



THE Word of Faith

NOVEMBER 2002

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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Thanks Be to God!

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.”

— Second Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

The Apostle Paul faced many troubles and trials during his Christian life. But regardless of his situation, Paul maintained a positive attitude. Paul was always thankful.

In Second Corinthians 2:14 Paul says, “*NOW thanks be unto God . . .*” We’re to give thanks to God “now” — not “later,” not “after a while,” not “when the circumstances get better.” We should give thanks to God *now!*

Psalms 100:4 says, “*Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*” When we enter into the throne room of God (in other words, when we go to God in prayer), the first thing we should do is give Him thanks. We should start by telling Him how much we appreciate Him for all He’s done. So many times we skip the thanksgiving part and start saying, “Lord, give me such and such.”

Someone may say, “You don’t know what I’m going through. I don’t have anything to give thanks about!” Most people want to wait until everything gets better before they start giving thanks. But the time to give thanks is when you’re in the middle of the problem! The Apostle Paul demonstrated this throughout his ministry. He gave thanks to God even in the midst of trouble, and God delivered him every time. Remember, God *always* causes us to triumph!

Second Corinthians 11:23-28 gives us a glimpse of what Paul endured for the sake of the Gospel. In that passage, we see that Paul went through much greater hardship than most of us have faced. Yet Paul says, “Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place” (2 Cor. 2:14 NKJV).

Notice it is through *us* that the fragrance of the knowledge of God is spread to every place. The Bible doesn’t say that it’s through the preacher, the prophet, the pastor, or the evangelist. It says *through us*. That “us” refers to *you!* If the fragrance of the Gospel, or the

knowledge of Jesus, is going to spread, it’s going to be spread by the children of God. We can show the world what Christ has done for us!

Second Corinthians 2:14 in the *New Living Translation* says, “. . . Now wherever we go he uses us to tell others about the Lord and to spread the Good News like a sweet perfume.”

Everywhere Paul went he was sharing the Good News — by what he preached, by the way he lived, and by the way he praised God at all times, regardless of his circumstances! That is how we are to live. It’s our responsibility to share what Jesus did on Calvary. He didn’t just die for us; He died for the whole world. We have Good News to announce!

In the midst of trouble, people need to see the peace of God in our lives. The devil will do everything he can to try to steal our peace. If we’re not careful, the enemy will have us running scared. And instead of being full of peace, we will be full of turmoil and fear.

If the world is going to see a difference in us, we must rest in the peace of God. When the world around us looks dark and bleak, we have to look to the Word — our peace is in the Word! Jesus said, “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27 NKJV).

The world may not have peace, but we have the *Prince of Peace* living within us! Because the Holy One lives inside us, we can raise our voice in the midst of the storm and say, “Now thanks be to God who always gives me the victory!” And as we praise God, we’re spreading the fragrance of the knowledge of Jesus to everyone around us.

Most people in this country are afraid — afraid of the economic situation, afraid of terrorist attacks, afraid of the future. They sorrow because they have no hope, but we have hope in Jesus. When people see that hope in us, they will ask, “How can you be at peace? How can you be full of hope during these terrible times?” And we can tell them about Jesus.

No matter what terrible, hopeless situations we face, our words and actions can offer the Good News of Jesus Christ, spreading the fragrance of peace and hope. When we live a life of continual thanksgiving, the knowledge of Jesus in us becomes like a sweet perfume blown by the breeze of the Holy Spirit, changing the world around us.

Kenneth Hagin Jr.

— Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

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Maintain Your Spiritual Health!

Are you an empty cistern or a full reservoir? Learn to be so full of God's Word and of the Holy Spirit that you continually *maintain your spiritual health!*

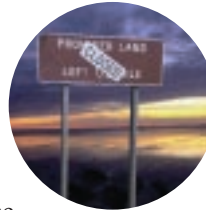


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Disobedience Can Cost You Your Dreams

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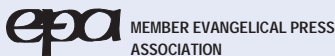
From the Archives

Brother Hagin recalls how the devil immediately challenged him after he was healed by the power of God as a teenager.

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C E N T E R

Healing School

Healing School classes are conducted twice daily on the RHEMA campus.

Monday-Friday • 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Healing Center Auditorium

(This class is for those who need physical healing and for those who accompany them *only*.)

Monday-Friday • 2:15 p.m.
SDC 1, Room 1278

(This class is open to the general public.)

For more information, please call (918) 258-1588, Ext. 2280, or write:

Kenneth Hagin Ministries
P.O. Box 50126
Tulsa, OK 74150-0126

Telephone Prayer Lines

If you have a need and would like to have a concerned prayer partner agree with you for your need to be met according to the Word of God, call Kenneth Hagin Ministries, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST) at (918) 258-1588, Ext. 2280.

Maintain Your Spiritual Health!

NBP 121/78 (93)

Are you an empty cistern
or a full reservoir?

As Christians, we need to be so full of God's Word and so full of the Holy Spirit that we are fervent in spirit and continually maintain our spiritual health!



Kenneth E. Hagin

Spiritual health is just as obvious as physical health. You know when people aren't feeling well physically because it shows in the way they look and act. Did you know that spiritual health is the same way? It is just as obvious whether or not someone is in good spiritual health; it's recognizable. When someone is filled up with the Spirit, he or she radiates the glow of the Holy Spirit.

Spiritual health must be recognizable because Romans 12:11 says, "Be fervent in spirit." I like James Moffatt's translation of that passage. It reads, "maintain the spiritual glow." If spiritual health weren't recognizable, you wouldn't know whether you were maintaining the glow or not. Also, the Bible tells us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18). If good spiritual health were not recognizable, you wouldn't know whether a

person was filled with the Spirit or not.

Spiritual health is discernible. First, when a person's spiritual health is poor, he or she won't have that glow or *fervency of spirit* the Bible talks about. One thing that causes a Christian to lose fervency is unforgiveness. A Christian can't maintain the spiritual glow if he's holding a grudge against another person.

Jeremiah 2:13 says, "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water." God tells us to forgive others (Mark 11:25-26; Luke 6:37). When we don't forgive, we forsake His plans and His ways for us. And, as believers, when we forsake God's way and follow another way, our plans won't prosper. Unforgiveness and

holding grudges will cause the vessel to break and leak!

When you hold something in your heart against another person, you become a broken cistern. Eventually you will become an *empty* cistern, because when your heart isn't right with God, there is no way to maintain the glow or be fervent in spirit.

Spiritual health is discernible, and being filled with the Spirit is recognizable. When you are filled with the Spirit, your cup is full and running over!

PSALM 23:1-6

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.**
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.**
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.**
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou ANOINTEST my head with OIL; my cup RUNNETH OVER.**
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

Many of the Psalms are prophetic, and many of them are Messianic — that is, they are really prophesying about the coming Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ. For example, Psalm 22 is actually a picture of the crucifixion of Jesus. Psalm 22:1 says, “*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? . . .*” That’s exactly what Jesus cried out on the Cross (Matt. 27:46). Psalm 22 was fulfilled when Jesus died and rose from the dead.

We are now living in Psalm 23. Jesus is the Good Shepherd. Jesus Himself declared, “I am the Good Shepherd” (John 10:11). Notice Psalm 23 doesn’t say, “The Lord is my Shepherd; I am full of want.” It says, “*The Lord is my shepherd; I SHALL NOT WANT.*”

Psalm 23 gives us a picture of God’s people being anointed with fresh oil. Remember that Psalm 23 belongs to the Church. If it doesn’t, let’s just quit quoting it and leave it alone. If Psalm 23 doesn’t belong to us as Christians, we might as well tear that page out of the

Bible and quit reading it. Too many people quote this psalm as just something beautiful to recite. But, no, there’s more to it than that.

We’re living in Psalm 23 right now because the Lord *is* our Shepherd now; He’s our *present tense* Shepherd. He anoints our heads with oil. Our cup runneth over. Is your cup only half full? If it is, get a fresh anointing so your cup will run over! (To help us understand the anointing in the New Testament, we must realize that the following are synonymous terms: *power, Spirit, Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit, and anointing.*)

When you’re filled with the Spirit and your cup is running over, you’ve got a bold, overflowing testimony. The disciples had boldness in their lives because they were so filled with the Spirit that their “cups were running over.” In Acts chapter 4, the disciples were taken in for questioning by the religious authorities because the lame man at the Gate Beautiful had been healed.

A Christian can't maintain the spiritual glow if he's holding a grudge against another person.

ACTS 4:1-13

- 1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,**
- 2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.**
- 3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.**
- 4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.**
- 5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,**
- 6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.**
- 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?**
- 8 Then Peter, FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,**
- 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;**

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders which is become the head of the corner.

12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

13 Now when they saw the BOLDNESS of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

The disciples demonstrated boldness because they were filled with the Spirit of God. The Word of God tells us very plainly that Peter and John were ignorant and unlearned men. What was recognizable among the people was *not* how much theology and psychology the disciples knew, but that the disciples

had knowledge of *Jesus*. They didn’t know a thing in the world about theology, but they knew Jesus, the Word of God made flesh (John 1:14). There’s nothing wrong with education, but what makes the difference is knowing Jesus! Paul, for example, was a learned and educated man. But Paul said, “I count all that as dung for the knowledge of Christ” (Phil. 3:8). Paul had a revelation of Jesus.

The disciples knew the Word! They had the Holy Spirit! And that makes all the difference in the world. They knew *the Word and the Holy Ghost*. If you get away from the Word and the Holy Ghost, you’ve gone too far for me. But I believe that the Word will work for us and the Holy Ghost will move now just as in the days of the apostles and the Early Church.

Because the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they had boldness: “. . . *when they saw the boldness of Peter and John . . .*” (Acts 4:13). Being filled with the Holy Ghost is what gave

them their bold, overflowing testimony! They maintained the spiritual glow of the Holy Spirit by being so filled up with the Spirit that a bold testimony was a lifestyle with them. If you stay filled with the Spirit, you will have a bold testimony too!

How can we keep a bold testimony? By constantly being filled with the Spirit. We need to stay in God's Presence and stay in the Word of God until we receive a fresh anointing — until we are refilled with the Spirit. There is one *initial* filling in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but there are many *refillings* of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life.

the Word with boldness! If you've lost your boldness, you need a fresh anointing! A fresh anointing brings with it a bold, overflowing testimony.

When you're filled with the Holy Ghost, there will be manifestations of the supernatural power of God in your life. Of course, we realize that manifestations of God's power operate as the Lord wills, not as we will.

Because the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, the supernatural power of God operated through them. But it wasn't as they willed; it was as the Spirit willed. If you want the supernatural power of God to manifest

He's not going to *make* you do anything. But if you want the supernatural power of God operating in your life, stay filled up!

There are some basic problems or extremes in the Church today when it comes to the supernatural move of God and the manifestations of the Holy Spirit and gifts of the Spirit. Some people just don't believe in any supernatural manifestations of God's power at all. And some folks have seen such excesses and fanaticism that they don't *want* the move of God's Spirit.

Then, other people have desperately wanted God to use them, and were full of zeal, but they lacked wisdom. They *wanted* God to use them, but they weren't full of the Word of God and wisdom, and they got into error by trying to perform in the flesh.

Let's just do what the Bible says to do! Let's maintain our spiritual health and stay full of the Word of God! Let's be sure the Word of God dwells in us richly *in all wisdom*. And let's be full of the Spirit of God. And in everything we do, whether it is in *word* or in *deed*, let it glorify the Lord. 🛡️

... if you want the supernatural power of God operating in your life, stay filled up!

Do we want to be empty cisterns or full reservoirs? Which one are you? You can receive a fresh anointing and be a full reservoir!

Being filled with the Spirit is recognizable! The people recognized the disciples had been with Jesus and were full of the Holy Ghost because they spoke

through your life as the Spirit wills, you'll have to stay filled up with the Holy Spirit too. Of course, you will have to live a life of obedience to God. And you can't just sit around and wait for God *to make* you do something — to make you get filled with the Spirit or to make your get filled up with His Word.

A FRESH ANOINTING

In his book *A Fresh Anointing*, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin shows believers how they can tap into the provisions God has already made for them in His Word so they can receive a *fresh anointing* on their lives each day!

Chapter Titles Include:

- New Testament Kings and Priests
- Empty Cisterns or Full Reservoirs?
- Characteristics of Those With a Fresh Anointing
- Maintaining the Glow in Adverse Circumstances
- A Fresh Anointing Is Recognizable

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on the
RHEMA
campus

WBS⁰³
WINTER BIBLE
SEMINAR

EXPECT.

february 16-21
winter bible seminar 2003
with
rev. kenneth e. hagin

service times: Sunday: 7:00 p.m. / Monday-Friday: 10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

special music: RHEMA Singers & Band

location: RHEMA Bible Church / 1025 W. Kenosha / Broken Arrow, OK

alumni: Isn't it time you came home? Homecoming 2003 will be held in conjunction with Winter Bible Seminar, so make your plans now to be a part of this special time with your RHEMA FAMILY.

hotel information

For airport shuttle service — please contact the hotels. All hotels are 1-7 miles from the RHEMA Campus.



Comfort Inn
(918) 258-8585
Rate/night \$60.00 – \$64.00

Courtyard
(918) 660-0646
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Rate/night \$80.00

Springhill Suites
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Rate/night \$69.99

directions:

From State Hwy. 51 (Broken Arrow Expressway): Exit 161st E. Avenue (Elm Place), turn south, proceed to 71st (Kenosha) Street, turn west (right) 1/2 mile to campus.

From U.S. Hwy. 169: Exit State Hwy. 51 (Broken Arrow Expressway), east to 161st E. Avenue (Elm Place), turn south (right), proceed to 71st (Kenosha) Street, turn west (right) 1/2 mile to campus.

FOR MORE information,
www.rhema.org/events
918.258.1588, Ext. 2238

EXPECT.

Offer #2EV55

Continuing Education '03 s e m i n a r

Ministers!
Start spreading the news!
one of the most successful conferences just got better!

Mark your calendars for June 9-12, 2003, because Continuing Education Seminar (CES) is now open to all licensed and ordained ministers, their staff members, and all volunteer workers in their church or ministry. Pass on this information to minister friends who may not be licensed or ordained through RHEMA Ministerial Association International, because now they, too, can attend CES!

In 2001, more than two hundred classes were offered during this exciting four-day conference held on the beautiful RHEMA campus. Some classes were prepared specifically for pastors related to their needs and the challenges they face in the 21st century. Other classes were geared toward itinerant ministers, missionaries, worship leaders, youth and children's workers, and other supportive role volunteers. Classes covered the many areas required to help the local church or ministry function.

Cost:

\$99 - per person
\$79 - per person (group of 5 or more)

Topics related to the local church included:

- Adult Sunday School Programs
- The Church Secretary
- Ushers
- Traffic Teams
- Cleaning and Landscaping the Church

Many of these subjects were taught in multiple class sessions in order to give as much information to as many people as possible.

What's NEW for 2003? ~~2002~~

- Special "Opening Night" with music and fun for all in RHEMA Park
- Evening sessions specifically designed to minister to the groups represented
- A "grand finale" evening service for all attendees
- Previous classes have been updated and new classes have been added

Registration fees include lunches and the opening night festivities.

Attend CES 2003! Your life, ministry, church, staff, and ministry team will never be the same!

For more information, please call
(918)258-1588, ext. 2312, or email rmai@rhema.org

KEEPING YOUR CHURCH
ministry on course

Offer #2EV56



Kids' Page

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

E
Y E S
A H O P
E U R I C
H E S A I N
T S G L O R Y
H T U N D E R S
T A N D I N G I N
H E R I T A N C E X

Check Your Spiritual

Look closely at the **Vision** eye chart above and you will discover hidden words from Ephesians 1:18 contained in it. All words go horizontally but may be broken up between lines. Use the King James Version of the Bible if you need help.

Spiritual Health goes TO THE BONE!

Your spiritual health is so important that it can even affect your bones! Draw a line between the spiritual conditions in the left column and the way it affects your bones in the right column. If you need help, the answers can be found in Proverbs 3:7-8; 14:30; 16:24; and 17:22 (New King James Version)

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| envy • | • strong bones |
| pleasant words • | • healthy bones |
| broken spirit • | • dry bones |
| fear of the Lord • | • rotten bones |

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR SPIRITUAL checkup

In the same way that you get regular physical checkups by your doctor, you also need to be getting regular SPIRITUAL checkups. See how healthy your SPIRIT is by checking the box that best fits your spiritual condition.



SPIRITUAL HEIGHT:

- GROWING in grace - 2 Peter 3:18 (10 points)
- SHRINKING back - Heb. 10:38-39 (0 points)

SPIRITUAL WEIGHT:

- LIGHT burdens - Matthew 12:30 (10 points)
- HEAVY-laden - Matthew 12:28 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL TEMPERATURE:

- HOT - Revelation 3:15 (10 points)
- COLD - Revelation 3:15 (5 points)
- LUKEWARM - Revelation 3:16 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL REFLEXES:

- QUICK to hear - James 1:19 (10 points)
- SLOW of heart to believe - Lk. 24:25 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL HEARING:

- Can HEAR the Lord's voice speaking - John 10:27 (10 points)
- DULL of hearing - Hebrews 5:11 (0 points)



SPIRITUAL EYESIGHT:

- EYES that are open - Eph.1:18 (10 points)
- EYES that cannot see - Acts 28:27 (0 points)

SPIRITUAL DIAGNOSIS:

If you scored between 0-20 points on this Spiritual Checkup, then you need to take the following prescription...Proverbs 4:20-22 — "My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; Keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, And HEALTH [medicine] to all their whole body."

Jokes & Riddles



If you don't feel well, what do you probably have?

A pair of gloves on your hands.

What do you have if your head is hot, your foot is cold, and you see spots in front of your eyes?

You probably have a polka-dotted sock over your head.

Why did the man tiptoe past the medicine cabinet?

He didn't want to wake up the sleeping pills.

DOCTOR, DOCTOR!

Doctor, Doctor! My son has swallowed my pen. What should I do?

Use a pencil 'till I get there.

Doctor, Doctor! I think I'm a bell. Take two of these pills and if they don't help, give me a ring!

Doctor, Doctor! You have to help me out!

Certainly! Which way did you come in?

Doctor, Doctor! My little boy has just swallowed a roll of film. Well, let's just wait and see if anything develops!

Check Your Spiritual Vision - ANSWERS: All of the bold words in the following verse are contained in the Chart. The EYES of your UNDERSTANDING being enlightened; that ye may know what is the HOPE of his CALLING, and what the RICHES of the GLORY of his INHERITANCE in the SAINTS. Spiritual Health Goes To The Bone - ANSWERS: envy - rotten bones; Proverbs 14:30 — A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones. Pleasant words - healthy bones; Proverbs 16:24 — Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones. Broken spirit - dry bones; Proverbs 17:22 — A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones. Fear of the Lord - strong bones; Proverbs 3:7-8 — Fear the Lord and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh and strength to your bones.

ANSWERS:



You can have defeat and failure in life, or you can have joy and success. It's up to you. Don't stand gazing at your "promised land" from afar! Determine to be totally obedient to God, and watch as the dreams He's given you come to pass!

Disobedience CAN COST YOU YOUR DREAMS



By Kenneth Hagin Jr.

The God we serve is an awesome, mighty God. He has at His disposal such a bountiful reservoir of benefits, and He is just waiting to pour out His blessings upon His children — the Body of Christ. But each one of us will have to get in line with His Word so He can richly bless us as He desires.

Obedience to God will help you receive what God has promised you in

this life. If God has given you hopes and dreams that will bring Him glory, He wants you to seek Him diligently so He can bring His promises to pass in your life.

Wait before the Lord in prayer and in His Word so He can reveal His plan to you. Then obey Him step-by-step so He can bring you into your promised land. It's not hard for God to bring His will to pass in your life. But sometimes it seems difficult for us to just take Him at His Word and obey Him.

Obedience is a key to possessing your promised land in this life. Your promised land includes living in the rich benefits of your redemption in Christ — healing, prosperity, and abundance in every area of life.

God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). What He's done for one person, He will do for another. It all depends on

your obedience and faith to follow Him completely.

Look at the saints of God in the Word. God fulfilled His plan in the lives of those who were obedient. But those who disobeyed God hindered His plan for their lives. He could not move the way He desired to on their behalf.

For example, near the end of his life, Moses hindered God's plan for him. Yet Moses was God's chosen deliverer. He had been diligent in leading the children of Israel out of the bondage of Egypt.

The Bible even says that God spoke to Moses as a man speaks to his friend (Exod. 33:11). It also says that God knew Moses face to face: *"And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face"* (Deut. 34:10).

But has it ever occurred to you that even though he was God's friend and Israel's deliverer, Moses never possessed the land that he started journeying toward years before?

Moses looked at the Promised Land, but he never possessed it. All he did was stand on a mountaintop and see the land in the distance. Disobedience cost Moses his dreams.

We need to learn from Moses' experience, so we don't make the same mistake he did. Learning from his mistake will help us successfully possess all that God has for us.

I want you to realize that Moses worked diligently for God to deliver the Israelites out of bondage and bring them to their Promised Land. He worked hard to be the godly leader the people needed, and to be everything God required him to be.

Yet he never possessed what he worked so hard to attain. What was the disobedience that cost Moses his dreams of entering the Promised Land?

NUMBERS 27:12-14

12 And the Lord said unto Moses, GET THEE UP INTO THIS MOUNT ABARIM, and SEE THE LAND which I have given unto the children of Israel.

13 And when thou hast seen it, thou also shalt be gathered unto thy people, as Aaron thy brother was gathered.

14 For YE REBELLED AGAINST MY COMMANDMENT in the desert of Zin, in the strife of the congregation, to sanctify me at the water before their eyes: that is the water of Meribah in Kadesh in the wilderness of Zin.

Many believers today remind me of Moses as he looked from that mountaintop, surveying the land before him.

The Bible talks about the exceeding great and precious promises that are given to us in Christ (2 Peter 1:4). Many believers are looking from the mountaintop of their position in Christ. They see all the benefits they can possess in Him. But just like Moses, who never entered the Promised Land, many believers don't *take possession* of all that the Bible promises them.

One reason many Christians aren't possessing what belongs to them in Christ is that they're trying to do it their own way. They may say, "Oh yes, I see healing in the Word," or, "I believe that prosperity is scriptural!"

But their real attitude is, "I want to possess all the great and precious promises that belong to me, but I want them on my terms. Now, Lord, this is the way I want You to do it . . ."

You may know what belongs to you in Christ, but if you try to tell God how He should give you your blessings, you won't be able to receive your inheritance! You have to allow God to do *what* He wants to do, *when and how* He wants to do it.

That was Moses' problem. God told Moses exactly what He wanted him to do, but Moses didn't do it God's way. God told Moses to gather the people of Israel together and *speak* to the rock.

OBEDIENCE IS A KEY TO POSSESSING YOUR PROMISED LAND IN THIS LIFE.



Then water would flow forth to give to the people. (See Numbers 20:1-12.)

Moses got water out of the rock, all right, but he didn't get it the way God told him to do it! God said to *speak* to the rock, and instead Moses *struck* the rock twice in anger. That's disobedience!

Disobedience is why Moses never possessed what God had for him. He was still the leader of the Israelites. He was still God's chosen. But his disobedience cost him the Promised Land.

Moses not only got water out of the rock; he got an *abundance* of water flowing from the rock. But in the long run, doing it his way cost him.

It's the same way with us. We can't do things our way instead of God's way and expect to prosper. In the long run, our disobedience will always cost us.

If we look at Moses' mistake and what it cost him, we can see why some believers today never inherit what God has promised them — their own prom-

ised land — even though it rightfully belongs to them.

Yes, they're saved, and they're God's children. But disobedience has caused them to forfeit their own promised land.

God cannot honor disobedience. You can't possess the exceeding great and precious promises of the Lord Jesus Christ if you persist in doing things your way instead of *God's way*.

I wonder what Moses thought about as he stood on that mountaintop, looking out over that vast land stretching far off into the distance. As Moses surveyed the Promised Land, he saw the regions that God had promised him and the Israelites. He probably had thoughts of regret for his disobedience. Yet he also knew that God was just. It wasn't God's fault that Moses didn't enter the Promised Land. Moses' own disobedience had cost him his dreams.

Many of us are standing today on our mountaintop — our position of joint seating with Christ (Rom. 8:17; Eph. 2:6). And we are viewing the regions beyond, which include all of our possessions in Christ.

We've seen what God has promised us in His Word. But some of us won't be able to possess what already belongs to us until we check up on ourselves and get in line with God in every area of our lives. Let's make sure we're not in disobedience, even in our attitudes.

People don't realize it, but they cut off their own blessings when their attitudes aren't right. Sometimes even though they're obeying God *outwardly*, they forget that God looks on the *heart* of man and sees his attitudes (1 Sam. 16:7).

Wrong attitudes hinder believers more than they realize from being able to receive from God. Sometimes the wrong attitudes are thoughts of jealousy and envy. A self-seeking attitude will eventually destroy a person's dreams.

Why aren't more believers possessing what belongs to them in Christ? Are they completely trusting God, or is there hidden disobedience somewhere? Do attitudes of wanting to do things their own way hinder God from moving in their lives?

If people will be honest and check up on themselves, they'll usually find dis-

obedience somewhere that's hindered the promises of God from being fulfilled in their lives. And instead of helping the matter, they compound the problem. Then they get into more sin by complaining.

Disobedience is sin. Murmuring and complaining are sin. People like to categorize sins as *little* and *big* because it makes them feel better about what they're doing. Then they think they can excuse and justify themselves by saying that their grumbling and complaining are just "little bitty" sins.

God doesn't want us to get into guilt and condemnation. He wants us to recognize where we missed it, repent and ask His forgiveness, and go on. But unless we seek forgiveness for our disobedience, God cannot allow us to receive certain benefits for which we're believing. To successfully take our promised land, we must walk in God's forgiveness and be washed in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Obedience means following *God's* plan for our life instead of doing things our own way. You don't need to know

could have brought something to pass on your own, you would have done it long ago.

Just stay put until you know you've heard from God *and* you know His timing. Then do *what* God says to do, *when and how* He says to do it. When you do that, you'll begin possessing what He's promised you.

Don't be concerned about how you're going to hear from God. Just check up on yourself. Make sure you're in obedience in every area of life. Make sure you have no hidden attitudes that could

WE CAN'T DO THINGS OUR WAY INSTEAD OF GOD'S WAY AND EXPECT TO PROSPER. IN THE LONG RUN, OUR DISOBEDIENCE WILL ALWAYS COST US.

But sin is sin. And sin will keep you from receiving your promised land. Disobedience can cost you your dreams. In fact, God has some strong words for people in rebellion and disobedience. He says, ". . . *rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft . . .*" (1 Sam. 15:23).

Disobedience will cause you to forfeit your promised land and your God-given dreams. On the other hand, the devil will try to push this principle too far and steer you into a ditch. He will try to convince you that you don't deserve *anything* because of your past mistakes.

what everyone else is doing so you can copy them. You just need to know what God is telling *you* to do. Then you must do it! If Jesus is the motivation for everything you do, you will be successful.

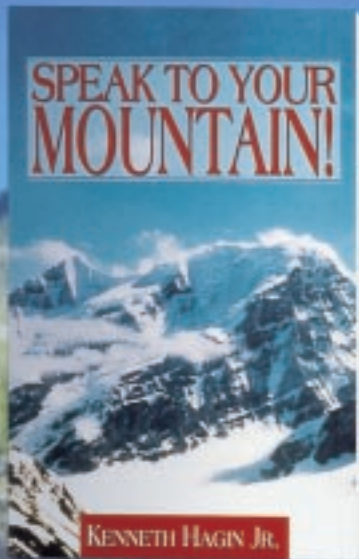
Get on your face before God and find out what God wants for *your* life. You don't have to think up your own plans. Let *God* do it. Besides, He already has a perfect plan prepared for you.

If you'll walk close to Him, God will reveal His plan to you. But don't try to make His plan happen by yourself. You couldn't make it happen anyway. If you

keep you from receiving what God has for you. Then trust Him fully. Study His Word, so God can speak to your heart by His Spirit *through* His Word.

Once you've received God's instructions, go and do what He's told you to do. Determine to follow *His* plan, not your own. You'll find yourself possessing those exceeding great and precious promises that belong to you in Christ. ♣

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From the Archives

A nostalgic look at the beginnings of Kenneth Hagin Ministries



'Today Thou Shalt Surely Die'

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 begins an account of how he had to learn to stand in faith to keep his healing.

After we finished eating breakfast, I walked back across the house into my bedroom. I was fully dressed. I knew Momma would come in about 8:00 or 8:30. She'd always come then to bathe me and clean up the room. I decided that when she came in, I'd go out and sit in the porch swing with Grandpa for a while. But I lay back down across the bed fully clothed and dozed off to sleep.

I was awakened at 8:00. I thought Momma was in the room, but I looked around and didn't see anyone. Then I heard these words — to me, they were audible — coming from somewhere in the room. A voice said, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Then after a pause the voice said, "And today thou shalt surely die."

I knew the Bible well enough to know that both of those statements were scriptures. The first words were in James 4:14, and the second were similar to what Isaiah said to King Hezekiah (see 2 Kings 20:1).

As soon as the voice stopped speaking, other words came as thoughts come to my mind: *Now you see, God has moved in this supernatural way to let you know you're going to die. Healing is right. You've been healed. Your family knows you've been healed. You got up*

and walked to the table. Your paralysis is gone. The symptoms are gone. But everybody has a time to die. Remember the Bible said, 'It's appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment,' and your appointed time has come.

When I first became bedfast with no hope of healing, I had prayed and asked God to show me ahead of time when I was going to die so I'd have time to tell my family good-bye. And now these thoughts came: *And now God in His mercy has answered your prayer and moved in this supernatural way to let you know that today is the time.*

I thought God was standing right there in that room. I thought that I was having a divine, supernatural experience. Well, it was supernatural, but it was not divine. It was not God. The devil can operate in the supernatural realm too.

I got off the bed, tiptoed across the room, sat down in a chair by the window, and waited from a little after 8:00 in the morning until 2:00 or 2:30 in the afternoon to die. The truth is, if I had continued in that state, there is no doubt that I would have died. The devil would have taken my life.

Normally I read the Bible every day, but I thought I'd heard supernaturally from God, and so I didn't even look in the Word.

At about 2:00 in the afternoon, after sitting for nearly six hours in that chair by the window, I heard these words come up on the inside of me, out of my spirit: "With long life will I him, and show him my salvation." I satisfy

turned them over in my mind once or twice. Then I thought, *Yes, but God has moved in this supernatural way and spoken in this audible voice to me. And it was scripture too!* "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. And today thou shalt surely die." I started thinking about that, and lost the other thought.

Maybe ten minutes later, those words came floating up inside me again: "With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation." For a moment, I picked those words up in my mind. I didn't know whether they were in the Bible or not. Then I thought again, *Yes, but God has moved in this supernatural way to let me know that I'm going to die*, and I started thinking about that again.

Then the third time, on the inside of me, those words came floating up to my mind: "With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation." (I learned later that the Hebrew word for "salvation" means "deliverance.") I picked up those words with my mind, turned them over, and repeated them. But then I thought, *Yes, but now God's moved in this supernatural way . . .*

Then the words were spoken again. This time, it was almost as if someone was standing behind me. I almost looked back to see who said them, yet no one was there. The words weren't audible like the other voice was, but they had force.

"WITH LONG LIFE WILL I SATISFY . . ."

Without thinking, I said out loud, "Who said that? Who said that?" Then the same voice that had said, "With long life . . ." said, "The 91st Psalm."

(To be continued . . .)

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