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VICTORY™

AUG 2024

KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

The Power To Overcome

Christina Gordon was hurt and confused when the strong friendships she enjoyed with fellow students suddenly ended. Now a victim of rejection, and even racial slurs, she felt helpless and hopeless. That changed when Pastor George Pearsons singled her out in a 14forty session at the Southwest Believers' Convention, and said: ***"We need you, Christina!"***

P.16

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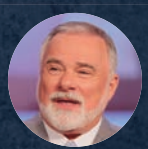
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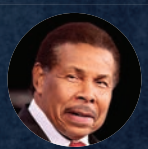
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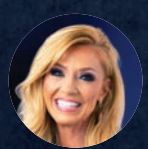
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Editor's Letter

As Soon As Possible!

"We need it ASAP!"

How many times have we heard those words in connection with work, or some other "hurried" situation? For many of us, at some point our world has been suddenly interrupted, a number of times, by the busyness of life and begs the command: "We need this ASAP— As Soon As Possible."

Suddenly, some new task has been added to our already overloaded plate. But this time the job is "hot"! It's needed right away, or ASAP, and the pressure is on us to deliver.

First Thessalonians 5:17 tells us to "pray without ceasing," or as *The Passion Translation* puts it, "Make your life a prayer."

So, here's a thought:

Instead of allowing this way-too-familiar acronym to cause you stress, and rush to get the task done, consider recasting it to mean something different, then allow it to lead you into God's presence, where you can "find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

Say to yourself: "There is work to be done, a deadline to meet, and I have no spare time. But as I work to get the job done, I will—Always Say A Prayer."

Then, take it a step further and apply it to every situation in your life.

In the midst of family crisis, when quality time is rare, do your best and let God do the rest, and Always Say A Prayer.

It may seem like your troubles are more than you can bear. Slow down, take a deep breath, and Always Say A Prayer.

God knows how stressful life is, and He wants to ease your cares. He'll respond to all your needs, but He's looking for you to seek His help. Always Say A Prayer!

Who says everything needs to be done "as soon as possible"? Life itself is a challenge, but God has given it to us to enjoy. The challenges that come with day-to-day life are much easier to bear when we approach each of them by saying a prayer. Take time to pray about each situation, then let God show you the best way to handle them.

Speaking of prayer, I encourage you to read the article by Terri Copeland Pearsons in this month's issue (Page 10), titled "Keep Coming to Jesus." It's an excerpt from her new book, *An Encounter With Him,* which shares how you can gain closer, more personal fellowship with God through prayer.

Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor

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"I don't remember a time in my life when KCM hasn't been a part of it. To me, partnership means having a group of people who are all committed to serving God."

—Christina Gordon

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 51 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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ALMIGHTY GOD:
UNITED STATES

by Kenneth Copeland

GOD & YOU Elections 2024

"When you praise God, your enemies have to turn back. They will fall and perish at your presence. You can see why praise is so important in the life of a believer.

It is a vital weapon in your warfare against satan and his forces."

Enter Into His Courts With Praise!

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them (Mark 11:23-24).

This very familiar scripture has to do with praying in faith, or praying to get results. The most important thing for you to remember about praying accurately is to go to The WORD of God, find out what The WORD says about the problem, and then pray according to that WORD.

First John 5:14-15 says when we ask anything according to His will, we know He hears us and we know we have the petitions we desired of Him. When you pray according to God's WORD, which is His will,

Schedule is subject to change without notice.

then you know that your prayer is answered. Jesus said, "Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you" (John 16:23). When you use the Name of Jesus in prayer, you get the ear of God. Peter wrote that the eyes of God are over the righteous and His ears are open to their prayers. You don't have to pray until you get God's attention. He is listening for your prayer. You have His attention all the time.

When you pray according to Mark 11: 23-24, you believe you receive when you pray. This opens the door for thanksgiving and praise. Philippians 4:6 says, "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God." Thanksgiving and praise is an integral part of the prayer. When you believe you receive, then you begin to praise God for the answer. You thank God that it is done for you.

Thanksgiving and praise involves more than just speaking lovely words to God. There is power in the praise of God. Praise was ordained by God for a definite reason. It serves a purpose.

Psalms 8 and 9 point out some things about praise that every believer should know. Psalm 8:1-2 says, "O LORD, our LORD, how excellent is thy name in all the earth! who hast set thy glory above the heavens. Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger." Jesus quoted the Psalm in Matthew 21:16: "Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise." He equates praise with strength.

From these scriptures, we see that God brought praise into existence. He ordained it. Why? "Because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger." Praise stops satan right in his tracks. It is a weapon we are to use in calling a halt to satan's maneuvers. Psalm 9 says: "I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right" (verses 1-4).

When your enemies are turned back... not *if.* There is no question about it. Remember: We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against satan's forces. When you praise God, your enemies have to turn back. They will fall and perish at your presence. You can see why praise is so important in the life of a believer. It is a vital weapon in your warfare against satan and his forces.

Usher In His Presence

One thing you must realize is that praise is not governed by emotions. God is worthy of your praise whether you feel like praising Him or not. Hebrews 13:15 says, "...Let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." Under the Old Covenant, when the people had problems, they went to the priest and he would offer a sacrifice to God. That would bring God on the scene.

Today, under the New Covenant, we are to do the same. We are priests unto God (Revelation 5:10). As we offer up the sacrifices of praise before our Most High Priest, Jesus, our communication with God is great. Psalm 22:3 says God inhabits the praises of His people. Praise brings God on the scene personally. At times of high praise, the Shekinah glory of God will fill the whole place with His sweet presence.

When Solomon finished building the house of The LORD, the trumpeters and singers lifted their voices as one, and with trumpets, cymbals and instruments of music, they praised The LORD saying, "For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever." The glory of God filled the house so that the priests could not even minister because of the cloud (2 Chronicles 5: 13-14). God Himself inhabited the praises of His people.

Jehoshaphat appointed singers unto The LORD to go before the army and say,

'I Am at Work Healing the Land'

I always reveal My plans to the leaders of all nations. Always. I always reveal My plan. It's those who refuse to follow it that create the problems and the trouble. Ah, but the change has come and the momentum has swung in the other direction, and it's going for you instead of against you. And if you'll begin to praise Me, you'll begin to see miracle after miracle after miracle from one end of this nation to the other—from coast to coast and from border to border. I am at work healing the land,* saith The LORD, *so give Me praise and sit back and relax and watch the show!

Prophetic word delivered through Kenneth Copeland, October 11, in Columbia, S.C., at the 2013 Word Explosion.

"Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth for ever."

When the Israelites began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushments against their enemies, and their enemies destroyed themselves (2 Chronicles 20:21-23).

The weapon of praise! Singers going before an army? It happened just that way. Israel didn't have to unsheathe a weapon of war—only to sing, "Praise the LORD; for his mercy endureth forever."

David was a man after God's own heart. He knew how to praise his God. Until you have The WORD dwelling in you richly so that you can speak psalms and praises out of your own spirit, use the praises of David to magnify God. Speak them or sing them out loud to the Father.

In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me. Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.... When I cry unto thee, then shall mine enemies turn back: this I know; for God is for me. In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me (Psalm 56: 4-6, 9-11).

The WORD says God inhabits the praises of

His people (Psalm 22:3). The enemy is turned back, falls and perishes at the presence of our God.

Praise not only honors God and empowers our faith, but also it is a powerful weapon in the realm of the spirit. Remember: It will cause satan and his forces to turn back, fall and perish at your presence.

Keep the Door Open

Abraham "grew strong and was empowered by faith *as he gave praise and glory to God"* (Romans 4:20, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).* As you praise God and speak of His marvelous works, your faith rises on the inside of you to receive the BLESSINGS of God.

Honor God with the words of your mouth. Allow your words to agree with God's words where He is concerned. Look in His WORD for *good things* to proclaim about Him. Publish The LORD's mercy and compassion to those around you. Tell others of the great things He has done in your life.

Notice that David said, "I *will* praise...I *will* show forth all thy marvellous works. I *will* be glad and rejoice...I *will* sing praise" (Psalm 9: 1-2). It is a matter of your will. You do not just praise God because you feel like it. You praise God because you *will* to praise Him. Say with David, "I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart." Then watch The WORD go to work in your behalf!

One incident during Jesus' earthly ministry clearly shows the definite importance that praise can have. Luke 17:12-19 describes the cleansing of 10 lepers. All 10 of them were cleansed, but only one turned back to Jesus and glorified God. To that one man, Jesus said, "Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole." The others were *cleansed.* He was *made whole.*

As I was meditating on these scriptures, The LORD showed me a vision. I saw the man come running up to Jesus. He was cleansed—all the disease was gone from his body—but the bottom of his ear was missing. The disease had eaten it away. As he shouted and praised God, the ear was restored. He was *made whole.* Praise made the difference.

If you do not know very much about praising God, I encourage you to spend time meditating in The WORD concerning praise. It will revolutionize your life! I guarantee it! David said, "I will show forth all [Your] marvellous works." If you don't know how to praise God, just find some of the things God has already done throughout the Bible and begin to praise Him for doing them. When I first began in these things, I would open my Bible and praise God by reading the Psalms out loud. From there I let the Holy Spirit lead me into praising God for things He had done in my life, and to say things that would BLESS God.

One important thing I have learned is to praise God in the spirit. The real strength comes when we praise The LORD in the spirit, in other tongues. First Corinthians 14:4 says we are edified or charged up when we speak in tongues. Verse 17 says giving thanks in tongues is giving thanks well. Praising God in this way enables us to praise Him beyond our own intellects. We allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into unlimited praise and thanksgiving. This is surely perfected praise (Matthew 21:16).

Let's say you are faced with a problem. You know what The WORD says about it, so you go directly to prayer. You put your faith into action against the mountain—whatever it may be. You pray and believe God for the answer. By believing God in that situation, and acting on The WORD, you are applying faith power to the mountain. It begins to move. Then satan gets involved. The only way he can stop you is by injecting unbelief so that you will stop applying pressure to the mountain. He can't stop the mountain from being moved, but he can try to stop you from applying the pressure of your faith to it. The mountain will never move until you apply the faith force necessary to move it. This is where praise comes in.

While you are standing in faith—while you are applying The WORD of God to the situation—it is important to keep the praise of God on your lips. Continue to praise God for the answer. Praise Him that the mountain is moved. Don't be moved by the circumstances. Just keep your eyes on God's WORD. The WORD of God and prayer open the doors for God's power to work. Praise keeps them open. Praise will bring manifestations of the Holy Spirit and His great power.

Activate the power of God in every area of your life by speaking The WORD in faith and praising God that His marvelous works have been performed in your behalf.

by Terri Copeland Pearsons

Keep Coming to Jesus

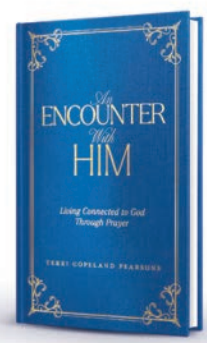
"Asking for material things is a scriptural thing to do, but that's not primarily what prayer is about. Prayer is about people."

Those of us who consider ourselves "faith people" might assume that the Word could never make us hard. After all, we love the Word! We live by faith in the Word! We can't get enough of it. Even so, we need to remember what Jesus told the Pharisees: "You search and investigate and pore over the Scriptures diligently, but you don't come to Me so that you might have life." (See John 5:39-40, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition.)*

Shocking as it may sound, as believers we've sometimes made that mistake. Determined to master the prayer of faith, for instance, we've read every scripture about it we can find. We've studied those scriptures. We've heard sermons galore on them. Many of us can even quote by memory the instructions Jesus laid down for us in Mark 11:22-24:

Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

It's good that we know those verses. They're important. They reveal a spiritual law; but please note that, unlike religious laws, spiritual law isn't legalistic. It's not just something we're supposed to do because the Lord said, "OK, these are going to be the



This article is an excerpt from the new book ***An Encounter With Him*** **by Terri Copeland Pearsons.**

See ad at the end of this article.

> “Moses wanted to know Him as a living Being, to experience as fully as possible the reality of His presence and have a vital, intimate, personal relationship with the God who created and upholds the universe.”

rules.” In other words, we may do what Jesus said just because He said it. But He didn’t say it just because He wanted to. No, spiritual laws reveal how the spirit realm operates.

They’re like the laws of physics in the natural. We call them laws because they work, all the time, every time. Take the law of gravity, for example. It’s considered a law of physics because it’s an unchanging truth: What goes up must come down. It took mankind about 1500 years to figure that out, but now we know that’s a law that cannot be changed.

It can be overridden with another law of physics—the law of lift. That’s how airplanes fly. But gravity doesn’t cease to work when we put the law of lift into operation. If it did, the law of lift wouldn’t work. (We know that now because in outer space where there is no gravity, there is no law of lift either, just the law of “float.”)

In Mark 11:22-24, Jesus reveals to us how the spiritual law of faith works. He explains it in a way that allows us to analyze it and figure out, step by step, how to put it into motion: First, we must have the faith of God in our heart about something. Second, we release that faith by speaking it. Third, we refuse to doubt in our hearts. Fourth, we believe what we say will come to pass.

Studying and learning each step Jesus outlined there can and should be highly productive. And that’s usually how we begin the process of putting faith to work in our prayer lives. Like good pilots go to school to learn the secrets of the law of lift, we read our Bible and go to church to learn the secrets of the law of faith. We take notes and write things down. Then, like good students, we go out and begin to practice what we’ve learned.

We work on it. We do all the things the Scriptures and our pastor tell us we need to do, and that’s good. Sometimes we see it work and sometimes it seems like it doesn’t. But we persist because we’re confident that if we stick with the Word, we’ll keep growing in our understanding and make progress.

Eventually though, we may find we’re stuck. We may get to a place where we think, *I know the law of faith works. I know what God’s Word says about my situation, I believe it in my heart and I’m saying it, but it’s not coming to pass. What’s missing? Why does it seem like I’m operating according to spiritual law and following the rules and yet not getting the right results?*

The answer to those questions can be found in John 14:11-13. There, Jesus says:

Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me.... I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father. And I will do [I Myself will grant] whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified and extolled in (through) the Son *(Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

In this passage, Jesus isn’t just talking about *things.* He’s not just talking about faith. He’s not only talking about believing or speaking, or about taking certain actions. No, there are *relationships* involved in this.

Putting Himself personally in the mix, Jesus tells you to believe *in Him.* Then, He brings in the Father. He speaks of their relationship and says, “I’m going to Him.” Then He says directly to you that He will do whatever you ask, that the Father may be glorified and extolled through the Son.

There are relational connections being made here! They are very personal, and their purpose is being revealed. What is that

purpose? It's not just to get an end result. It's not just to have what you're believing and praying for come to pass. The purpose, Jesus said, is so the Father can be glorified.

Notice God isn't portrayed as an impersonal force here. He's not just the behind-the-scenes Power that pulls the strings, pushes the buttons and makes sure the law of faith works. He is not just up there with lightning bolts coming out of His fingertips, saying, "Oh, look! They got the faith formula right. *Zap!*"

No, Jesus is talking in these verses about a Father! Rather than calling Him "God," or "The Almighty One on the Throne"—although Jesus is very aware that God is all those things—in this conversation, Jesus calls Him, "the Father." You don't often see God described like that in the Old Testament. People back then didn't really think of Him as a Father. They were more familiar with the legal side of Him.

But Jesus took the legal side of spiritual law and infused it with the vital, making it living and real. He not only called God His Father; He talked about Him with a passion and emotion that was born out of the loving relationship He had with Him.

When I imagine the love that must have welled up in Jesus when He spoke about His heavenly Father, I'm reminded of how I have felt at times thinking about my earthly father, my dad. On occasions I've been so caught up with love for him, I've just had to call and tell him how much he means to me. Yet as close as I am to my dad, my relationship with him pales in comparison to the love relationship Jesus had, and still has, with His Father. At times, He, too, must have become so caught up with love for His Father that He just had to stop and talk to Him. That must have been one of the reasons He so often would go off by Himself and pray.

Prayer Is About People

Asking for material things is a scriptural thing to do, but that's not primarily what prayer is about. Prayer is about people. Jesus is a Person—an awesome Person. And our heavenly Father is a very real divine Personality. Their hearts beat as one with a longing for people to be close to them.

That's always been God's heart. Even in the Old Testament, when He brought the Israelites out of Egypt, His great desire was for them to draw near to Him. When they came to Mount Sinai, He told Moses His plan was to speak to them directly so they could *personally* hear His voice. "I'm going to come down on the mountain to meet with them," He said. "I want them to come as close to Me as they can, so you tell them to sanctify themselves. Tell them to do everything they can to prepare themselves to be in My presence." (See Exodus 19.)

Because the blood of Jesus hadn't yet been shed, true spiritual sanctification wasn't yet available. The way had not yet been made for people to be sin free and clean on the inside. So, since they couldn't wash on the inside, God instructed Moses to have them wash on the outside.

He didn't mean for those instructions to be turned into religious laws without purpose to affect the heart. People have done that, but it wasn't God's intent. He was saying, "Moses, you tell My people I'm going to come down and that I want to see them. You tell them I'll talk to them. Tell them to wash their clothes, purge their thinking, and see to it that they don't sin. Tell them to do everything they possibly can to get themselves right, so they can come as close to Me as I dare allow. Don't let them come too close, though. Put ropes around the base of the mountain to keep them at a safe distance because I don't want to hurt them. My glory destroys sin."

Moses relayed God's instruction to the people, and for three days they got ready. Then, at the appointed time, God came down on the mountain in a thick, lightning-filled cloud. For the sake of the people, the Bible says, God clothed Himself in darkness. Even though the power of His presence shook the whole mountain, He tried to wrap up,

Terri Copeland Pearsons is Chief Visionary Officer of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and president of Kenneth Copeland Bible College. The eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, along with her husband, George Pearsons, she is also senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM in Fort Worth.

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to conceal and cloak Himself, so they could come as close to Him as possible.

What did the people do? They did *not* come close.

Instead, they said to Moses, "You go talk to God for us and pass along to us what He says." So, that's what Moses did. He wasn't at all reluctant to meet with God on Mount Sinai. He wanted to do it. Rather than being put off by the power of God's presence, Moses pressed into it. Joshua followed him part of the way up the mountain and then stopped because he couldn't handle the manifestation of God's glory. But Moses went all the way to the top.

It wasn't the last time he did so, either. Over the years, Moses continued to press into God's presence. As he did, his hunger to experience more of God kept increasing to the point where, in Exodus 33:18, he cried out to the Lord, "I beseech You, show me Your glory!" *(Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).* He wasn't saying, "I want to see mist, more clouds and sparkles." Or "I want to see a miracle or some spectacular sign and wonder." He'd already seen plenty of those things.

In Egypt, Moses had seen with his natural eyes more of God's power on display than any of us have ever seen on this earth. He saw God's wrath poured out on His enemies and His mercy manifested miraculously on behalf of Israel. In the wilderness, he saw water come out of a rock and manna come from heaven. His request wasn't for God to show him more of what He could do; He wanted to see *God Himself.* He wanted to *know Him.* He wanted to be engulfed in His presence.

As an unborn-again man, however, such close contact with God would have killed Moses. So, God had to hold him back. He did reveal more of Himself than ever before, but He told Moses that to do so He would have to hide him in a rock to protect him.

I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim My name, THE LORD, before you; for I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy and loving-kindness on whom I will show mercy and loving-kindness. But, He said, You can not see My face, for no man shall see Me and live. And the Lord said, Behold, there is a place beside Me, and you shall stand upon the rock, and while My glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft of the rock and cover you with My hand until I have passed by. Then I will take away My hand and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen (verses 19-23, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

The *King James Version* says God showed Moses His "back parts." What does that mean? It certainly doesn't mean He showed Moses His back end! No, He showed Moses what was behind Him, in the past. Moses' record of what he saw became the biblical record of Creation. How else do you think Moses knew about Adam and Eve? He saw and heard God create them!

God is alive in eternity (Isaiah 57:15). He is alive in the past, in the present and in the future. He is not boxed in by time, so He opened Moses' eyes to see what He had already done. In the process, He gave Moses a picture of what He would one day do through Jesus.

Jewish scholars teach that God revealed Himself to Moses only as much as Moses had capacity to see, which was His goodness. What Moses really wanted, though, was more of God Himself. He wasn't satisfied to relate to Him only as a divine Person on a throne. Even simply knowing the Law, His Word, wasn't enough. Moses wanted to know Him as a living Being, to experience as fully as possible the reality of His presence and have a vital, intimate, personal relationship with the God who created and upholds the universe.

I want that too, don't you? And even more important, it's what God wants. It's why He sent Jesus. Not just so we can learn the mechanics of faith and get answers to our prayers, but so we can apply those "mechanics of faith" and have what Moses so passionately desired—to be *in* the Father and have the Father *in* us.

EXPERIENCE

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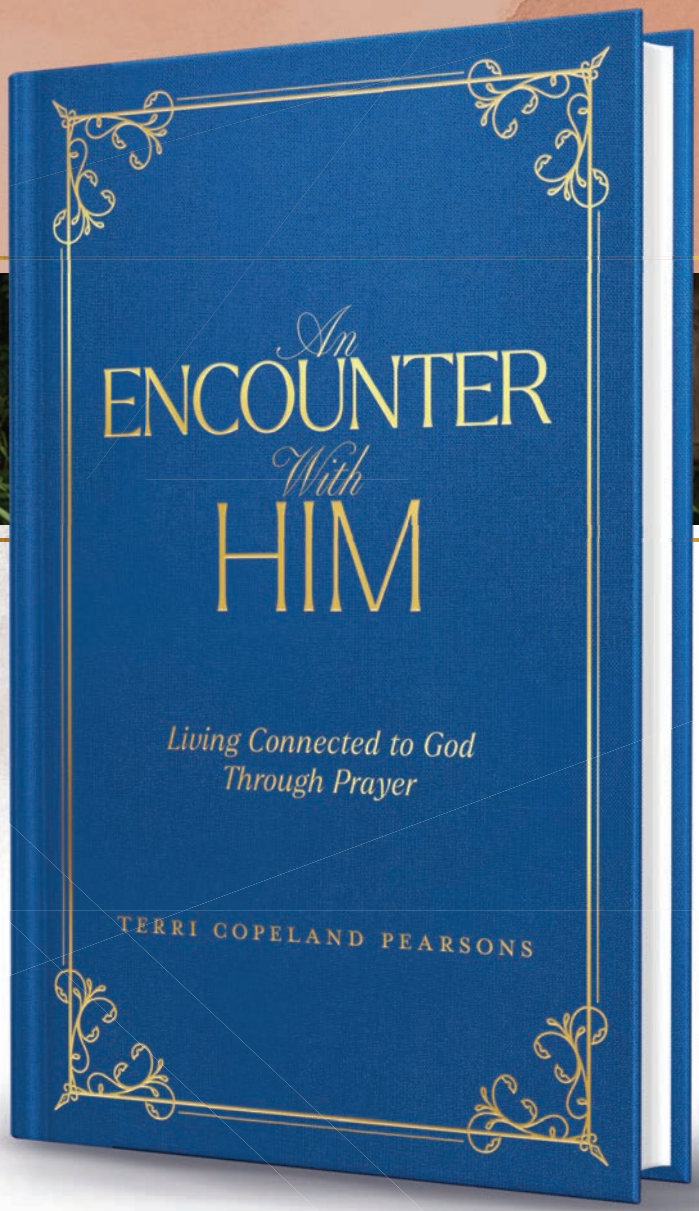

IN this heartwarming book, Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons shares her journey to a life of prayer. The lessons she learned as a little girl sitting at her grandmother's feet impacted her forever—shaping her ministry and allowing her to encounter God in a personal and continual way. As you read through the pages, you'll discover practical teaching and inspiring stories that will lead you into your own journey of closer fellowship with God and the kinds of daily encounters with Him your heart craves.

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"Every time we encounter the Lord in prayer, we're changed by His presence."

—Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons

TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

His Sheep Follow His Voice

My husband and I are EMIC eMembers, and recently joined EMIC in the 21-day prayer and fasting. We were very blessed to participate in that precious time; it was life-changing. We are hearing from the Lord much better than before, and He reveals Himself to us every day. Thank you to KCM and Pastors George and Terri for obeying the leading of the Lord, in calling for that corporate prayer/fasting time.

L.P. | California

He Still Heals Today!

Thank you, KCM, for your prayers of agreement for my son. His stem cell transplant for lymphoma was completely successful. He received a perfect match and is cancer free! To God be the glory forever!

D.D. | Georgia

Effects of Gratitude

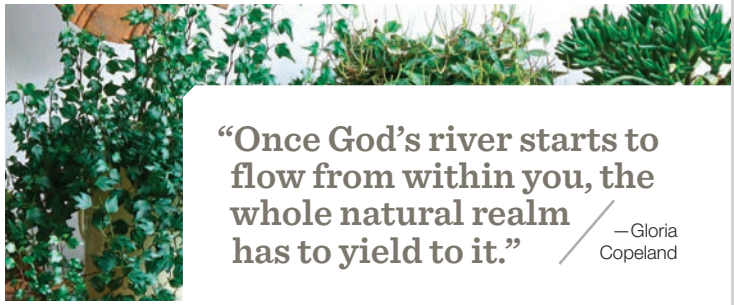
I want to say thank you, Kenneth Copeland; you are a man of God and have been a blessing to my life. You are one of the best biblical scholars in the world. Thank you for teaching me to stand up to the devil and preach God's Word.

A.J. | Texas

The Kingdom's Pursuit

Thank you, VICTORY Channel and KCM, for broadcasting *FlashPoint*. It is such a blessing to hear the truth and to know how to pray, specifically for our leaders, our country and the nations of the world. The prophetic words that I've received from the broadcast have strengthened me spiritually and given me such a desire to pray and believe that the kingdom of God is at hand. America will be saved! God bless you for your many years of faithful advancement of the kingdom of God!

M.H. | Oklahoma



"Once God's river starts to flow from within you, the whole natural realm has to yield to it." —Gloria Copeland

Honest News = *VICTORY News*

I've been watching *FlashPoint* since it started, and I think that *VICTORY News* and *FlashPoint* are the clearest, best source of news available. I'm 70 and still working full time, so I usually listen the next day at work. I'm so excited for Virginia Beach—we will be there. Keep doing what you do! N.A.

Workers for His Harvest

I enjoy watching your show and find it very encouraging. I'm writing, too, to thank you for honoring farmers and truck drivers. I am a farmer; there's a group of Christian farmers that you probably haven't heard of. They're the Fellowship of Christian Farmers International (fcfi.org), quietly doing the Lord's work. They help with disaster relief after tornadoes and floods; and more importantly, they share the gospel at various shows around the country. I thought you might be encouraged to hear that. God bless!

D.M. | Wisconsin

Timely Teaching

I so enjoyed learning from the healing program with Pastors George and Terri. I appreciated their candor, the everyday language and the Scripture resource for my personal study. I needed encouragement to lift others up who are going through serious struggles. I plan on listening to the series again.

T.B. | Ohio

Unlock Your Healing

Watching George and Terri Pearsons on Daystar regarding healing was so helpful. It really opened my mind to understanding how God wants us healed. I hope they do more series like this. So many of us grew up in dead churches so this type of info is so enlightening. Thank you! Please, Pastors, do more!

K.E. | Illinois

Hidden Things Revealed

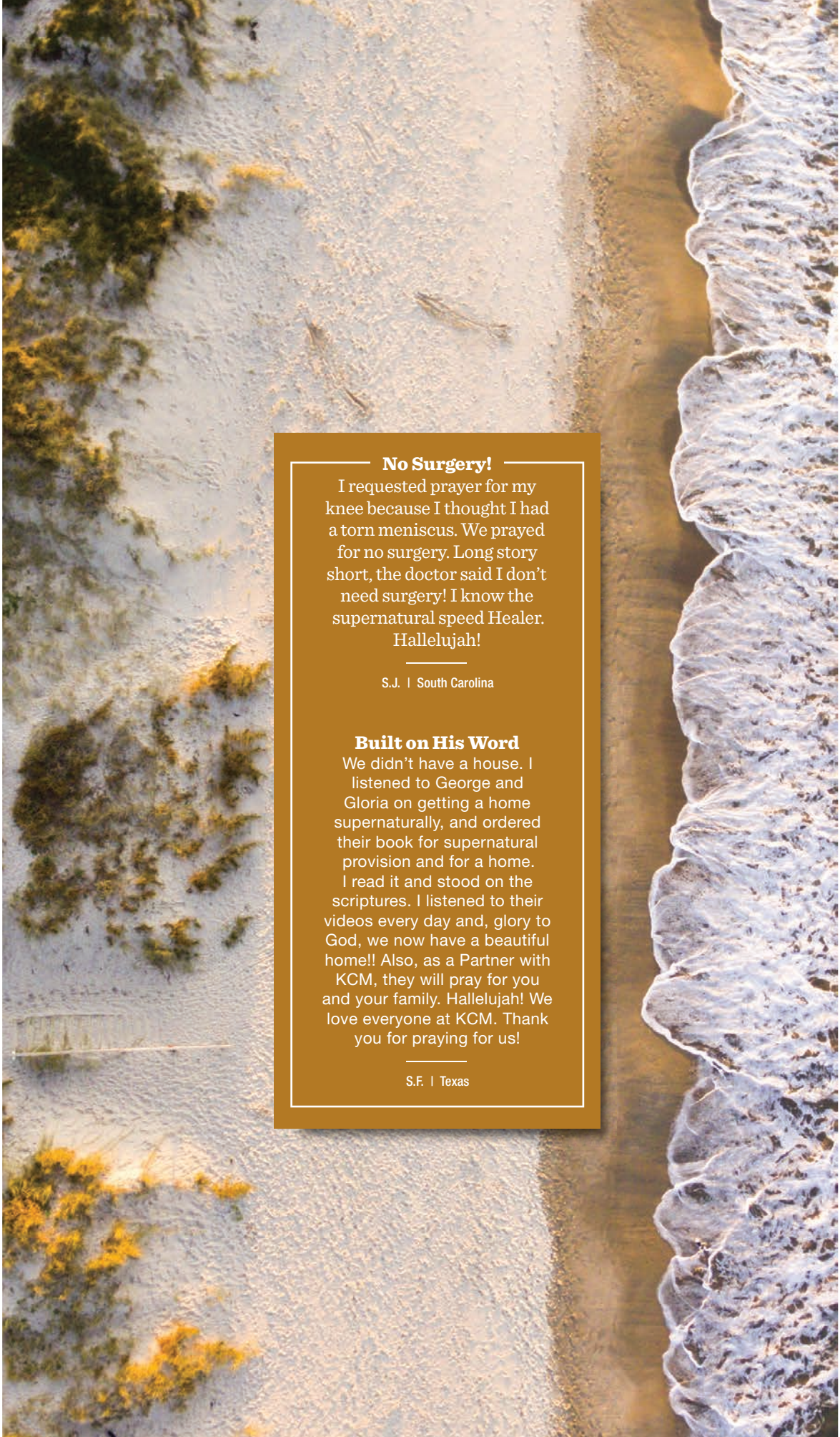
Within two hours of online prayer request, my lost phone (24 hours missing) was found! It was "found" on the floor, half under a chair. It was not there and then it was! This is the second time I have had an experience with an angel, through an online prayer request to this ministry. Praise God for Kenneth Copeland and KCM!

L.B. | California

Prayer Works!

I called KCM's prayer line because of nose bleeds, and God has healed me. Praise God!

V.J. | Tennessee



No Surgery!

I requested prayer for my knee because I thought I had a torn meniscus. We prayed for no surgery. Long story short, the doctor said I don't need surgery! I know the supernatural speed Healer. Hallelujah!

S.J. | South Carolina

Built on His Word

We didn't have a house. I listened to George and Gloria on getting a home supernaturally, and ordered their book for supernatural provision and for a home. I read it and stood on the scriptures. I listened to their videos every day and, glory to God, we now have a beautiful home!! Also, as a Partner with KCM, they will pray for you and your family. Hallelujah! We love everyone at KCM. Thank you for praying for us!

S.F. | Texas

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 **kcm.org/salvation.** We have a **Free Gift** to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

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ES **Hablamos Español**

by Melanie Hemry

The Power To Overcome

CHRISTINA GORDON SAT TAKING NOTES AS THE TEACHER IN HER 11TH GRADE HONORS ENGLISH CLASS EXPLAINED THE NEXT ASSIGNMENT. WORKING IN GROUPS, STUDENTS WERE TO USE AUDIO AND VIDEO ELEMENTS TO DEMONSTRATE A CULTURE'S STORY OF THE ORIGIN OF THE EARTH.

As she finished, the instructor offered a warning: "Be careful who you pick to work with for this project. I've seen a lot of friend groups break apart because of it."

The students looked around, puzzled.

What's she talking about?

It was a Christian school. Although Christina had just transferred to the school the year before, she'd met a good group of friends.

They went to one another's homes to work on the project.

Then one day, Christina turned in her part of the assignment, but had to miss a meeting.

The next day, everything had changed.

Suddenly, her friends weren't *friendly* anymore. They still spoke to her, but otherwise she became invisible to them. She'd been excluded from the group. When she tried to befriend another group, there seemed to be no place for her.

Christina was only one of three African American students in her grade. For the first time since transferring to the school, she felt the sharp pain of racism.

Soon it became more than just feelings. Someone made a caricature of her—with racial slurs.

On the school bus, boys sitting behind her talked about racism against Black people.

"I knew without a doubt that I had to forgive the kids who'd rejected me."

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

AUG

		Old Testament	New Testament
Thu	1	2 Chr. 18:1-20:19	2 Cor. 5
Fri	2	2 Chr. 20:20-23:11	2 Cor. 6
Sat	3	2 Chr. 23:12-25:28	
Sun	4	Ps. 90-92; Prov. 19:18-29	
Mon	5	2 Chr. 26-28	2 Cor. 7
Tue	6	2 Chr. 29-30	2 Cor. 8
Wed	7	2 Chr. 31:1-33:9	2 Cor. 9
Thu	8	2 Chr. 33:10-35:9	2 Cor. 10
Fri	9	2 Chr. 35:10-Ez. 1:11	2 Cor. 11
Sat	10	Ezra 2	
Sun	11	Ps. 93-96; Prov. 20:1-15	
Mon	12	Ezra 3:1-6:12	2 Cor. 12
Tue	13	Ezra 6:13-8:23	2 Cor. 13
Wed	14	Ezra 8:24-10:44	Gal. 1
Thu	15	Neh. 1-3	Gal. 2
Fri	16	Neh. 4-6	Gal. 3
Sat	17	Neh. 7:1-65	
Sun	18	Ps. 97-101; Prov. 20:16-30	
Mon	19	Neh. 7:66-9:38	Gal. 4
Tue	20	Neh. 10:1-11:24	Gal.5
Wed	21	Neh. 11:25-12:47	Gal. 6
Thu	22	Neh. 13-Est. 2:18	Eph. 1
Fri	23	Est. 2:19-6:14	Eph. 2
Sat	24	Est. 7-10	
Sun	25	Ps. 102-103; Prov. 21:1-15	
Mon	26	Job 1-3	Eph. 3
Tue	27	Job 4:1-6:13	Eph. 4
Wed	28	Job 6:14-8:22	Eph. 5
Thu	29	Job 9-10	Eph. 6
Fri	30	Job 11:1-13:19	Phil. 1
Sat	31	Job 13:20-15:35	

They seemed to be trying to provoke her.

Christina told her mother what was happening, and together they addressed the school's administration. The students were asked to apologize. Some had to be forced to do so.

Christina felt so ostracized and alone, she dreaded going to school.

She almost despaired of life.

Darkness Before the Dawn

"I never expected to experience racism or be ostracized at a Christian school," says Christina. "I had attended Christian schools since preschool, which were also more diverse. But now, the only friends who accepted me were international students at the school.

"I also realized that although it was a Christian school, they had a different perspective of God in general. I'd been taught that God is kind and loving; that He is our Father, Friend and Redeemer. I began to wonder if this school even believed in the devil, because they taught that God *causes* bad things to happen to us.

Confused and frustrated, Christina confronted the school counselor about transferring to a public school.

"I thought there would be more diversity there," she said. "I also hoped to blend in with the crowd. My counselor insisted that going to a public school wouldn't help. I had to face my junior and senior years at a school where I was being rejected, if not targeted. It was a miserable experience."

To this day, Christina never knew why she was suddenly treated like an outcast.

"I always wondered if it stemmed from jealousy. I was an excellent student. I'd been one of four middle school valedictorians. That theory seemed to have been validated when, for the first time in the school's history, a new policy regarding valedictorians was adopted.

"No one could be considered for valedictorian unless they'd been at the school all four of their high school years," said Christina. "It was no longer enough to have the highest grade-point average.

"The thing that helped me to get through those years was what I'd learned through KCM," Christina remembers.

Christina was born while her family was stationed in Germany. Her parents had become born again while attending Crenshaw Christian Center while living in Southern California. It was while in California that the family had become familiar with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

"My mother had purchased a package of materials from KCM through an ad she saw in the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine," Christina remembers. "It had a lullaby tape and some Superkid tapes. She also ordered "The Candy Store" videos, which was part of a preschool program for kids from Gospel Bill. I learned my ABCs and numbers, got saved and started reading early through them."

A Closer Walk

While living in California and attending her uncle's church, Christina got water baptized. Later, her uncle "led me to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and to speak in tongues," Christina said.

When her parents divorced a short time later, Christina remained with her mother.

In 1998, she and her mother attended KCM's West Coast Believers' Convention in Anaheim, Calif. There, Christina got her first taste of what it was like to attend a Superkids service in person.

"Going to the Superkids services was one of my favorite things. I enjoyed being around other kids who loved the Lord," she says. "My favorite part was 'Get Up and Dance.' I liked the games and cooking segments. I loved Commander Kellie, Commander Dana, Commander Jenni and Commander Linda. They taught us to hear God's voice.

"I still remember the first time I heard the Lord tell me He loved me. That early training

set some foundational truths in me. I knew without a doubt that I had to forgive the kids who'd rejected me."

While forgiving kept her heart tender toward the other high school students, it didn't stop the loneliness. The feeling of isolation overwhelmed her.

The Truth Through 14forty

Eventually, Christina transitioned from Superkids to 14forty, the youth ministry for teens. It was in one of those services, she recalled, that she heard a special word as Pastor George Pearsons was ministering to the youth.

"Don't compare yourself to other people," Pastor George had said during a meeting. Then, pointing at her, he asked, "What's your name?"

"It's Christina."

"We need you, Christina. We need you!"

Turning to the audience, Pastor George urged everyone to tell her that they needed her.

"We need you!" "We need you!" "We need you!"

The words continued to come.

Finally, Christina felt loved and supported—as though God was looking out for her.

Now, looking back, she realized that God had given her that word to sustain her during some difficult days.

During her junior and senior years in high school, Christina relied on many things she'd learned at 14forty to get her through. When she felt stung anew by the cruelty of her classmates, she pondered the words she had heard Jeremy Pearsons speak while teaching at 14forty on the fruit of the spirit.

"What kind of fruit do you offer when people interact with you?" he had asked in one session. "Do they get something godly...or something fleshly?"

"Spirit versus flesh," he repeated while everyone laughed.

Her mother had bought many of those messages. Now she listened to them again and again.

"I don't remember a time in my life when KCM hasn't been a part of it. To me, partnership means having a group of people who are all committed to serving God."

God's Definition of Value

In California, she lived in the same county as Rick Reyna, a friend of Jeremy's who was a minister and Hollywood movie producer. Rick often spoke at 14forty during the conventions. He also ministered powerfully in Hollywood. He talked about worshipping God with all your heart. And presenting yourself as valuable because God says you're valuable, not because of anyone else's opinion.

Christina also remembered hearing another young minister, Chip Brim, teach at 14forty. "I remember he taught one time about football," she said. "He explained that when a football player is about to make a touchdown, everyone tries to tackle him and take him down. He said your greatest opposition comes right before your biggest breakthrough."

That made Christina wonder: Was she on the verge of a victory?

Through a teaching she heard from Sarah Pearsons, Jeremy's wife, she learned about living a godly life, and how you don't have to go through a lot of crazy things to be used by God.

It's a testimony when you live for Him your whole life, Sarah had explained.

"Another thing that sustained me through that time was my church youth group," Christina remembers. "We had a good youth pastor who taught on a lot of life topics. I joined the dance team and was part of the youth leadership. I also joined the choir. I wished I'd had a better high school experience, but I focused on these

relationships instead and God helped me get through it."

Following high school, Christina enrolled at Oral Roberts University in Tulsa, Okla.

"There, I made the kind of godly friends that I'd been looking for in high school," she said. "The students were more passionate about the Church. Instead of being very secular in their thinking, they focused on things like getting into Christian media. They were fun to be around. More importantly, they respected each other and were always nice to others.

"After graduating from ORU, I taught kindergarten and English as a second language for grades K-5. During those years, I developed a passion for linguistics and literacy. In 2018, I earned a second bachelor's degree in communicative disorders."

Taking Back Her Land

Later, Christina went back to school to earn a master's degree in speech-language pathology. During that time, COVID restrictions slowed the process. It also caused her to change schools.

One day, she went for a routine eye exam. Sitting in the exam chair, she stared ahead as the doctor examined her eyes.

"Have you noticed any problems with your eyes?" he asked.

"No," Christina replied.

"Have you had headaches, blurred vision or blind spots?"

"No."

"Your optic nerve appears to be swollen," the doctor explained. "I'm referring you to a neurologist to follow up."

Christina pulled verses from Isaiah and 1 Peter to form her confession: "Blessed are my eyes, for they see. Blessed are my ears, for they hear. By Jesus' stripes I am healed."

After a thorough exam, the neurologist said, "You have what's called idiopathic intracranial hypertension. Idiopathic means we don't know what caused it. Intracranial hypertension occurs when too much cerebrospinal fluid from your brain and spinal cord builds up in your skull.

"This puts pressure on your brain and your optic nerve. Symptoms can be headaches, ringing in your ears, blind spots, double vision and loss of peripheral vision. You could also experience neck and shoulder pain.

"The symptoms mimic a brain tumor, but you *don't* have a tumor. Untreated, it could cause vision loss. But we caught this early, so we can treat you with medication."

Because of her lifelong connection to KCM, Christina didn't have to scramble to figure out God's will regarding healing.

"I'd known for years that I was healed by Jesus' stripes," Christina explains. "I knew how to get into God's Word and activate my faith.

"I had to take strong medicine, which made me tired. But it helped regulate the flow of fluid near my optic nerve. During this process, my mother, aunt and uncle all retired and moved to Fort Worth, Texas. I moved with them.

"Moving to a new state required finding a new neurologist to continue monitoring my care. It meant learning a new city, joining a new church, making new friends—all while finishing my master's degree.

"Today my health and vision are great. I work as a speech pathologist and sing in the choir at Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM.

"I don't remember a time in my life when KCM hasn't been a part of it. To me, partnership means having a group of people who are all committed to serving God—people who pray for one another, people who work together toward a common goal of helping humanity through the gospel.

"One of the scriptures that sustained me during those difficult years in high school, still ministers to me today. Joshua 1:3, *New King James Version,* says, 'Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you.' If Joshua could take that land under the Old Covenant, we can do even more with a covenant ratified by Jesus' blood."

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KENNETH COPELAND BIBLE COLLEGE®

by David Barton

The Misleading Metaphor:

Separation of Church and State

In 1947, the Supreme Court declared, "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach." Actually, the "separation of church and state" phrase which they invoked is not found in any of our official government documents. It was taken from letters between President Thomas Jefferson and the Baptist Association of Danbury, Conn.

On Oct. 7, 1801, the Danbury Baptists wrote the new president a letter in which they expressed concern over the First Amendment and its guarantee for the "free exercise" of religion. This suggested to them that the right of religious expression was government-given (thus alienable) rather than God-given (hence inalienable), and therefore the government might someday attempt to regulate religious expression. They strenuously objected to this possibility unless someone's religious practice caused him to "work ill to his neighbor."

Thomas Jefferson shared their concern. Here are several of the numerous declarations he made about the constitutional inability of the federal government to regulate, restrict or interfere with religious expression.

> [N]o power over the freedom of religion... [is] delegated to the United States by the Constitution.
> —Kentucky Resolution, 1798

> In matters of religion, I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the Constitution independent of the powers of the general [federal] government.
> —Second Inaugural Address, 1805

> I consider the government of the United States as interdicted [prohibited] by the Constitution from intermeddling with religious institutions...or exercises.
> —Letter to Samuel Miller, 1808

Having witnessed the tendency of government to encroach upon the free exercise of religion, Mr. Jefferson had written to Noah Webster in 1790 stating that he had no intention of allowing the government to limit, restrict, regulate or interfere with public religious practices. He believed, along with the other founders, that the First Amendment had been enacted only to prevent the federal establishment of a national denomination. In his reply to the Danbury Baptists on Jan. 1, 1802, he assured them that the free exercise of religion would never be interfered with by the federal government.

Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall

see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

The president's reference to "natural rights" reaffirmed his belief that religious liberties were inalienable rights. "Natural rights" included "that which the Books of the Law and the Gospel do contain." That is, what God Himself had guaranteed to man in the Scriptures.

When the president assured the Baptists that by following their "natural rights" they would violate *no* social duty, he was affirming to them that the free exercise of religion was their inalienable, God-given right and therefore was protected from federal regulation or interference.

Doubting whether America could survive if we ever lost knowledge of the source of our inalienable rights, he asked: "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have lost the only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?"

The Meaning of Separation

Thomas Jefferson believed that God, not government, was the author and source of our rights and that government was to be prevented from interference with those rights. The "wall" of the Danbury letter was *not* to limit religious activities in public. It was to limit the power of the government to prohibit or interfere with those expressions.

Earlier courts long understood President Jefferson's intent. When his Danbury letter was invoked by the Supreme Court in 1878, unlike today's courts which publish only his eight-word separation phrase, that earlier court published a large segment of his letter and concluded:

Coming as this does from an acknowledged leader of the advocates of the measure, it [Mr. Jefferson's letter] may be accepted almost as an authoritative declaration of the scope and effect of the Amendment thus secured. *Congress* was deprived of all *legislative power* over mere [religious] opinion, but was left free to *reach actions which were in violation of social duties or subversive of good order.*

The court then summarized Thomas Jefferson's intent for "separation of church and state": "[T]he rightful purposes of civil government are for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order. In th[is]...is found the true distinction between what properly belongs to the church and what to the State."

That court identified actions that the government *did* have legitimate reason to intrude upon. Those activities included human sacrifice, polygamy, infanticide, promotion of immorality, etc. Such acts, even in the name of religion, would be stopped by the government since they were "subversive of good order" and "overt acts against peace."

However the government was *never* to interfere with *traditional* religious practices—public prayer, use of the Scriptures, public acknowledgements of God, etc.—outlined in "the Books of the Law and the Gospel."

Original Intent

If Thomas Jefferson's letter is to be used today, let its context be clearly given. Earlier courts viewed his Danbury letter for what it was: a *personal, private* letter to a specific group. There is probably no other instance in America's history where the words of an individual in a private letter—words clearly divorced from their context—have become the sole authorization for a national policy. A proper analysis of Mr. Jefferson's views must include his numerous other statements on the First Amendment—not just that of the Danbury letter.

For example, in addition to statements previously noted, he also declared that the "power to prescribe any religious exercise...*must rest with the States."* Federal courts ignore this declaration and choose rather to misuse his separation phrase to strike down scores of state laws which encourage or facilitate public religious expressions. Such rulings are a direct violation of the words of the very one from whom the courts claim to derive their policy.

They should consider the intent of the Founding Fathers who framed the First Amendment. Their months of discussions and debates are recorded in the *Congressional Record,* and the phrase "separation of church and state" never occurred. It seems logical that if this had been the intent for the First Amendment, at least one of those 90 would have mentioned it. None did.

"Separation of church and state" has been described as a "misleading metaphor" by Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist since the current meaning is almost exactly the opposite of what was originally intended.

As Christians we need to pray for our country and for those in authority to come to the knowledge of the truth. Join us in spreading the message of the founders' original intent for the First Amendment.

David Barton
is founder and president of WallBuilders, a pro-family organization which seeks to educate grassroots society to rebuild America's constitutional, moral and religious foundations.

For more information go to wallbuilders.com

by Nancy Dufresne

Turning Toward the Presence of God

Every believer is "in the presence of God" in the sense that the Greater One is *within*. He's in us through His Spirit. But we are to learn to live *mindful* of Him who is within. It makes all the difference in life when our attention is fixed on the One within.

We rob ourselves of the highest flow when we don't give proper attention to Him who abides within. Psalm 16:11 *(New King James Version)* says that "in [His] presence is fullness of joy." Living in the presence of God is the greatest joy offered to God's people.

> "Surely or only goodness, mercy, and unfailing love shall follow me all the days of my life, and through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place" (Psalm 23:6, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

One day, as I was driving down the road, God spoke to me, saying, *Living in My presence doesn't come by* earning, *but by* turning. *No one has ever turned toward Me and I have not met them there.* We don't have to do enough studying, praying and good works to *earn* His presence. He has already made Himself ours! All we must do is *turn* our attention toward Him.

That's in keeping with what God said to me years ago: *Start every day in the Spirit, then keep your heart turned toward Me all day long.*

It only takes a moment to turn! Turning is something everyone can do!

While he was on his deathbed, King Hezekiah *turned*—and the *turn* added 15 years to his life. The prodigal son, who had left his father's house for a lifestyle of sin, made a *turn*—and his life was put back on course.

Everyone can turn toward the presence of God. Every believer can turn. The sinner can turn. The backslider can turn. The sick one can turn. The one with financial struggles can turn. The depressed one can turn. The young can turn. The old can turn. The healthy one can turn. The physically impaired one can turn.

There's no one who can't turn toward the presence of God.

What's in a turn? Everything!

A life of joy and peace

The plan of God coming into view

The fellowship of God Himself

Eternal life!

Turning toward God includes turning toward His Word and away from everything that opposes or contradicts it. We are to live by "every word that proceeds from the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4, *NKJV).*

Turning also includes turning *toward* our spirit and away from the mental and physical arenas. To turn toward our spirit is to turn

toward the Greater One within—the Source of all power, all strength and all ability. To turn toward the Greater One within, we turn toward all He is in us: Healer, Deliverer, Provider, Victor. He is the Source of all joy, peace, righteousness and wisdom.

In Psalm 9:1-3 we read, "I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart; I will show forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High. When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish at thy presence." As we give ourselves to the spiritual habit of continually praising Him, we hold ourselves in His presence, and the Anointing of His presence destroys every yoke. Sickness, pain, depression, lack, confusion, doubt and every other enemy fall and perish from our lives as we live in His presence.

Psalm 91:1-3 says, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee...." God's presence is our place of refuge and our safety from all opposing enemies. All throughout the day, we can turn our attention toward Him. Daily tasks and responsibilities don't have to rob us of the consciousness of Him.

James 4:8 tells us, "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you...." He always responds to our movement in His direction.

For the rest of our lives, we can live in the highest flow as we give ourselves to the spiritual habit of living in His presence by the simple action of a turn. Then we can say as David did, "through the length of my days the house of the Lord [and His presence] shall be my dwelling place" (Psalm 23:6, *AMPC*).

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Watch Nancy on VICTORY CHANNEL
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"To turn toward our spirit is to turn toward the Greater One within—the Source of all power, all strength and all ability."

by Gloria Copeland

A Future Full of God's Promises

"You don't owe anything. Your bill has already been paid."

There have been times when Ken and I would hear those words in a restaurant when we started to pay for our meal. Usually it's because one of our Partners was there and decided to bless us. That's such a nice feeling—it always touches our hearts.

When I think about what Jesus did for us when He gave His life on the cross, I'm reminded of those times and I realize God has said those same wonderful words to us: *You don't owe anything. Your bill has already been paid.*

Without our asking Him to do it...while we were still living in sin and rebellion...Jesus paid the price for our forgiveness. With His own blood, He paid the debt we owed to God for every sinful thing we have ever done...or will ever do. He set us free from sin, sickness and pain. He paid the bill so we can be whole—spirit, soul and body.

Isaiah 53:4-5 says it this way:

Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But He was

POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

1 Without our asking Him to do it... Jesus paid the price for our forgiveness. (Is. 53:4-5)

2 If you want to get stronger faith, spend more time in the Word of God. (Rom. 10:17)

3 By keeping God's Word before your eyes and going in our ears, it will be in your heart in abundance and come out of our mouths in faith. (Luke 6:45)

4 Stay in faith and hold fast to the Word of God—refusing to give up until His promises manifest in your life. (Heb. 10:36)

5 If you've made a mistake or done something wrong, repent and let it go because God has forgiven you. (1 Jn. 1:9)

"Faith always looks forward....

It faces the future full of expectancy with faith in God."

> **“When pressure comes, what comes out of us will be what is in us in greatest abundance.”**

wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole *(Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

The last phrase of that verse means a great deal to me. I love the fact that it says, “We *are* healed and made whole.” It doesn’t say that one day we will be healed and made whole. It doesn’t say that possibly, if it’s the will of the Lord, we *might* be healed and made whole. It says we *already are!*

Don’t Argue With God

If you have sickness in your body today, you might be tempted to argue with me about that. You might say, “Hey, I’m hurting right now. I’ve been to the doctor and he says I’m sick. I even have X-rays to prove it. How can you say I am healed?”

I’m not the one saying it. God is the One who said it in His Word—I’m just quoting Him. He’s given us the good news that the price for sickness (which entered the world through sin) has been paid! So if you’ve given your heart to Jesus, you don’t have to pay the price of sickness anymore. Your healing has already been provided. You can simply receive it by faith and go!

If you’re wondering how to do that, think about what Ken and I did when we learned that someone had paid for our meal. We didn’t sit around waiting until we felt like the bill was paid. We didn’t argue with the cashier and say, “Well, I’m just not sure about this. After all, I didn’t actually *see* anyone pay it, so how can I be absolutely certain it really happened? It just seems too good to be true.”

No, we didn’t say any of those things! We just took the cashier’s word for it and accepted the fact that our bill was paid. “Thank you very much!” we said. Then we acted on our faith by walking happily out the door.

As simple as that may sound, we receive healing from God in just the same way. We take Him at His Word. We believe we are healed, not because we feel healed or look healed at this moment but because God said we are. By faith, we start talking like we’re healed. We start acting like we’re healed. Before long, our bodies line up with God’s Word and it becomes apparent to everyone that we truly are healed!

The Only Way To Live

Some people are reluctant to receive their healing by faith. They think it’s too hard to do. So they just go to the doctor or wait around hoping someone will lay hands on them and zap them with the power of God in spite of their unbelief. Now please understand that I’m in favor of laying hands on the sick, and I love it when the gifts of healing operate. And I think doctors are wonderful and a great blessing to mankind. But too often people just rely on medical doctors to help them.

The truth is, even if someone lays hands on you, or the doctor gives you medicine and you get healed this time, one of these days you’ll still have to grow up spiritually and learn to operate by faith if you want to live a victorious Christian life.

Why? Because the Bible says very clearly in three separate verses, “The just shall live by faith” (Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38). We are born again by faith. We fulfill the will of God in our lives by faith. If we’re sick, we receive healing by faith. If we are broke, we get financial increase by faith. If our kids are in trouble, we get them back into the fold of God by faith. We receive anything and everything we need from God...by faith!

Faith is simply believing what God says in His Word. It is trusting what He says more than we trust our natural senses or what other people say. Faith is believing God enough to talk and act as if His Word is true even when circumstances around us would seem to indicate that it’s not.

How do we get that kind of faith? Romans 10:17 tells us, “Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” So if you want to get stronger faith, spend more time in the Word of God.

That’s exactly what Ken and I did 57 years ago when we were just finding out about these things. We didn’t have time for television or newspapers. We read our Bibles instead. We listened to preaching tapes day in and day out—whenever we could. When Brother Kenneth E. Hagin would have a 10-day meeting, we’d be there every single night. It didn’t matter to us

whether we had to go in rain, ice or snow, we went because we wanted to have faith and we knew that faith came from hearing the Word.

We still keep a steady stream of God's Word flowing into our hearts.

If I'm going to live every day by faith, I need to be strong in the Word every day. If I'm not, my faith will dwindle and I can't afford that. I can't afford to be a lazy Christian because the devil is out there waiting to get a shot at me. He's looking for an opportunity to steal away the blessings Jesus bought for me and I don't want to give it to him.

When the Devil Puts the Squeeze on You

Actually, if it weren't for the devil, living by faith would be a cakewalk. There would be hardly any effort to it at all. God's Word about everything He's done for us through Christ Jesus is so wonderful that it's easy to agree with. The first time we hear it, we're usually so happy about it that we want to shout all the way home from church. But after a few days have passed and the devil starts pressuring us with symptoms, circumstances and discouraging lies, we find that some effort is required to continue to believe God.

That's why it's so vital for us to keep our hearts full of God's Word. By keeping it before our eyes and going in our ears, it will be in our hearts in abundance and come out of our mouths in faith. Because when pressure comes, what comes out of us will be what is in us in greatest abundance. As Jesus said, "The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45, *New International Version*-84).

If God's Word about healing is abundantly stored in your heart, then when symptoms of sickness come, you'll begin resisting those symptoms and speaking faith. Almost without thinking about it, you'll say, "Oh, no you don't, devil. You're not putting that sickness on me. I'm the healed of the Lord. Jesus paid the price for me to be well and I intend to be well, so you just take your symptoms and get out of here!"

However, if you've spent more time thinking about natural things than you have the Word, it will be a different story. You'll probably just lie down and take it when the devil uses sickness to put the squeeze on you. You'll say, "Oh, dear. I feel terrible. I believe I'm getting sick. I'd better go to bed."

Like it or not, that kind of pressure comes to every Christian because—for the time being—the devil is still operating in the earth. He is a thief and a liar who comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). He wants to rob us of the abundant life that Jesus has provided for us and he does it by challenging our faith.

How should we respond to that challenge?

By holding fast to the Word of God and absolutely, positively refusing to give up until we see His promises manifested in our lives.

Know Within Yourself

There are no two ways about it, sometimes that can be pretty tough. Not because the devil is so strong and powerful—he's not. The Bible says he's already been disarmed. He has been brought to nothing! Even so, he is still a very good liar. He can really paint a bleak picture. He can whisper negative thoughts in your ear and make your situation look so bad that you may find yourself wanting to quit.

When that happens, we must follow the instructions given to the early Church when they were facing great persecution for their faith. Unbelievers were literally plundering their houses and stealing their possessions in an attempt to get them to renounce Jesus. Yet the writer of Hebrews says to them:

> Ye...took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise. For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:34-39).

According to these verses, in order to receive what God has promised us—whether that be healing or any other scriptural blessing—we must *know within*

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Kenneth Copeland

George Pearsons

Terri Pearsons

July 29-August 2
The Manifestations of the Holy Spirit and Prayer
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., Aug. 4
Faith In God's Love Disconnects You From Fear
Kenneth Copeland

August 5-9
Strength for the End Times—Part 1
Pastors George and Terri Pearsons

Sun., Aug.11
Overcome Fear by Having Faith In God's WORD
Kenneth Copeland

August 12-16
Strength for the End Times—Part 2
Pastors George and Terri Pearsons

Sun., Aug.18
Believing In God's Love Produces a Fearless Lifestyle
Kenneth Copeland

August 19-23
First Words Matter
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., Aug.25
Put a Stop to Fear by Casting Your Cares on God
Kenneth Copeland

August 26-30
See Yourself Well
Kenneth Copeland

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ourselves what we have been given in Jesus. That means we must know it not just with our heads but with our hearts. We must have His Word rooted so deeply and firmly within us that when we hear lies to the contrary, we don't buy them. We must be so fully persuaded of what God says that we act as if it's true even when natural circumstances look like it's not.

We can't quit when the going gets tough. If we quit, it's over. If we lay down our faith and give up, the devil can keep us in permanent defeat. On the other hand, we will win if we don't quit. It's absolutely guaranteed.

I like the way verse 36 reads in the *AMPC*—it makes that very clear. It says, "For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised."

Notice it doesn't say you might possibly receive what God promised. It says that if you don't cast away your confidence you *will receive and enjoy it to the full!*

Faith Always Looks Forward

I'll warn you right now, one way the devil will try to steal your confidence is by tempting you to look at the past. He'll draw your attention off God's Word by reminding you of yesterday's failures, pains and disappointments.

Watch the Spanish broadcast Enlace or es.kcm.org

"Before you get so carried away with this faith stuff," he'll say, "just remember that the pastor laid hands on you two days ago and you didn't feel a bit better afterward. And don't forget Sister Saint. She said she was believing God for healing last year and she died. What's more, you've been talking this healing business for two weeks now and you still have most of the same symptoms you had when you started. You felt bad yesterday. You feel bad today and you're going to feel the same way tomorrow."

When the devil starts telling you things like that, remember this: *Faith always looks forward.* It doesn't dwell on the past. It faces the future full of expectancy with faith in God.

Looking back is not the way to get ahead in the kingdom of God.

"But Gloria," you may say, "I've made some bad mistakes. I've done some terrible things. I think I'll just have to accept this sickness and pay the price for what I've done."

No, you don't! Jesus paid the price, remember? If you've made a mistake or done something wrong, repent and let it go because God has forgiven you. First John 1:9 says He is faithful and just to forgive your sin and cleanse you of all unrighteousness. As far as heaven is concerned the past record of your sins has been wiped out. It's gone. It's under the blood of Jesus. So don't let the devil talk you into looking back!

Don't listen to him when he comes to you with his dark cloud, telling you lies. Don't let him take your past and project it into your future. Cast him out! Get rid of him!

A Glorious Future

One way to defeat the devil is by getting out your Bible and telling him just what God says about your future. He says you're the healed—so enjoying a healthy body is in your future. He says you're more than a conqueror—so victory in every area of life is in your future. You have a good and glorious life ahead of you right here on this earth. And what's even better is the life that's waiting for you after that!

Remember this earthly life we're living is not a permanent thing. This is just a temporary situation. If we live to be 100 years old, that's just a moment in eternity. We are on our way to heaven! I think we ought to live healthy, blessed and prosperous lives while we're here because that's the will of God. But even so, we need to remember we're just passing through.

We always need to be aware that during this lifetime we're on temporary assignment for God. We're here to work for Him and build His kingdom on the earth. Right now we're laying up rewards for heaven. We won't be able to earn the same kinds of rewards once we get there because there won't be any pressure to resist up there. There won't be a devil trying to knock our heads off, make us sick and steal our resources.

Right now we have a fleeting opportunity to give glory to God by standing strong on His Word right in the face of all the pressure and lies the devil can bring. We have the opportunity to say, "Go ahead devil, give it your best shot. When you're finished, I'll still be standing here believing God's Word. I'll still be praising Him and saying, 'By His stripes I am healed!' Because I'm not one of those who draws back, I'm one who believes and by faith I receive the promise!"

If we would start thinking like that we'd be able to stand more successfully against the pressures the devil brings against us. When he tries to block our blessings by reminding us of the debts and defeats in our past, we'll just keep looking forward in faith. We'll confidently put the devil under our feet where he belongs, knowing that in Jesus "our bill has been paid." And we'll step boldly into a future full of the promises and provisions of God!

Secret Mystery of the Messiah!

Hey Superkids! I hope you've learned as much as I have these last few months! I've seen so many powerful things about the Apostle Paul's life, purpose and journey. What have you learned about Paul? More importantly, what have you learned about YOU?

To be honest, Superkids, even listening to the Lord these last few months to bring you these truths out of Ephesians and Acts has opened my heart to more adventures with my Jesus! And we are only in Ephesians 3:2!

Ephesians 3 is a BIG invitation for you to become a Superkid Supersleuth! A ***sleuth*** is "a detective, a person who solves mysteries or puzzles." It also means "to follow or track"—like a dog tracks someone by following their smell. Paul says there is a secret mystery to be discovered!

When I was your age, I loved to watch and read mysteries! My favorite detectives were Nancy Drew and Sherlock Holmes. They would discover a mystery to be solved then begin the hunt for clues—turning over every rock and asking the right questions. My favorite Nancy Drew book was *The Mystery of the Brass-Bound Trunk*. What a thriller! *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* tells of the famous detective's ability to solve any crime!

Think about the detective characters you like. If it's a dog, he follows his nose, looking everywhere for answers. If it's a kid detective, he or she asks a lot of questions and seeks all the facts. So, if Paul says there is a mystery, what is it? How did he solve it and what is the story we are to be a part of?

The mystery of what God had planned was not obvious when Jesus came. The Jews knew the Messiah (the Savior, the Anointed One, the Deliverer) was coming, and they waited for Him. There are many Jews who still believe that today, with their whole hearts, but don't believe Jesus was the promised Messiah. They didn't expect the Messiah to come as a baby, but as a warrior—a powerful leader who would free them from Rome. When Jesus came to preach, He spoke of spiritual freedom from sin, physical freedom from sickness, and salvation that would save the soul from pain and sorrow. They thought when the Bible spoke of rebuilding the temple, it meant an actual building. Jesus came to build the temple out of people and fill THEM with His own Spirit!

Even though Jesus preached some of these truths, not everyone believed. Even the disciples didn't understand at first. As Jesus preached and taught them what was to come, before and after His resurrection from the dead, they began to walk in understanding.

Here are a few of the moments when important clues were given to them (which you can read about):

- Jesus gave them clues before He went to the cross (John 14-18).
- Jesus appeared to them **and** taught them for 40 days after His resurrection, telling them what was to come (Acts 1:1-11).
- The Holy Spirit was given to them (Acts 2:1-13).
- Saul met Jesus on his way to capture all the believers he could find. Jesus knocked him off his horse, Saul repented and later **became** the Apostle Paul (Acts 9, 13).

Paul quickly became a leader to the believers. He started churches and continued to teach them through writing letters, as we have seen with the Ephesians. Much of what we know about Jesus today is because Paul had a heavenly vision. This sets the scene for you to understand what Paul says in Ephesians 3:3-4, "For this wonderful mystery, which I briefly described, was given to me by divine revelation, so that whenever you read it you will be able to understand my revelation and insight into the secret mystery of the Messiah" *(The Passion Translation).*

Imagine reading one letter from Paul with a promise, that as we read it, we will be able to understand what Paul understood. We are on the verge of understanding the secret mystery of the Messiah!

Remember, Paul mentioned the mystery of God's plan for the Jews and the non-Jews. He found out that the gospel was for all! He repeats it throughout his letter. It's especially clear in Ephesians 2:16-18: "Two have now become one, and we live restored to God and reconciled in the body of Christ. Through his crucifixion, hatred died. For the Messiah has come to preach this sweet message of peace to you, the ones who were distant, and to those who are near. And now, because we are united to Christ, we both have equal and direct access in the realm of the Holy Spirit to come before the Father!" This helps us understand that Paul's passion was to share God's big secret with ALL people.

Read what Ephesians 3:6-9 says:

Here's the secret: The gospel of grace has made you, non-Jewish believers, into coheirs of his promise through your union with him. And you have now become members of his body—one with the Anointed One! I have been made a messenger of this wonderful news by the gift of grace that works through me. Even though I am the least significant of all his holy believers, this grace-gift was imparted when the manifestation of his power came upon me. Grace alone empowers me so that I can boldly preach this wonderful message to non-Jewish people, sharing with them the unfading, inexhaustible riches of Christ, which are beyond comprehension. My passion is to enlighten every person to this divine mystery. It was hidden for ages past until now, and kept a secret in the heart of God, the Creator of all.

Superkids, we ALL have equal access into the realm of the Holy Spirit! This is how Paul found out about the mystery in the first place. He was welcomed into the secrets of the heart of God. Those secrets never fade and never end!

So put your detective hat on, get out your sleuthing skills, and let's follow Paul deeper into the mysteries of the Kingdom! As Sherlock Holmes might say, "Come, Superkids! The game is afoot!"

That just means, "Let's go adventuring!"

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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