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THE LAUNCHING OF ANOTHER SHIP "THE RHEMA SHIP"

By Gordon F. Nelson

Kenneth Hagin's Rhema Bible College in Tulsa, OK equips students to become captains of their "Rhema Ships," that are presently sailing all over America. Recently, Kenneth Hagin held a revival at Calvary Christian Center in Sacramento, CA with Pastor Phillip Goudeaux. Kenneth Hagin raised about a \$250,000 while in Sacramento for this Rhema College. This "positive confession" revival is exploding all over America today.

In the face of this explosion, I'm asking God to give me some wisdom. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth (Gk.-revile, rail at) not; (God doesn't chide us over our ignorance) and IT SHALL BE GIVEN HIM."* Jas. 1:5. *"A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovew upon an obedient ear."* Prov. 25:11-12.

The launching of the Rhema Ship is both a reproving and a blessing act on my part. I can only pray that you see both, before judging too harshly. I love you all dearly, but I'm totally incapable of converting any of you. You've already been indoctrinated by other men's books before we ever met. When a glass is full of water, how much more water can that glass hold? My message is for empty vessels, not those totally satisfied! You can't convert me to Kenyonism or Dr. Dobsonism. These men are leaders in their own right, but they do not speak for the Ol' Ship of Zion. *"Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"* Amos 3:3.

We are called to *"redeeming the time, because the days are evil."* Eph. 5:16. This is a Mexican standoff! We are losing time, not redeeming it. I cannot convert spirits, only name them! "Birds of a feather must flock together," for the sake of peace. *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."* Heb. 12:14.

This foregoing is a kind of synopsis of what was in my brain at the time of boarding a Southwest Airline for San Diego. My desire on my last visit with you, was to unite kindred spirits. *"And there was a strife between the herdsmen of Abram's cattle and the herdsmen of Lot's cattle....And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife (Heb.- quarrel, provocation), I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdsmen and thy herdsmen; for we are brethren."* Gen. 13:7-8.

Abram was a wise captain of his own ship! *“Follow peace with all men.”* Heb. 12:14. *“IF IT BE POSSIBLE, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.”* Rom. 12:18. Abram had an impossible situation aboard ship; the shipmates were quarreling among themselves. What did Abram do? He appointed his own nephew, Lot, as a Captain. *“Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me!”* Gen. 13:9.

Standing upon a scripture found in Titus, *“For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest SET IN ORDER (Gk.-straighten further) the things that are WANTING (Gk.-the things undone), and ORDAIN ELDERS (plural) in every city, as I had appointed thee.”* Titus 1:5. Apostle Paul is probably calling to Titus to get his attention regarding the appointment of elders. “This is a necessary thing, Titus, in order to grow.”

Titus, like some of you, may have thought this a job for apostles or bishops only. “Titus, you appoint and ordain elders and place them over the church exactly as you were. That is how you became a preacher! Go and do likewise!” Young Timothy had even been given a gift during his ordination, *“with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.”* 1 Tim. 4:14.

We’ve had strife aboard my ship. It is always over the same thing: the theology of E.W. Kenyon! Kenneth Copeland openly says, “All my doctrine is derived from the works of E.W. Kenyon.” Kenneth Hagin is one of his declared disciples. Kenneth Hagin’s Rhema Bible College out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, graduates “little Kenyonites” every year to go preach. Without exception, they all have one thing in common: all own their own church. How else, can they be “as gods” to the people? The little gods of E.W. Kenyon, parade on public TV appealing to the vast populous, as dispensers of that which you seek the most; to know God. Of course, to find such satisfaction in this life, at the hand of these televangelists, will definitely cost you. This is the great deception that is taking place in America today.

It reminds me of a joke I once heard. In the days of creation, Adam came before God with a request. God asked Adam, “What is it that you want?” “Lord, you know I’d like to have a helpmate, one that would wash and mend my clothes, clean my house, darn my socks, wouldn’t speak unless spoken to first, raise my kids, keep a garden, so I’d have time to relax and fish. You know how I love fishing!”

The Lord thought it over and finally said, “I can do it, but it will cost you an arm and a leg.” Adam then retorted, “In that case, just give me a rib worth.” The moral to this story, “everything costs.” *“Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophecy unto you: they make you vain (Heb.-lead you astray): they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD.”* Jer. 23:16.

God sent a real salvation-healing revival during the late 1940’s, and continued through the next thirty years. If you’ve never seen the “real thing,” it is difficult to tell the “counterfeit.” The William Branham,

William Freeman, Oral Roberts, Jack Coe, T.L. Osborn's were genuine "sign-gift" ministries carried through William Branham's own monthly periodical called, the Voice of Healing, with Gordon Lindsay as its editor. I thank God I lived during this era. Why? I had the fortune to witness the real, thus making the counterfeit easier to detect. Jesus warned us, "*Take heed that no man deceive you.*" Matt. 24:4. Today's Rhema miracles are nothing more than the powers displayed by Jannes and Jambres as they stood with Pharaoh to duplicate the miracles of Moses. How did the magicians, enchanters and soothsayers of Pharaoh produce the exact miracles of God? the first four miracles of Moses?

Christian Science has long denied the use of doctors. They have "practitioners" in their stead. If you ask any Christian Scientist why their involvement, invariably, you have the same answer; "Because I was healed!" There is more to this gospel than just the evidence of having received healing.

There are two different kinds of "tongues" in scripture. One is used to edify the body in the open assembly provided an "interpreter" is present. This is the "gift of tongues." The other "tongues" is your personal prayer language, where one enters his closet to speak to God.

In like manner, there are two different kinds of healing. There is little evidence of the "gift of healing" being administered in the earth today. That manifestation died with the death of William Branham in a head-on car accident, brought on by a drunken driver. Probably, God in His way, was announcing to the earth the end of an era by this untimely death. In its wake was birthed the book The Power of Positive Thinking, by Norman Vincent Peale, and the works of E.W. Kenyon. These books were around, but were in a dormant stage until Oral Roberts changed the title of his Healing Waters monthly publication to Abundant Life. The world would never have heard of Copeland or Hagin if Oral Roberts had held to the original Healing Waters flowing. It is when man begins to lust after Aaron's golden calf, and the desire for things, that confusion enters the camp!

God had prepared my heart by an early introduction to these "lords" that would run as "*the foxes in the desert.*" Ezk. 13:4. That preschool training to identify foxes, came as a result of spending five years at the feet of Dr. Bebe H. Patten and her football player husband, Jack Groves. I have earned my doctorate in identifying Ezekiel's prophesied "foxes." Foxes usually run alone. "I can handle this job all by myself!"

Just as Paul instructed Titus to ordain elders, I ordained Hank DeG., spirit name "Zeal Without Knowledge," as the Captain over the "Rhema Ship." I personally laid hands on Hank's head, and ordained him to be the Captain over these "Rhema spirits." It is so named after the "mother ship" residing in Tulsa, Oklahoma; Kenneth Hagin's Rhema Bible College. This is the hole all these foxes are coming out of. I have also appointed James S. as the Commander of the Rhema Ship, with Joe M. as the Lieutenant Commander. Patty R. is the women's Captain. In a jigsaw puzzle, every piece must fit to

make the whole. James' wife, Lisa S., is a Captain of the Sophists in the world of women's Sophism which endorses the teachings of Christian psychologist, James Dobson. She is afloat on her own ship called, "Child Psychology." *"Beware lest any man (or woman) spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit."* Col. 2:8.

I believe God has drawn a line in the sand between the "hearers" and the "mouthers." The mouthers only have to speak, and it shall come to pass, "whatsoever HE SAITH!" Mk. 11:23. For it to happen, would put affirmation on even more dangerous ground! It is like going to Reno and winning! If you lost, you'd never go back. At what point and time do you announce, *"Ye shall be as the gods."* Gen. 3:5. Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland and Paul Crouch have already declared they are gods! How many "Rhema" miracles do you perform before you make your formal announcement?

God is a good God of more than one blessing! Jacob, with the help of his mother, stole the blessing of the first born male from Esau. Esau cried out to father Isaac, "Hast thou not a blessing for me?" *"Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me (lay your hands on my head), even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice and wept. And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth (OIL), and of the dew of heaven from above (no rain but the desert). And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass WHEN THOU SHALT HAVE DOMINION, that thou shalt BREAK HIS YOKE from off thy neck."* Gen. 27:38-40. God blessed Esau's descendants with an abundance of oil.

I believe God showed to me in a dream, of a blessing that awaits Jim and Lisa S. I dreamt they owned a mansion similar to that of a rock star, having its own outdoor amphitheater, and still room enough for a baseball diamond. God told me to give them \$1,000. That is merely a token of my love. Our differences are purely doctrinal. *"Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."* 1 Tim. 4:16.

"For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth."
Isaiah 62:1