



KENNETH
COPELAND
MINISTRIES

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

VICTORY

APRIL 2025

The Power of Persistence

**When Jay and
Michelle Scott**

married, neither expected the persecution from family that would follow because theirs was an interracial marriage. Jay's mother even refused to be part of her grandchildren's lives. How were they supposed to navigate such painful rejection?

P.20



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— KENNETH COPELAND



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Editor's Letter

The Power of the Word!



Gloria Copeland's article this month, "Unlocking the Power of the Word," reminds me of a story I once heard. Likely some of you have heard some variation of this tale as well, and that's fine. I'll just give you my version, in hopes that you get the relevance it holds regarding the Body of Christ today.

As the story goes, a young Irishman had saved a certain sum of money to purchase a boat ticket to America—where he had hoped to immigrate. Checking his years of savings, the young man discovered he had enough money to pay for his ticket, but not enough to cover his meals while aboard the ship. Not willing to miss the opportunity at a new life, he booked his passage, then managed to gather enough additional money to buy cheese and bread to eat while on his journey.

One evening during the first two weeks at sea, the ship's captain was walking the deck when he noticed the Irishman sitting near the bow eating his cheese and bread.

"Why aren't you in the galley eating supper with the other passengers?" the captain asked. Sheepishly, the Irishman replied, "I regret, sir, that I only had sufficient funds to buy passage, but not enough to pay for meals."

Surprised at the response, the captain looked at the man curiously and said, "Son, didn't you know that when you bought your ticket, your meals were included with your fare?"

Just as the young Irishman didn't realize the full benefit of the ticket he had purchased, so are many Christians unaware of the true power behind God's Word. And because they don't fully understand it, they deny themselves the privilege of enjoying all that God has provided for them through His Word.

Hebrews 4:12, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, says, "For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart."

So often, people treat the Bible like any other book. They pick it up, read a few words, and put it down—never really realizing the power contained in those pages. Like the young, naïve Irish traveler, they miss out on everything God has provided for them through His Word.

God desires for His Word to work to the fullest for us all—to be effective in every area of our lives. He also intends for us to enjoy all its privileges—even when it comes to traveling on a cruise ship. Instead of dining off cheese and crackers, we should be feasting at the Master's table!

Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor

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"We started watching Kenneth Copeland on TV... He was preaching things I'd never heard before, yet something kept pulling me back to him."

—Jay Scott

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 52 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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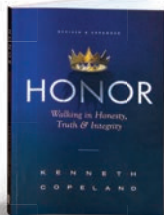
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This article was adapted from the newly revised and expanded book by Kenneth Copeland titled *Honor: Walking in Honesty, Truth & Integrity*.

The *“Honor God by walking like the new creature He made you to be.”* Honorable Life



Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, according as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:1-4).

Though the actual word isn't always used, *honor* is taught throughout the Old and New Covenants. These verses from 2 Peter speak of God's divine nature and His promises, which are filled with His honor and character. Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30; 1 John 5:7). He is The WORD made flesh so, as we saw, God and His WORD are One (John 1:1-2, 14).

In Psalm 26:8, the psalmist David said, "LORD, I have loved the habitation of thy house, and the place where thine honour dwelleth." God doesn't just *have* honor and integrity, He *is* honor and integrity. It's His nature. First John 1:5 says, "...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." Walking in honor, then, means walking like God—walking in the light, as He is in the light (1 John 1:7). Honor, Light and Love are His character.

Dishonesty, lying and fear are of darkness. They are the nature and character of God's enemy,



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More than just refusing to walk in the ways of the world, draw into Him and live from the inside out as a new creature in Christ Jesus.”

satan. When you receive Jesus as your Savior and LORD, His Spirit comes to live inside you. Your body becomes the temple of the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, and you are not your own (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). You belong to the One who redeemed you from death, hell and the grave with His own blood.

Turn away from those old ways of your former lord, the god of this world's system. Set your heart to “press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 3:14).

The Apostle Paul said in 2 Corinthians 4:2:

We have renounced [those] disgraceful ways (secret thoughts, feelings, desires and underhandedness, the methods and arts that men hide through shame); we refuse to deal craftily (to practice trickery and cunning) or to adulterate or handle dishonestly the Word of God, but we state the truth openly (clearly and candidly). And so we commend ourselves in the sight and presence of God to every man's conscience (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

More than just refusing to walk in the ways of the world, draw into Him and live from the inside out as a new creature in Christ Jesus. The old ways in your life are dead and gone, washed away in the blood of Jesus, and “behold, all things are become new” (2 Corinthians 5:17). Honor God by walking like the new creature He made you to be.

Your new life in Christ is to walk in and be led by your born-again spirit—not by the selfish, manipulative ways of your flesh (Galatians 5:16). Remember, the life and nature of God are now inside you—in your spirit. Let that life rise up and reign in your mind, will, emotions and flesh by identifying with the resurrected LORD of glory, instead of with the world.

The Apostle Peter talks about some of the works of the flesh—things the world considers “normal.” In his first letter he says, “We have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles—when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries. In regard to these, they think it strange that you do not run with them in the same flood of dissipation, speaking evil of

you” (1 Peter 4:3-4, *New King James Version*). To walk in *godly honor* is just the opposite. The dictionary defines it as walking with “a keen sense of ethical conduct.” It is often used to refer to giving your word as a guarantee.

Honor, then, is “personal integrity,” or “adhering to moral and ethical principles.” Words that describe it are “upright, honest, righteous, virtuous, honorable.” One of the Hebrew words for honor is *kābôd*. It means “honor; glory; great quantity; multitude; wealth; reputation [majesty]; splendor.”

Many times, *honor* and *honest* are used in the Bible to refer to the character of someone who fears The LORD. For example, in Luke 8:15, Jesus was explaining to His disciples the meaning of the parable of the sower. He said the seed represented The WORD of God. When it's sown into “an *honest* and good heart,” a heart that's “good ground,” the hearer, “having heard the word, keep[s] it, and [it] bring[s] forth fruit with patience.”

Peter later said in his letter to the Jewish believers in Asia Minor, “Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; having your conversation [manner of living] *honest* among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation” (1 Peter 2:11-12).

After Jesus' resurrection, His disciples called together all the believers to choose seven men of *honest report*, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. They were to serve tables and minister to the widows so the ministry staff could spend more time in The WORD and prayer (Acts 6:3-4). By their example, we can see that those serving in the Church should be honest, honorable and good examples to others.

Proverbs 9:10 says, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.” The word *fear* in this verse is the Hebrew word *yir'âh*, which mainly means “reverence.” Because I am in Covenant with God, I reverence Him. I go to even greater lengths to honor Him. And because He is in Covenant with me, He goes to greater lengths to honor me.

When God cut covenant with Abraham, He became *El Shaddai* Abraham—Almighty God of Abraham—or the God born of Abraham—

from his descendants (Genesis 26:4). God honored His covenant with Abraham. As the Redeemer, He came down and was born of a woman, born of the Covenant that was given to save mankind (Genesis 22:18). The WORD made flesh, born of Abraham, honored His Father by Covenant-associating Himself with guilt, sin, sickness and fear-ridden humanity, and was named *Jesus* (translated from the Hebrew: *Jehovah is salvation, deliverer of Nazareth, Ben-Adam, or the Son of Man.*)

That mutual honor paved the way for the manifestation of the Father's master plan; His masterstroke of complete Redemption for all men, for all time, that was planned and finished by God from the very foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34; Hebrews 4:3; Revelation 13:8). His eternal plan redeemed man forever from the grip of his illegitimate stepfather, satan.

Honoring the Covenant

What is my part in honoring this glorious and powerful Covenant, cut and sealed forever in the precious blood of the Lamb of God? God, the Creator of the universe, has honored me by calling me His child (John 1:12), and Jesus, the resurrected LORD of all, honors me by calling me His blood brother (Hebrews 2:11).

So, what should I call myself?

First, I renew my mind to who God says I am in His WORD. I honor Him by agreeing with the New Covenant, and I declare that I am a born-again child of the living God with His life and nature living in me (John 1:12; Galatians 5:22). According to Ephesians 3, the whole family of God, both in heaven and earth, has been named after Him (verses 14-15). I am in Him, and He is in me; and with Him, I am a joint heir of all that is His (Romans 8:17). I call myself re-created in His image and likeness, filled with His own Spirit (John 14:17) and made His righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30). I call myself more than a conqueror through Him who loves me (Romans 8:37). I call myself seated together with Him in heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 2:6).

I honor Jesus, my Covenant Substitute on the cross. I have been crucified with Him. I have died, and my life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). I am in Him, and He is in me—for eternity. Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live

in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

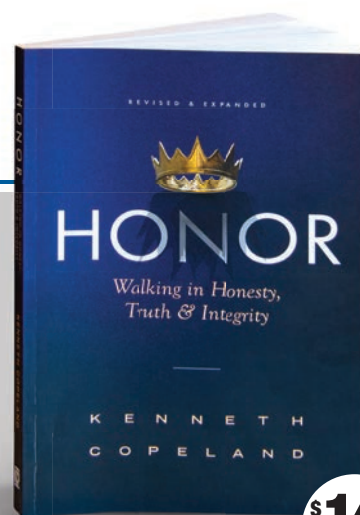
When you gave your life to Jesus in the new birth, you gave Him honor and reverence by believing the good news that Almighty God Himself was inviting you into eternal Blood Covenant with Him. You acknowledged with your words that He died for your sins and was raised from the dead for you (Romans 10:9-10). You're no longer your own. You are bought with an awesome price—the eternal blood of the spotless Lamb of God (1 Corinthians 6:20). He honored His Father by becoming the Covenant sacrifice so you could be made a new creature in Him (John 8:49; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

The Father has further honored His sons and daughters, the Church, "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Timothy 3:15) to be the revealer of the manifold wisdom of God: "to the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known [or revealed] by the church the manifold wisdom

What does honor mean?

We are living in a time where entire generations have not experienced God's honor and presence. Now we have a dishonorable society, because the concept of honor is not being passed on from parent to child.

In this revised and expanded edition, Kenneth Copeland takes a powerful and scriptural look at the biblical definition of



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Honor: Walking in Honesty, Truth and Integrity - Revised and Expanded #B250401 paperback by Kenneth Copeland



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of God” (Ephesians 3:10).

God has given us His own faith (Mark 11:22) so we can walk in dominion in the earth. His entire kingdom operates by *faith*. We connect with the Father through faith, through honoring the eternal truths of the Blood covenants He cut with man.

Faith honors and believes in the integrity and truth of God’s WORD, trusting in Him enough to act on The WORD, no matter what circumstances look like, feel like or seem like. God then honors us as we honor Him through our faith in His WORD, by manifesting and confirming it with signs following.

When you choose to honor God, His power goes to work on your behalf. There is no power on earth that can equal the power of His Love. It’s the same creative, transforming power that slung this universe into existence at the speed of light and has now delivered you, spirit, soul and body, from the hand of satan.

If you’ll trust God and be obedient to honor Him by doing what He says, when you do turn the other cheek in the confidence and steadfastness of faith, the power of the honor of God will keep you from being hit a second time!

No More Fear of Man

Honoring The LORD and walking in that honor before Him removes the fear of man or governments, or anything else the devil has—or thinks he has. We are seated with The LORD in heavenly places, far above principalities, powers and the rulers of this world (Ephesians 2:6). By faith, we can move and function with great impunity, covered by the blood of Jesus and the power and Anointing of God. Psalm 118:6 says, “The LORD is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?”

Those powerful principles were at work in the lives of Daniel and Joseph in the Old Covenant. They were men who walked in honor and integrity, honoring God to the endangerment of their own lives. But each refused to bow to the dictates of the ungodly or compromise the truth. They chose, instead, to honor God and His WORD.

Reverencing and honoring God and His WORD qualifies us to dwell in the secret place of the Most High, “Whose power no foe can withstand” (Psalm 91:1, *AMPC*). All the protections promised in Psalm 91 hinge on the power of dwelling in the secret place with Him.

Notice what Psalm 91:9-12 says:

Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation; there shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.

Verse 14 assures the believer, “Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him.” This is a blood-sworn oath by the Creator of heaven and earth Himself to the one who will love and be obedient to Him—walking honorably before Him.

God has honored His sons and daughters with the awesome privilege of using His own faith and speaking His words of power and dominion in the earth. We honor Him as His ambassadors, or sent ones, to meditate on and fill our mouths with His eternal promises. When we speak them out in faith, we activate the power within them to bring them to pass. The Apostle Paul knew this. He said, “We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak” (2 Corinthians 4:13).

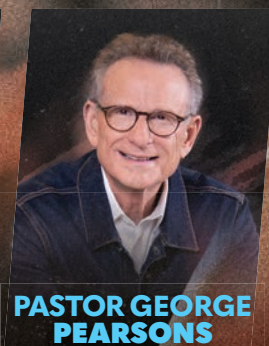
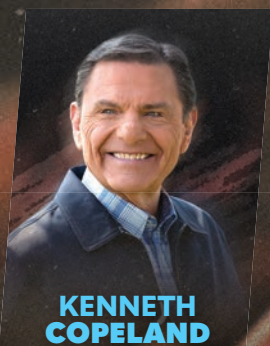
Remember, you’re no longer an old sinner, but a child of the Almighty (2 Corinthians 6:18), honored by Him and filled to overflowing with the very King of kings and LORD of lords Himself. See yourself in the position to which He raised you—to be seated with Him in heavenly places, dwelling in the kingdom of light—far above the rulers of the darkness of this world (Ephesians 1:21).

We have lived far below who we really are. But no more! See to it that you honor your heavenly Father. Honor Him by putting His words in your mouth. Say what He says about you. 🙏

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INSIDE THE
VISION
WITH *Pastor Payne*

Taking Back, Moving Forward!

Phase 2: Headquarters Building Completed!

“The LORD has said, *I want you to take possession of that wing right now. Gather the staff who will eventually move in, and celebrate the faith progress you have made.* That is exactly what we did on Wednesday, Jan. 29.”



As I have previously shared with you, in February 2021 the state of Texas was hit by a winter storm the likes of which we had never seen before. As a result of freezing temperatures, buildings on the property here at KCM experienced extensive damage. Pipes burst in our Headquarters building, forcing our staff to vacate the building.

It would take massive repairs before staff

would be able to return.

Instead of just repairing the building, which in itself was a major project, we began the process of redesigning and reorganizing the Headquarters building for the future. Architectural drawings were produced; however, the funds were not available to start the renovations.

We were so focused on getting The



WORD out to the people that the building just sat unrepaired. Frankly, we became accustomed to our makeshift, inadequate facilities.

Last year, The LORD finally spoke to my heart and challenged me to kick our faith into gear. He said, *This is a faith project. You need to activate your faith to get it done. The devil kicked you out of that building. It is time to TAKE BACK WHAT THE DEVIL STOLE FROM YOU.*

The LORD gave me Joshua 18:2-3. “And there remained among the children of Israel seven tribes, which had not yet received their inheritance. And Joshua said unto the children of Israel, How long are ye slack to go to possess the land, which the LORD God of your fathers hath given you?”

It is very interesting to me that we have seven phases in our plans for restoring the Headquarters building.

Phase 1, which was the exterior portion of the building, is now complete. Praise God!

It is also interesting that Proverbs 6:31 tells us that the enemy must return sevenfold what he stole from us.



By faith, we moved forward with the construction of Phase 2. And I am excited to announce to you that as I am writing this article in January 2025, construction of Phase 2 is complete and the furniture is on its way! In fact, by the time you read this article, we will have taken back what the devil thought he had stolen! Glory to God!

Every Step Is a Step of Faith!

Many years ago, after several years of believing God and saving, Pastor Terri and I purchased a home with cash. To accommodate our needs, the house required some major renovations, which we also decided to pay for with cash. We had enough funds to begin, but not finish the project. As a result, it was taking quite some time to complete the work. We would move forward, then stop when we ran out of cash. We would build our reserve, complete a portion, and continue, then stop again when the cash ran out. By faith we would sow financial seeds all along the way. As the harvest came in and our reserve was sufficiently replenished, we would take on another phase of the remodel.

After going through this process a few times,





however, we became discouraged—frustrated with the amount of time and money it was taking to complete this project. During one of those times of frustration, Terri and I decided to talk to Brother Copeland about it. His response was empowering!

He said, “Kids, first of all you just need to roll the care of this over onto The LORD.” Then he said something I will never forget. He asked us if we had made progress on the renovation. We said, “Yes, we have.”

Then he told us: “Every step is a step of faith. Keep your eyes on the progress you have been making, and always *celebrate your progress.*”

Those words really changed our attitude.

Once we did what Brother Copeland advised, the burden lifted, the construction picked up, and we were able to eventually move into our renovated home—debt free!

Take Possession, NOW!

So even though the furniture for the renovated section of the Headquarters building has been delayed, The LORD has said, *I want you to take possession of that wing right now. Gather the staff who will eventually move in, and celebrate the faith progress you have made.*

That is exactly what we did on Wednesday, Jan. 29. We celebrated progress. We took possession of that wing and showed the devil



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that we are walking by faith and not by sight! And we will do the same with the remaining five phases!

Hebrews 6:11-12, *New King James Version*, says, “And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope until the end, that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

The word *patience* there means “divine endurance, staying power and the ability to act like you have it before you see it.”

What project are you in the midst of that is taking a long time?

Let me remind you of what Brother Copeland said to Terri and me: “Roll the care of this over onto The LORD.... Every step is a step of faith. Keep your eyes on the progress you have been making, and always *celebrate your progress.*”

Don’t give up! Keep pressing in by faith.

We agree with you that your project is finished—in the Name of Jesus!

Thank you for standing with us on the renovation of our Headquarters building.

And maybe you would like to sow into Phase 3 of our remodel. We would love to have you join us as we continue to *take back the land!*

Meanwhile, we invite you to celebrate with us as you view the pictures from our celebration in January. Today, those wonderful staff members have returned home to their new offices, and are hard at work fulfilling the mandate God has given KCM to preach the Word of Faith all around the world.

Let me encourage you that The WORD works when we put it to work. We gave, we rolled the care over onto The LORD, and as the harvest came, the work continued. But we also *celebrated the progress* along the way! 🎉





Prayer ^{That} Overcomes the Storm



“When a storm hits our nation... we’re to use the grace God has given us to pray for Him to intervene in the situation. We’re to pray for the purpose of bringing His mercy and power on the scene.”

Does it seem to you we’re surrounded by bad news these days?

It does if you’re paying attention!

All you have to do is listen to a news broadcast or check the latest headlines to know we’re living in stormy times.

Whether it’s a literal storm like the hurricanes that hit the U.S. last year, the devastating wildfires that destroyed large areas of California earlier this year, political or economic turbulence, another war or pandemic breaking out somewhere...trouble always seems to be threatening. Day after day, we’re constantly hearing reports either about

some catastrophe that’s just happened, or being warned of one that’s about to hit.

Second Timothy 3:1 says, “In the last days perilous times shall come.” And clearly, those times are here.

In the midst of everything that’s happening, there tries to arise a horrible cloud of fear because if the devil can get us into fear he can get a grip on us. Fear gives him the freedom to do what he wants to do. It produces all kinds of evil, both in the world and in our own lives.

But I’m here to tell you that there’s an answer to fear.

The answer is the love of God.

According to 1 John 4:16-18, those of us who “have known and believed the love that God hath to us” don’t have to fear. We can say no to it because “God is love; and... There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear.”

The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says, “full-grown (complete, perfect) love turns fear out of doors and expels every trace of terror!”

I remember one time when reports began to circulate about a gasoline shortage in our area. Some of the local gas stations had already run out and it looked like the situation might get worse. For a lot of people, that prospect was frightening. But as born-again believers, those kinds of shortages don’t scare us. Because we believe the love God has for us, we’re not afraid of them. Our attitude is: *I have no reason to fear, because my God loves me and He will protect and provide for me, one way or another.*

God has never had a problem providing for His people. In the Bible, we see Him do it time and again. We can even read about it in other historical writings.

During that gasoline shortage, a friend reminded me of the miracle of Hanukkah. It took place in 516 B.C. when the Jews liberated the Second Temple in Jerusalem during the Maccabean Revolt. For years, the Temple had been under Greek control and the Jews had not been able to worship there. So, when they started to light the Temple candles, they found they had only enough pure oil to keep the candles burning for one day.

To purify more oil would take eight days. But the candles were lit anyway and, miraculously, they kept burning for eight days—on a single day’s worth of oil.

Beloved Laborers Together With God

I have a little ring that I bought in Israel. Inscribed on it are the words from Song of Solomon 6:3: “I am my beloved’s, and my beloved is mine” (*New King James Version*). Those words apply to all of us as believers.

We belong to Jesus. We are His beloved, He is ours, and He is an all-sufficient Provider. When He was on earth, He never ran out of anything. Anytime it looked like there wasn’t going to be enough to meet the need, He supplied more than

enough for anybody who would listen to Him and act by faith on His Word.

He’ll do the same for us today. In the midst of everything that’s happening, if we listen to the leading of the Holy Spirit and do what He tells us to do, we’ll be fully protected and fully supplied. No matter what comes our way, we’ll be able to stand in faith on God’s promises and say, “There’s no fear here!”

We don’t have to limit ourselves to just looking to God for our own households, either. We can extend our faith on behalf of others.

Many people in the world don’t know what we know. When the storms of life hit, they don’t know to believe the love of God and the promises in His Word. But through our prayers, we can help make a way for His mercy to reach them. In fact, that’s part of our responsibility as Spirit-filled believers.

First Corinthians 3:9 says we are “labourers together with God” or “fellow workmen with and for God” (*AMPC*). And as workers together with Him we’re told in 2 Corinthians 6:1 that we are not to receive “the grace of God in vain” or “to no purpose” (*AMPC*).

Grace is God’s power working in us, for us and through us. We’re to use it to work with Him on whatever He’s doing. Because we’ve been given this great grace and empowerment, we have the privilege and opportunity to help accomplish His purposes.

When a storm hits our nation like on the East Coast some months ago, for instance, we’re to use the grace God has given us to pray, making way for His intervention in the situation. We’re to pray for the purpose of bringing His mercy and power on the scene.

“But Pastor Terri,” you might say, “a lot of us did pray about that storm. But it hit anyway.”

That’s true, but it doesn’t mean our prayers didn’t make a difference. They did!

As you may remember, the storm diminished greatly in intensity before it made landfall. And though it was still very destructive, there were also many testimonies from people who experienced divine deliverance. The team KCM sent to minister to those in the hardest hit areas brought back many such reports.

Sometimes all we can do about storms of that magnitude, whatever kind they might be, is



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make a difference in the midst of them. Although we might wish we could keep them from coming at all, we can't because they aren't just random occurrences. They're manifestations of the curse, and Proverbs 26:2 says, "The curse causeless shall not come."

Catastrophic events always occur for a reason. At the root of that reason is sin—sinful activity in the nation; disregard for God, for His ways and His plan; disregard for innocent life; disregard for Israel; and other violations of God's commands.

When all those things pile up, the earth itself reacts. Demonic activity begins to stir up natural forces to do evil. But regardless of what the devil is doing, we as believers still have a covenant with God. We can still walk with Him, stand in faith for what belongs to us, and intercede for others.

As we do, God's blessing will continue to rest on our lives and households, and even stretch beyond us through our prayers.

Skillful In the Righteousness of God

In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, the Lord said to me, *You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). There is nothing that you cannot prevent, change or overcome.*

The Lord also spoke to my dad, Brother Copeland, along these lines one time. *When it comes to things in your nation, He said, you can change things or stop things some of the time. When it comes to your community, you can change things or stop things most of the time. But when it comes to your house and your family, you have full authority. You can alter what satan has planned against you all the time when you stand in faith.*

Some of the troublesome things that are coming on this world these days would be extremely difficult to completely stop. But we're still to pray about them. We're still to keep working with God to bring forth His will in the midst of whatever is happening.

Even though we can't always prevent some of the storms that are coming on this world, the more skillful we are in the righteousness of God that is ours in Christ Jesus, the more we can alter their impact and the greater help to others we can be.

How do we pray skillfully about the different kinds of storms that are hitting our communities and our nations these days? you might wonder.

One of the primary ways is by praying in other tongues.

First Corinthians 14:2 says that one who speaks "in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." The *AMPC* puts it this way: "One who speaks in an [unknown] tongue...in the [Holy] Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things [not obvious to the understanding]."


When we pray in tongues, we can pray out details that are unknown to our natural mind! For example, we may be praying about a literal storm, like a hurricane. Whether we're praying before it hits or afterward, we only have a general knowledge of the situation. We don't know, person by person and house by house, all the people in its path. We don't know exactly where they are and what help from God they need.

Some of them might be making life-or-death decisions and needing God's guidance. Others may need to be located and rescued. Still others might need food and supplies.

The details of each person's situation are mysteries to us. But they are not mysteries to the Holy Spirit, and when we pray in tongues, Romans 8:26-27 says:

...the [Holy] Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance. And He Who searches the hearts of men knows what is in the mind of the [Holy] Spirit [what His intent is], because the Spirit intercedes and pleads [before God] in behalf of the saints according to and in harmony with God's will (*AMPC*).

So, keep praying both with your understanding as well as in other tongues. Keep using the grace God has given you to work with Him to accomplish His purposes. And remember that as a born-again believer, you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

No matter how stormy this world becomes, you can believe the love of God and say no to fear. You can stand strong in faith and stay strong, knowing that "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us!" (Romans 8:37).



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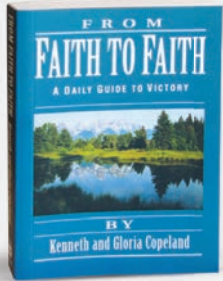
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TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY



Worship Is a Weapon

I was getting on the website to share an answer to prayer when I read from the *From Faith to Faith* devotional, and it was exactly what I was going to write about! I was in a real crisis of faith and had the idea to start singing worship songs. As I did, my spirit began to lift, and I realized how much better I was feeling despite very real circumstances. Thanks for the prayers and support.

A.G. | Tennessee

That's Good Ground

We joined EMIC last year and began sowing seeds, tithing and giving offerings in the great, fertile ground of Eagle Mountain. In one year's time, I started a new career and now have the best-paying job of my life. Speaking to the Lord of the harvest, and learning how to work with the assigned angels and flow with the Holy Ghost has changed everything.

We have so much to learn, but after our first year at EMIC, I can tell you the rewards are tangible and this soil is miraculous! Thank you, Mr. Copeland, for obeying God. You have ushered in a door of opportunity that is available to all who hear the call.

B.F. | Texas

Glory to God!

One day I called for prayer to have two houses that I own rented. I needed two tenants before the first of the month. When I got off the phone the activity of interest went up, and within days both homes were rented. A.D. | Colorado

Promotion Comes From God
I called for prayer about a promotion for my husband. Two weeks later, he received the exact promotion he had desired!

B.Y. | Minnesota

Partnering With Faith

I have struggled with COPD for many years. During the recent VICTORYTHON, I received a word from Nancy Dufresne and some of the other programmers. It was, "Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity."

I put feet to my faith, and got on the treadmill. I started speaking scriptures: "By my God I can run against a troop and leap over a wall" (Psalm 18:29, *New King James Version*) and "Woman, thou art loosed" (Luke 13:12).

I looked down at the O2 meter on my treadmill and it was at 83%, so I started speaking to the meter and said, "Oxygen, you come up!"

Well, the meter shut off, so I restarted it and looked again. My O2 stat was at 98%, then 99%, then 100%, all while walking on the treadmill! I have what I've been believing for: I am the healed, loosed from my infirmity! I'm so glad to be partnering with the message of faith!

K.F. | Montana

Only Because HE Lives!

Thank you for praying the Word. I called the prayer line for my husband, who had blood clots in his lungs. The prayer minister shared a scripture that I stood on, as confirmation that he would live. Well, praise the Lord, my husband is alive!

I also would like to thank you for the magazine.

B.C. | California

"God never forgets a seed. He never counts it out. He always multiplies the seed sown, then looks for someone with faith to harvest it." —Kenneth Copeland

Blessed and Thankful

One evening, I listened to *FlashPoint* and want to say how thankful I am to be a Partner with KCM. Brother Copeland is very inspirational. I am so blessed to be associated with this ministry.

C.L. | Louisiana

The Lord's Report

One day, I called during *Morning Prayer* regarding a heart procedure and subsequent appointment with my cardiologist. The results were "excellent," and I was taken off blood pressure medicine, which I'd been taking for over 40 years!

Thank you so much for your ministry around the world and for *Morning Prayer*. We serve a healing God!

Praise the Lord!

L.G. | Arizona

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.

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

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Boldly Declare!

I was up early one morning and decided to watch *Morning Prayer* on VICTORY Channel. It was toward the end of the program when Miss Annette read a prayer request and then boldly declared, "Put the Word of God on that thing and **BE HEALED!**" What she said exploded in my spirit! Later as I was getting ready for work, I was having pain in my chest. I looked in the mirror and I declared, "God sent His Word and healed me and redeemed my life from destruction. 'Thing,' **BE HEALED!**" The pain left!

Glory to God!

R.E. | Oregon



by Melanie Henry

The Power of Persistence

Jay Scott enjoyed the rigors of life as a Marine. Still, home on leave, he loved his mother's cooking. A great cook, she was also the parent who'd taken him to church all his life. Not that he'd appreciated it.

As a teenager, he'd made a firm decision that he would never go back to church as an adult. He'd had enough. Or so he thought.

Strangely, he had found himself drawn to church services during boot camp.

While eating his mother's comfort food, Jay admitted something else. Sure, she'd married his stepfather, who was an abusive alcoholic. But she had also imprinted on her son her faith in God.

Jay thought about his cousin, whose grandfather was a pastor. *Would the grandson go into the ministry?* As soon as he had that

thought, words echoed inside him.

No, he won't, but you're going to preach My Word.

Jay had never heard that voice before, yet he knew God had spoken.

"Oh no, Lord, not me! I have too many things I enjoy doing, and I'm not willing to give them up."

God didn't bother to respond.

One evening while on leave, Jay went to

“No matter how I felt, I had to renew my mind and emotions to God’s Word. I couldn’t hold a grudge. I couldn’t be offended or retaliate in any way.”



a club with friends. It was fun to relax and have a good time. He’d been dancing when he noticed something out the window. The club, filled with African Americans, came to a stop.

Outside, the club had been surrounded by members of the Ku Klux Klan—ghostly figures all draped in white.

“I was shocked to see the KKK in the 1990s,” Jay recalls. “I wondered what that was about. No violence broke out. I suspected that the group wasn’t local, but rather they were racists from out of state.”

Answering the Call

Jay was 22 when he first heard God’s voice, telling him that he was going to *preach My Word*. In 1995, after being discharged from the Marines, he moved to Defiance, Ohio, where he went to work for General Motors.

“The first day on the job, I met a lady named Michelle,” Jay said. “We became friends and later started dating. Her family was as different from mine as it could be. She came from a very loving family. I was raised with an alcoholic stepfather who abused my mother. I tended to be distrusting, while she was trusting. She’d been raised in a denominational church but had never learned about having a personal relationship with Jesus. I’d been exposed to that teaching my whole life but had resisted it.”

In 1996, Michelle attended church service with Jay’s mother, where she gave her life to Jesus. That same day, while at home alone, Jay made the same decision.

“Over the next six months, we developed a

deep hunger for God,” Jay remembers. “We willingly gave up anything we thought would displease Him.”

One day, Jay went to visit Michelle at work. When he arrived, Michelle was talking to an older gentleman about the Lord.

The man had great wisdom, Jay recalled. Soon, he became their spiritual father.

“He introduced us to Vision Christian Bible College, which we attended. We studied the Word, and it was eye-opening. The Bible talked about things we’d never heard; like the gifts of the Spirit, speaking in tongues and being led by the Spirit.

Connecting With KCM

“About that time, we started watching Kenneth Copeland on TV,” Jay says. “The truth is, I didn’t know what he was talking about. He was preaching things I’d never heard before, yet something kept pulling me back to him. Week after week, I watched and took notes. It took a while, but one day a light bulb seemed to come on inside me and I began to understand.

“Whenever the Copelands held a meeting in Southfield, Mich., Michelle and I attended. If Brother Copeland preached in Toledo, we went. When he held the Detroit Victory Campaign, we were there. We bought all their books and devoured them.

“For years, I thought that when the Bible taught about being unequally yoked, it meant people of different races couldn’t marry. But Kenneth showed us that it referred to a Christian marrying a nonbeliever.

“I proposed to Michelle, and she accepted. We had no idea of the persecution we were about to encounter.”

Taking a Stand

One day, Jay went for a visit and noticed Michelle talking on the phone. She was crying. “Who are you talking to?” he asked.

“My dad.”

Jay took the phone.

“I’m tired of you calling and making Michelle cry,” he said. “Your problem isn’t with her, your problem is with me. Why don’t you talk to me?”

Michelle’s father had told her they shouldn’t get married because their different races meant they were unequally yoked, Jay said. That was a belief, Jay learned, that many churches taught.

“Sir, take a look at that passage,” Jay told his soon-to-be father-in-law, directing him to 2 Corinthians 6:14. “If you read it, you’ll see that it isn’t talking about race. It’s clearly talking about saved and unsaved people marrying. Believers marrying unbelievers. Michelle and I won’t be unequally yoked because we’re both believers.”

Once Michelle’s father understood, and accepted the true meaning of the scripture, Jay said he no longer objected to the marriage. Neither did anyone else in Michelle’s family.

It wasn’t as easy with Jay’s side of the family, however.

Neither Jay nor Michelle expected the hardest resistance to come from his mother.

“As long as Jay and I attended his mother’s church, she seemed OK about us being a couple,” Michelle explains. “The church didn’t welcome teachings on the Holy Spirit. For that reason, we decided to attend a nondenominational church, which happened to be predominantly white.

“His mother assumed that I had pushed Jay to go there. That wasn’t what happened, but her mind was made up. She was angry, and that attitude spread to the rest of his family.”

Despite objections from Jay’s family, he and Michelle were married in 1997. No one expected the marriage to last.

“That’s when we became Partners with KCM. We wanted children, but we’d come from such different backgrounds that we needed to learn from the Bible how to raise them. KCM shaped how we wanted to train our children in the Word of God. We studied Commander Kellie and learned how she

taught children to be victorious at an early age.

“We decided that we wouldn’t teach our children to believe in Santa Claus, but to believe in and have faith in Jesus. We learned to live without fear and wanted our children to live that way. We wanted our family to live in the blessings of God.”

When Michelle got pregnant with their first child, Jordan, they dedicated their son to the Lord while still in the womb. They prayed and confessed the Word over him each day. They declared him healthy, and they forbade complications.

In the Day of Trouble

In March 1998, Michelle went into labor. After a while, the doctor explained they were going to do an emergency C-section.

When the child was born, immediately the nurse realized there was a problem.

“I need help!” the nurse called out.

The baby was blue, and he wasn’t breathing. Feeling helpless, Jay began to pray.

After about 10 minutes, he was allowed to see his son.

Jordan’s skin color was now pink, and he was breathing on his own.

For a moment, Jay couldn’t help but think about his mother and that she was not present to see her grandson being born.

“The fact that my mother wasn’t there had a sting to it,” Jay admits. “To be honest, it was worse than a sting. It was very hurtful. She’s the one who brought me up in church, but her offense at my marriage kept her away from her grandson.

“The rest of my family showed up—my grandmother, aunts and uncles. Michelle’s parents, who lived an hour away, came when she went into labor. It was three days before my mother came to the hospital. The only thing that got me through that painful time was the Copelands’ teachings. They taught the power of forgiveness.

“They taught that forgiveness wasn’t a feeling. It was a decision, an act of faith. No matter how I felt, I had to renew my mind and emotions to God’s Word. I couldn’t hold

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

APRIL

		Old Testament	New Testament
Tue	1	Deut. 1:1-2:15	Luke 21
Wed	2	Deut. 2:16-4:14	Luke 22
Thu	3	Deut. 4:15-5:33	Luke 23
Fri	4	Deut. 6:1-8:10	Luke 24
Sat	5	Deut. 8:11-10:22	
Sun	6	Ps. 42-44; Prov. 9	
Mon	7	Deut. 11-12	John 1
Tue	8	Deut. 13:1-15:11	John 2
Wed	9	Deut. 15:12-18:8	John 3
Thu	10	Deut. 18:9-21:9	John 4
Fri	11	Deut. 21:10-23:18	John 5
Sat	12	Deut. 23:19-26:15	
Sun	13	Ps. 45-48; Prov. 10:1-17	
Mon	14	Deut. 26:16-28:32	John 6
Tue	15	Deut. 28:33-29:29	John 7
Wed	16	Deut. 30:1-32:14	John 8
Thu	17	Deut. 32:15-33:29	John 9
Fri	18	Deut. 34:1- Josh. 3:8	John 10
Sat	19	Josh. 3:9-6:11	
Sun	20	Ps. 49-50; Prov. 10:18-32	
Mon	21	Josh. 6:12-8:23	John 11
Tue	22	Josh. 8:24-10:27	John 12
Wed	23	Josh. 10:28-12:24	John 13
Thu	24	Josh. 13:1-15:12	John 14
Fri	25	Josh. 15:13-16:10	John 15
Sat	26	Josh. 17:1-19:16	
Sun	27	Ps. 51-55; Prov. 11:1-23	
Mon	28	Josh. 19:17-21:19	John 16
Tue	29	Josh. 21:20-22:34	John 17
Wed	30	Josh. 23:1- Jdgs. 1:15	John 18

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a grudge. I couldn't be offended or retaliate in any way.

"My mother's decision to distance herself from us could have been painful," Jay explains. "We just didn't allow it. We decided to forgive and walk in love."

Seventeen months later, Michelle gave birth to their daughter, Zariah. Even though she was also delivered by C-section, there were no problems.

Once again, Jay's mother was not there for her granddaughter's birth.

From that day until she passed in 2020, she wasn't involved with the children's lives, said Jay. While Michelle's parents remained strongly involved with their grandchildren's activities, his mother never attended any of them.

In 1999, Jay was ordained, and Zariah was dedicated to the Lord. Jay's mother didn't attend. Once again, Jay and Michelle walked in love.

Stepping Into Ministry

During their years at Wauseon Worship Center, they worked in the nursery, in children's ministry and with the youth. In 2001 they started attending a nondenominational church in Defiance. In the summer of 2002, Jay graduated with his degree. A pastor from their church and another pastor were led to start a church in Hicksville and asked if Jay would teach a Bible study on Thursday nights.

That fall, they asked Jay to take over as pastor.

He asked Michelle what she thought.

"My first response was no," Michelle admits. "I was married to a black man, and we had mixed children. Besides, Hicksville was where the KKK had showed up at a club."

But when Jay said he was led to take the position, Michelle agreed.

In December 2002, Jay preached his first sermon in a building that formerly housed

the club which was eventually restored back to Huber Theater. Ironically, it was in the same building that housed the club where the KKK had showed up those many years ago.

"The church was originally called Community Christian Center," Michelle explains. "We renamed it Empower Church because that's what we wanted to do: empower Christians to live victorious lives. We found out later that when we took over the church, the pastors didn't think we would last three months. We've been there 21 years now."

Over time, Jay and Michelle's relationship with his mother improved. She and Jay's stepfather moved to North Carolina. When they came to visit, they often stayed with Jay and Michelle. His mother cooked wonderful meals.

"I'd been a pastor for three years before my mother ever heard me preach the gospel," Jay remembers. "I had the privilege of ministering the baptism of the Holy Spirit to her. I saw that the power of forgiveness and walking in love had turned things around.

"In 2020, Mom died a month before COVID hit. I've never preached a funeral like hers," Jay said. "The power of God hit that room. I've never seen anything like it. I looked out over the crowd and saw the glory of God settled over them. I don't believe that would have happened if we hadn't walked in love and forgiveness.

"Partnership with KCM has been the foundation of our ministry. The anointing on their ministry has also been on ours, especially increase. Today, we own our church building without debt. Our lives wouldn't have been nearly as rich without this partnership, especially their teaching on forgiveness and walking in love."

Today, Jay and Michelle Scott have outlasted the naysayers about their ministry. Having been married for 28 years, they've also outlasted the naysayers about their marriage. 🍷



Recall God's Mercies

by
Kenneth
Copeland

"This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." —Lamentations 3:21-23

God is faithful. He's full of compassion. His mercies are new every morning. As a believer, you know all that. But simply knowing it is not enough.

For it to do you any good, you have to recall it. You have to remember it again and again in order to rekindle your hope and stir up your faith.

So, make it a point to remind yourself of God's faithfulness every morning. Remind yourself of the benefits that are yours in Jesus.

What are those benefits?
Psalm 103 spells them out:

- 1 He forgives all your sins.
- 2 He heals all your diseases.
- 3 He redeems your life from destruction.
- 4 He crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies.
- 5 He satisfies your mouth with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
- 6 He executes righteousness and judgment for you against oppression.
- 7 He sets you free.
- 8 He makes known His ways to you.
- 9 He gives you His grace and mercy in times of need.

Make it a point every morning to say those things out loud to The LORD. Stand before Him in prayer and recall His mercies to you. Keep it up and you'll be stronger in faith and more confident of God's LOVE than you've ever been before.

Don't just settle for *knowing* God's BLESSINGS. Remember them every day and watch them come alive in you. ▼



by Gloria Copeland

“God is *always* endeavoring to make His plan a reality in your life. God’s Word will deliver you from trouble. It will solve seemingly impossible problems...and it will always connect you to the Master Plan.”

Unlocking the Power of the Word

Ken and I have learned we can’t ever afford to just coast along spiritually, resting in the momentum of the past. If we did that we’d stop making progress, and before long we’d be going backward. We’d start losing ground.

I determined in 1977 I’d never let that happen to me. Ken and I had been in the ministry about 10 years at that time, and God had abundantly blessed us. We’d grown much more comfortable than we were when we first began learning the power of the Word. Our needs were met. We had a nice place to live, good cars to drive and nice clothes to wear. We weren’t broke and our debts were paid.

As a result, I’d started to relax a little. I wasn’t in sin or rebellion but I wasn’t as zealous about the Word of God as I’d been a few years earlier. I’d allowed other interests to crowd out some



This article was adapted from Gloria Copeland’s New York Times bestseller, *God’s Master Plan for Your Life*.

of the time and attention I’d once given to God.

But that year I heard a prophecy by Kenneth Hagin that changed my attitude. It spoke of days to come when *men upon this earth shall walk and talk and act like God*. It referred to believers who would live in the power of God and become an army of light on the earth. Kenneth Hagin said: “Many of those here tonight are part of that army. You can be one if you so desire. Purpose in your heart that you will not be lazy, that you will not draw back, hold back or sit down. But purpose in your heart that you will rise up and march forward and become on fire.”

When I heard those words, I examined myself spiritually and realized my desire for the Word wasn’t as strong as it had once been. I didn’t make excuses for it. I didn’t try to justify myself. I





just heeded the Holy Spirit's prompting and honestly assessed my spiritual condition.

I will be forever glad I did. If I hadn't, I don't know where I'd be today. I'd still be a Christian, I'm sure, but I wouldn't be on fire for the Lord like I am now, because to be on fire, you must stay zealous about the Word. You must

continually put God first in your life.

In response to the Holy Spirit's warning that day, I made some decisions that changed my life. I decided I wanted to be in the spiritual army Kenneth Hagin prophesied about. I wanted to rise up and become on fire like I was at first.

APRIL BVOV BROADCAST CALENDAR



Kenneth Copeland

March 31-April 4
Precious Faith
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 6
Believe In God's
Love To Walk In
Victory Over Fear
Kenneth Copeland

April 7-11
Precious Promises
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 13
Freedom From Fear
Begins With a
Faith Decision
Kenneth Copeland

April 14-18
The Joy of The LORD
Is Your Strength
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 20
Jesus Has Given
You Victory Over All Fear!
Kenneth Copeland

April 21-25
Love Never Fails
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 27
A Fearless Life
Chooses God's Plan
Kenneth Copeland

April 28-May 2
Wisdom Is the
Principal Thing
Kenneth Copeland

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ET

Just One Hour Out of 24

So how did I reignite my faith? Just as I do with everything else in my life, I sought God's counsel. "Lord, what can I do?" I asked. "How can I stir myself up again?"

I didn't realize it then, but I believe now that much of my future depended on getting the answer to that question. I needed God's wisdom at that moment if I were to stay on God's shining path and fulfill His Master Plan. Of course, He gave me the wisdom I needed, just as He'll give it to you if you ask for it, because the Bible says: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).

When I asked the Lord how to rise up and become on fire again, He impressed upon me to begin reading one of John G. Lake's sermons every day. (Later, we published those sermons in a book, but at that time they were just loose, mimeographed copies.) John G. Lake was a powerful man of God who carried a divine spirit of dominion. The more I read his sermons, the more I began to catch the same spirit. Before long, I was conscious of God's power in a new and mighty way, and my fiery zeal for the Word was blazing brightly again.

A few years later, Kenneth Hagin delivered another prophecy that added even more fuel to the fire: "Don't take up all your time with natural things. Some of those things are legitimate and it's all right to take a certain period of time there, but see to it that you give heed unto your spirit. Give your spirit opportunity to feed upon the Word of God, and give your spirit opportunity to commune with the Father above. Build yourself up on your most holy faith by praying in the spirit. It doesn't take a lot of time, just an hour or two out of 24. *Just pay a tithe of your time unto Me*, saith the Lord, *and all will be well with you*. Your life will be changed. It will be empowered and you will be a mighty force for God."

I sensed God was talking to me when I heard that, so I considered whether I should spend one hour or two every day praying in other tongues. Being the chicken-hearted person that I was at the time, I decided on an hour. He gave me a choice, so I took the least amount of time. But at least I did become bold enough to commit to an hour.

After that, I started getting up early every morning to pray for an hour.

When I first started it was winter, and because of the cold I really had to battle with my body to get up that hour earlier. I'd be sleepy, the bed would be warm, and my body would say, *Don't get up! It's too cold and dark outside. Sleep just a little while longer*. Initially, sometimes I'd give in, but I just kept at it until getting up early to pray became a way of life for me.

That was in 1982. In the years since, I haven't slept as much but I've enjoyed life more. And I can tell you, all is well with me. God only knows the tremendous influence that has had on my life.

It wouldn't be an exaggeration to say I believe that one decision did more to help me connect to the Master Plan for my life than any other thing I've done as a Spirit-filled believer. It was a simple decision, but it wasn't an easy one to make. I don't mind telling you, I thought about it for a while before I made up my mind to do it, because I don't like to commit to something and then back out. I prefer to count the cost in advance and make sure I'm fully willing to do whatever it takes to see my commitments through. (God, of course, has given me the grace to do it. He would love to do the same for you!)

Had I known then what I know now, however, I would have made that decision in a heartbeat. Looking back, I can see it transformed my whole personality. Spending that hour with God every day changed the course of my life.

The same thing is true of the decision I made back in 1977 to stir up my zeal for the

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Living a Heavenly Life

Lord by reading the John G. Lake sermons. I wasn't preaching back then. Ken was the only preacher in our family and I thought that was just fine. I had absolutely no aspirations to minister at the pulpit. Even though that has proven to be a major part of God's Master Plan for me, I had no inkling of it at the time.

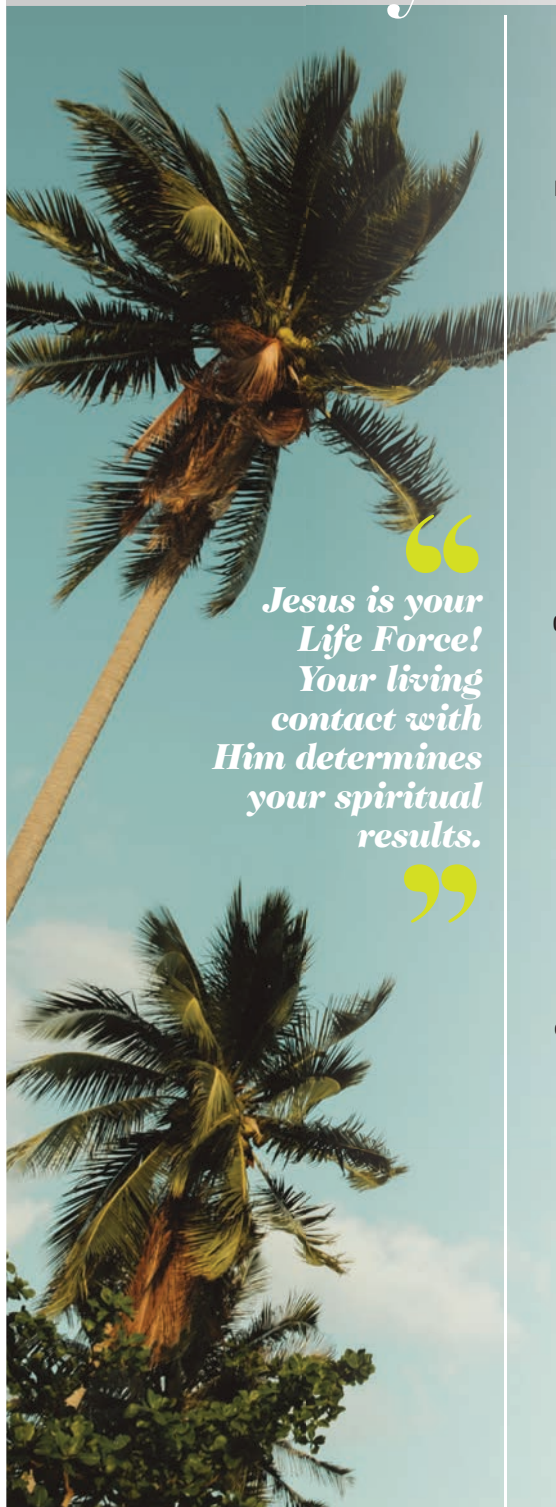
What would have happened had I not obeyed those promptings of the Holy Spirit? What if I had never obeyed God to make those commitments to stir up my hunger for the Word and spend time every day in prayer?

Most likely, I would never have done what I'm doing now. God might not have assigned me to preach because I would have been unprepared. I would have missed a major portion of the Master's Plan for my life. Determine right now that you'll never let that happen to you. Make up your mind you'll always expect such promptings from the Holy Spirit, and that you'll never ignore them when they come. Even if it seems costly at the time, always do what God puts in your heart to do. Your whole future may depend on it. Remember, God is always endeavoring to make His plan a reality in your life. God's Word will deliver you from trouble. It will solve seemingly impossible problems...and it will *always* connect you to the Master Plan.

In the Long Run, It Doesn't Cost, It Pays

Actually, when God directs you to do something that looks like it's going to cost you dearly, it always pays off richly in the end. Ken and I know that well. When we first began seeking God and obeying His Word, God directed us to do something that was practically unthinkable to us back then. He told us to get out of debt...and stay out.

I'll never forget the first time He spoke to us about it. We were living in a shabby rent house in Tulsa, Okla., and just barely getting by. But we were both spending lots of time in the Word because we knew we could not make it without God's supernatural help. Ken and I believed that God would make a way if



“
*Jesus is your
 Life Force!
 Your living
 contact with
 Him determines
 your spiritual
 results.*
 ”

1

When God created the earth in the beginning, He intended for His people's lives to be filled with His goodness. (Gen. 1:31)

2

Things changed on earth when Adam sinned, but God's will for His people remained the same. (Mal.3:6)

3

God told His people, even under the Old Covenant, that by putting Him and His Word first they could enjoy heavenly lives. (Deut. 11:21)

4

Jesus told us in the New Testament if we give ourselves 100% to God, we can enjoy heaven's blessings on earth too. (Matt. 6:33)

5

Give yourself wholly to God, go after Him with all your heart, and He will move in your life in ways that will amaze you. (2 Chr. 16:9)

“Give your spirit opportunity to feed upon the Word of God, and give your spirit opportunity to commune with the Father above. Build yourself up on your most holy faith by praying in the spirit. It doesn’t take a lot of time.”

—Kenneth Hagin

we would just take His Word literally and do whatever He told us to do. So every day we searched the Bible, expecting God to correct and instruct us.

When He did, His instructions came as a shock. I was reading Romans 13:8 in the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* at the time. It says very plainly, “Keep out of debt and owe no man anything, except to love one another.”

Keep out of debt? I thought. How will we ever do that?

We still had a mountain of debt from our past trailing behind us, and considering our meager income at the time, I had no idea how we would pay it all off. I wondered if Ken had read this verse. He had never mentioned it to me, so I assumed he hadn’t noticed it. Frankly, I didn’t really want to draw his attention to it, but decided I should. I got up my courage and handed him my *Amplified Bible*, pointing out Romans 13:8. When he read it, we both agreed God was speaking to us through that verse, telling us to stop borrowing money permanently.

Initially, that revelation was a blow to us. The devil immediately started telling us that we’d never have a decent house if we didn’t borrow money. We thought about the ministry we believed God had called us to; and it seemed if we obeyed this verse, that ministry would be over before it started.

How would we ever buy the ministry equipment we needed without borrowing? How could we pay for office space and buy vehicles we’d need to travel around the country—and the world—preaching the gospel? Ken was already praying for an airplane. Our dreams were doomed if we had

to pay for all that in cash. We could hardly pay our grocery bill in cash.


But after some discussion, we decided there was only one thing to do. We’d already made a commitment to God to obey His Word, no matter what it cost us, so we resolved that we’d never borrow money again.

Of course, we didn’t know then what we know now. Now we know that everything God tells us to do is for our good. In the long run, His way is always higher than man’s way. Even though it seems difficult at first, ultimately, it will bring the greatest blessing. We experienced the fulfillment of that blessing 11 months later when we paid off our debts in full. What had seemed impossible just months before had become a reality. We were actually debt free. And, thank God, we are debt free today, more than 40 years later.

We haven’t lacked anything, either. God has enabled us to buy houses, cars and property, build ministry buildings, buy millions of dollars’ worth of equipment, and even airplanes. We have stayed on national television for almost 50 years, preached the gospel around the world, and broadcast *Believer’s Voice of Victory* internationally. When we need or want something, we don’t have to ask some lending institution if they’ll give us the money for it. We just go to our heavenly Father to see what He has to say about it. If His Word says we can have it, we ask Him for it. Then we do what the Bible says: believe we receive it and talk like we have it (Mark 11:22-24).

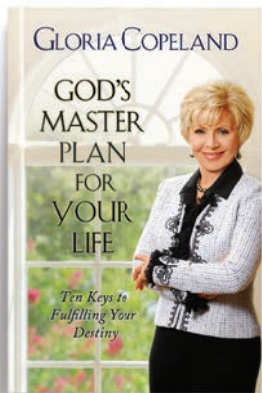
Personally, I like doing business that way, because with God’s accounting system there is no limit. His resources are inexhaustible!

Ken and I didn’t realize that 56 years ago. We didn’t understand that God was giving us the answer to our seemingly unsolvable financial problems when He told us to stop borrowing money. A great many other people we knew didn’t understand it either. They thought borrowing money was a smart thing to do. They thought it was a great idea.

But God knew better. He always does. 

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A New Way of Life

Commander
Kellie's Corner

Let's celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus with a grateful heart for what He has done for us. Jesus knew the Father did not want another animal sacrifice (Hebrews 10:5, *The Passion Translation*) so He said: "I will be the One to go and do your will, to fulfill all that is written of me in your Word" (verse 7).

He went to the cross for this very important reason, which is found in verses 19-22:

And now we are brothers and sisters in God's family because of the blood of Jesus, and he welcomes us to come into the most holy sanctuary in the heavenly realm—boldly and without hesitation. For he has dedicated a new, life-giving way for us to approach God. For just as the veil was torn in two, Jesus' body was torn open to give us free and fresh access to him! And since we now have a magnificent High Priest to welcome us into God's house, we come closer to God and approach him with an open heart, fully convinced that nothing will keep us at a distance from him. For our hearts have been sprinkled with blood to remove impurity, and we have been freed from an accusing conscience. Now we are clean, unstained, and presentable to God inside and out!

A NEW, life-giving way! We have a choice to make to live as Ephesians 4 describes.

Last month we read verses 17-19 and saw that the secret to this new way of living was not in choosing to be good, but choosing to believe. We need to talk more about that! It's time for us to change, or as verse 24, *The Message*, says, "Take on an entirely new way of life." To understand the way of life we are turning away from, let's look back at verses 17-18, where Paul describes the life

we DON'T want, and tells us not to live this way. Paul describes a life without God as lost and hopelessly confused, with a mind full of darkness. Choosing to shut God out of your mind and heart is choosing life without His love and power—leading to sin and hurt.

NO, THANK YOU!

Look at verse 20 in *The Message*.

It says, "But that's no life for you. You learned Christ!" Superkid, you have been taught about Jesus IN you! Whenever you see the word "Christ," think *that is Jesus in me!* Jesus in you means there is an ENTIRELY NEW WAY OF LIFE for you!

Now, read verse 21: "My assumption is that you have paid careful attention to him, been well instructed in the truth precisely as we have it in Jesus." You've known the truth of being one with Jesus and IN Jesus!

Verse 22 says, "Since, then, we do not have the excuse of ignorance, everything—and I do mean everything—connected with that old way of life has to go. It's rotten through and through. Get rid of it!" Superkid, we BELIEVE He not only lives in us but He lives THROUGH us. He not only walks with us, but IN us!

Now, look at verse 23: "And then take on an entirely new way of life—a God-fashioned life, a life renewed from the inside and working itself into your

conduct as God accurately reproduces his character in you." Superkid, this is the new way. Jesus working HIMSELF into not only our spirits, but our very souls—our minds, wills and emotions becoming ONE *with* HIS mind, will and emotions.

Here's a great way to explain what I mean. Try this experiment:

Take a ball of bright red modeling clay, and another of deep blue. At first, they sit side by side, yet separate. When you start kneading and working them together, something amazing happens—they blend into a brand-new color: purple!

Once the two colors of clay are fully mixed, you can't pull out just the red, or just the blue. They have become ONE—completely changed into something new.

This is a picture of what we've been seeing in Ephesians! Before we knew Jesus, we tried hard to be good enough. But when we choose Him, Jesus begins to work inside us. Unlike the clay, He doesn't just sit beside us. He wants to blend Himself completely into our hearts and souls, making us truly one with Him!

Jesus is actively renewing us from the inside out and working Himself into our conduct. That means He's changing our thoughts, our words and our actions every day. We're no longer just "us"—we are a new creation, shaped by God's love!

This new and living way of life is ours for the choosing.

There is more treasure in Ephesians 4, but let's camp here for now. As we approach Resurrection Sunday this year, let our celebrations have deeper meaning. He chose to ARISE FOR US, so we can choose to let Him ARISE IN US!

THAT'S the true meaning of RESURRECTION!

Commander Kellie 



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