

Believer's Voice of

VICTORY



December 2009



Merry Christmas



The Gift of Love— THE BLESSING

Dear Partners and Friends,

The greatest gift is the gift of love!

And our heavenly Father loves us so much He gave us the ultimate gift of love when He gave us the fullness of THE BLESSING through the birth and life of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Christmas, we join you and your family in celebration of Jesus' birth. And throughout the year we will celebrate as He continues to reveal THE BLESSING to our world through each of us, because the same love and power that dwell in Jesus are now alive and active in all His children. God has put THE BLESSING in our hands and we are to give it to the world. He has multiplied His love through us. Glory to God!

As we finish 2009 in the glory celebrating our Lord and Savior, we will move into 2010 with our hearts full of His love and with expectation. We know every day we will have opportunities to love and be a blessing.

We have put together this special issue of *Believer's Voice of Victory* trusting the stories and articles from our family will bless you. Our prayer is that in each one you will discover a new aspect of the greatest gift of love—THE BLESSING God gave us in Jesus!

As our family gathers this Christmas, know that we love *you*...our worldwide family. You are in our hearts and in our prayers. And we will take a special moment to thank the Lord for you—to us you are one of the greatest manifestations of His love and BLESSING.

Merry Christmas!

Kenneth & Gloria

contents December



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 36 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 and Gloria Copeland

4 Love's Greatest Gift

by **Kenneth Copeland**
You know John 3:16 by heart, but how well do you understand it as THE BLESSING God promised to you as a believer?



16 The Answer Is Yes, Now What's the Question?

by **Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher**
See how saying yes to God keeps you single-minded and focused on what He's called you to do.



Let This Mind Be in You

by **Melanie Henry**
Read how Wendy Flint renewed her mind with the Word—and was transformed from struggling student to successful professor... and then some!



27 Christ Is Born in You

by **Gloria Copeland**
Sure, you may be born again, but do you know who you *really* are as a child of your heavenly Father?

24

8 To Love Like Jesus

by **George Pearsons**
Christmas is most meaningful when we remember why Jesus came to earth: to reveal the Father's love. See how you can walk in that love today.

10 Hastening the Lord's Return

by **Terri Copeland Pearsons**
Jesus is coming soon. Hear what you can do to be ready for His return!

12 Celebrate—Without the Weight!

by **Marty Copeland**
Balancing the demands of the Christmas season is easier when you stay focused on the things that really matter—like Jesus, His love and time with family and friends.

14 Run With Your Dream

by **John Copeland**
God has given every person a dream that will result in a fulfilled life. Now's the time to take stock of how it's coming along.

18 God's Good Plan for Christmas...and You!

by **Kellie Copeland Swisher**
This Christmas season, remind yourself how good God is...and how good His plans are for you.

20 You're Worth It!

by **Jeremy Pearsons**
What's the measure of your worth? Is it your accomplishments, your failures? No, it's the blood of Jesus.

22 Good News Gazette

Read about real-life faith triumphs from people just like you.

31 December BVOV Broadcast Calendar

Join Kenneth and Gloria Copeland as part of your daily time in the Word.

articles

features



LOVE'S GREATEST gift

John 3:16 is the most-quoted verse in the Bible. Christians everywhere know it by heart. Without even thinking, they can say, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” ❀ Yet they have no idea what it really means. ❀ As I once heard the Lord say to me very plainly: *Everyone knows that verse and no one knows that verse.* ❀ One reason we’ve missed its meaning is because we think of *everlasting life* only in terms of longevity. But what it actually refers to is the Life that has always been and always will be—the abundant Life of God Himself. When the Bible says “God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (verse 17), it’s not just telling us that Jesus came to save us from hell and get us into heaven. He did much more for us than that.



Jesus came and laid down His life to deliver us from all the pain of the curse—in the here and now as well as in the hereafter. He was actually made a curse for us so “the blessing of Abraham” might come on us through Him (Galatians 3:14).

“I believe that, Brother Copeland,” someone might say, “but I’m not entirely sure what THE BLESSING of Abraham is.”

It’s the same BLESSING God gave mankind in the Garden of Eden—the BLESSING that was released to the first man and woman in Genesis 1:28 when “God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion.” It’s the power of God that would have enabled the family of man to expand Eden until it covered the whole planet.

But, as we all know, Adam sinned and threw it away.

When he did, God went to work on His plan to reinstate it. He made a covenant with Noah and his sons, and then with Abraham and his seed so THE BLESSING could eventually be passed down to Jesus; and through Him it could be made available to all mankind once again.

God so loved the world that He gave Jesus to get THE BLESSING back. He paid the most staggering price that has ever been paid for anything. That’s why we celebrate Christmas with giving, because Jesus was the greatest gift that Compassion has ever given...and He came to give us back THE BLESSING.

“I thought He came so we could be born again!” you might say. “I thought He came so we could be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

He did. Those things are part of THE BLESSING and so are the gifts of the Spirit, healing and financial prosperity. All those things are manifestations of THE BLESSING in action because THE BLESSING is the highest expression and release of heaven’s authority in this earth. It is today, just as it was in the beginning, the power of God to be fruitful, multiply and have dominion in every area of life—spirit, soul and body.

Although that revelation was lost on recent generations of believers, the early apostles understood it quite well. They knew what THE BLESSING was and they knew Jesus came to restore it. That fact was sealed in their hearts and minds forever the very last time they set eyes on Jesus when, right before His ascension: “He led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven” (Luke 24:50-51).

God sent Jesus to BLESS us. That’s the good news! That’s the gospel. It’s the same gospel God preached to Abraham when He said, “In thee shall all nations be blessed” (Galatians 3:8). It’s the gospel Jesus has commissioned us, as His disciples, to go into all the earth and preach to every creature.

The gift of THE BLESSING—both the message and the power of it—has now been put into our hands so we can give it to the world.

Jesus Needs You

The problem is, most Christians haven’t understood that. They’ve been hoping and praying for Jesus to BLESS people from heaven. “Oh Lord, save them!” they’ve cried. “Heal them, help them, BLESS them.”

They don’t realize Jesus has turned THE BLESSING over to us. It’s not His job to walk around laying hands on people, expressing God’s love to them and meeting their needs. He has delegated that responsibility to the Church, which is His Body.

Jesus can’t fulfill all things without His Body, so He needs His Body to be obedient to Him. He needs you and me to fulfill His mission of BLESSING.

“Oh, Brother Copeland, Jesus doesn’t need me!”

Are you saying the Bible lied?

“No, I’m just saying I don’t have much to offer. I’m not fit to be much of a blessing to anyone.”

Who told you that?

“I don’t know. I guess I’m just trying to be humble.”

That kind of thinking isn’t humble, it’s ignorant. It ignores the Word of God. A person of true humility will agree with the Word even if it means he has to change his way of thinking. He’ll say, “God can’t lie. So if He says He needs me, then He needs me.”

“OK, but what exactly does Jesus need me to do?”

He needs you to carry on His ministry. He has said to you what He said to His first disciples when He appeared after He had been to the Cross and ascended to heaven, “...as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you” (John 20:21). He needs you to go out and BLESS people!

You don’t have to be in full-time church ministry to do it, either. As a born-again believer, you are part of Jesus’ Body and that means you have the same anointing He has. Regardless of your vocation, you have the same power to BLESS that He does. It doesn’t matter whether you’re a pastor, an attorney, a car salesman or a housewife, if you’re doing what you’re called to do, you can carry THE BLESSING to people wherever you go.

You can go about doing good and releasing God’s compassion to the world just like Jesus did. Because the God who so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son, has put that same love in you.

More Than a One-Time Event

“Wait a minute now,” you might say. “I can’t love people like God does.”

Yes, you can. Jesus Himself said so. If He hadn’t, none of us would be able to believe it. But the fact is, He did. Just before His crucifixion when He was praying not only for those first disciples, but also for those of us who would believe on Him “through their word,” He said: “O righteous Father, the world hath not known thee: but I have known thee, and these have known that thou hast sent me. And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that

God Has a Plan to Bless You

Throughout the Bible, it's clear: God has a plan—and a purpose—for prospering you. He desires to bless you so you can bless others!

In this book, Kenneth Copeland teaches true, biblical prosperity—not only what God's plan is to get His blessing to you, but also what your role is in sharing that blessing with the world around you.

From tithing and giving, to sufficiency and prosperity, discover how you can be Blessed to Be a Blessing...and fulfill God's plan for your life!



the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them" (John 17:20, 25-26).

Think of it! Jesus prayed that the awesome compassion God had within Him when He created mankind—the compassion that compelled Him to sacrifice His only Son for the salvation of the world—would be imparted into our born-again spirit. He asked the Father to pour into us the same love, the same BLESSING, the same divine substance of God Himself that flowed through Him.

Did the Father answer that prayer?

He did exactly what Jesus asked Him to do. He shed abroad His own divine love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost when we were born again (Romans 5:5) so it could flow from our spirit like rivers of living water—and BLESS the world like it did through Jesus when He was on earth.

That's the reason we celebrate Christmas! That's why it's such a special time! It represents not just a one-time event that took place in a manger in Bethlehem, it represents the eternal Gift of God that keeps on giving.

As believers, we can celebrate Christmas every day by continually living in and giving away THE BLESSING of God's love!

"Then why don't more of us do it?"

Because everything in the kingdom of God operates by faith and, for the most part, Christians haven't developed much faith in God's love. They received it when they made Jesus the Lord of their lives, but they haven't done anything with it. They haven't finished the process of love referred to in 1 John 4:16: "We have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." The Greek word translated *known* there speaks of intimacy. The Bible often uses it to refer to the physical intimacy between a husband and wife. Genesis 4:1 says, for example, that "Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived."

When we were born again, we came to know God's love. We had an intimate spiritual interaction with Him that made us a new creation. According to John, however, we need to go on from knowing God's love to *believing* it. We need to develop our faith in God's love for us.

We do that by meditating on and talking about scriptures such as John 17:23, which says God loves us just as much as He loves Jesus. We do it by refusing to give in to contrary emotions and the devilish lie that God doesn't care about us. We do it by deciding to receive God's love by faith and saying, "I believe it! My heavenly Father loves me just as much as He loves Jesus!"

That's the kind of thing we should be saying all the time. We should be continually talking about the compassion of God and THE BLESSING instead of talking the curse. As children of God, we don't have any business letting the curse come out of our mouths in any form. Unbelieving, blasphemous, profane words stop THE BLESSING. They spoil everything. (See James 3:10.)

So if you've fallen into the habit of "cussing," stop it. Jesus didn't send you out in His Name so you could go around damning things. He is not the "damn-er" and you aren't either. You are here to release THE BLESSING.

Even if you don't use profanity, you must watch your mouth and remember it's just as blasphemous to say things like, "Every Christmas my whole family gets sick!" Sickness is part of the curse. When you declare it over your family, you're speaking the curse over them. You're contradicting the Bible which says they are BLESSED.

And don't try to justify it by getting theological. Don't say things like, "You know, brother, God brought that sickness on us to teach us something."

How dare anyone say that about Compassion Himself! God did not send Jesus

to the cross so He could put sickness on people. God sent Jesus so He could pour out His love and His BLESSING upon us. He did it so that by His Anointing we could lay hands on the sick and they'd recover.

Get Saturated

For us to do that, we have to make some changes. We have to renew our minds with the Word until, out of the fullness of our hearts, we speak BLESSING and not cursing. We must meditate on and confess the love of God that's been expressed toward us and imparted into our spirit by spending time every day reading and fellowshiping with God over what the Bible has to say about His love.

We must put it in our eyes and in our ears until the reality of it saturates our thinking and our lives. We must be like the man E.W. Kenyon preached about years ago who was walking through a dense fog. He was in the fog long enough that the wetness of it absolutely soaked his hat and coat. When he walked into his home, his clothes were dripping. Anyone who touched him got wet because water was flowing from his garments.

Brother Kenyon said that if we'll walk long enough in the love of God, that's the way it will be with us. Someone can just touch us and we'll ooze with the love of God. It will cause us to be completely irresistible and so powerful the devil won't be able to lay a hand on us.

Wear It Like a Garment

I want to wear God's BLESSING every day of my life, don't you? I want to walk in His love, not only because it's a great way to live but because Jesus needs us to. He needs us to clothe ourselves with His compassion so we can fulfill our mission of BLESSING throughout all the nations of the earth.

He doesn't need us to be upset and full of strife. He doesn't need us fussing with people and defending ourselves. He needs us to trust Him, roll all our cares over on Him and obey His commandment of love.

Notice, I said *commandment*, not *suggestion*. Jesus didn't say, "Well, I know how hard it can be to walk in love but I sure wish you would do it." He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with

all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

That commandment is divinely etched into the heart of every believer. The New Testament says we are "taught of God to love one another" (1 Thessalonians 4:9). I could walk up to any Christian in any country on earth and ask them if we're supposed to love each other and every one of them would answer yes.

The problem is we haven't kept it in the forefront of our thinking. We've let the command of love slip our minds and wound up violating it without even noticing. Of course, if we get into some kind of knock-down, drag-out fight we'll usually realize what we've done and repent. But if we don't consciously make love our top priority, we'll unconsciously say sharp words and do unkind things. We'll fall prey to unlovely habits without even realizing it.

We can stop that from happening by following the instructions in 2 Peter 3:1-2: "Stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour."

We can flow in the fullness of THE BLESSING if we'll get up every morning and put ourselves in remembrance of the commandment of love. We can fulfill our Great Commission if we'll start our day celebrating the love of Jesus and saying: "The same love God put in Him is in me. The same compassion with which 'God so loved the world, that He gave' is in my spirit and I'm going to release it today everywhere I go. I'm going to look for people to whom I can give, people I can BLESS, all day long. THE BLESSING of the Lord maketh rich (Proverbs 10:22) so I'm here to make people rich. THE BLESSING heals so I'm here to get people well. THE BLESSING delivers from darkness so I'm here to bring the light. I'm here to act just like Jesus!"

With that attitude of faith we can step out in THE BLESSING and bring the Spirit of Christmas to those around us every single day. **VICTORY**

Salvation Prayer

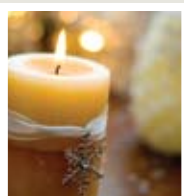
If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

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.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a free Salvation Package we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Simply write and ask for offer #50801, check the circle on the response form in the center of this magazine or call 800-600-7395.

*Formerly Managing God's Mutual Funds—now revised and expanded!
Blessed to Be a Blessing* \$10 #K090915
5 1/4" x 7 1/2" : paperback : 208 pages
kcm.org :: 800-600-7395 U.S. Only



to LOVE like JESUS

Christmas is more meaningful WHEN WE REMEMBER WHY JESUS CAME TO EARTH. OF THE MANY ASSIGNMENTS THE FATHER ENTRUSTED TO HIM, ONE IN PARTICULAR STANDS OUT TO ME. | HEBREWS 1:3 (NEW LIVING TRANSLATION-96) TELLS US, "THE SON REFLECTS GOD'S OWN GLORY, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM REPRESENTS GOD EXACTLY." THE AMPLIFIED BIBLE SAYS, "HE IS THE SOLE EXPRESSION OF THE GLORY OF GOD [THE LIGHT-BEING, THE OUT-RAYING OR RADIANCE OF THE DIVINE], AND HE IS THE PERFECT IMPRINT AND VERY IMAGE OF [GOD'S] NATURE." THE KING JAMES VERSION DESCRIBES JESUS AS "THE EXPRESS IMAGE OF HIS PERSON."

Throughout the Gospel of John we read how Jesus emulated the Father: "The Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do" (5:19, *New King James Version*); "I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me" (6:38, *NKJV*); "I speak that which I have seen with my Father" (8:38); and this statement is to me the most powerful, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (14:9, *NKJV*).

John 1:18 (*AMP*) declares, "No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten

God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known]." And John 1:14 (*NLT*) reveals to us a major reason for Jesus coming to earth: "The Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son." He came to earth to demonstrate the Father's love to us.

Emmanuel—Love With Us

Matthew 1:23 is a familiar Christmas scripture: "Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

We know from 1 John 4:8 that "God is love." So, when we read the phrase, "God with us," it can be read, "Love with us." Think of that. The love of God was sent to earth in human form. This love is described in Ephesians 2:4-5 (*AMP*). "But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and *intense love with which He loved us*, even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ."

Jesus came to bring heaven's atmosphere to earth and to reveal the Father's love. We see He manifested this "God-love" everywhere He went and with everyone He met. Whenever a person had an encounter with Jesus, he had an encounter with the pure love of the Father.

Whether it was healing the sick, forgiving the sinner or raising the dead—this new kind of love on earth impacted every life He touched. Children were drawn to Jesus like a magnet—that was the love of God. The brokenhearted found compassion and understanding in His presence—that was the love of God.

Jesus' every response was based on the love of God. Even when He cleansed the temple, it was God's love: People were being hindered from true worship. Jesus cleared the way for them to make contact with God—He did it out of love. Every word, every action, every thought was motivated by God's love. He was the Father's love sent to earth.

Love Like Him

But this demonstration of love was not limited to Jesus. As the Body of Christ, His love is imparted to us, so we can also be express images of the Father's love.

Jesus told His disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another"

(John 13:34-35). This new kind of love is the Greek word *agape*. It is God's love in us that springs up from a heart for others. It is love from the inside out—not from the outside in.

It is a love of devotion, faithfulness, commitment and loyalty. This God kind of love confers value on others. It sees the preciousness, worth and goodness in others. It is a love that sacrifices with no expectation of return.

Jesus came to earth as an example of how we are to love one another. We are called by God to love each other the same way He loves us. Ephesians 5:25 tells husbands to love their wives *even as* Christ also loved the Church and gave Himself for it. John 15:12 says we are to love one another as Jesus loved us. "Be imitators of God [copy Him and follow His example], as well-beloved children [imitate their father]. And walk in love, [esteeming and delighting in one another] as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us" (Ephesians 5:1-2, *AMP*).

My Prayer for the New Year

The year 2010 is upon us. My greatest desire for the new year is to walk in a higher degree of God's love. I want to be a more loving husband, father and pastor. I want to exemplify the love of Jesus to this lost and hurting world.

The Father gave us the Son of His love. Jesus lived on this earth and showed us the Father's love. Now, He lives in our hearts. It is our turn to allow this love to flood through us to others.

Pray this prayer with me right now: "Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to the earth. He demonstrated to us the fullness of Your love. Our heart's desire is to love others as He loved us. Thank You for helping us see others through Your eyes of love. We want to be Your express image of love on the earth. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen!"

Merry Christmas to you and your family. This Christmas, allow the Father's love to shine through you like never before. **VICTORY**

George Pearsons is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For information or ministry materials write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001.

Join us LIVE

Sundays December 6, 13 & 20

8:30 or 11 a.m. CT

for more of Pastor George Pearsons' 3-part Christmas series titled To Love Like Jesus

bvov.tv/emictv.php



It is a love of devotion, faithfulness, commitment and loyalty. This God kind of love confers value on others.



Hastening the Lord's Return

BY TERRI
COPELAND
PEARSONS

A MOST POWERFUL WOMAN OF PRAYER AND PROPHECY, JEANNE WILKERSON, SAID THAT ALL OF HISTORY HANGS ON TWO GOLDEN HOOKS: THE FIRST COMING OF THE LORD AND HIS SECOND.

FOR CENTURIES, THE BODY OF CHRIST LIVED IN THE SHADOW OF THAT FIRST COMING. BUT IN THE EARLY PART OF THE LAST CENTURY THE CHURCH BEGAN A TURN TOWARD THE DAWN OF HIS RETURN. THE GREAT OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHICH BEGAN IN 1901 GRADUALLY BROUGHT THE RESTORATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, THE UNVEILING OF THE WORD OF GOD AS NEVER BEFORE. BUT NOW, AS ALL THESE THINGS COME TOGETHER, WE ARE CLEARLY APPROACHING WHAT PROVERBS 4:18, *NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION* CALLS “THE FULL LIGHT OF DAY” AND HIS APPEARING IS EVER SO CLOSE AT HAND.



Jesus Is Coming

Years ago, my husband, George, and I had the privilege of becoming well acquainted with a man named Justus du Plessis—a prominent figure in Pentecostal circles throughout much of the 20th century with signs and wonders following his ministry. George once asked this man of great power and love, “What do you see that is different in the Church now than back then?” He was quick to respond, “We don’t say enough that ‘Jesus is coming soon.’ We used to say it all the time.”

Our day is not only one of looking for His return, but we have an active role to play in hastening His return (2 Peter 3:11-12). Where can we discover our part in this greatest of all events? The Word of God! It is actually all laid out for us in very plain view. Everything that happened in the First Coming of the Lord set a precedent for His Second Coming. We can actually look at the key figures involved in the days

just before and after His birth to get a wonderful picture of the Church actively preparing the way for His return. And while we are making the way for His return, we will also be preparing ourselves as the Bride about to be joined to her Groom.

Although several people are mentioned in Luke’s account of Jesus’ birth, and each of them worthy of study, I would like to focus on Zachariah and Elizabeth. Their story is not only essential to the First Coming of the Lord, but offers prophetic insight into His Second Coming as well. I am always looking for the flashlight of the Holy Spirit to shine on Scripture and show us things to come (John 16:13).

Zachariah was a descendant of Aaron, the first of the Levitical priesthood. So today he would represent the five-fold ministry gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher (Ephesians 4:11). Though New Testament ministry is different from the Old Testament, both were ordained of

God. The ministry gifts are essential to “the building up of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:12, *New American Standard*).

Zachariah’s wife, Elizabeth, was also a descendant of Aaron. She would represent the laity of the Church who, though not called to pulpit ministry, has still been born into “a royal priesthood” (1 Peter 2:9). Together, they represent all aspects of the Church working in divine order toward the hastening of His return.

Luke 1:6 gives us some insight into what this royal priesthood should be giving special attention to.

“They both were righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord” (*The Amplified Bible*).

“Walking Blamelessly”

Sounds impossible! Blameless in everything? How? Well, we know from 2 Corinthians 5:21 that the Church has been made the righteousness of God in Christ. Being in right-standing with God is the result of being born again, which is to be born of God. That makes it possible for us to be blameless and welcome in His presence, both now and in heaven. But that’s not *walking* in righteousness. There is still too big of a gap in what we are made of and how we are walking it out.

In the Old Testament people were looked upon by God as righteous based on their works. It was righteousness on the outside, covering for the inside. But in the New Testament we are not saved by our works but by grace. That doesn’t dismiss our works, or deeds, as unimportant. In fact, we will be judged according to what we do while in this body. But instead of trying to live blamelessly by our own efforts, we are to live from the inside out, our every action enabled by His indwelling righteousness.

Ephesians 2:10 tells us we were re-created in Christ Jesus *so that* we may do those good works which God predestined for us. The result is not failed attempts by the flesh at holiness, but a lifestyle of holy behavior that comes from living out of our spirit man and truly being who and what we are: the children of the Most Righteous and Holy God.

Now, even though righteousness makes holiness possible, we still need help. Thank God He sent the very Spirit of Holiness to both teach and help us grow up in Jesus until we live just like Him.

What exactly were Zachariah and Elizabeth blameless in?

First John 3:23 summarizes all that Jesus has commanded and required of the Church: “And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”

Clear enough! Faith and love. In the last 40 years many ministers, my dad, Kenneth Copeland, included, have made those two things the pillars of their ministries. After 40-plus years of faith and love, I’m sure some have thought, *Will he ever stop preaching on that?* To which Brother Kenneth E. Hagin would answer, “Not until you get it!”

It is very prideful and dangerous for us to ever think, *Now we know about that*, setting aside the need to grow. It’s one thing to know *about* something and quite another to master it. There’s no end to how far the Church can develop in either faith or love, so we must never tire of hearing about them or establishing them in our lives. Our eyes should be on Jesus, the author of our faith and the full expression of God’s love, ever judging ourselves until we are walking in the Light, even as He is in the Light (1 John 1:7).

To be sure—who we are and the power in which we live hangs entirely upon the first of God’s great golden hooks, the First Coming of the Lord. It is the second of His golden hooks, His return, that gives purpose to both who we are and what we do. **VICTORY**

Terri Copeland Pearsons is the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland. She and her husband, George, pastor Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For information or ministry materials write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001.

There’s no end to how far the Church can develop in either faith or love, so we must never tire of hearing about them or establishing them in our lives.

Learn the Ways of the Spirit



As a believer, you desire to walk in the spirit; to see the gifts of the Spirit flow freely; to live in God’s presence and power. In this three-CD series, Terri Copeland Pearsons teaches you how to develop and operate in the *Ways of the Spirit*. You’ll learn how prayer is the key to managing spiritual power—and how the more boldly you use the authority He’s given you, the higher in spiritual authority you’ll go.

Discover how to hear the Holy Spirit and do anything God calls you to do today!

Ways of the Spirit : 3 CDs
now \$10 Reg. \$15 #K091212

kcm.org :: 800-600-7395 U.S. Only

Celebrate without the weight!



It can sometimes be a challenge to balance the demands of the Christmas season and stay focused on the things that really matter—things like celebrating the birth of Jesus, recognizing His love and presence in our lives, and having memorable times with family and friends. So, I want to help you find a way to do those things, as well as maintain your health and fitness goals, and have some fun while you're at it!

When temptation abounds, it takes determination to steer clear of calorie-rich goodies and not trade exercise time for other things—like shopping and parties. But, you can have a terrific time this season without piling on the pounds, or the extra

weight and guilt that come with it. These few tips have helped me over the years, and I trust they will do the same for you.

It's All About People

I've learned that reminding myself of what's really important helps me stay focused on my health and fitness goals, even when attending Thanksgiving dinner or Christmas parties. My purpose for attending

these events is interaction with *people*—not with *food*.

If you decide before you go to an event that your reason for attending is to celebrate Jesus and love on people rather than eat 'til you pop—it'll make all the difference! One way to do this is to pray and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to encourage others. Expect the Holy Spirit to draw you to the people who may be struggling in their lives, so you can speak words of life to them. Proverbs 25:11 says, "A word fitly spoken and in due season is like apples of gold in settings of silver" (*The Amplified Bible*). There is nothing more satisfying than being able to bless someone. What a great gift to give during Christmas! It's true that "in giving you receive." Helping others is much more fulfilling than a slice of three-layer chocolate cake loaded with calories that could possibly make you feel regretful moments later.

Holiday gatherings are such a perfect time to nurture relationships. Take the time to really listen to people and interact with them; reconnect with old friends, make new friends and help them feel valued and loved. As you focus on people, you won't even notice you are not eating all that much. You'll be having too much fun to be concerned about food! And, at the end of the day, you will feel guilt free and experience the joy that comes from having self-control, and the ultimate joy that comes from loving others.

Indulgence Boundaries

I realize that part of the fun of celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas is having those once-a-year family favorite foods. Rather than deny yourself completely, set boundaries. Decide what indulgences you do not want to go without. Then, have a plan in place to compensate for those extra calories. For instance, plan an extra workout day before a big meal. If possible, take a walk in the park after the Christmas meal is over, and invite others to join you.

Usually, I determine that Christmas Eve is my "treat" time because it is a big celebration for our family. To offset the extra calories I know I'll consume, I exercise a little harder and eat a little lighter the day before.

On Christmas Day, I do enjoy *some* treats. I savor a piece of my mom's homemade fudge! I've really enjoyed it since I was a kid, so I look forward to it—the memory of her making it, as well as the fudge itself. But what do I say when she asks me if I want to take some home? "No, no and no!" The day after Christmas, I'm committed to a long workout to compensate for the extra calories and give my metabolism the boost it needs.

Decisions, Decisions, Decisions

We've already touched on the subject of "deciding before you go." This is such an important step and a very real deterrent to gaining weight during the holidays. So, before attending any social event, ask yourself this question: *Which is more important: eating the tempting, fattening foods or maintaining my weight?*

Once you have made your decision, write down your goals. State when you plan to exercise, how much you plan to eat and how you will follow through with that plan. Writing it down indicates a sincere intention of reaching your goals, and it will help you stick to the plan! Also, enlist the Lord's help! "Commit your way to the Lord [roll and repose each care of your load on Him]; trust (lean on, rely on, and be confident) also in Him and He will bring it to pass" (Psalm 37:5, *The Amplified Bible*). God can and

“Holiday gatherings are such a perfect time to nurture relationships. Take the time to really listen to people.”



What miracle do you need? A happy marriage...healing... financial breakthrough? Learn how to stand in faith like Hannah did—and receive *your* miracle as a beloved child of God!

Hannah's Miracle Child : \$5
by Marty Copeland : single CD : #K091201
kcm.org :: 800-600-7395 U.S. Only

Learn how to create the temple God desires for you with Marty Copeland's **From Faith to Fit 90-Day, Weight-Loss Challenge!** Make the next 90 days your turning point to the most effective weight loss possible. You'll receive:
2 workout DVDs
spiritual teaching on CD & DVD
Meal Nutrition Guide
Fast-Food, Eating-Out Guide
Food and Exercise Journal
90-Day Devotional



online offer only
NOW! \$59
Reg. \$99
kcm.org

To offset the extra calories I know I'll consume, I exercise a little harder and eat a little lighter the day before.

will help you reach your goals!

Now, on the practical side of things, here are a few ways to avoid common pitfalls to gaining weight when it comes to holiday eating:

- If you have decided not to eat at the party, then eat a healthy meal before you arrive. If you feel you will offend your host by not eating, then eat a small, high-fiber meal beforehand that will fill you up, and leave a little room

to munch on raw veggies. Or, if you are attending a sit-down dinner, put extremely small portions on your plate and eat only larger portions of vegetables.

- If you have a sweet tooth, take only a few bites of a low-carb/low-fat protein bar before the party to help curb your appetite for sweets.

- Luncheon parties at work can be a challenge. I recommend taking a healthy sandwich to eat prior to the party. You'll be full enough to steer clear of calorie-rich foods, and choose a dinner salad instead.

- If asked to bring a dish, offer to bring drinks, plates or napkins. Then you won't be tempted to eat some of the goodies you might bring.

Slack Now—Pay Later

During the holidays it's important not to slack off on workouts! Find creative ways to get the exercise you need. For instance: Squeeze in shorter workouts with greater intensity levels. Take the stairs, park in the back lot and walk farther to your destination. Burn calories by walking faster while shopping, carrying your own packages and taking stairs rather than escalators. And, *never* go to the mall hungry! Take a snack and a bottle of water with you.

Enjoy the Day!

Now, I want to take this opportunity to wish *you* a very blessed and happy Christmas! I hope you are able to fully enjoy the holidays with your family and friends. And, I pray you experience the peace and joy of our Lord during this special time of year. And...savor each day! **VICTORY**

Certified by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas, Texas, Marty Copeland is a personal trainer, nutritional counselor, author and minister of the gospel.

BY JOHN COPELAND

RunWith Your Dream

I believe God has given every person a vision—a dream that will result in a fulfilled life. What's yours? What have you desired to do since you were a young person? What has God shown you about the fulfillment of your life as His child?

God is a visionary, and He created His people to be visionaries as well.

When we were children and began to imagine what we would be when we grew up, no one and no thing on earth could keep us from believing our dreams would come to pass.

Do you recall your childhood dream? Do you recall the particular vision for work or ministry

God placed in your heart when you were born again?

There may be any number of reasons you have put your dream on the shelf—not totally forgetting about it perhaps, but deciding it must be for later. The daily pressures

of "growing up" and living life, for example, or perhaps there have been financial restraints. Time may be a factor, and with each passing year your vision has become more unattainable. Distractions may have kept you from developing your dream, or naysayers may have squelched it altogether.


I encourage you to revisit your dreams and the vision for your life. Use your imagination and take time to reconnect with the dream God has given you.

Your happiness in life comes from fulfilling the plan He has for you. Whatever dream God has called you to, He is willing to make His vision for your life plain so you can run with it! **VICTORY**


John Copeland is CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and the son of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. He lives in Fort Worth, Texas, with his wife, Marty, and their three children.


"Write the vision, and make it plain, that he may run that readeth it."
Habakkuk 2:2


God is a visionary, and He created His people to be visionaries as well.





THE EDED BLESSING


Kenneth Copeland


Gloria Copeland


Jerry Savelle


Jesse Duplantis
at Believers' Convention


Creflo Dollar


Also join Kenneth and/or Gloria at these meetings

2010 Branson Victory Campaign
March 4-6 Faith Life Church | 3701 W. Highway 76 | Branson, MO 65616

Homecoming 2010 Southwest Believers' Convention
August 2-7 Fort Worth Convention Center | 1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign
November 11-13 Hylton Memorial Chapel | 14640 Potomac Mills Road | Woodbridge, VA 22192

Unable to attend? Join us via **live broadcast online** at kcm.org for our Victory Campaigns and convention.




Join Gloria Copeland for Healing School
Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. at our convention and Victory Campaigns.


Behind the Mission Weekend: February 19-20, 2010
Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort
5401 N. Scottsdale Road | Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Kern Christian Center: March 19-21, 2010
4701 Gosford Road | Bakersfield, CA 93313
661-664-1000 | kernchristiancenter.org

Announcing NEW and exciting Behind the Mission Weekends in 2010: Orlando: September 23-25 and more cities to come



Dr. Stephen and Kellie Copeland Swisher



Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons

The Blessing in Action
COPELAND family meeting
Orlando : December 3-5, 2009
Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center | 6000 W. Osceola Parkway | Kissimmee, FL 34759

2010 Long Beach : July 8-10
Long Beach Convention Center | 300 E. Ocean Blvd. | Long Beach, CA 90802

Hello. My Name Is God. LIVE
November 20-21, 2009
Atlanta Marriott Century Center
2000 Century Blvd. NE | Atlanta, GA 30345

Living Word River Valley: February 21, 2010
4510 Highway 71 N | Alma, AR 72921
479-632-2340 | lwrv.org

Admission is FREE! | Meetings are subject to change without notice. | For details and updated information, please log on to events.kcm.org or call the KCM office nearest you. Partners and Friends within the United States call **800-600-7395**.

the answer is **Yes** > Now What's the Question?



I WAS IN A RESTAURANT RECENTLY AND AT THE BOTTOM OF THE MENU I SAW THESE WORDS IN BIG, BOLD LETTERS: *THE ANSWER IS YES, NOW WHAT'S THE QUESTION?* I LIKED THAT. IT'S VERY CUSTOMER-SERVICE ORIENTED, AND IT GOT ME THINKING ABOUT THE MESSAGE I WANT TO SHARE WITH YOU. | ONE OF THE DEAR FRIENDS WE HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO VISIT WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS OVER THE PAST YEAR IS MORE THAN A FRIEND TO OUR FAMILY. DR. ORAL ROBERTS IS A MENTOR, HERO AND PARTNER IN FAITH. WHENEVER WE VISIT WITH HIM, WE GAIN NEW INSIGHT, ENCOURAGEMENT AND STRENGTH. AT AGE 92, HE IS STILL PREACHING, WRITING BOOKS AND SAYING YES TO GOD'S PLANS IN HIS LIFE.

In fact, in the front of Brother Roberts' Bible is a note he wrote that reads: "Honor the Lord!" and the scripture notation "Proverbs 3:25, 26."

Giving God True Honor

Think about that for a moment. How do we honor the Lord?

I believe one of the main ways we show honor to God is by saying *yes* to His plans and promises in our lives.

Second Corinthians 1:20-22, *New Living Translation*, says,

For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!" And through Christ, our "Amen" (which means "Yes") ascends to God for his glory. It is God who enables us, along with you, to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment that guarantees everything he has promised us.

Jesus is the ultimate *Yes* to our promises in God and the Holy Spirit is the guarantor or guarantor. The word *guarantor* is commonly used in banking and refers to "one who co-signs or 'backs up' a financial transaction." We can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to be our guarantor, to guarantee our finances, prosperity, health, strength, wisdom and more. All this comes when we say *yes* to Jesus and His plans for our lives.

God has spent years teaching His people the simple truth that His answer is *yes*. He is not here to judge us, put us down or tell us how horrible we are. Nowhere in the Bible will you find where Jesus ever said things like, "You are a sinner," or, "You're going to hell." Instead, we find Him expressing love and compassion, as in the case of the woman caught in the act of adultery.

When the scribes and Pharisees put her before Jesus to be judged, Jesus said nothing, but simply stooped down and began writing on the ground. When they continued to press Him, Jesus looked at them and said, "All

right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!" (John 8:7, *NLT*).

The Bible says when her accusers heard Jesus' response they slipped away one by one, until only Jesus and the woman were left. Then Jesus asked the woman, "Where are your accusers? Didn't even one of them condemn you?" (verse 10). When she answered, "No, Lord," Jesus responded: "Neither do I. Go and sin no more" (verse 11).

Jesus always focuses on what *can* be in a person's life and says, "Go and do better. Rise up higher." He doesn't dwell on the wrong we have done.

Always Answer Yes

Wouldn't it be good if we always answered *yes* to what God asks of us? Ephesians 3:19, *NLT*, says, "May you experience the love of Christ.... Then you will be made complete with all the fullness of life and power that comes from God."

Catch the power of that statement. The same power that is in Jesus is in you. Realize this truth today and say, "Yes, God, I will follow You."

James 1:5-6, *NLT*, says, "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask him, be sure that your faith is in God alone. Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind."

Trying to live in the world's system while dabbling in God's system is called being double-minded. The root word for *double* is *doubt*. Doubt is not truly believing God is who He says He is, not believing the Holy Spirit will help us. Doubt causes double-mindedness. It causes us to waver, to one day believe the Lord is going to help and the next day doubt His power or that He desires to help. When we waver back and forth like that, we become ineffective.

When we say *yes* to God, Jesus comes alongside us and also says *yes*. The Bible reminds us that *yes* from Jesus ascends to the Father. Picture that in your mind and spirit, then say out loud, "Jesus and I say 'Yes' today." When you do that, the Holy Spirit is dispatched to make it happen. From the corridors of heaven, God says, "Make it so!" Then, the power of God and His angels is dispatched to

lift us beyond what we could ask or think.

Whenever Kellie and I pray for people, we pause for a moment and say in our spirits, *Lord Jesus, the same power that is in You is in us now and we release this power in Your Name*. You can do the same thing in every area of your life.

Is there any *God, Yes!* inside of you that you haven't agreed to? Maybe it's a relationship, or a situation at work or at home. Perhaps it's a dream or desire you've had that's been dormant for way too long. Today is your day to say *yes* to God's plan in your life. Say *no* to unbelief and *yes* to faith in Jesus.

Deuteronomy 28:1-3, *NLT*, says, "If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the world. You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God: Your towns and your fields will be blessed."

Why? Because you're saying *yes*. You're obeying God's Word.

Verse 4 continues: "Your children and your crops will be blessed. The offspring of your herds and flocks will be blessed."

Why? Because you're saying *yes* to the will of God.

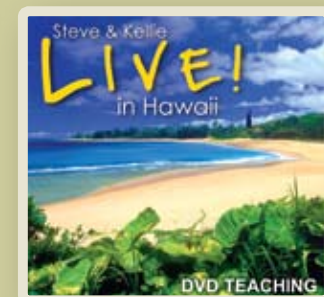
Deuteronomy 28:13, *NLT*, says, "If you listen to these commands of the Lord your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the Lord will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom." Declare out loud right now, "Because I hear and obey God's commands, I am at the top and I am rising higher! I am saying 'Yes' to You, Lord. I am saying 'Yes' to You, Jesus. I am saying 'Yes' to You, Holy Spirit."

Even in this moment, God is lifting you up higher than you can ask or think. Receive His gift.

On behalf of my family, I bless you and those you love with the merriest Christmas and the most *yes*-filled new year you've ever had. **VICTORY**

Their story is His story

Discover God's love and faithfulness as Steve and Kellie Swisher share their personal testimony. You'll learn, through real and relevant examples, how to hear God's voice and implement His wonderful plan for your life, so you can live out HIS story, too! Order today.



Steve & Kellie *LIVE! In Hawaii*
single DVD : now \$12
Reg. \$19.95 #K091211

kcm.org
800-600-7395 U.S. Only

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher is a pastor and senior manager at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Along with his wife, Kellie Copeland Swisher, Dr. Swisher travels extensively, speaking in churches and at conventions across the country and around the world.



BY KELLIE COPELAND SWISHER

GOD'S *good plan for* Christmas & you



It's Christmas. Those two words strike the hearts of mothers everywhere with any number of responses. For me, there comes not only a great sense of excitement but a very heavy sense of responsibility. Somehow, mothers feel completely responsible that everyone has a *picture-perfect* Christmas! The success of the first Christmas certainly seemed to weigh heavily on Mary's shoulders. But even as Mary did, we all must realize and acknowledge some very *good* news: God has and always has had a plan! And not just any plan, but an amazing plan.

As Christmas draws closer, I begin to plan, too. I plan parties, gifts, memories. Kids often fail to realize that most of the time warm, fuzzy memories of childhood don't always just happen. A mommy (or a daddy) probably had a well thought-out plan behind that memory (and let's admit it, dads, that was a courtesy shout out because you know it's usually mom who makes it happen). As the month of December goes by, and the house gets decorated, the traditional sugar cookies are baked, gifts are bought and parties are a huge success, it comes down to Christmas Eve.

For me, this is the night when all *good* things come together. Everything has to be perfect. After the kids have done their part and gone to bed, things really begin to take shape. Like many husbands, after helping as much as possible, my husband, Stephen, knows instinctively when it's time to go on to bed and let me take over. I like every gift to be wrapped in a special way, letting the recipient know that love went into every beautiful and unique package. Stockings are filled to overflowing and Christmas lights are left blazing so that the family room is *picture perfect* when everyone comes down the next morning. Before I finally go to bed, I look around very carefully. Is everything clean? Did I forget any gift in the

back of the closet? Will the kids love them? Will it be perfect for Stephen? This has to be the best Christmas ever.

Every year I step back and look at all that has been done. I get this wonderful excitement in my heart as I think, *This is good, they're going to love it.* Only then can I go to bed and rest for a few hours before Christmas morning.

The Father's Good Plan

Sound familiar? This is as close as anything I know of to the heart of our Father as described in Genesis 1 and 2. After each gift of Creation, He would step back and examine all that was done. He was not satisfied and He did not stop until He could say, "This is *good*." Then He rested from all His work. There is such love reflected in that simple word, "*good*." As I have studied the plan of God, His master plan, I have come to realize how meaningful to God the word "*good*" is. Meaningful because just any old plan or any old thing is not good enough for His children, because of His great love for us and His desire that we have an amazing life here on earth. God is never random and He is never off course. He has a very precise plan for our lives to bring about a rich and satisfying result.

Actually, that plan was developed before the foundation of the world. He had a plan for your life before you were ever born—a plan that spans from start to finish just for you. A plan that He calls "*good*."

Ephesians 2:10, *The Amplified Bible*, says, "We are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), re-created in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those *good* works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the *good* life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]."

God, the Creator of the universe, has declared you to be His workmanship, His masterpiece.

Psalm 139:13, *New Living Translation*, says, "You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb."

You were knit together in your mother's womb, and it was in that place the Lord saw all He had planned for you to be. He knitted you together and made you into one perfect piece that He could look at and say, "That is good."

In other words, everything you need, to be what God created you to be, has already been put inside you. God didn't put things inside you so you could be like someone else. He made you to be unique, a one-of-a-kind person whom He would use in a very special way.

There is a truth in Psalm 139 that we must grasp and retain for the rest of our lives. It should shape and mold our choices in life. Stop right now and say out loud, "Lord, I believe Your Word. Even when it seems too good to be true, I choose to believe every word in Your book."

Here's what He says in Psalm 139:16, *NLT*: "...Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed." God is very clear that a moment is not the same thing as a day or He wouldn't have said it twice. In other words, He didn't only write your general future, your overall plan—He wrote your days and He wrote your moments. That is life changing! Now I consider a moment to be a quick segment of time, perhaps measurable by a snap. And yet, it says in this verse that *every* moment was laid out before a single day of your life had passed. That's pretty awesome. And before a single day had passed, He looked at that plan and said, "This is good."

A Time to Remember

This Christmas, as you prepare to celebrate, stop to remember how *good* God is and how *good* His plan is for your life. Let each gift you wrap remind you of just how special the person is who will be receiving the camera or cell phone or new pair of socks. As you wrap it, pray for each loved one to know and walk in His good plan for their life. And with each gift you unwrap that someone has lovingly prepared for you, be reminded of just how special and precious your life is to that someone.

More than that, remember how precious you are to your heavenly Father. And throughout the days ahead, remember He has a *good* plan for your life. Since before you were born, He has had the plan to give you every *good* thing He has placed on this earth. After all, as Romans 8:32 says, since He did not spare even His own Son but gave Him up for us all, won't He also give us everything else?

So remember, as a child of God this season, have a Merry Christmas! **VICTORY**

Kellie Copeland Swisher is an executive at Kenneth Copeland Ministries where she supervises several departments alongside her husband, Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher. Through their ministry, Kellie and Steve fulfill the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ. Doctor and Mrs. Swisher have four children and reside in Fort Worth, Texas.



“Since before you were born, He has had the plan to give you every good thing He has placed on this earth.”

As seen on TV



Harmonizing voices, guitars, fiddles, mandolins, banjos and more: *This is Strand of Pearls*. Now, the five women reunite for their anticipated sophomore album—*Light in the Land*.

Kellie Copeland Swisher returns with the granddaughters of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland—Jenny Kutz, Rachel Mayer, Aubrey Oaks and Lyndsey Swisher—to create another anointed project with an unforgettable bluegrass sound. From "Take Your Shoes Off, Moses," to "Power in the Blood" and "Peace Like a River," you'll love this reflective musical experience that features both classic and contemporary gospel songs.

Order now!

Light in the Land
music CD \$14.98 #K091111

kcm.org :: 800-600-7395 U.S. Only



Jesus is the Son of God. You probably already knew that.

But what else is He? A lot. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus is your teacher, preacher and healer. Jesus is your gift from God. Jesus is the measure of your wealth. Jesus is the measure of your strength. Jesus is the measure of your ability. And Jesus is the measure of your worth. Jesus is all of this and so much more.

In Matthew 13, Jesus gives some very interesting examples of what the kingdom of heaven is like. In verse 44, He likens it to the man finding treasure in a field and then selling all he has to buy the field. He also said the kingdom of God is like a pearl merchant who finds a uniquely valuable one and sells all he has to purchase it, in verses 45-46.

I find this similar to the parable in Luke 15. Jesus first talks about going to find one lost sheep, and the joy of finding it. Then He tells this story:

Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the piece which I lost!" Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (verses 8-10, *New King James Version*).

You may find it interesting to do a little study into this time and culture in the Middle East. You may also discover what the coin in that story would've meant to the woman who lost it. Young women in this area and in this era were not wealthy, generally. They would save and save, from their early teens until they got married, because they were going to wear



a headdress that was very much like a wedding ring. It signified they were married. And it was made up of 10 silver coins.

In terms of value, the lost coin was worth a lot to the woman in Jesus' story. To her, it was priceless—what it signified was far greater than the dollar value. So she pulled the house apart looking for it. When she finally found it, she rejoiced—not at the recovered value, but at the signified worth of having all of these coins, of

having her symbol of something far greater than a monetary value restored.

Jesus tells us the kingdom of heaven is like that.

He tells us we're worth paying the highest price imaginable—everything.

You are worth His very life. He paid the costliest price for you.

Jesus is the measure of your worth. He set your worth as the price of His own life when He paid for you by dying. And remember, the price paid determines the value.

The Image of God

So many people don't understand the worth Jesus set on their lives by the price He paid. They think poorly of themselves, of their worth. They see the field and think it's not worth it. They see the pearl, and they can't image why the guy paid everything for it. They see the one coin, and they don't

understand why the woman would search so frantically or why she was so excited she found it.

They don't understand the worth.

They don't understand that the treasure hidden beneath the surface made selling everything worth it to the guy who bought the field. They don't see what he saw, the deep treasure that made every penny worth spending.

They don't understand that the uniquely incomparable beauty made the pearl worth it to the merchant. They don't see its priceless splendor the way he does.

They don't understand the significance the woman put on that one coin and what finding it restored to her. They don't know what all the celebrating is about.

They don't understand that their lives are worth so much more than the world tells them. They don't see the worth Jesus put on them, the great value He placed on each of us by willingly giving His life as the price of our redemption.

There is a treasure within you—the very image of God looking out from your eyes, walking around in your skin. The treasure within you was worth it to Him. There's a priceless beauty within you that He saw and recognized long before you were even born, before you took your first step or ever did anything, good or bad. Able to look into your heart, your hidden depths, He saw your buried treasure.

You are the most beautiful thing He has ever seen and ever will see. How can that be? It is because to Him, you look just like Jesus. And because of the beautiful, precious treasure that He sees when He looks at you, He declared, "You're worth it!" He paid the highest price for you and the price paid determines your value.

Jesus called your worth—the significance of a right relationship between you and your Father—worth dying for. He recognized that restoring you to God was worth the ultimate price. It was worth the stripes on His back, the nails in His hands and feet. You were worth the crown of thorns!

Jesus is the measure of your worth.

You meant something to Him far beyond monetary value. Just like the coin that meant something to that woman, He saw your worth. You represent something—the original plan. You represent unbroken fellowship with His creation, into whom He infused life with His breath. You represent the being He made to fellowship with, and He said Jesus was the measure of your worth—Jesus was the price worth paying for you.

What you've accomplished or what you've failed at isn't the measure; how pretty you started or the scars you've picked up aren't the measure. His blood is the measure of your worth.

That's who Jesus is. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh. Jesus is the prophetic Word fulfilled. Jesus is the most wonderful teacher, the most exciting preacher, the most gracious healer. Jesus is the measure of your wealth. He's the measure of your strength. He's the measure of your ability.

Jesus is the measure of your worth. **VICTORY**

(This article is adapted from the book by Jeremy Pearsons titled *Hello. My Name Is God*. For information on how to order the book, see the ad on this page. From a rich heritage of faith, Jeremy ministers the uncompromised Word of God to congregations at home and around the world. He and his wife, Sarah, passionately believe and preach to believers the simultaneous importance of holding fast to what we have been taught and reaching beyond ourselves to teach those coming behind us. "There are two kinds of legacies: the one you keep and the one you leave.")

“You are the most beautiful thing He has ever seen and ever will see.”

Would You Recognize God?

Throughout the ages, God has made Himself known to men and women who have walked with Him, talked with Him and experienced His presence. Yet there are many today who have no idea He is talking to them. How about you? Would you recognize God if you saw Him? Or heard Him? What if He wasn't wearing His name tag?



Now, in *Hello. My Name Is God*, Jeremy Pearsons introduces Him and shows you how you can get to know God intimately for yourself.

As an added bonus, the **Discovering God Package** includes Sarah Hart Pearsons' new worship CD, *Love Songs for the King*. The 12 original songs on this anointed album will take you into God's presence and help you focus on knowing Him.

God is introducing Himself to you. Start getting to know Him today.

Discovering God Package now \$15 Reg. \$20 #K090916
Hello. My Name Is God. 5½" x 8¼" : paperback : 304 pages
Love Songs for the King : music CD

kcm.org :: 800-600-7395 U.S. Only



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

“If the Son liberates you [makes you free men], then you are really and unquestionably free.” (John 8:36, *The Amplified Bible*)

Debt Free With Great Abundance

This is a letter I've wanted to send for a long time. For the last several years, every month the offering check we sent to you was named “for us to be debt free.” Praise the Lord, it has now come to pass! Not only are we debt free, but we have about \$250,000 left over!

We want to thank you and your prayer teams for standing in agreement with us. We've been Partners with KCM for about 29 years, and it has certainly proven to be a blessing in many ways. Also, thank you for the *BVOV* magazine which comes every month. We look forward to reading it from cover to cover.

D.M. :: Indiana

We Are Thriving!

Praise God! Our home sold after eight months on the market. Thanks to all we've learned from partnering with KCM, we've never once struggled with two house payments. God is so very good!

No matter what craziness is going on in the world's economy we continue to thrive in THE BLESSING. We know we will continue to prosper and abound in God's love all of our days. Thank you for your teachings and for answering God's call on your lives.

Judy Helm :: Texas

Recession Doesn't Reside Here

We just want to share that THE BLESSING of God has been on us all through this so-called recession in America. Since the beginning of 2009, we have had all our bills paid and have raised finances to go to Uganda to hold a Bible conference.



Charles and Mary Hitchcock :: Cuba, N.Y.

We've bought a new kitchen stove, which was much needed, and paid cash! We've had money come from sources we would have never thought of to help with the trip to Uganda. We are praising God for the messages you have given us and learning about walking in THE BLESSING. There is no recession in God and therefore no need to worry about anything. Praise the Lord!

Proud to Be a Partner

Oppression has lifted from me since I became a Partner with KCM. I listened to Ken pray for me and all his Partners on the CD from the Partner Package, and I no longer feel alone in my walk with the Lord. I also pray each day for the ministry and its Partners and I spend more time in the Word and in prayer. I'm encouraged to go on and my hope is restored.

Thank you for being there for me and letting me know I'm not alone.

F.S. :: Canada

THE BLESSING in Action

I saw a *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast about a mom, dad and daughter whose house had burned down in a fire. KCM was there to help them and gave them a large check.

I love KCM, because you do what you preach—God's love in action. Our house was surrounded by fire with winds blowing up to 70 mph. My son-in-law was tracking the fire's direction and we were in its path. We proclaimed Psalm 91 for God's protection and provision. The fire did an about-face and went another direction.

Soon after that, someone from KCM called to ask if we were OK and if you could do anything to help. What an uplift! We were family and you really showed you cared. We are confident that we are planting our seed into good soil at KCM. What a joy it is to plant with you!

Bill Alford :: Poway, Calif.

call 800 600 7395
prayer is our priority

THE BLESSING Blasts Debt



In 2007 I went to the Great Lakes convention when Jerry Savelle preached about THE BLESSING blasting debt out of our lives. Throughout all of 2008 I paid off debt every month, confessing and believing what he had spoken over us.

As I looked back at the end of 2008, verily, verily it has been blasted and I am debt free. Bless God!

B.S. :: United Kingdom

Our God Is an Awesome God

I just had to write and tell you about an event that happened in my life. I've been a Christian for 12 years or so, but after I was born again I continued to smoke and drink. As everyone well knows, cigarettes and alcohol abuse cause major health problems.

Well, one day I was on a Greyhound bus on the way to Phoenix and had pain in the right side of my rib cage and could barely breathe. I just closed my eyes, laid hands on my chest and began to quote Isaiah 53:5 and rebuked the sickness out of my body. God told me not to live that bad lifestyle anymore, that He loves me and that I'm His child. Glory to God in the highest—I don't drink or smoke, and I'm putting God first in my life. We serve an awesome, miracle-working Lord!

C.M. :: Oklahoma

God Is Great

I want to thank you for all the prayer partners who agreed with me. Recently I was scheduled to have a biopsy on my thyroid. I have a three-modular goiter on my thyroid and something appeared abnormal, so they thought it best to check it out. When I went in, the technician wanted to take more pictures to compare with the first ones, but she couldn't find the problem.

After many attempts to locate the problem area, she went to get another technician. He couldn't find it either. Then the doctor came in and he couldn't find it. They could find no reason to do the biopsy that day! I praised the Lord—God is great and can do anything. Now I'm believing Him for the goiter to leave my body altogether. I praise and thank God for His mercy, goodness and love!

B.W. :: Tennessee

Overflowing Abundance

We've been praying for my husband to find employment after suddenly losing his job. Not only has he been given a job close to home, but after only two days of working he was given a 4.5 percent raise with the promise of more to come soon. Praise the Lord—He is so faithful and good!

O.M. :: Canada

Always Faithful

Awhile back my good friend told me that his mother in Singapore was very ill and asked me to pray for her salvation. I called Kenneth Copeland's prayer ministry and asked for prayer for her. You prayed with me that God would send laborers to give her the Word, and that she would be saved.

God is good. A Christian nurse in Singapore witnessed and prayed with her, and she was saved shortly before passing away.

J.M. :: Illinois

I Will Not Be Defeated

I would like to give God praise and thanks for your ministry. Recently I had been really depressed and suicidal. I received your June 2009 magazine and when I opened it I read about the Father's love. That brought tears to my eyes just thinking God loves me.

I read the magazine cover to cover and it gave me such a feeling of peace. I will not let the powers of darkness defeat me and I'll never quit. Never! I can do all things through Christ.

C.A. :: Texas

Getting Healthy the Right Way

I've been doing Marty's Higher Fitness program and I feel great! When I started out with the 45-minute cardio program, I started at the beginner level. Now I have worked up to the intermediate/advanced level! Before, I could only do 10 push-ups. Now, I can do 25—wow! I look forward to doing my workouts and reading the scripture out loud. I'm making my way to a higher, more-fit day!

R.M. :: Canada

Perfect Peace

I would like to share with you the power of prayer. I am incarcerated in a prison where there is a lot of violence. I am an old member of a prison family who has found God and changed my ways. There was tension between families and I asked you all to pray for me to have peace.

When everything went down I was in God's protection and didn't get touched. Being in here has strengthened me in an area I didn't realize needed such attention. I am learning patience in a way I didn't think existed. I have found peace and happiness in a place the size of a closet and considered punishment. The fact is I've asked God to take over because it is all about His will. When we seek God, it is all good.

A.A. :: Texas

Living a Life of Increase

Through my partnership with you, my faith has increased. I've been set free from fear, unbelief and poverty. My finances are increasing every day and I'm growing fast spiritually. I am really blessed to be your Partner.

M.T. :: Germany



Let this Mind be in you

Wendy Flint hummed

as she cleaned the kitchen of her home in Vancouver, Wash. She paused to look at her 3-year-old son, Scott, who had fallen asleep on the sofa watching cartoons. This was the third day he'd lain there like a rag doll after injuring his leg on a tricycle. Wendy wanted to help him, but her Christian Science training left her unsure what to do. So, she did nothing. | A knock on the door disturbed the quiet afternoon. Wendy's neighbor looked at Scott with an expression Wendy had seen all too often when she was a child.



"Get your purse," the woman said. "We're taking this child to the doctor."

Wendy's heart pounded as she stepped into the waiting room, holding Scott close. As a fourth-generation Christian Scientist, she didn't believe in doctors and had been to one only for the birth of her son.

"Why didn't you get him here sooner?" the doctor shouted, his face an angry red. "His leg is broken and set wrong! Now I have to break it again to get it aligned!"

There was nothing to prepare Wendy—she felt the *snap* of the breaking bone in every fiber of her being. At that moment something inside of her snapped as well. *I can't be a Christian Scientist anymore*, she thought. *I've lost my religion.*

At home, Wendy flipped through TV stations and paused to watch an interview with Oral Roberts talking about doctors praying for their patients. Could such a thing be possible? She wrote to the famous faith-healing preacher and asked. In reply, she received a handwritten note from Brother Roberts. Yes, he assured her, it was possible to believe in God and go to a doctor.

Inspired, Wendy rode her bicycle to a nearby church. In her Christian Science upbringing, there had been no mention of Jesus or the gospel message. There had been no Cross, no forgiveness, no redemption, no sickness, no

war and no death—nothing except denial, and that denial had caused her son to suffer.

As a child, Wendy had been told it wasn't possible to hear God's voice. What should she believe now? Her son was home with a cast on his leg. Her marriage was on the rocks. If forgiveness existed, she wanted it, and she wanted to know God. As a Christian Scientist she'd never taken Communion, but Wendy walked to the altar as others streamed forward to take the sacrament.

Wendy, I love you, I forgive you and I'm glad you came to Me.

The hair rose on the back of Wendy's neck. *How does the pastor know my name?* She looked up, but no one was there. Wendy ran out of the church, grabbed her bicycle and raced home. Running into the house, she looked at her startled husband, Terry, and said, "God talked to me! He knows my name!"

That night Wendy burned all her Christian Science materials and the next day started reading *The Living Bible*.

Unable to Learn

Eager to learn the Scriptures, Wendy had little hope of success. Night after night she read them over and over. Dogged by cognitive problems, she had spent her whole life feeling stupid. "Growing up in the 1950s, no one had

ever heard of learning disabilities, attention deficit disorders or hyperactivity," Wendy says. Her older brother was borderline genius so none of her teachers could understand why she couldn't learn. They assumed she just needed discipline. "When I was in second grade, I was tied to my chair with a rope. My teacher put a sign on me that said, 'Don't Talk to Me.'"

Most of the third grade she spent standing in the corner for not paying attention. Her teachers didn't want her in class *again*, so each year they passed her to the next grade. Wendy realized something was wrong with her, but had no idea what. She was totally incapable of memorizing—no matter how hard she tried. English and writing were the only subjects she could pass with above-average grades.

"I couldn't even take the aptitude tests at school," Wendy recalls. Her junior high principal arranged special testing for her, but she simply could not focus. "He finally gave up and told my parents I was so easily distracted he couldn't evaluate me."

Forget About College

In high school, Wendy's counselor suggested she forget about college, get married and become a housewife. But Wendy's mother insisted she apply to a state college where, after being rejected, she persevered until she was accepted.

Wendy struggled, earning only Cs and Ds no matter how hard she studied. One professor told her she didn't have what it took and didn't belong there. With no place to go, Wendy dropped out of college and joined the Navy, where she met her husband. Now she could major in being a wife and mother.

"After the ordeal with Scott's broken leg, I felt like I'd failed at that too," she admits. "The only good thing to come of it was that I rejected Christian Science and found the Lord."

When Wendy tried to tell Terry about Jesus, he stopped her, "You don't need to say anything. When you came home from church that day, there was a light all around you." Six months later, he was born again.

Terry had always been Wendy's greatest advocate about her intelligence. "You're *not* stupid!" he told her. "I forbid you to ever say that again!" He was all for it when the Lord spoke to her a year after Scott broke his leg, and said, *I want you to take classes at the community college. I'll show you how to study.*

To pass her classes, Wendy needed an hour of quiet before each exam. She'd look at the highlighted sentences in her book, close her eyes and pray. Then she'd turn the page and start the process again. She learned to depend on the Holy Spirit for every question on a test. While most

of her classmates finished their tests and left early, Wendy was always last.

One Word From God

In 1985, an evangelist-prophet had a word for Wendy:

The Lord says that you think you're stupid. You've been told you would never amount to anything. I'm going to pray for the Lord to heal you and reconfigure your brain. This is going to end today. God is going to use you to rebuild the walls of public education and you'll travel the nation. Because you've been faithful to pray for your own children, God has called you like Esther and He will promote you. You will not only run for a position on the school board, you will become president of the school board. Someday you will make \$150,000 a year.

"That word was mind-boggling," Wendy recalls. "Me running for the school board? Me speaking in front of people? At the time, I was making \$5 an hour babysitting. I grabbed hold of Philippians 4:13, 'I can do *all* things through Christ who strengthens me'" (*New King James Version*).

Could one mother with serious learning disabilities make a difference?

When a position opened on the Evergreen School Board, Wendy was elected to four years and served as president from 1988 to 1989. During that time, she was also the legislative representative to the Washington School Board Association and the appointed Federal Relations Network lobbyist to the National School Board Association.

A nonprofit organization sponsored Wendy in writing a book on school-board elections. She gave workshops and spoke on behalf of parents and children. By 1988 she had spoken in 44 states, as well as before 600 congressional legislators—where she received a standing ovation.

Through her training manuals and workshops, an estimated 2,000 new, committed school-board members were elected. One magazine called her "A grassroots activist: a mother in pigtails who was making a difference in the nation." Invited to the White House several times, she visited twice and was interviewed by Katie Couric on *Good Morning America*.

The Power of the Tongue

In those four short years, Wendy Flint accomplished more than anyone ever expected. But when that season came to a close, she had to face some cold, hard facts. She had no education, no training and no job.

To relieve some of the financial stress, Wendy took a job as a secretary in the training department of a large

corporation. In that position, she was required to take classes, but they were designed in such a way she found learning easier. A friend of hers also worked there, and as the two women walked during their lunch breaks, the friend listened to the litany of problems in Wendy's life.

Finally, she told Wendy, "You can vent for 10 minutes, then we'll pray for 20 minutes." When Wendy's 10 minutes were up, they prayed. The woman later gave Wendy teaching tapes by Kenneth Copeland, and for the next year, Wendy committed herself to listening to the teachings of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. "I learned to be quick to repent when I said something that didn't agree with what God said about my life," Wendy says. "I worked hard to learn what God said about me and my finances, and in spite of our circumstances, I knew God was going to help me succeed. About that time, management saw my talent and suggested I get a degree through their reimbursement program."

Nothing Is Impossible With God

Getting a bachelor's degree seemed impossible, but Wendy now knew *nothing* was impossible with God. Facing her fears, she enrolled in college, and eventually earned a bachelor's degree in communications. In 1993, Wendy and her youngest child graduated together.

"I gave God all the glory," Wendy says. "I knew the only reason I had that degree was because of Him."

At the time, her employer didn't have a place to promote her, so Wendy stayed on as a secretary making \$24,000 a year. Within three months, another company offered her a job as director of marketing and education—and doubled her salary.

Later, just when she thought she was done taking classes, the Lord told Wendy He wanted her to get a master's degree. She persevered and earned a master's in public administration/

public affairs from Washington State University.

When Terry retired, the family moved to Palm Desert, Calif., where Wendy was offered a job on the faculty of a nearby community college.

The Portals of Learning

Wendy stepped onto the campus and drank in the moment. She had been told she was stupid. She'd been told she would never go to college. Now she held two degrees—and was a *faculty* member.

"Lord, You're amazing," she whispered as she wound her way through the portals of learning to her office. Soon she was earning \$85,000 a year.

"Although I came on staff from business rather than education," Wendy explains, "I was elected chair of the Faculty Development Committee where one of my goals was to help the faculty become more learner-centered rather than teacher-centered.

"The main teaching model in America is lecture, memorize and test, which leaves many students falling through the cracks because they don't learn well that way," she explained. Wendy knew it would help a lot of people if she could shift the paradigm toward learner-centered instruction.

During that time, the Lord spoke to Wendy: *I have a plan for you in education. I need you to get a doctorate.* While working full time, Wendy earned a Ph.D. in education. "There was very little published on problem-based learning," she explains. "I chose it for my dissertation and received wonderful help with my research. My dissertation, *Problem-Based Learning: Welcome to the "Real World,"* was later published as a book. I came into education to influence other teachers and now I do workshops across the nation where I share my own story. My message is always that *there are* ways to reach each student's mind.

Life of Adventure

While she felt smart, whole and successful, Wendy discovered most people weren't living in victory. She started a Bible study in her home, and began sending out email devotions to encourage and help people overcome the obstacles in their lives.

After eight years, God called Wendy out of public education. She retired from the college system and went to work for a private education company, and taught business classes part time at a Christian university. In 2007, Wendy went back to school, and at the end of 2008, she earned her master's in business administration.

"I could have used excuses and missed God's plan for my life," Wendy says, "but because I learned to live by faith and let God's Word be my final answer, that wasn't an option."

Today, Dr. Wendy Flint is senior vice president of marketing and sales at a private college in Napa, Calif. She now earns, with teaching, workshops and bonuses, what the prophet predicted. She has written eight books and achieved success, but she isn't finished. Wendy plans to write more books and help more people.

By faith, she has allowed Philippians 2:5 to come alive in her life: "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." VICTORY

Christ is BORN in YOU



Jesus was born into the earth to make a way for you and me to be born again into the family of God. I Are you born again? I I'm thinking almost everyone reading this has answered *Yes, Gloria, I am born again!* If so, I hope you will continue reading and be reminded of who you really are as a born-again child of your heavenly Father.

BY GLORIA COPELAND



If you answered "No" or "I don't really know," I hope you will read on and discover the tremendous relationship that awaits you as a child of God.

The life of a born-again son or daughter of God is, to me, the only way to live. It's the only true life.

God created man (that includes you and me) in His image. You are a triune (three-in-one) person—spirit, soul and body. Your *body* is made up of the elements of earth. God created every part of your body to cooperate with and thrive in the earth in which you live. It holds up and carries you throughout your life.

You have a *soul* created by God to help you communicate within your world. Your soul is made up of your mind, your will and your emotions. By your soul you interact in your life and express yourself.

And who you truly are is defined by your *spirit*—the real you. It is the heart and the core of you. Your spirit is the center of your true life. It is the very life in you.

Genesis 2:7 gives us the simple picture of man's creation: "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

God gave His very own living breath to man. He gave man the Spirit of life! Now, He gave us natural air to breathe, and He also gave

us that breath of His very own Spirit, making man an exceptional being among all God's creation! He created us with a unique life that is a complete expression of Himself.

In Genesis, chapters 1 through 3, you can see how Adam and Eve, who represented all mankind, lost their unique relationship with God when they fell for the deception of the devil and committed high treason against God. They were created to live forever, but because of sin were separated from the Spirit of life. Their separation from God's Spirit resulted in the death of their spirits and eventually their bodies. And that death was passed down, leaving mankind disconnected from God throughout the generations.

The life of God in the spirit of man had been replaced by death. And man has lived on earth for thousands of years as

a "human" (earthly) being, but not as a "living" spirit with the nature of God.

Life Returns to Earth

Then, God brought His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, onto the scene—born of God and with the righteousness of God. And with Jesus came the promise that God's life would become mankind's life once again.

This life is what I call "living from the inside out." God created your inner man—your spirit—to contain Himself. And Jesus proved that a man born of the Spirit, and led by the Spirit of God dwelling in him, can live in harmony and relationship with his Father. Outwardly, He showed the world and the devil that God and His creation have been forever reconnected.

Take a look at Luke 1:30-38, *New King James Version*, and see how God brought His Son into the earth. Notice how Mary got the news from the angel of the Lord, and how she responded:

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary believed what the angel told her. She believed he had spoken the Word of God to her. She was willing to accept the favor of God by becoming the mother of His Son. She received the word and conceived the promised Son, who would "save His people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21, *NKJV*).

Because He is the Christ (the Anointed One), the Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16), Jesus went about doing good, healing all kinds of disease and saving people from all kinds of works of the enemy. Ultimately He gave up His life so all men could be saved, healed and delivered through Him.

He gave His life for you and for me...so we could have

the very same Spirit-born, Spirit-lived life He had. Jesus was born, He lived, He died with our sin, sickness and pain. And He was raised from the dead to bring God's life to all mankind—and to bring us all out of our state of separation from God and back into union with Him.

Born Again to Change Things

Through the Lord Jesus Christ, God made it possible for us to be born again—from the inside out—to new life. Our being born again changes things, not only for us but for our world!

First John 5:1 tells us how to be changed from the old man into the new man—the reborn man or woman of God: "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God." How much simpler could He have made it? Just believe and be born all over again.

We begin our life in Christ Jesus by believing. Then, we live it out. How? Simply by believing God's Word regarding every aspect of our lives. We believe God's Word about our relationships, our health and our freedom from all the work of the enemy.

We become a "new creature" according to 2 Corinthians 5:17: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

Isn't that amazing? Everything about our old life is gone and we start all over. Once again, we become God's creation—born of the Spirit and led by the Spirit. Once again, we are breathed on by God and we become a new spirit, a new man on the inside.

Our being born again is very similar to how Jesus came into this earth as a babe born of Mary. Just like the Spirit of God hovered over Mary, He hovers over every person to make us a new creation in Christ Jesus. The moment we believe in Jesus, He comes into our hearts. The Spirit of Christ, the Anointed One, is born in us and we become children of God. We are born over again in the image of God, created in righteousness and holiness. The old man passes away and all things are new for us.

Being born again allows us to receive the indwelling Spirit of the living God, who created the universe and everything in it, right into *our* inner man. And as we grow day by day, seeking Him and His kingdom, our new lives begin to unfold. We started off as Spirit-born babes, we continue as Spirit-taught children, and we grow up into Spirit-led men and women.

God places people in our lives to help us grow. And as we grow in the Word, and under the teaching of Holy Spirit-inspired teachers, we can "all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." We can "grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ" (Ephesians 4:13-15).

As we grow up into Christ, His overcoming life becomes ours. We develop into people who are no longer ruled by the powers of this world but who rule this world by the power of God that is in us! We become a force in this world that changes things!

Born to Overcome by Love

God sent His Son so that you and I could be born again. Being born again, as new creations empowered to live by the Spirit of Christ in us, is the only way He could reconnect with us. It was the only way we could fulfill the law of love. It was the only way we could become new creatures and He filled us with God's Holy Spirit to teach, lead and direct us.

It starts with believing that Jesus is the Christ:

Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous (1 John 5:1-3).

Do you see that? It's all about love!

What a marvelous plan God put into action when Jesus was born into this world. And He did it all for the sake of love! He loves you and me that much!

John 3:16 tells us, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son..." It all started with Jesus coming into this world for you and me.

Christ being born in us enables our hearts to love. Love for God and others is the only way we could ever keep His commandments. God had said in the Old Testament that the day would come when He would write His law on men's hearts (Jeremiah 31:33). When we believed that Jesus was and is the Christ, our hearts became new. They became a place where God could speak and we could listen.

But God's purpose in our new birth doesn't end there! As born-again children of God, totally immersed in His Word and His love, we are world overcomers! We have within us the faith—the belief—to walk as Jesus walked, talk as He talked, do the works He did and love like He loved. All of which puts the devil out of business!

Because we have been born of God, the devil no longer has any authority over us. Not over our bodies, our finances, our families, our homes, our careers, our friends...not over anything that concerns us. He can only do what we allow him to do. We must let him know in no uncertain terms that we take our lives back! What he stole from Adam, has been returned to us...a hundredfold!

When we live like Jesus lived—we can be carefree, with all our needs met. We can focus on and reach out to others whom God loves so much! Our lives are changed



Learn firsthand from Gloria Copeland how to live a successful and prosperous life in *God's Master Plan for Your Life*, which is now available in both hardback and audiobook formats.

And for an in-depth experience, get the **Connecting With God's Master Plan for Your Life Video Curriculum**. It contains valuable tools which will help you apply this teaching to your life:

5 DVDs—Learn the principles Kenneth and Gloria put into practice that propelled them into THE BLESSING. A special question-and-answer session follows each lesson.

5 CDs—Keep feeding your spirit wherever you go with the CD version of the DVDs.

Devotional Workbook/Journal—This interactive workbook and journal helps you delve into each lesson—so you won't miss anything.

God's Master Plan for Your Life
6¼" x 9¼" hardback 306 pages
NOW \$12 Reg. \$19.95 #K090516

Connecting With God's Master Plan for Your Life Video Curriculum
5 DVDs, 5 CDs, devotional workbook/journal
NOW \$49.95 Reg. \$79.95 #K080822

Audiobook on CD
NOW \$22 Reg. \$29.95 #K090517

kcm.org
800-600-7395 U.S. Only

Unveiled

for the first time ever,

Partners will get a rare “behind the mission” look at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. The weekend opens with a KCM update and special message by Kellie Copeland Swisher, with worship music by Strand of Pearls.

BEHIND The Mission WEEKEND

Taking place February 19-20 at the Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort in Scottsdale, Ariz. Event begins Friday at 7 p.m. *There is limited seating, so preregister today at events.kcm.org or call 800-600-7395.*

Your Hosts



Dr. Stephen and Kellie Copeland Swisher



John Copeland

Special Music by Strand of Pearls



Important video message from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland...just for you.

and we're to love people and see their lives changed, too!

Get this into your heart. When we, the children of God, come onto the scene—any scene—we bring with us the love and faith to change the scene! Believe it! God's purpose in having a family of Spirit-born, Spirit-taught, Spirit-led children was so the world would know He loves them!

Jesus Christ was born to make it so—for you and for me and for us all!

So, believe it! Believe Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Believe you are born of God. Make Jesus the Lord of your life. Let Him live big in you. Do it now and have a *real* Merry Christmas! **VICTORY**

Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

December



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



Keith Moore

Put the Broadcast in Your Pocket

You can watch the *BVOV* broadcast online anytime at bvov.tv. But did you know you can also *subscribe* to it with a podcast and take it with you wherever you go? Log on to kcm.org/media and click on “PODCAST” to learn exactly how to download and enjoy the *BVOV* broadcast on your iPod or other digital music player. Then, whether you're in your car, on vacation, working out or just relaxing, you can receive the latest Word teaching from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Never miss a broadcast again!



Tune in to the *BVOV* broadcast Monday through Friday and on Sunday each week at bvov.tv.

DAILY				
30 Mon	1 Tue	2 Wed	3 Thu	4 Fri
<p><i>Thanksgiving Victory</i> Many believers remember to thank God after a victory...but this week, Keith Moore shows you how to increase your victories by thanking God <i>in advance</i>—by faith!</p>				
SUNDAY				
6	7	8	9	10
<p><i>Cultivate a Lifestyle of Thanksgiving</i> God always comes through! This week, Keith Moore continues sharing how a lifestyle of thanksgiving shuts the door to darkness.</p>				
13	14	15	16	17
<p><i>Enjoy Health</i> It is God's will for you to <i>enjoy</i> a long life! Gloria Copeland delves into Scripture, proving that God desires you to live long and live strong, <i>all</i> your days.</p>				
20	21	22	23	24
<p><i>A Reason to Celebrate</i> This week, celebrate the birth of Jesus with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and receive the message of THE BLESSING for you and your loved ones.</p>				
27	28	29	30	31
<p><i>The Upright Shall Be Blessed</i> This week Kenneth and Gloria Copeland talk about how a lifestyle of love and obedience sets you in line for THE BLESSING.</p>				

Watch the *BVOV* broadcast again and again!
Order your CD or DVD copies of the *BVOV* broadcast now by using the form in the center of this magazine.

CD Daily broadcast (one week) \$10 | Sunday broadcast \$4
DVD Daily broadcast (one week) \$15 | Sunday broadcast \$10



Kenneth Copeland Ministries
Fort Worth TX 76192-0001

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
KENNETH COPELAND
MINISTRIES

A weekend overflowing with
BLESSINGS, HOPE & JOY



ORLANDO

Copeland Family Meeting

FREE ADMISSION! Meeting begins at 7 p.m., Thursday, December 3, at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center, 6000 W. Osceola Parkway, Kissimmee, FL 34759 Stay at the Gaylord Palms Resort and receive a \$25 KCM product gift certificate. 407-586-2000

Preregister at KCM.ORG/CFM or call 800-600-7395 to receive:
50% off product coupon • FREE LifeLine Healing or Financial Kit for attendees

SPECIAL Spirit-Led HEALING SERVICE Saturday, 9:30 a.m.



“We are excited for you to receive from this powerful generation of leaders who have grown up praying with us for you, a member of our Partner family.”

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

7:00 P.M. KELLIE COPELAND SWISHER

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4

9:00 A.M. MARTY COPELAND
10:30 A.M. STEPHEN SWISHER
1:30 P.M. PASTOR GEORGE PEARSONS
7:00 P.M. JEREMY & SARAH PEARSONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

9:30 A.M. TERRI COPELAND PEARSONS & FAMILY

Schedule subject to change.