

THE Word of Faith

JANUARY 2003

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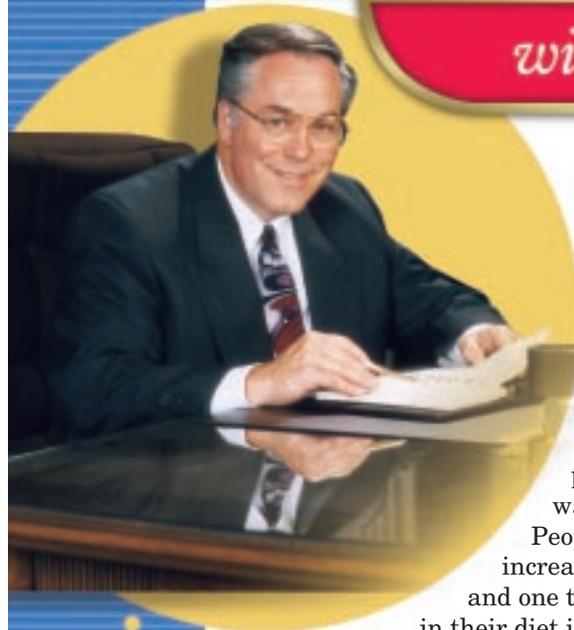
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You Can Live **Burden-Free!**

January is often the month for starting New Year's resolutions. After enjoying all the holiday meals, many people resolve to begin watching what they eat. People today are becoming increasingly health-conscious, and one thing many people avoid in their diet is caffeine. There are caffeine-free sodas, coffees, teas, and so forth on the market. Well, there's no mention in Scripture about being *caffeine-free*, but the Bible does have something to say about being *burden-free!*

While being health-conscious is important, we should be more careful about our spiritual well-being than about our physical well-being. And we can't be healthy spiritually if we are burdened down with fears, worries, and concerns.

Do you want to live a burden-free life? The Bible tells us how to do it, but it's up to us whether we live a *burden-filled* life or a *burden-free* life.

First Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (NIV). The words "anxiety" and "care" carry the connotation of *fear*, *worry*, and *concern*. We all face fears, worries, and concerns in life. It's what we do with them that makes the difference.

The first thing we must do is cast *all* of our burdens upon the Lord. *The Amplified Bible* says, "Casting the *whole* of your care [*all* your anxieties, *all* your worries, *all* your concerns, once and for all] on Him . . ." (1 Peter 5:7). Many Christians want to cast *some* of their burdens on the Lord and hold on to the rest of them. But we are to cast *all* our anxiety, worry, and concerns on Him.

God does not want any of us to be burdened down. He doesn't want us living in fear or worry. He doesn't want us to fret about the new year or about what the future has in store. He wants us to live a burden-free life by casting our cares on Him!

Although this is what God wants for us, He will not come into our life and override our will. If we *choose* to carry the burdens of life, He will let us carry them. He desires that we live burden-free, but

it's up to *us* to decide whether or not we're going to cast our cares on the Lord.

Living a burden-free life means trusting God and obeying Him. For example, instead of worrying about the economy and being afraid of how we're going to make ends meet, we must cast the burden on the Lord and trust Him to meet all our needs according to His Word (Phil. 4:19).

It's easy to cast our burdens on the Lord when we know how much He cares for us. First Peter 5:7 says, "Cast all your anxiety on him *because he cares for you*" (NIV). *The Amplified Bible* says that God ". . . cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully." Another translation says, ". . . you are His personal concern."

God cares for us so much that He gave His Son that we might have eternal life (John 3:16)! God cares for us so much that He gave us His precious Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4) to help us with each test and trial that comes our way. Through Him, we have the supernatural power of God available to us.

God cares for us so much that He provided healing for our body (1 Peter 2:24) and gave us "life more abundantly" (John 10:10). God cares for us so much that He will sustain us in the midst of every circumstance and situation of life. Psalm 55:22 says, "Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous fall" (NIV).

An easy way to remember how to cast your burdens on the Lord is by learning this simple acrostic which forms the word "CAST":

C — *Choose* to believe what the Bible says.
A — *Ask* God to forgive you for worrying, for being anxious, and for carrying burdens you weren't meant to carry.
S — *Settle* in your heart that God cares for you abundantly.

T — *Throw* your burden upon the Lord right now. No matter what comes your way this year, cast all of your cares on the Lord. As you consistently and persistently cast your care upon Him, you will begin to receive His blessings and enjoy living the burden-free life He wants you to live!

Kenneth Hagin Jr.
 — Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.

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If you're a kid, don't flip your lid! In the back of this issue we've hid a page just for you. (Yes, we did!) Enjoy!



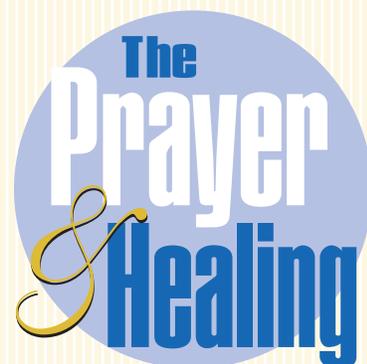
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Monday-Friday • 9:30 a.m.
Prayer & Healing Center Auditorium

(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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Walking With Your Father

To live in the fullness of what God intends for us, it isn't enough to be born again. We must grow up in the things of God, maturing spiritually, and learn to walk closely with our Heavenly Father.



Kenneth E. Hagin

As this new year begins, many people will be worried about what the future holds. Perhaps bills from holiday spending have started piling up, and many wonder how they are going to make ends meet. But the good news is that God knows all of our needs — that we need to eat and drink, be clothed, and so forth — and He is willing and able to supply all of our needs as we look to Him in faith.

Are you looking to God in faith? Or are you struggling with worry and fear? In light of the world's current events, many people are fearful and worried. They worry about the economy, their job, their health, and the safety of their family. But as Christians, we can live a life free of worry and fear. We do so by walking daily with our Heavenly Father — by believing His Word is true and that He will take care of us if we but seek Him first.

Read carefully the following passage on the subject.

MATTHEW 6:25-33

25 Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?

26 Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into

barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?

27 Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

28 And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:

29 And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

30 Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?

31 Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?

32 (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

This is a marvelous section of the Bible. But for the time being, there are just two portions of it I want you to notice. Verse 32 says, “. . . *for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.*” And verse 26 says, “. . . *your heavenly Father feedeth them . . .*”

This passage isn't talking about unbelievers (non-Christians), because God isn't the “Heavenly Father” of non-Christians. To listen to some people talk, we are all children of God; God is the Father of us all, and we're all brothers and sisters. But, no, that isn't true. God is the *Creator* of us all, but He is not the *Father* of us all. The devil is the father of some people.

In the New Testament, Jesus said to some of the most religious people of His day, “You are of your father the devil” (John 8:44). He didn't say that God, our Heavenly Father, was their father. He said the *devil* was their father.

To live in the fullness of what God intended for us, it isn't enough to be born again. We must grow up in the things of God, mature spiritually, until we are walking after our Father and following His ways. There are many people who have been born again and have become children of God who have never really become acquainted with God as Father. They haven't grown spiritually. We grow by becoming acquainted with our Heavenly Father.

When I was teaching in east Texas on this subject, a woman said to me, “Brother Hagin, I’ve been saved for eleven years. And ever since I’ve been saved, I’ve loved Jesus. But somehow, I just didn’t become acquainted with the Father as I should have. Since you’ve been teaching along this line, though, I have become acquainted with my Heavenly Father. And I’m just about to love Him to death.” (That was her expression.)

There is no truth in the Bible as far-reaching as the blessed fact that if we have been born again, we have come into the family of God, and God the Father is *our* Father — and He cares for us! He is interested in us. I mean He is interested in each one of us individually, not just as a group or a body or a church. He is interested in each of His children, and He loves every single one of us with the same love with which He loves Jesus (John 17:23).

In Matthew chapter 6, Jesus was preaching to the Jews. One reason they didn’t understand Him was that He talked about God as being His Father. He endeavored to introduce them to a kind, loving Heavenly Father. They couldn’t understand that kind of a God. Jesus’ message was, “For God so loved the world that He gave” (see John 3:16). They couldn’t comprehend it.

The Old Covenant was the covenant of the law of sin and death. It was the law of “an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” In today’s language, we might say, “You knock *my* eye out, and I will knock *your* eye out!”

It was the law in which God demanded — under the penalty of awful judgment — love and complete obedience. The people were not able to live by this law because their natures had not been changed. So God set up the Levitical priesthood whereby the blood of animals could be shed to cover the people’s sins so they could be counted righteous in God’s sight. The sins of the people could be confessed over the head of the goat. The goat was let go in the wilderness as a scapegoat; judgment fell out there instead of upon the people.

The Jewish people didn’t know God as *Father*. They knew Him as Jehovah or Elohim. They had no personal acquaintance with Him. His Presence was kept in the Holy of Holies in the tabernacle or temple. No one entered His Presence

except the high priest. And he entered only under great precaution. If he entered into the Holy of Holies in the wrong manner, as some did, he would fall dead instantly.

The Jews had learned about God in this hard, harsh atmosphere of justice. It is no wonder that when Jesus came along to introduce them to a loving, kind Heavenly Father, they couldn’t comprehend His message.

Unfortunately, the New Testament Jews weren’t the only ones who had trouble comprehending Jesus’ message. Some Christians today don’t know God in a personal way. They have never become acquainted with Him as their Father.

Here are some of the things Jesus said about God the Father.

JOHN 16:23

23 And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

JOHN 16:27

27 For the Father himself loveth you, because ye have loved me, and have believed that I came out from God.

MATTHEW 6:8,9

8 Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Notice the utter tenderness in the prayer: “*Our Father . . .*” I like something Paul said when he prayed for the Church at Ephesus. He began his prayer like this: “*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named*” (Eph. 3:14,15).

Paul didn’t pray to “God,” because when it’s family, it’s “Father.” God may be “God” to the sinner, but He’s “Father” to me. I am in the *family* of God. The most important thing is not what *church* we are in. The thing that’s most important is what *family* we are in.

I’m glad I’m in God’s family. I want to become better acquainted with my Father; don’t you? I want to know Him better; don’t you? Thank God, we can.

How? How can we know more about Him? How can we become better

acquainted with our Father? I like something Smith Wigglesworth said: “I can’t understand God by feelings. I understand God the Father *by what the Word says about Him*. He is everything the Word says He is.” We get acquainted with the Father through His Word.

It is in His Word that we find out about our Father — about His love, about His nature, about how He cares for us, about how He loves us. Jesus Himself said, “. . . *Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (Matt. 4:4).

Matthew 6:26 says, “*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*” Most of the people Jesus was preaching to when He said this never grasped His meaning. It was new to them. It’s almost new to us. Many Christians have never grasped it because they have been taught to fear and shrink from a God of justice. They have never

God is the *Creator* of us all, but He is not the *Father* of us all.

seen the love side of God that Jesus came to show.

Matthew 6:31 says, “*Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?*” One translation says, “Be therefore not faithless, saying, What shall we eat? Or, What shall we drink? When you talk that way, you are without faith.”

Since we aren’t supposed to worry about what we will eat and wear, what are we supposed to do?

Matthew 6:33 says, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*” We are to seek first the Kingdom of God! When we do that, everything we need is *added unto us!* This proves that the Father cares for His own.

Then Matthew 6:34 tells us to “take no thought for tomorrow.” I like the translation that says, “Be not anxious for the morrow.” Sometimes you do have to *think* about tomorrow to make an appointment or to plan something. What this verse is saying is that God doesn’t want His children to *worry* about tomorrow or about what the future holds. He

doesn't want us fretting. Why? Because He loves us!

Our Heavenly Father knows your needs, so you don't have to worry or fret or have anxiety. If God is your Father, you can be assured He will take a father's place and will perform a father's part. You can be certain that if He is your Father, He loves you and will care for you.

John 17:23 says that God loves us just as He loved *Jesus*! Read it for yourself! Since God loves me as much as He loved Jesus, I am not afraid to face life's problems, for God is always with me as He was with Jesus.

God doesn't want His children to worry about tomorrow or about what the future holds. He doesn't want us fretting. Why? Because He loves us!

Nothing can be stronger or more comforting than this fact: *The Father Himself knows you, and He loves you and longs to bless you.*

Against the background of all these statements Jesus made relative to the Father, other scriptures take on new light; they immediately become more real to us.

1 PETER 5:7

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

This is a message from the very heart of Father God to me and to you. He wants us to end all worry, fear, and doubt in our lives. You might say, "Can I do it?" Certainly. How? By casting all your care upon God. He wants you to abandon yourself to His love and His care, so He said, "Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately, and cares about you watchfully" (1 Peter 5:7 *Amplified*).

Philippians 4:6 says, "*Be careful for nothing [The Amplified Bible renders that, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything"]; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto*

God." That's our Heavenly Father speaking to us. He wants to walk with us just as He walked with Jesus when Jesus was here on the earth.

The Father is just as real to us as He was to Jesus — if we let Him be. And He is sending a message from His heart of love to us. He's telling us: "You can do anything. You can rise to the place where you're unafraid in the most unpleasant circumstances because you know that your Father is on your side" (see Rom. 8:31).

The Father's love compels Him to care for you. When you come to know His love and begin to walk daily in that love,

all doubts and fears will be destroyed. Psalm 27:1 says, "*The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*"

When you remember that it is this wonderful Heavenly Father who loves you even as He loved Jesus, then you can understand that you need not be afraid, even as Jesus was not afraid. God the Father is your Light. He is your Deliverance. He is the Strength of your life. There is nothing to fear. What can man do to the one whom God loves and protects?

God the Father is your Helper. He will never leave you or forsake you (Heb. 13:5,6). He will meet all of your needs (Phil. 4:19). These are living truths to you from the heart of our wonderful, loving Father God. He wants you, His child, to know that He will surely supply all your needs according to *His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

It is so blessed and wonderful to be able to walk with God. I encourage you this new year to determine in your heart that you will walk closer to Him than you ever have before. Commit to spending time in His Word, getting to know Him better and growing thereby. Remember, if Jesus is your Savior, God is your very own Father. There is no need to worry or fret about the future. God Himself loves you and cares for you, and as you seek His Kingdom first, all the things you need in life will be added unto you. 🍀

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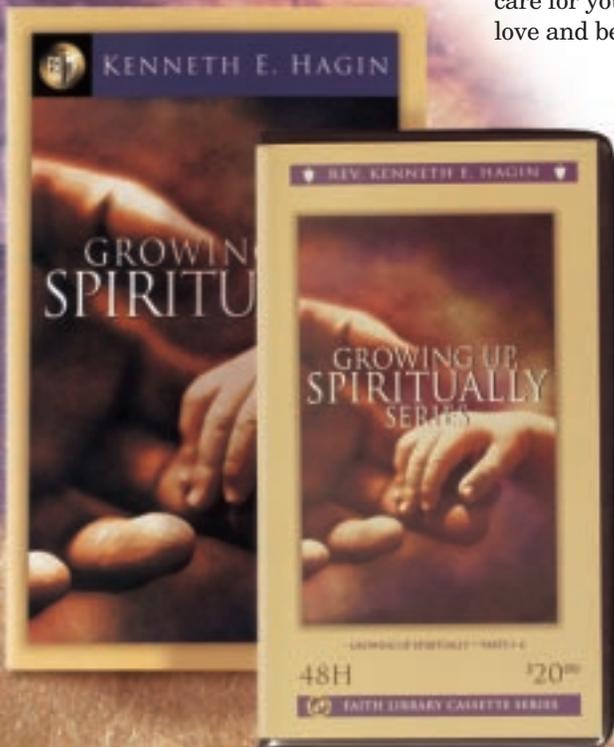
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Getting Acquainted Made the Difference

Norwood and Dixie Bishop were no strangers to Tulsa or the RHEMA campus. Traveling from their home in South Carolina, they had been to Campmeeting, Healing School, and several RHEMA Bible Church services. So why did they attend the Get Acquainted With RHEMA weekend? The Bishops thought they were going for their daughter.

But when they accompanied her to Get Acquainted With RHEMA in April 2001, their *own* interest in RHEMA grew.

Dixie explained, "Our daughter felt led by the Lord to attend RHEMA Bible Training Center to get herself started on a good path with new direction for her life. Attending the Get Acquainted weekend confirmed that to her. Of course, going to Get Acquainted with our daughter did nothing but make us more interested."

"That's when I really became curious," explained Norwood, a successful businessman. "Dixie already had a knowledge of the Hagin ministry, but I really did not. When we went to Get Acquainted With RHEMA, we were able to attend a class, and we also went to Prayer School. Attending the class sort of whet the appetite. I could actually feel the positive spiritual atmosphere and the anointing of the instructors."

The weekend proved to be just what their daughter needed to make her final decision to attend RBTC.

With their daughter a first-year student, Norwood and Dixie decided to attend RHEMA'S Get Acquainted Weekend *again* — this

time just for themselves. At the 2002 event, they again attended classes, walked the campus, and met with instructors. At the Get Acquainted dinner, the Bishops even sat next to Assistant Dean Marvin Yoder and his wife and were able to talk with them on a personal level.

Dixie commented, "The Yoders were just delightful. For me, attending Get Acquainted raised my level of excitement and expectation several notches."

Norwood added, "We had several schools locally that we could have attended — schools that teach theology and so forth. But they didn't present the spiritual side of the type of relationship with God that I was seeking. I wanted to know God and the leading of the Spirit, as well as what this covenant provided for me. At Get Acquainted With RHEMA, I felt confident that I was going to be able to get the spiritual training I was seeking."

After attending two Get Acquainted weekends, the Bishops attest to the importance of this special experience saying, "It gives you a real good taste of what the ministry is all about, and it helps affirm where you need to be."

Norwood and Dixie Bishop have since moved to Tulsa and are currently first-year students at RHEMA Bible Training Center. Their daughter is in her second-year, studying youth ministry.

To the Bishops, Campmeeting was wonderful. Healing School was amazing, and RHEMA Bible Church services were like no other. But attending Get Acquainted With RHEMA weekend made the difference.



What Are You Listening To?

The only way you can successfully fulfill God's plan for your life is by learning how to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit. Do you know what it means to **listen to your heart?**



Kenneth Hagin Jr.

Just because you are a Christian doesn't necessarily mean you will be successful in fulfilling God's plan for your life. Certainly, if you have accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord of your life, you will go to Heaven one day. But it's quite possible for you to live your entire life here on the earth missing out on fulfilling your destiny and on receiving the rich blessings your Heavenly Father has planned for you.

The only way you can successfully run the race God has set before you (Heb. 12:1) and live in His abundant provision is by learning how to receive guidance from the Holy Spirit as you listen to your heart — your recreated human spirit. In the day in which we live, there is a great need for us to receive direction from God. Learning to be led by the Holy Spirit according to the Word of God is the most important lesson you can learn in life.

But what does it mean to "listen to your heart"? What am I referring to when I use the word "heart"? Are you supposed to listen to your *physical* heart — the muscle that pumps blood throughout your body? Of course not. Then what "heart" are you supposed to listen to? You can't learn to listen to your heart if you aren't sure according to Scripture what the heart *is*.

Even in the world, when people use the term "heart," they are usually not referring to the literal physical organ. For example, someone might say, "I mean it from the *bottom of my heart*." Or a person might be described as having a "big heart." People understand that these phrases don't refer to the physical organ inside the body that pumps blood. Even in the world, most people know there is more to man than the physical body.

Of course, man does possess a physical organ called a heart. But the Bible teaches us that man possesses a *spiritual* heart as well. In fact, there are 830 references in the Bible to man's heart, and very few of them refer to the physical organ that pumps blood throughout the body. Most of the scriptural references to the heart refer to the unseen center of man's being — the inward man (2 Cor. 4:16; 1 Peter 3:4).

Many times in the Old Testament, the word "heart" refers to this intangible center of man's being. For instance, in First Chronicles, David speaks of being together in his heart with others.

1 CHRONICLES 12:16,17

16 And there came of the children of Benjamin and Judah to the hold unto David.

17 And David went out to meet them, and answered and said unto them, If ye be come peaceably unto me to help me, mine heart shall be knit unto you: but if ye be come to betray me to mine enemies, seeing there is no wrong in mine hands, the God of our fathers look thereon, and rebuke it.

David certainly wasn't talking in this passage about knitting his *physical* heart with the Israelites! Likewise, when the Bible says in First Chronicles 12:38 that the people of Israel were of *one heart* to make David king, it is talking about the Israelites' unified *desire* and *will* to make David king. It had nothing to do with the people's physical heart.

A literal interpretation of these references to the heart would be ridiculous, wouldn't it? Yet if you follow some people's teaching about the heart, that's the way you would have to interpret those verses. Some people do not recognize the existence of man's spiritual heart, and they try to explain the nature of man's being only in physical terms. But the nature, or essence, of man is spiritual, not physical. In fact, man *is* a spirit; he *possesses* a soul; and he *lives* in a body (see John 4:24; 1 Thess. 5:23; Heb. 4:12).

In the New Testament, the Bible further explains what the heart is. Let's look at a few verses that help answer the question, "What is the heart of man?"

MARK 11:23

23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his HEART, but shall believe [in his heart] that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

ROMANS 10:8-10

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy HEART: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine HEART that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Of course, these verses are talking about something other than the physical organ in your chest called the heart.

These verses say it's with man's *spiritual* heart that he doubts or believes. The heart muscle itself has no ability to doubt or believe, or to express anything for that matter. It has no ability to do anything except contract and expand and pump blood throughout the body. No, when the Bible refers to believing with the *heart*, it is referring to something entirely different from a physical organ. It's referring to man's *spiritual* heart, or inward nature.

Man's spiritual heart is also called "the hidden man of the heart."

1 PETER 3:4

4 But let it be THE HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, in that which is not corrupt-

ible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

What does this verse mean by "the hidden man of the heart"? It is referring to the same thing Paul is talking about in Second Corinthians 4:16 when he says, ". . . *though our outward man perish, yet THE INWARD MAN is renewed day by day.*"

We see from these scriptures that the heart of man is much more than a physical organ. The physical heart is just a part of the outward man — the physical man — which will one day perish. But the hidden man of the heart, or the inward man, is the *real* man — the spirit man who will live forever.

Therefore, in order to learn how to listen to your heart, or your spirit, you must be aware that you *are* a spirit being. If you live only conscious of your physical body and your feelings, you will never learn to be led by the Holy Spirit through your own spirit (Rom. 8:14).

The Bible says that God communicates with His children through their heart or spirit — the *real* man.

ROMANS 8:16

16 The Spirit itself [Himself] beareth witness WITH OUR SPIRIT, that we are the children of God.

The Holy Spirit bears witness with our *spirit* that we are the children of God. That means God communicates with us through our spirit because God is a Spirit (John 4:24), and He made us in His image as spirit beings (Gen. 1:26). Because our *spirit* is born again under the New Covenant, we can't commune with God in *soul* or in *body*, but only in *spirit* — with our recreated spirit.

When we are born again and our spirits are made alive unto God, God communes with us through the spirit man on the inside, or the hidden man of the heart. Proverbs 20:27 says, "*The SPIRIT of man is the CANDLE of the*

The hidden man of the heart, or the inward man, is the **real** man — the spirit man who will live forever.

Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly." Notice the *spirit* of man, not the *body* or *soul* of man, is the candle of the Lord.

In modern-day terms, we could say that the spirit of man is the *light bulb* of the Lord. What does a light bulb do? It gives illumination. When a light bulb is turned on, darkness is dispelled.

In the same way, when your spirit becomes a new creature in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) and is made alive unto God, the light of the Lord, the Holy Spirit, comes to abide within you to give you illumination (John 14:17,23). When the Holy Spirit dwells within you, communication with the Lord through your spirit is then possible.

Therefore, you can be led by the Holy Spirit in every situation of life as you learn how to listen to your heart, or spirit, which is the candle or the "light bulb" of the Lord. And the leading of the Holy Spirit through your heart brings light and understanding, and dispels darkness. This is the way you are to be led and to receive direction from God.

If you want to successfully follow God's plan and purpose for your life, you need to live constantly aware that you are a spirit being. In other words, in every situation of life, you must learn to respond from your *heart*, or

spirit, not from your *head* or from your five *physical senses*. Your mind and body have not been born again, or recreated. Therefore, if you allow yourself to be led by your mind and your body, you will live according to natural circumstances instead of by the supernatural power of God's Word.

So when you seek direction from God, don't try to figure out God's plan

Of course, it's true that at times, your physical senses give you information you should heed. For instance, when you touch a hot stove, your sense of touch tells you, "Take your hand off that stove *quickly!*" And you need to obey! But I'm talking about those situations or problems you face in life for which there is no solution in the natural or physical realm. Your physical

for you to have in life according to His Word.

For example, if you focus your attention on what you hear on the news, you can become depressed thinking about the problems in the world today. You can begin wondering, *How are we ever going to make it?*

But it doesn't matter what your mind or your physical senses tell you! It doesn't matter what the newscasters say! Regardless of what circumstances look like, the Word of God is still true. And if you get quiet on the inside and begin listening to what your heart, or spirit, is saying, the Holy Spirit will minister the truth of God's Word to you.

If you are a Christian, your God is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. He can take care of you! Remember, in the Old Testament it is recorded that God took care of the children of Israel, even in the wilderness. For forty years He protected His people and led them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night (Exod. 13:21). He fed them heavenly manna and kept their shoes and clothing from wearing out (Deut. 8:3,4).

God has promised to take care of *you* too! Your answer may not come the way you have figured it out in your mind. But if you will only trust God and learn to listen to the Holy Spirit's direction to your heart, God will see you through to victory in every situation! 

Successfully following God's plan for your life depends on what you choose to listen to — your physical senses or the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

for your life with your mental faculties or physical senses. It's easy to try to do that. Your mind can begin to think, *Let's see: This happened and that happened. Therefore, I should do such and such.* However, when you draw a conclusion from your own mental reasoning, that conclusion can seem right at first, but it can end in failure if it's not God's plan for your life.

The Bible says you are to walk by *faith* in God and not by *sight* (2 Cor. 5:7). So if you are to live according to your spirit, you must not be moved by what your physical senses tell you about a situation or circumstance. Rather, you need to be moved by what God's Word and the Holy Spirit tell you.

senses might tell you, "Run from this problem!" And your mind might tell you, "There is no way out!" But in that kind of situation, you need to receive the Holy Spirit's direction and stand on God's Word without wavering. You need to make the decision to believe God's Word no matter what you see, feel, or think.

Successfully following God's plan for your life depends on what you choose to listen to — your physical senses or the Word of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit. In spiritual matters, if you just listen to your physical senses or your mind, you are in danger of losing your joy and the victories God intends

Listen to Your Heart

If you desire to walk in the fullness of God's blessings, and fulfill the destiny God has planned for you, the most important lesson you can ever learn is how to be led by the Holy Spirit as you listen to your heart.

In Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr.'s book *Listen to Your Heart* and his three-audiotape "Listen to Your Heart Series," you can discover:

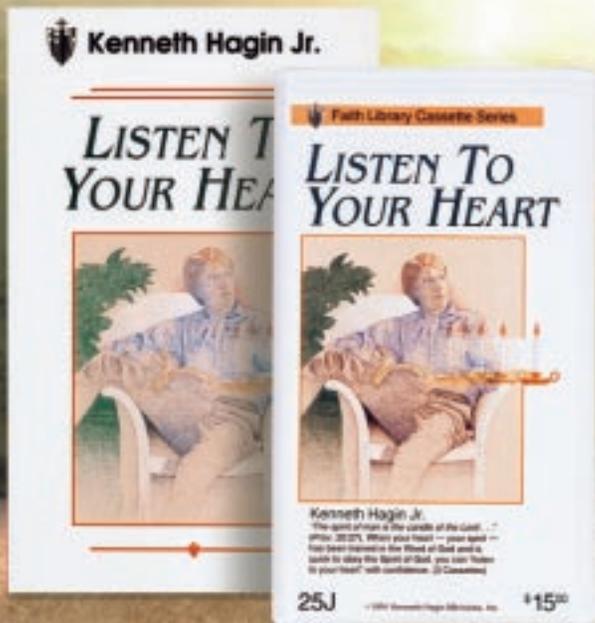
- How to be led by the Holy Spirit in all the affairs of life.
- Why believers sometimes fail to follow their heart.
- How to recognize the difference between the soul and the spirit.
- Why keeping your body in subjection is so important.

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EXPECT To Receive From God!



CRAIG W. HAGIN

It's time for us to begin expecting to receive from God. When we are full of expectation, we will see a greater move of the Spirit and a greater manifestation of the things of God. But we have to expect it! If we don't expect to see it, we won't see it.

The Lord told me, "There are too many people in church just sitting around and waiting. It's time to stop waiting and start expecting!"

Many times Christians just sit in church services, *hoping* to see something but not *expecting* anything. In fact, many Christians are surprised when something happens in a service.

Why should we be surprised? If we were expecting to see the supernatural, we wouldn't be shocked when the supernatural took place. If we were expecting greater things to happen, we wouldn't be surprised when they did. We should *expect* the miraculous.

Mark chapter 5 tells the story of a woman who expected and received the miraculous.

MARK 5:25-29

25 And a certain woman, which had an issue of blood twelve years,

26 And had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse,

27 When she had heard of Jesus, came in the press behind, and touched his garment.

28 For she said, If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole.

29 And straightway the fountain of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of that plague.

The woman with the issue of blood wasn't just sick; she was dying. Suffering for twelve years, she had been to every doctor in the land but had only grown worse. Then one day she heard about Jesus (vs. 27). She probably heard testimonies of His healing power.

Romans 10:17 tells us that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Evidently this woman had heard that

Jesus was anointed to heal, because as soon as she learned He was coming to town, she said, "If I can just touch His *clothes*, I will be healed."

This woman expected to be healed when she touched Jesus' clothes. She didn't *wonder* if she would be healed. She didn't say, "Maybe I will be made whole." She wasn't going to "try it out." She knew it! And she expected it!

Are you expecting God to do something in *your* life? Maybe people have told you, "You'll never receive such and such. Look at your education and your job. Look at your parents and your background. You're just setting yourself up for disappointment." But don't you believe them. When you expect great things from God according to His Word, no one will be able to talk you out of what you are expecting!

It doesn't matter where you came from. The important thing is where you're going! Too many people never arrive at their destination because they're always looking behind them! Don't look back! Keep your eyes on the prize — on what you're expecting from God.

Many Christians think the woman with the issue of blood was healed because she lived during the time when Jesus walked on the earth. But it was harder for *her* to reach Jesus than it is for *us* to reach Him. We don't have to wait for Jesus to come to our town. We don't have to fight our way through a crowd to reach Him. Jesus is ever-present (Heb. 13:5). And He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8), so His power is still available to us today!

When you ask the Lord to meet your needs, expect them to be met! Even if they aren't met immediately, or within

your time frame, keep expecting! God isn't in the "drive-through window" business. We're used to placing an order for fast food and receiving it two minutes later. We may receive instant answers from God on occasion, yet answers don't always manifest immediately. But if something doesn't happen immediately, that does not mean you should quit expecting.

Regardless of the circumstances, don't ever stop expecting to receive from God. And don't just sit around, either! Match some action with your expectation. The woman in Mark chapter 5 didn't just sit around, saying, "If I could

touch Jesus' clothes, I would be whole." She got up and put action to her faith; she went and found Jesus!

I encourage you to start putting action to whatever you are expecting. And I challenge you to start attending church with an expectation. When we attend church, a seminar, or other special services, nothing out

of the ordinary will happen unless someone expects it to. Nothing will happen unless we go to the service ready to receive from God.

Remember, church services aren't spectator events. They are *expectator* events! The success of the service doesn't depend just on the musicians or the preacher. We all have a part to play. We all have to go to the service expecting. We all have to go ready to receive from God.

Are you expecting great things from God? Have you prayed and confessed His Word over a particular situation in your life? Ephesians 6:13 says that after we have done all to stand, we must keep standing. Don't give up. Keep believing. And keep *expecting*! God *will* meet your needs! 🕊️

Remember,
church services
aren't spectator
events. They
are **expectator**
events!

FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Lynette Hagin's Women's Conference
KINDLE THE FLAME
SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2003



*You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning,
my God turns
my darkness into light.* Psalm 138:17

Is there a place where Christian women can go to enjoy themselves and leave feeling refreshed? Certainly, they can book a day at the spa to receive a massage or a manicure and leave feeling a little “picked up.” But is there a spa for the soul and spirit?

There is.

At Lynette Hagin’s Kindle the Flame Women’s Conference, women are invited to get away from it all. Leaving work, husband, children, and household duties behind, they are able to find rest and refreshing in the Presence of the Lord.

With teaching by Mrs. Hagin and other women of God, anointed worship services, and special times of prayer, a woman can find that spiritual pick-me-up she has been longing for. With the daily fellowship and luncheons, the accessory trunk show, and the fashion show, women can also enjoy the emotional, mental, and physical refreshing that only comes from time away, time with God, and time with other women of faith.

Each September, women from across the nation and the world, gather on the RHEMA campus for the event that has become one of Lynette Hagin’s greatest joys.

Hosting a national women’s conference wasn’t always a joy. Lynette Hagin remembers when God’s call to hold meetings for women was one of her greatest apprehensions.

Mrs. Hagin recalls that twenty-six years ago, the Lord spoke to her during a time of prayer and let her know He wanted her to hold women’s meetings. She explains she didn’t want to do it; she’d seen too many women’s groups get off-base doctrinally and become “hyper-spiritual,” neglecting their homes and families.

Mrs. Hagin continues, “For many years, I wrestled with the Lord’s instructions. But every time I began to pray out what the Lord wanted for my life and ministry, I would always end up praying about ministering to women.

“I agonized about it, saying, ‘Lord, please, not me. I don’t want to do that.’ I finally yielded and said, ‘Okay, I’ll do it. But You will have to show me what the plan. You will have to show me what I’m to do.’ And He said, ‘I’ll do that.’”

Lynette Hagin was thirty-one years old at the time. She protected the dream God had given her, hiding His instructions in her heart. In her mind, she figured the plan would take shape when she turned forty. As she explains it, “Forty came and went, and the Lord didn’t say, ‘Go ye!’ Then fifty came and went, and there was still no ‘Go ye.’ I thought, *God, this is wonderful! Maybe You were only testing my willingness to obey You.*

“But in the year 2001, the Lord said, ‘Now is the time!’ I said, ‘Okay, then You have to give me the plan.’ You see, God had told me that I would be ministering to women, but He had not given me the plan.

“It was then that He said He would gather an army of women around me. The Army has always been close to my heart because my husband was in the military, and he still loves the Army. I thought, *Yes Lord, I know how to lead an army of women. If that’s what You want me to do, I can do it!*”

God showed Lynette that the army of women would need to know how to balance being a godly woman, wife, and mother and that they would need to know how to balance their divine calling with all that these roles entailed. These women would be

called, even as Queen Esther was called, “for such a time as this.”

For more than twenty years, Mrs. Hagin held in her heart the plan that God had given her. She prayed about it, protected the dream, and waited for just the right time — *God’s time*. Now through her *Kindle the Flame Women’s Conference*, her goal is to help other women fulfill the plan that God has given them.

To these women she says, “Perhaps you have held something in your heart for many years and you have wondered, *God, what is the plan?* The Lord is saying that now is your time, for He has kept you for such a time as this! Each one of us may have already accomplished something for God, but God has a special purpose for us at this time and in this hour!

“Every woman has a calling. That calling may be to minister to a neighbor or to a friend. The calling may be to minister to our children or to our

husband. Each and every one of us is called! And if you feel unqualified, I want to encourage you. God doesn’t call the qualified. *He qualifies the called!* And if you will totally rely upon the Lord your God, you will accomplish what He has called you to do.”

For good reason, the Scripture passage for the conference is Psalm 18:28 and 29 from the *New International Version*. It says, “You, O Lord, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light. With your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall.” Mrs. Hagin consistently teaches that it doesn’t matter how tall the wall is that blocks the path God has called us to walk. With God, we are able to scale it!

Kindle the Flame 2002 was a success as women from throughout the nation and the world, and from all walks of life, attended and were blessed. This year’s conference will be

held September 25-27 on the RHEMA campus. Why should you make plans to attend? There are several reasons.

It is often difficult to hear from God while you are in your daily routine and familiar environment because of the many voices competing for your attention. It helps to set aside a special time to hear from God — a time to relax and find rest in His Presence. *Kindle the Flame Women’s Conference* is the perfect place for both. It is a weekend to release the cares and pressures of the world, to commune with God, and to find new strength and direction for your life.

The fire fanned within you during this conference will burn brightly as you return to your home, family, and job with fresh enthusiasm — ready to fulfill the call God has given you *for such a time as this*.

Women’s Word

GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

In this fast-paced world, amid the clamor of family, children, church, and career, take a moment to listen to the sounds of silence . . . silent except for the occasional click of the mouse and sigh of contentment.

Women’s Word — an online breather and just what today’s woman needs.

To enjoy timely teaching from Lynette Hagin, products that will benefit your life, and other features designed for women of faith, visit *Women’s Word* at

www.rhema.org/womensword.

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)



We have now embarked upon a New Year . . . 2003 is here. Before us lies a new slate, a new beginning.

Was last year a good year or a challenging year for you? Regardless of what last year brought, it is now history. And history cannot be changed. It doesn't profit us to live in memories of the past, because we cannot move forward by looking back.

So many Christians live below their privileges because they constantly allow the devil to remind them of past mistakes. If you have asked the Heavenly Father to forgive you of your wrongdoings, those blemishes have now been removed from your account. The blood of Jesus has cleansed you from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

Don't allow the enemy to keep you in condemnation regarding your past. When thoughts of condemnation come knocking at your door, remember Philippians 3:13 and 14, which says, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

The Apostle Paul knew from experience the importance of "forgetting those things which are behind." He had a lot to forget. I'm sure the enemy tried quite frequently to remind him of how he had persecuted the Christians before his conversion. Those thoughts could have tormented him, but Paul chose to leave the past behind as he pressed toward the prize. He also chose to forget the way others had persecuted him because of his stand for Christ.

We must not only forgive ourselves, but we must also forgive others for offenses committed against us. Some people will never progress in life or fulfill God's plan because they choose to dwell on past mistakes or on the offenses of others.



I encourage you this day to let go of the past. Let go of any bitter feelings toward those who have offended you. Let go of any hurts you may be experiencing because of past abuse in your life. Forgive the parents who may have abandoned you as a child.

For you to experience healing from your past you must choose to forgive and forget. The Lord cannot forgive for you. You must willfully choose to forgive and forget and to let go of grudges and bitterness. Ephesians 4:31 and 32 says, "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

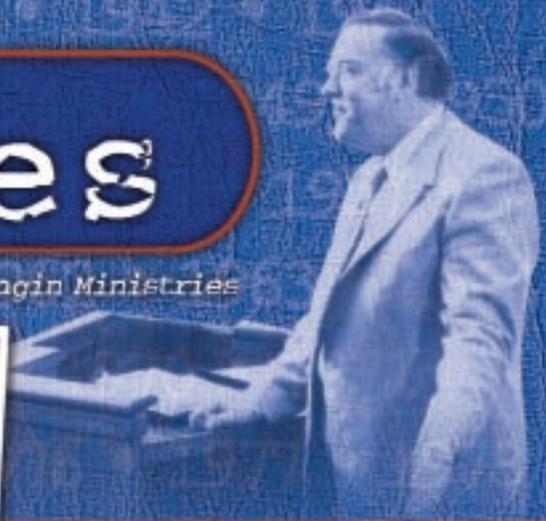
Start out this year with a clean slate — a slate that has forgiven and forgotten. You will experience a peace and joy that you've not known before. The wall of hurt and disappointment that has been built around you will begin to crumble, and contentment unlike anything you've experienced before will encompass you. Life will have new meaning as you begin to enjoy the abundant life that God has for you.

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



Back to School

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

God had raised me up off a deathbed. On the second Saturday of August 1934, I walked to the courthouse square in McKinney, Texas. It was crowded downtown, because people always came to town on Saturday to do their shopping. I had to elbow my way through the crowd to get to the outside curb of the square. As I stood there, tears coursed down my face, and I thanked God for His goodness.

I took out my New Testament, which I had brought along with me. I don't know what people thought as they watched me standing on the corner with tears streaming down my face as I opened the New Testament and read, but I didn't care who saw me. I read the scripture which says, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thess. 5:21). I had proved Mark 11:24, which I had come to love, and had found it true in my life. I knew that God's Word was true. It was possible to have "what things so ever ye desire" by having right-believing in God's Word.

A short time later, I went back to high school. Standing more than six feet tall, I weighed only eighty-nine pounds. They called me "the walking skeleton."

One day the principal called me into his office and said, "Do you think you should be coming to school? The lady teachers are worried that you might fall dead in the classroom. They have called Dr. Robason, and he has said that it is entirely possible. In fact, I called the doctor myself, and he said you didn't have any business walking two miles to school and climbing steps. He said that you were up by sheer willpower and that he would give you ninety days at the most to live. So do you think it wise to be coming to school?"

"Sir," I answered, "I am not up by willpower. I'm going by faith. The Lord Jesus Christ, when He was on the earth, said in Mark 11:24, 'Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.' I believe that I have received healing for my heart and my body, and I am not walking by willpower; I am walking by faith."

That man began to weep. He said, "Son, if that is what you are doing, even though I don't understand it myself, I wouldn't stand in your way a minute. Come to school

if you want to. I'll talk to the teachers."

"I believe I have what I prayed for," I said to him. "I believe I have what I asked."

"I wouldn't put one stone in your way," he went on. "I phoned your mother about taking you out, and she told me the same thing. She said that you were not up by willpower but by faith, and that your faith would hold."

"It will, sir," I said.

But then, without realizing it, he played right into the hands of the enemy. He did put some stones in my way.

He said, "I'm going to talk to your teachers, and anytime you want to, you may go out of class for a breath of fresh air or a drink of water. You have my permission to go home anytime you need to. You won't have to ask anyone anything. Just do whatever you feel like doing."

Yes, he made it easy to fail. But if I had missed one class, or failed to climb the steps once, I would have been admitting failure. So I didn't miss a class. And as weak as I felt by the time the afternoon classes rolled around, it would have been easy to do so.

(To be continued . . .)



Kids' Page

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

What's "IN" His Name?

If you look closely at the word "FATHER," you can see the words "FAT" and "HER" contained in it. Read the verses below and circle other words that are contained in the name FATHER.

A. Let all the earth fear the Lord.

Psalm 33:8

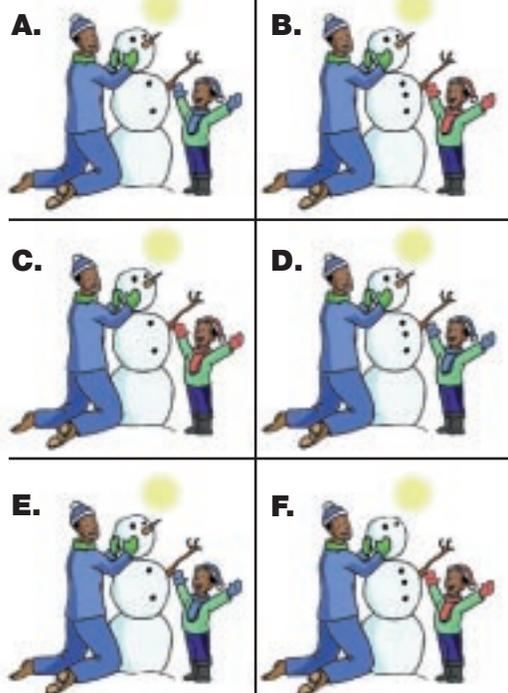
B. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. *Revelation 2:7*

C. . . . their heart is far from me.

Matthew 15:8

Find the Match

There are only 2 pictures below that are exactly the same. Can you find the match?



What's His Favorite Name?

You may have several names that you are known by. If your name is Robert, you might be called Rob, Robby, or even Bob. But, more than likely, there's one name that you'd rather be called more than any other . . . your favorite name! Well, God has several names that He is known by too! One person might call Him "Almighty God" while someone else calls Him "Jehovah God" and still another calls Him "Lord God." He has a lot of different names, but, just like you, there is one name that He would rather be called more than any other. Can you guess what His favorite name is?

Read the prayers of Jesus below and you will discover the name of God that Jesus used the most . . . and we should too!

our father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Luke 11:2

I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. Luke 10:21

Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done. Luke 22:42

FATHER, I THANK YOU THAT YOU HAVE HEARD ME. JOHN 11:41

"NOW MY SOUL IS TROUBLED, AND WHAT SHALL I SAY? 'FATHER, SAVE ME FROM THIS HOUR? BUT FOR THIS PURPOSE I CAME TO THIS HOUR. 'FATHER, GLORIFY YOUR NAME.'" JOHN 12:27-28

Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You. John 17:1

Jokes & Riddles



What do you call a woodpecker with no beak?

A Headbanger!

Teacher : Sara, If you had sixteen jelly beans, and Johnny asked you for ten, how many would you have left ?

Sara : Sixteen !!

Why did the scientist install a knocker on his door?

To win the no-bell prize

What sort of a cat should you never play cards with?

A cheetah

How do you keep a bull from charging?

Take away its credit card!

Have you heard about the new restaurant on the moon?

It has great food but no atmosphere.

What do you call a fairy that hasn't taken a bath?

Stinkerbell

Why are teddy bears never hungry?

Because they're always stuffed

What's His Favorite Name? - ANSWER: FATHER
What's "IN" His Name? - ANSWERS: A. earth, fear, the B. He, ear, hear, the C. heart, far

ANSWERS: