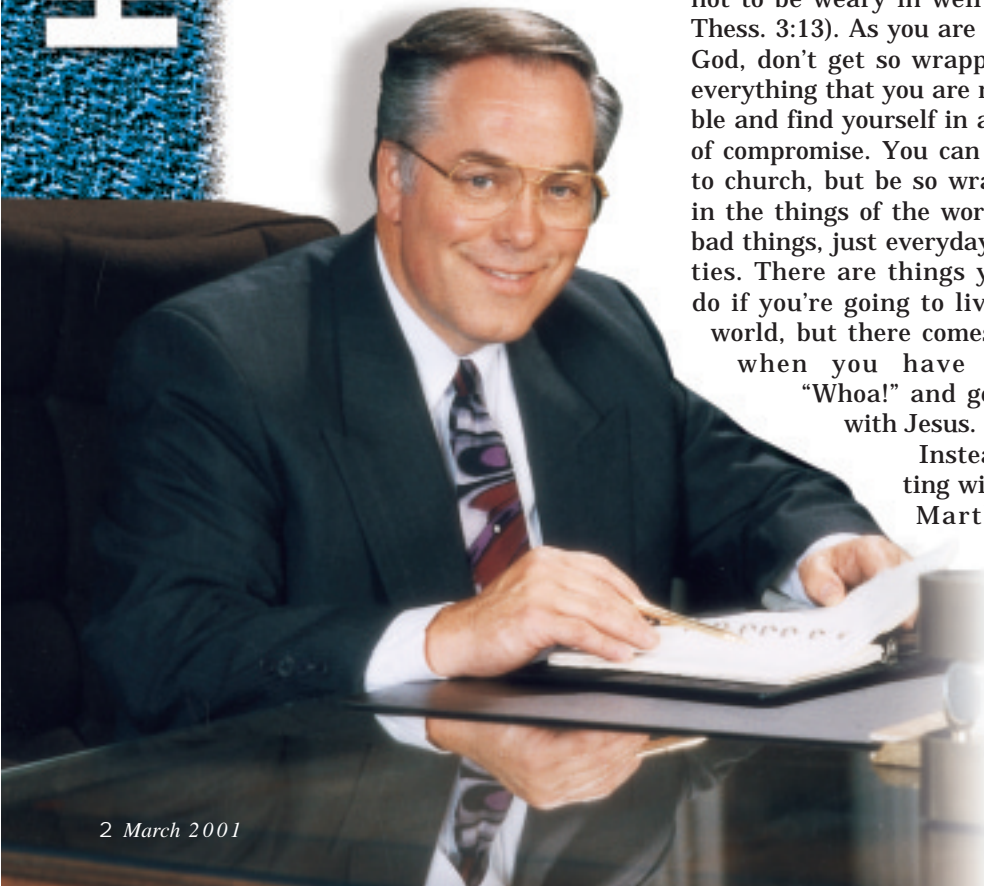
There is a time to sit with Jesus and there is a time for natural things also, like preparation. When you put them together, both spiritual things and natural things, you'll have a sensible life with God. Remember, although you live in a natural world, you are a citizen of a spiritual world. You have to learn to put both spiritual and natural things together to be successful.

There are many people who are successful in the natural world, but they are very unsuccessful at sitting with Jesus. Then there are some who are successful at sitting with Jesus but they become so spiritually minded that they are no earthly good. Living sensibly with God means finding the balance between the two. It means doing the right thing at the right time in line with the Word of God.

God wants you to have the best of both worlds. He wants you to have the best spiritually, and He wants you to have the best naturally. But it only comes by learning when to sit with Jesus and when to take care of natural things.

Kenneth Hagin Jr.

— Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.



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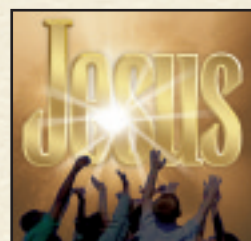
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Publications Director Michael Gilbert
Graphic Artists Lisa Ames, Andrea Dunbar, Jeannie Hoover, Greg Lane, Carolyn Modder, Devon Wenger
Editorial Writers Kelly Cates, Marissa McLargin, Bob Murphy, Marcus White
Proofreader Marcus White
Photographer Phil Anglin

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About the Cover
In the island nation of Samoa, we see the beauty of God's creation and remember that His Word says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork" (Ps. 19:1).



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Christians are responsible for praying for their nation's leaders so that God's will can be accomplished on the earth.

As Christians, we have the privilege of going to God in prayer and telling Him of our needs. And God is concerned about us and is interested in meeting our needs. But there is more to prayer than asking God to meet our needs. Prayer is also a spiritual exercise. It is taking our place in Christ. It is not only *entering* God's Presence; it is *walking and living in* His Presence. Prayer is fellowshiping with our Father God and carrying out His will on the earth. We must emphasize prayer because our nation desperately needs it.

But, first, how do we prepare ourselves to pray? Paul tells us.

EPHESIANS 6:10,11

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God . . .

To pray, we must be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. And we accomplish that by putting on

the whole armor of God. Why do we need to do that?

EPHESIANS 6:11,12

11 . . . that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

Our battle is *not* with flesh and blood. It's against these wicked spirits.

EPHESIANS 6:13

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

The evil day is when the devil comes — when the tests, trials, and temptations come. And God wants us to be triumphant in that day. Then Paul lists the parts of our armor.

EPHESIANS 6:14-18

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

18 PRAYING always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching

thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints . . .

Notice that verse 18 begins with the word "praying." After we've put on our entire armor, *then* we're ready to pray!

Scripture mentions several kinds of prayer. But we'll look in this article at just one kind: intercession. Paul wrote the following to Timothy, the pastor of a New Testament church.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1-4

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;

4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

Notice Paul says, "*I exhort therefore, that, FIRST OF ALL . . .*" (v. 1). When Paul said to pray for something first, he meant we are to pray for that before we pray for ourselves. All some people ever do is pray for themselves. Some tell of the old farmer who always prayed, "God bless me and my wife, my son John and his wife, us four and no more." We don't necessarily pray those words, but when you sum it up, that is about the essence of our praying. It's just, "me and mine. Bless my family and me. Bless us!"



E D I N G

for Our tion

E . H A G I N

I never pray, “God bless me.” I always pray, “God, make me a blessing. God, help me to bless others with what You have given to me.” We shouldn’t want to keep what God has blessed us with. We should want to give it away. Jesus said, “Give, and it shall be given unto you . . .” (Luke 6:38).

So Paul exhorts first of all that “. . . supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men . . .” (1 Tim. 2:1). Then he specifies who “all men” includes so we’ll know: “. . . For kings, and for all that are in authority . . .” (v. 2). In Paul’s day, kings headed up many nations. In other words, *Paul exhorts us to pray for the leaders of our nation.*

Very few Christians are really doing that. “How do you know?” you might ask. I know because if we were praying for our leaders as we ought to, things wouldn’t be the way they are. When we do what God says to do, He will answer. God will not tell us to ask Him for something that He is not going to give us or do for us. It wouldn’t make sense for Him to tell us to pray for something that we couldn’t have, or to ask a question that He wouldn’t answer.

God tells us to pray, “For kings, and for all that are in authority . . .” (1 Tim. 2:2). Why does God want us to pray for

kings? When you study history, you very seldom find a king who was saved. Someone may ask, “Do you mean God was going to bless those leaders even though they were not Christians?” Emphatically, yes! Why? For *the people’s sakes*: “. . . that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” (1 Tim. 2:2).

Then Paul continues, “For this is

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good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; WHO WILL HAVE ALL MEN TO BE SAVED, AND TO COME UNTO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE TRUTH” (1 Tim. 2:3,4).

This is the ultimate reason God wants us to pray for the leaders of our nation, whatever nation we live in. *God wants all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.* He wants us to lead a quiet and peaceable life because we can’t spread the Gospel in

times of turmoil and war. In wartime, travel and many other activities are restricted. The devil would constantly keep things stirred up if he could. But, blessed be God, if we pray, we can put a stop to his work.

Paul tells us to pray for kings. In the United States, “king” would be equivalent to the president. We are to pray for him and *all* our other leaders — congressmen, senators, Supreme Court justices, governors, mayors, and all others in authority.

As Christians, we should be concerned about our nation, but we’re not to put politics before Christ. We should be interested, and we should vote and do all we can to have good government. But the main thing we should do is *pray.*

Some people say that Christians shouldn’t be involved in politics. Well, let’s not let the devil take over everything. We’re just not to put politics first and get so mixed up in it that we neglect Christ and the Church. I think some people can become so politically minded that they’re no spiritual good.

It’s so easy to criticize, but the Bible never tells us to do that. Well, if we’re praying for those in authority, we won’t be criticizing them. Christians have the authority, power, and know-how to turn things around in government if

we'll take advantage of it. But we'll not change things by criticizing. We'll change them by getting on our knees and interceding.

Like Abraham, we can hold back judgment for the unsaved and give them a little more time to hear the Gospel.

Should I pray first of all for me, or my children or grandchildren, or my church? No! Yet that is what we do. To do exactly what God says, we need to pray *first* for those who are in authority.

So we see *why* God wants us to pray for our nation and for the other nations of the world. And the Scripture is clear enough about *who* we are to pray for when it says to pray for kings and for all those in authority. Now let's look into the matter of *how* to pray for our nation.

1 TIMOTHY 2:1

1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, SUPPLICATIONS, PRAYERS, INTERCESSIONS, AND GIVING OF THANKS, be made for all men . . .

That is the "how"! All those types of prayer are important — supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks. But in this article we're looking just at intercession. The prayer of intercession is prayer *for another*. When we're praying for kings and those in authority, we're praying for others. An intercessor is one who takes the place of another or pleads another's case.

One example of intercessory prayer is found in the Book of Genesis, where we see Abraham interceding for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah.

GENESIS 18:20-27

20 And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

21 I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know.

22 And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord.

23 AND ABRAHAM DREW NEAR, AND SAID, WILT THOU ALSO DESTROY THE RIGHTEOUS WITH THE WICKED?

24 Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein?

25 That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the

wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

26 And the Lord said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.

27 And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes . . .

Notice that Abraham humbled himself before the Lord, referring to himself as but dust and ashes (v. 27). It's good for us to go into the Presence of God and to lay facedown before Him. Many people in the Bible did that. Scripture tells us to humble ourselves — to submit ourselves to God.

JAMES 4:8,10

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. . .

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

I've heard people pray, "Lord, make me humble." He's not going to do that. He tells *us* to humble *ourselves*. *We* do it!

Abraham humbled himself and continued interceding for Sodom and Gomorrah.

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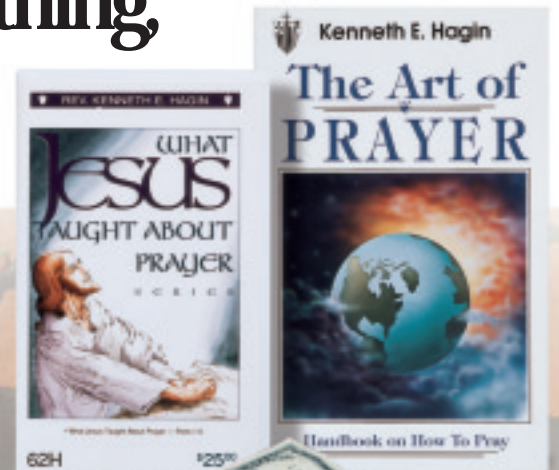
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GENESIS 18:28-32

28 Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it.

29 And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake.

30 And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there.

31 And he said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord: Peradventure there shall be twenty found there. And he said, I will not destroy it for twenty's sake.

32 And he said, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak yet but this once: Peradventure ten shall be found there. And he [God] said, I WILL NOT DESTROY IT FOR TEN'S SAKE.

What a tremendous statement! God said He would spare those wicked cities for the sake of ten righteous people! Sodom and Gomorrah were so sexually impure that their sin gave us the term "sodomy" (see Gen. 19:1-11). Yet because Abraham asked, God said He would spare those cities if He found in them ten righteous men.

If God was willing to spare Sodom and Gomorrah because a righteous man interceded, will He not honor our petitions as we intercede for our cities and nations? Jesus told his disciples, "Ye are the salt of the earth . . ." (Matt. 5:13). One use of salt is as a preservative. When I was just a boy, my grandfather used to kill hogs. There were no freezers in those days, so he would salt the meat down. Why? The salt preserved it and kept it from rotting.

This world is bad enough, but without Christians, it would certainly be rotten. We are the salt of the earth. We can change things, not only by our influence and our right living, but also through prayer. Like Abraham, we can hold back judgment for the unsaved and give them a little more time to hear the Gospel.

God told Abraham that He would spare Sodom and Gomorrah if He found ten righteous men there. Well, I believe there are more than ten righteous men in America today, don't you? I believe there are people who will take their place in intercession just as Abraham did. It doesn't take a great number to do it. Jesus said, ". . . if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing

that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 18:19). If Abraham could make such intercession, how much more can we do who have the Holy Ghost living in us to help us (Rom. 8:26,27)?

Let's look at another scripture dealing with intercession.

EZEKIEL 22:30,31

30 And I SOUGHT FOR A MAN AMONG THEM, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land [or, the nation], that I should not destroy it: BUT I FOUND NONE.

31 Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord God.

God said this concerning Israel. Yet there is a spiritual truth here that applies to us today: "I sought for a man among them, but I found none." Isn't that a terrible indictment? God told

Prayer doesn't
belong just to the
preacher or to cer-
tain ones who are
called to pray.

Abraham that if He found ten righteous He would spare two cities. But this scripture talks about a *whole nation*, and God said that if He found *one man* to intercede for it, He wouldn't destroy it!

Remember that Paul wrote to Timothy, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men . . ." (1 Tim. 2:1). Was this just for Timothy? No, Timothy was to teach the people. God wants *all* of us — not just a few of us — to pray and make ourselves available to intercede. Thank God for those who have dedicated themselves to prayer. But *every* Christian can and should pray.

Prayer doesn't belong just to the preacher or to certain ones who are called to pray. I'm sure God can trust some people more than others. That is why He singles them out and lays prayer burdens on their hearts. But some of the rest of us ought to be bearing those burdens too (Gal. 6:2).

We're *all* to pray and make supplication and intercession. Some people become more expert than others at

interceding, just as some people become more expert at praying in general. They spend more time at it, and they can share with us and we can learn from them.

In connection with this, there is something that I don't like to have to address, but it's absolutely true. Sometimes we run into people whom God uses — whether in spiritual gifts, or intercession, or in any other way — and they become lifted up in pride. They won't listen to anyone, and you can't help them.

In one church I pastored during World War II, six or eight of our churchwomen met once a week at the home of one of the women to pray. My wife went to one of the prayer meetings and later told me that they were getting out of hand. Those women were not praying and operating scripturally.

Jesus saw the multitudes and was moved with compassion for them because they ". . . were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd" (Matt. 9:36). It seems that sheep without a shepherd will be scattered, and the devil will take advantage of them. Even though this group had some miraculous answers to prayer, they still began to get away from the solid foundation of Scripture.

So I invited the women to meet in the church on Wednesday afternoons, and my wife and I joined them. I might have missed two sessions in two years. We steered their praying in the right direction, and that group became a powerhouse. You didn't dare give them a prayer request you didn't want answered, because they would go after it in prayer and get it!

We'd pray over requests from people in the church and see miracles happen. We had the supernatural working in our church constantly. There were healings and people raised up from near death. The folks in that prayer group were willing to take scriptural direction and to pray in line with God's Word, and their efforts became a blessing!

We need to take our place as the Body of Christ and pray. We need to stand in the gap and make up the hedge and intercede (Ezek. 22:30), especially for the leaders of our nation. As we do that, the will of God will be consummated, we will lead quiet and peaceable lives, and the Gospel will go to the ends of the earth! 🕊

NEWS FROM THE NATIONS



Operation South Pacific

RHEMA Bible Training Center South Pacific joined the international network of RHEMA schools in July 1999 and currently has an enrollment of 84 from 9 countries. The school is in Samoa, an island nation located in the heart of the South Pacific.

Rev. and Mrs. Kenneth Hagin Jr. have visited the school on two separate occasions to speak at their commencement ceremonies. Rev. Kelly Duinick, a 1991 RHEMA graduate and Director of RHEMA South Pacific, commented on the Hagins' visits: "Having them here was really a blessing. They were so excited about everything we are doing, even though some things are still in the beginning stages, and that was a great encouragement to us. Also, having our students and staff meet them was a real boost."

Rev. Duinick went on to share about the favor that God has shown RHEMA South Pacific throughout their endeavors in Samoa. "God has granted us tremendous favor along the way in many areas — from obtaining legal status and special permits to acquiring a building in the best location possible and receiving extended work visas. We also had our school furniture built at no cost, with all the materials coming in at a five-percent duty concession instead of the usual twenty-plus percent. God has been wonderful!"

In June 2000, RHEMA Bible Church in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, teamed up with Kenneth Hagin Ministries to sow bountifully into the good soil of RHEMA South Pacific. Curt Poverud, a 1979 RHEMA graduate and employee of Kenneth Hagin Ministries, led a construction team of 15 volunteers on a missions trip to Samoa.

After a flight of approximately twenty hours, the team arrived on the island, where they were met by Rev. Duinick, his wife, Pattie (also a '91 graduate of RHEMA USA), and the

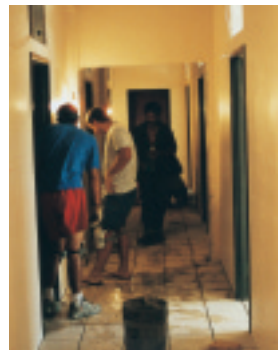
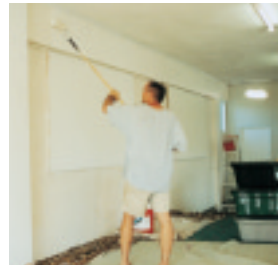
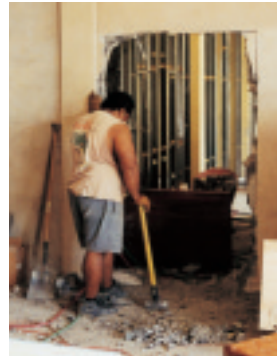
RHEMA South Pacific staff. The team was also met by four containers (200,000 pounds) of construction supplies and equipment — plywood, sheet rock, tile, doors, drills, paint, hammers, and so forth — that had been sent via boat in March and April.

The team was made up of craftsmen of various skills — cabinetmakers, painters, plumbers, seamstresses, carpenters, and so forth. Each member of the team worked hard every day from sunup to sundown in humid, ninety-plus-degree weather in efforts to stay on course for the September 1 completion date. Some of the goals accomplished included converting an existing building into men's and women's dormitories, building two apartments to house guest speakers, building offices for the school, and renovating classrooms.

The original missions trip took place June 12-27, but three people from the missions team stayed in Samoa through July and August to help finish some of the tasks. In addition, three Kenneth Hagin Ministries employees returned in August to work nearly two more weeks to finalize the remaining details.

The team's hard work was amply rewarded when eager students began the 2000-2001 school year in the new classrooms and dormitories the construction crew had built. Because of the team's work, more men and women are being trained in excellence and integrity to be ministers of the Gospel. And that means more souls will be won!

RHEMA South Pacific is able to do its part in reaching the world for Jesus Christ as RHEMA USA does *its* part. And we can only do our part as our friends and partners do their part in supporting this ministry. Thank you for helping us reap a great harvest for the Kingdom of God. We couldn't do it without you!



KENNETH HAGIN JR.

The Name

of

JESUS

PART 1

God has given us the Name of Jesus as our inheritance. Apply that Name to every problem you face, and enjoy the benefits and blessings of God

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth.

— Philipians 2:9,10

Jesus has given those who believe in Him a weapon more powerful than anything that can come against them. He has given them His Name. There is more power in the Name of Jesus than you realize. A few years ago, there was a popular advertising campaign on television for a stock brokerage company. In a room full of people, whenever someone mentioned the name of this brokerage company, everyone in the room suddenly stopped talking to listen. They all wanted to stop and hear this company's advice on the stock market.

Well, I want to tell you, at the Name of Jesus *everything* stops. Notice the Word of God says, "*That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth*" (Phil. 2:10). When you speak the Name of Jesus, everything in Heaven and on earth stands still. Every problem, sickness, demon, and whatever else is coming against you stops at the mention of His Name.

The Name of Jesus is known on the golden streets of Heaven. When that Name ascends on High, every heavenly being stops. As you read Scripture about that Name, it even sounds as if speaking the Name of Jesus in faith causes the Heavenly Father Himself to give attention. Jesus said, “. . . *whatsoever ye shall ask the Father IN MY NAME, He shall give you.*” (John 15:16).

People talk about the Name of Jesus — and we need to. We get excited about it. We say, “Amen” to it. But do we really understand the power that is in the Name of Jesus?

I remember hearing about a gospel singer who was invited to a large secular rock concert back in the late sixties. Several rock groups had performed ahead of him. When this artist was introduced, no one paid much attention. There were several thousand people there and they were making noise and talking. The musician sat down at the piano and began to run his fingers over the keys and say, “Jesus” into the microphone. After he’d said the Name of Jesus about three times, the whole place was silent.

Do you know why the place got quiet? Because even though the power of the evil one was present, at the Name of Jesus every demon had to stop dead (Phil. 2:10)!

Jesus has given us the legal right to use His Name. In this day and age, many people are familiar with the term “power of attorney.” If someone gives you the power of attorney, he gives you the legal right to use his name for transactions and documents. Power of attorney actually means a legal right to use a name.

The same concept applies to the Name of Jesus. The right to use that Name had to be given legally or there would be no power in it. But we *have* the power of attorney to use the Name of Jesus. The Bible tells us so (John 14:13,14; 15:16).

Notice what Jesus said would happen when you use His Name over the power of the enemy.

MARK 16:17,18

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not

hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

In these verses, Jesus tells you what results to expect when you use His Name. And that Name has been made available for every believer to use.

I have traveled overseas and have, at times, seen potentially dangerous situations arise. I remember a commotion that arose once as we were standing in a customs line. Things were growing very chaotic. Customs officers were screaming at each other, and the situation was getting worse and worse. I began to say, “In the Name of Jesus . . . In the Name of Jesus . . . In the Name of Jesus . . .” I said it about five or six times and things began to quiet down.

The customs officials waved a whole bunch of us through and they didn’t even inspect our luggage. I had gone through a door and around a corner when, suddenly, I heard them hollering again. I just kept walking, thanking God for that Name. Even when you’re in the presence of danger, you have the right to use the Name of Jesus over circumstances.

regained control, and the motorcycle came to a stop in the middle of the road. Meanwhile, the other guys had turned around and come back to where I was. I was sitting in the road, shaking. The fellows came and shined their headlights on me. When they looked around, all they could see was a tire mark showing where the bike ran off the side of the road.

They said, “Man! You were lucky! You should have gone over the edge of that cliff.”

“No, I wasn’t lucky!” I answered. “The hand of God reached down and shoved that bike back!” They didn’t say much after that.

When I lost control of that motorcycle, I didn’t have time to pray, “Oh God, please help me!” I didn’t have time to go on a fast! I was on a highway about a thousand feet up a mountain pass at ten o’clock at night on the island of Taiwan with the devil trying to kill me. At that time in my life, I might not have been walking as close to the Lord as I should have been. But I knew enough to holler, “Jesus!”

When you speak the Name of Jesus, everything in Heaven and on earth stands still.

The awesome power of the Name of Jesus delivered me from certain death when I was in the military, stationed overseas in Taipei, Taiwan. I was riding a motorcycle with a group of friends one night. We had visited one of the other islands and were returning to Taipei. The wind was blowing strongly as we sped through the mountains. I was on the tail end of the group, my motorcycle wide open. I leaned into a curve, and a gust of wind picked up my bike. When my bike hit the ground, it slid toward the edge of the cliff and a thousand-foot drop. Teeth clenched, I kicked the ground trying to straighten the bike up. I was kicking gears and doing just about everything else I knew to do. But I was out of time. I just said, “Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!”

The next thing I knew, the bike straightened, crossed the road, and ran up the side of the mountain. I

The point I want to get across is that there is power in the Name of Jesus, and believers have a right to use that Name against the enemy. The secret to success over the devil lies in the use of that Name. We need to realize that Jesus Christ stripped the devil of his power, and Jesus gave the Church the authority to use His Name.

Let’s examine what John 16:13 says regarding the use of the Name of Jesus and what you get when you use that Name.

JOHN 16:23,24

23 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.

24 Hitherto have ye asked nothing IN MY NAME: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

Notice verse 23 says, "If you ask the Father in My Name, He *will* give it." But people have tacked "If it be His will" onto that verse, and it doesn't say that at all. It says, "Ask the Father in My Name and He will give it to you."

Notice verse 24 says, "Hitherto, you've asked nothing in My Name . . ." "Hitherto" means *until this present time*. What was Jesus talking about in this verse? He was speaking about the New Day — the time after His death, resurrection, and ascension to His Father. And we are living in that New Day! He said that in that Day, we could ask, and we shall receive!

In the Church, there's still a lack of knowledge about the Name of Jesus. People used to pray, "For Jesus' sake." Have you ever heard anyone pray that way? But Jesus doesn't need anything. You pray for *your* sake, not His! The Bible doesn't say, "Ask it for Jesus' sake, and the Father will give it to you." It says, "Ask *in My Name*."

But you *do* have authority over your own life and your family's lives and over your house, your car, and anything else you own

Some people say, "Maybe God will do it and maybe He won't." But Jesus did not say, "Up until now you have asked nothing in My Name. Ask, and you shall receive. However, sometimes I may say, 'Yes,' and sometimes I may say, 'No,' and sometimes I may say, 'Wait a while.'" I've heard that taught, but that's not what He said in His Word. Jesus said, ". . . *Ask, and YE SHALL RECEIVE, that your joy may be full*" (John 16:24).

You need to know that Jesus did not put a time limit on *when* you would receive. He didn't say, "Tomorrow by six o'clock, your prayer will be answered." He just said that you would receive. He said, "Ask, and you shall receive."

I think believers struggle in receiving from God because they put Him on a twenty-four-hour timetable. When things don't happen when they think they should, they give up. But if you

continue to believe that you receive as you ask in His Name, your answer will come. It may not come tomorrow, but it will come. Some things have taken me several months, or even years, to receive, but my prayers were answered. Some Christians focus too much on the timing of when they think they should receive from God. They need to focus instead on the fact that there's power in the Name of Jesus and that God *will* answer them when they pray in that Name.

Realize, too, that the Name of Jesus not only gets your prayers answered, but that Name can be used against the unseen forces of evil that surround you.

In October 1963, I'd been in the Army for one year when I was assigned to a tour of duty in a country in the Far East. When I stepped off the airplane and began to walk down the steps, I sensed the demon oppression in that country. I'll never forget it. On the inside of me, I could hear the Holy Spirit

saying, "Demon power. Demon power." What He was trying to tell me was, "Take the Name. Take the Name and break the authority of any demonic influence that would come against your life."

You might have all kinds of demonic activity going on around you. But when you exercise your authority over that power in the Name of Jesus, it's as if you're in a cocoon of protection. You don't have the authority to do anything about what's going on outside of your sphere of influence. In other words, you can't just use the Name of Jesus for people who may not even want the Name used for them. But you *do* have authority over your own life and your family's lives and over your house, your car, and anything else you own.

For example, I never get in an airplane or a car to go anywhere without appropriating the Name of Jesus. Whether I say it out loud and people

hear me or I just say it quietly, I appropriate Psalm 91 in the Name of Jesus. I say, "No harm shall come near me. No plague shall overtake me." Many times I have felt the unction to wait a few minutes before leaving to go somewhere. In more than one case, I found out later that if I had left at the time I had originally planned, I could have been involved in a major accident.

Mark chapter 16 speaks of the power over the enemy that believers have in Jesus' Name.

MARK 16:17

17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; IN MY NAME shall they CAST OUT DEVILS; they shall SPEAK WITH NEW TONGUES.

Notice that this verse says, ". . . *these signs shall follow . . .*" The *New International Version* says, ". . . these signs will accompany . . ." To accompany means *to come along side of*. Who will these signs come along side of? They will come along side of those who believe in Jesus and use His Name.

I want you to understand that believers have a right to use the Name of Jesus. You can use it when you're speaking to your mountain (Mark 11:23). You can use it in prayer. You can use the Name of Jesus when dealing with the forces of evil that come against you. And if you are a believer, the signs listed in Mark 16:17 and 18 shall accompany you in Jesus' Name.

In late 1943, when I was about five years old, I used to stay with my dad's mother, whom we called "Pat's Momma." Due to a series of emotionally stressful events, she became blind while she was carrying her youngest child. Doctors didn't know as much then as they do now, and a doctor who was trying to help her did something that caused her to be blind permanently.

Now it so happened that my great-grandfather had saved up quite a bit of money before the Depression of the 1930s hit. The word around town was that he had given some of that money to his only daughter — Pat's Momma. Everyone believed she kept it in a trunk in her closet. But, actually, that trunk was full of quilts. One night I was asleep facing the bedroom window when my grandmother came and woke me up. She said, "Son, someone's trying to break in. Don't move; be very quiet!"