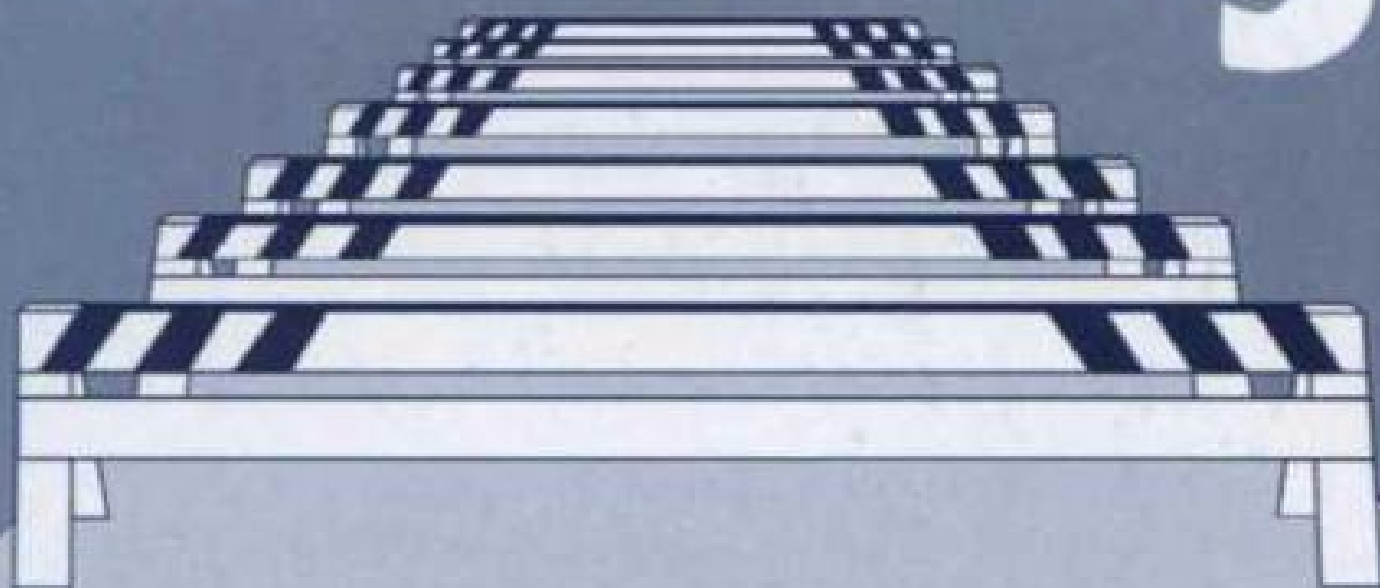


# Seven Hindrances to Healing



Kenneth Hagin Jr.

## **Contents**

- [1 Prepare for Healing](#)
- [2 Know It's God's Will to Heal You](#)
- [3 Weed Out, the Root, of Bitterness](#)
- [4 Forsake Hero Worship](#)
- [5 Decide When 'Sometime' Is](#)
- [6 Determine Your Goal](#)
- [7 Take Spiritual Inventory](#)
- [A Sinner's Prayer to Receive Jesus as Savior](#)

## Chapter 1

### PREPARE FOR HEALING

Just because somebody says he is believing, and just because somebody is making a good confession is no sign he is going to get his healing.

Why? Because each individual has a part to play in his own healing.

Somebody has said, "All diseases are curable, but not all sick people are curable." There are many people who desire to be healed, but for one reason or another they don't meet the conditions of God's Word; therefore, they don't receive anything.

(Similarly, there are multitudes of people who desire eternal life, but they never receive it because they fail to meet the simple conditions for eternal life.)

When somebody doesn't get healed, most people say, "The reason they didn't get healed is their lack of faith." That's a good assumption, but it is not necessarily the truth.

*You can have all the faith in the world and still not receive your healing.* There are other conditions that need to be met. Divine healing is not merited. Divine healing is not given because you have been saved longer than somebody else. The newborn Christian has just as much right to divine healing as somebody who has been saved for years.

First John 3:21,22 says, **"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."**

John 15:7 says, **"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."**

There are seven main hindrances to receiving divine healing:

*First: Many people do not receive divine healing because they do not prepare themselves to receive healing.*

The most common reason people fail to receive deliverance from sickness and disease is because they do not take time with God's Word.

They may have heard healing taught many times, yet when they need it, they don't prepare their hearts to receive it. They want to run to the first healing line they can find and get in it, even though they are not in a spiritual attitude to receive.

In fact, I believe 90 percent of the church members in America today are not spiritually in tune! Yes, they go to church on Sunday and, if it's

convenient, during the week, but that's all they're doing spiritually. They are not preparing themselves by staying continually, daily, in the Word. (If you're in the Word daily, you're the exception rather than the norm.)

Did you know that most of the people who come in our healing lines are not ready to receive? They have not prepared themselves properly to be in a healing line, and the reason nothing happens to them is because they were not ready to receive.

When you are in the Spirit praying for the sick, you know immediately when you lay hands on them if they are prepared or not.

If they are prepared, their faith begins to draw the anointing of the power of God out of you. If they are not prepared, you feel the anointing and power of God begin to flow, yet it comes right back; it is not received.

I can be sitting somewhere with a radio receiver, and somebody can be trying to broadcast to me with a transmitter. I can have that receiver tuned to the right frequency. I can even have my receiver turned on. But if I don't have the volume turned on, I won't hear anything.

As we look in the New Testament, we see that Christ did not normally heal people unless they had been where He was teaching. Instruction first; healing second. (That's a simple principle of life: instruction first; then the results.)

Are you a parent? Remember buying unassembled toys before Christmas and saying, "Oh, it's going to be easy to put it together"?

Then, on Christmas Eve, you got out your tools, dumped all the pieces out of the carton, started putting the toy together, and ended up with extra pieces. You worked 30 to 40 minutes, still had leftover pieces, and the toy didn't look quite right. Then you reached for that little white instruction sheet, read those instructions, took some of the toy apart, followed the instructions, put it back together, and it came out perfectly.

It's the same with the things of God: instruction first; then results.

Most of the time, there were results after Jesus taught. An exception is found in Mark 6. There weren't many results. Why? The Bible plainly states that the reason was the people's unbelief and skepticism (v. 6).

The people said of Jesus—and I'm paraphrasing—"Isn't this the boy who grew up in our midst? Isn't this Joseph's son? Isn't this the one who played in the streets with my kids?"

And the Bible says, "**He could there do no mighty work**" (v. 5). They wouldn't listen to instructions. The instructions say, "If you can believe, you

can receive." It's that simple. "All things are possible to him that believeth."

As we look further into the sixth chapter of Mark, we find that Jesus went elsewhere and began to teach. The people became so engrossed with His teaching they listened to Him all day.

Evening was coming. The disciples said, "These people have been here all day, Lord, and they're hungry."

Jesus replied, "Feed them."

Because of his teaching, and because they believed, their faith had risen to such a point that 5,000 people were fed from five loaves and two fish. (And they gathered up 12 baskets full after the meal was over.)

It was their listening to the Lord teach that got their faith to that point.

Later in the chapter, Jesus went to another region to minister. As the people there listened to Him, **"as many as touched him were made whole"** (v. 56).

His instruction caused faith to rise so high in those people that they carried their sick out in the streets (v. 56). As Jesus walked by, they began to be healed—whole—just by reaching out and touching Him. He didn't touch them; they touched Him. They had prepared themselves by listening to the instructions.

That's why it is so important when you are ministering to the sick without a special manifestation of the Holy Spirit to prepare that individual to receive. And that's why the Prayer and Healing School was started here at RHEMA

Bible Church on October 1, 1979: there are some people who need to come, sit, listen, be counseled with, and be instructed from the Word of God in preparation to receive healing.

In fact, we don't always pray for people the first time they come. Some people are not ready to be prayed for; there is no use praying for them until their faith has been built up.

Remember, those of you who wish healing: Listen to the Word of God and prepare your hearts so you will be ready to receive.

## Chapter 2

### KNOW IT'S GOD'S WILL TO HEAL YOU

*Second: Many are not healed because they are questioning whether or not it is the will of God to heal them.*

I'm talking about charismatic people, too. One minute they're saying, "Yes, I believe it's God's will to heal me," and the next minute they're saying, "Well, I don't know . . . I was reading over here in the Word and maybe—maybe—I fit this certain category and can't get healed."

If you haven't run into that, you haven't been counseling much. And when you do encounter it, you must begin a systematic study to show these people that it is the will of God to heal them.

A second-year RHEMA student told me, "I did not realize where people were spiritually. I went home for the summer, and I was asked to teach at my home prayer group. They started asking me questions. Half of that prayer group weren't really sure it was God's will to heal them. They thought it was, but they weren't really sure about it."

The individual who needs healing must be confident—with no wavering whatsoever—that it's the will of God for him to be healed. The slightest bit of wavering, the slightest bit of questioning, will stop the flow of the power. There may be some results, but they won't be lasting.

For example, the technician operating our sound control board could take a screwdriver, start messing around with the wiring, and he could touch something and short it out. No sound would come through our public address system, and somebody might say, "Hey! What in the world is the matter with that power company? What's going on?"

It isn't the power company's fault. Power is coming through. The trouble is in the receiving.

Too many sick people are like the leper who came to Jesus in Matthew 8. He said, **"If you will, you can heal me."**

Did you ever notice Jesus' answer?

**"I will. Be clean."**

That's what Jesus is saying to all the world today when they ask, "Can I be healed? Is it the will of God for me to be healed?"

He's saying, "I will. Be healed."

That's what He is saying in First Peter 2:24, isn't it?

"I will. By my stripes you were healed."

### Chapter 3

#### WEED OUT THE ROOT OF BITTERNESS

*Third: Many do not receive healing because of sin in their lives.*

Hidden sin.

I know we don't like to talk about this, because it gets too close to home.

Go back with me to Bible days. You'll find the children of Israel were winning battle after battle, and everything was going along fine for them when suddenly they lost a battle!

Joshua asked, "Lord, what's going on? What in the world is the matter?"

The Lord replied, "There's sin in the camp."

When they found out where it was and remedied the problem, they started winning their battles again.

**JAMES 5:14,15**

**14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:**

**15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.**

This is only one example from the Word of God. Studying it, you will find that some people are not receiving healing because of sin in their life. Of course, you may not know anything about it. As far as you know, everything may be fine in their lives. But you don't know everything about that individual. All you see is what is on the surface.

No, I'm not accusing everybody who isn't healed of having sin in their lives! But when you start "trouble-shooting"—trying to see why somebody is not receiving healing—this is one of the areas to look at.

(There are too many people who look in the wrong place when they start trouble-shooting. Everybody can always pick out the problem in somebody else's life—they can pick the beam out of the other fellow's eye is how the Word puts it— but they never pick the beam out of their own eye. Everybody else has something wrong with them, but not us!)

Many people are holding grudges in their hearts. According to the way I read the Word of God, that's sinful. Also, there are many people who are so proud of who they are spiritually that they look down on those who are weak in faith (you just don't see it on the outside). That's not right.

I was talking about this the other day with a teacher friend. I learned that

he and I both had been preaching about those who are strong in faith looking down on others who are weak in faith. He sees this as one of the things that could tear down the strong faith movement God has raised up in these last days.

The devil has made people whom he couldn't get any other way so spiritually proud that he's tearing them apart.

Then there are those who have an unforgiving spirit. Oh, you never see that on the outside. When you see them, they're always so nice; so lovely. They're saying, "That's all right. Don't worry about it. That's all right." But down on the inside they're saying, "I'll tell you what: I'll get even with you. You just wait. I've got your number. You just wait."

That unforgiving spirit will cause them to have sicknesses they can't get rid of. I've seen a lot of people in this category. Before they can get anything from God, they have to publicly ask for forgiveness.

I'm not like some people who say that everybody ought to get up and confess everything. I don't think that's quite right. But if somebody has an unforgiving spirit which has torn a church apart, then that individual should do something publicly. When he does, it will be like erasing darkness. Immediately there will come a release.

Thus, many people who are wanting to be healed are holding back the very thing they desire—their healing—by not coming in line fully with God's Word.

Bitterness is one of the greatest enemies of the human spirit. If allowed to continue, it will poison and ruin the spirit. Bitterness in your heart will not only hinder you from receiving from God, but, if left unchecked, it can and will hinder your entire family.

In fact, if I were pastoring, I'd rather pastor a bunch of people who had open sin in their lives than a bunch who had a root of bitterness deep down inside them! The reason is because I can get to sinners a lot quicker with the Word of God than I can to those dominated by a root of bitterness.

If a person has had bitterness very long, it has become so encrusted in him that he has thrown up a barrier the Spirit of God and the Word of God cannot penetrate. He has rejected what God says.

Also, if you are full of bitterness, you cannot walk in love. And faith works by love.

These are just a few areas to start checking in yourself if you need healing but have been having problems receiving it.



## **Chapter 4**

### **FORSAKE HERO WORSHIP**

*Fourth: Many do not receive healing because they are relying on the arm of flesh.*

That means relying on certain men or women.

People say, "I've got to have Brother Hagin pray for me." Or, "This person or that person has got to pray for me."

You see, they are relying on that individual to heal them, not God. How many times we have encountered this! People call this ministry and insist that only my father pray for them. We tell them, "We've got other ministers here who will be glad to pray for you."

"Nope. It's got to be Brother Hagin. Got to be Brother Hagin."

I've talked with these people myself and said, "Well, I'll be glad to pray with you."

"Nope. It's got to be Brother Hagin."

They're not relying on God. They're relying on the arm of flesh. The Word of God tells us not to rely on the arm of flesh; we're to rely on the Spirit of God for deliverance.

I do not mean that the power of God is not going to flow through some man for your healing. But just because someone is anointed doesn't mean he can get the answer for you any quicker than somebody else can.

When you start looking at people from a fleshly standpoint instead of a spiritual standpoint, it's like hero worship.

In some of our meetings around the country, RHEMA students or members of our singing groups have been asked by Brother Hagin and myself to minister to those with needs. But some of the people have been highly insulted! They said, "I've got to have Brother Hagin pray for me."

Or sometimes Dad has sent me to minister to somebody and they said, "Well, I'm not here for any substitute!"

I've replied, "I didn't know God had any substitutes."

They've said, "If I can't have the home-run hitter, I don't want anything."

I said, "Fine. Stay sick, then." (You think I didn't say that? Try me and find out.)

I didn't get upset with them personally; I got upset with the devil. He has people looking to the arm of flesh for help instead of realizing that God can manifest Himself in the middle of nowhere if He so desires.

## Chapter 5

### DECIDE WHEN 'SOMETIME' IS

*Fifth: Many people remain unhealed because they never set a specific time for their healing to be manifested.*

In their minds, they're always going to get healed "sometime."

"I'm going to get it sometime," they say. "Oh, yes, brother, I'm going to get it one of these days."

Some people do set a time, but it's always in the future; it's never now.

But the Word of God says, **"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them"** (Mark 11:24).

With God you're going to have to set a time. You may not see the manifestation of your healing at the time you pray. But if you keep the switch of faith turned on, and confess that you received when you prayed, the manifestation will come, because you have kept your part of the contract.

## Chapter 6

### DETERMINE YOUR GOAL

*Sixth: Many people do not get healed because they don't desire anything.*

Your part of the contract is to desire something.

Daddy used to go down to the altar where people were praying, tap them on the shoulder, and ask what they were praying for.

"Oh, nothing in particular," they would reply.

"Well, that's what you are going to get," he would tell them, "nothing in particular."

You've got to desire something when you pray. You've got to have a goal, a hope, or a desire.

You can have 40 million tons of air-conditioning installed in a building and be so hot you're miserable. All that air-conditioning will never do you any good unless you walk over to one of those little control boxes on the wall and turn it on.

When the sensor inside that box determines it is too hot in the building, it sends an impulse to the air-conditioning unit on top of the building. It says, in effect, "Give us some cold air down here. We're too hot." That control box is the goal-setter that releases the power.

Similarly, desire and hope are the goal-setters that release the power of God in our lives. But too many people are not doing anything to release that power. They are not communicating specific desires to the Lord. They never set any goals. They don't even have any desires.

**"What things soever ye DESIRE, when ye pray .... "** the Word says. That's all you've got to do: Desire it, pray, and believe. God will take care of the "having."

Have you ever entered into a contract with someone? In that contract, it called for you to meet specific requirements. After you met these requirements, did you get concerned and start trying to help the other party meet his requirements? No. You met your requirements and you waited for him to meet his. When he met his, the deal was good.

All we are called on to do is determine what we desire, set a time to receive, and then pray and believe. That's all we're called on to do. It's up to God to take care of the "having." It's His responsibility. Don't try to do His part of the contract. Be sure you take care of yours, and let God take care of His, because He's never failed yet.

In summary, spend your time taking care of your part of the contract. Set

a time for your healing, a time when you state, "I believe that I receive now."  
Keep saying it. That's the way to receive your healing.

## **Chapter 7**

### **TAKE SPIRITUAL INVENTORY**

*Seventh: Many people do not receive healing because they are spiritually lukewarm.*

This point ties in with our first point of preparation for healing. I don't believe you can prepare yourself and be lukewarm spiritually.

To me, there's nothing that tastes as bad as a cup of lukewarm coffee. Often I'll get a cup, put it on my desk, take a few swallows, and get so busy doing other things that I forget it. I don't realize how much time has gone by, and I reach over, pick up that coffee cup, and get some of that lukewarm coffee in my mouth.

Sometimes I'll have swallowed some of it before I realize what I've done, but if I can catch it in time, I'll jump up, run to the sink, and spit it out. To me, lukewarm coffee is repulsive!

That's the way some people are spiritually: They're lukewarm. They're on the outer fringes, just hanging on enough so they won't fall over the edge; seeing how close they can get to the edge without falling off.

Yet when things start going wrong—when they or their family members get sick—they want God to help them out. They're so far away from God they can hardly hear Him when He's talking to them.

I'd rather be living so close to Him that when He's whispering it sounds like He's shouting. If you're living there, you won't have any trouble getting good things from God.

These seven points are only a few of the things that hinder people from receiving healing. They are a few of the areas ministers should begin to look into if people they are ministering to are not receiving healing.

You who need healing but haven't received it should do a little inventory to find out where you're at spiritually. Look down in your heart. See if you've got some unforgiveness down there. See if you've got a root of bitterness down there. Confess it to God if you do.

I've been involved in the ministry since I was 18. Of all the seven points I've discussed, the thing

I've seen that has kept people from receiving from God most of the time was having bitterness or unforgiveness in their hearts.

It hasn't kept people from being saved. It hasn't kept them out of heaven.

But it has kept them from receiving the full benefits of the Christian walk.

I will not allow any bitterness or unforgiveness toward anybody to abide in me. (Most of us have an opportunity to let it abide in us several times a day!)

Anyone who has a strong competitive nature has more problems in this area than other people. Because I am very competitive by nature, the devil has more opportunity to work on me than he does on those who are less competitive. Somebody is always crossing me, but do you know what I do?

When the devil tries to get me feeling bitter, I just say, "Oh, Lord, bless them. Heap blessing upon blessing upon blessing upon those people. They don't understand what they're doing."

If you are having difficulties receiving a benefit that is yours according to the Word of God, start checking up. Most of the time you'll find you've allowed something from one of these seven areas to happen in your life.

And most of the time it's because you've allowed a little bit of bitterness and unforgiveness to get in. Your love is not as it should be. Bitterness and unforgiveness cause stagnation in love.

What happens to water when it begins to stagnate? What happens to the life in that water when stagnation sets in? What happens to love in your life when bitterness or unforgiveness sets in?

It sets off a process that, if left unchecked, will rob you of the efficiency that belongs to you according to the Word of God. It can rob you of your entire spirituality. (I did not say it would; I said it can, if left unchecked.)

Notice I did not say that someone who is not receiving healing is going to have all seven of these areas wrong with him. (He would be in a terrible mess if he had all this the matter with him.) But most people who are not receiving their healing will find that one of these areas—maybe not even to the fullest extent—is being overlooked in their life.

These seven areas are a checklist I use on people when they begin to tell me, "I've been having trouble receiving what belongs to me."

I start asking certain questions. How they answer determines how I will continue my line of questioning. If I uncover something, I bring the Word of God in, but I don't say, "Well, I've got a checklist here. Have you been doing this? Have you been doing that? Are you out of fellowship?"

When it comes to myself, that is another story. I'm liable to grab myself by the nape of the neck and say, "Hey, boy, what is the matter with you? Do you have any unforgiveness in you? Have you been putting the Word in you

like you should? Oh, you've been traveling too much and going too strong, and you haven't been putting the Word in you like you should. Now I want to tell you something, Mr. Hagin: You're going to start doing this, that, and the other."

Don't rationalize with yourself. Get drastic. Put yourself in line with God's Word and you'll start producing results in your life, because all the chaff will be driven out and the Spirit of God can work on your behalf.

May I encourage you to study this subject of hindrances in the Word of God, not only in the area of healing, but hindrances that keep people from receiving anything from God. So many times people perish, as the Word says, for lack of knowledge.

When I get out in this spiritual battle against the devil, I must not only have an offense; I also must have a defense to combat his offensive maneuvers. I can combat his maneuvers a lot better if I've studied and know what they are going to be. In the sports world, you always say that the best offense is a good defense.

I want to study the Word of God about the area in which I have to fight the enemy. I want to know what hindrances he is going to throw at me to keep me from being effective. So I study the Word. There's a lot to be learned there about hindrances. We have only uncovered the tip of the iceberg in this seven-point study.

In the Christian world today, the enemy is coming in the back door. He is getting us with little things. This goes back to the Word of God, which says the little things are what cause the problems.

Every area in this checklist is made up primarily of little things—things you just pass by. You say, "I'll get even with you" and you go on. That's a little thing. But little things become big things that block out the power of God.

Stay prepared through study. Knowledge comes from study. Study makes you conscious of being close to God. Study prepares you to receive what you need from God. Study arms you so you can disarm the enemy!

**Prayer:**

Father, I thank You for blessing people.

I thank You that the people have received.

I thank You for the Word You've given us in this lesson.

I thank You for the light You've shone on our pathway.

Father, I pray that as we all walk down this road with You, we shall

continually study so no hindrance can ever find lodgement in our spirit, keeping us from being the kind of soldier for God that we should be.



### **A Sinner's Prayer to Receive Jesus as Savior**

Dear Heavenly Father ...

I come to You in the Name of Jesus.

Your Word says, "... *him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out*" (John 6:37), so I know You won't cast me out, but You take me in and I thank You for it.

You said in Your Word, "*Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Rom. 10:13). I am calling on Your Name, so I know You have saved me now.

You also said "*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. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*" (Rom. 10:9,10). I believe in my heart Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe that He was raised from the dead for my justification, and I confess Him now as my Lord.

Because Your Word says, "... *with the heart man believeth unto righteousness* ..." and I do believe with my heart, I have now become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Cor. 5:21)... And I am saved! Thank You, Lord!

Signed\_

Date\_

### **About the Author**

Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr., president of Kenneth Hagin Ministries and pastor of RHEMA Bible Church, seizes every ministry opportunity to impart the attitude of “I cannot be defeated, and I will not quit.” He has ministered for 45 years, beginning as an associate pastor and traveling evangelist. He has organized and developed 15 RHEMA Bible Training Centers around the world and is the founding pastor of RHEMA Bible Church. With his wife, Rev. Lynette Hagin, Rev. Hagin Jr. co-hosts *Rhema for Today*, a weekday radio program broadcast throughout the United States, and *RHEMA Praise*, a weekly television broadcast.

To fulfill the urgent call of God to prepare the Church for a deeper experience of His Presence, Rev. Hagin Jr. emphasizes key spiritual truths about faith, healing, and other vital subjects. He often ministers with a strong healing anointing, leading the Body of Christ into a greater experience of the glory of God.