



# THE Word of Faith

JULY 2003

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# heart to heart

with rev. kenneth hagin jr.

## TRUE FREEDOM

*If the Son therefore shall make you free, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED.*

— John 8:36

In recent years and in years gone by, much blood has been spilled for the freedom that we enjoy. Freedom is never *free*; it always costs something. And although the freedom you enjoy may seem “free” to you, someone else paid the price for it.

We hear the words “free” and “freedom” used loosely in our country. Teenagers, certain religious factions, and other disgruntled groups of people are just some of those who talk about wanting more “freedom.” But even though our country may have some problems and it certainly isn’t perfect, we should still be grateful for this great nation.

Thank God for the natural freedom we enjoy in the United States. Thank God for the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice to provide us with that freedom. But what does it mean to be truly free? Are we truly free just because we live in a free country and are basically able to do as we please within the law? No! That is a *form* of freedom, but it is not *true* freedom.

I believe that we only have *true* freedom when we are free in God. John 8:36 says, “*If the Son therefore shall make you free, YE SHALL BE FREE INDEED.*” We are truly free — free indeed — when Jesus Christ has set us free. Even someone in prison can be truly free in Christ. This kind of freedom is not based upon whether we have the ability to go where we please or to do what we want. This freedom is based on Jesus.

How do we receive this kind of freedom? Using the word *free* as an acrostic (F-R-E-E), we can see how this freedom is obtained.

First, we must have **Faith** in God.

Many people claim to have faith in some sort of god. Some people worship inanimate objects, such as the sun or the moon. Others worship false gods, such as Buddha or Mohammed. For some people, riches, pleasures, or possessions are their god. (Whatever people praise more highly than anything else is a god to them.) But to be free, we must have faith in the one true God — God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in God sets us free from the bondage of sin and death.

Second, we must **Rely** on God.

Psalm 37:5 says, “*Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.*” When we rely on God, He sets us free from the chains of insecurity, fear, and doubt. We can trust Him to bring His plan to pass in our life. We can trust Him to meet our needs (Phil. 4:19). We can trust Him to protect us (Ps. 91).

Third, we must **Enlist** in God’s plan.

Matthew 9:37 says, “*The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few.*” To enjoy true freedom, we must be busy about our Father’s work. Most people are too busy pursuing their own plans to enlist in God’s plan. But in view of all that God has



blessed us with, we should devote some of our time to work for Him — helping others, ministering to the needy, reaching the lost, and so forth. And we should be consecrated to do what He wants us to do and to go where He wants us to go.

Fourth, true freedom comes from knowing that we have **Eternal** life with God.

Many people live in fear about the future. But when one is afraid about the future, it’s because he’s failed to recognize or has forgotten that God holds the future. Many people are afraid of losing their jobs, afraid about the economy, afraid of SARS, afraid of terrorist attacks, and so forth.

But God has commanded us not to be afraid. He has provided us the means to walk in victory, even in the face of defeat. And if we have accepted Jesus as Savior, we will also experience eternal life with God! We don’t have to be afraid of anything — not even death itself! The Bible says that Jesus died to destroy the one who holds the power of death — the devil — and to free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death (Heb. 2:14,15 NIV). Jesus died to set us free!

If you’ve never accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior, now is the time to do it by praying the \*prayer for salvation on page 3. When you *have faith in God, rely on God, enlist in God’s plan*, and know you have *eternal life with God*, you can enjoy the true freedom that is yours in Jesus Christ. Then you will be “convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Rom. 8:38,39 NIV)!

Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

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RHEMA Bible Training Center admits students of any race, color, or ethnic origin.

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(*F*-earless, *A*-nointed, *I*-nward-Led, *T*-rustworthy *H*-eirs of God)

Kids! Enjoy Bible lessons, puzzles, and riddles on this special page designed just for you!



## Prayer for Salvation

Dear God,  
I come to You in the Name of Jesus Christ. God, I admit that I am not right with You, and I want to be right with You. I want Your protection and Your strength. I ask you to forgive me of all my sins. The Bible says, "... if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9 NIV). I accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank you for saving me and becoming my Lord! Amen!

If you prayed this prayer to make Jesus your Lord or to rededicate your life to Him, please let us know by contacting us at [parterservice@rhema.org](mailto:parterservice@rhema.org) or by phone at (918) 258-1588, Ext. 2238.

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# KNOWING *Where You* STAND *With* GOD

*In a time when much of the world is up in arms, we must recognize that we are in a fight of faith. The greatest enemy to faith is a lack of understanding of God's Word. A lack of understanding regarding righteousness and its privileges holds more Christians in bondage than any other thing.*



*Kenneth E. Hagin*

**E**ach Christian has been called upon to fight the good fight of faith (1 Tim. 6:12). There wouldn't be such a fight to faith if there weren't enemies, or hindrances, to faith. We need to understand the enemies to faith and avoid them so that our faith can grow.

The greatest enemy, or hindrance, to faith is a lack of understanding of God's Word, because faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God (Rom. 10:17). When people pray for faith, it's really knowledge of God's Word they need, because we cannot have faith beyond our actual knowledge of God's Word. As soon as the light of God's Word shines in the heart of man, faith comes. That's why the Psalmist said, "*The entrance of thy words giveth light . . .*" (Ps. 119:130).

When you have knowledge of God's Word — you have faith.

One hindrance to our faith is the lack of understanding of *righteousness* — *our right standing with God*.

**JAMES 5:16**

**16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a RIGHTEOUS man availeth much.**

This verse states that the prayer of a "righteous" man avails much. A lack of understanding of what righteousness is and what privileges righteousness gives to the believer *holds more Christians in bondage than any other thing*. In my opinion, righteousness is one of the most misunderstood subjects in the Bible.

**ROMANS 10:10**

**10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness . . .**

**ROMANS 5:17**

**17 For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.**

Notice that Paul makes two significant statements in these verses about righteousness:

1. With the *heart* man believes unto righteousness.
2. When we receive Jesus and we are born again, we receive the “*gift* of righteousness.”

The Bible says in Romans 5:17 that righteousness is a gift. Too often, we have associated righteousness with good works. The Bible teaches good works and right conduct, of course, but all of our good works and right conduct will never make us righteous. If good works could make us righteous, we wouldn't need Jesus.

Another fallacy about righteousness is that we've thought we had to grow into some kind of “high” spiritual state in order to be righteous. We've thought, *My prayers would work if I could just get to be righteous. If I could just develop to some high state of spiritual maturity, then I would be righteous.*

Well, thank God, we can grow in the Lord and we can develop spiritually, but did you know you cannot *grow* in righteousness? There are some things you *can* grow in. For example, you can grow in the fruit of the spirit: love, gentleness, meekness, long-suffering, and so forth. But righteousness is a gift. *You will never be any more righteous than you are right now!* You will not be any more righteous when you get to Heaven than you are right now — at this very moment!

Lack of understanding of righteousness was one thing that hindered my faith. What can hinder me can hinder you because we are all human. This very thing, a lack of understanding of righteousness — my right standing with God — almost cost me my physical life. It almost caused me to die prematurely. So you can see the importance of fully understanding this subject.

On the bed of sickness more than sixty-five years ago, after five doctors had given me up to die, I began to read the Bible. I knew if there was any help for me, it had to be in God's Word. My spirit kept telling me I didn't have to

die. (You see, your human spirit knows things your head doesn't know; particularly if your spirit has been born of God.) My heart — something on the inside of me — told me there was hope and help for me in God's Word. So I got into the Word with an open mind and I began to see some things about faith and prayer.

When I read in James 5:16 that the “effectual fervent prayer of a *righteous* man avails [or works] much,” the devil took advantage of my lack of understanding of God's Word to try to defeat me. He knew he could defeat me on this point because I didn't know what righteousness was, nor what privileges it gave the believer.

The devil spoke to my mind, saying, “Yes, you could pray the prayer of faith, *if* you were righteous. If you were righteous, you could pray the prayer of faith and receive your healing, but you're not righteous.”

Notice the devil didn't contradict what the Bible said, nor did he say, “You *can't* pray the prayer of faith,” because he knew I recognized my rights in this area. So he used a more subtle tactic by reminding me of all my mistakes, faults, and failures and by telling me I wasn't righteous. He knew I didn't understand righteousness. I thought righteousness was

**We need to understand the *enemies to faith* and avoid them so that our faith can grow.**

some kind of spiritual state I might eventually attain — *if* I could grow enough spiritually.

Then the devil bluntly asked me, “Well, *are* you righteous?” I said, “No, I'm not.” As I looked at myself from the natural standpoint, I wasn't what I considered righteous. I knew I was far from it.

Because I didn't understand my right standing with God and because I accepted what the devil said, I permitted Satan to rob me of the blessings God intended for me to have.

As I kept reading the Bible, I found that in the Old Testament, God had set up a system whereby the blood of innocent animals was shed *to cover* the sins of the Old Testament saints.

Thus, God did not hold sin against them, but He “counted” [or considered] them as being righteous.

**PSALM 32:1,2**

**1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.**

**2 Blessed is the man unto whom the Lord imputeth not iniquity . . .**

Then in the New Testament, I saw that the Bible says we have a *better* Covenant established on *better* promises (Heb. 8:6). In the Old Testament, sins were *covered*, but the New Testament declares we are *cleansed* from sin by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ!

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

**17 Therefore if any man be IN CHRIST, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:21**

**21 For he hath made him [God has made Jesus] to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God IN HIM.**

*In Christ* we become *new creatures* (v. 17). *In Him* we become *the righteousness of God* when we are born again (v. 21). Hallelujah!

When you are born again — when you receive Jesus Christ as your Savior — you become a new creature in

Him! God does not make any unrighteous new creatures. That would be an insult to the work of God! No, we have been made the righteousness of God through Jesus Christ.

Romans 10:10 says, “*For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness . . .*” How does a person become righteous? He believes unto righteousness, because he believes on Him who is our righteousness — Jesus Christ!

Romans 5:17 tells us that we have received an abundance of grace and “the gift of righteousness.” Righteousness is a gift! When you were born again, you became a new man in Christ Jesus, and you were made the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17,21).

You are *born* righteous when you are *born again*! You are made the righteousness of God in the New Birth. That's why the Bible says if any man be in Christ, he is *a new creature* (2 Cor. 5:17). That's also why the Bible compares being a new creature to the innocence of a newborn babe. "AS *NEWBORN BABES, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby*" (1 Peter 2:2).

The Bible teaches that there is a similarity between spiritual growth and physical growth. Christians are born babies, and they grow up. And those who are newly born into the Kingdom of God are just as righteous in the sight of God as older saints who have been born again and living for God fifty or sixty years.

We must realize that we have right standing with God not because of what *we* did, but because of what *Jesus* did! *Right standing with God is a gift!*

After I realized that I had received the gift of righteousness when I was born again, Satan had to find another tactic to use on me. He tried to trip me up by using the fact that since becom-

ing a Christian, I had sinned. Indeed I did feel so guilty over missing it. Have you ever missed it, sinned, or failed since becoming a Christian?

But I began to look at God's Word again, and I found this verse in First John:

**1 JOHN 1:9**

**9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

sins, and God *cleanses* us from our sins. If God just forgave us our sin, it wouldn't help us much, because we would still be under the condemnation of sin. But, no, God actually *cleanses us from all sin*.

What does God cleanse us from? *All unrighteousness*. Part of our unrighteousness? No, *all* of it!

After I saw this in the Word, I answered the devil with that news and

## One hindrance to our faith is the lack of understanding of *righteousness* — *our right standing with God*.

John wasn't writing to sinners in this passage. He was writing to Christians!

When we sin, we fall under condemnation and lose our *sense* of righteousness. But when we confess, "I have sinned, God. Please forgive me in Jesus' Name," God does two things. According to First John 1:9, God *forgives* us of our

put him on the run. He's been running ever since. Up until then, the devil had me on the run. But after I learned who I am in Christ Jesus, I started meeting the devil head-on. Now he's the one who turns and runs, because he found out I know what the Word says. I know where I stand with God! 🗡️

# How To Fight the Good Fight of Faith

A lack of knowledge of God's Word will rob you of the best God has for you in life. But when you understand your redemptive rights, you will be able to enjoy God's fullness now!

This teaching by Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin presents a clear, biblical viewpoint of your rights and privileges in Christ and removes common misconceptions about your standing in God.

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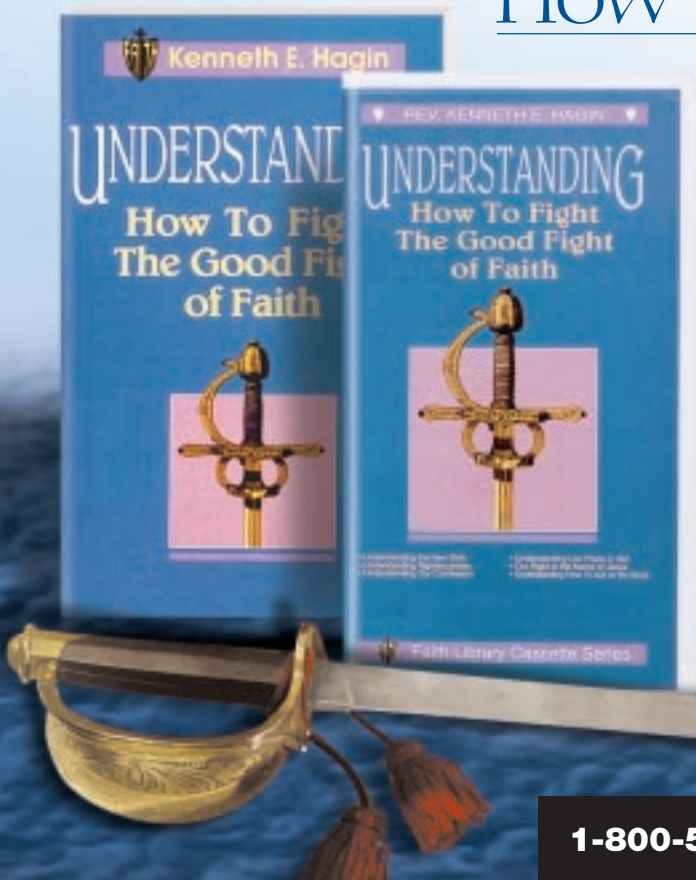
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Never  
Too  
Young  
To Know  
God!

## Considering her contagious passion for ministering to children, one would never guess that Rev. Denise Burns once had other plans in life.

"I wanted to study fashion merchandising. I always liked children, but I never considered pursuing children's ministry," said Rev. Burns, children's minister of RHEMA Bible Church.

During Denise's senior year in high school, the Lord spoke clearly to her heart about working with children instead of entering the fashion industry. In obedience to Him, she changed her college major to Early Childhood Development/Education, and then the Lord placed a specific vision in her heart for children's ministry.

"One of my dad's [Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.] favorite sayings is, 'When you take the natural and the supernatural and put them together, it makes an explosive force for God,'" said Denise.

"That's exactly what the Lord laid on my heart — to take the natural things I learned in college and combine them with spiritual principles to make an explosive force for children!"

Denise's vision for children's ministry is clearly about more than just teaching Bible characters and selected topics; it's about incorporating God into every aspect of a child's life.

"The spiritual foundation comes first and foremost," Denise explained, "but it is equally important to help them develop socially, mentally, emotionally, and physically. For example, the Bible says a lot about how to be a good friend and how to love your neighbor. The Bible also says we have the mind of Christ. I want kids to remember that in school and to

realize that if they need help, they can ask God for wisdom. In essence, I want to teach children how to experience God 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year."

Since May 1993, Denise has been doing just that. And part of her motivation is that God revealed to her that *children have a vital role in the end-time revival!* They are not too young to be taught how to minister to people around them: friends, siblings, and even their parents and teachers. Children need to learn how to minister right now, not when they're adults. They have incredible faith, they believe whatever you tell them, and they don't doubt God's Word.

Denise says, "We need to take kids to the next level spiritually. Kids today are maturing faster, and we need to teach them about prayer, faith, healing, and the Holy Spirit — breaking it down on their level. They need to be equipped to go out into their world and minister!"

Denise shares this practical advice to parents: "The most important ministry your child will receive is at home. Parents, you are the

...children have a  
vital role in the  
end-time revival!

greatest teachers and examples of the Word of God. It is vital that you make God a priority in your home. Have devotional time with your children; let them see you praying and reading the Word. Include them in it, too. Bring the family together to pray about different situations and ask your kids to do the praying! It will build their faith and confidence."

A scripture passage that inspires Denise about ministering to children is Matthew 18:1-4. She said it shows clearly how Jesus Himself felt about children. "These verses represent so much," said Denise. "They express how important children are to God and they show the incredible faith of children — incredible enough that they could be considered greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven."

Children simply need parents and other positive influences to teach them how to use their faith for God's glory! They can know and serve God right now — no matter how young they may be!



# Back to the Basics

No matter how well we know a subject, if we don't continue to practice or review what we have learned, we will forget some things. There are certain subjects we need to brush up on continually, and healing is one of them.



*Kenneth Hagin Jr.*

Often when ministers in the “word of faith” movement begin a sermon by saying, “I’m going to teach on the subject of healing,” most people in the congregation will say to themselves, *I already know about healing*. Well, in situations like that, people may think they already know all there is to know about healing, but then when there’s a healing line, more than half the congregation will get in line for prayer! That tells me they don’t know as much about healing as they think. Or they don’t know how to walk in the light of what they know.

No matter how well we know a subject, if we don’t continue to practice or review what we have learned, we will forget some things. A person may have acquired spelling, math, or computer skills, but if he hasn’t used them in a while, when he does try to use them, he may discover that his skills are rusty. The same thing can happen in spiritual matters. You see, many Christians know about the subject of healing, but they’re not as proficient in healing as they could be — simply because they haven’t practiced what they know. In other words, they don’t continually study the subject and act on what they’ve learned.

There are certain subjects we need to brush up on continually, and healing is one of them.

The Bible teaches that there are many ways to receive healing: through the healing anointing; through a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit, through the laying on of hands; through the Name of Jesus; and so forth. In this article, I want to study the life and power that reside in God’s Word. *God’s Word is the never-failing remedy for whatever you need*. No matter the sickness or disease, God’s Word has the answer for you!

#### **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 [God’s words] are life unto those that find them, and HEALTH TO ALL THEIR FLESH.**

According to this passage of Scripture, what is health to all man’s flesh? God’s words are! Does this passage say, “Attend to My words, for they are health unto your *spirit*”? No! It says God’s Word is health to your *flesh*!

You see, God is interested in our flesh. He wants His Spirit dwelling in a body that is healthy and whole, because He wants what is on the inside (His Spirit) to be demonstrated or manifested on the outside.

In John 6:63, Jesus tells us that God’s Word is full of life — of healing, health, and happiness. It’s full of whatever you need at any given moment. God’s Word is where your answer is!

**JOHN 6:63**

**63 . . . the words that I [Jesus] speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.**

Yes, there are powerful moves of God’s Spirit and awesome physical manifestations of God’s power. But God’s power is also in His Word! Not only does His Word contain *power*; it contains *life*.

You see, the Word of God is like medicine to our body. What happens when a person takes medicine? The medicine works to heal his body! We need to learn how to take the medicine of the Word of God and let it heal our body.

Let’s take a closer look at Proverbs 4:20-22

**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.**

The word “attend” in verse 20 means to give one’s undivided attention. This verse could be better understood if we read it like this: “Give your undivided attention to the words of God.” When someone says, “I want your undivided attention,” we know that means we’re not supposed to be thinking about anything else, looking at anything else, or doing anything else, but we’re supposed to focus directly on what that person is saying to us.

And that is exactly what God wants us to do! He wants us to shut out every-

thing around us and, without any interruptions, give our undivided attention to His Word! That is what the phrase “attend to My words” in Proverbs 4:20 tells us.

The second part of Proverbs 4:20 states, “Incline your ear to My sayings.” The word “incline” simply means to *listen*. Again, we could better understand verse 20 if we read it this way: “Listen with your ears to what I am saying.” God is telling us to open up our ears to what He is saying.

It’s interesting to note that a person can have perfect hearing, but if he decides he doesn’t want to listen to someone who’s talking, he can tune him or her out, so to speak. In other words, the sound of someone talking goes in his ears, but he doesn’t really hear what that person is saying.

We shouldn’t tune out God’s Word. We need to open up our ears. In opening up our ears to His Word, we are closing our ears to everything that’s contrary to what God says. So many



**There are certain subjects we need to continually brush up on, and healing is one of them.**

times, we listen to what God says, but we also listen to what So-and-so says. We begin listening to this person or that person, but it’s only what God says that matters!

It’s important for us to open our ears to the Word of God and turn off everything else so that our undivided attention is on what God has to say. That is where the victory is. You see, when you close your ears to outside things and keep your ears open to the Word of God, you are closing your ears to fear, doubt, and unbelief.

*What we hear is very important, because what we hear and pay attention to is what we will respond to.*

Proverbs 4:21 says, “Let them [God’s words] not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.” The phrase “Do not let them depart from your eyes” *doesn’t* mean we are supposed to walk around with our Bible hanging down from our forehead over our eyes! If we did walk around like

that, we would bump into things, and we would never get anything accomplished! But that phrase *does* mean that when we are facing the circumstances of life — sickness, disease, financial lack, and so forth — we are to look to the Word of God instead of looking at the circumstances.

If you’ve been attacked with sickness, you can probably look at your body and see that an illness is present, or you can *feel* the presence of that condition. But you aren’t to respond to that! Instead, look to the Word of God, which says, “You are healed and made whole” (Isa. 53:5; 1 Peter 2:24), and respond to what God’s Word says!

Many people go to God and respond to His Word in the bad times, but in the good times, they don’t respond to God. They don’t give God’s Word the same attention they did when they were going through a test or trial. Then, when they find themselves in bad times again, they often falter. We need to respond to God’s Word in the bad times

*and* in the good times! In His Word, God tells us what to do and how to act in *every* situation and circumstance of everyday life. He also tells us how to receive healing and how to *stay* healed. God’s Word instructs us on how to get out of our difficulties and troubles and how to *stay* delivered!

We need to respond to God’s Word no matter what kind of circumstances we may be facing. Unfortunately, many people don’t want to respond to God’s Word if it means they have to live a godly lifestyle. Knowing they have to live a certain way puts responsibility on them!

God has given us His Word, but *we* have to act on it! If we want to live a successful Christian life, *we* have a part to play.

By way of illustration, when it comes to taking medicine in the natural, we have certain responsibilities. Most people have had to get a prescription filled at a pharmacy at one time or

another. There are always instructions on the medicine telling how much medicine to take, when to take it, and how to take it. For example, the bottle may read: "Take one tablet every six

## We must know for ourselves what the Word of God says in order to appropriate it in our lives.

hours," "Take one pill three times a day," or "Take one pill in the morning and one pill at night with food."

If the person doesn't follow the instructions, he could get into trouble by taking too much or not enough of the medicine — or by taking the dosages too often or not often enough.

When someone is taking medicine, he must be very conscientious to take it according to the doctor's prescription, because the medicine will not be effective, or it won't be as effective, if it is not taken properly — according to instructions.

We must do the same thing with the "prescription" that God has written for us. It is very simple, and it is found in Proverbs 4:20 and 21. In this passage, we find four steps to taking the medicine of God's Word.

Number one: *Attend, or give attention, to God's Word.* Number two: *Incline your ear to God's Word — listen to it!* Number three: *Don't let God's Word depart from before your eyes.* In other words, focus your eyes on what God's Word says about your situation, not on what the circumstances say. Instead of believing a negative report, believe the report of God's Word, which says you are healed and whole. Number four: *Keep God's Word in your heart.*

Regarding step number three — keeping your eyes focused on the Word rather than on the bad report — I don't want anyone to misunderstand me on the issue. I thank God for good doctors; I believe they help as much as they can. I have nothing against doctors, and I don't have any problem with someone who goes to see one! There is absolutely nothing wrong with Chris-

tians going to see a doctor. Going to a doctor does not take away from your faith as long as you are keeping the Word as your focus — keeping it uppermost in your heart and mind. You must simply keep God's report as your focus and believe what His Word has to say.

There is power, health, and life in the Word of God! We must hide God's Word in our heart (Ps. 119:11) so that when we face a test or trial, we will take the Word of God and walk on through to victory.

The Word has come to heal us and to set us free. Psalm 107:20 says, "*He [God] sent his word, and healed them,*

*and delivered them from their destructions.*" Healing belongs to us!

We must know for ourselves what the Word of God says in order to appropriate it in our lives. And no matter how much we know about God's Word, we must never forget the basics. You see, no matter how much we grow spiritually, we will never outgrow the basics of God's Word. And we must continually review what we know on the subject of healing if we want to stay sharp, so to speak, and successfully achieve our objective of walking in divine health. 🕊

# Executing the Basics of Healing

Do you know what to do when you are faced with symptoms of sickness in your body? Do you have a plan for receiving healing and for walking in divine health?

In his book *Executing the Basics of Healing*, Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr. provides simple answers to these questions and many others. Using basic biblical truths and making the subject of healing easy to understand, Rev. Hagin Jr. reveals a strategy for walking daily in divine health.

### This dynamic book reveals:

- Who is to blame for all kinds of sickness.
- The terms of our covenant of healing.
- Four biblical steps to receiving healing.
- Why one dose of God's medicine isn't enough.

*Executing the Basics of Healing*

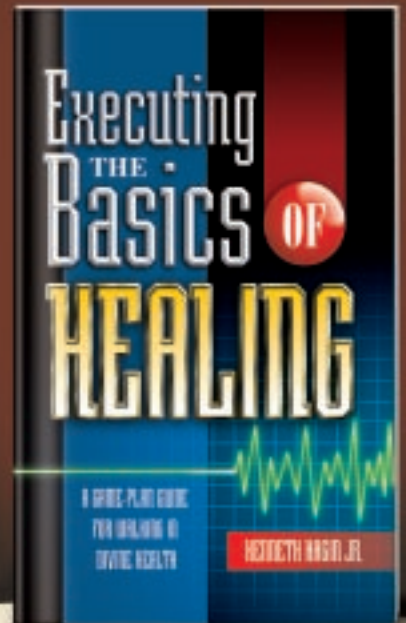
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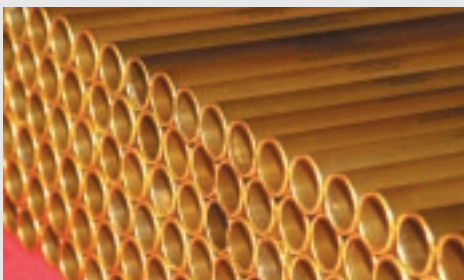


Passing the  
Baton of Revival

Since its very inception, RHEMA has always maintained a clear vision. That vision, planted in Brother Hagin's heart by God over half a century ago, is to help usher in the Second Coming of the Son of Man — specifically, to take part in the last great move of God's Spirit and the revival that will usher in Jesus' return.

RHEMA Bible Training Center students are running with the vision. At Commencement 2003, held on Friday, May 16, at the Tulsa Convention Center, more than 470 men and women graduated from RHEMA's two-year ministerial training program and another 80 received diplomas for the successful completion of one of RBTC's third-year programs. "Tonight, these graduates stand before a congregation," opened Dean Gary Crawl in his invocation, "but tomorrow, they will go forth to reach a generation!"

RHEMA's 29th graduation ceremony marked the first time in the history of RBTC commencement exercises when graduates did *not* receive diplomas as



they walked across the platform. Instead, each graduate received a gold relay baton. Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr. called it "the baton of revival."

Emphasizing the graduates' commitment to take their places in the end-time revival and to carry the gospel message to their generation, the symbolic baton had its origin during Orientation Week of the 2002-2003 school year. The year kicked off with a tremendous revival across campus as students received powerful teaching and preaching, along with anointed worship and times of personal ministry.

Just as the anchor runner in a relay "brings it home" to finish the race, Rev. Hagin Jr. served as the anchor for Orientation Week's "preaching relay," carrying the series of student revival meetings across the finish line. His message traced the history of revivals down through every generation and compared them to a relay race. Just as one runner hands off the baton to another, so one generation passes to another the message of God's truth and power. Challenging students to step up and take their places, Rev. Hagin Jr. set students' hearts on fire to run their part of the race of revival and bear the gospel message to their generation.

Characterized by renewed focus and vision, heightened spiritual awareness, and a return to genuine worship and prayer, the revival that began during Orientation Week continued through-

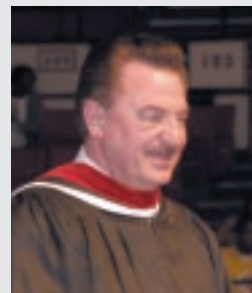
out the school year. Indeed, the 2002-2003 school year reached its culmination during commencement as each graduate received a baton with the following inscription:

*RBTC Graduation 2003  
I commit today to carry the baton  
of revival to this generation.  
I will carry the banner of faith and  
God's power  
to a lost and dying world.  
THIS IS MY TIME TO DO ALL GOD  
HAS CALLED ME TO DO!*



Members of this year's graduating class had the privilege of receiving their batons from both Mrs. Lynette Hagin and Rev. Hagin Jr. as they greeted graduates on the platform. Speaking his final word of exhortation to the entire Class of 2003, Rev. Hagin Jr. said, "When you walk from this hall tonight, you need to realize that *you are* the power and the light that someone has been waiting for. And my last directive to you comes in the form of a command: I command you to go and never look back, and to take the light of Jesus Christ to those who are in darkness because *you are their light*. . . . God bless you. I love you. Congratulations!"

Following Rev. Hagin Jr.'s directive, commencement speaker Rev. Phil Privette Sr., pastor of Victory Life Church in Hampton, Virginia, and a 1981 RBTC alumnus, addressed the graduating class with a message on divine alignment with God. "You must continue to keep yourself lined up with the



Word of God. Don't let anybody or any devil, in any way, shape, form, or fashion, take from you what God has placed into you these last two or

three years,” he admonished.

Underscoring the importance of holding fast to God’s Word if they are to see their dreams and visions come to pass, Rev. Privette encouraged graduates to remember that what the Holy Spirit has birthed into their spirit is supernatural. “And whatever has been birthed in you supernaturally cannot be taken from you,” he said. “The only way you can *lose* it is for you to quit, and you are not going to quit,” he exhorted.

Rev. Privette continued, “You’ve stood the course of time. Yes, over the past two or three years, you could’ve quit, but you didn’t! Tonight you’ve completed the course!” Encouraging the graduating class to “go with your dreams, go with your visions, and change your world for God,” Rev. Privette delivered a message that resoundingly affirmed the call to go forth. In so doing, he also stirred and reaffirmed a principle captured by Rev. Hagin Jr.’s lifelong motto, which had been instilled in the heart of each graduate: “I cannot be defeated, and I will not quit!”

Holding fast this spirit of perseverance, members of the Class of 2003 received the baton of revival as a bestowal of honor coupled with responsibility. “I feel it’s a tremendous honor,” said Cecil Harris, a graduate from the second-year evangelists’ group. He added, “And I’m very excited about carrying through — I want to do it with all my heart.” For Steve and Detty Laidlow, international students from England, receiving the baton “means that we’ve been trained so that we can go to the world.” And indeed they will go to the world as they head this fall to Indonesia to serve as full-time missionaries.

For each graduate, running with the baton means the fulfillment of a dream unique to that individual. For example, Samuel Falana from the third-year RHEMA School of Worship puts it this way: “There is a push for us to go out there, to run, and to win lives. Worship touches people in a different way. It opens them up to the Word of God, to the preaching of the Gospel. Through music, we can communicate the heart of God.”

“The commission of God and the work of God are greater than any one man or woman,” said David DeMarco,

who together with his wife, Ann, graduated from the second-year pastors’ group. “That baton just represents our place, our part, on the team of God. Many teams have gone before us, and many will go after us,” he said.

Commencement 2003’s torch bearers Harlow and Judy Fisher received their batons with a great sense of joy mixed with humility. “It shows us that RHEMA is passing on to us its heritage of having the Word go forth to the entire world,” said Harlow. “It just honors us to be able to have that happen to us,” he continued. “It’s a great responsibility, and we are willing to take it,” said Judy. For the Fishers, the baton of revival will take them to Georgetown, Texas, where they will pioneer a church.



In an atmosphere charged with faith and filled with applause, cheering, and the celebratory waving of hundreds of glistening gold batons, graduates welcomed Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin to the platform. In issuing the charge to the

Class of 2003, Rev. Hagin said, “I know of no better words in giving a charge to you than the words of the New Testament that were written to ministers or about ministers.” After sharing several scriptures, he closed in prayer, thanking the Lord for this graduating class and invoking God’s grace and blessing upon every member. “And as they go forth,” Rev. Hagin prayed, “may they go forth in the power and the Spirit of God — to minister, to do the work of God in these last days. For the Gospel must be preached as a witness to all nations, and then the end shall come. We believe that that shall all come to pass in our day. In Jesus’ Holy Name, amen.”

As a crowning moment of the ceremony, the graduating class proceeded out of the arena under a beautiful canopy of international flags representing the nations from which the 21 international graduates had come to attend RHEMA. Instilled with a vision for the world, the men and women of RHEMA’s 29th graduating class went forth in a recessional accompanied by the RHEMA Singers & Band’s performance adapted from “Song for the Nations” by Chris Christensen:

May we be a shining light to the nations,  
A shining light to the peoples of the earth,  
Till the whole world sees the glory of Your Name,  
May your pure light shine through us.

May we bring a word of hope to the nations,  
A word of life to the peoples of the earth,  
Till the whole world knows  
there’s salvation through your Name,  
May your mercy flow through us.

May your Kingdom come to the nations,  
You will be done in the peoples of the earth,  
Till the whole world knows that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
May your Kingdom flow through us.



# A Call to Prayer



*Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.'s first annual "A Call to Arms" Men's Conference was held November 7-9, 2002, on the RHEMA Campus in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Rev. Reggie Scarborough, pastor of Family Worship Center in Lakeland, Florida, spoke during the Saturday morning service. The following is an excerpt from his message.*

If we can understand and use the power of prayer as Christians and especially as men of God, our lives will take on great meaning, and we will see our spiritual life soar like never before.

An outpouring of God's Spirit is coming to the earth. But before the outpouring that many Christians have been looking for, there will be a revival that many *aren't* looking for — a revival of prayer.

God has called men to be the head of the family, and the revival of prayer must begin with us. If we take our place in society and in our family, if we call on God in prayer, God will show us great and mighty things, which we have not seen before (Jer. 33:3).

In Luke chapter 21, Jesus gives us a glimpse of what is to come in the end times, and He tells us why we don't have to be afraid.

**Luke 21:25-28 (NKJV)**

**25 "And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring;**

**26 "men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.**

**27 "Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.**

**28 "Now when these things begin to happen, look up and lift up your heads, because your redemption draws near."**

In verse 28, Jesus makes a statement that is most pertinent to us as Christians. He tells us to "lift up our heads, because our redemption draws near." What is our redemption? It is the day when Jesus comes in clouds of glory and every eye shall see Him. Then we who are alive shall be caught up together in the clouds, and so shall we ever be with the Lord (1 Thess. 4:16-18).

I want to be ready for Jesus when He comes. I want to be found faithful, making my calling and election sure (2 Peter 1:10). I don't want to let one day go by that I don't put Jesus first in every area of my life.

Before we were born, God already had a plan and purpose for our life. Prayer will help us discover and fulfill that plan. Yes, God intends for us to work and to provide for our family (1 Tim.

5:8). But sometimes we just go through the motions of life without getting anywhere.

We go to work, come home at night, sit in the recliner, watch television, and get up the next morning to go to work — just like a hamster in a cage runs the wheel and gets nowhere. Life has more purpose than that!

God has something far more exciting for us if we will walk in the realm of the Spirit. If we will spend time in prayer, tuning our heart every day to God's Spirit, and if we will follow the Spirit's leading, God will give us opportunities to make a difference in people's lives.

Jesus came to give us abundant life (John 10:10). That abundant life is connected to our prayer life. Some people's prayer life only consists of making it from crisis to crisis. Thank God, we can go to the Lord in crisis. But we ought to live in the place where we can take care of issues before they ever become crises!

Men, God has plans for you. And if you will take your place in prayer, you will produce those plans not only for yourself, but also for your wife and children. And when it's all said and done, you will see the coming of the Lord.

If you are ready to dedicate yourself to a life of prayer, say, "Father God, I want to become a man of prayer. I don't want to operate in the flesh but in the realm of the Spirit. I want to take

**God has something far more exciting for us if we will walk in the realm of the Spirit.**

my place as the leader in my family. I do not want to abdicate my position or give it to someone else. I want to fulfill Your divine destiny for my life. I ask You to deposit in me a desire to pray like never before. May I take my position seriously and be ready for the coming of the Lord. In Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen."

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# Seed Thoughts by 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)

*Living in such a busy world, we often forget the importance of ministering to one another. Philippians 2:4 says, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others" (NIV). We often become so wrapped up in our own concerns that we become insensitive to those around us who are hurting. Are we so busy that we don't have time to minister to others?*

*All of us have been guilty at one time or another of allowing our agendas to take first place in our lives. When I am tempted to place my priorities above God's priorities, a scripture instilled in me by my parents rings in my ear. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." When I don't have enough time to accomplish all that needs to be done, I say, "Lord, I'm going to place Your things first, and I expect You to show me how to redeem my time."*

*Let me relate a recent incident that proves God will take care of us if we will take care of His assignments.*

*My friend Lanell and I were planning to go to Dallas, Texas, on a business trip. We had budgeted every minute of our trip, knowing that good time management was necessary for us to accomplish all that needed to be accomplished.*

*The day we were to leave for the trip, a member of RHEMA Bible Church was involved in a terrible motorcycle accident in the Ft. Worth, Texas, area. She was admitted to the hospital in a very serious condition. My husband said to me as we were leaving, "Please try to go by the hospital and pray for our church member." Of course, I desired to do that, but I thought, Lord, how am I going to get everything done that must be done and go to the hospital as well? Besides, Lord, I am going to Dallas, not Ft. Worth.*

*Then I thought about my priorities, remembering that my first assignment from God is to care for people. So I said, "Lord, please show me how to manage my time so that I can accomplish everything." I left the matter in His hands and began to schedule my day with His help.*

*We planned to leave Dallas in the late afternoon, then drive to Ft. Worth. In the natural, that did not seem like a good idea since the traffic is normally very heavy during that time. But that seemed to be the schedule the Lord was directing us to follow.*

*After accomplishing what we needed to do in*

*Dallas, Lanell and I set out for Ft. Worth with a map that her husband, Bill, had drawn for us. We prayed before we left, knowing that the Lord would have to direct our path because neither one of us can interpret maps accurately!*

*As we drove toward Ft. Worth, we were amazed at how light the traffic was at five in the afternoon. We arrived in Ft. Worth without incident, but suddenly our map instructions ended and we were not at our destination. Knowing that time was slipping away, I happened to notice that our rental car was equipped with a global positioning system. The GPS device was labeled with the slogan "Never lost." Lanell and I discovered it at the same time and laughed, thinking, Well, it might not be lost, but we are!*

*I am not good with computers, and I had no idea how to operate the system. I knew that Lanell had less knowledge about computers than I did! So once again I prayed and said, "Lord, this machine says it is never lost, so help me to operate it." I began to push buttons. I pushed them time after time, trying to find the right combination to obtain the information we needed. Suddenly, the right information appeared, and we were on our way to the hospital.*

*Once we arrived at the hospital, we wondered how we were going to find our church member's room in such a large hospital. Again, we prayed and asked the Lord to direct us to the right wing of the hospital. We walked into a lobby, and her husband was standing right there!*

*My mouth dropped open, because I did not think he knew we were coming to visit. The first words out of my mouth were, "Did you know we were coming?" He said, "No, but something on the inside said, 'Go to*

*the lobby.'" Thank the Lord for the Holy Ghost who will lead and direct us if we'll but ask!*

*Needless to say, the lady rejoiced that we came to visit and pray for her. And I was ecstatic that the Lord had done exactly as we had asked, directing our steps and enabling us to accomplish all that we had set out to do. It once again confirmed to me that if we will put God's priorities first, He will take care of us and our every need!*

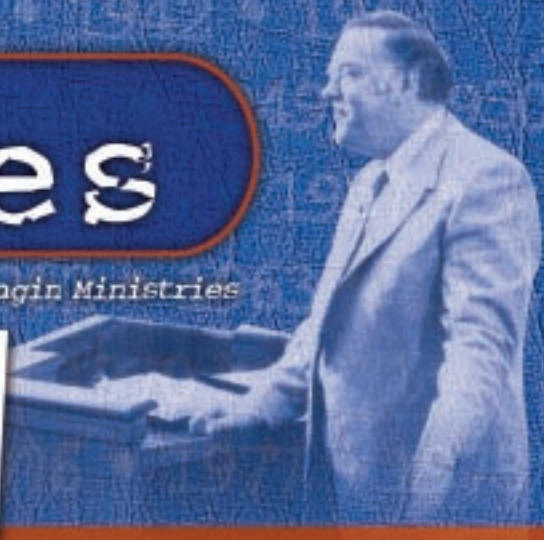
Lynette



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. 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



## My Ministry Begins

On August 8, 1934, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin was healed by the power of God through faith and prayer after lying bed-fast for 16 months. This month, Rev. Hagin shares the beginnings of his ministry and his introduction to the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

\*\*\*\*\*

I soon began my ministry as a young Baptist preacher, and pastored a community church just eight miles from that courthouse square. The first year I pastored, I wore out four pairs of shoes walking to preach. I walked down dusty old roads to preach the Gospel, to tell how Jesus had saved and healed me.

I used to say, "I'll preach from the Red River to the Gulf of Mexico, telling everywhere I go that Jesus saves, heals, and is coming again. And I'll preach it from the Louisiana border to the New Mexico state line." I thought at the time that covering Texas would be covering quite a bit of territory!

Because I believed in divine healing, I began associating with Full Gospel people who also believed and preached divine healing. I liked to go to their services, because I enjoyed the fellowship, and hearing others who believed in divine healing made my faith grow stronger.

They also preached about being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues, something I didn't quite understand or altogether agree with, but I tolerated it in order to have fellowship on the subject of divine healing.

The thing that bothered me the most, however, was when everyone would pray

at once. I wasn't accustomed to it and I started to say something a time or two to straighten these people out. Then I heard someone else tell them, "Don't you know God isn't hard of hearing?"

"He's not nervous, either," they replied.

When they invited believers to pray at the altar, I would go forward to pray with them, but I would stay as far away as I could, because their praying in unison bothered me. I would get off in a corner somewhere and pray quietly.

After a while it occurred to me that these people knew about divine healing and my denomination apparently didn't; therefore, they might know more about the Holy Spirit than I did, too. I decided to read through the Acts of the Apostles to see how the Early Church prayed.

As I read, I couldn't find one place where they called on Deacon Brown or Sister Jones to lead in prayer. I found to my utter amazement that in the Early Church everybody prayed at once. "*And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God WITH ONE ACCORD . . .*" (Acts 4:23,24).

The thing that cinched it with me was the 16th chapter of Acts, where I read that Paul and Silas were in jail at midnight. Their backs were bleeding. Their feet were in stocks. Yet at midnight they prayed and sang praises to God, ". . . and the prisoners heard them" (Acts 16:25). Until then I had believed in praying to God, but I believed in being

quiet about it. But here I saw that Paul and Silas weren't quiet, even in jail.

The next time I went to the Full Gospel service and they invited everyone to the altar to pray, I got right in the middle of them and lifted my voice just like they did. I felt a wonderful release and freedom in prayer. Jesus said, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free*" (John 8:32). God's Word is truth, and it will set you free.

But the subject of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking with other tongues which these Full Gospel people preached was quite another matter. That "tongues" business was a bitter pill to swallow. I had been warned against it. But as a fellow down in East Texas had said about going around with these Full Gospel people, "It is like a slippery creek bank. You keep fooling around and you'll slip in!"

I meditated on the Scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit and came to the conclusion that the Full Gospel people were wrong. Tongues weren't necessary; they weren't for us today. A believer could receive this endowment of power without speaking in tongues. That was my own judgment, of course. It certainly wasn't Scripture.

I said to the Lord, "These are good people, I know. They are thoroughly saved and they knew about divine healing when my church didn't. I certainly believe in the Holy Spirit. And I believe in the infilling, the endowment of power from on High. I sense a lack of power in my own life and I know I need the infilling of the Holy Spirit. And I expect to receive, all right, but I am of the opinion that the tongues don't go along with it and are not for us today."

To be continued . . .



# Kids' Page

Fearless, A-pointed, I-ward-Led, T-rustworthy, H-eirs of God



## PSALM 100 SPIRAL

See if you can find 10 words from Psalm 100, verses 2-4, in the spiral of letters above. Use the King James Version of the Bible.

## God's Front Door



When you go to visit someone's house, most likely you enter their house through the front door. Well, to enter into "God's House," there is a "front door" that He wants all of us to use...**The Door of Praise.** Lots of folks try to get to God through the "back door." They come to Him with their prayer requests and complaints. But Psalm 100 tells us the correct way to enter into God's presence. **Come before Him with joyful singing. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise (Ps. 100:2&4).** The next time you go to church, remember to take these 3 things along: a joyful song, a thankful heart, and praise on your lips! That's the way you'll enter God's front door...The Door of Praise!

## jokes & riddles

A merry heart does good like medicine -Proverbs 17:22.



What has forty feet and sings?

The school choir

Why did Humpty Dumpty have a great fall?

Because he wanted to make up for a boring summer.

What do you call the first person to get in the bathtub?

The ring leader

Why did the chicken cross the road?

To show the possum that it could be done

Knock Knock!  
Who's there?  
Cockadoodle...  
Cockadoodle who?  
It's not Cockadoodle who, it's Cockadoodle doo!

Knock Knock!  
Who's there?  
Atch...  
Atch who?  
God bless You!

What do you call a frog with no legs?  
Hnoppo!!

## THANKSGIVING SCRAMBLE

Enter His gates with thanksgiving! What? Can't think of anything to be thankful for? Here are a few things you should be thankful for, but the words are scrambled. Unscramble them and then put the letters in the colored circles in the correct order to discover someone to be thankful for.

- vational
- theahl
- malify
- sanwered rapreys
- refinds



**A. The Sheep of His Pasture**  
Psalm 100 says that we are the sheep of God's pasture. One of these four sheep is different from the others. Can you figure out which one it is?



**ANSWERS:**  
Thanksgiving Scramble - ANSWER: salvation, health, family, answered prayers, friends  
Colored letters: Holy Spirit  
PSALMS 100 SPIRAL - ANSWERS: (Starting from center) PRAISE, ENTER, SINGING, JOYFUL, SHEEP, PASTURE, THANKSGIVING, GOD  
THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE - ANSWER: A.