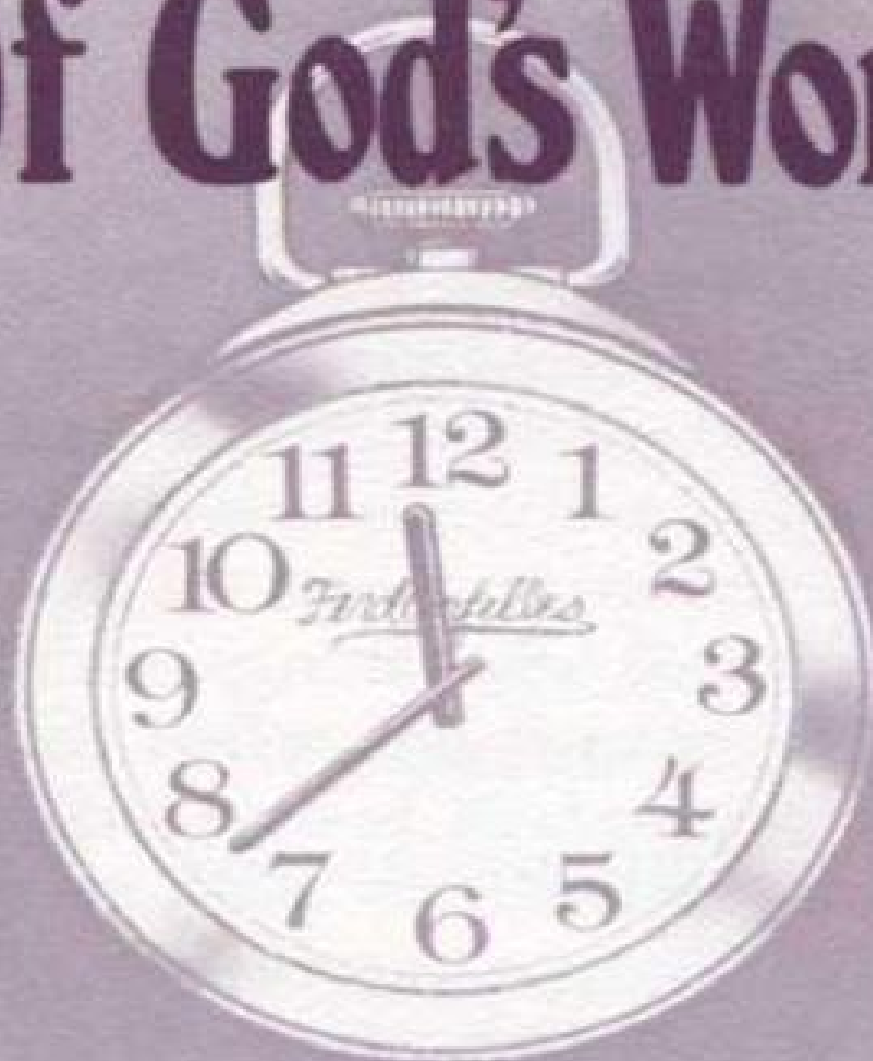


The Past Tense Of God's Word



Kenneth Hagin Jr.



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Chapter 1

THE PAST TENSE OF GOD'S WORD

God has issued the greatest Emancipation Proclamation ever given to mankind. It is found in the Holy Bible.

When Jesus said, "It is finished" on the cross, he meant the work He was sent to accomplish was finished. It is *finished!* It's in the *past tense*. It has been taken care of. And everything included in that statement "It is finished" is for you and me today.

In the words of F. F. Bosworth, "The Gospel is a world-wide emancipation proclamation of liberty from service and bondage to the old tyrant master of sin and sickness—the devil."

But because many of us have put our liberty and freedom off into the future—not into the past tense—it never has become a reality for us.

Hope expects it "sometime."

Faith takes it *now*.

Faith takes what God already has offered us and makes it a reality in our lives.

It is important as we seek after the mercies and benefits of God to appropriate them by faith. This means actually taking them.

Many people want to know what God's will is. *Everything that is in the past tense in the Word of God is God's will for you!*

As you get into the Word of God, you will learn that much of it is written in the *past tense*. In other words, it already has been accomplished. ("Already" implies what we are in Christ, who we are in Christ, and what we have because of Christ—*now*—not in the future.)

You can put things in the future tense if you want to, but I'm going to start enjoying joy and reality *now*.

People sing about "the sweet by-and-by" and talk about "pie in the sky." What I'm interested in is what can do me some good *now*—right here—in the situation I'm facing in 1980.

Yes, heaven is great, and the promise of heaven is wonderful, but it's not going to do you much good in the life you're living right

now. It's not going to do you much good in the economic situation and political unrest that confront you in today's world.

People can talk calamity all they want to. They can talk economic unrest all they want to. They can fill the radio, television, and newspapers full of it. But I'm not going to walk around cowed down with a disappointed look on my face.

I don't care what the political scene says. I don't care what the economic scene says. *The Word of God says* I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus! It's past tense. It already has happened. I walk as a victor and conqueror.

I'm not going to get upset over gas going to \$1.50 or \$2 a gallon. No! My God said I am more than a conqueror in Christ Jesus. My God said that all of my needs are supplied according to His riches in glory. Gas can go to \$5 a gallon for all I care. I don't know how He will do it, but God will supply me the money to fill up my car.

He already has said it. It's in the past tense. I'm not going to put it over in the future and begin to worry about it. I'm going to take it like it is, live for God, and have a great time doing it.

Galatians 3:13 says, "*Christ HATH redeemed us from the curse of the law....*" Is "hath" past tense or future tense? It's past tense, isn't it?

The Word of God puts our redemption from the curse in the *past* tense. We receive our deliverance because it's in the *past* tense. It already has been taken care of. It's not up to God now; it's up to you. You have the responsibility.

His Word will stay in the past tense from now on. It's up to you whether you take it out of the past tense and put it over into the present and make it work for you.

Look at Isaiah 53:4: "*Surely he HATH BORNE our griefs and CARRIED our sorrows....*" Are those verbs in the past tense? Yes.

Look at Matthew 8:17, "*Himself TOOK our infirmities, and BARE our sicknesses....*" Past, present, or future tense? "Took" and "bare" are past tense. Because he took our infirmities in the *past*, we can claim the promise *now* and take it into the *present*—because it is ours.

For example, look at the Scripture *"by whose stripes ye WERE healed"* (1 Peter 2:24). "Were" is past tense. Therefore, if we "were" healed—bring it into the present tense—we ARE healed. Hallelujah!

You see, you don't have to wait for somebody to lay hands on you. You don't have to wait for somebody to pray for you. When you find out that God's Word already has taken care of it, you can jump off your chair! You can jump out of the bed! You can jump out of the wheelchair! You can throw your crutches away! And you can begin to shout and rejoice—because you ARE healed!

That act of faith of moving will produce God's power in your life, and you will see the manifestation in your life.

Chapter 2

PAST, PRESENT, OR FUTURE?

Most people are sitting around waiting for the manifestation *before* they ever do anything. (They are putting it into the *future* tense.)

I've talked to people like that in our Prayer and Healing School here in Tulsa. They told me, "Oh, thank God, I know that Christ died for my sins. Thank God, I know He bore the stripes on His back for my healing. I'm going to be healed, Brother Hagin. I'm coming to your healing school every afternoon. One of these afternoons you're going to see me walking free and not having to be helped."

Oh, if they would only realize that while they are sitting talking about healing and the power of God, all they would have to say is, "Bless God, I claim it now," and jump up and walk, they would bring it into the *present tense*—because God already has done it.

It's in the *past* tense, but they're putting it into the *future* tense.

If this Word of God that's already past tense is going to do us any good, we've got to bring it into the present tense in our lives. It can't stay in the future, and it can't stay in the past. It has to be brought to life in the present day.

If we would just think about how the Word of God talks about past-tense experiences, add a little practical head knowledge, and bring it into the present tense, people's lives would be changed. Communities would be changed. Our government would be changed. Everything would be changed. Because God said He has *already* done it—not He "is going to" do it. But it's up to us to make it happen.

Mark 11:24 is a familiar passage of Scripture; especially from a fellow by the name of Kenneth E. Hagin. (He didn't write it, contrary to what some people think!) It says, "... *when ye pray, believe that ye RECEIVE them, and ye shall have them.*" Notice it doesn't say "you are *going to* receive them" (future tense). No, you *receive* them (present tense).

We must continue to realize that *God's past-tense Word can only become present tense in our lives as we act upon it. God can't do anything about it until we do.*

I realize some of you won't like me to say that, but if God already has done something about it, then His responsibility has ended and ours has begun.

Do you realize God has entered into a contract with us? He already has taken care of all its stipulations. Even though He wants us to have what belongs to us, He cannot force it on us. *We must take our responsibility and act on it.*

You can talk about how much you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit or be healed. You can say, "Well, I believe I'm going to be filled *sometime*," or "I believe I'm going to be healed *sometime*." But until you actually *act* on God's Word, you never *will receive* a thing—because He's already *done* it!

Jesus Christ Himself demonstrated this when He raised Lazarus from the dead. Remember the story? Jesus' best friend was lying dead in a cave. Jesus stood outside that tomb and, **while Lazarus was still dead**, said—talking to His Father —"*Father, I thank thee that thou HAST heard me*" (John 11:41).

HAST. That's past tense. He didn't say, "I thank thee that thou ART GOING TO hear me."

Yet there had been no manifestation. Lazarus was still dead, but Jesus was thanking His heavenly Father that His prayer *had been heard*. Lazarus didn't stay dead very long, did he?

The sick who are praying for healing need to say—before it ever materializes —"*Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me.*" As Mark 11:24 says, "*When ye pray, believe that ye receive... and ye shall have... .*"

So we stand there with the prayer of faith, believing we have been heard before we ever see any manifestation. Now, how can we have more faith than that? We can believe, but there is one more step to it, and that is *putting some action to it*. That action will release the manifestation.

There are many people who are believing. There are many

people who are making the right confession for healing, but they are stopping short; therefore, the manifestation does not come. Why? Because they have failed to act.

I can sit in my office and talk about how God is going to meet all our needs, but until I go on about my business acting like it is already done, the needs won't be met.

I have had more than \$1 million worth of invoices laying on my desk at one time, and I sat there saying, "Thank God, they are all met according to the Word of God. Every need is met according to the Word of God." I walked out and taught a class with a smile on my face. *I acted just exactly what I believed.*

Many people talk about what they believe, but when somebody asks them "How is everything?" they reply, "Oh, man, I don't know whether we're going to make it or not!" They're *saying* one thing and *acting* another.

Acting your faith will get the job done. It will release the power of God.

I believe what God's Word says, and I act like it's so. I know it works.

Just the other day, our receptionist called me and said, "Ken, I've got somebody on the phone from an eastern state. They're dissolving a nonprofit corporation, and since no individual can take the proceeds, they wondered if you would like to have that \$18,000 for this ministry."

I said, "I don't doubt that God is behind this. Give the call to our representative who handles this sort of thing."

You see, we were acting like God's Word is so—because it is—and it happened!

When you begin to act like God's Word *is* so in the present, it *becomes* so in the present.

Faith refuses to see anything contrary to what God's Word says. If God says it already has been taken care of, faith refuses to entertain any other thought but that it is done.

Faith makes you walk out the door with your head held high, a smile on your face, looking like you've got \$1 million, but you

couldn't put two pennies together—because God's Word says it has been done. And by acting like it has been done, it will come to pass in your life. Hallelujah!

Get hold of the past tense of God's Word. With our natural eyes we see only temporal, materialistic things. But with the eyes of our spirit, we can begin to behold supernatural, satisfying, lasting realities of God's spiritual, eternal kingdom.

The Word of God says that this world is going to pass away, but the eternal kingdom of God—the spirit world—shall never pass away.

Chapter 3

FAITH IS THE SUBSTANCE

I'm going to share another little secret with you: *the minute you pray for something, it becomes a reality in the spirit world. It's your acting in faith that brings it into manifestation in this natural world.*

It's your continual acting on the past tense of God's Word that brings the manifestation in your life. No, I didn't say you should start writing "hot" checks and all of that. That is presumption (or stupidity)!

(Somebody said, "I don't know the difference between faith and presumption." Fred Price wrote a book called *Faith, Foolishness, or Presumption* that does a good job of laying it on the line. It's straight and salty, so if you can't take straight teaching, you'd better not read that one.)

God said to Abram, "... *for a father of many nations HAVE I made thee.*" Do you know what Abram did? Immediately he changed his name to Abraham to mean what God said he was going to be!

Notice that God said, "*I HAVE* [past tense] *made thee the father of many nations*" (Gen. 17:5). He didn't say he was "going to" (future tense).

When God said it, Abraham believed it. What happened? That settled it, and it became so. When God says it, you can bank on it.

Suppose someone came to me and said, "Brother Hagin, I appreciate you. Here is a title deed to such-and-such a house. It's worth \$100,000. I'll sign it over to you. It's all yours, legally signed."

I could put that house on the market and sell it without even having seen it. Why? Because I've got the title deed. I could even turn around and give the house to somebody and never see it. It's mine. I can do with it what I will.

Faith is the evidence—or title deed—of things not yet seen. We operate in faith in the natural realm all the time without even

realizing it. We utilize things we never see. We use them because they are ours. We have a piece of paper that says they are ours although we've never seen them.

The other day someone brought me a piece of paper that said we own shares in a certain company. Somebody had given these shares to the ministry. But all we had was a piece of paper that said the shares belonged to us.

I signed my name to another piece of paper that said we wanted to sell these shares and turn them into cash. A few days later, a check came back for that stock that was sold. I entered into the transaction and sold the stock without ever having seen it. I never had it in my hand.

We operate that way in the natural all the time; yet, we are reluctant to operate in the spiritual things of God which are a million times more important and have more power backing them than a piece of paper.

What assurance do you have that your payroll check is going to be good other than that your company said it was? What assurance do you have, really?

You might say, "Well, the company said it was. They said it was good. They said they've already put the money in the bank to cover it."

God's Word says He already has put "money" in your account in heaven, and all you have to do is walk up to the cashier's window and write "checks" on that account in heaven— act like it's so—and walk in health and freedom.

You can have what belongs to you, because God's Word is past tense and it's yours.

If these promises in the Word of God were only promises, we would have to wait for the Promiser to come and make them true. For example, if I promised that on the 25th day of February I was going to give you \$1,000, that promise would not be good until I had come and done it.

But you see, these promises are not just promises; the promise has already been taken care of through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. He already has taken care of the promises. They are

offered to us *because* they have been taken care of. That puts the responsibility on us to take these offers and use them.

Chapter 4

YOU CAN HAVE IT NOW

We've got a son, Craig, and a daughter, Denise. Craig got a pair of jogger skates for Christmas—those skates on tennis shoes.

Denise said, "If I learn to skate, will you buy me some jogger skates?"

I said, "I sure will."

She took her brother's old skates that were about three sizes too big, went outside on the sidewalk, and learned to skate.

That put the responsibility back on daddy. And I'm going to tell you something: I was not going to disappoint that girl. I was not going to lie to her. I had told her if she would do it, I would do it.

I took time out of my schedule and we went to the store and got her those skates.

God already has said if you would do certain things you'd get certain results. He's already done it. The Promiser has already promised it's coming. *Now it's up to us to make it happen.*

The only reason you weren't saved the year before you were saved wasn't God's fault, was it? God had already purchased salvation. The responsibility was yours to accept it.

God has already purchased healing. It's our responsibility to accept it.

God has already supplied all of our needs. It's our responsibility to act like it's so.

God has already done everything He's going to do about the devil. It's our responsibility to walk in the light and liberty of God's Word.

Friend, the devil has to run when he sees a child of God who knows who he is in Christ Jesus coming down the street, because he has already been defeated. But the devil is not going to run from a child of God who is cowed down, beaten down, and not taking his rightful place in the Word of God and living in what belongs to him.

The devil is going to keep heaping problems on him until that

individual—not God—stands up and says, "Look, Mr. Devil, you already have been defeated. Now I'm going to walk in my rights and privileges."

The Constitution of the United States already has provided certain liberties and freedoms for us. If you don't live in those liberties, somebody can lord it over you. If you don't take those liberties, they could tell you, "You can't have church."

They tried to tell my father-in-law that he couldn't build a church in a certain place. He said, "What do you mean, I can't build a church here? It's my Constitutional right to have a church. The people in this community want this church. It's their Constitutional right to have this church."

A few people got a petition signed and took it to the City Council. When it got there, the City Planning Commission said, "You people are in error. The Constitution of our land provides that these people can have a place to worship in." And that's all there was to it.

But, you see, if my father-in-law had folded under their attack and said, "Well, I guess we can't have a church here," they never would have had it.

What did he do? He took advantage of that which already had been appropriated.

That's the way the devil is. As long as you say, "Well, I guess that's the way it is. I thought... Well, I guess that's it..." he'll just keep coming at you.

But whenever you turn around, straighten up, and say, "I am a new creature in Christ Jesus. It is written, 'You have no authority over me.' It is written. It is written. It is written," you will begin to walk in liberty, and the devil will begin to run like a scared pup, because you *have learned the principle of the past tense of God's Word*.

Take what God already has offered you, and run with it like a dog would with a bone. Live in the liberty and happiness that belong to you.

Prophecy

My Word is the authority.

My Word is the established authority.

And all of you who would this day stand your ground in God's Word and begin to march with my Word that hath already said you are a victor and a conqueror,

You would see the vast riches of heaven itself being poured out upon you, and you would walk in the liberty and happiness that you should walk in.

Because my Word has already declared it.

Stand and walk for me this day, saith God.

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" (Romans 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

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Rev. Hagin's ministerial background includes six years as an associate pastor and thirteen years as an evangelist, traveling throughout the United States and abroad. He also has served as crusade director for his father, Kenneth E. Hagin, and was responsible for organizing RHEMA Bible Training Center, a school which equips men and women for the ministry.