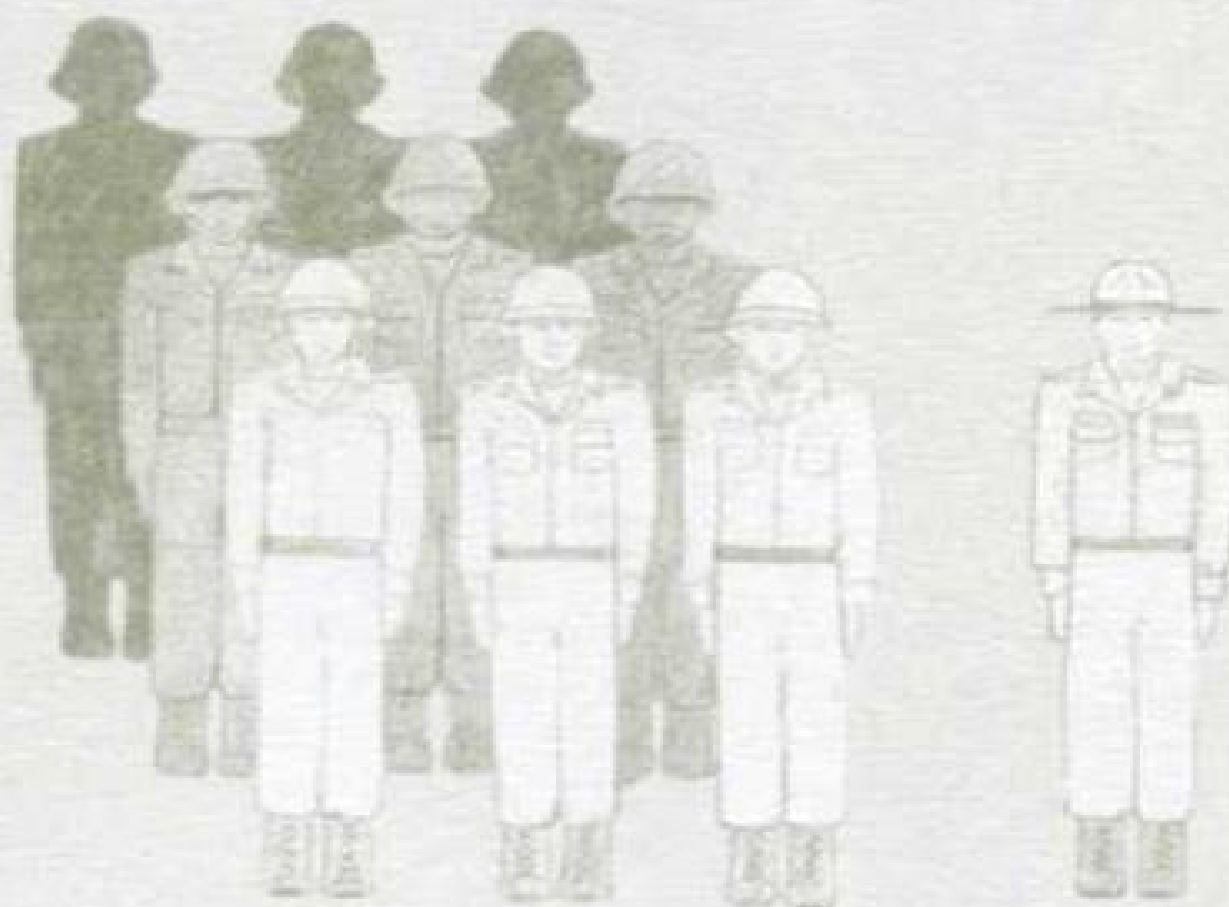


# Commanding **POWER**



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## **Chapter 1**

### **THE WORKS OF JESUS**

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

—Hebrews 13:8

Thank God for the men and women He has raised up from the Early Church to this present hour, but what they accomplished was accomplished through Jesus and His power, not through their power.

The great works of God were not the works of Matthew, Paul, Peter, or the other great preachers and teachers of the first and second centuries, including the great Bishop Polycarp of Smyrna, who was burned at the stake because he refused to give up Jesus.

In this century, the great works of God were not the works of John Alexander Dowie, Smith Wigglesworth, A. B. Simpson, Aimee Semple McPherson, William Branham, Oral Roberts, Gordon Lindsay, Clifton Erickson, David Nunn, Jack Coe, or others.

It wasn't Demos Shakarian or the Full Gospel Business Men who did them. It wasn't the Baptist church, the Methodist church, the Pentecostal church, this church, or that church that did them. They were the works of Jesus!

Without Jesus, none of those preachers I listed was anything.

Without Jesus, Paul would have been a great scholar, because that's what he was trained to do.

Without Jesus, Peter would have been a good outlaw. He was a rough guy from "the other side of the tracks," so to speak, in Galilee. He was from the lower class. He had to fight and scrape to survive. Those kind of people grow up with a chip on their shoulder, and you can't blame them. The devil has them in a box. They've been shown no love; they've been kicked around all their life. We need to show them our God who rides on the wings of love. The power of the love of God is what delivers people.

Jesus Christ is the answer. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever, as we saw in our text.

The same Jesus who rode in those little boats on the Sea of Galilee, the same Jesus who walked the roads of Galilee and the streets of Capernaum, Jerusalem, and Bethany is still alive today—and He's still doing the same things today that He did then!

If He is not, you and I are crazy. I'm serious! If God and Jesus are not the

same today as they were yesterday, and if they will not be the same tomorrow as they are today, you and I are fooling ourselves.

It's time that we in this Dispensation of the Holy Spirit fan the fires of revival with the mighty Holy Spirit until we have the moving of the gifts of the Spirit so the Word of God will work like it's supposed to.

People come to me all the time asking, "Ken, the Bible says that greater works than these shall we do. Why aren't we seeing them happen?"

I tell them, "The reason we're not seeing it happen is because people are not moving in all the gifts of the Spirit." They are moving in only a few of the gifts: prophecy, tongues, and interpretation. You see these gifts in operation everywhere, to the point where you have to use Paul's teaching on the control of the gifts of the Spirit. He talks about this in First Corinthians:

**1 CORINTHIANS 12:1**

**1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.**

Then Paul lists them and discusses their use and discipline. Did you realize that he only talks about three of them: tongues, interpretation, and prophecy? Read through the fourteenth chapter; that's what he says. He doesn't talk at all about the operation of discerning of spirits, does he? Do you know why? Because that Corinthian church was doing the same thing the charismatic church of today is doing. We're using tongues, interpretation, and prophecy, and letting the other gifts lay by the side of the road.

Why? Because *it takes a greater commitment and dedication to God to operate in the other gifts of the Spirit.*

If you've been filled with the Holy Spirit and you haven't prayed in a week, you can come into an anointed service, get involved, and get all stirred up, and the only gift that you can get involved with is tongues or occasionally prophecy. You've got to have more commitment than that to exercise the other gifts.

We need to fan the fire of the Holy Spirit until it becomes a revival that cannot be conquered.

## Chapter 2

### COMMANDING POWER

You talk about who you are in Christ Jesus, how much faith you've got, and what you can believe God for. That's good, but why don't you start doing what the Bible says to do?

You ask, "What are you talking about?" I'm talking about the fact that Satan has blinded our eyes all these years with religious traditions until we can't see the place God wants us to occupy in exercising the gifts.

I don't want to depreciate prayer and the need for prayer, but when we rise from prayer, believing we've been heard, we must do what Jesus did when He went to the grave of Lazarus: He *commanded* Lazarus to come forth; He didn't *pray*. Read it in the Bible:

#### **JOHN 11:41-43**

**41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead [Lazarus] was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that THOU HAST HEARD ME.**

**42 And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.**

**43 And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, LAZARUS, COME FORTH.**

People, I want you to realize that you and I are missing something in this age of charismatic renewal—and it is the greatest fact from God's Word: *commanding power*.

When Peter in the third chapter of Acts looked down at that poor beggar at the gate called Beautiful, he said, "*Silver and gold have I none ...*," but he didn't reach down and pray, "O Lord, heal this man." He said, "I can't give you any money, but such as I have give I you." And I want you to notice he didn't pray; he *commanded*, "*In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk*" (Acts 3:6).

I'm telling you about a power called "commanding power" that every Spirit-filled, blood-bought child of God is capable of operating. But it won't operate unless we are committed and dedicated to obeying the Word.

Today we've got people who run from this place to that place to the other place, wanting to hear the Word. Then they run from one prayer meeting to another and another. Then they wonder why nothing is happening for them.

I'll tell you why nothing is happening: After they've heard and prayed, they haven't commanded anything to happen!

Commanding is different from confession. I learned about commanding when I served in the U.S. Army. In the Army, you tell men when to stop, when to start, when to sit down, and when to eat.

I'm very proud of the fact that I wore that green serge uniform. It still hangs in my closet. I can't get into it, but recently I was thumbing through the closet looking for a sweatshirt and I saw that uniform. I had to stop, stand at attention, and look at it for a moment. I'm proud of this country.

I found that being from Texas helped me when I checked into a certain training unit after boot camp. I had just found a bunk, had thrown my stuff on it, and was talking to another fellow when I heard somebody come in the door. He said, "Hey, Tex!" I turned and replied, "Yes, sergeant."

He said, "I'm down here to go to this signal school, too, and they put me in charge of this platoon. Grab that gear and get it up in the cadre room. You're from Texas, and you're going to be one of the leaders around here."

I said to myself, *Thank You, Lord*. I knew what that meant: I wasn't going to have to pull any KP duty or guard duty because I was going to have corporal stripes. But a responsibility and a commitment came when they snapped those stripes on my uniform. I had 13 men under my command.

The orders came down from the battalion to the company commander to the platoon sergeant to us squad leaders. They told us what to tell those men to do. I didn't say to them, "Do me a favor. Get your boots on and your fatigues on and let's go—we've got a job to do." No, I said, "We have been told to do such and such and we will do it—NOW! Right face. Forward march!" And out the door we went.

That command meant I had a responsibility, and it meant that if I didn't do what I was supposed to, the sergeant had some control over me.

You and I are in the army of the Lord. I can prove it to you by the Word of God. There are privates and there are generals. There are different divisions in the Lord's army. We must learn where we are in the Body and what our privileges are. Then we can begin to command some things to happen.

The private in the army might think he doesn't have any rights and privileges, but he does. There are things he can command from those over him. There are things he can command out of the government of the United States because he signed up with the army. He can demand that the army live

up to its agreement with him. He doesn't have to get on his knees and ask, either; he can command it.

The same thing is true in the Body of Christ. Although different people have different ranks, the fellow who's the little toenail on the little toe of the Body has every right and privilege to command and demand what Jesus said belongs to him.

Our problem is that we've been doing a lot of *praying* and a lot of *confessing*, but we haven't been doing any *commanding*.

It's fun to command! Satan has blinded our eyes regarding our right to command. *God is waiting for us to act*. Jesus already has paid the price for us to do it, and Jesus has made it plain that we have the power to do it.

### Chapter 3

#### UNSELFISH PROSPERITY

We have power in the Name of Jesus to overcome sickness, demons, and disease. However, Jesus didn't give us power for our own selfish benefit (although we can use it for ourselves). We received power for one purpose: to set people free who have been bound by chains of sin, sickness, and disease.

Jesus said, *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give"* (Matt. 10:8). Today we've got too many people who are selfish Christians.

In Matthew 6:33, Jesus said, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."* I believe this. I believe in prosperity. But some people have learned faith and how to use it, and they're heaping it upon themselves.

Once while I was praying, the Lord said, "Do you know why I have taught people to believe God and receive good things for themselves?"

I replied, "No, Lord. Why?"

He said, "Because once somebody has received something good for himself, he knows it works." Then He added, "What I really want people to do is to take that same faith and go out and begin to apply it to those who are not born again. They can take the same faith that they used to believe their finances in and believe souls into the kingdom of God."

In Luke 10:19, Jesus made us this promise:

#### **LUKE 10:19**

**19 Behold, I GIVE UNTO YOU POWER to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Notice this verse says, "I give *you* power." "You" means whoever is doing the reading! If I'm reading it and it says "you," I can put my name in there. If you're reading the Word and it says "you," you can put your name in there. I, Kenneth Hagin Jr., have been given power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy. You have, too!

God is inviting us to enter into one of the greatest dimensions of life we could ever know and enjoy.

John 14:14 says, *"If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."* That word "ask" could just as easily be translated "demand to be done." Let's read it that way: "If you shall demand to be done anything in My Name, I will do



it." We're right back at the concept of *commanding* again.

## Chapter 4

### JESUS COMMANDS

Everywhere I look in the Word of God, I begin to see the sick being ministered to, and I see Jesus walking around stating, "Pick up your bed and walk!" "What do you want, blind beggar? You've got it!"

When those ten lepers came to Jesus crying from afar off for Him to have mercy on them, Jesus didn't tell them, "All right, let's get down and pray a while." He gave a *command*: "*Go show yourselves to the priest!*"

(Under the Old Covenant, the only way a leper could come back into contact with society was to have himself pronounced clean by a priest. That's why Jesus told him that.)

All through the pages of the gospels, we see Jesus *commanding*. Another example is the storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Peter's got his foot propped up on the bow of the boat, peering through the storm. "Go to the left a little bit," he's saying. "Go right! I can't see what's in front of us. Slow down!" About that time a wave washes over him. All the other disciples join him in wailing, "Ohhh! We're going to sink! We're going to go under!"

Jesus is asleep. The disciples awaken Him.

"What do you want?"

"Carest Thou not that we perish?"

"What are you talking about—perish? I said to go to the other side, didn't I?"

"Yes, but look at this storm, Jesus!"

Did Jesus get up and hold a prayer meeting? No, He looked out across the water and said, "Peace, be still!"

Everybody thinks Jesus always spoke in a very low voice, but He didn't. When you're dealing with the devil, you don't. (Like Lester Surnrall says, "The devil's deaf, and you've got to get his attention.")

When Jesus drove the moneychangers out of the Temple, the Bible says He picked up a whip, started kicking over tables, and started popping that whip around. He commanded, "Get out of my Father's house!" He was *commanding* something.

When we deal with the devil, demons, and evil spirits, we must command respect. If we don't, we'll get run over. You can't say, "Well, I believe I'll meditate. Lord, here I am. Come by here, Lord. Here I am, Lord. I'm going to

sit here and meditate very quietly until You come by. You do something." (And all the while, the devil is raking you over the coals.) Before you know it, you are a whipping post, and after that, you're a floor mat and the devil is doing a little dance on your head.

When I see people who are sick and afflicted, it does something to me. I get upset. I would like to do something about it.

Once we learn who we are in Christ—once we learn how to use the gifts of the Spirit properly—once we learn how to command—we can tell the devil when we encounter him, "Get out of here! Desist in your operations and move on!"

We don't need to be pushed around. We can use the Name of Jesus. We have been given the highest Name that's ever been known to mankind. Through the power of attorney it belongs to us.

We don't need to be afraid of the devil.

## Chapter 5

### POWER TODAY

I'm going to tell you a little secret: Jesus Christ is the same today as He was yesterday! And I'm going to tell you another little secret: *The gifts and the operations of God are just as strong to operate today as they were in the Early Church*—the Corinthian church, the Ephesian church, etc.

They're just as strong to operate today as they were at the outpourings of the Holy Spirit at the turn of the century in Kansas and in 1906 on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California.

They're just as strong to operate today as they were in 1947, when a man came out of Indiana. He could tell people what their name was, what color their house was, what kind of car they drove, the name of their doctor, and what the doctor had told them. And he didn't do it through fortunetelling; he did it by the power of God. That's what the prophet of God could do by the Holy Spirit.

At the same time, Oral Roberts, a fellow most of us know, came out of Enid, Oklahoma, preaching, "Turn your faith loose!" As he walked across the platform of a tent that was bigger than what the circus had, he carried one of those heavy, old-fashioned microphones. And he preached about the fourth man in the fire—he preached Jesus.

There was another fellow, an apostle of faith, who came out of Texas. I've seen that big, burly, blackheaded guy double up his fist and hit people as hard as he could. (Don't you try it unless you've got the gifts of the Spirit in operation!) I'm talking about Jack Coe. Those people were healed.

It seemed that each of the ministers who were members of the Voice of Healing organization had a special area, or gift, of healing. They had more people healed of that one thing than anything else. For example, my Dad had more results with insane people than any of the other preachers, and he also had more success with cancers or growths of any kind, including warts, hernias, and lumps.

I remember he used to say, "Anybody in the building who's got any kind of a growth—a corn on your toe, a tumor in your body, a sty on your eye, it doesn't make any difference—come on down here."

The people would come forward, and Dad would say, "In the Name of Jesus, I command all those growths to die!" And the growths would start drying up and disappearing.

It's time for the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to stand up and realize that it's our *commanding power* that will bring the devil to his knees, not prayer. I'm not belittling prayer; please understand where I'm coming from.

After you pray, get up off your knees believing God has heard you. Then do what Jesus did: Command the power of God to operate.

Jesus is our supreme example. We saw in John 11 that Jesus believed God had heard Him when He prayed, so He walked up to the tomb and said, "Lazarus, come forth!"

Yes, I realize that a gift of special faith and many other things were in operation in this incident, but in many cases of healing in the New Testament, Jesus simply commanded the power of God to operate.

I suggest you first try this commanding power on yourself. Many people would like to see the power of God work for somebody else, but if you can't get it to work for you, you aren't ever going to get it to work for somebody else.

Do you want the power of God to start working for you? Do you want the gifts of the Spirit to start working for you? Get on your knees and make a commitment to God. Pray. Lay on your face before God. And when you get up, act and talk like you believe that what you've been praying for has been heard by your Father. Then begin to do something. That's all it takes. We've got the power. And the Bible tells me that God changes not.

God rides over every circumstance—over all sickness, over all disease, over all of your needs. God is over them all.

In the beginning, God was. And He still is. God said, "Let there be ... and there was." Then Jesus came. He said in the Gospel of John, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father. That's the way the Father acts and talks. And that's the way His children should act and talk."

Jesus told His disciples it was needful that He go away and send the omnipotent power of the Godhead in the Holy Spirit back to earth to dwell upon us and in us.

He's present wherever you are right now.

God sent Him here for one reason: So that after you and I have heard the Gospel, we can take what we have heard and say, "All right, now, power of the Holy Spirit, I command ..."—and expect it to happen.

The problem is, all of us talk about the power of the Holy Spirit—we talk about the great things of God—but when we begin to command, most of us wonder if it's really going to happen.

The Word of God tells me that if we speak with the power of God, expecting something to happen, it *will* happen. Either it's true or it's not true.

Jesus has offered us the package. What are we going to do with it? What are *you* going to do with it? What are you going to do with your life? What are you going to do with your home? What are you going to do with those around you? What are you going to do with your ministry?

It's not up to God. God already did all the commanding He's ever going to do when He commanded the Holy Spirit to come and be the power of God on this earth. He did all He's ever going to do when He gave all power and authority to Jesus (and Jesus turned around and gave that power and authority to us).

*It's up to you whether Satan rules and reigns or not; it's not up to God any longer.*

You and I are always praying, "God do this. Jesus do this. God do the other." But the Bible says to command in the Name of Jesus; demand in the Name of Jesus.

**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, "*... 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 whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved*" (Rom. 10:9,13). I believe in my heart that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. I believe He was raised from the dead for my justification.

I am calling upon His Name—the Name of Jesus—so I know, Father, that You save me now.

Your Word says, "*... with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation*" (Rom. 10:10).

I do believe with my heart, and I confess Jesus now as my Lord. Therefore I am saved!

Thank You, Father!

Signed\_

Date\_

### **About the Author**

Rev. Kenneth Hagin Jr., Executive Vice-President of Kenneth Hagin Ministries and pastor of RHEMA Bible Church, teaches from a rich and diversified background of more than forty years in the ministry.

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Rev. Hagin Jr. has served as an associate pastor and traveling evangelist. He organized and developed RHEMA Bible Training Center in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, and in thirteen other cities around the world.

Rev. Hagin Jr is the International Director of RHEMA Ministerial Association International. He can be heard weekdays on "Faith Seminar of the Air," broadcast on stations throughout the United States. And his television program, "RHEMA Praise," can be seen on every continent.