

Believer's Voice of



VICTORY

January 2010



a Taste of

Heaven

Patricia and John Sherwood

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 behindthemission.com or call 800-600-7395.

Your Hosts



Dr. Stephen and
Kellie Swisher



John Copeland



Special Music by
Strand of Pearls



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

contents January



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 37 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 The Blessing Wall

by Kenneth Copeland



There is a wall of redemption that stands before you, keeping the curse far from you. Learn how to maintain that wall so THE BLESSING always surrounds you!

24 Walking in the Financial Favor of God



by Leroy Thompson

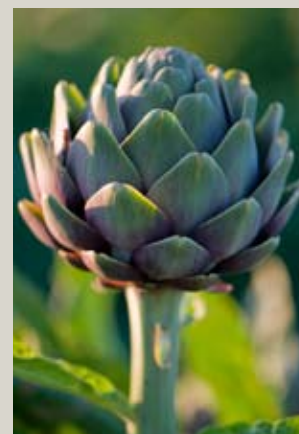
What can cause you to get ahead financially—way ahead? It's the financial favor of your heavenly Father.



18 A Taste of Heaven

by Melanie Hemry

Read how John and Patricia Sherwood faced unemployment and lack, but sowed into the blessings of partnership...only to discover God's faithfulness on the other side.



27 Bringing Increase to Your Life

by Gloria Copeland

What are you expecting to receive in 2010? Discover how increase—in every area of your life—is the standard for believers who put their faith and trust in God.

12 A Certain Source in Uncertain Times

by Jerry Savelle

The world's financial system is broken. How does this affect you as a believer? It doesn't. You have a completely different source—the Source.

15 Keep Your Eyes on the Light

by Gloria Copeland

What's your top priority in life? Read what Scripture reveals should be most important to you day by day. You might be surprised!

23 God—The Open Book!

by Kenneth Copeland

Everything you need from God is available to you—through His Word.

8 2009 KCM Meetings Report

Discover the messages God has spoken to His people through last year's KCM meetings...and prepare to be blessed!

11 Meeting Itinerary

Live your faith and share the Word by bringing someone you love to a KCM meeting!

16 Good News Gazette

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

31 January BVOV Broadcast Calendar

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

articles

features

Run Your Troubles Up Against a Wall...

The BLESSING Wall

THERE'S A FAMILIAR EXPRESSION THAT POPS UP WHEN EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE GOING AGAINST US AND WE THINK WE CAN'T GO ON—WHEN WE'VE DONE EVERYTHING WE KNOW TO DO AND STILL OUR MARRIAGE, OUR FINANCES OR OUR FAMILY HAS NOT TURNED AROUND: "MY BACK'S AGAINST THE WALL." ❁ IF THAT'S WHERE YOU ARE TODAY, THEN LET ME INTRODUCE YOU TO A NEW CONFESSION, ONE BORN OF THE REALITY THAT THE GREATEST AUTHORITY ON EARTH RESIDES IN THE BORN-AGAIN BELIEVER. ❁ WHEN ATTACKS AND CONFUSION COME AND TRY TO PUSH YOU BACK, DECLARE THIS: "I'M NOT UP AGAINST THE WALL, BUT THESE THINGS THAT HAVE COME AGAINST ME ARE. ANYTHING FROM THE CURSE THAT TRIES TO COME AT ME IS ABOUT TO HIT THE WALL—THE BLESSING WALL."



A Wall of Separation

I'm talking about a manifestation of THE BLESSING in action that belongs to every believer. Look at Exodus 8:22-23 and the words God gave Moses in His warning to Pharaoh before the fourth of the 10 plagues He sent on Egypt, and you'll start to see

what I mean. "And I will *sever* in that day the land of Goshen, in which my people dwell, that no swarms of flies shall be there; to the end thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth. And I will put a *division* between my people and thy people: tomorrow shall this sign be."

God warned that unless Pharaoh softened his heart and let the people of Israel go, a plague of flies would swarm the entire nation of Egypt. But the plague had to stop at the border of one area of the nation that had been given to Joseph and his family 400 years earlier. That area was given to Israel in honor of the fact that living under the covenant Blessing of his great-grandfather, Joseph had made Egypt the most prosperous nation on earth. For generations, the pharaohs had allowed the descendants of Jacob to live in peace in their land until there came an oppressive pharaoh who "knew not Joseph" (Exodus 1:8) and put great burdens on the people.

God had heard the groanings of His people and remembered His covenant with Abraham: "In blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice" (Genesis 22:17-18). And He had Moses confront the heart-hardened Pharaoh with the command, "Let my people go."

Look again at the words God used to describe the boundaries set on the plague of flies. He said: "I will *sever*...I will put a *division* between..."

Why?

"[So] thou mayest know that I am the Lord in the midst of the earth." God said He would make a distinction. There would be a wall those flies would not be allowed to penetrate. That phrase "put a *division*" can also be translated "put a *redemption*" between them. THE BLESSING was still on Goshen 400 years later.

You say, "But how does what God did for the Jews under their oppression have any bearing on the challenges I'm facing and the mess this world is in today?"

It has everything to do with what you face today, because that wall of Blessing was not just for the Jews, but for all the seed of Abraham.

In Galatians 3:13-14, we see that through redemption, the believer has been placed solidly inside that Blessing Wall: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

That redemption has placed us on THE BLESSING side of a wall between sin and death, and life: "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).

That wall of Blessing belongs to you. It belongs to you

more than it did them. Their covenant was in the blood of animals and the blood of the foreskin of a man. Your covenant is sealed in the precious blood of Jesus.

There is a wall between the curse and THE BLESSING—a wall that belongs to all who take their place as the seed of Abraham and will keep that wall in place regardless of what is going on in the world.

Your Wall of Redemption

Throughout Scripture we see this wall of protection, separation, division, redemption.

It is the shield in Psalm 5:12: "For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield."

It is the whole (encompassing) armor of God in Ephesians 6:13: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

It was what Satan called a hedge around Job, the most prosperous and powerful man in the east in his day: "Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath *on every side*? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land" (Job 1:10).

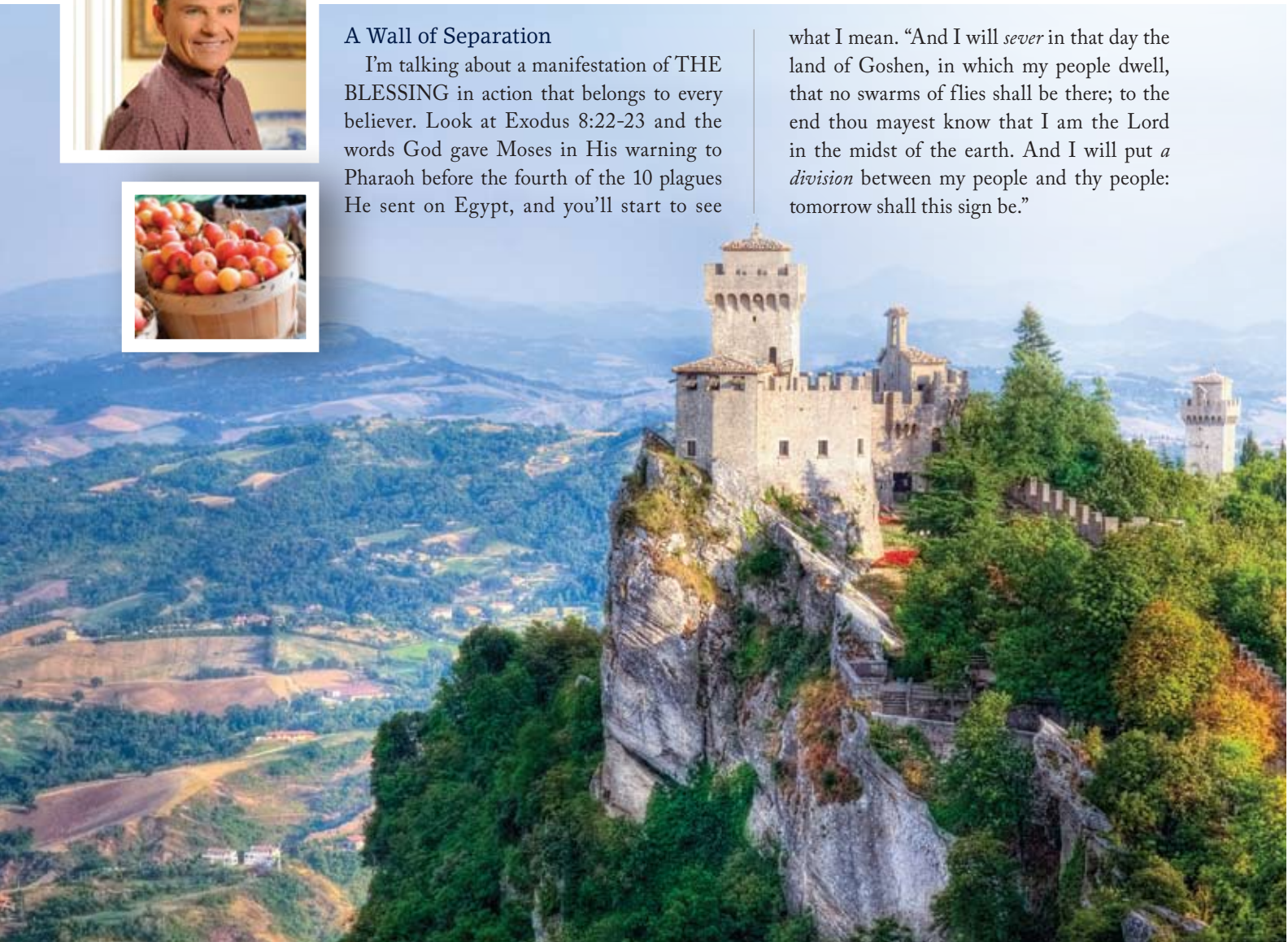
And, in one that can be easily missed, it was the grace in giving Paul challenged believers at the church at Corinth to "abound in...also" (2 Corinthians 8:7)—a grace that as they grew in it would erect a wall between them and poverty.

Preparing believers at Corinth for the coming of Titus to receive a blessing offering, Paul taught, "Ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9). Compare this to Galatians 3:13-14: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

This grace they had not heard about was a wall between them and poverty. They were to grow in this grace of sowing bountifully so they would also reap bountifully (2 Corinthians 9:6).

The result? "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (verse 8).

Having all sufficiency in all things just when the economy is all right? No. Especially when the economy is not all right, so we can be channels of the answer to a bad economy—



God, the Source, who is able to make all grace abound to all who believe.

Maintaining the Blessing Wall

So, how do we maintain the Blessing Wall in our lives, restoring whatever part of it we have torn down and making sure it stands strong against every approach of the curse?

We take our place in 1 Peter 5:6-7: “Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”

Being humble is not going through life running yourself down or debasing yourself. It is not declaring, “Well,

you know, I’m just so unworthy. I’m just no-good.” Who told you that? You won’t find God’s Word describing you that way. Nor will you find it declaring you are just an old sinner saved by grace. You can’t be both. You’re either an old sinner or you’ve been saved by grace.

And this does *not* say God does not desire to exalt you, but it does say not to exalt yourself. Why? Exalt yourself and you immediately get out from under THE BLESSING. You operate in selfishness and step outside the boundary of grace—grace which operates through our thanksgiving to God who always causes us to triumph.

True humility is casting all your care upon God who cares for you.

Early in our television ministry, though we had never before gone into debt for anything, I had allowed the ministry to become \$6 million behind on TV bills. Though I knew better, I had taken on the care of it and could hardly do anything without suddenly thinking about that bill. The night before our board of directors meeting, I was reviewing the reports from every department, not looking forward to giving a report on the lousy job I had done letting that bill get behind. I told the Lord I was going to sell some ministry property to pay it off, but He asked, *What are you going to sell next month?* I realized I was out of line, but I didn’t know where.

The answer came as I read report after report declaring that each department had experienced one of the best years ever. Together, Gloria and I rejoiced over every report. Then, when we came to the report on the television broadcast bill, the word of the Lord came to both of us and I spoke it out: *Now see? Every department was in the black—had a great year. The anointing was on every department except the one you were trying to carry.*

Me trying to carry the care of this thing was pride because the Word of God said, “Don’t do it. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God; casting all your care over on Him. All of it.” *The Amplified Bible* says “once and for all” (1 Peter 5:7).

“We’re going to get out from under this right now,” I said, and clasping hands, Gloria and I rolled the care of this whole thing over on God. Now the devil didn’t leave me alone after that. For the next couple of weeks he kept coming at me to take back the care. But every time a thought tried to enter back in, I took authority over it: “No, no, no. You don’t come into my mind. I cast you down, imagination. I cast that thought down. I’m not touching that with my thought life anymore.”

At first I had to do that every few seconds. I kept reading scriptures, especially 2 Corinthians 7, 8 and 9. I stood guard on the thing. Gloria and I kept tithing. We kept sowing. And after about two weeks, I wasn’t thinking

*You were created in the image of God,
and at no time are you supposed
to have a pile of care on your back.*

about it anymore. I had rolled the care over on the Lord. Soon, that bill was paid and I can’t even tell you how. I never entered back into the care of it.

You Don’t Have a Care

Your way out is the same for whatever is trying to shove you back against the wall. When you cast the care over on God, it makes Him the “care-taker.” Do that right now with whatever care you have been carrying, or have been tempted to carry. Then stop and listen very quietly. You will hear Him say, “I will take care of it.”

Yes, the devil will still try to talk to you about it. He’ll try to talk to you about that debt, about the pain, the sickness, the disease, about the marriage, the job, the economy. His entire focus is to get you to take the care of these things and keep it.

Don’t talk to him about it. When he approaches, just tell him, “Look, I don’t have a care. I don’t care. I have rolled my care over on Jesus. Now if you’re going to talk to someone, go talk to Him. You’re not getting in my mind. I won’t allow you in there.”

You were not created to be a beast of burden, to carry care. You were created in the image of God, and at no time are you supposed to have a pile of care on your back.

Peter wrote, “Your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith...” (1 Peter 5:8-9). Make sure when the devil finds you, instead of finding someone he can devour, he finds someone who will resist him steadfast in the faith. Someone who has rolled the care of every situation over on God and is shouting the victory—whether or not symptoms and circumstances look like it. Make sure he finds someone who is standing on the Word of God and fighting the good fight of faith.

You won’t be too hard to spot.

When someone says, “Don’t you care about [this situation or that]?” you’ll be the one who says, “No! I rolled all my care about that over on Him. He cares for me and I am here to obey, to be blessed and to be a blessing. And I’m walking in praise and thanksgiving, continuing to make my desires known to God through thanksgiving and praise, not through anxiety.”

When your mind troubles you with worrisome thoughts, fight them by refusing to take on the care. Defeat those thoughts by speaking the Word!

Remind yourself, “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13). Do your part and roll the care on God “casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Learn how to maintain the Blessing Wall in your life. Be clothed with humility, living in the reality of what Jesus prayed in John 17:23: “That the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.” Develop yourself in that love until it has flushed all fear from your life, and claim the reward of 1 John 5:18: “Whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he keepeth himself [in love], and that wicked one toucheth him not.”

Why?

Because there’s a wall around you—the Blessing Wall. You are living on THE BLESSING side of what is described in Jeremiah 17:5-8:

Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited. Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit [they never stop producing fruit—*New Living Translation*].

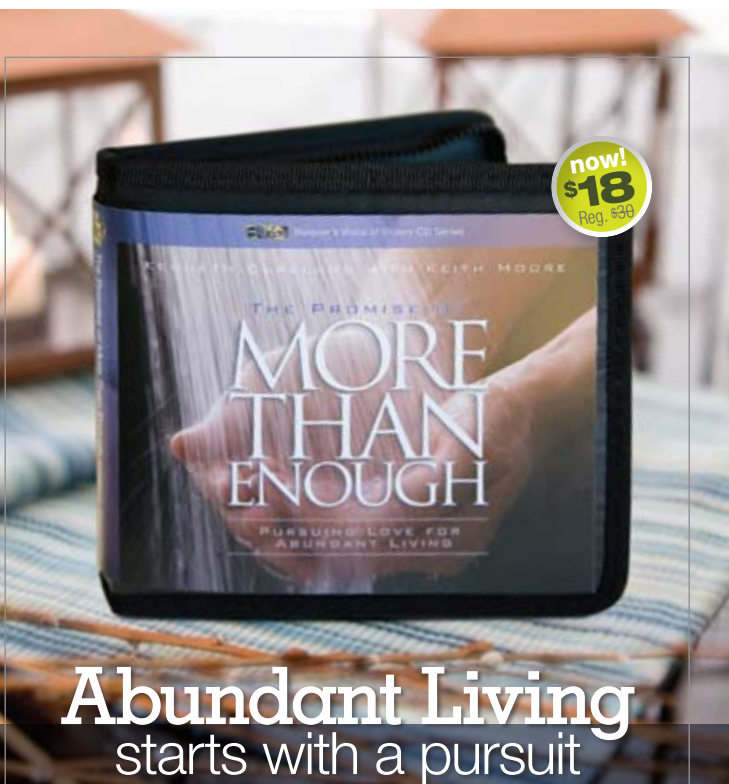
From our position inside the Blessing Wall, we always have more than enough—an abundance for every good work. We thrive, so we can help others who are trying to survive. We take our place as the seed of Abraham through whom all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

That’s what THE BLESSING is for.

Is anything coming against you in opposition to that?

Let it come up against the wall—the Blessing Wall!

VICTORY



Abundant Living starts with a pursuit

Love pursued you when you needed it most, transforming your eternal destiny. Now, to live abundantly on earth, it’s time for you to pursue love! When love takes over, every area of your life receives a complete renovation—your relationships, your health, your finances—because living in love releases the very power of God.

In this riveting eight-CD teaching, Kenneth Copeland and Keith Moore show you how to pursue the most powerful force on earth today as they reveal the promise God gave you:

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2009 meetings
Preparing to
Thrive and Bless



God is putting this nation into the hands of the believers!

That's just part of the message heard by thousands of believers in 2009 who attended Kenneth Copeland Ministries' Believers' Conventions and other meetings, where Kenneth Copeland shared that the earth is groaning for the manifestation of the sons of God, then he boldly declared, "We're here!"

"The Church is the most powerful thing on the face of this earth and no famine will keep it down," Brother Copeland told believers at the West Coast Believers' Convention in Long Beach, Calif. "God is going to use you and me to interrupt the famine, the shortfall—bad debts, foreclosed homes, repossessed cars, dreams interrupted with the fall of the stock market—and rebuild hope where there was no hope and life where there was no life."

It was a similar word those at the Branson Victory Campaign in Missouri heard as Brother Copeland encouraged them to be vessels of victory rather than victims. "If there were ever a time and a people who were ready, we are," he said. "We'd better be, because the whole thing is being dumped into our hands."

In meetings that stretched from Australia to Venezuela and from California to Washington, D.C., Brother Copeland reminded everyone that believers can be so blessed that, like Isaac, they receive a hundredfold in time of famine and have their enemies come seeking covenant with them (Genesis 26:12, 26-28).

Don't Just Survive—Thrive

No matter what the circumstances, never quit believing,

Gloria Copeland ministered from Psalm 91 during the meeting in Branson.

"It is not the will of God for you to be defeated in any way," she said. "But you must never quit—whether it's financial, physical or any other trial...God will be with you in any kind of trouble. He will deliver and honor you, if you walk by faith and not by sight."

The promise of Psalm 34:10, "They that seek the Lord shall not [lack] any good thing," belongs to anyone who will put God first and obey Him, she said. And the promise is not just when things are going well in the world's system, but any time.

Joining the Copelands in Branson was George Pearsons, senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Newark, Texas. He stressed the need to "get rid of the surviving mentality and cross over into a thriving mentality."

"We don't just survive in famine, we thrive," he said, adding that God's plan is to guide us through trouble and raise us up as a symbol and representation of THE BLESSING.

Maintaining the Blessing Wall

At the WCBC Brother Copeland taught that the Blessing Wall must be in place to separate believers from

the judgments coming on the world's way of doing things without God.

In Scripture, the Blessing Wall was a wall of division, or redemption, around the people of God during the plagues of Egypt; a hedge around Job before he let fear pull it down; a shield of protection around the people of God in Psalm 5:12 and Ephesians 6:13; and a barrier against the curse of poverty according to the Apostle Paul in 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.

The people of God keep that wall in place by maintaining the tithing connection, casting all care on the Lord and walking in God's love until it flushes all fear from their lives. The stakes are high—the world is crying out to see a people who have learned to draw the riches of heaven into everyday life in challenging times.

Faith results belong to those who stay steady in faith, Gloria Copeland emphasized. Obstacles in life are never setbacks to those who get a grip on their words and actions and refuse—in good times and in bad—to say anything except what God says.

"Hard times are not the time to let your words slip and to say things like 'I can't pay the bills on time,' or 'I'll never pay this off,'" she said. "It takes time for circumstances to line up with the promises of God's Word. That's why we stay in faith."

In a series of teachings, Jerry Savelle emphasized that in a time when the systems and sources man has looked to have become depleted, it is vital to live according to Psalm 118:8, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man."

Noting the "Doxology" was written in 1674 to help students become God-is-their-Source minded, he drew attention to the first line: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow," and noted that to those who will hear, God is revealing Himself as *I am—I am everything you will ever need Me to be, the God in whom nothing is impossible.*

Jesse Duplantis revealed how one manifestation of genetically altered Bible and Christianity comes when the traditions of men replace the Word of God in people's lives and make the Word of no effect (Mark 7:13).

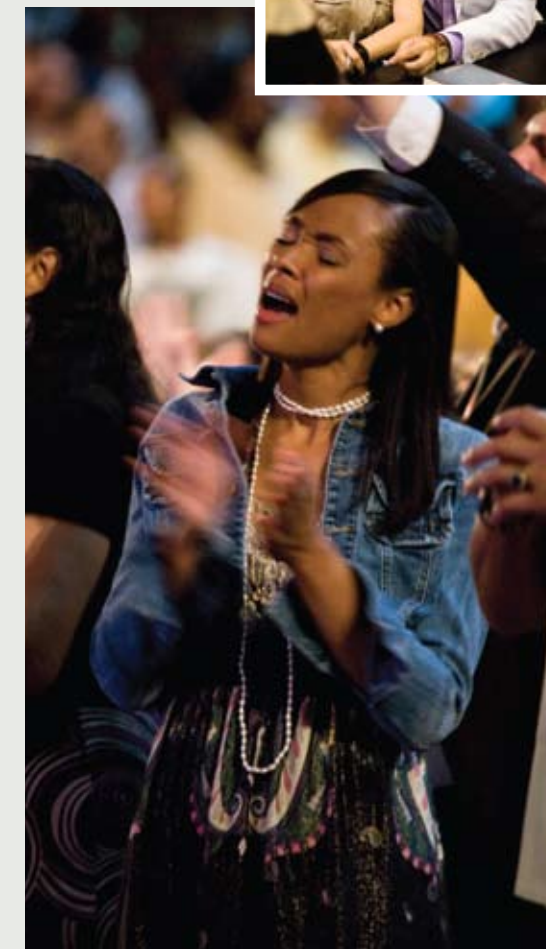
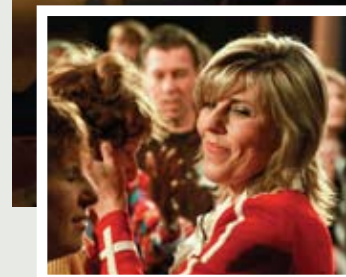
"A genetically altered Bible is always an attack against the character of God," he said. "It puts creeds ahead of Christ at the forefront of one's life and it looks for excuses to cater to the flesh instead of crucifying it."

Quoting from 1 John 5:4 in *The Message Bible*, Creflo Dollar defined *faith* as "the conquering power that brings to its knees the world's way of thinking that contradicts God's way of doing things."

"We are entering into a time when the Spirit of God will begin to interrupt our normal program," he said. "He will do in one day what it would have taken us months to do."

In an afternoon session at WCBC, Keith Moore encouraged believers to "make the devil sorry he messed with you."

Believers must quit disqualifying themselves and giving the devil more power than he has by looking only for the spectacular, Moore said. Instead, they should step out in the faith they have and prove that even faith as a grain of mustard seed can overthrow any manifestation of the kingdom of darkness.



The Spirit of God is in demonstration all over the world, but even many believers are missing it, declared Jeremy Pearsons during a session of the West Coast meeting. Like the woman at the well in John 4, who did not recognize it was Jesus who offered her living water, many people who think they know God are missing out on what He wants for them because they have not learned to recognize His voice, His purpose and His ways.

Compassion, Not Covetousness

At the Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, in August, Brother Copeland said compassion must reign over covetousness if we are to recognize God's plan in challenging days. The marketing plan of the world focuses on ways to get what others have, but God's marketing plan focuses on ways to get THE BLESSING into the lives of others.

Brother Copeland taught from Luke 12 on how to unhook from the Babylonian system, which is driven by covetousness and debt, and shared that Jesus warned us to "beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth" (verse 15).

"Quit doubting God and thinking you must take care of yourself and begin looking for ways to prosper others," he said. "Jesus' plan is for us to be in the giving business instead of the self-preservation business."

Gloria taught that the world needs faith activists, people who know how to bring the resources of heaven to earth through bold believing and speaking.

"Refuse to say anything other than what God says, not one time but for a lifetime. The pressure will always be on, but we walk by faith and not by sight. We speak the end result, not the circumstance."

Ministering from Mark 11:22-26, Gloria said believers need to remain in a continual mode of forgiving others and of believing they receive what they say. "You will never have great results without adding patience to your faith," she said. "They make each other work. Faith doesn't always produce instant results. It takes no time for God to straighten you out, but it might take a while to work out the circumstances."

We are destined to win, Jerry Savelle said, if we will settle this one issue: God is our source. He challenged believers to begin inserting the phrase "who is the Source, my Source, or our Source" after every Bible reference to God.

"If you are relying on self, thinking of yourself as a self-made man," he said, "you are bound to come up with something you cannot handle. Make sure you are trusting God (the Source), who has blessed you with

every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus."

Warning from Colossians 2:8 against philosophy—the vanity of genetically altered Christianity—Jesse Duplantis said religion based on the traditions and philosophy of man is governed by the flesh instead of the faith-producing inspiration of the spirit. It conforms people, instead of transforming them. It encourages believers to climb mountains instead of telling those mountains where to go.

Creflo Dollar described the Word of God not as a book of rules but a bag of seed. "You have a garden on the inside of you. You are not on the way. You are there. You are healed. You walk by faith and not by sight. Hope deals with the future; faith is now."

The No. 1 fear Satan is peddling to Christians is that what God has said will not come to pass. Brother Dollar challenged believers to develop a lifestyle of total dependence on God, emphasizing that "trusting is the highway to continuous triumph."

Encouraging International Partners

The international reach of KCM's Victory Campaigns extended to Australia and British Columbia where, in various meetings, members of the Copeland family encouraged Partners to release heaven's overflow to those experiencing the world's suffering, darkness and lack.

In May, Kenneth and Gloria held Victory Campaigns in Sydney and Brisbane. Five months later, Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons brought *Hello, My Name Is God* LIVE! to the same cities. In a weekend of life-transforming worship and teaching on coming face to face with the true nature of a good and loving God, Jeremy Pearsons ministered messages from his new book *Hello, My Name Is God*. And Sarah shared fresh songs of worship from her recently released album *Love Songs for the King*.

In October, Terri Copeland Pearsons brought a ministry of prayer and encouragement to believers in Kelowna and Surrey, British Columbia. In a further outreach expansion in 2009, the new Copeland Family Meetings brought encouragement, healing and instruction to believers in Milwaukee, Wis., and Orlando, Fla. Kenneth and Gloria's children and grandchildren, John and Marty Copeland; Steve and Kellie Swisher; George and Terri Pearsons; and Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons ministered on the Blessing in Action, equipping believers to go beyond coping and into overcoming.

"The anointing is on every one of them," Brother Copeland said, "anointings and strengths that astound me. It's a powerful move of the Holy Spirit." **VICTORY**

2010
KCM

Join us
at these events

Enter into these meetings as a place of rest, laying aside your own works and expecting THE BLESSING to meet every need in your life.

—Kenneth Copeland

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

Homecoming 2010
August 2-7 (Southwest Believers' Convention)
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

Admission is Free. Preregister today!



new Behind the Mission Weekends:

February 19-20 : Scottsdale, Ariz.
Doubletree Paradise Valley Resort
5401 N. Scottsdale Road | Scottsdale, AZ 85250

September 24-25 : Orlando, Fla.
More cities to come

Copeland Family Meeting

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

Join Kenneth and/or Gloria at:

New Year's Eve Service: December 31, 2009
Eagle Mountain International Church
14355 Morris-Dido Road | Newark, TX 76071
(not a mailing address)

Women's Conference 2010 Rome: April 9-11
International Church of Italy
Via Giuseppe Chiovenda, 57 | Rome, Italy

Word of Faith Conference: June 18
Word of Faith International Christian Center
20000 W. Nine Mile Road | Southfield, MI 48075
248-353-3476 | woficc.com

Join Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher at:

Living Word Bible Church: February 17
3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-964-4463 | livingwordonline.org

25th Anniversary Celebration: March 19-21
Kern Christian Center | 4701 Gosford Road
Bakersfield, CA 93313 | 661-664-1000
kernchristiancenter.org

Spring Men's Advance: April 16-17
Burchfield Ministries | 1423 County Road 101
Columbus, TX 78934 | 979-732-9200
burchfield.org

Breath of Fresh Air Women's Conference: April 22-24
Family Worship Center | 3649 Frontage Road
Port Orchard, WA 98367 | 360-874-0903 | skfwc.com

Embracing His Grace: May 2
1001 Airport Freeway | Bedford, TX 76021
817-280-0302 | ehgchurch.org

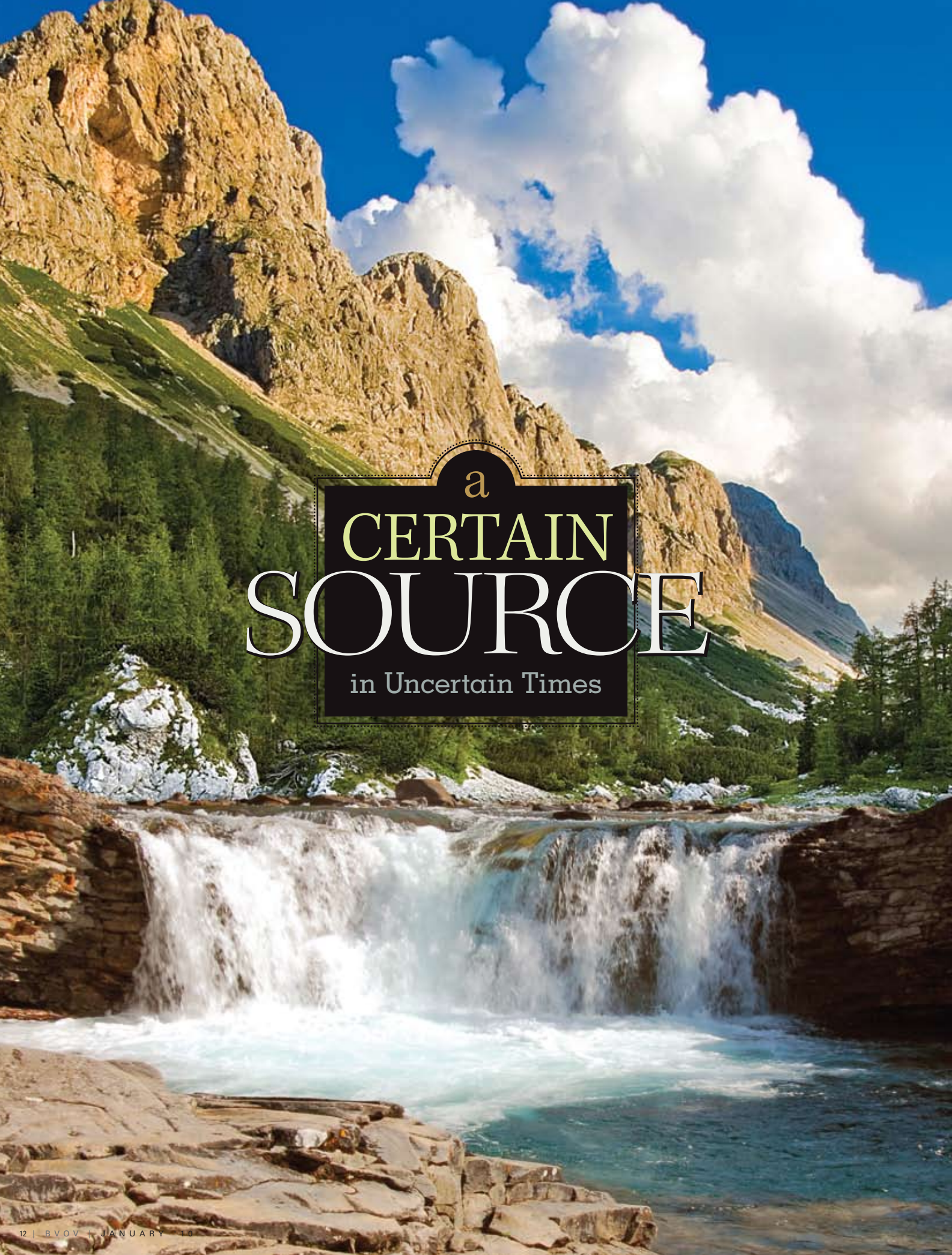
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New Year's Eve Service: December 31, 2009
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a
CERTAIN
SOURCE
in Uncertain Times



The world's financial system has broken down. Credit remains constrained, markets and regulatory regimes have failed, and the old rules governing financial flows are moribund. | Those aren't my words. They are from a 2009 ad in *The Wall Street Journal*, placed there by editors. Shortly after that was published, *The New York Times* ran an article with the following headline: "A Small Town Loses a Pillar: Its Only Bank." Here's how the article starts out:

GIBSON, Ga.—With fewer than 3,000 residents, Glascock County is not big enough to have its own hospital, jail, or Wal-Mart. But for more than 100 years, it had a bank—until late last Friday afternoon, when regulators arrived to shut it down....

When an institution has been around for a century, people have the impression it will be there forever. I'm sure those Georgia residents never dreamed they'd lose their only bank.

What's happening?

The world's system is failing—and the world knows it.

Longtime businesses are crumbling and the big boys we always thought would be around are teetering on the edge. Everything man has built and depended upon is no longer reliable. The sources that man has relied upon are running dry.

And it isn't just the institutions. There's been a domino effect and people who have counted on this system are hurting now, too. It used to be that if you got in a pinch, you could call Uncle John. But Uncle John isn't answering his phone anymore. People who once had millions of dollars are now living on food stamps. All the sources people have depended on—even built their lives on—are having their shaky foundations exposed.

So where does this leave believers?

God's Got You Covered

Thank God, we don't have *a* source. We have *the* Source. If God was *a* source, then He might be capable of running dry, too. But He's *the* Source. Psalm 118:8 says, "It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man." Isaiah 40:8 states, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever."

If you've built your life on the Word of God, you're not spending your nights worrying. You're not living oppressed or depressed.

Forty years ago I learned to build my foundation on the Word of God. The world may be screaming that it's the worst of times, but I'm having the best of times. My ministry isn't suffering. We're on top. We're the head and not the tail, above and not beneath. I'm not saying that to brag on me. I'm saying it to brag on *the Source*.

When the world sees their foundations trembling, they panic. But Jesus said that in the middle of a troubled world, "See that ye be not troubled..." (Matthew 24:6). Philippians 1:28 says, "Do not [for a moment] be frightened or intimidated in anything..." (*The Amplified Bible*).

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.

The Lord is the Source of your information now. He's the Source of your guidance. **Next time you're trying to figure out a way to make a profit, instead of putting all your trust in some secular moneymaker, why not go to the Source? He'll give you the wisdom you need.**

How can you have that kind of confidence? Because "BLESSED (happy, fortunate, prosperous, and enviable) is the man who walks and lives not in the counsel of the ungodly [following their advice, their plans and purposes]..." (Psalm 1:1, *AMP*). You don't want to be following the counsel of the ungodly in times like this. You can't trust in what man has built. You must put your delight and desire in the law of the Lord. Then, everything you do will prosper (verses 2-3, *AMP*).

When you put your trust in Him, you can be confident because God's got you covered. Psalm 9:9 says, "The Lord also will be a refuge and a high tower for the oppressed, a refuge and a stronghold in times of trouble (high cost, destitution, and desperation)" (*AMP*). God is your refuge. He's *the* Source, and He's got you covered!

God-Is-My-Source Minded

This revelation came alive in me one day while reading 2 Corinthians 1:3: "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of sympathy (pity and mercy) and the God [Who is the Source] of every comfort (consolation and encouragement)" (*AMP*). When I saw that phrase "God *Who is the Source*," it jumped off the pages and into my heart. Immediately I started tearing through the Scriptures and everywhere I found the word *God, the Lord, He* or *Him* as a reference to God, I would read it and then immediately following it, I'd say out loud, "the Source."

For instance, Philippians 4:19: "And my God (the Source) shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus" (*New King James Version*).

The more I did that, the more I became God-is-my-source minded!

I challenge you to search through Scripture and apply this exercise. Speak aloud, "the Source," each time you see God mentioned in the Bible. I believe it will have the same explosive impact on you that it had on me! And there's something about hearing yourself say it that gives it even more impact.

You keep that up, and before long it won't make any difference what *The Wall Street Journal, The New York Times* or even your neighbors or relatives say. The Lord is the Source of your information now. He's the Source of your guidance. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).

What It Means to Be *the* Source

The word *source* literally means "from where it all originates." I don't think it's a coincidence that the very first chapter in the very first book of the Bible states, "In the beginning God..." The Word doesn't waste any time revealing where everything originates from: *God* is the Source. Everything you will ever need originates from Him.

Do you suppose that's the reason He calls Himself "I Am"?

I am *what*?

He is everything you will ever need Him to be. *Everything*.

In Exodus 6:7, God says, "I am the Lord your God." The word *Lord* means not only "Master" and "Ruler," but also "loaf keeper." In other words, He supplies our bread—all our need. He's our provider... our Source!

In Exodus 15:26, God says, "I am the Lord that healeth thee." He's our Source of healing. He's our Source for physical, spiritual, mental and emotional well-being. If you're sick, He has the ability to make you well. If you have a broken heart, He's the mender.

In Exodus 20:2, He says, "I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of...bondage." Whatever kind of bondage you might have in your life, God is saying, "It couldn't be bigger or greater than Me. I am the Source who can bring you out of bondage."

In Isaiah 48:17, God says, "I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." Next time you're trying to figure out a way to make a profit, instead of putting all your trust in some secular moneymaker, why not go to

the Source? He'll give you the wisdom you need.

Think of *anything* you need right now. I promise you there is a scripture in the Bible that will refer to it and state that God is the Source.

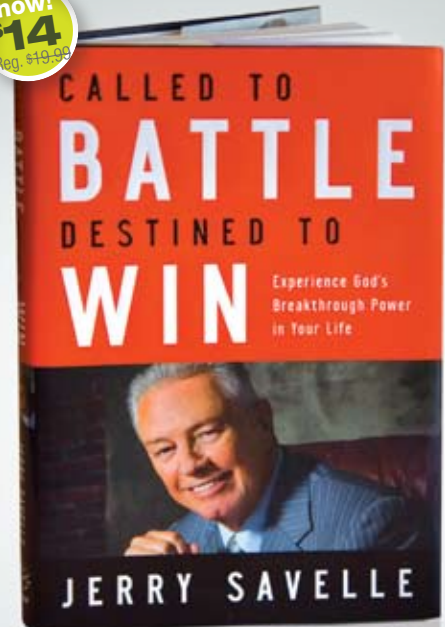
Make It Personal

Right now, the world is wondering, *What are we going to do in these uncertain times?* I'll tell you what we're going to do. We're going to look to the Source, because it's better to trust in the Source than to put confidence in man.

Here's my challenge to you: Become God-is-my-source minded. Make Scripture personal. Because when you get it inside you that "My God (the Source) will supply all my need," no one can take that away from you. **VICTORY**

Jerry Savelle is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founding pastor of Heritage of Faith Christian Center. For information or ministry materials write to Jerry Savelle Ministries, P.O. Box 748, Crowley, TX 76036; visit the Web site at www.jerrysavelle.org; or call 817-297-3155.

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keep your eyes on the light

BY GLORIA COPELAND



"You will do well to pay close attention to it as to a lamp shining in a dismal (squalid and dark) place, until the day breaks through [the gloom] and the Morning Star rises (comes into being) in your hearts." 2 Peter 1:19, *The Amplified Bible*

Do you know what the most important thing in your life is? It's not where you work. It's not even your family. The most important thing in your life is keeping your heart full of the light of God's Word.

You can have faith strong enough to change circumstances in your life. You can live in victory instead of defeat. But you'll only do it continually by spending time in God's Word.

Proverbs 4:20-23 spells out this key to success in no uncertain terms: "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not

depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

If your heart is full of the Word, you can get a good job—the best job! You can pray your family into line. And the way to get the Word in your heart is through your ears and your eyes. That's how you keep the Word in the midst of your heart. That's why you put God's Word first place in your life. It's the answer to everything. When

you give your attention to the Word of God, every other area in your life will be successful.

You see, God's Word shows you how to live victoriously, even in a dark world. When you walk according to the Word, it shines a light on your pathway.

The Apostle Peter talks about that light of the Word. He says to pay close attention to it like you would a lamp shining in a dark place.

Continually focus your attention on the Word of God, and you can fight the good fight of faith and win even when negative circumstances surround you. Keep your eyes on the light, and you will have light. It will bring you through to victory! **VICTORY**

(This article was adapted from the devotional book by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, *Pursuit of His Presence*. To order a copy of this faith-filled devotional, please log on to kcm.org or call 800-600-7395. You can also read the daily devotion online by going to kcm.org.)



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

“And endurance (fortitude) develops maturity of character.... And character [of this sort] produces [the habit of] joyful and confident hope of eternal salvation.”

(Romans 5:4, *The Amplified Bible*)

Seed for the Sower

I was listening to your broadcast when I heard one of the speakers mention sowing into your ministry. He also talked about a time when he didn't have the money to give, but claimed it from God and very soon it came in.

As I listened, I told God I wanted to give to KCM and that I was trusting Him for it because I didn't have it. Two days later, I was given the amount I wanted to sow to KCM by a person who had been trying to contact me for two weeks! Please receive the enclosed cheque given with great joy.

R.M. :: England

P.S. I think it was Keith Moore I was listening to and I have sent for the CDs. This series on overcoming temptation was much needed. I am grateful to God for your broadcasts.

Miracle-Working God

God worked a miracle. I wrote to KCM and asked for prayer because I had a lump in my breast. My doctor said it was cancer and another doctor said it was as big as a cantaloupe. While I was going through chemo, someone from your prayer team called and prayed for me and my granddaughter, who also had cancer.

By the time I had surgery, the lump was the size of a golf ball. When the test came back, my doctor said the lump was dead—no cancer in my lymph nodes or my breast. I said, “Thank You, Jesus!” I want to thank KCM for praying for me. My granddaughter received bone marrow from her twin sister and is cancer free. She has gone back to college and is doing *great!* Thank You, Jesus, and thanks KCM. May God continue to bless KCM.

Corine Booker :: Burlington, N.C.



Wellspring in a Dry Place

You were our watering place in a desert for about 16 years. That seemed long, but we grew and depended on our heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit to be our leader. When there was no full-Word church available, your TV ministry was our church and we blessed you as God directed us. We are now in a full-Word church and our congregation has become free to allow the Holy Spirit to flow in our services.

Thank you for doing what God has called you to do.

Jim and Jan Gee :: Cicero, Ind.

Shortage Multiplied Supernaturally

In April 2009, we sold metal roof system components to a U.S. Corp of Engineers project in Kansas. Because of production issues, we were late in filling the order. The project manager was extremely upset, and threatened all sorts of penalties because of the delays.

I prayed and asked God for favor in spite of the threats. When the steel was finally delivered to our plant, the order was short by 3500 pounds.

The Lord reminded me of how Jesus fed the 5,000 with a couple of small fish and a few dinner rolls, and He instructed me to pray based on that event. I decided to obey God's prompting. I prayed that the steel we had on the floor was more than enough to complete the order.

Two days later, I asked the machine operator how we came out with the order. He said, “Would you believe we ran out the entire order and had only 8 inches left on the coil?” I walked away from the machine praising God and thanking Him for answering my prayer.

God *is* more than enough in our lives and He *is* sufficient to our each and every need.

A.W. :: Ohio

Favor in the Workplace

We prayed and even though my husband's company was laying off 80 out of 107 people, by the grace of God his job was spared. Also, after we prayed I offered my services to a translation company. The company responded immediately and I have done some work for them. They told me my work is excellent! Thank you for your prayers.

R.S.
United Kingdom

Desire of Our Hearts Fulfilled

I came to the Southwest Believers' Convention in 2006 and at that time my husband was getting ready to go to Iraq. We believed to adopt a baby girl from China. The desire of *my* heart was to have our own baby girl, but my husband *could* believe to adopt.



While we were at the convention the last day, you had a testimony of a woman who believed God for a baby and then you prayed over anyone believing for a baby.

I stood up instantly, without even thinking, and received the prayer you prayed in my heart. I went home not wanting to adopt, but to believe God for a baby girl. I discussed it with him and, after much prayer, he was in agreement.

He came home in June 2007 and I still had not conceived by November. My husband encouraged me by asking, “Can't you believe that you are pregnant?” We went out and bought a dress and some baby shoes, and I put them in my closet to look at every day. Within a month, the test came back positive that I was pregnant.

Heather Lynn came almost exactly two years after you prayed over me that day in Fort Worth, Texas. Praise be to God! He is a God who loves us and does answer our prayers.

Marcy Field :: Alaska

Don't Want to Miss a Thing

I have been watching your show now for several months and I've got to tell you that you have helped me to understand the Bible so much. I just don't want to miss any of your broadcasts! Thank you so much for being on the air.

J.M. :: Illinois

Partner Letter Brings Encouragement

Thank you for our Covenant Partner Letters. They really are a blessing. When things arise I get my letters out, reread them, study the Word and win every time! I have even shared them with others and seen them get the victory.

Rhea Hendricks :: Cedar Park, Texas

Be Anxious for Nothing

My mortgage went up in 2009. I get paid biweekly and one paycheck covers the mortgage. Since it was going to be \$100 more, my paycheck was not enough to cover it.

I got worried and anxious—I went and called the mortgage people and state tax offices and talked to a few close friends. That night I just mentioned in my prayer for God to help me. Shortly after that I got a little increase in my paycheck, enough to pay for the mortgage and have a little money left over. I thank God. How stupid it is to seek help from worldly people when my Father God is so able.

R.I. :: Maryland

The Lord Has Done Great Things

We called KCM and requested prayer for our daughter, trusting the Lord to help her pass more than 11 exams for admission to a UK grammar school. We sowed a seed offering and agreed in prayer.

The Lord has done valiantly. More than 3,000 girls sat for just one of the exams. When the results came back our daughter was one of the 90 girls who got enrolled! KCM is a rich, fertile ground to call for prayers and to sow seed offerings.

A.K. :: United Kingdom

Immediate Harvest on Seed Sown

The Holy Spirit prompted me to sow \$100 into your ministry. I asked Him for confirmation through Scripture and He led me to Genesis 26:12. Five days later my property tax of \$1,031.36 was paid. What a mighty God we serve!

Your ministry on THE BLESSING has helped me very much.

C.S. :: Texas

God Loves Me

I have been fed by your ministry for years and have all your books and music. Gloria's book *Blessed Beyond Measure* has blessed me more than any book I have ever read. When I get to feeling down, I reread her book and it causes me to remember how good God is and that He really loves me.

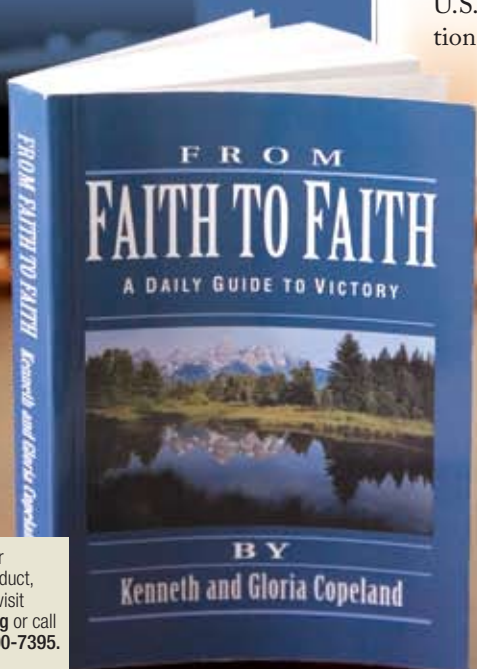
P.C. :: Kentucky

The Goodness of God

I'm writing to thank you for your prayers. I'd written to you many months ago regarding our children's visas and a new job for my husband. Thanks be to God—my husband is with a good firm and our children got their visas renewed and are with us now. Nothing is too difficult for our Lord. God bless KCM and may He use you more mightily in the coming year for His glory.

P.A. :: Bahrain

Bahrain



To order this product, please visit kcm.org or call 800-600-7395.

Prayer Is Our Priority

Call 800-600-7395 for prayer 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

a Taste of

Heaven



Humid air hung like moss over the West Virginia morning as sunlight dappled its way through fat clouds to the rain-soaked foliage below. The nutty scent of moist earth wafted through the window as Patricia Sherwood wrapped her arms around her husband, John's, shoulders and kissed the smile lines that crinkled the corner of his mouth.

Leaving for work was a mixed blessing these days. "Thank You for my job, Lord," Patricia breathed as she grabbed her briefcase and dashed for the car. Her heart sank as she waved goodbye and watched the slight slump in John's shoulders. Like most men, much of his identity was tied to his role as provider, and it was a mantle he wore well. Intelligent, professional and generous with everyone he met, John had enjoyed a challenging career as a hospital administrator.

Perhaps he felt the shifting sands that prophesied a tsunami of change that threatened the health care system. For whatever reason, once out of work, he sniffed change in the air and determined to change with it by interviewing for a wide variety of jobs. Weeks had turned into months but no one offered to hire him.

In 2005, when John began filling out job applications, the unemployment rate had not soared and the economy seemed stable. Everything looked normal, but beneath the surface it was not. There were positions to be filled, but many companies weren't hiring. Businesses were downsizing—why pay another person when you could divide the job among existing staff?

Inside the community college where Patricia taught business classes part time, she greeted her students and spoke on a familiar theme. "Never miss an opportunity to have a conversation with someone you admire," she admonished. "Imagine that you step into an elevator. Just before the door closes, one of the people you admire most in the world steps inside. It might be Bill Gates or Warren Buffett. This is a unique opportunity. What are you going to do? Will you introduce yourself and strike up

a conversation? Or will you stare at the elevator buttons, frozen like a deer in headlights? I want you to rehearse the scene until you know exactly what you'd say. That way, if the opportunity presents itself, you'll be prepared."

After class, Patricia paused as she graded papers and wished she could step onto the elevator with someone who would offer John a job. What famous person would she like to meet? A slow smile spread across her face as she remembered that through prayer she had the opportunity to intervene on John's behalf with the greatest CEO in the universe. Bowing her head, she stepped into His throne room.

The Missing Link

"I was raised in a Catholic family whose lives revolved around church," Patricia recalls. "My dad was a plumber who spent many a night doing repairs before morning service. Yet for most of my life I had a sense that something was missing. I yearned for something I couldn't name.

"In 1986, I lived in Pennsylvania and worked for the American Red Cross Blood Service. One of my co-workers often said things that intrigued me. She told me things she had learned through prayer and offered to pray for me. After I moved to another city, we occasionally met for dinner. During one of our visits, she gave me a cassette tape to listen to. That weekend I lay on the sofa and listened to Gloria Copeland

"It's like a light went on for me, as though God said, 'Here's the Bible, you're welcome to it. There's real good stuff in here.'"



Patricia Sherwood

teach about the goodness of God. Her words were so filled with life they sparked something in me. I wanted to know more.”

Although Patricia didn't have any more of Gloria's tapes, her friend had signed her up to receive the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. Each month when the magazine arrived, she read it cover to cover. Reading the magazine, Patricia realized she'd never owned a Bible.

“It's like a light went on for me,” Patricia explains, “as though God said, ‘Here's the Bible, you're welcome to it. There's real good stuff in here.’”

Joy Unspeakable

The following year, Patricia learned that Gloria and her husband, Kenneth, were going to hold a Victory Campaign in Washington, D.C. She called her friend and the two made plans to attend.

New Bible in hand, Patricia arrived at the meeting. “I'd never seen anything like it!” she recalls. “Men, women and children all worshipped God with great joy! I loved it. At the end of one of the sessions, when Kenneth Copeland presented the plan of salvation, I realized that although I knew *about* God, what I'd been missing was a relationship *with* God. I'd missed that crucial step of inviting Jesus to be Lord of my life. I responded to the invitation to have a personal relationship with Him, and from that moment the joy only got sweeter. Being at that meeting was like a little taste of heaven for me.”

Before leaving the convention center, Patricia stocked up on books and tapes. At home, she listened to each teaching over and over before moving on to the next. She made every effort to watch the *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast each day, and recorded those she missed. Over the years, Patricia attended every Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign and accumulated a library of resource materials.

“After 10 years, the messages are still current, relevant and edifying,” Patricia says. “I've gotten a whole new perspective on who God is and who He is in me. How can people live without Him?”

Standing in Faith

As they passed the one-year mark of John's unemployment, Patricia knew it was taking a toll on him. But John wasn't the kind of man to wallow in self-pity or admit defeat. Instead, he volunteered at their church and helped with Boy Scouts. He continued serving on the board of a nearby university, offering his time, experience and energy for free.

Somehow, despite being without steady work more than a year, all their needs had been met. Each time it appeared

they wouldn't be able to pay their bills, John had been offered an interim job.

John continued to knock on doors, fill out applications and go for interviews, but nothing came of his efforts.

“One of the advantages of living by faith is that I never felt compelled to put pressure on John about his job or our financial situation. John had always been a wonderful husband and a great provider, but through the Word of God I knew John was not our source. Our source was God, and as the summer of 2007 approached, marking 18 months without employment, there was no denying He had kept us afloat. However, the urgency of our predicament grew as each day brought us closer to losing our health insurance.”

One Word From God

During his work with the university, John had noticed similarities between health care and education. He realized that his skill mix would fit in a university setting. So, in June 2007, when a nearby college announced an opening for the dean of continuing studies, John drove 40 miles to apply. After interviewing for the position, John was told a final decision would be made before July 4.

On July 1, the silence of the telephone was deafening. Though very optimistic and full of hope, each passing hour gave John and Patricia the opportunity to lose that hope.

They awoke on July 2 determined to be optimistic, but the still-silent telephone seemed to demand their attention, clamoring in its silence.

This is it, Patricia thought as she opened her eyes July 3. *We should hear something today.*

Nothing.

Patricia let out a long sigh as though she'd been holding her breath for days. *It didn't work out*, she concluded. It was hard to celebrate Independence Day with the jaws of their financial needs threatening to swallow them.

The next day, the situation took its toll on Patricia as discouragement swept over her. Lifting her eyes toward heaven she whispered, “What do we do now?”

Sow a seed.

The answer came so fast and with such clarity Patricia felt stunned. Sow a seed. The answer was so simple! Why hadn't she thought to ask God sooner? Patricia wrote a check and walked it to the mailbox.

Seedtime and Harvest

The next day, the phone rang. John listened, as the voice on the other end explained that he was one of two finalists for the college position he had applied for, and was offered the job.

Looking back, John and Patricia realized the time he'd spent volunteering on the board of a university had been

preparation for this position. John had sown seeds of time, energy and faithfulness into university soil, and Patricia had sown financial seed into the kingdom of God. Their seed produced fruit.

In the fall of 2008, with John settled in his new job, Patricia attended the Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign. During the meeting, Phil Driscoll ministered through music and the Anointing of God was palpable. Sunday morning, Patricia stopped by a coffeehouse for a cup of coffee. Turning to leave, she saw Phil Driscoll standing right behind her.

Patricia opened her mouth to speak as tears pooled in her eyes and spilled down her cheeks. Holding out her hand to Phil, she tried to strike up a conversation. Her voice breaking in sobs, she managed to say, “Your music ministers to me so much.” Unable to say more, she left.

“Back home, I stood in front of my class and told them I'd had one of those rare experiences when I found myself standing in front of one of the people I admire most in the world,” Patricia admits. “I explained that for all my preparation, I was totally unprepared.”

Security of the Believer

Since then, Patricia has thought a lot about what heaven is like. She imagines countless millions of men, women and children worshiping God with unabashed joy. She imagines walking and talking with Jesus and sitting across the table sharing a conversation with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. She imagines hearing the glorious sound of worship from Phil Driscoll's horn echoing off the gates of heaven.

“One of the people I most want to meet in heaven is Caleb,” Patricia says. “Just think, Joshua and Caleb were the only two people who left Egypt and entered the Promised Land. We know quite a bit about Joshua, but very little about Caleb. What did he do between the ages of 45 and 85? He must have committed himself to God and refused to budge while everyone around him fell away. After 40 years in the wilderness, he had not been swayed from God's promise. He was a reliable man.

“There is so little you can rely on these days, and that's one of the reasons I'm honored to be a Partner with KCM. They're reliable. I can rely on them to speak the truth. I can rely on them for letters, magazines, books, CDs, DVDs and conventions. Had it not been for them I might have missed heaven.”

The college position John accepted was a contract job with no long-term security, but John and Patricia Sherwood enjoy a security that no company on earth can offer. It's the security of the believer, which promises that the economy of this present world cannot hold them back or hem them in. Christians are a peculiar people, a holy nation whose God is the One who parted the Red Sea, pulled down the walls of Jericho and fed a multitude with a few small fish and loaves of bread. Jesus is the One who had His taxes collected from the mouth of a fish.

That's the good news of the gospel, and faith in God allows us to experience a little bit of heaven right here on earth. **VICTORY**

partnership A Heavenly Connection!

Patricia Sherwood's partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries has been key to her connection to heaven right here on earth! We are here for you—to help you in your journey of faith—and have designed all the benefits of partnership to increase you in your daily walk with God.

We invite you to pray today and ask the Lord if now is the time for you to partner with KCM—your heavenly connection!



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STRAND OF PEARLS

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GOD the Open Book

God never has and never will do anything apart from His Word.

That’s an eternal, everlasting fact. It cannot be changed. | Yet, we act as though that isn’t true when we try everything we can think of to get hold of God. We cry, we pray, we fast—we do all sorts of things. But we don’t stop and realize that the Word—the written Word of God—is just as much God as the Father, Son and Holy Ghost are God.

The Apostle John writes, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him” (John 1:1, 3).

We can agree “all things were made by God.” What we fail to see, however, is that John was saying, “All things were made by God—all things were made by the Word.”

You see, the book we call “The Holy Bible” is not a book *about* someone. It *is* Someone. It is God Himself manifested to us.

Moments before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed for His disciples: “Sanctify them through thy truth: thy *word* is truth. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth [the Word]” (John 17:17, 19).

This prayer wasn’t just for the disciples because Jesus went on to pray, “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also [that’s us] which shall believe on me through their word” (verse 20).

Like the disciples, we are sanctified through the truth—through God’s Word. But notice, so was Jesus. He said, “I sanctify *myself*.”

How did Jesus sanctify Himself?

Through the truth. Through the Word.

We are sanctified the same way Jesus was sanctified.

Now let’s take that a step further. In John 8:26, Jesus said, “...he that sent me is true.”

So based on what we just read in John 1:1—“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,” we could change John 8:26 to read, “he that sent me is God.” Or, “he that sent me is the Word.”

Do you see the connection?

The importance of understanding that connection is this: Jesus did not come into this earth and wake up one day with some far-out revelation of who He was. He didn’t come into this earth with any such revelation.

No, Jesus received revelation of who He was and what He was called to do the same way you and I get it—through the Word of God. He found Himself in the Book, in the book of Isaiah to be exact.

While on this earth, Jesus walked in the Word and He walked in prayer. He didn’t get His direction from God because of some special relationship He had with the Father that you and I don’t have.

No, faith came for Jesus the same way it comes for us—by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Certainly He walked in the wisdom of God and in a level of faith you and I are still reaching for. But the point is, He did it by the same means. And because of that, we can walk in that same level of faith and anointing Jesus did.

You have the same access to the Father that Jesus had. You have the same access to the Holy Spirit that Jesus had. And it all comes through the Word—the same way Jesus got it.

The presence of God—the power of God—is in His written Word. **VICTORY**

Faith came for Jesus the same way it comes for us—by hearing the Word of God.



Have you ever said something like: “I know I could get ahead financially if I could just get a bigger raise this year”? Or, “We’ll be OK financially if the stock market will just stay steady”? | It’s true, you could benefit to some degree if the things of this world were more predictable. But this world’s system is anything *but* predictable! And it’s only designed to make a few people rich. It leaves most people hanging on the line, wishing they could be rich. It leaves them chanting, “If only I could do this or that, then I would be rich too.”

Walking in the Financial Favor of God



The Bible warns against trusting, or putting your hope in “uncertain riches” (1 Timothy 6:17). They are as uncertain as the wind—finances could be flowing in one direction one minute and in another direction the next!

Then what *can* cause you to get ahead financially? I mean *way* ahead, where you’d never have to be concerned with your retirement years or about paying for the family’s Christmas. I know something that can do all of these things. It’s the financial favor of God.

There are many in the Body of Christ who have experienced what it means to be broke, struggling and barely making it financially. But there is a cure for that condition. The cure for empty hands is to be positioned to receive the financial favor of God.

God has provided us with financial favor. He has made this cure available to each one of us. But we cannot utilize this cure without first gaining some knowledge about God’s will and His ways concerning financial favor.

God Is Your Source

Before you can receive financial favor from God, you’re going to have to establish Him as your source. If you’re still looking for favor from the world, your faith will be misguided, and you will become disillusioned in your thinking.

We, as Christians, have become mixed up as to our source in life. Academia is not our source. There’s nothing wrong with education, but your education cannot become your source. Your job or your rich relative cannot become your source.

When I talk about financial favor, I’m not talking about just paying a house note. I’m talking about a great deal more than that! God said to those who sowed financial seed in the church at Philippi, “My God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19).

First, the Holy Spirit said through Paul that God would meet all their need because they were givers. But then the Lord said something else about *how* He was going to meet that need: He said, “...according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

When God says He’s going to bless you according to His own resources, that’s financial favor!

Do you understand the vast expansiveness of that statement?

Look at what the Bible says in Ephesians 3:20: “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.”

The phrase “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” becomes the measure of your source when you establish God as your source. To make that connection, however, and experience the financial favor of God, you’re going to have to be convinced of His will for you concerning favor for finances. You have to understand that this kind of wealth is available to you and that God will fill your hands with wealth if you will allow Him.

Your understanding of God’s will generates the connection to His wealth. The connection, in turn, creates the proper current or flow. Then that current supplies the power to change your situation and bring to pass the impossible in your life. Your financial favor and the turning of your financial captivity will take place “according to the power that is able to work through you” as you believe and trust!

Realize How Much God Loves You

To receive favor from God, including financial favor, not only do you have to establish God as your source, you have to recognize the great love He has for you.

Some people in the Church have stayed broke simply because they don’t recognize how much God loves them. That’s one of the reasons the Body of Christ has gone to the world for help getting their needs met.

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:37-39).

Because you are in Christ, God favors you this day. Meditate on that truth and let it sink deep into your understanding. Then begin to expect the favor of God to work wonders in your life.



Before you can receive financial favor from God, you’re going to have to establish Him as **your source.** If you’re still looking for favor from the world, your faith will be misguided....



He is always calling you up higher—
to a better marriage, a stronger family, a more effective ministry or vocation,
and to hands that overflow with plenty....

Understand His 'Blessing System'

If we want to receive the financial favor of God, we must also understand His plan of systematically blessing us, or His "blessing system." There may be times He will ask you to separate yourself from some people, some habits, some beliefs and so forth, in order to walk just with Him and with those who will approach His Word with an open and sincere heart to receive truth.

Some Christians will hear a verse, such as Philippians 4:19, and shout, "Amen! That's true! Preach it!" But that verse is not real to them. They're only hearing it with their physical ears. They're not hearing with their spiritual ears, listening to the Holy Spirit speak to their spirit about that verse of Scripture.

Some Christians can't hear God's voice because the voices of their pastors ring so loudly in their hearing. For years, these dear believers have been indoctrinated by their pastors' beliefs that don't line up with the Word of God. Now their eyes and ears are dimmed and dampened where the truth is concerned.

Others are too influenced by relatives who are set in their ways of thinking. They cut themselves off from the financial favor of God, because Grandma So-and-So says it ain't so!

Do you know someone like that? You can't talk him out of his unbelief, yet he continually does his level best to talk you out of your faith.

God may require you to separate yourself from these people.

If not physically, He may require you to turn your back on their unbelieving ways so that you may follow Him more fully.

Look at the wisdom of the Holy Spirit through David in Psalm 1:1-3:

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Make no mistake about it; the wrong kind of company

will corrupt you (1 Corinthians 15:33)! It will keep you out of the realm of God's favor and remove you from God's systematic plan of blessing you.

God's systematic plan of blessing is designed to bring you from one level to the next. God doesn't want you to stay in one place in your finances or any area of your life. He is always calling you up higher—to a better marriage, a stronger family, a more effective ministry or vocation, and to hands that overflow with plenty, because of His financial favor!

But just because God is calling every believer doesn't mean that each one will answer. There is a price to pay to get in on the "system" and to walk in God's best. First, you must separate from those people and things that would try to turn you away from obeying God—whether from friends, relatives and religious leaders, or even from excessive time spent on television, hobbies or forms of entertainment that would distract you from the things of God.

Then after you've separated or set yourself apart, and you're walking in the blessings of God, the next level in God's blessing plan is to show you off to others—to display His glory in you so that others can look at you and say, "I want what you have," and you can show them the way.

Didn't God put His man Abraham on display for the world to see? To this day, Abraham is known as the father of our faith and as a faithful follower and friend of God, a man who entered solemnly into a covenant with God Almighty, kept his part of the covenant, and was overwhelmed with God's best as God mightily kept *His* part!

If you're serious about getting in on God's "blessing system," God will separate you and then show you off to others that He might be glorified (see Isaiah 61:3). And you will have handfuls of *plenty* to show for it!

VICTORY

This article was adapted from the book by Leroy Thompson titled *No More Empty Hands: How to Have Hands Full with Purpose*. He is pastor and founder of Word of Life Christian Center in Darrow, La. For more information or ministry materials, write to Word of Life Christian Center, P.O. Box 7, 40066 Hwy. 22, Darrow, LA 70725; visit the Web site at www.eiwm.org; or call 225-473-8874.

BY GLORIA COPELAND



Bringing Increase to YOUR LIFE

I always love THE START OF A NEW YEAR. IT'S LIKE I HAVE A CLEAN SLATE TO WORK FROM, AND I WILL SPEND DAYS AND MONTHS FILLING IT UP WITH ALL THE GREAT THINGS THE LORD BRINGS MY WAY. I KNOW EVERYTHING IN MY LIFE IS FOR HIS PURPOSE BECAUSE I LOOK TO HIM TO GUIDE ME EVERY DAY. AND I KNOW, BECAUSE MY HEART IS SET ON BEING WHERE HE WANTS ME TO BE AND DOING WHAT HE WANTS ME TO DO, EVERY DAY WILL BRING INCREASE TO MY LIFE. I AM ALWAYS OPEN TO RECEIVE ALL HE HAS FOR ME!

So, what are you expecting to receive this new year? Better health? Improved relationships? More effective ministry? A new job? Financial freedom?

Well, you can have exactly what you expect!

I know one thing we all desire is increase in our lives—every day in every area. And I have found that there is just no end to God's increase. He is good to His children and His

For Ken and me tithing is part of our worship. When we locked into God's Word on tithing, our lives began to change.



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generosity toward us is everlasting. He loves us!

In our 42 years of living in the truth of God's Word, Ken and I have discovered that increase becomes the standard of living for those who make the decision that receiving from their heavenly Father *will* be their way of life. When we are born again of God's Spirit, He puts us on a path that leads us to the life we see Jesus living.

Jesus lived free of lack and worry. He was perfectly healthy. His close relationships were thriving. His every need was met and He met the need of every person who sought Him. His was a life of continual increase to the point that, even by His death and resurrection, He made the way for every person on earth to be filled with God's glory and provision!

God's plan has always been to bring increase to His people.

Making Increase Your Way of Life

As Ken and I have been on this path of increase, we have discovered keys to receiving all God has planned for us. His Word clearly tells us He has a plan for His children: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope" (Jeremiah 29:11, *New Living Translation*).

Part of His plan for us is that we help you discover and live out God's plan for you in fullness! We have learned from God's Word that seven things in particular bring increase to our lives: walking in truth and obedience, faithfulness, diligence, tithing, sowing, believing and saying. By applying our lives to these seven things, we have opened ourselves to receiving all God has planned for us—all He needs us to have to fulfill His plan. You notice I didn't say *applying these seven things to our lives*. That's because this is not some kind of formula for receiving increase. Instead, these things have become our standard for living—they are our way of life.

Walking in Truth and Obedience

Many people wonder, *Does God really want me to prosper?* God answers that question in 3 John 2: "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

In verses 3-4, the Apostle John writes, "For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth."

If our way of life is going to be one of victory and prosperity, we must walk in the truth of God's Word. Believers all over the world live defeated lives, far below God's provision, because they don't know the Word of God and have little faith.

The Word is our source for knowing God's will and His ways. It expresses His love to us. As we obey His Word, His love is reflected in our daily living, causing us to walk through life just as Jesus walked. John made that clear when he wrote,

We have discovered that the same way we received our salvation by believing and confessing, we receive all God has for us...health, good relationships, deliverance, increase.

"Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.... By this we know that we are in Him. He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked" (1 John 2:3, 5-6, *New King James Version*).

The great commandments that Jesus walked in were *love God*, and *love your neighbor* (see Mark 12:30-31). There is a lack of love in the world today, and it leads to lack in every area of life. The Word of God and His Spirit living inside teach us how to be true lovers of God and one another. When we walk in those commandments, we discover the power to receive everything else in our lives by faith in His Word—faith fueled by love (Galatians 5:6). So, walking in truth and obedience—living in faith according to God's Word—is essential to our receiving increase in this life.

Faithfulness and Diligence

We all know someone who, when they first heard the truth about all God has made available to His people, grabbed hold and wouldn't let go of His Word. But somehow their lives seemed to have gone backward. Once filled with all the good things of God, their lives have slipped into distress and struggling relationships. What happened?

They laid aside the truth of God's Word. Things got too tough or someone began to talk them out of their faith. Maybe they just gave up.

Faithfulness and diligence are also keys to keeping yourself open to receiving all the increase God desires to bring into your life.

"A faithful man shall abound with blessings," Proverbs 28:20 tells us.

Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

Faithfulness *in* us makes us go after what God has promised *to* us. It knows God will bless and increase our lives just as He says. Diligence makes us keep after it...never giving up! It knows there is no other source but God and won't look anywhere else for provision.

As we practice faithfulness and diligence, we begin

to receive what Peter said we should expect:

Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust (2 Peter 1:2-4, *NKJV*).

When we know that, nothing in this world can attract us, or distract us. We know our source of life and godliness, and we don't settle for anything less than God's will and His way of fulfilling our lives. Whatever He calls us to do, whatever He tells us to do, whatever the Word says to us—that's the way it's going to be!

The Spirit of God in us—the divine nature Peter talks about—is how we walk in faithfulness and diligence and receive all the things that enable us to walk as Jesus walked. He lived to love and give to others. That was His purpose, and it should be ours as well.

Tithing and Giving

Jesus' life was the expression of God's love for people. Everything He did was to show them God's salvation—to deliver THE BLESSING to them and to deliver them from the curse. Jesus enjoyed His life, His friends and everything He had received as God's Son. Everything about His life was an investment in people to whom God led Him.

Through the principles of tithing and giving, we have opportunity to invest into the lives of people as God leads us. Tithing gets God involved in our finances. According to the words of the prophet in Malachi 3:11, tithing protects the assets God has given us: "And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes."

For Ken and me tithing is part of our worship. When we locked into God's Word on tithing, our lives began to change. Proverbs 3:9-10, for example, tells us to

“honor the Lord with your capital and sufficiency...and with the firstfruits of all your income; so shall your storage places be filled with plenty...” (*The Amplified Bible*). So, we set our tithe apart, pray over it, thank God for what He has done for us and for what our tithe will do for the ministry of the gospel. We place it into ministry where He tells us.

You may say, “I will have to become more prosperous before I can tithe.” You would be living backward doing that. Tithing is the basis for your prosperity... the foundation of increase for your life. Once you make the decision to tithe, regardless of your circumstances, prosperity will come.

In fact, you’ll find yourself looking for every opportunity to sow into the good works of ministry and into people’s lives. The truth of 2 Corinthians 9:7-11 will become a reality in your life.

So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work. As it is written: “He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever.” Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God (*NKJV*).

Our tithing and giving are fundamental to opening the door for God to bring increase to our lives.

Jesus said it, and I believe and constantly speak it over our lives and ministry: “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom...” (Luke 6:38).

Believing and Saying

Believing and saying are the final things that bring increase to your life. I say that with all confidence, because I’ve been doing both for more than 42 years and my life continues to increase. Ken and I have lived day by day, step by step, taking hold of God’s truth about every area of life—believing, confessing and receiving all His Word promises. We are living proof of it all.

Romans 10:8-10, *NKJV*, makes it clear:

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith which we preach): that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

We have discovered that the same way we received our salvation by believing and confessing, we receive all God has for us...health, good relationships, deliverance, increase.

That’s how we experience everyday life and how we deal with any distracting circumstances that come up. We go to the Word of God to find what He says about it. His Word contains the solution to every problem. It is health to our bodies. It leads us to reconciliation in all our relationships. It shows us the way to prosperity and increase in our lives.

The day we began to trust God and His promises, everything about our lives changed. We believed, and we have been believing ever since. To seal His promises in our lives, we say what the Word has to say about everything!

Romans 10:17 says, “Faith cometh by hearing...the word of God.” Now, hearing is hearing! It may begin with seeing the words on the page of your Bible, but the Word of God coming out your own mouth into your own ears—it becomes faith and it changes things!

First faith changes things in your heart and you begin to think differently...you begin to think the way God thinks. Then you begin to see things differently, the way God sees things. And when you see the truth of God’s Word, it takes over your life. You begin to increase in all the things of God!

Be Transformed

If people don’t learn how to think according to God’s Word, things in their lives will either stay the same or get worse. That’s why the Apostle Paul says to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God” (Romans 12:2, *NKJV*).

God needs you and me to be living proof to our world that His will for their lives, and everything that comes with His will, is always good and acceptable and perfect for them.

That’s the whole purpose of these seven things being part of your life. They will change you according to God’s Word so you can live and move in the realm of


the spirit—the realm where your increased life begins—the realm where the world will sit up and take notice, and so desire what you have that they will come to Jesus!

God has promised us by His Word that we *can* walk in truth and obedience, we *can* be faithful and diligent,


we *can* tithe and give, and we *can* believe with our hearts and say with our mouths. In other words, we can increase in the things of God, every day and in every way. There is no better time to bring His increase to your life than right now! **VICTORY**

Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

January



Looking for the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast?
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SUNDAY	DAILY				
3	4 Mon	5 Tue	6 Wed	7 Thu	8 Fri
Kenneth Copeland <i>Faith Should Be Your Way of Life</i> Faith isn't just something you "do"—it's part of who you are. See how to live in the spirit of faith daily.	The Word of God Is a Light to My Path God's Word is the beginning of all wisdom—the source of all knowledge! This week Kenneth and Gloria Copeland teach on the power of living in the wisdom that comes only from the Word.				
Kenneth Copeland <i>Live in THE BLESSING of the Lord</i> You <i>can</i> live in God's fullness—spirit, soul and body. Discover life in THE BLESSING today!	Transformed by the Love of God George Pearsons welcomes Mac and Sandra Gober as they talk about the mighty love of God and how it transformed Mac from an "outlaw biker" to a victorious man of faith!				
Gloria Copeland <i>Caleb—A Mighty Man of Faith</i> Study the faith of Caleb and see how his viewpoint was different from his peers because he trusted God.	The Word Makes the Difference Join Gloria Copeland this week for an insightful teaching that shows how hearing and applying God's Word to your life can make all the difference!				
Gloria Copeland <i>Speak to the Giant in Your Life</i> Learn to hear the Holy Spirit as He guides and directs you, and shows you how to overcome the biggest troubles you face.	The Word Alive in You This week Gloria Copeland continues to share how, when you <i>live</i> the Word of God, your victory is at hand!				
Kenneth Copeland <i>Fight the Good Fight of Faith</i> See how standing on the Word puts you over the top as you roll your care on Jesus and live in THE BLESSING!					

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