



# THE Word of Faith

DECEMBER 2001

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY KENNETH HAGIN MINISTRIES

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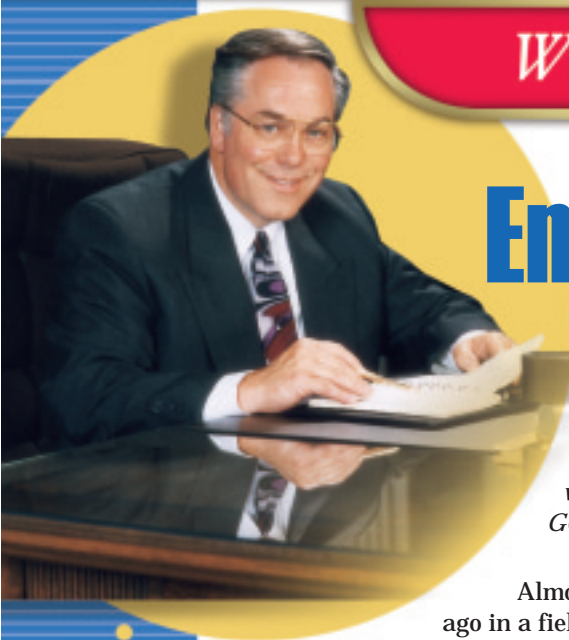
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TM

With Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.



# Emmanuel — God With Us

*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name EMMANUEL, which being interpreted is, GOD WITH US.*

— Matthew 1:23

Almost two thousand years ago in a field outside the city of Bethlehem, a group of shepherds watched their flock beneath a starlit sky. In the quiet hush of the evening's calm, these men tended sheep just as their fathers had done. Nothing in the ordinary events of their day prepared these shepherds for what would make this night like no other. On this night, these Israelite shepherds would be among the first to witness the fulfillment of God's promise to dwell with man.

Now centuries later, you and I are enjoying abundant life because Jesus was willing to come to earth and live among us. Once again, we prepare to celebrate the greatest Gift ever given to mankind — God's Son who paid the ransom for our sins.

God didn't have to give His Son for us. After Adam fell, God could have said, "Well, he failed. Adam messed up. I'll just make another world and start over with a new man." But God didn't do that. Scripture says, *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"* (John 3:16).

Yes, Adam sinned. He and his wife listened to the serpent instead of God. They became separated, both from God and the wonderful life He had created for them. But God loved man and woman too much to leave them in that situation. While they still were in the Garden of Eden, God put His plan in motion to deliver mankind from the devil's grip. He told Satan, "... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Gen. 3:15 *NIV*).

Then, little by little, century after century, God carried out His plan to deliver man. He worked through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, David, and many others to bring about His will in the earth. God said through the prophet Isaiah, "... *Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel*" (Isa. 7:14). As Matthew later told us,

"Immanuel" means *God with us*. God was going to be with His man and woman again as He had been in the Garden of Eden.

Finally, all of the wanderings, battles, hardships, and prophecies came to a climax one quiet night in Bethlehem. The angel of the Lord told the shepherds as they kept watch over their flock, *"Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord"* (Luke 2:10,11).

The Messiah had come! The One who would be anointed by God to deliver his people, and all mankind, from Satan's power was here!

But God's plan to redeem his fallen man was not quite finished. Thirty-three years later, the baby born in Bethlehem had become a man and had carried out his assignment from His Heavenly Father. He allowed Himself to be sentenced to death, mocked, and spit upon. He was nailed to a cross on Golgotha's hill outside of Jerusalem. He shed His sinless blood for the remission of our sins. He paid the price we could not pay!

His followers took His mutilated body down from that rugged cross and placed it in a tomb. But the story didn't end there! God's plan still wasn't finished!

Three days later, Jesus arose! The grave could not hold Him. Satan had bruised Jesus' heel, but Jesus had crushed the serpent's head! He had taken away Satan's authority over man. As Paul wrote, "... *having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it*" (Col. 2:15).

This Christmas, many of us will get together with our natural family and our church family and enjoy the food, the fellowship, and the giving and receiving of gifts that are a part of this season. But whether we are able to celebrate the love and joy of Christmas with all our friends and loved ones, or whether we are apart from them, let us not lose sight of the *real* reason for the festivities. Let us remember that *He is with us!*

On behalf of Mom and Dad, Lynette, and the entire staff of Kenneth Hagin Ministries, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year!

— Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

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Kids! Here's a special page designed just for you, with Bible lessons, riddles, jokes, and puzzles. *Enjoy!*



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:

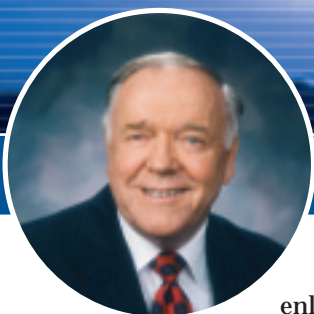
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## Telephone Prayer Lines

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, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST) at (918) 258-1588, Ext. 2280.

# How To Train [the] Human Spirit

*The spirit of man is the  
candle of the Lord . . . — Proverbs 20:27*



KENNETH E. HAGIN

The Lord enlightens and guides us through our spirits. Since that is the case, we need to become more spirit-conscious. We need to become more conscious of the fact that we are spirit beings and not just mental or physical beings. We need to train our spirits so they will become safer guides.

One thing that has held back many Christians is that they are more physical-conscious (body-conscious) and more mental-conscious (soul-conscious) than they are spirit-conscious. They have developed the body and the soul, but they have left the spirit of man almost untouched.

Your spirit can be educated just as your mind can be educated. Your spirit can be built up and trained. I'm going to share with you four ways you can train and develop your own human spirit.

1. Meditate on God's Word.
2. Practice God's Word.
3. Give God's Word first place.
4. Instantly obey the voice of your spirit.

## Meditate on God's Word

The most deeply spiritual men and women I know are those who give time to meditation in the Word of God. You cannot develop spiritual wisdom without meditation. God made that fact known to Joshua just after the death of Moses at the very beginning of Joshua's ministry.

### JOSHUA 1:8

**8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

Some argue that prosperity is not God's will. But if God did not want Joshua to be prosperous, why did He tell him how to do it? If He did not want him to succeed, why did He tell him how to have good success? God wanted Joshua to be successful — and He wants *you* to be successful.

Paraphrasing this truth in New Testament language, we would say, "The Word of God — particularly the New Testament — shall not depart out

of your mouth. But meditate therein day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then you make your way prosperous and you will have good success."

If you ever want to do anything great in life, if you ever want to amount to anything in life, *take time to meditate in the Word of God*. Start out with at least ten or fifteen minutes a day — then increase the time.

*This Word of God shall not depart out of thy mouth*. Talk about the Word. *But thou shalt meditate therein*. Think on the Word. The Hebrew word translated "meditate" also carries this thought with it: *to mutter*. Mutter the Word; speak it to yourself.

I like another translation of Joshua 1:8. The last phrase reads, ". . . you shall be able to deal wisely in the affairs of life." You could not have good success if you did not know how to deal wisely in the affairs of life.

How can you know how to deal wisely in the affairs of life? By meditating on the Word of God and walking in the light of that Word.

## Practice God's Word

Practicing the Word means *being a doer of the Word*.

**JAMES 1:22**

**22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.**

We have many “talkers about the Word,” and even many “rejoicers about the Word,” but we do not have many “doers of the Word.”

Begin to practice being a doer of the Word in every circumstance by doing what the Word tells you to do.

Some have thought that being a doer of the Word meant keeping the Ten Commandments. That is not what James 1:22 means. After all, under the New Covenant we have but one commandment — the commandment of love. Jesus said, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another” (John 13:34).

A doer of the Word will walk in love. If you love someone, you won't steal from him. You won't lie about him. You won't hurt him. The New Testament says that love is the fulfillment of the law. If you walk in love, you won't break any law that was given to curb sin.

Being a doer of the Word means that we are to do primarily what is written in the Epistles. They are the letters written to us, the Church. As an example of doing the Word, let us look at some instruction given in one of the Epistles.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:6**

**6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

Now we don't mind practicing part of this verse — the part that says to pray. But if you practice just that part and not the first part, you are not practicing the Word — you are not being a doer of the Word.

In *The Amplified Bible*, Philippians 4:6 begins, “Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything. . . .” First we are told not to fret. If you are going to fret and have anxieties, it will do no good to make requests. That kind of praying does not work. An over-anxious prayer full of fretfulness does not work.

When I first began practicing Philippians 4:6, it was easy to believe that I could make requests known unto God,

but it was hard to believe that I could *not fret*. However, since God says we are not to fret, then I would say, “I refuse to fret or have any anxiety about anything.”

As I practice Philippians 4:6, I tell the Lord that I am bringing my requests unto Him according to His Word. Then I thank Him for the answer. This quiets my spirit and pacifies the troubled mind the devil would try to make me have. Then I go about my business. Sometimes before I know it, the devil tries to get me to fret again. I simply go right back and read this verse again and keep claiming it.

It is possible to become so fretful over something that you cannot eat or sleep. But all you have to do is practice the Word and you will get results.

Philippians 4:7 is a result of practicing Philippians 4:6.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:7**

**7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

We need to  
train our spirits  
so they will  
become safer  
guides.

Many people want what verse 7 talks about — but they don't want to practice what verse 6 says to do to get it. In *The Amplified Bible*, verse 7 says, “And God's peace . . . which transcends all understanding, shall garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.” God's peace will keep guard over your heart and your mind.

But can you reap these results and have this peace without being a doer of the Word? No, you cannot.

Verse 6 tells us not to fret. People who worry and fret will continually think on the wrong side of life. Verse 8 tells us what we are to think about.

**PHILIPPIANS 4:8**

**8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are**

**lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

You need to be a doer of this verse too. *Practice* it. Think about the right things. Many people think about the wrong things. You know what they think about because of what they continually talk about. The Bible says, “. . . out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh” (Matt. 12:34). They continually worry and fret and think on the wrong side of life — and they continually talk unbelief. You cannot be a doer of the Word and continue to talk unbelief. If you are in unbelief, you have been thinking on and saying the wrong things. You see, the more you think on and talk about some things, the bigger they get.

How do you know what you are to think on? If something does not meet all of these qualifications listed in Philippians 4:8, do not think about it and do not talk about it!

## Give God's Word First Place

The training, the developing, the educating of your spirit comes by giving the Word of God first place in your life.

**PROVERBS 4:20-22**

**20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.**

**21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.**

**22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**

God says in this passage, “. . . Attend to my words [Give heed to them; put them first]; *incline thine ear unto my sayings* [Listen to what I have to say]. *Let them not depart from thine eyes* [Keep looking at the Word of God]; *keep them* [My words] *in the midst of your heart.*”

Why is it that God tells us to put His Word first, to listen to what He has to say, to keep looking at His Word, and to keep His Word in our heart? It is because “. . . they [His words] are *LIFE unto those that find them, and HEALTH to all their flesh.*” There are rich dividends for practicing this passage of scripture.

The margin of the *King James Version* says the word translated “health” is the Hebrew word for *medicine*. God's Word is “*medicine* to all their flesh.” There is healing in the Word.

We should train ourselves to put the Lord first. We should train ourselves to

ask ourselves concerning any matter, "What does God's Word have to say about this?" We should ask ourselves what God has to say about anything that may come up in our life — and then put first what God's Word has to say about it.

Sometimes family and friends will try to rush you into things, hold you back from other things, and influence your decisions in life. But you need to think about what the Word of God says. Put God's Word first in every area of life.

### Instantly Obey the Voice Of Your Spirit

The human spirit has a voice. We call that voice *conscience*. Sometimes we call it *intuition*, an *inner voice*, or *guidance*. The world calls it a *hunch*. But that "voice" is your spirit talking to you. Every man's spirit, saved or unsaved, has a voice.

The human spirit is a spiritual man — a spirit man — an inward, hidden man. He is hidden to the physical senses. You cannot see the spirit of man with the physical eyes, nor touch him with your physical hands. The spirit man is the man who has become a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17).

When a person is born again, his or her *spirit* becomes new.

God prophesied through both Ezekiel and Jeremiah that a time would come when He would take the old stony heart out of men and put in a new one (see Jer. 24:7, 31:33, 32:39; Ezek. 11:19, 36:26). He said that He would put His Spirit into us. Under the New Covenant, the New Birth became available, and what God said through the prophets was fulfilled.

The New Birth is a rebirth of the human spirit. As Second Corinthians 5:17 tells us, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature — everything that was old in his spirit, the old nature, is taken away, and all things have become new.

As you give this newborn spirit the privilege of meditating on the Word of God, the Word becomes the source of its information. Your spirit will become strong, and the inward voice of your conscience, educated in the Word, will become a true guide.

Did you notice that meditation in the Word, practicing the Word, and giving the Word first place, all come before obeying your spirit? You see, if your spirit has had the privilege of meditating in the Word, practicing the Word,

and putting the Word first — then your spirit is a safe, authoritative guide.

"*The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord . . .*" (Prov. 20:27). Your newborn spirit has within it the life and nature of God. The Holy Spirit dwells in your spirit. God has to communicate with you through your spirit because that is where He is. Your spirit gets its information through Him.

Learn to obey the voice of your spirit.

Of course, if you are not accustomed to obeying the voice of your spirit, you will not get there quickly. Remember, your spirit can be built up and strengthened just as your body can be built up and strengthened. Your spirit can be educated just as your mind can be educated. But just as you did not begin school in the first grade one week and graduate from the twelfth grade the next week, your spirit will not be educated and trained overnight.

However, if you will follow these four points and practice them, after a while you can know the will of God the Father in even the minor details of life. You will receive guidance and will always get an answer when you need to make a decision. You will know in your spirit what you should do in all the affairs of life. ♣



How You Can Be Led by the Spirit of God

Kenneth E. Hagin

How You Can Be Led by the Spirit of God

- Do you wonder what the future holds for you?
- Do you have difficulty making decisions?
- Do you want to know how to follow God's plan in every situation?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, this book is for you.

In *How You Can Be Led by the Spirit of God*, Rev. Kenneth E.

Hagin provides step-by-step scriptural guidance to help believers follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every area of life.

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# A MINISTRY OF Prayer and Healing

The Prayer and Healing Center plays a vital role in Kenneth Hagin Ministries' many outreaches.



**J**ust as prayer is vital to the Christian's walk with God, so the activities of RHEMA's Prayer and Healing Center are important to the operation of Kenneth Hagin Ministries.

The Prayer and Healing Center stands near the middle of the RHEMA campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. From that building, completed in 1982, staff members coordinate the ministry's prayer and healing outreaches.

Rev. Jim Hockaday serves as director of the Prayer and Healing Center, overseeing its four main divisions: prayer school, healing school, prayer partners, and prayer groups.

## •••• Prayer School ••••

The Lord put it on Kenneth E. Hagin's heart to start Prayer and Healing School, and the first session was held on October 1, 1979. At the outset, Brother Hagin dealt

with both prayer and healing in the same sessions. As time went on, however, he saw there was a need to separate prayer and healing to allow for more specific teaching on each subject.

Prayer School is held at 1:00 p.m. weekdays on the RHEMA campus, and is open to everyone, though its primary purpose is to teach RHEMA Bible Training Center students, by precept and example, how to pray. Rev. Hockaday and other ministers teach on the various kinds of prayer mentioned in the Bible. This scriptural teaching



Rev. Jim Hockaday,  
Director of the Prayer and  
Healing Center.

lays a good foundation for praying in faith. Those present then practice what they've been taught.

"It's a wonderful environment to cultivate maturity and growth in the students and anyone who wants to come and participate," Rev. Hockaday shared. During 2000, 33,678 people attended Prayer School sessions. A volunteer staff of 40 ushers, 30 greeters, musicians, and sound technicians assist in the daily operation of Prayer School.

## Each month, the Prayer and Healing Center receives from callers 30 to 50 reports of instantaneous answers to prayer.

start out and minister as the Lord leads us."

Healing School is held twice each week-day — at 9:30 a.m. for only those who are sick, and at 2:15 p.m. for the general public.

Sessions are patterned after Brother Hagin's crusade meetings. Mornings are devoted to much teaching on all areas of faith. In the afternoon sessions, more emphasis is placed on obtaining manifest results.

Morning Healing School includes teaching especially aimed at building the faith of those who attend, and encouraging them in

## ..... Healing School .....

As a teenager, Kenneth E. Hagin lay paralyzed for many months, seemingly destined to die. His heart cried out for someone to encourage him to believe that he could be healed. But the few people he asked for help only told him to prepare for death.

It was only by the grace of God and young Kenneth's determined study of God's Word that faith was finally quickened in his heart to believe for his healing. And on August 8, 1934, he was raised off the bed of sickness by the power of God, completely healed and made whole.

As a minister of the Gospel, Brother Hagin carried a dream in his heart for many years to help those who suffer

in pain and sickness the way he'd once suffered. He wanted to provide a place where the sick could come and have faith put *into* them, rather than have it taken *out of* them through religious tradition and unbelief. That dream was brought into reality when the first session of Healing School convened on the RHEMA campus.

Launching Healing School was a Holy Ghost adventure for those involved. Brother Hagin reminisced, "Back in 1979 when we started, it seemed like everyone wanted to start a healing school. They'd write and ask us, 'How do you do it?' I'd say, 'Well, I don't know for sure myself what we're going to do! We're just going to

their love walk. With the most serious cases, volunteers divide into groups of four or five — each with a leader — to minister one-on-one to the sick person. "It's very systematic and organized," Rev. Hockaday said.

The groups take the individuals into private rooms and pray with them, sometimes each day for two weeks. The approach is similar to that used by John G. Lake, Maria Woodworth-Etter, Dr. Lillian B. Yeomans, and other ministers of a century or more ago. Rev. Hockaday shared, "Many times, while the sick person and the volunteers are just praying and worshipping the Lord, the glory of God will fall, and then healings will begin to take place. We've had some wonderful testimonies of people who have been healed this way."

At afternoon Healing School, the praise, worship, and teaching all help build an attitude of expectancy in those present so that they can receive their healing *then*, whether through the anointing on the minister or through the moving of the Holy Spirit in the gifts of the Spirit.

"We're endeavoring to cultivate an atmosphere corporately for there to be a real move of the Spirit," explained Rev. Hockaday. "Many times it's just the minister stepping out and helping people. But the emphasis is more on working with people for the result."

Here are two of the many Healing School testimonies. One woman who had been diagnosed with a lack of



Healing School volunteers minister as a group to individuals in need of healing.

**As a minister of the Gospel, Brother Hagin carried a dream in his heart for many years to help those who suffer in pain and sickness the way he'd once suffered.**

oxygen to her heart and other medical conditions came to Healing School, listened to the teaching, and had hands laid on her in prayer for healing. Less than three weeks later, two cardiologists gave her a clean bill of health.

A man working as a logger in Oregon was hit by a falling tree. Doctors said he would never again be able to kneel, crawl, or do any physical work, but he believed God would heal him. He came to Healing School for a week, had hands laid on him, and believed he would recover. Ten months later, he went back to work as a plumber, able to kneel, crawl, and even run.

## ... Prayer Partners ...



About 20 prayer partners minister over the phone lines to individuals in need of prayer.

Kenneth Hagin Ministries has about 20 volunteer prayer partners who answer telephone calls each weekday from people wanting prayer for various needs. The dedicated volunteers man the telephones in four-hour shifts during the ministry's regular business day. These volunteers pray with callers that their needs will be met according to the Word of God. When they are not praying with callers, the volunteers pray over requests received through the mail.

Mrs. Micky Carpenter, who oversees the prayer partner ministry, meets monthly with RHEMA's prayer partners. She helps them refine their ability to minister to callers in prayer. She also helps build in the volunteers an expectancy that God will answer their scriptural prayers made in agreement with those who call or write.

That expectancy is bearing fruit. Each month, the Prayer and Healing Center receives from callers on average of 60 to 80 reported answers to prayer. In a significant number of cases, the answer came instantly. A woman from Oklahoma called for prayer for a cancerous growth to leave her body. After the prayer partner finished praying, the woman checked her body and the lump had disappeared. Another caller asked for prayer for her wrist which she thought was sprained or broken. As soon as the prayer partner prayed, the swelling went down and the woman could move her hand.

Kenneth Hagin Ministries' telephone prayer lines are open Monday through Friday, 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST) at (918) 258-1588, Ext. 2280.

## ... Prayer Groups ...

Scriptural, organized prayer is being offered regularly for RHEMA's Word Partners and many other individuals through prayer groups. Overseen by RHEMA Bible Church, 475 volunteers meet in groups to pray at various times seven days a week from 5:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on the RHEMA campus. The volunteers are divided into 164

**Scriptural,  
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prayer groups, each with a specific focus. Many pray for members of the Hagin family and the ministry staff. Others pray for souls, the outreaches of RHEMA Bible Church, RHEMA Bible Training Center and its alumni, Kenneth Hagin Ministries' Word Partners, and missionaries around the world. A specific prayer group is assigned to each of the 13 international RHEMA Bible Training Centers. Groups also pray for requests received through the Internet. Each group must maintain a log in which they record

what they prayed about and other information for each session.

To join a RHEMA prayer group, a volunteer first must successfully complete a five-to-six-week course on prayer, which is taught three times a year. Volunteers are then assigned to four-to-six-member groups which are given a specific prayer focus. Volunteers must commit to meet weekly with their group. Every other month, a meeting is held for all prayer group members for instruction and prayer.

During 2000, 40 people were trained as prayer group leaders to promote unity within each group and to maintain RHEMA's high prayer standards. Miss Leigh Ann Merrell coordinates RHEMA Bible Church's prayer groups and prays with each group on occasion during the year.

From prayer partners and prayer groups to Healing School and Prayer School, the Prayer and Healing Center continues to play a vital part among RHEMA's many outreaches. ♣



There are 164 prayer groups meeting at various times on the RHEMA campus, each group having a specific prayer focus.



Lynette Hagin

# God's Will for Your Life

*Jesus said, "The food that keeps me going is that I do the will of the One who sent me, finishing the work he started."*

— John 4:34 (*The Message*)

As children of the King, we each have a calling in the army of the Lord. And it's so important that we fulfill that call. God has given each of us special gifts. My gift may not be your gift. And your gift may not be my gift. God is so good that He gives each and every one of us talents and then calls us to do different things.

Some are called to the five-fold ministry, while others are called to serve in a supportive role. Some are called to be youth or children's ministers. Some are called to music, and others are called to administration. And many are called to support a pastor in the vision God has given him. But each one of us has a place in God's army.

It's important to step into the place that God has called us to. In *The Message* New Testament, Jesus said, "The food that keeps Me going is doing the will of My Father." You know, that's what should keep us going — doing the will of the Father. There's nothing like being in God's perfect will. You'll never be happy until you are dwelling in the perfect will of the Most High. So the heart cry of each one of us should be, "Lord, I want to do Your will."

How do we know the will of the Father? How do we know what His will is for our lives? Let's look at Proverbs chapter 3. This passage of Scripture has been a guiding force throughout my life.

#### PROVERBS 3:5,6

**5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.**

**6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.**

We are told to trust in the Lord with all our heart. Before we can know the will of our Heavenly Father, we're going to have to learn to trust Him. It sounds very simple, and it *is* simple. I've used these verses throughout my life, knowing that if I trusted in Him, He would show me His perfect will for my life.

What does "trust" mean? The Hebrew word for trust in this verse means *to lean the whole body on something in order to rest on it*. By way of illustration, when our oldest grandson was two years old, he would stand on the platform at church and yell to his grandfather, "Poppy, catch me." He would jump off the platform trusting that his Poppy was going to catch him. And not one time did his Poppy fail to catch him. How much more can we trust our Heavenly Father, knowing that not one time will He ever fail to catch us!

We need to trust our Heavenly Father to direct our path. And then, as Proverbs 3:5 says, we are not to lean unto our own understanding. The Hebrew word for "understanding" means *wisdom or knowledge*. We're not to rely on our own faulty human wisdom. We are to trust in the Lord, and *He* will give us wisdom!

We have a limited understanding, but God has complete understanding. When we rely on our wisdom, we get in a mess. But when we rely on the wisdom of God, He always works things out. Even when we haven't got a clue as to how God can work something out, He always comes through.

Let's read in Isaiah chapter 55.

#### ISAIAH 55:8,9

**8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.**

**9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.**

God's ways are so much higher than ours. His plans are so much greater than our own plans. When Ken and I started in the ministry, we thought that if we just pastored a church of three hundred, or five hundred at the most, we would be so happy! But God had higher plans; He had greater plans.

Believe in God's plan for your life. God had a plan for Joshua and the children of Israel. Part of His plan was that they enter the Promised Land.

In Joshua chapter 1, Moses had died, and Joshua had been appointed as the leader of the children of Israel. Let's read what the Lord said to Joshua.

#### JOSHUA 1:8

**8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.**

How do you find the will of God for your life? Meditate in the Word day and night, just as Joshua did, and do what God has said in His Word. When you do, your way will be prosperous, and you'll have good success.

Let's read verse 9.

#### JOSHUA 1:9

**9 Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.**

Be strong. Be of good courage. Be not afraid, because as long as you're meditating in the Word of God, you are going to know that He is with you wherever you go.

Even though God's plan was that Joshua and the children of Israel enter the Promised Land, they still encountered obstacles. One of those obstacles was Jericho. Joshua came to that walled city and must have thought, *Oh man! How are we ever going to overcome such a fortress? That's a big wall!* You know, he might have even been a little afraid, wondering how they were going to get through.

Let's read what happened to Joshua.

#### JOSHUA 5:13-15

**13** And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries?

**14** And he said, Nay; but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

**15** And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

About the time Joshua was tempted to fear, the Lord appeared to him and ministered to him. You might be thinking, *Oh God, how are You going to make a way for me?* You might be tempted to fear. But know that God *will* make a way for you.

Then God gave Joshua the plan to take Jericho. Now I'm quite sure that the plan that was revealed to Joshua was not the plan he had in mind.

Many times, we want to plan out our whole life. I used to be a world-champion planner! I loved to plan out the next fifteen or twenty years of my life. In fact, when I was in the third grade, I knew I was going to be in the ministry. I knew I was going to marry a minister. In my mind, I thought that if I was going to be a minister's wife, I needed to either sing or play the piano. So I started taking piano lessons. That's how much I loved to plan my life.

But God wants to lead us one step at a time. God will lead you into His perfect will one step at a time. Eventually, in my walk with the Lord, I realized that God's plans were not what I had planned. I finally had to say, "Lord, I'm going to trust in You. I'm not going to lean to my own understanding, but I'm going to lean

to Your understanding. Lead me one step at a time."

God will always lead you. He led Joshua. I'm certain that Joshua had military tactics that he wanted to use in taking Jericho. But that was not God's plan. God wanted to use music (see Joshua 6:4)!

God said to Joshua, "Tell the people to march around the walls for six days without saying a word. On the seventh day, tell the priests to blow the trumpets and the people to shout. Then the walls will fall down." Joshua leaned not unto his own understanding. He trusted in the Most High God, and what happened? The walls came down!

As you trust in the Lord and lean not unto your own understanding, the walls of hindrances and obstacles will come down in your life. It is important that you follow His orders explicitly. You don't have to be afraid. You don't have to be anxious. Philippians 4:6 says, *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."*

Finally, we need to acknowledge God in all of our ways. I say to God, "You are in control of my life, Lord. I know that You are beside me to lead and guide me." Sometimes I say to the Lord, "What You're asking me to do is kind of scary so I'm going to just 'close my eyes' and let You lead me to the next step." He will do it every time! He will direct your path if you'll trust Him. He will remove the obstacles. He'll guide you into the right place at the right time.

Imagine two sailboats approaching one another. They move steadily and speedily in opposite directions and yet they're driven by the same wind. But each boat's direction is not determined by the wind. It's determined by the set of the sails. You have within you the right and the power to set your own sails. But I am urging you to let the Lord Jesus Christ set them. When you let Him set your sails, He'll point you in the right direction. He'll lead you, guide you, and direct you every step of the way.✝

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# SEED THOUGHTS

*From Lynette*

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

— Isaiah 58:11 (NIV)



*This time of year — the Christmas season — should be a season of joy and celebration. It should be a time set aside to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And just as our Savior was given because of God's great love for us, we in turn should express our love toward others and give to them during this Christmas season.*

*Unfortunately, in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, as people go to and from shopping malls, deciding what to give to whom, and as they experience other pressures or memories that this time of year brings, many men and women become frustrated or saddened to the point of depression. You see, as many families are gathering together to celebrate, there are those with no family who are alone and hurting.*

*This Christmas, I encourage you to reach beyond your family and the four walls of your home. I encourage you to reach out to someone who doesn't have a family and to "adopt" him or her into your family for the holidays. This Christmas, make the scripture "It is more blessed to give than to receive" a reality in your life.*

*I have found that people who are totally consumed with themselves and who never give of themselves, often live a very miserable life. But those who give to others, whether it is of their time, talent, or money, find that life is truly fulfilling. You will experience no greater joy than the joy of giving.*

*During this holiday season, I also encourage you to remember to be thankful for what you have. Often, we are so consumed with acquiring more that we aren't thankful for what God has already given us. Each morning, I thank the Lord that I am healthy. I do not take my health for granted. I thank God that I can walk. I thank Him that He has given me an abundance of energy to perform*

*each day's necessary tasks. So often, we take these simple things for granted.*

*Not only is it important to express your thankfulness and appreciation to God, it is important to express your love and appreciation to your family.*

*Each night as my husband and I retire for the evening, we kiss each other and say, "I love you." The very first thing we do in the morning is the same: We kiss and say, "I love you."*

*When our children were young and still living at home, we prayed with them each night when they went to bed and told them we loved them. In the morning as they left for school, we told them, "We love you. Jesus loves you. Have a good day, and, remember, you can accomplish anything you desire with the help of the Lord."*

*It's important to express your feelings to your family. Don't let a day go by that you do not freely express your love and appreciation to each person who matters most to you. Again, I encourage you this holiday season to be thankful for what you have, to express your love to your family, and to reach out to those around you, giving someone in need the gift of love.*

Lynette

Send your questions to Seed Thoughts, Attention: Lynette Hagin, P.O. Box 50126, Tulsa, OK 74150-0126, or E-mail your questions to: [seedthoughts@rhema.org](mailto:seedthoughts@rhema.org). No personal responses will be given; questions will be addressed in the magazine only. Unfortunately, due to volume, we are unable to answer every question received.



# From the Archives

A nostalgic look at the beginnings of Kenneth Hagin Ministries



## 'Your Work's Not Done!'

*After Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin was born again at the age of 15, he remained bedfast. Doctors said his condition was incurable and fatal. This month, Rev. Hagin shares his experience of dying and returning to life.*

\*\*\*\*\*

At the time I was born again, on April 22, 1933, doctors said I had to die, and I thought so too. But I praised myself to sleep every night. I'd say, "Dear Lord Jesus, they may find me dead in the morning, but oh, I'm so glad I didn't go to hell!" And I'd say quietly to myself, "Thank You, Jesus. Glory to God. Praise the Lord." I decided to put a smile on my face, and if they found me dead, they'd know I died happy! Hallelujah!

Four months later, just four days before my sixteenth birthday, death came. I knew that entire day that I was dying. The temperature in McKinney, Texas, hit 106 degrees that day. We didn't have air conditioning in 1933. We didn't even have a fan. The doors and windows were open, yet my body was so cold they wrapped me in blankets and put hot-water bottles and even heated bricks around me trying to warm me up.

At 1:30 in the afternoon, death fastened itself upon me. I told my little brother, Pat, who was with me, "Run and get Momma quick! I want to tell her goodbye." He rushed out of the

room, and when he did, the whole room lit up with the glory of God.

In the Old Testament, the glory of God appeared many times as a white, glistening cloud. Well, my whole room lit up with that bright light — brighter than the sun shining on snow. I left my body and ascended into that glory. I got up to about where the top of the house should be, looked down into the room, and saw my body lying on the bed — my eyes set and my mouth open in death.

I saw my mother stoop over me and take my hand in hers. And I heard a voice speak in English. I didn't see him. I've always thought it was Jesus, because it was a man's voice. It said, "Go back! Go back! Go back to the earth! Your work's not done!" I descended into the room, slipped back inside my body, and said to Momma, "Momma, I'm not going to die now."

I thought that experience lasted a few seconds. And for many years I never talked about it. To me it was too sacred to talk about. But after fifteen years, the Lord dealt with me to tell it.

My mother had never heard me talk about this experience, and one day she heard me relate it as I taught on the radio. The next time I saw her, she said, "Son, there's more to that incident than you know. Let me tell you my side and Granny's side."

She said, "The way you tell it, you were in that glory for a few seconds.

But you were gone more than ten minutes. Your brother Pat came running back to the kitchen yelling, 'Momma! Granny! Ken's dying!' I was nearest to the door. I rushed up the hall and into the dining room, and started into the bedroom. The door was open, but I couldn't get in! I couldn't see in either. The room was filled with what seemed like a thick fog. I sensed the Presence of God, so I backed up to the dining room table and bowed my head to pray."

Momma continued, "Granny (she was then about seventy years old) came running behind me heading for the bedroom. She didn't look and tried to run through that open door and bounced off of it like it was a rubber ball. She backed halfway across the dining room, made another run at it, and bounced off again. She backed all the way across the dining room up against the wall, ran the whole way across the room, and still couldn't get in — through an open door!

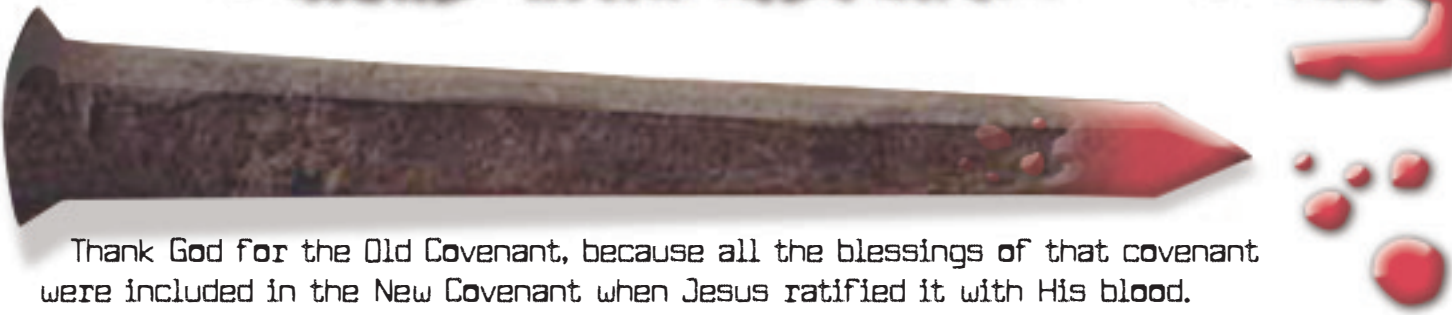
"I told Granny we'd better just wait. We couldn't see into the room for ten minutes. Finally Granny said the cloud was lifting. We didn't dare go in until the last wisp was gone. When Granny said it was gone, I rushed into the room, stooped over you, and took your hand in mine. And about that time you said, 'Momma, I'm not going to die now.'"

Since that day, I've never felt sorry for Christians who die, whether they're young, old, or middle-aged. Yes, I know healing belongs to us. But we're all going home sometime. I've never felt sorry for Christians who die because I know where they went.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



# Out of Covenant of Healing



Thank God for the Old Covenant, because all the blessings of that covenant were included in the New Covenant when Jesus ratified it with His blood.

But we should be especially thankful for the New Covenant, because we are recipients and partakers of its benefits in Christ!

One thing we need to remember when it comes to serving the Lord is Deuteronomy 6:5, which says, “*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*” Loving God is part of walking in covenant with Him.

Walking in the covenant is what keeps us from being sick — or, in other words, what keeps us living in divine health. (You see, healing is needed only if we get sick!)

What exactly does it mean to walk in covenant with God? It means living wholeheartedly for God. It means, first, accepting Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, being baptized in water, and being filled with the Spirit and speaking with other tongues according to Acts 2:4. It means obeying God’s Word. When you love and obey God willingly, you are living in covenant with Him!

To help us better understand our covenant, I want to explain what a covenant is and give some examples of natural covenants — covenants made man-to-man, not God-to-man. The dictionary defines “covenant” as *a formal, solemn, and binding agreement; a written agreement or promise*

*usually under seal between two or more parties, especially for the performance of some action; pledge, and contract.*

Sometimes when children make pacts with their friends, they may even call themselves “blood brothers.” When I was a teenager, I made such a pact with three of my closest buddies.

The four of us have remained close friends after all these years. We still get together from time to time to fellowship, and we stay in regular contact with each other.

Natural covenants are important; we value and honor them. Well, God made a covenant with us! It’s called the blood covenant. It was established when Jesus died on the Cross and rose from the grave. The covenant was ratified by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. In Matthew 26:28, Jesus says, “*For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*” The blood Jesus shed wiped away our sins, and the New Covenant He established is still valid today!

When you were born again, you entered into a covenant with God through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. And through His blood, provision was also made for your healing.

Many Christians only talk about Jesus' blood being shed for salvation. Yes, it was shed for salvation, but First Peter 2:24 says, "By His stripes, we were healed." We know that through the blood Jesus shed when stripes were laid upon His back, God provided healing for our bodies!

Isaiah 52:14 says that Jesus' countenance or appearance was so marred from the beating He received that He wasn't recognizable. Many commentaries and scholars give a very vivid description of the appearance of a man beaten as Jesus was beaten. They agree that the mutilation caused when the whip hit the back and wrapped around the body was devastating, ripping the stomach and the face.

It's easy to understand why Isaiah said that Jesus' countenance was marred beyond recognition. And because of His blood that was shed, we have a covenant of healing.

However, we know that it's one thing to have a covenant, but it's another thing entirely to walk in that covenant. In other words, there are conditions to the covenant; we have a part to play. The precedent for this was set in the Old Testament, during which God established a healing covenant with His people as recorded in the Book of Exodus. As long as Israel walked in the covenant they had made with God, He took sickness away from them.

**EXODUS 23:25,26**

**25 And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee.**

**26 There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.**

When the Israelites came to Marah where they couldn't drink the bitter water, they murmured against Moses. At the Lord's direction, Moses dipped a tree into the waters, and the waters immediately became sweet.

**EXODUS 15:25,26**

**25 And he [Moses] cried unto the Lord; and the Lord shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,**

**26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy**

**God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE.**

This passage holds great significance for Christians that we sometimes overlook. I want to show you how this covenant in the Book of Exodus foreshadowed the covenant Jesus fulfilled on the Cross.

Remember what is happening in this passage — God is using the incident with the bitter waters to illus-

The covenant was ratified by the shed blood of Jesus Christ.



trate and declare His healing covenant with Israel. At this time, the children of Israel had already passed through the Red Sea. Now they had come up to waters that were bitter. At the Lord's direction, Moses took a tree, and dipped it in the waters to "heal" the waters, and the waters became sweet.

You see, the event with the tree was a type or future representation of the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, and, at different times in the Bible, water was used to represent people. In the Old Testament, the covenant or statute of healing was established when Moses took the tree and dipped it into the bitter waters. In the same way, the Cross of the Lord Jesus Christ, which represents the broken body of the Lord Jesus Christ, was dipped into the bitter waters of humanity. Through the Cross, a covenant was established which declared, "By His stripes you were healed."

First Peter 2:24 says, "By Jesus' stripes, you *were* healed." It's not, "You're *going to be* healed." And it's not, "You *might be* healed." No, it says, "You *were* healed!" And if you *were* healed, then you *are* healed!

God established a healing covenant with the children of Israel, and God is the same today as He was

in the Old Testament (see Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8). God was against sin in the Old Testament, and He is against sin today! He was against sickness in the Old Testament, and He is against sickness today. He made provision for healing in the Old Testament, and He has made provision for healing for us today!

There are certain blessings God has said belong to those who serve and obey Him, and those blessings are for us today.

**DEUTERONOMY 7:13-15**

**13 And he [God] will love thee, and bless thee, and multiply thee: he will also bless the fruit of thy womb, and the fruit of thy land, thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep, in the land which he sware unto thy fathers to give thee.**

**14 Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.**

**15 And the Lord will take away from thee all sickness, and will put [permit] none of the evil diseases of Egypt, which thou knowest, upon thee. . . .**

This promise is for us today, or God is not God. But if you still aren't convinced that these promises apply to us today, let's see what the *New Testament* has to say.

**1 CORINTHIANS 10:11**

**11 Now all these things happened unto them [Israel] for ensamples [examples]: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come [the Body of Christ, the Church].**

**1 CORINTHIANS 10:11 (NIV)**

**11 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.**

In this verse, Paul tells us that the things that happened to Israel were

recorded as examples for us! What kinds of things happened to Israel? Well, for one, in both Exodus and Deuteronomy, God established a covenant of healing!

Just as the children of Israel had to stay in the covenant in the Old Testament for God to be Jehovah Rapha — the God who Heals — in their lives, we have to stay in His covenant. We have to live in line with God's Word and do what God said to do. It's that simple. That's how we remain in the covenant.

The Word tells us to love the Lord our God with all our heart, all our soul, and all our strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves (Luke 10:27). The commandment of love actually sums up all the other commandments, because when we are walking in love, we won't steal, lie, kill, and so forth.

Many Christians who want to receive healing and other provisions of the covenant aren't living right. They might say, "But I'm not doing this, that, or the other thing," referring to what man considers to be flagrant sins. But there are other things

that are considered sin besides murder, adultery, and the like. For instance, the Word of God says that stirring up strife among the brethren is a sin (Prov. 6:16,19).

Remember, the Bible says that the Old Testament was written for our admonition. And Exodus 23:25,26 says if we will serve the Lord our God, He will bless our bread and our water, He will take sickness away from our midst, and the number of our days He will fulfill. The condition is, we must serve the Lord our God and must diligently hearken to His voice (Exodus 15:26). In other words, we must be careful to hear and do all that His Word says.

The blessings in the Old Testament included salvation, healing, health, deliverance, prosperity, and so forth.<sup>1</sup> God is still the same God as He was in the Old Testament. His blessings weren't just for the children of Israel — the blessings are for His children today!

**HEBREWS 8:6**

**6 But now hath he [Jesus] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better**

**covenant, which was established upon better promises.**

This verse says we have a new and better covenant. Since the new is better than the old, then it must contain all that was in the Old Covenant plus *additional* promises! Otherwise, it's not new *or* better. The Old Covenant, established between God and His man Abraham, provided healing for the children of Israel. And the New Covenant, purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, was also established by Jehovah Rapha, the Lord who heals us, and provides healing for the children of God. That means that *you* can receive healing according to His Word and walk in a covenant of divine health. 🕊

<sup>1</sup>For an in-depth teaching on this subject, please see *Redeemed From the Curse of Poverty, Sickness, and Spiritual Death* by Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin

# Executing the Basics of HEALING

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# Kids' Page

Fearless, A-pointed, I-nward-led, T-rustworthy H-airs of God

## Name that Tune!

The pictures below tell the names of favorite Christmas songs. See if you can figure them out!

A.



B.



C.



E.

1. ABCDEFGHIJK \_  
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

2. ABCDEFGHIJK \_  
MNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

## The Best Christmas Gift of All!

Kids all around the world

love Christmas time. They love to sing Christmas songs, watch Christmas plays, and eat Christmas goodies. They love the Christmas tree with its decorations and lights.



Let's see...wasn't there something else? Oh yes! The presents! Christmas is a time when people exchange gifts with those they love. Of course, the first Christmas gift was given 2000 years ago...when God gave the world His One and Only Son. If you have received Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then you have received **The**



**Best Christmas Gift of All.** If you have not, why not receive this gift today! To receive God's gift of salvation, the Bible says you must confess with your mouth that "Jesus is Lord" and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9,10). If you'll do this today you will receive **The Best Christmas Gift of All!**

## WORD SCRAMBLE

God gives lots of gifts to those who love Him. Unscramble the letters below to find out 3 very special gifts that God has given us. If you need help, the answers can be found in Acts 2:38, Romans 5:17, and Romans 6:23.

- lohy ripits
- sertinghouses
- neretal file



## The Missing Piece

A piece is missing from the puzzle and only one of the four pieces to the left is correct. Can you find the Missing Piece?

## Jokes & Riddles

What did Adam say on the day before Christmas?

*It's Christmas, Eve!*

What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month?

*The Letter "D".*

What happens if you eat the Christmas decorations?

*You get tinsel-itis.*

What do you get when you cross a snowman and a shark?

*Frostbite.*

What's Tarzan's favorite Christmas song?

*Jungle Bells.*

What is never hungry at Christmas Dinner?

*The turkey...it's always "stuffed."*

What did the bald man say when he got a comb for Christmas?

*Thanks, I'll never "part" with it.*

What was the name of the angel who sang on Christmas Day?

*Harold. (Hark, the Herald Angels Sing)*

Name That Tune - Answers:  
 A. O Holy Night (O Holy Knight)  
 B. Silent Night (Silent Knight)  
 C. Away in a Manger (A Weigh in a Manger)  
 D. Angels We Have Heard on High  
 E. The First Noel (The First No "L")

Word Scramble - Answers:  
 1. Holy Spirit - Acts 2:38 says that we should repent and be baptized so that we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
 2. Righteousness - Romans 5:17 tells us that by the gift of righteousness we will reign in life through Jesus Christ.  
 3. Eternal Life - Romans 6:23 says that the free gift of God is eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Missing Piece - Answer: C.

ANSWERS: