



KENNETH
COPELAND
MINISTRIES

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

VICTORY

SEPT 2023



in this issue

The Eden Covenant by Kenneth Copeland + Inside The Vision with Pastor George

Believer's Voice of Victory: Celebrating 50 Years In Print!



Dear Partners and Friends,

When the Lord first instructed Kenneth and Gloria Copeland to publish a monthly magazine, He said to them: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.*

In September 1973, in obedience to those instructions, Kenneth Copeland Evangelistic Association Inc. published its first official newsletter: a four-page, two-color publication called *Believer's Voice of Victory*: "A newsletter for the Power People." It was distributed to about 3,000 people.

Today, 50 years later, that newsletter has evolved into what is now the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine—a 32-page, full-color monthly publication that is mailed, free of charge, to over 350,000 subscribers in 125 different countries on five continents. And, it is published in four different languages—English, Spanish, Russian, French and German.

In June 1997, it became my honor to step in as editor of this esteemed publication. It continues to be my privilege to work

alongside a team of faithful writers, editors, graphic designers and proofreaders who strive diligently each month to share God's uncompromised Word with you through *BVOV*.

From its inception, the focus of *BVOV* has remained the same: to bring you, our Partners and Friends, the good news that *Jesus is Lord*—no matter where in the world you are. From Alaska to Australia, from Eastern Europe to Africa, from the remote islands in the Pacific to crisscrossing North America, *BVOV* continues to deliver solid Bible-based teaching on topics like faith, hope, love, healing, prosperity, Redemption, righteousness and the principles of victorious Christian living. Through these teachings, thousands have learned how to exercise their faith and their authority as believers, and walk in the blessings God has provided for them—in everything from family and ministry to health and finances.

Over the past 50 years, we've introduced you

to people from around the world and nearly every walk of life—people who have faced trouble and dared to take God at His Word and believe Him for victory. These are *real* people with *real* needs—people who experienced *real life victories* at critical times in their lives, all because they learned to trust God and see Him turn tragedy into triumph, defeat into victory, poverty into prosperity! Their stories have been told to inspire and motivate you to a deeper faith and trust in God, and encourage you in your stand of faith in whatever situation you may be facing. Through their experiences, you have witnessed the greatness of God's grace and the power of His love. You have discovered how, by exercising faith and trust in God and obeying His Word, you, too, can be victorious.

We've provided powerful, solid Bible-based teaching from some of God's most trusted men and women of faith—beginning with our founders, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. At Kenneth Copeland Ministries, we take God's Word as final authority. *Believer's Voice of Victory* is committed to keeping that Word at the forefront of your thinking—teaching you how to live victoriously so you are rooted and grounded enough to overcome your own adversities, reach out to others, and share those same principles.

As we mark our 50th year of publication, we are even more determined to continue bringing you inspiring teaching, revealing truths and strong testimonies of God's life-changing power. A single word from God has transformed the lives of thousands, and one word from God can do the same for you.

Thank you, Partners and Friends, not only for your faithful prayers and support, but for allowing us to be part of your lives for the last 50 years. While we wait together for His return, together we will continue to remind people from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around the middle—that "Jesus Is Lord!"

Did You Know?

In 1976, three years after it was established, a young George Pearsons joined the small staff of the *BVOV* newsletter at Kenneth Copeland Evangelistic Association—as graphic designer



The first *Believer's Voice of Victory* newsletter



and publications director.

For the next 13 years, he would guide the direction of the then-four-page newsletter—utilizing his skills and those of others—expanding its content to create what eventually grew from a four-page, two-color newsletter into a full-color, 16-page ‘official’ magazine.

“I came out of a graphics background,” George says, “so I knew good artwork when I saw it. When I came to the ministry and I saw the pioneering spirit that Brother Copeland had, I wanted to adapt the same pioneering spirit to the make the newsletter an ‘official’ magazine. There was a certain ceiling that worldly publications had that we wanted to go beyond... to reach into the anointing.” Today, the *BVOV* magazine continues to go beyond, reaching more than 350,000 households around the world monthly with the message that Jesus Is Lord!

While the magazine has continued to grow and expand, so has the calling on now-Pastors George and Terri Copeland Pearsons.

In 1988, George was named executive director of KCM. And in 1993, he and Terri became the senior pastors at Eagle Mountain International



George Pearsons (second from right) in 1979, with *BVOV* magazine staff.

Church on the grounds of KCM, where they continue to serve today. In 2017, the Lord further extended their ministry assignments when He called Pastor George to become CEO, and Terri, the Chief Visionary Office, over KCM and EMIC. Today, they are leading the charge and overseeing a global ministry toward fulfilling what God is establishing as The Revival Capital of the World®.



Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor

@Copelandnetwork



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INSIDE SEPT



INSIDE THE VISION WITH Pastor George

Premiering on
VICTORY Channel™ September 5



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Pass this magazine
on to a family
member or friend.



When The LORD first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.*

For 50 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

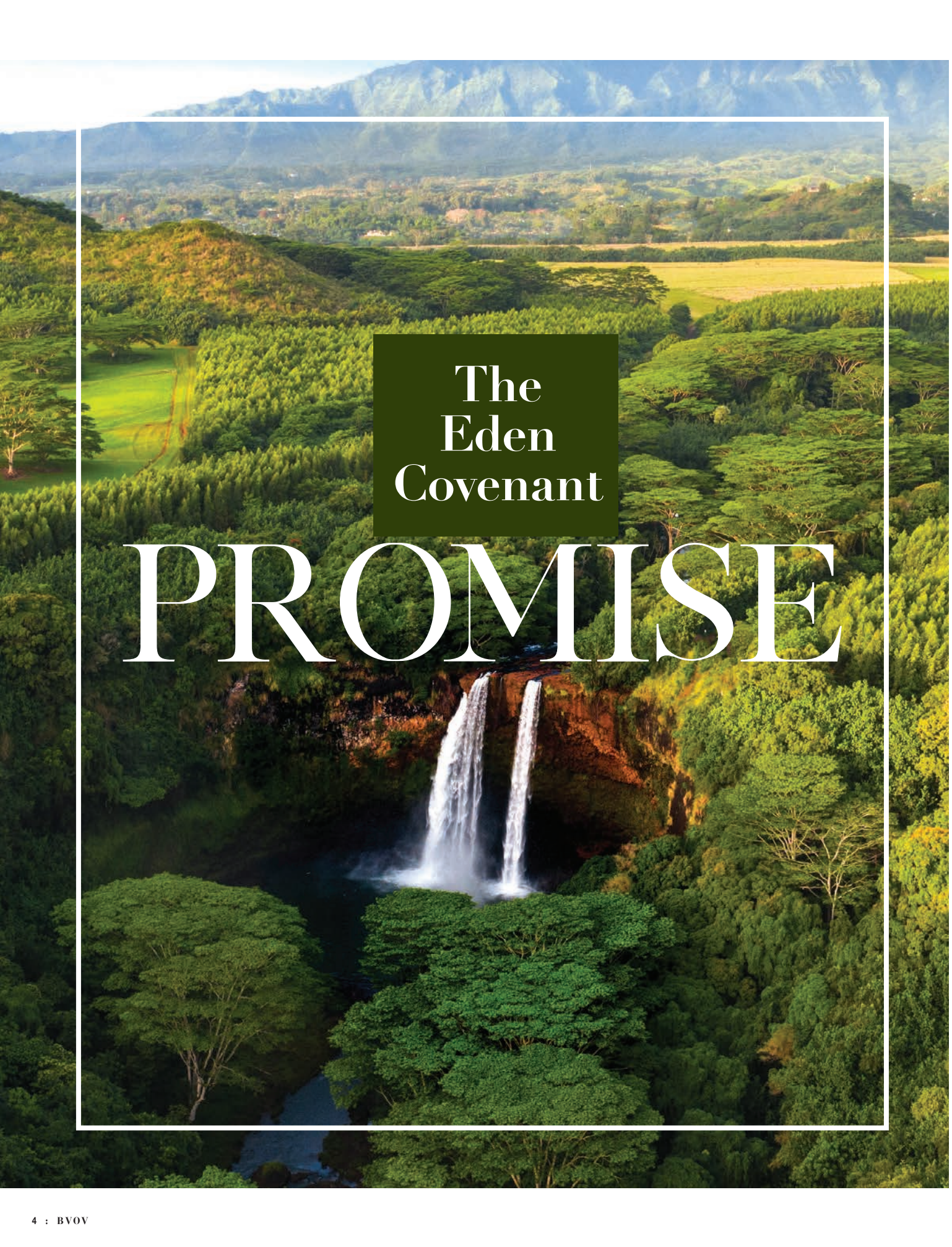
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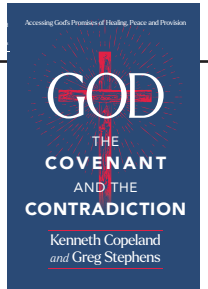
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The
Eden
Covenant

PROMISE

by Kenneth Copeland



(This article was adapted from the new book by Kenneth Copeland and Greg Stephens, titled *God, the Covenant, and the Contradiction*.

For more information, or to order your copy today, see the ad on page 9.)

“The words of the Eden Covenant have stood throughout human history. Despite the seemingly insurmountable contradiction to it, its words, like all God’s words, will stand forever, until the Garden of Eden fills the earth.”

Although the word *covenant* doesn’t appear in the Bible until Genesis 6, THE BLESSING of the Eden Covenant was actually the very first thing ever heard by the human ear. As we’ve just seen in Genesis 1:28, right after God breathed His life into Adam, He “BLESSED them, and...said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”

THE BLESSING crowned God’s family with His glory and honor. It gave them power over the planet and everything in, on and around it. It empowered them to operate as His under-rulers on the earth.

In initiating the Eden Covenant, God also laid



out His purpose for mankind: They were to keep expanding the Garden of Eden until it filled the whole earth with THE BLESSING and glory of God.

Adam was divinely designed to fulfill this glorious mission. He was a spirit being, an eternal man. His physical body, clothed with God’s radiant glory, was infused with God’s DNA. That DNA made him uniquely different from any of the animals.

Adam also walked in a realm of authority no angel nor any other created being had ever been given. He was not created to be a manager over God’s creation, but to rule over it. Like God, Adam’s *nature* was to rule. He was made to have dominion as a king and priest unto God (Revelation 1:6).

A triune being with a spirit, a soul (comprised

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of mind, will and emotions) and a body, Adam had complete dominion on earth over all three worlds: the spiritual, intellectual and physical. His spirit was indwelt by God's Spirit. He was equipped with God's mind (1 Corinthians 2:16), so he had mental superiority over everything that walks, flies, crawls and swims.

Filled with God Himself, Adam had everything he needed to carry God's glory and expand His physical family throughout this massive universe. Everything, that is, except a mate. At that point, Adam had no companion, apart from God, because in the beginning the first man and woman were not yet two separate people. They were literally, physically one. That's why Genesis 5:2 says that in the day God created them, He made them "male and female...and called *their* name Adam."

Cutting the Eden Covenant

Adam is translated from the word *Ish*, which is the Hebrew word for *human*. So, Adam was originally as much female as he was male. Like God, he had within him the traits of both. After he was created, however, God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone," and made a helpmate for him.

Causing a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, God "took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which The LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man" (Genesis 2:21-22).

We could say this was the first surgical procedure ever performed—and why not? It was at the capable, steady hands of the Great Physician, and it was in a perfectly safe, healthy, disease-free environment. We can also say that with the opening of Adam's side there was likely the shedding of some blood, which foreshadowed two future events:

- The piercing of Jesus' side by the spear of a Roman soldier, as He hung on the cross
- The shedding of Jesus' sinless blood for the new life of His soon-to-be Bride, the Church (2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 1:17-19).

The cut God made in Adam's side also resulted in the first human covenant because He did far more through that operation than remove a rib from Adam's body. He took the female characteristics out of the first *Adam* (human) and put them into another, separate *Adam* (human). So, when the first *Adam* awoke and

saw the second one, he said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (Genesis 2:23).

Later, Adam named his new "No. 2 *Adam*" companion *Eve*. But God always saw the two Adams as one. So, after dividing them into *Ish* and *Isha*, man and woman, He reconnected them. How? Through the marriage covenant!

This is why "a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh" (verse 24, *New King James Version*). Marriage is literally an example of human covenant in the flesh.

The Eden Covenant Conditions

Once rejoined, *Ish* (male) and *Isha* (female)—together—were like God again. His intention for them, as it is for all married couples, was for them to work together as one. With God in their midst, they were to operate in agreement as a loving trinity of power.

The Garden of Eden was supplied by God with everything they needed. "Out of the ground made The LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil" (verse 9). God also provided for them an abundance of natural resources—including precious stones and gold. The Garden was a testing ground for His family. A proving place from which they could expand, discover and develop.

It also carried with it great responsibilities. Adam had been put there by God "to dress it and to keep it" (verse 15). The *Chumash* or *Torah* translation of that verse says: "God took the man and placed him in the Garden of Eden, to work it and to guard it." Adam's job, in other words, was to use his authority to *keep and to guard* the Garden that God had planted and laid out for him. From there, the plan was for this first couple to spread *Love's* influence and glory. To take THE BLESSING beyond the Garden of Eden throughout the rest of the planet, finishing what God had begun.

First and foremost, of course, Adam and Eve were there to fellowship with God. To walk and talk with Love and enjoy their Father's presence every day (Genesis 3:8). Filled with His glory, as His children, they had confidence in both the spiritual and the natural realms. They also had direct access to heaven's throne of grace (Luke 3:38; Hebrews 9:23, 4:16).

They, as well as their Father, were living the dream.

All Adam and Eve had to do to keep living that dream was abide by the Eden Covenant conditions to which they'd agreed. Those conditions included only one restriction: "The LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17).

It sounds like a simple request—and it would have been if not for this: In the Garden there lurked a spiritual outlaw (satan). Previously called *Lucifer*, a name that in Hebrew means "Morning Star" or "Light Bearer", he was once known as "the anointed cherub" (Ezekiel 28:14). When iniquity was found in him, he was cast out of heaven (Ezekiel 28:15; Luke 10:18) and by the time he showed up in the Garden of Eden, he had become God's No. 1 enemy.

His new name, *satan*, which means "opponent or adversary" aptly described his evil nature. As a fallen angel, he had witnessed the creation of God's first family members and he coveted their dominion over the earth. So, he set about to steal it by speaking to Eve through the mouth of a serpent. Asking her a subtle question designed to plant a seed of doubt in her mind about God's WORD, he said, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?"

"We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden," Eve replied: "But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (Genesis 3:1-3).

That was not what God said. Eve misquoted Him by adding to His words. We must never do that. He didn't say anything about not touching the fruit. Eve came up with that because she was deceived. She didn't have a revelation of their covenant agreement with God.

Because the truth of what God *did* say was weakened due to a lack of knowledge and mishandling of His WORD, Eve believed what satan said next: "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (verses 4-5).

It was a lie, but Eve fell for it. Without realizing it, she let satan tempt her with a

desire for something God had already given to her. She was deceived into thinking that God was withholding something from them when, in fact, He had given them everything! In doing so, she let satan steal The WORD of God from her. She let satan do to her what he always comes to do—which is steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

God has never changed (Malachi 3:6), and neither has the devil. He fell from heaven's authority, and he cannot change. He's doomed forever. At that moment though, he thought he'd found a way out because not only did Eve succumb to his temptation and eat the fruit, but she also turned and gave it to Adam, as well.

Adam had been right there the whole time. He could have used his authority to shut the serpent's mouth and drive the devil out of the Garden. Unlike Eve, "Adam was not deceived" (1 Timothy 2:14). That's why it was such a horrible sin on Adam's part when—knowing full well what he was doing—he too ate of the tree and broke God's covenant command.

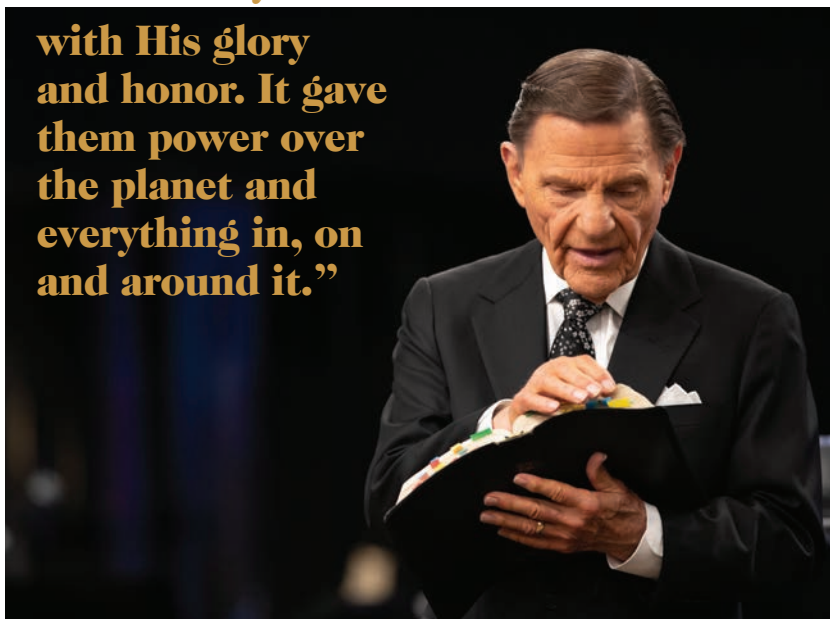
Adam had the authority, but not the moral right to commit such an act of high treason against his Creator. So, as God said through His prophet, Hosea, God charged Adam and not Eve, for violating the covenant (Hosea 4:7).

"THE BLESSING crowned God's family

The Eden Covenant Contradiction

The moment Adam bowed his knee to the devil, the Father and His family were separated. The

**with His glory
and honor. It gave
them power over
the planet and
everything in, on
and around it."**





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Oct. 26-28 | St. Louis, Mo.

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Kenneth Copeland is also speaking here:

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FlashPoint LIVE
Sept. 14 | Council Bluffs, Iowa
Oct. 5-6 | Brooklyn Park, Minn.
Nov. 30-Dec. 1 | Pasadena, Calif.

Schedule is subject to change without notice.

glistening light of God's glory flowing from Adam and Eve's spirits, that covered and crowned their bodies, went out. In its place an unfamiliar and oppressive force overtook them.

Without their magnificent coverings of light, Adam and Eve's now-naked forms were exposed in all their never-seen-before earthiness. Flooded with guilt and shame, they ran and hid themselves among the trees. Having turned their backs on God and His Love, the dark force of fear—the evil nature of the devil to which they had joined themselves—gripped them. For the first time, death began overshadowing every aspect of their lives.

Desperate and exposed, they came up with the idea of sewing together fig leaves to cover their newly discovered nakedness (Genesis 3:7). It was man's first attempt to provide for himself. He had fallen to the level of relying on works of his flesh rather than on the power of God to meet his needs.

With Adam's act of treason also came the contradiction to the Eden Covenant, a contradiction that can be summed up in one, small, simple word: sin. Sin became the major obstacle that threatened to dash all hopes of God's dream for a family ever becoming a reality.

With one bite, everything was seemingly lost.

Sin entered the world, and with it came death, and life was lost (Romans 5:12).

Shame came in, and innocence was lost (Genesis 3:7).

Fear came in, and Love was lost (verse 10).

Satan came in, and authority was lost (Luke 4:5-7).

Satan had already lost all his authority in heaven, and up to that point he'd had none on planet Earth. All authority here had been handed over by God the Father to Adam and Eve. But when they put their authority into satan's hands, they opened the door for him to rule over the earth—without having any covenant agreement with God.

That was a serious obstacle to the fulfillment of God's plan both for mankind and for the earth itself. As Adam and Eve were about to learn, the earth would now start to work against them. Adam would have to toil and sweat—which he had never

done before—to get it to produce.

"The earth is The LORD's, and the fulness thereof" (Psalm 24:1). Designed to respond to its true owner, only when man is operating in his proper, God-given authority (and within his covenant rights) does creation function appropriately. So, when Adam and Eve fell, creation did too. Because of their rebellion against God, the earth rebelled against mankind.

Standing in stark contrast to the Eden Covenant contradiction, however, was the Eden Covenant seal—the tree of life. Planted by God in the center of the Garden, that tree was the guarantee of the Covenant God made with man in Eden. While in the Garden, Adam and Eve had access to it. But as we will see in the next chapter, when they sinned, God sealed the Eden Covenant by blocking not only Adam and Eve's access to the tree of life, but all mankind's.

Why did their sin affect all of us? Because when creating the earth, God mandated every living thing to reproduce "according to its kind" (Genesis 1:11, *New King James Version*). We call this the *Law of Genesis*—corn reproduces corn, cows reproduce cows, and so on.

When Adam sinned, he became the first man to be born again—not from death to life, as we're familiar with today—but from life to death. So, after the Fall, he and Eve could only reproduce in mankind the seed of sin and death that was now planted in their spirits. They could only reproduce after their spiritual overlord, satan.

It might seem unfair that one man could blow it for the rest of us for all eternity, all because of just one tree. You might wonder why God set up a system that would leave us thousands of years later still suffering the very real consequences of Adam's decision—a decision that *we* didn't make.

Once you see what He had planned, however, you'll realize God's strategy in allowing it to play out that way was brilliant. He knew exactly what He was doing by giving the Eden mandate to Adam and Eve before they rebelled in the Garden of Eden. He had a reason for making covenant with them when they were innocent, holy and without sin; and putting in their hands the destiny of all mankind.

Yes, it meant that one man's *sin* could

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condemn us all. But it also meant that it would take only one man's *righteousness* to redeem us. It established the legal right and authority for a future "sinless man" (Jesus) to restore everything that Adam and Eve would lose—including the tree of life.

You see, in blocking mankind's access to that tree, God preserved it for our future (Revelation 2:7, 22:14). He sealed for us the Eden Covenant and pointed to the time when, on another tree, God would save His people. The time when Jesus, the promised Seed, the Second and last Adam, would be crucified on a tree, taking upon Himself the curse for our sins (Galatians 3:13).

God established at the very outset of Creation that our Redemption would come through a tree! From the beginning, He has given us great hope for our future (Jeremiah 29:11).

He even embedded that hope in the name *Adam*. Given by God to the first members of His earthly family, Adam is a neutral word which applied to both the first man and woman. As we've already seen, it means "human" or, literally, "red earth."

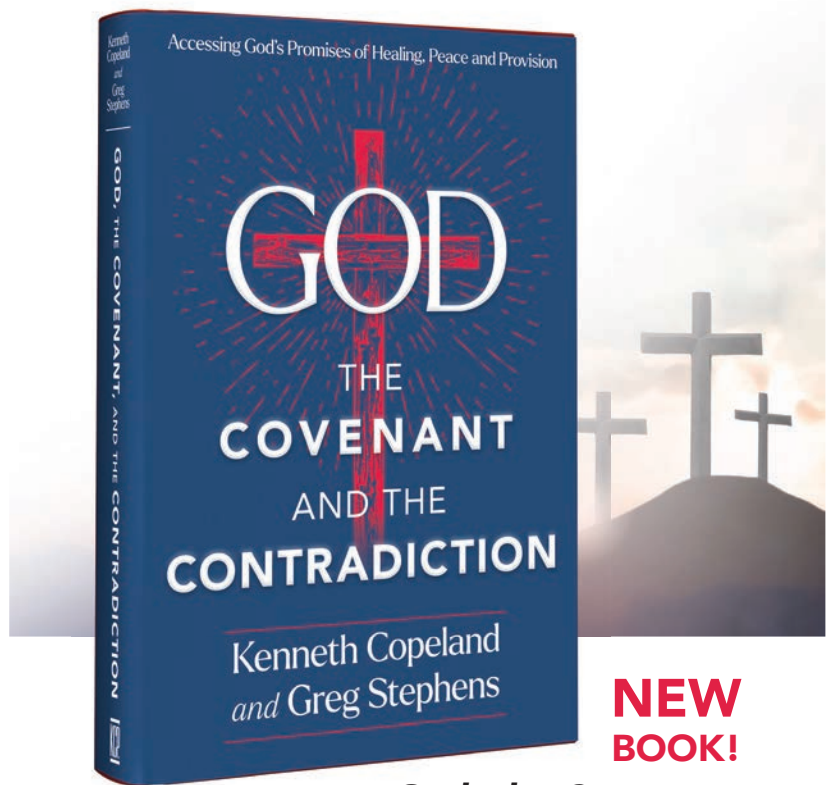
In ancient Hebrew, however, which consists of symbols that look more like pictures than letters, the name conveys a deeper meaning. Its spelling includes a series of symbols representing an *ox* (meaning strong leader), a *door* (meaning a pathway), and *water* (meaning life or death). Put all those together and *Adam* translates as "the strong leader that opens the doorway that leads to life or death."

Add in the fact that the symbol for *water* also represents Adam's *blood* and the translation of Adam's name becomes even more astounding. It becomes: *The strong leader who opens the doorway that leads to life or death by his blood!*

Amazingly, those symbols that make up Adam's name paint a picture of the plan of Redemption. They reveal God's intended purpose from the very start. They point us toward Jesus, our Redeemer, who is referred to throughout Scripture as the *Second Adam* (1 Corinthians 15:45-50).

From the beginning of time, the First Adam was pointing to the Second Adam—Jesus, our "Strong Leader who opens the doorway that leads to life or death by His blood!"

The words of the Eden Covenant have stood throughout human history. Despite the seemingly insurmountable contradiction to it, its words, like all God's words, will stand forever, until the Garden of Eden fills the earth. ❶



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INSIDE THE VISION

WITH

Pastor Penze

“Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it.”

Habakkuk 2:2,
(New King James Version)

What began for me in 1976 as a summer job turned out to be an amazing, lifelong journey of faith.

From childhood, I wanted to follow in the footsteps of my dad. He was a graphic designer in New York. That’s what I wanted to do. So, after graduating from high school I attended art school in Boston.

My life changed completely, however, when, while in college, I made Jesus my LORD and Savior. As a result, The LORD had an even better plan for my future.

In 1975, I was accepted to Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla. On the very first day, I received a clear word from The LORD regarding my calling. He said, *Change your major. You are called to pastor.*

The plan was set. From that moment on my life would never be the same.

At ORU, I met a young Texas beauty named Terri Lin Copeland. We became friends, dated, and by the end of that year we were engaged to be married. During that time, she introduced me to the Word of Faith.

I went to Fort Worth, Texas, during that winter break to meet her family.

Her dad and I sat down for that “future son-in-law discussion.”

“What do you want to be?” he asked.

“I want to be a man of God,” I said.

THAT was the right answer!

He told me he would send me his Bible course. I thought it

would be a book or study guide of some sort. Little did I know what I was in for. The campus post office called me right after I returned to ORU.

“Come get your boxes,” they told me.

“Boxes?”

I wondered what they could be.

To my surprise, Kenneth Copeland had sent me his entire *Basic Believers’ Course* on cassette tape. I began listening to them every day. Those messages transformed my life. I had never heard anything like that before.

As a thank-you to Brother Copeland, I drew a sketch of his ministry logo, and sent it to him. He responded by telling Terri, “Bring him home for the summer and let him start my in-house art department.”

I did that—and never returned to ORU.

KCM Glory Stories

For the past 47 years, I have been totally immersed in Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Today, I am serving as senior pastor at Eagle Mountain International Church, and as the ministry’s Chief Executive Officer.

I have studied this ministry from the inside out. Its outreaches are astounding!

We are preaching the uncompromising Word of Faith from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around the middle.

Over the years, I have had a front-row seat to the “Glory Stories of KCM.”

Recently, The LORD stirred me to speak directly to our Partners about the ministry’s vision—to share with them how we have been able to accomplish so much through their support.

From my vantage point, this is KCM’s finest hour. More is being done than ever before. And there is so much more planned for the future.

Truly, these are the most exciting times I have ever witnessed. And I strongly believe that our Partners need to know what we have done, what we are doing and what we are going to do. They need to know what their finances are accomplishing.

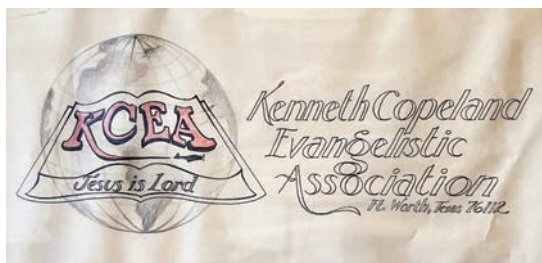
That is why I have initiated a program on VICTORY Channel™ called *Inside the Vision*. Communicating our ministry victories is what it is all about.

It’s important that our Partners know they can receive the same rewards that the Copelands receive for preaching The WORD and changing lives.

Five Branches, One Ministry!

There are five major branches of our ministry.

There is Kenneth Copeland Ministries itself, with all its various outreaches. Of course, Terri and I pastor Eagle Mountain International Church. And



most recently, Kenneth Copeland Bible College® has been added to the KCM family.

But KCM is not limited to the United States. We are covering the world with the Word of Faith through regional offices in Canada; Australia; England; South Africa; Ukraine; and Bogota, Colombia. Most recently, we've added what has become a major outreach of the ministry, VICTORY Channel.

Here is some background:

The LORD spoke to Brother Copeland in 1976 and said, *I am coming so soon. I want you to preach this uncompromising Word of Faith on every available voice.*

The first "major voice" began that same year with the start of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* Radio Broadcast. The next voice came in 1979 when a weekly television broadcast was launched. And then in 1989, a daily TV broadcast was begun. We stepped up to a whole new level in 2015. That is when the Believer's Voice of Victory Network® began. In 2019, BVOVN became VICTORY Channel, with a goal to provide Word of Faith programming 24/7. Currently, there are 38 broadcasters preaching this message of faith on DISH TV®, DIRECTV®, Spectrum TV®, Roku®, iHeart Radio, Apple TV®, Amazon Fire TV, YouTube®, govictory.com and at Rumble streaming.

As you can see, we are STILL focused on fulfilling the 1976 mandate to preach the Word of Faith on *every available voice!*

Paid in FULL!

A very important discussion concerning programmers took place between The LORD and Brother Copeland before we began airing in 2015.

"Should we charge the programmers for the airtime?"

Brother Copeland prayed and The LORD answered.

No. All the airtime costs will be paid for by Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

Do you realize what that means?

Our Partners are funding 38 different ministries! They are receiving credit for every sermon preached, every person saved, and every life changed through each and every broadcast aired on VICTORY Channel!

The testimonies we receive have been outstanding. They cover the entire spectrum of our covenant with God, which includes healing, prosperity, protection and so many more victories.

If you are a KCM Partner, thank you for all you do to help Kenneth and Gloria fulfill their mission. Your financial and prayerful support is continuing to make a difference.

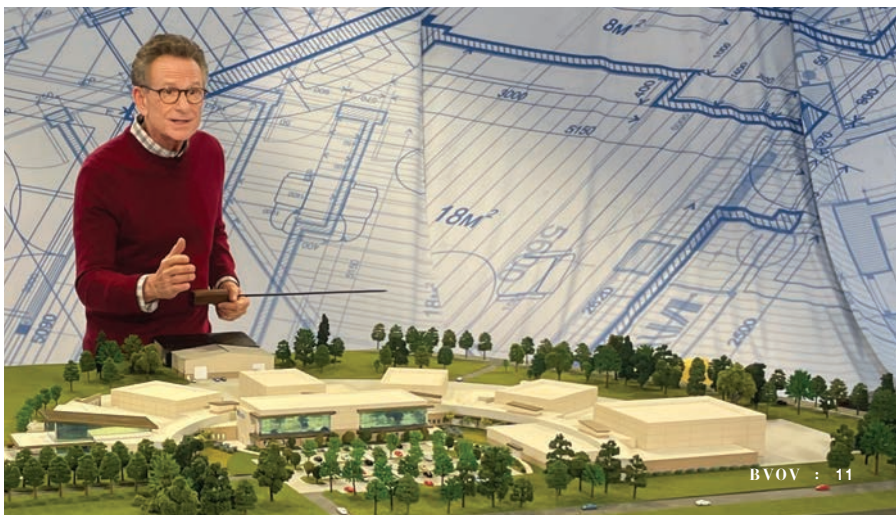
We pray for you every day.

Let me pray for you right now.

"Father, I thank You for the Partners and Friends of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. They are so faithful to support the work being done all over the world. Because of them, lives are being transformed through the preaching of the Word of Faith. I pray for their healing, their prosperity and their protection. Lead them by Your Holy Spirit every day. I stand in agreement for the fulfillment of their vision. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

I'm excited for the privilege of being able to share with you through the new *Inside the Vision* program on VICTORY Channel. And for the opportunity to visit with you here, in this publication, occasionally throughout the year. If you would like to become a "KCM Vision Insider," and receive periodic updates on what's going on here in the ministry, you can go online to insidethevision.org and sign up. You will receive your own *Personal Vision Journal*, as well as a book by Brother Copeland about the power of partnership. In addition, you will receive regular email updates with exclusive content and powerful teaching that will inspire your vision.

Be sure to watch *Inside the Vision* on VICTORY Channel, starting September 5, and allow it to inspire your own vision.📺



faith: The Journey of a Lifetime

WHITE CLOUDS SCUDDER ACROSS BLUE SKIES IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIF. RICK REYNA HAD JUST FINISHED PLAYING THE PART AS A DOUBLE FOR ACTOR AL PACINO. DRIVING HOME, HE ENJOYED THE OCEAN BREEZE AS THE PALM TREES WAVED IN THE WIND. LIFE WAS GOOD.

Some days Rick felt like pinching himself. How had a Hispanic kid who had trouble learning to read and write ever end up here? The truth was one word: *faith*.

Rick's grandparents had been immigrants from Mexico. His father had started a construction company pouring cement. His parents raised their five sons in church, teaching them to give their lives to Jesus,

to love and fear God, and to always return the tithe to Him. He had been 14 when the pastor at their church laid his hand on Rick's shoulder. "Ricky, someday God's going to use you," he said. Rick cherished that word. As a teenager, Rick discovered a radio station that broadcast the teachings of Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth E. Hagin and Fred Price. He didn't know who those men were, but the more he





READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

SEPT

		Old Testament	New Testament
Fri	1	Job 11:1-13:19	Phil. 1
Sat	2	Job 13:20-15:35	
Sun	3	Ps. 105; Prov. 22:1-16	
Mon	4	Job 16-18	Phil. 2
Tue	5	Job 19-20	Phil. 3
Wed	6	Job 21-22	Phil. 4
Thu	7	Job 23-26	Col. 1
Fri	8	Job 27:1-29:6	Col. 2
Sat	9	Job 29:7-31:15	
Sun	10	Ps. 106; Prov. 22:17-29	
Mon	11	Job 31:16-33:18	Col. 3
Tue	12	Job 33:19-35:18	Col. 4
Wed	13	Job 36:1-38:11	1 Thess. 1
Thu	14	Job 38:12-39:30	1 Thess. 2
Fri	15	Job 40-42	1 Thess. 3
Sat	16	Eccl. 1-3	
Sun	17	Ps. 107; Prov. 23:1-28	
Mon	18	Eccl. 4:1-7:12	1 Thess. 4
Tue	19	Eccl. 7:13-10:7	1 Thess. 5
Wed	20	Eccl. 10:8- Songs 2:7	2 Thess. 1
Thu	21	Songs 2:8-6:10	2 Thess. 2
Fri	22	Songs 6:11- Isa. 1:31	2 Thess. 3
Sat	23	Isa. 2:1-5:7	
Sun	24	Ps. 108-109; Prov. 23:29-24:22	
Mon	25	Isa. 5:8-7:25	1 Tim. 1
Tue	26	Isa. 8:1-10:19	1 Tim. 2
Wed	27	Isa. 10:20-13:22	1 Tim. 3
Thu	28	Isa. 14-17	1 Tim. 4
Fri	29	Isa. 18:1-22:14	1 Tim. 5
Sat	30	Isa. 22:15-25:12	

heard, the more he wanted to hear.

In 1983, Rick started dating Nettie Gonzales. The following year, Nettie and her parents invited Rick to attend the West Coast Believers' Convention with them in Anaheim, Calif. Sitting in the huge auditorium, he heard Kenneth Copeland speak. *I know that voice!* Rick thought. *I've been listening to him for years! What he's preaching, I want.* Then Rick heard the voice of the Lord: *Someday you will work with him.* Rick clung to that word, believing it. When Rick married Nettie, he attended her church—and began learning about faith. Each year, they attended the West Coast Believers' Convention. Rick and Nettie soon began reading Kenneth Copeland Ministries' monthly magazine, *Believer's Voice of Victory*, and listening to his recorded teachings on faith.

Rick soon realized there was a double call on his life: One was to preach the gospel; the other was to make movies in Hollywood. How those two callings would mesh, he had no idea. In 1990, God began opening doors for Rick to work in Hollywood. He started as an extra, working on movie sets. Then, he worked his way up to set coordinator. He became a double for Pacino in the movies *Heat* and *The Insider*. He worked in Hollywood for 10 years, learning to make movies.

Following the Leading

In 2002, the Lord spoke to Rick again: *I want you to go full time in ministry. I want you to travel, doing outdoor crusades and winning the lost. Tell them that I love them and that I gave My Son, Jesus, for them.* Then, like adding a postscript, the Lord said one more thing: *Someday I'll call you back, and you'll make movies for Me.*

"Obeying God, Nettie and I started Rally Ministry," Rick recalls. "We packed up our four children and a mobile stage, and traveled through America winning souls for Jesus. We did that for years. When I was young, the Lord said to me, *Words from God will declare your future.* We trusted that word and always let God's words direct our course.

"In 2006, we bought a property in Ontario, Calif., for \$170,000. It was half an acre and

came with two houses and an office. By that time, our oldest son, Ricky, was married. The Lord told us to sow rent-free living into our family as seed. So, we let Ricky and his wife, Melissa, move into one house. Nettie, the three other children and I lived in the other. We used the office for Rally Ministry. The property had room for us to park our mobile stage and the semi that carried our equipment."

That same year, Rick and Nettie were preaching a major crusade when the Lord told them to ask Jeremy Pearsons, grandson of Kenneth Copeland, to come help them preach. "I reached out to Jeremy, and he agreed to help," Rick recalls. "We preached the crusade and thousands of people came. The next year, in 2007, Jeremy called and told me about a youth ministry KCM was developing called 14forty. He said they would be holding meetings for the youth during the West Coast and Southwest Believers' Conventions and asked if I would be one of the speakers.

"In 2008, we did the 14forty meetings again, this time in Long Beach, Calif. After the meetings ended, Jeremy asked, 'Rick, does my grandfather know about you? Does he know what you're doing for the Kingdom?'

"I don't know," Rick answered. "I've never met Brother Copeland, but I sure enjoy his preaching."

"This afternoon, I'd like to introduce you to someone," Jeremy said.

Later that day, at the convention center in Long Beach, Rick met Kenneth Copeland.

Making Movies

The Lord had told Rick He wanted him to write and produce a movie based on the stories he had heard while holding crusades. "We wrote a script about a mob family that controlled crime in a city," Rick remembers. "In the script the main character, who is head of the family, finds Christ. Then he must deal with a son who wants to continue a life of crime. By 2009, we were casting the actors. In time, all the cast were chosen except the main character. We reached out to different Hollywood actors, but none were right for the part.

"In early January of 2009, Nettie and I were

worshipping in church when the Holy Spirit spoke to me. He said that the man who would play the main character in the movie was Kenneth Copeland! Two weeks later, we attended a ministers' conference at KCM headquarters. One morning, Jeremy invited Nettie and me to go to lunch with him. We were walking down a long hallway when a door opened and Kenneth Copeland stepped out.

"Grandfather, do you remember Rick and Nettie?" Jeremy said. "You met them in Long Beach."

"I sure do," Brother Copeland responded. "I also heard that you're making a movie."

"Yes, Brother Copeland, we are. And you're supposed to be in it," Rick said.

"I'll pray about it," Brother Copeland replied.

During lunch, someone tapped Rick on the shoulder. Turning, he looked to see it was Brother Copeland.

"Rick, how soon can you get me your script?"

"I'll have it to you by tomorrow."

Later, Jeremy received a phone call from Brother Copeland. Turning to Rick, Jeremy said, "My grandfather said to tell you that the Lord told him to be in your movie." During filming, Brother Copeland explained to Rick that the reason he agreed to be part of the movie was because of a word he received from the Lord 30 years earlier.

"The LORD told me that in the future there were going to be movie opportunities," Brother Copeland said. "He said He wanted me to be a part of them, but not to tell anyone about the word until it happened."

The movie, *The Rally*, was released in theaters in 2010. Later, it was on Netflix® for three years." It has won more than a million souls to Christ," says Rick. "The Lord gave us a sequel called *The Rally-LA*. It also starred Brother Copeland. Before it went to theaters, we released it on the red carpet at the 2016 Southwest Believers' Convention. It also won countless souls to Christ."

Wise Counsel

Rick recalls some wise advice Gloria Copeland shared with him in 2009.

"Every January, get on your knees with your calendar, get on your face and pray over it," she



“Hollywood needs Jesus, but Jesus also wants a place in Hollywood.”

told him. "Declare that God will open the right doors for you to minister."

Rick got on the floor with his calendar and did as Gloria suggested. He prayed, "Lord, where would You have us minister in 2009?" *Kenneth is going to start preaching in Latin nations. I want you to go with him.*

"Father, I'm not going to call and tell him that," Rick told the Lord.

I'll speak to him.

That month, when Rick opened the *BVOV* magazine, he saw that Brother Copeland was scheduled to preach in Venezuela later in the year, in September.

In August, during the Southwest Believers' Convention, Rick and Nettie were invited to a birthday party for one of Kenneth and Gloria's grandsons. As they were leaving, Brother Copeland turned and ask, "Rick, what is the Lord

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saying to you?”

“The Lord told me I was supposed to go to Venezuela with you to help you preach.” Rick answered.

Two weeks later, Rick flew with Brother Copeland to Venezuela to preach. For the next nine years, they traveled together preaching in Venezuela and Peru. During that time, the two families grew close.

VICTORY Channel™

“I believe it was in 2016 when I was sitting in a minister’s conference, at KCM, that Brother Copeland announced he was starting a 24/7 network preaching faith,” Rick recalled. “While I was sitting there, the word of the Lord came to me: *Rick, you’ll be a part of this, but let Me do the work.* I wrote down that word and worshipped God over it. Our TV program, *Rally TV*, had been a part of Trinity Broadcasting Network for many years. But with a word from God, we stood in faith for it to now be on KCM’s Christian network, which was then called BVOVN®.” They stood for six years.

One day in April of 2022, Rick and Nettie were in the office when Gene Bailey, the network’s director, called. “Are you sitting down?” he asked. “Brother Copeland just called and said he would like you guys to be new programmers on VICTORY Channel.” On Aug. 16, 2022, *Rally TV* joined the nearly 30 programmers on VICTORY Channel.

Reaping a Harvest

“Over the years, as our children grew up and married, they wanted to settle on our property,” Rick explains. “Our daughter, Destanie, married Branden Brim, the grandson of Billye Brim. They asked if they could put a tiny house on our property and live there. Of course, we let them. We were sowing into them. A few years later our daughter, Christian, married Preston Savelle, Jerry Savelle’s grandson. They also bought a tiny house and moved onto the property. Our second-oldest son, Erick, also lived there and worked for the ministry. A few years later, my parents sold their house, bought a tiny home

and moved there too.”

In 2021, the properties on either side of Rick and Nettie sold. A car dealership bought them and wanted theirs too. Rick explained that his property wasn’t for sale. “Your property is worth \$460,000,” Rick was told. “We’ll pay you a million dollars to move.” Rick and Nettie had decided to sell, that is, until the Lord woke Nettie and told her to stop the sale, which they did. Three months later, the Lord told Rick to call back and agree to sell for \$1.3 million if the buyer would pay closing costs. The realtor explained that nobody would pay triple the price of a property and then pay closing costs as well. But they did.

“I asked both God and Brother Copeland what I should do with the money,” Rick says. “They both told me the same thing: Buy Nettie a million-dollar house! She’d spent 16 years sowing into other people. In January 2022, God blessed us with a fully-restored historic home in Southern California for a million dollars. We had enough money left to sow \$80,000 into other ministries and buy new furniture. It has two houses, and Christian and Preston live in one of them.”

For the past six years, Rick and Nettie have been holding monthly church services in Hollywood, teaching faith in God to those who work in the entertainment capital of the world. In addition, God has given them a new word. *I want you to believe Me for a studio in Hollywood. Your own place where I can declare that Jesus is Lord over Hollywood.*

“We can do multiple things in that space,” Rick explains. “We can have church and outreaches there. We can hold ministers’ conferences, host red carpet events, and even film movies and short films. Hollywood needs Jesus,” says Rick, “but Jesus also wants a place in Hollywood. God is calling us to possess *Rally Studios*, where people can learn that having words from God will declare their future. For us, when we became Partners with Brother Copeland and Gloria, it’s like a door opened for us to walk into what they knew—into the revelation of the words and the light they walk in. I still listen to him [Brother Copeland] almost every day and every day I learn more about faith.”

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TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

'Growing in the Word'

I have been a regular listener now for about a month. I have grown in the Word and how to live this spiritual life. Thank you for your generous calls and prayers, and the books you have sent me. I sent a small donation because I've been fed by your ministry.

I just went to the mailbox, and found your wonderful Welcome Partner gift box. I was overwhelmed by the love I received in opening that beautiful blue box. Thank you!

K.W. | Kentucky

Exam Passed

I am studying for an IT career. I called your ministry and a prayer minister prayed with me for wisdom and good memory. I took my first exam today and passed. All the praise and honor be to our awesome God. May God continue to bless Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

F.B. | New York

God of Restoration

My grandchildren were returned from the Department of Children and Families. The word of restoration was confirmed to me, shortly after they were removed, from a daily reading from KCM. I trusted the word of confirmation and believed God is the God who restores what the devil has stolen.

My daughter got saved and is drug free and serving the Lord. Glory to God! He is absolutely good.

T.H. | Florida

Doubly Healed

After listening to Kenneth Copeland teach online about faith and decrees, I went to bed. Throughout the night, in my sleep, subconsciously I was praying healing over my knee. I had fallen and hurt it, and protected it for several weeks due to a large scab and bruising. When I got up the next morning, it

was completely healed and most of the soreness had left! I am now exercising to continue to build strength.

Also, last night I began to feel shortness of breath. I watched *FlashPoint*, and shortness of breath was called out—it's now gone!

W.M. | California

'Completely Restored' I had been coughing and wheezing for the past couple of years, and needed to use an inhaler. One of the ministers on *FlashPoint* called out that God was healing those who were having difficulties breathing. I believed and received it by faith and my lungs have been completely restored. Praise God!

T.B. | Connecticut

'He Who Gives Generously...'

After financial frustration for many years, I decided, mainly after watching *The Prosperous Life*, to be as big a giver as possible.

"He who gives sparingly will reap sparingly, he who gives generously will reap generously."

Five years later I'm living in a much nicer house that fits us to a tee. I'm driving a company car that is also my personal vehicle, so don't have a car payment. All the gas, repairs and upkeep cost only \$100 a month. We're out of debt except for the house, and I'm believing that will be paid off soon.

The most exciting thing is how God has paid off the unexpected bills that have come up. I remember Pastor George saying that one of the definitions of *prosperity* is 'help along the way.' Thanks so much for your teachings! K.H. | Tennessee

'That's Me!'

I have had a problem with floaters in my eyes for years. While watching Miracles on the Mountain, Billy Burke called out that floaters were being removed and eyes healed. I said out loud, "That's me...the floaters are gone!"

Since then, I have had no floaters, but the devil keeps trying to bring them back. Every time, I say, "No, no, Mr. Devil, I have been cured. You will not put them back into my sight."

C.G. | Illinois

Freed From the Curse

I was the woman with the issue of blood. I went to many doctors, who all told me there was no cure, so to go home and take it easy because my heart could stop at any time. I lived like that for many years.

Two years ago I started listening to Sister Gloria's Healing School all night in bed. Although I could not understand why symptoms persisted, I knew I was healed according to Scripture. Recently, despite much resistance, I made it to a Bill Winston conference. His guest speaker began prophesying over people. He called me to come forward and said, "God is healing your blood today."

I received it and all of a sudden was filled with energy—I felt like a whole person for the first time in over 49 years! I no longer carry that curse with me. I thank God for the teachings I receive from KCM. You taught me how to receive God's promises.

A.S. | California

Family Time

I prayed with a prayer minister for my granddaughter and my son to resolve a family conflict. They came together to talk and spent time with family. Thank you, KCM.

M.C. | Florida

SALVATION PRAYER

If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "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" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. Call or go to

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'Stronger Spiritually'

I used to worry all the time about everything, thinking if I didn't things would not go well.

(Imagine that lie the accuser put in my mind!) Well, Kenneth,

Gloria and their many guest teachers have really opened my eyes to realize that our Lord loves us and wants us well and full of His joy no matter what, so we can show others light in this time of darkness and confusion. I want to thank ALL of you who have been there for me every time I have called with a need for prayer. I have grown stronger spiritually and I owe it all to the glory of God through you. May God continue to bless KCM.

L.M. | Florida



Editor's Note: The following article by Kenneth Copeland appeared in the first issue of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* newsletter, published September 1973.

PERILOUS TIMES

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come."
2 Timothy 3:1

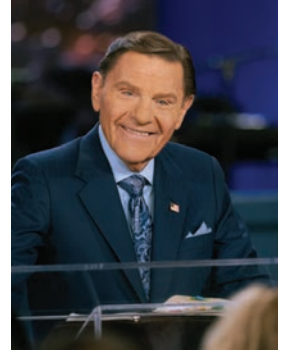
JUST ABOUT EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK THESE DAYS YOU SEE SIGNS OF SHORTAGE, DISASTER AND JUST GENERAL DESPAIR. THANK GOD THIS IS NOT THE ATTITUDE OF THE BELIEVER WHO IS ACTIVELY LIVING BY FAITH. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO REACT TO SURROUNDING CIRCUMSTANCES, BUT RATHER RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD AND DRAW ON OUR STRENGTH FROM HIM.

Did you ever notice when people get filled with fear of lack they begin to hoard? Then they get fussy. They will do things they would never do at any other time. They will wait in long lines for things they probably wouldn't otherwise even buy.

My family and I were having dinner at a small neighborhood restaurant a few days ago, and the owner and I were discussing some of these things. She said, "People buying meat at

the wholesale house, had become like an angry mob." She didn't want to walk out in their midst with her meat.

These people are not usually like this. They are our neighbors and friends in some cases. They have succumbed to an age-old spirit of hoarding. This is greed in a little different cloak—first fear, then hoarding, then greed, then something regrettable like cutting another man short, etc. This atmosphere



by Kenneth Copeland

“The first thing we should do is remember that we are not of this world and we are not governed by its lack.”

fosters such damnable things as black marketing and lawlessness of all kinds.

What can we do? How should we keep ourselves so that the evil one touches us not? (See 1 John 5:18.)

The first thing we should do is remember that we are not of this world and we are not governed by its lack. Our God meets our needs *according to His riches in glory*. We should keep watch over our attitude toward giving. This is a time to be a giver, instead of falling into a spirit of hoarding—not only for our own well-being, but also for those around us. Your testimony in a fearless, giving attitude may be just the tool the Holy Spirit needs to break the hoarding spirit in your area.

Another thing we must do is protect ourselves from fear. Fear is the first step toward this type of greed. Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to keep, or protect, our hearts with all diligence. A few weeks ago during one of our staff prayer meetings, the Holy Spirit spoke and gave us some instructions along these lines. The following is a copy of what He said. Read it very carefully.

Heed these words and hearken to them as words of instruction—words of the gift of the word of wisdom from the Almighty God. From now until the return of Jesus, it will be very dangerous to spend much time watching the television newscasts, reading the newspapers and other methods of reporting events on the earth. I repeat: It will be dangerous to do these things. The reason that it will be dangerous is because so many catastrophes, so many cataclysmic things will happen in the earth during this short period of time that no human mind can comprehend them all. You will not be able to mentally decipher, you will not be able to mentally judge, and you will not be able to mentally reason out in your own mind what is happening all over the earth. There will be too much of it in too short a length of time, and it's too massive and actually too humanly horrible for one person to figure it all. It will be known as the "Heyday of the Bad Newscaster." It will be the finest hour for broadcasting bad news the world has ever known.

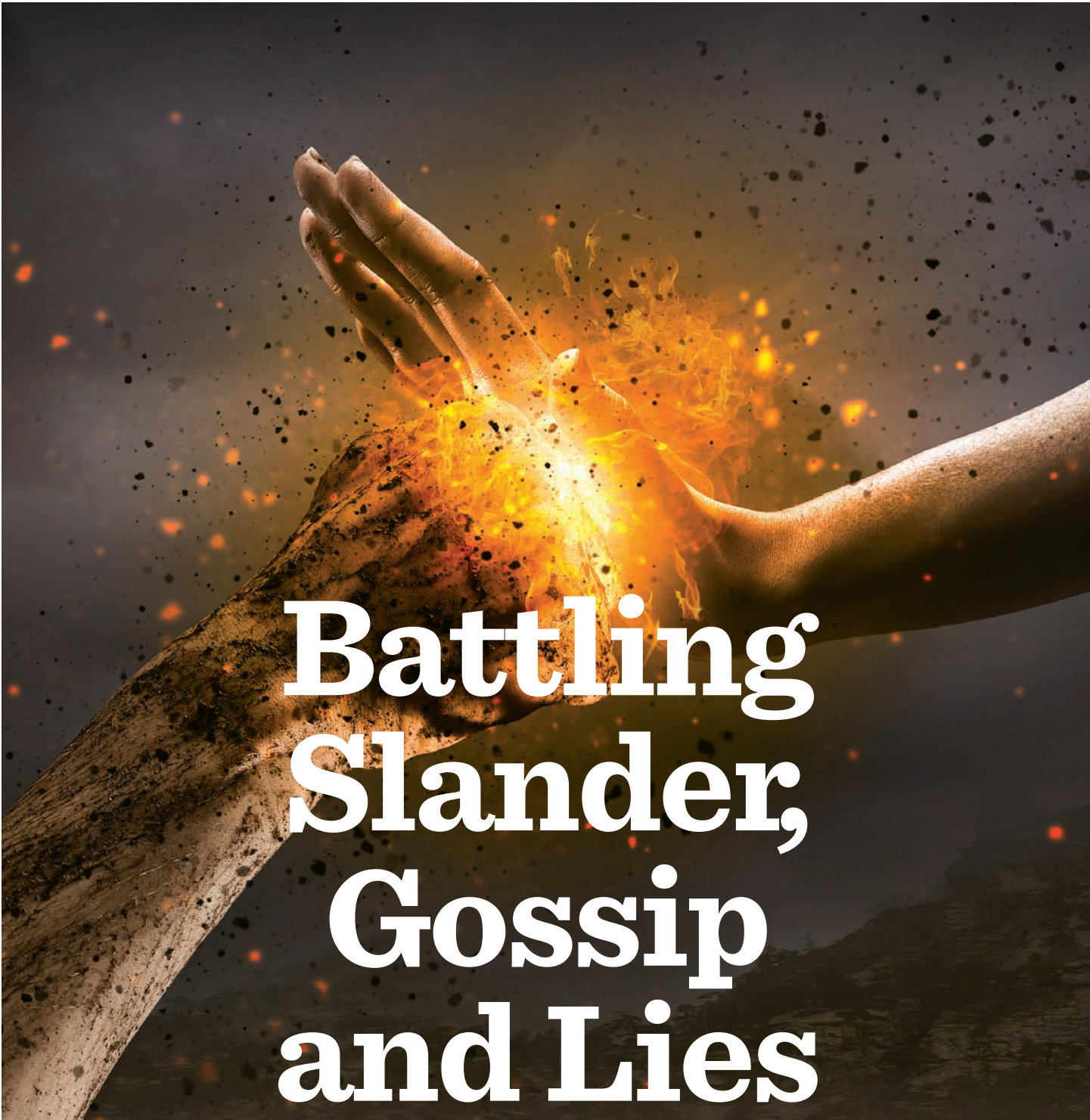
If you dwell on these things, then you will get over in the flesh and it will have its effect on you.

My WORD says that men's hearts will fail them for fear of things that are coming on the earth. Heed these words carefully. I AM THAT I AM, saith The LORD God of Hosts. When the world has no money, I still have a way. When the world has no health, I still have a way. For I am called THE WAY; and where there is no way, I am the way, saith The LORD.

You listen to Me. These are not empty, idle words. You listen to Me. You look to Me. Hearken unto My Voice and you'll stand in the midst of plenty when the world is despondent. People will look at you and say, "Where are they getting it? How are they receiving it?" And you will answer, "My God meets all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

I give you My WORD, saith The LORD, that when the situation on the earth is such that My people would no longer be able to overcome it, then I will overcome it by the Resurrection. I will remove you from the mouth of the lion. [This is the gift of the word of wisdom.] This is the wisdom of God. Heed it. Listen to it. Turn your back on the world's beggarly elements. Don't get your information from the broadcasting of bad news. Get your information from the good news of the gospel. Regardless of how bad the earth gets, I will shorten the time, saith The LORD, and it will not consume you. It will not! It will not harm a hair on your head, and you'll not perish, for I am returning for a glorious and a powerful and an upright Body. It will be that way, saith The LORD. It'll be that way. For it is almost finished now. This which I have given you is for the whole Body of Christ.

Read it over again. Remember He said to listen to Him carefully. Make a decision to respond in faith rather than to react in fear. 📖



Battling Slander, Gossip and Lies

Dr. Lester Sumrall, one of my spiritual dads, used to say, “Mark, you don’t think you’re going to get to preach the gospel for free, do you?”

There’s a devil out there, and there are people who listen to him. You’d better learn how to deal with that.”

Man, was he right!

When I first started in ministry, I thought all God’s people were pure, generous and excited to receive the Word. For many, that’s the case, but the sad reality is that for others it’s not. They’ll try to poison you with their

name-calling. They’ll pick on your spouse and go after your kids. As Dr. Sumrall warned me: “They’re going to try to stop you in your tracks!”

Believers, we are on a battlefield. No matter what kind of ministry the Lord has called us into—and we’re *all* called to some kind of ministry regardless of our profession—we need to prepare for battle.



by Mark T. Barclay

We need to know how to handle it when we're attacked with slander, gossip and lies. Dr. Sumrall added, "The battle will be intense... but we serve an awesome God who's equipped us for that battle." We will win!

Carnal vs. Spiritual Christians

In 1 Corinthians 3, Apostle Paul dealt with this very issue:

And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? (verses 1-3).

The *New International Version* puts that last verse this way: "...For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere humans?"

No matter where we are, we will encounter two kinds of Christians: spiritual and carnal. Spiritual Christians are believers who know God's voice. They walk with Him without quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit. Carnal Christians, or "mere humans," are believers who have become perverted. They're the kind of Christians who claim to be saved by grace but don't seem to give a thought as to how they live. They may claim to have met Jesus, but they don't act like it, talk like it, dress like it or give like it.

It's not our place to judge whether they're saved or not, but you can't help wonder how they can claim to know our Jesus while, at the same time, speaking words filled with poison. They're dangerous. They'll help you build a church, ministry, group, outreach—even a business—and then turn right around and tear the whole thing apart.

So how do we respond when confronted by carnal Christians? It's our responsibility to respond as spiritually mature believers.

Cast It Down

This is nothing new. Thirty years ago, the Body of Christ experienced the effects of

slander in a profound way. The Lord told us that slander would be Satan's weapon of choice against ministries during the 1990s. Then came the 2000s, the era of liars—people who would surface and attack ministries without any shred of truth. They just made stuff up!

Those of us who lived through those times learned the truth of 2 Corinthians 10:4-5:

"(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." We learned how to conduct spiritual warfare and defeat the enemy along with his weapons of gossip, slander and lies.

As a former Marine, I understand combat. I know how to use a physical weapon. However, spiritual warfare uses a different kind of weapon. We can't shoot, stab, choke

“IT'S PAINFUL WHEN SOMEONE WE CARE ABOUT TURNS AGAINST US, BUT WE CAN'T HOLD ONTO THAT PAIN. INSTEAD, WE HAVE TO FORGIVE AND RELEASE THEM.”

or grenade a demon. And if we try to respond unkindly toward God's people, even those who are acting like brats, we're going to get in trouble with Him.

Instead, we have to rely on our spiritual weapons to cast down vain imaginations. We have to recognize the *source* of the gossip, slander and lies. People who traffic in this kind of garbage are empowered by evil, familiar, seducing spirits that are hell-bent on penetrating our space and stealing our energy. They want nothing more than to render our faith ineffective and numb us. We must cast down the images those words put in our heads.

Brother Kenneth Copeland once said God told him not to ever read anything about himself—good or bad.

I've lived my life by that same instruction. It

means putting away social media and turning off disreputable media sources. It means pulling down strongholds and bringing every thought into captivity. It also means *forgiving* those who gossip, slander and lie about us.

Forgive and Let Go

I'm going to be honest; it's hard. Pastors have told me stories about how church members turned on them after they tried to love and help them. Those same church members then began spreading gossip, slander and lies. For many, it can be devastating.

It's painful when someone we care about turns against us, but we can't hold onto that pain. Instead, we have to forgive and release them. Until we do, we'll never be free. They'll be with us all the time. We'll eat lunch with them, go to bed with them, and wake up with them. They'll invade our thoughts and paralyze our witness. Worse, they'll keep us from fulfilling what God's called us to do.

Does forgiveness mean we forget what others have done? No. It's almost impossible to forget the deep cuts and scars that we've received. Does forgiveness mean we need to be close to those people again? No, that would be foolish. Instead, forgiveness means that we drop the charges against them. We release the wrongdoers to God and trust Him to deal with them. We don't talk about the experience. We don't bring it up to others or gather an army of supporters against them. We don't speak about them from the pulpit, write social media posts about them, or comment on their sites.

If we gave in to that kind of activity, we'd become slanderers ourselves. That's not us. We cast the offense down and wash our minds with the Word of God. We go on to share the gospel and do what God's called us to do with confidence.

Rejoice! You're Blessed

This is a personal subject for me. I've experienced it myself. A pastor in a neighboring city seemed to make a career out of gossiping, slandering and lying about me. However, here's the rub: The more he yacked and squealed and threw a tantrum, the more my church and ministry grew.

People would say, "We couldn't believe you're that bad. We had to come to see for ourselves." When they discovered I wasn't evil, and had

something life-giving to say, they stayed. So, I sent the pastor an offering. You can imagine how shocked he was! He called me and asked me about it. *Why in the world was I giving to his ministry?* he wanted to know. I was honest with him: "Man, you are growing my ministry. The least I can do is sow into your life!"

Of course, I was following the command that Jesus gave in Matthew 5:11-12: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad:* for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you" (emphasis added).

People gossiped, slandered and lied about those in the Bible, too. So, when people talk trash about us, we should feel promoted. We're in league with Elijah, Elisha, Peter, James, John and Mary! Hallelujah! We must remember that it's not our business what people think about us. It's only our business what we think about them. We can't steward their thoughts. If we try to combat every lie or piece of gossip that someone says about us, we're going to waste a lot of time and energy. Instead, we have to cast those lies down and get them out of our minds.

Eject the Poison

James 3:8 says, "The tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." I've seen gossip, slander and lies numb ministries and believers. Powerful men and women of God were slowed down or set aside, or fell into a cloud of depression because of what others said about them. They were *bit* and the venom derailed them from what God called them to do. Don't let that happen to you.

You may have experienced the venom of someone's tongue. Their gossip, slander and lies may have hurt you. That venom—that poison—may still be in you. Get it out. Cast down the vain imaginations and forgive. Get those people and their gossip, slander and lies out of your mind and out of your conversation. Don't talk about them or their lies. Wash your mind and your mouth with the Word of God and keep moving forward with what God has called you to do. He has so much more for you!

Yes, the battle is intense, but by God's grace and the power of His Word, you can deal with it! 🙏



Mark T. Barclay is the founding pastor of Living Word International Church, in Midland, Mich., and president and founder of Supernatural Ministries Training Institute.

For information or ministry materials go to marktbarclay.com.



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A photograph of a man and a woman sitting at a rustic wooden table in a cozy living room. The man, on the left, has a beard and is wearing a striped shirt. The woman, on the right, has curly hair and wears glasses and a light-colored sweater. They are both looking at each other and smiling. On the table are plates of food, white mugs, and a bowl of fruit. In the background, there is a white sofa, a colorful patterned rug, and a white bookshelf filled with books and decorative items.

A Plan and A PLACE FOR YOU



by Gloria Copeland

As a believer, you don't have to spend your days like a lot of people in this world, rushing around yet feeling like you're not accomplishing anything. You don't have to go through life feeling like you're here for a purpose but not quite able to get hold of what it is you're supposed to do.

You can seek God and find out what His plan is for your life.

One of the many things I love about our heavenly Father is that He has a plan for every one of His children!

Even if we've gotten our life into such a mess that we think nobody can straighten it out, He has a plan to get us back on track. He even has a plan for people who haven't yet made Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives. He has a plan for everybody. Problem is, not everyone goes with His plan. Some are not willing to listen to and obey Him. Nevertheless, He has a plan for them—and it's a good plan! In fact, His plan for

our lives is better than anything any of us could ever come up with on our own.

I can vouch for this from experience. I wasn't born again until after Ken and I married, but God had a plan for me all my life. And it wasn't anything like the one I had in mind. For instance, I used to say I would never marry a preacher—and I didn't. I married an airplane pilot who turned out to be a preacher. I didn't expect that to happen when I married him, and I certainly never expected to become a preacher myself. But...God had a plan.

He had a plan for me, and He has a plan for you too! *Well, I'd sure like to know what it is, you might think, because I certainly don't like the way things are in my life right now!* That's exactly how Ken and I felt right before we discovered and got on board with God's plan for us. Although we'd been born again for several years, nothing was working for us. God was trying to lead us. He had put it in Ken's heart to go to Oral Roberts University, but Ken didn't see how that was possible. *I have a wife and family to support, he thought. I can't move to Tulsa and become a student at ORU. I don't have the money!*

He wasn't intentionally being rebellious. We just didn't know anything about living by faith back then. We had no revelation from the Word of God to go on. So rather than trusting God and going where He was directing us to go, we just kept going the wrong way. As a result, we experienced one failure after another. Already in debt, the financial hole we were in just kept getting deeper. Then, we had a bad car wreck.

“**You're as much His child as Jesus Himself is.... God actually picked you out for Himself as His own in Christ before the foundation of the world.**”

Our son, John, who was just a baby at the time, broke his rib and I was hurt as well. God preserved us, but we knew what had happened. We'd put ourselves in harm's way by getting out of God's will.

That was it for us. We couldn't stand it anymore. We decided to go with God's plan, no matter what it took. That's often what it's like when you're in the position we were in back then. You don't know enough of God's Word to trust Him and His plan. So, you go your own way until you can't stand it anymore. Then you say, “OK, I surrender!” and you go after God. You get serious about seeking Him and His ways. You put His Word first place, believe and act on it,

and begin to get with His plan for your life.

Once you do, you start finding out how good He is and how good His plan is. As His plan keeps unfolding, you realize it never runs out. He always has something new and better for you. Looking back now, I think about how far God has brought Ken and me and what He has done with us, and I'm amazed. It's beyond anything we could have dreamed of! Yet the Lord had it planned all along. I know He did, because shortly after we moved to Tulsa, Ken was praying one day down by the Arkansas River, and God talked to him about winning nations.

Nations?

We were so broke we could hardly afford to get across town. Yet even then, God had an international ministry planned for us.

God Has No Ordinary Children

“But Gloria,” somebody might say, “I'm not called to have an international ministry like you and Brother Copeland are. I'm just an ordinary believer.” You aren't ordinary! God has no ordinary children. If you've made Jesus the Lord of your life, you are born of God. You've been re-created in His image by His Spirit—and that makes you extraordinary. It also means you are very important to Him, and so is whatever He's called you to do.

If you're a parent with several children, you know how that is. You don't have one child who's important and another who's not. All of your children are important and precious. Each one of them, while they have different gifts and callings, is part of you. They're your own flesh and blood.

For God, the same is true about you. You're part of Him. You're as much His child as Jesus Himself is. According to Ephesians 1:4, God actually picked you out for Himself as His own in Christ before the foundation of the world (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). How could He *not* have extraordinary plans for you? That wouldn't even make sense! What's more, it would contradict the Bible. Time and again it



1
Even if you don't yet know what it is, believe God has a good plan for you.
(Jer. 29:11)

2
Trust God's ability to work out His plan for you regardless of your circumstances.
(Rom. 8:28, *AMPC*)

3
God picked you out for Himself in Christ and prepared a calling for you.
(Eph. 2:10, *AMPC*)

4
Claim for yourself the promises God made to Abraham's seed about their Promised Land.
(Gal. 3:29)

5
Put God and His Word first place in your life and be attentive to the leadings of His Spirit.
(1 Cor. 2:9-10)

says things like this:

“I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11, *New International Version*).

“We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose” (Romans 8:28, *AMPC*).

“For we are God’s [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]” (Ephesians 2:10, *AMPC*).

“As the Scripture says, What eye has not seen and ear has not heard and has not entered into the heart of man, [all that] God has prepared (made and keeps ready) for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9, *AMPC*).

Notice those verses not only confirm that God has a plan for you, but they also say it’s good! God knows the difference between good and bad. Contrary to what’s sometimes been said, He doesn’t make you sick or keep you poor, or send you some other bad thing as a “blessing in disguise.”

No, if things are going badly in your life, God is not your problem. He’s your answer! He’s a good God who wants to do you good—and He understands very well what good is. He knows that godly prosperity is good. Healing is good. Peace in your family and having your loved ones saved is good. And He’s included all those good things and more in His plan for your life. Do you know what else He has for you? He has a place for you. A good place, where you can live and carry out His plan!

God has always provided a place for His people. Think about Adam and Eve, for instance. He prepared and provided the Garden of Eden for them. Talk about a good place to carry out God’s plan! That Garden was perfect. The temperature was perfect. It had everything good Adam and Eve could ever

need or desire. Sadly, though, Adam and Eve didn’t stay with God’s plan. They didn’t believe and obey His Word. So, they wound up having to leave that wonderful place.

Taking Your Promised Land

Even after Adam and Eve messed things up, however, God still kept providing good places for His people. We see it all the way through the Bible. When He made His covenant with Abram, a place was one of the first things He promised him.

“Get thee out of thy country,” God said to Abram, “and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee” (Genesis 12:1). God even expanded that promise to include Abraham’s heirs: “Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates” (Genesis 15:18).

Of course, Abraham’s descendants didn’t always take God up on that promise. When God brought them out of Egypt, for example, He tried to get them to go into their Promised Land, but they refused. They were afraid the giants living there would kill them.



***“God is not
your problem....
He’s a good
God who
wants to do
you good.”***

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Greg Stephens

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**Kenneth Copeland
and Professor
Greg Stephens**

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Kenneth Copeland

Aug. 7-11
The Covenant vs.
the Contradiction
**Kenneth Copeland
and Professor
Greg Stephens**

Sun., Aug. 13
Listen to What God's
WORD Says to You
Kenneth Copeland

Aug. 14-18
Practicing His Presence
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., Aug. 20
Words of Faith Are
Found In God's WORD
Kenneth Copeland

Aug. 21-25
Covenant Access
to Healing
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God assured the Israelites He would give them victory over those giants, but they didn't believe Him. So, they spent 40 years wandering around in the wilderness.

The generation of Israelites who came after them, however, decided to believe God and go with His plan. When they did, they discovered the place God had prepared for them was every bit as good as He had promised. Before they went into it, He had told them it was a "land that floweth with milk and honey." He had said that when they got there He would give them "great and goodly cities, which thou buildedst not, and houses full of all good things, which thou filledst not, and wells digged, which thou diggedst not, vineyards and olive trees, which thou plantedst not" (Deuteronomy 6:3, 10-11).

God had also told them this:

Thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him. For the LORD thy God bringeth thee into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and depths that spring out of valleys and hills; a land of wheat, and barley, and vines, and fig trees, and pomegranates; a land of oil olive, and honey; a land wherein thou shalt eat bread without scarceness, thou shalt not lack any thing in it; a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills thou mayest dig brass. When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day (Deuteronomy 8:6-11).

God always wanted His people to prosper and live in a good place! That's the reason He told them over and over to keep His commandments and heed His Word. His Word is His wisdom. And when you operate according to the wisdom of God, you can't help but prosper. The Lord didn't want His people to forget that! He loved them and desired to see them BLESSED...and for a while they were. But before too long, the Israelites started doing things their own way instead of walking in God's ways. As a result, like Adam and Eve, they had to leave the good place God had given them. They were carried

away by their enemies into Babylonian captivity.

Beforehand, however, the prophet Jeremiah said to them, "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, unto all that are carried away captives, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem unto Babylon; Build ye houses, and dwell in them; and plant gardens, and eat the fruit of them; take ye wives, and beget sons and daughters...that ye may be increased there, and not diminished" (Jeremiah 29:4-6).

See how good God is? He told His people He had places for them and plans for them to increase and prosper even while they were living in a foreign land! "Yes, but God made those promises to the Jews," you might say, "and I'm not Jewish." You may not be of Jewish descent in the natural, but Galatians 3:29 says, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." That means all the promises God made in the Bible to Abraham's seed belong to you—including those about the Promised Land. Your promised land probably isn't in Israel, but God has one for you somewhere. You just need to believe it, seek God in prayer and in the Word, and get with His plan.

The plan and the place God has for you are connected! After Ken and I got with God's plan and started preaching His Word, we found out the place God had for us was on Eagle Mountain Lake. God spoke to Ken about it back in the 1970s one night when he was flying over the property. Priced at \$5 million, we knew there was no way in the natural for us to ever buy it. Yet God had said it was ours. So, we received it by faith and went on doing what He had told us to do.

As we waited on God's timing, He continually provided good places for us to live. Then, after 11 years, the Eagle Mountain property came into our hands. God had kept it for us! He even made a way for us to buy it one piece at a time, so we were able to purchase the whole property without going into any debt. God has a plan for you that's just as wonderful! So, if you haven't discovered it yet, keep going after Him. He'll not only help you find the plan, He'll help you find your place as well. And I can guarantee you from the Bible, and from personal experience, they will both be GOOD!🙏

Pointing the Way

Commander
Kellie's Corner

Have you thought much about signs or billboards? The next time you're in the car, notice why they are there. How many traffic signs do you see?

Superkids, we began this year with a desire to be different, to allow the Lord to draw us closer to Him. We've learned that being different means being like Him in a world that needs Him. Last month we committed to allow Him to teach, train and lead us. So here we are, leaning into His greatness with a heart to love and worship Him. He desires that we be a sign and a wonder, pointing people to His love for them. It's important to remember that we can't become a sign and a wonder through our own abilities. Simply yielding to Jesus allows Him to shine through us.

Have you thought much about signs or billboards? The next time you're in the car, notice why they are there. How many traffic signs do you see? What help do signs give a driver? How about billboards? Are they lit up? What kinds of things are they advertising? Do restaurant billboards make you hungry? If you answered yes, then the billboard or signpost did its job! These examples can teach us a lot!

Signposts have a number of characteristics. A signpost:

Can have something posted on it, usually a picture of something people want.

Can often cause the viewer to want what is being offered.

Can show where to find a product or business.

Can lead the viewer to decide to have what is being offered.

If we are signposts for Jesus, HE can be the light that shines out of us—posting HIMSELF on our lives. Our lives will cause others to want Him in their lives too! We can tell people how to find Him and lead them to accept Him into their hearts.



Traffic signs can help us see our purpose too. They can:



Give directions that help drivers stay safe;



Give warnings of potential dangers ahead;



Help drivers find their way to a destination;



Be held in place by cement so they are not easily moved or damaged.

Can you think of ways this applies to us as a sign to others? How are you a sign or signpost leading your friends and family? Are you making a difference to others in the way they see Jesus?

As we continue to follow Jesus, our trust in Him will grow. The more I walk with the Lord, the more I realize my life is not about how much I can do for Jesus but what I will allow Him to do through me.

When I pray for someone to be healed, I must remember that I am not showing my power, but His. I am not a sign for me but for Him. This brings great confidence to display His love and healing! Just like a signpost displaying your favorite restaurant can't give you a hamburger, it can sure show you where to get one, or make you

hungry for one!

Superkid, do you want to live your life on purpose as a sign? Allow Jesus to take charge of your every moment. When good things are happening, give gratitude and credit to Jesus. Let others know He is the One who blesses your life and takes care of you. Have you had a hard time, or an opportunity to be disappointed? Stay in your trusting place with your eyes locked onto Jesus. Let Him help you. When you patiently trust Him, He will bring you to such a place of victory that other people can't help but see His hand on your life.

Jesus wants others to see Him as He blesses you. This has always been His way of reaching people who don't belong to Him.

Will you let Him plaster and paste Himself all over you like a signpost? If your life were a sign, what would it say? Jesus loves you? He is good to you? He keeps His promises? He heals you?

If you need to know His love, His goodness or His healing, look at it through the viewpoint of a sign. Say, "Jesus, I am available as a sign to others that You love us, that You are our Healer, Savior and Shepherd. I give You my life to show us all how much You love us."

Now, believe it! Receive His Word and His love for yourself. As you believe what He says about you is true, you will become that sign; cemented, set and fixed in His words of love, life and healing. The more you begin to know Jesus like this, you can't help but tell people how good He is!

Jesus is pointing us in the right direction, Superkid! We are on our way to knowing Him, the Father and the Holy Spirit like never before! Let's take a bunch of people with us!

Commander Kellie

Kellie Copeland is responsible for Covenant Partner Relations at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.

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