



Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

April 2011



Happily Ever After

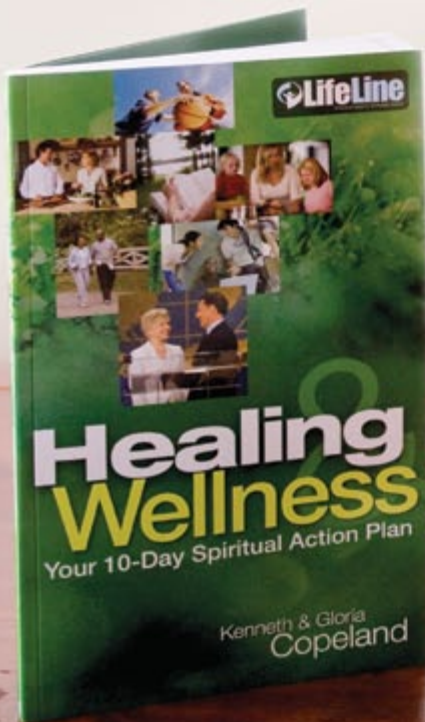
Diana & Richard Escobedo

Coming Soon to the LifeLine Series

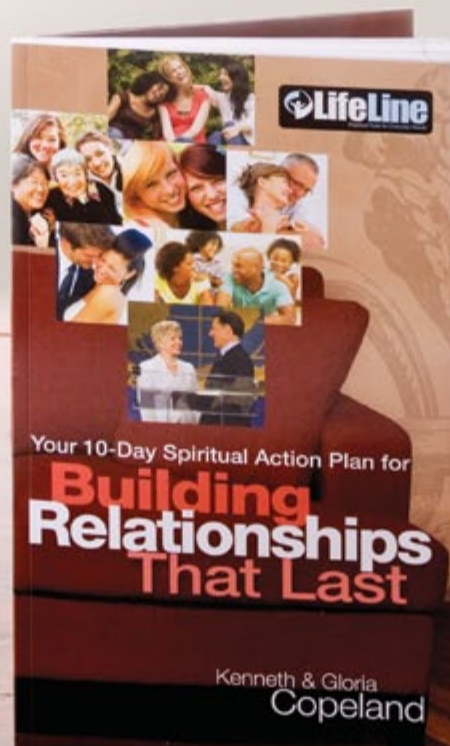
How to Get Your Prayers Answered



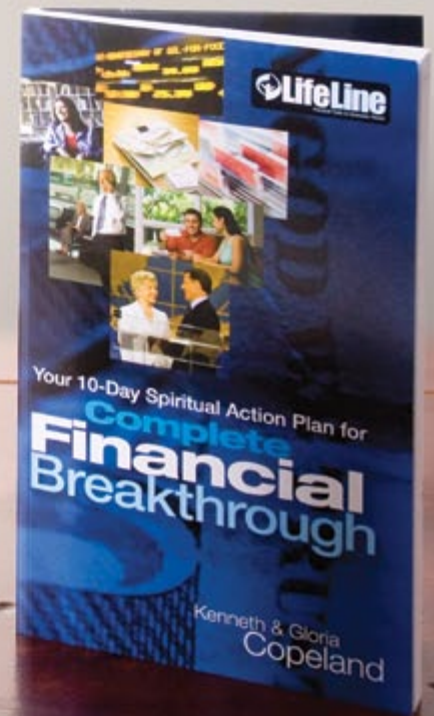
“Faith is the force God has given us to govern our personal lives, day in and day out. He expects us to take that spiritual force—the same force He used to create the material world—and **change circumstances, heal our physical bodies and keep our lives in line with His Word.”**



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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 38 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

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BY KENNETH COPELAND



Laborers Wanted



Unemployment. In the world's economy it's one of the biggest problems going. Literally millions of people are struggling to find jobs right now. Yet in the middle of it all, there's a place where the unemployment rate is zero. There's an Employer so eager to find workers that He's published an ad that reads something like this: "Laborers wanted. No experience required. Willing workers will be paid more than they earn. Employee satisfaction is guaranteed and the benefits are eternal. All applicants will be hired."

Sounds too good to be true, doesn't it? But that's the offer Jesus has made to everyone in the kingdom of God. It's an opportunity so great you'd think every believer on the planet would immediately jump at it.

Most Christians, however, don't even know

the offer is on the table. They have no idea God has a specific job for them and that He will pay them well to do it. They're out there scratching around in the world's economy, taking whatever job they can find and trying to make a living. All the while, their extravagantly rich heavenly

Sure, God's kingdom includes heaven. **But it's also on earth.**

If we'll learn how that kingdom operates we can enjoy its privileges, become its ambassadors and expand its influence.

Father has a position for them in His operation. He has an assignment that was tailor-made for them before the foundation of the world; and He has the resources to compensate them richly...because in His kingdom, there's no such thing as an economic crunch.

"Yes, I know that, Brother Copeland!" someone might say. "Heaven's economy is doing well! I'm looking forward to going there someday so I can enjoy it."

What are you waiting on? Why not start enjoying it today? You can do that, you know. The New Testament says that as born-again believers, we've already entered God's kingdom. According to Colossians 1:12-13, God "hath made us...partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light...hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son."

Hath is past tense, not future tense!

Sure, God's kingdom includes heaven. But it's also on earth. That's why Jesus said in Matthew 28:18, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth" (*New King James Version*). Right now, you and I are in the earth-part of the kingdom. And if we'll learn how that kingdom operates we can enjoy its privileges, become its ambassadors and expand its influence every day of our lives.

Hiring All Day Long

One passage that tells us a lot about how God's kingdom functions is the parable of the vineyard owner in Matthew 20:1-7. There, Jesus says:

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder, which went out early in the morning to hire labourers into his vineyard. And when he had agreed with the labourers for a penny a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And he went out about the third hour, and saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and said unto them; Go ye also into the vineyard, and whatsoever is right I will give you. And they went their way. Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise. And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle? They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.

What jumps out at me right away about this part of the parable is how eager the vineyard owner is to hire workers.

He doesn't just put out a "Help Wanted" sign and go on about his business. He starts early in the morning looking for laborers, and he stays with it all day long. Apparently, hiring people is a major priority for him. From morning until evening, his focus is putting people to work.

That would be unusual, under any circumstances. But it's especially odd when you consider that he's still hiring people when there's only an hour left in the workday. This vineyard didn't have a night shift, so the guys who went to work at the 11th hour weren't going to be there long enough to even get their clothes dirty! Obviously, this man has more on his mind than getting a job done and making a profit. Something else is going on here.

We start finding out what it is when we read what happens next:

So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first. And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny. But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny. And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house, saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee (Matthew 20:8-14).

A Day's Pay for an Hour's Work

To understand what's going on in this situation, it's important to notice that the owner referred to the laborers as "Friend." The word is capitalized, indicating a covenant relationship. So, all these guys had a covenant. But not all of them operated in it the same way.

The first group, the ones who worked all day, demanded a contract. They wouldn't go into the vineyard without one. You might say they were union workers. They weren't going to do anything unless they were guaranteed a certain wage.

Those who were hired later in the day, however, had a different arrangement. They went to work by faith. They didn't know what they were going to get. They didn't ask

any questions and they certainly didn't demand any contract. They'd been standing around all day without a job. They just wanted to work!

When the owner of the vineyard showed up, they must have thought, *Here's a guy who wants to hire me at 4 p.m. knowing I'll get off at 5! What kind of deal is this? I don't know how much he's going to pay me but even if all he does is buy my supper, I'll be better off than I am now.* So they jumped at the chance, headed for the vineyard, and trusted the grace of the landowner.

It turned out to be a smart decision, too, because they didn't just get paid for the hour they worked, they got paid for the entire day.

Of course, that angered the contract guys. They thought the whole system was about toiling for a living. They'd been

sweating to earn their pay, working selfishly just to meet their own needs. The way they saw it, the crew that worked a fraction of the day should have received only a fraction of the wages.

But here's where they went wrong: They failed to understand their employer's heart. He wasn't just interested in getting the work done in his vineyard; he was looking for people to bless! He was looking for people who would come to work for him in faith and obedience so he could pay them far more than they earned.

This man was interested in dispensing grace—pure grace.

God is the same way! He's said to us virtually the same thing the vineyard owner said to the late-hour workers: "Go to work for Me and I'll take care of you. You won't even have to worry about your needs. I'll see to them. If you'll do whatever I tell you to do, whether it's sweeping streets, running a corporation or pastoring a church, I'll make sure you're well taken care of. I'll do for you what's right."

In other words, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

This is the secret to being extremely blessed in the kingdom of God: Adopt the attitude of the non-contract guys. Find out what God wants you to do and go after it with all your heart, trusting His grace and saying, "My Father is going to take care of me. He wants me in the vineyard and I'm going. I don't care if it's sunup or sundown. I'm going to do what He tells me to do and go where He leads me to go because that's where I'm supposed to be!"

When we start operating with that mindset and in that kind of faith and obedience, we become the happiest, wealthiest workers anyone has ever seen. We find what I like to call our laughing place. We start living in THE BLESSING of God's kingdom right here on planet Earth.

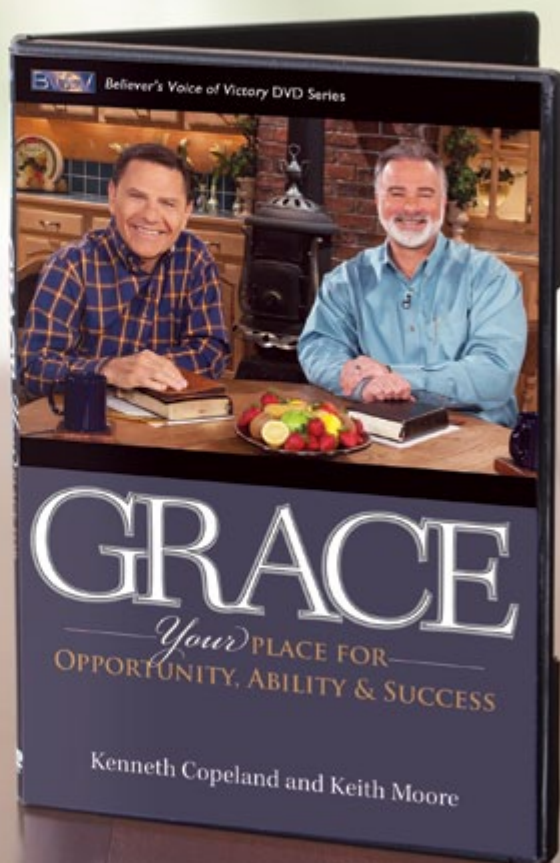
A Family Operation

"But Brother Copeland, what if God sends me somewhere I don't want to go? What if He assigns me to some low-paying job out in Timbuktu?"

If He does, then Timbuktu will turn out to be the grandest place on earth for you. And if you're working there on assignment for God, He'll pay you a whole lot more

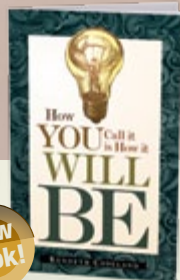
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**COMING
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than you're worth. He'll pay you like you're an equal owner in His kingdom because you are. Jesus confirmed it in Luke 12:32. He said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Think about that! As a believer and a joint heir with Christ, you don't just live in the kingdom of God, you own it. This is a family operation.

To get an idea of what that means in practical terms, imagine this: A multibillionaire in the oil industry has two sons working with him. He calls one of them into his office one day and says, "Mike, we have a problem at one of our pipelines in South America. One of our foremen isn't treating people right. He's causing trouble. I want you to go down there and work as a welder, so you can keep an eye on him. Find out what the problem is so we can correct it."

Let me ask you something. Does that boy have to live on a pipe fitter's salary just because he's going to be doing a pipe fitter's job? Is he going to wail and say, "Daddy, don't send me down there! I won't be able to afford a decent place to live. The economy there is terrible. The maximum wage is \$10 an hour."

No, he wouldn't say any such thing. He knows his income isn't going to change just because he goes to work in South America for a while. He's still co-owner of a multibillion-dollar empire. He's heard his father say again and again, "Son, you call me every day and tell me what you need. Whatever it is, I'll see that you get it."

The boy doesn't have a thing to worry about, and he knows it.

Why should he be upset about spending a few months in the jungle? He's not going there to suffer; he's going on a mission, on an adventure in service to his father. He'll be taking his authority and his prosperity with him. He'll have the time of his life, fixing the problem down there and seeing everyone involved get blessed.

That's what it's like to work on assignment for God. That's what it's like to be in the middle of His perfect will. No matter where it takes you, or what it involves, it's the greatest adventure you could ever have—and it comes with all bills paid.

I learned that in 1967, the day I went to register for classes at Oral Roberts University as a 30-year-old student. I was the oldest freshman on campus and it was the first day in my adult life that I was in the perfect will of God. Oh, what a day that was! It was January. A bone-chilling Oklahoma wind

was whipping, and I'd gotten there early, before the admissions office opened. As I hid in the stairwell to get warm, I got so thrilled that I started shouting and praising God.

I was absolutely overjoyed to be where I was supposed to be, in the middle of God's plan for my life, doing what God had called me to do. Standing out there shivering, I had no idea how I was going to cover the cost of my tuition. But when I got inside, I found out it was already paid.

You've Been Discovered

Those were good days, but they were just the beginning. In the 40-plus years that have passed since then, I have had the time of my life working for Jesus. He's kept me busy, for sure. But He's also blessed me beyond anything I could have once imagined; and He's let me have a whole bunch of fun in the process.

Most believers don't know this about God, but He's highly in favor of having fun. He once told me if it hadn't been for sin, He would have never had a serious thought. The Bible makes it plain that He's a dancing God; He's a music God. He's a let's-have-a-party God.

I was thinking about that fact not long ago when I was out joy riding on my motorcycle. I remembered a time when Gloria and I, and a few of our preaching buddies were biking together and we rode into a town in Wyoming only to find the streets blocked off for some kind of celebration. We just parked the bikes and joined in. People were singing karaoke on the back of a flatbed truck, and Jesse Duplantis jumped up there, grabbed the mic and started singing. If you know Jesse, you can imagine, he was dancing and jumping all over the place.

A guy standing there listening looked over at me bug-eyed and said, "Man, that guy is good, isn't he?"

"Yeah, he is," I said.

He shook his head in amazement and added, "You know, someone's liable to discover him!"

I couldn't help but laugh. "I think he's already been discovered," I said.

Jesus discovered Jesse a long time ago, just like He discovered you and me and every other born-again believer. He tapped us on the shoulder and said, "Hey, I've got a job for you in the kingdom. You want to go to work for Me?"

We said yes...and we've never regretted it.

There's no better job on earth than working in the kingdom of God. **VICTORY**

THE RALLY

RICK REYNA
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T-BONE

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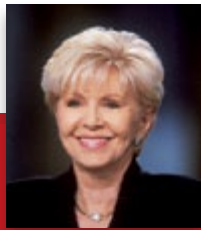


"Take time to pray and listen to God...say, 'Sir, what should I say at this moment? What should I do? My ears are open and my eyes are open. I'm listening.'"

—Kenneth Copeland



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



Jerry Savelle



Jesse Duplantis



Creflo Dollar

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“I wept with gratitude, but I didn’t understand that the Word had healed me—I thought I had just done a good job of begging and crying and had moved the hand of God.”



Happily Ever After



Diana Escobedo swallowed the fear that clawed at her throat as she thought of the huge lump in her breast. It had grown in spite of her prayers. It insisted on continuing its malicious march, threatening all she held dear. She and her husband, Richard, had only been married six months, and this *wasn't* the happily ever after she had imagined. She was too young! She was too happy! And now, she was too scared!

Diana's family was third generation Christians from the San Fernando Valley in California. Richard had grown up in Brownsville, Texas, where his family pioneered churches in a major denomination. Converted in the early 1900s, his grandparents and uncles had owned property on both sides of the Mexican border. She and Richard met while attending the Latin American Bible Institute and had agreed to follow the Lord's call into full-time ministry. They prayed the way they'd been taught—by begging and pleading with God and ending each prayer with the respectful, "If it be Thy will." They knew how to pray.

Didn't they?

One day when the pain was severe, Diana stayed home from work to pray. She went into her bedroom and knelt down, praying and begging and crying for God to heal her. After about an hour, a scripture came to her mind—Isaiah 53:4-5.

"I started quoting that scripture to the Lord," Diana recalls, "telling Him through my tears, 'You said in Isaiah 53: 'Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.'"

Moments later, Diana was completely healed! "I wept with gratitude, but I didn't understand that the Word had healed me—I thought I had just done a good job of begging and crying and had moved the hand of God. At the time we knew nothing of our righteousness in Christ Jesus. We had been taught we didn't deserve anything from God, and *if* He felt like it, He might heal us. Since we were taught that He punished with sickness, being healed was a very big deal!"

Going to bed that night, she smiled contentedly. They *did*

know how to pray—begging and pleading had moved the hand of God.

Or had it?

Knowing God

“It never occurred to me that my healing might have manifested because I’d prayed the Word of God,” Diana admits.

Pleading with God for an answer to prayer wasn’t common only in their denomination, it crossed denominational lines. Everyone they knew prayed that way. As a result, they couldn’t pray in faith because they didn’t know God’s will.

The following year when Richard graduated from Bible school, he and Diana launched a traveling ministry, and Richard sang with The Escobedo Singers. In 1975, a respected friend brought them Kenneth Copeland’s teaching series *The Laws of Prosperity*, and asked them to listen to it. They listened to the tapes over and over, then Richard began teaching the message.

A few years later, in 1978, Richard and Diana were thrilled to learn Kenneth Hagin was holding a meeting in Anaheim, Calif. The other speakers were Kenneth Copeland, Fred Price and John Osteen. Richard cleared their schedule and they attended. Hungry for the Word, they needed some answers. Diana was again struggling with her health—a new lump had appeared.

After that, the couple traveled to Texas to minister and Richard’s cousin loaned them books and tapes by Kenneth Hagin and Kenneth Copeland. Pregnant with their second child, Diana opted to stay home one evening and rest. As she read Brother Hagin’s *Authority of the Believer*, she was stunned at what she learned.

Diana was asleep when Richard returned from the meeting. However, she roused and urged him to read the book. Richard stayed up most of the night reading. Afterward he knelt in the closet to pray. Their 3-year-old daughter curled up on the floor beside him and slept.

“Lord,” Richard prayed, “I’m learning from Brother Hagin that it *is* Your will for us to be healed and walk in health. I’m confused. I’ve been taught that sometimes it’s *not* Your will to heal.”

Behold your daughter, the Lord said. Do you love her?

“More than life itself.”

Do you ever want her to be sick?

“No! I’d rather take it myself!”

Do you want her to be poor?

“No.”

Hungry?

“No.”

I also love My children. I never want to see any of My children sick, hungry or poor.

Richard pondered the words and then covered his face in remorse at the unspoken truth. Although he’d been a Christian for years, he had never really grasped the nature of God.

The Good Fight of Faith

The next day Richard discussed what he’d learned with Diana. “We’re not going to ask God to heal you anymore,” he said. “According to God’s Word, you were healed. Past tense. From now on, we’ll praise and thank God for your healing.”

The battle had been joined. The more they spoke God’s Word over the situation and thanked Him for Diana’s healing, the worse her symptoms appeared to be. The area around the lump swelled, and the swelling continued up her arm to her neck and the side of her face.

A few months later, Richard paced beside his wife’s bed. The right side of her beautiful face seemed pale as death—the left side flushed as though by a blistering sun. The color trailed down her arm to the breast where a lump protruded like a fat egg. She’d lost the use of her arm.

Diana seemed closer to heaven than earth. As her husband watched, Diana’s eyes rolled back into her head like the glass eyes of a doll. Convulsions wracked her body like an earthquake followed by a series of aftershocks.

She’s going to die! the devil taunted.

Richard resisted the urge to weep and beg God to heal his wife. Instead he stood his ground and warred with the Word. He warred with praise. He worshipped the Lord. “Bless the Lord, O my soul,” Richard prayed. “With all that is within me, I bless Your holy Name. Lord, I thank You for all Your benefits. You have forgiven all our iniquities and You have healed all our diseases. Therefore, I thank You that Diana is healed in Jesus’ Name.”

A few days later, Diana Escobedo got out of bed totally healed.

“Afterward I read Gloria’s book *God’s Will for You*,” Diana remembers. “She wrote an entire chapter on healing. Until then I’d known in my *head* what God’s Word said about healing. But reading that book, I got the *revelation* that it’s God’s will to heal.

“I was sitting on my bed reading when I got it—it felt like a 300-pound weight lifted off of me. I knew it was a spirit. I was *free!* I was so changed that I wept in gratitude. Today, 35 years later, the memory still makes me weep with joy.”

Effective Doors of Ministry

During that 1978 faith meeting, the Lord spoke to Richard and instructed him to take the Word of God to Spanish-speaking people. Changing their course, the Escobedos began preaching in Spanish churches around the country, teaching the uncompromised Word of God.

For months after the manifestation of Diana’s healing, they

“Without our connection to KCM, we’d be dead now. Because of what we’d learned from Kenneth and Gloria, we knew how to receive healing by faith and God healed me.”

applied themselves to the Word of God. They grew more in those three months than in the entire time they attended Bible school. They took the revelation they had gleaned and began to preach it. One of Richard’s relatives called and said, “You sure are popular. The denomination has sent letters to all the Spanish churches telling them not to let you fill the pulpit.”

“I was stunned and saddened,” Richard said. “My family helped pioneer the denomination and now they refused to renew my license because I taught the word of faith. The Lord told me that for every door they closed, He would open four. Soon, doors swung open in Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and other Latin American countries.”

The Lord also opened doors for them in the U.S. At that time, they knew of no Spanish churches that had heard the word of faith. So the Escobedos translated Brother Copeland’s materials into Spanish, and started a Bible training center in Visalia, Calif. There they trained many of the people who were saved under their ministry. A strong church grew from that planting, and Richard’s brother is pastor there today.

In 1984, they started a second Bible training center at the YMCA in Torrance, Calif., which also grew into a church—Centro Palabra de Fe—now located in Compton, Calif. Today, Richard and Diana pastor there, with some of their former students serving as elders and pastors of evangelism.

To the Ends of the Earth

In 1986, Richard and Diana began buying airtime on television and radio where they preached the word of faith. In 1996, a pastor friend introduced Richard to the founder of a television ministry in Costa Rica. He invited Richard to preach on television there. Richard traveled to Costa Rica every three months for three years. When they discovered he had a local television program, they began airing *Fe Victoriosa (Victorious Faith)* on TBN Enlace, the largest network in Spanish.

“KCM has changed our lives,” Richard says. “In addition to Diana’s battle, the enemy attacked my health and tried to take me out. They thought I had cancer, although none of the seven doctors could get a firm diagnosis. Because of what we’d learned from Kenneth and Gloria, we knew how to receive healing by faith and God healed me. Without our connection to KCM, we’d be dead now. Our children were filled with the Holy Spirit at KCM Believers’ Conventions. Until the Lord returns, we’ll stand with this ministry.”

Life is good for Richard and Diana. In addition to vibrant good health, people from the U.S., Mexico and other Latin American countries tell Richard, “I heard you when I was a child!” “I heard you when I was a teen!” “The word you preached changed my life!” But one of their greatest joys was helping KCM purchase the Citation X aircraft. Through their partnership with KCM, they are sending the gospel to the ends of the earth.

The days of begging and pleading with God are a distant memory for the Escobedos. They awake each morning with the knowledge of the authority they’ve been given through Christ Jesus. Rejoicing in their Father’s love, they speak His Word knowing that poverty, disease, debt, sickness and lack must flee.

They no longer have to wonder about the will of God.

They know it. They pray it. And they are living it day by day... happily ever after. **VICTORY**



PARTNERSHIP

Battling Together

When Richard and Diana Escobedo became

Partners with KCM, their lives changed. Through the teachings of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, they discovered that the only effective weapon against the attacks of the enemy is the promises of the Word of God. The strength they received through their partnership with KCM has enabled them to stand strong on the Word and to turn every battle they have faced to glorious victory!

We invite you to join hundreds of thousands of believers worldwide who have discovered the power of partnership. Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to partner with us—we are here to help you fight your battles and win!



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- ▶ Ministry report DVD
- ▶ Scripture promises CD
- ▶ *The Anointing in Partnership* CD



“The Lord has blessed me with many good friends over the years, but the best friends I have are the people who have partnered with me in this ministry. Those are the people I write letters to every month.”

Kenneth Copeland's Partner Letter

In a world filled with counterfeits, the Partners of Kenneth Copeland Ministries have had something genuine to count on month after month, year in and year out: *Kenneth Copeland's Partner Letter*. It's timely, it's real and it's personal...because as far as Brother Copeland is concerned, he's writing to his closest friends.

A Call to Obedience

Kenneth Copeland learned the importance of letter writing from his spiritual father, Oral Roberts. It happened years ago when the two met early one morning at Brother Roberts' request to have Kenneth “help him” write his own Partner Letter. Sitting across the desk, Oral held up his Bible and asked Kenneth a pointed question: “What is this?”

“That's the Word of God.”

“What *is* this?” Oral asked again.

Kenneth knew he hadn't given the answer Brother Roberts wanted.

“Well,” Kenneth said, “it's the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.”

“What *is* this?” Oral asked a third time.

“It's the Bible.”

Wham! Without warning, Oral “shovel-passed” the Bible across the desk and hit Kenneth right in the chest with

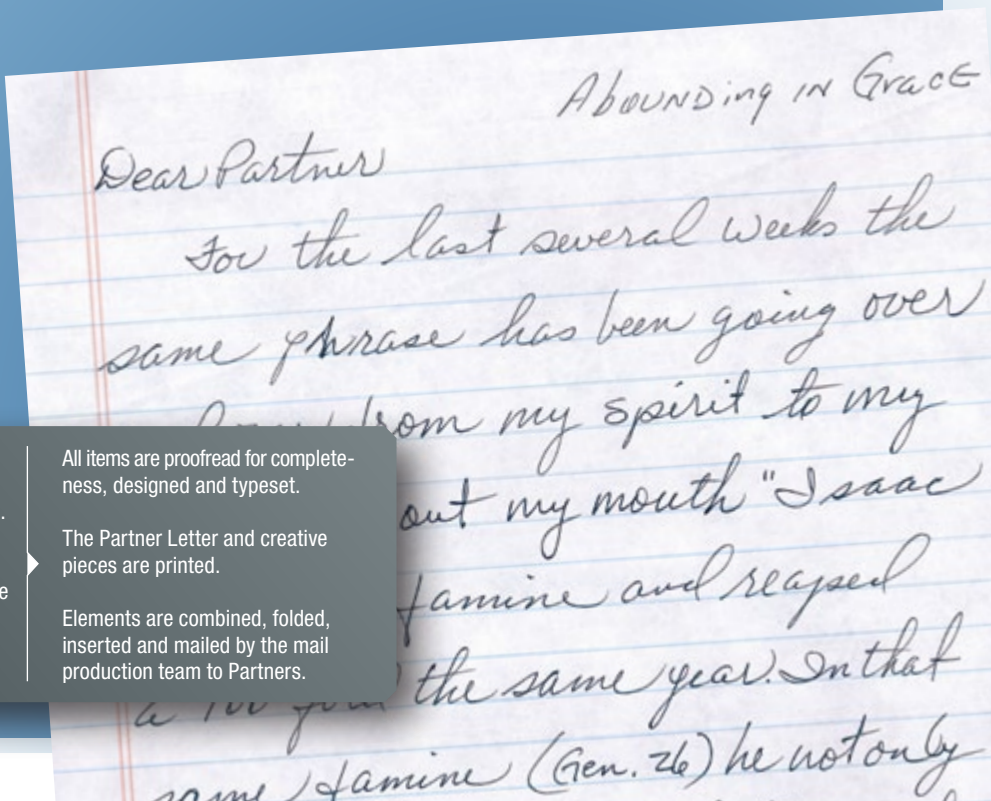
it, nearly knocking him over in his chair.

“Those are letters!” Oral said, the anointing all over him. “And they're just as anointed today as they were the day they were written!”

Letters! The word reverberated to Kenneth's core. *The New Testament is mostly letters from the Apostle Paul to his partners in the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Corinth, Rome, Colossae and Thessalonica—letters written to encourage them and to help them overcome every obstacle!*

“I'm going to ask you to make one of the most serious commitments you've ever made in your life,” Oral told Kenneth. “I want you to commit to God that every 30 days, for the rest of your life, you will pray in the Holy Ghost until you have something anointed to write to your Partners, just the way Paul wrote to his.”

That day, Kenneth made a lifelong commitment. The



The Partner Letter is considered top priority and takes only a matter of days from conception to completion. Here's how the Partner Letter is created:

Kenneth Copeland sends his handwritten Partner Letter to his editorial team.

The editorial team adds creative pieces to include with the letter, such as a confession based on the content.

All items are proofread for completeness, designed and typeset.

The Partner Letter and creative pieces are printed.

Elements are combined, folded, inserted and mailed by the mail production team to Partners.

Lord then led him to study Philippians—a letter from Paul to *his* ministry partners—as an example of how the Holy Spirit could use him to write his own letters.

“From that time until now,” says Kenneth, “I’ve written a letter every month to my friends who are in partnership with me. They aren’t money-raising letters. I don’t write them for that reason. God is my source, and *He* meets all my needs. I write the letters because I want to bless my Partners. Since they are partakers of my grace (Philippians 1:7), I want to share with them the revelations God has given me.”

And they aren’t off-the-cuff revelations.

“I agonize over those letters,” says Kenneth. “I pray, and pray, and pray, and pray. Then I go back to prayer until I hear what’s on God’s heart. Sometimes it comes to me in the middle of the night. But one thing’s for sure. I wait until I hear from heaven. I don’t just sit down and put something on paper.

“As a result, those letters have changed lives—my Partners’ and mine. Thanks to God, and to the Holy Spirit working through the Apostle Paul and Brother Roberts, we have all been blessed!”

The Heartbeat of Ministry

Since its inception, Kenneth Copeland’s Partner Letter has been not only an encouragement to Partners, but also a source of truth and victory. For instance, when a recession hit Canada several years ago, one Partner there remembered the instruction the Lord had given her through Brother Copeland’s Partner Letter in February 1992: *Don’t join the recession!* So she didn’t. After heeding that word, the Holy Spirit instructed her to take it a step further and pray the recession would work *for* her and not *against* her.

Brother Copeland recounts, “The first thing that happened was, instead of being a victim of downsizing in her company as a result of the recession, she was promoted to a position in human resources.” Soon after, she was given the opportunity to finish her education. “As the world around her was going through a recession, she chose to participate in THE BLESSING of provision and promotion in God!”

Moreover, Kenneth Copeland’s Partner Letters have become a heartbeat of the ministry itself. “I would estimate that between 85 and 90 percent of what I preach in meetings...I receive the revelation of it while I’m writing that letter,” Kenneth said. “I’ve been doing it for a number of years and it’s a constant flow and a constant fountain of revelation for me.”

Year In, Year Out, Without Fail

Since penning that first letter in 1986, Brother Copeland has faithfully fulfilled his commitment to write a Partner Letter every month, year in and year out, without fail.

Today, the Partner Letter is one of the most important ministry tools extending from Kenneth Copeland Ministries. It travels the world, from the top to the bottom and all the way around, providing strength and resulting in thousands of testimonies of salvation, healing, deliverance, restoration and increase.

If you don’t receive Kenneth Copeland’s Partner Letter, check the box on the envelope in the center of this magazine to find out more about partnership, or visit kcm.org and click on PARTNERSHIP, then CONNECT. With quality teaching and timely revelation, Kenneth Copeland’s Partner Letter is just one more way that, at KCM, we’re here for you! **VICTORY**

1986

The First Partner Letter

The Lord put it on Brother Copeland’s heart in February 1986 to make his letters as ministry-oriented as possible. He wrote:

Dear Partner,

Recently the Lord has given me a new and deeper calling to minister directly to you, my Covenant Partner, through my letters to you. In the light of God’s Word, I’ve seen those letters in a new and powerful way. And no matter how much of my time and prayer it takes, I’m going to do my very best to get an anointed, faith-filled letter to you each month to help you live that month in greater victory. This is my commitment to you....

The letters you will receive from me will always be based on and subject to...God’s eternal Word. As I intercede in prayer for you, I expect the Holy Spirit to anoint me with an anointing that is greater than your needs. Out of that anointing will come my letters to you.

So pay close attention to them. Treat them with great respect, for the anointing will be on them. After they have ministered to you, don’t just forget about them. Continue to think on them. Give God the opportunity to continue to use them in your life as seeds of my faith for your prosperity.

You have my word, that everything I say I will do for you in these letters, I will actually do! You know I’ll keep my word.



Join us

Behind the Mission— Charlotte: April 8-9

The Westin Charlotte | 601 S. College St.
Charlotte, NC 28202

Canada Victory Campaign: May 12-14

Langley Events Centre | 7888 200th St.
Langley, British Columbia V2Y 3J4 | Canada

Southwest Believers' Convention: July 4-9 New dates!

Fort Worth Convention Center
1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

Venezuela Victory Campaign: August 26-28

Sports Center "Pedro Elías Belisario Aponte"
Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2,
con Ave. 5 de Julio Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia,
Venezuela | kcm.org/es (in U.S.) | 261-786-4213
vicentemora.org (in Venezuela)

Behind the Mission— Secaucus: September 16-17

Meadowlands Exposition Center
355 Plaza Drive | Secaucus, NJ 07094

Word Explosion: October 13-15

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
1101 Lincoln St. | Columbia, SC 29201
803-545-0001

Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign: November 10-12

Hylton Memorial Chapel
14640 Potomac Mills Road
Woodbridge, VA 22192

FREE
Admission

Go to kcm.org and sign up for KCM Events Online Subscription Service.

Join Kenneth and/or Gloria at:

ICFM 33rd Annual International Convention: April 25-27

International Convention of Faith Ministries | 5500 Woodland Park Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76013 | 817-451-9620 | icfm.org

2011 Taffi Dollar Women's Conference—"Radical": June 10

Manhattan Center Studios | 311 W. 34th St. (between 8th and 9th Avenues)
New York, NY 10001 | 800-910-1681 | worldchangerschurchnewyork.org

Annual Word of Faith Convention: June 14-17

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

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion: June 23-24

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 | 763-315-7000 | lwcc.org

2011 Glorious! A Conference for Women: October 14-15

Jesse Duplantis Ministries International Headquarters
1973 Ormond Blvd. | Destrehan, LA 70141 | 985-764-2000 | jdm.org

Prayer Mountain Annual Prayer Conference: October 27-31

Hilton Branson Convention Center | 200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616
417-336-4877 | billyebrim.org

Unable to attend? Some KCM meetings are available for viewing via live streaming. Go online to kcm.org for more information. 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 U.S. call 800-600-7395.

Join Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher at:

West Houston Christian Center: March 19-20

11300 Wilcrest Green Drive
Houston, TX 77042 | 713-954-9422
westhoustonchristian.com

Brevard Worship Center: March 23

6825 Babcock St. SE | Malabar, FL 32950
321-951-0646 | brevardworshipcenter.org

Word of Faith Family Church: March 27

331 Bill France Blvd. | Daytona Beach, FL 32114
386-255-0662 | woffcdaytonabeach.org

New Life Family Church: April 10

202 S. Gilbert Road | Gilbert, AZ 85296
480-456-9200 | newlifeaz.cc

Hope and Healing Christian Church: April 16-17

LOCATION: Buena High School Performing Arts Center
5225 E. Buena School Blvd. | Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
520-417-2468

Living Word Church: May 1

2112 Market St. | Wheeling, WV 26003
304-233-5830 | lwobc.com

Celebration Center: May 7-8

1944 Washington Blvd. | Belpre, OH 45714
740-423-9673 | belprecelebrationcenter.com

Only Believe Ministries Christian Center: May 11

13815 Botkins Road | Botkins, OH 45306
937-693-3554 | obmcc.org

Kern Christian Center: May 14-15

4701 Gosford Road | Bakersfield, CA 93313
661-664-1000 | kernchristiancenter.org

Souls Harbor Word of Faith Church: May 21-22

110 Evergreen Road | Canton, GA 30114
678-644-5217 | souls Harborchurch.com

Kwanglim Methodist Church: June 5-7

571-2 Sinsa-Dong | Gangnam-gu, Seoul, South Korea
klmc.net

Trinity Broadcasting Network

LIVE Taping: June 10

TBN Studios Hawaii | 1152 Smith St.
Honolulu, HI 96817 | 808-521-5826 | tbn.org

King's Cathedral: June 15

777 Mokulele Highway | Kahului, HI 96732
808-871-7311 | kingscathedral.com

Word of His Power Faith Christian Centre: July 30-31

108-4053 Meadowbrook Drive
London, Ontario N6L 1E8 | Canada
519-709-2167 | wohp.org

Brand New Life Christian Center: August 7

1110-B W. Taft Ave. | Orange, CA 92865
714-396-8674 | brandnewlifechurch.com

Dunamis Power Ministries: August 7

2000 W. Olympic Blvd. | Montebello, CA 90640
(meets inside the Evangelical Christian Church)
562-688-4974 | dunamispower247@yahoo.com

Believers' Victory International Church: Aug. 9

425 W. Torrance Blvd. Suite C | Carson, CA 90745
310-512-7705 | bvic.org

Calvary Tremont Missionary Baptist Church: August 14

1255 Leonard Ave. | Columbus, OH 43203
614-258-9933 | calvarytremont.org

Abundant Life Church: August 17

9365 Hooper Road | Athens, OH 45701
740-593-7500 | theabundantlifetoday.org

Trinity Broadcasting Network LIVE Taping: August 23

TBN World Headquarters
Trinity Christian City International Center
3150 Bear St. | Costa Mesa, CA 92626
714-832-2950 | tbn.org

Trinity Church: September 9-10

701 E. Highland Drive | Jonesboro, AR 72401
870-935-7705 | trinity-church.com

New Life Fellowship: September 11-13

1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501
712-332-1982 | gotnewlife.org

Word Alive Pastors' Conference: October 6-9

Cloud of Fire Ministries | Lahore, Pakistan
923014353409 | andreas_stefan@hotmail.com

Grace Festival Crusade: October 26-29

Ambon, Indonesia | Contact: World Impact Ministries
P.O. Box 968 | St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6Z4
905-346-4828 | peteryoungren.org

"Christmas in November"

Women's Luncheon: November 5

Redemption Church | 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road NW
Knoxville, TN 37921
865-521-7777 x229 (Katy Blackburn)
redemptionchurch.com

The Jim Bakker Show: November 10

180 Grace Chapel Road | Blue Eye, MO 65611
417-779-9000 | jimbakkershow.com

The Welk Theatre: November 11

1984 State Highway 165 | Branson, MO 65616
800-808-9355 | welkresortbranson.com



Join Terri Copeland Pearsons and/or George Pearsons at:

InsideOut: Flow Conference:

March 17-19 Radisson Branson Hotel

120 S. Wildwood Drive | Branson, MO 65616
hopecenterchurch.org | 417-593-0691

Annual Prayer Conference: April 7-9

Eglise La Bonne Nouvelle | Boscolo Park Hotel
6 Rue de Suède | Nice 06000 | France
(00 33) 6 58 73 62 84 | elbnfrance.com

Eglise La Bonne Nouvelle: April 10

Boscolo Park Hotel | 6 Rue de Suède
Nice 06000 | France
(00 33) 6 58 73 62 84 | elbnfrance.com

Australian ICFM National Conference:

May 30-June 2 Mantra Legends Hotel
Cnr Surfers Paradise Blvd. and Laycock St.
Surfers Paradise, Queensland 4217 | Australia
617-5588-7888 | mantralegends.com.au

New Zealand ICFM National Convention:

June 7-10 Bay City Outreach Centre
1200 Omaha Road, 4120 | Hastings, New Zealand

Toronto Spirit-Led Prayer Conference:

September 28-30 Canada Christian College
50 Gervais Drive | Toronto, Ontario M3C 1Z3
Canada | terricopelandpearsons.com
Preregistration is open—go to spiritledprayer.com!

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The Westin Charlotte, 601 S. College St.

Charlotte, NC 28202

Also coming!

Behind the Mission

September 16-17
Secaucus, N.J.



Meadowlands Exposition Center
355 Plaza Drive
Secaucus, NJ 07094

Together we'll stand, discover
and receive a fresh new powerful
experience from God!

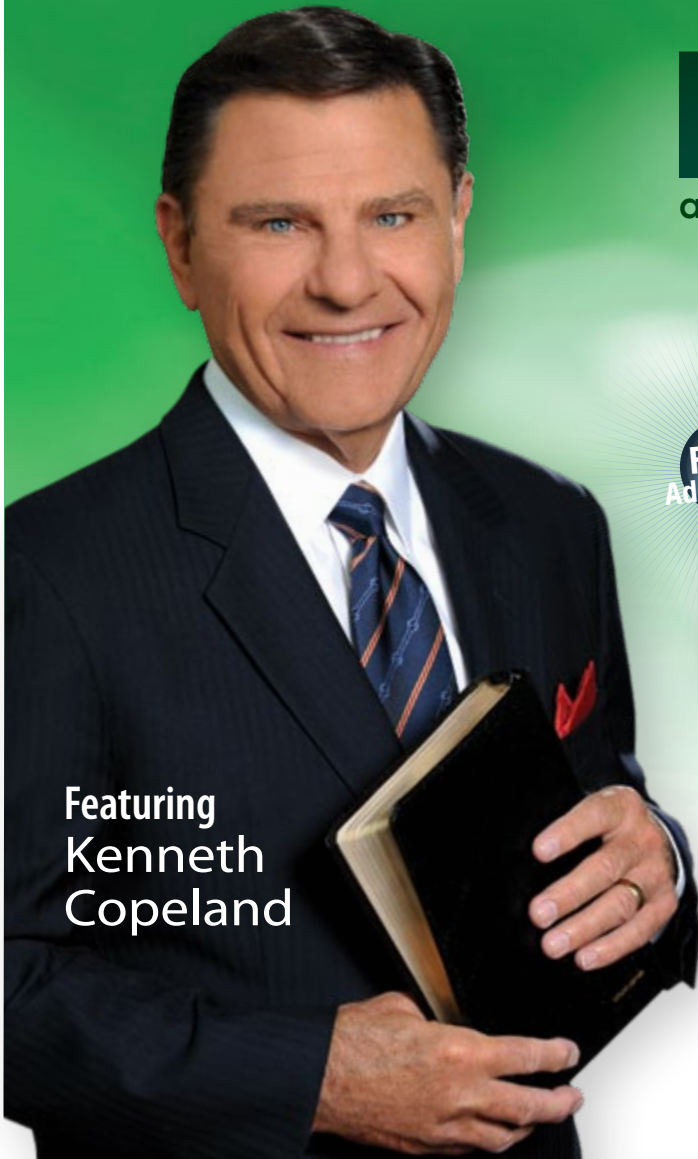
See you there!

Your Hosts



Dr. Stephen and Kellie Swisher

Featuring
Kenneth
Copeland



From the BVOV Archives: This classic teaching originally appeared in July 1987.

A little sickness here...a pinch in the finances there...that's how the devil tries to bully you out of your blessings. Don't let him do it! Stand firm in the faith and kick a little sand in his face for a change. After all, you're no weakling. You've been given—



The power to **PROSPER**

“You were blessed.”

“You are blessed.” “You will be blessed.”

Do you recognize what these sentences represent? They are the past, present and future tenses of the verb “to bless.”

Don't worry, I'm not going to give you a grammar lesson. I'm going to give you a lesson in living! You see, if you're going to enjoy the full and prosperous life God has made available to you, you're going to have to realize that His blessings cover the past, present and future! The following story from Luke 13:10-16, perfectly illustrates this point.

And [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in

them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

First of all, I want you to notice that Jesus called this lady a daughter of Abraham. By using this terminology, He was pointing out that she had a very special relationship with Almighty God. She had a covenant relationship with Him, a bond, a pact, and because of this, she could be set free from her infirmity.

I want you to also notice that Jesus didn't tell her that maybe some day she might be loosed from her infirmity. No, He said, “You *are* loosed,” present tense. Jesus knew that she was a covenant woman. In His mind, her healing was already provided.

God is always operating in the present tense. He never forgets what He has provided for His children. His covenant is ever close to His heart.

In order to receive from God, you must realize that His Word is His bond, and regardless of how much time passes, the depth of His commitment never wanes. It remains fresh in the mind of God regardless of whether

His people remember it or not.

That is why Jesus could tell that woman, "Thou art loosed from thine infirmity." Because God was still mindful of His Word to Abraham. And the day He spoke to Abram, 700 years before she was born, that lady was in Abraham's loins. If the promises were made for *anyone*, they were made for *her!*

In fact, the covenant was made to everyone in that synagogue. They just didn't know it. They were so mindful of their traditions they didn't even know what the Master was talking about. They became angry with Him for healing on the Sabbath!

As a Christian, you have a covenant with Almighty God. It is just as binding as the one Abraham had only it is a better covenant with better promises (Hebrews 8:6). To get an understanding of your covenant provisions, let's look at Galatians 3:6-14.

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 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.

I want you to notice how many times the word *bless* is used in this passage of Scripture. Unfortunately, this word is too often heard as merely a religious term, and very few people understand the real meaning of it. But God is very exact in His usage of this word; He doesn't take it lightly.

The phrase *to bless* is used mainly in a covenant relationship. You begin to understand its meaning when you study the covenant that God has entered with us. When He joined Himself irrevocably to us, we had nothing to give Him. We were totally spiritually bankrupt with nothing to offer Him while He, on the other hand, is Almighty God, all-powerful and the possessor of heaven and earth. He took our spiritual bankruptcy and exchanged it for His life and nature. He took our sinfulness and exchanged it for His righteousness. He took our sicknesses and carried our diseases and gave us divine healing. Hallelujah!

And you'll notice that in verses 13-14 He took the curse for us so that we might be blessed with faithful Abraham through Jesus Christ. What does that mean? The best way I know to describe the term *to bless* is "to empower one to prosper." *To prosper* means "to excel in something that is desirable as well as good."

To be spiritually blessed would be to be empowered to prosper spiritually. To prosper spiritually would first of all mean being born again. You could not excel spiritually if you still had the sin nature. But on the other hand, once you are born again, you can excel to the point of being baptized in the Holy Ghost, hearing the voice of the Lord, exhibiting the nature and character of God in your daily life, and operating in the gifts of the Spirit.

In order to receive from God, you must realize that His Word is His bond, and the depth of His commitment never wanes.



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—Kenneth Copeland

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To be spiritually blessed according to The Bible means to be empowered to excel in that which is desirable to the Holy Spirit. If you are spiritually blessed, there is no limit to how much you can prosper in the spirit realm.

To be blessed physically means to be empowered to prosper in your physical body, to be healthy and vibrant and able to accomplish the will of God for your life. It is not God's will for the devil to hinder you and keep you bound by sickness and disease.

To be blessed mentally means to be empowered to prosper in your mind. It includes being emotionally sound. It also means being able to understand The Word and spiritual things. It means having your mind renewed with God's Word.

Now, what do you think it means to be *cursed*? That is also a covenant term, and its true meaning is "to empower to fail."

Let's read Galatians 3:13-14 again in this new light. Using our definitions, let's see how the meaning of these verses expands our understanding of our covenant with God. "Christ has redeemed us from being empowered to fail by being empowered to fail *for* us: for it is written, Empowered to fail is every one who hangs on a tree: That the empowerment to prosper from Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (You can go to Deuteronomy 28:1-13 and find out exactly what the blessings of Abraham are. Rather than reading them the way they are written in the *King James Version*, read them with the Bible definition of the word *bless*.)

With this in mind, consider the following statement God made to Abraham. "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed" (Genesis 12:3). Again, using our definition, let's read it this way, "I will empower those to prosper who empower you to prosper. And I will empower those to fail who try to cause you to fail."

In other words, "Anyone who has your best interest at heart, I will empower to prosper. And anyone who does not have your best interest at heart, I will cause their efforts to fail." If you are in covenant with God, you are destined to succeed! Anyone who comes against your success is coming against your covenant. God will stop their efforts to hurt you, not because He doesn't love them, not because He prefers you, but because He is bound by His Word. God loves everyone equally and wants everyone to be blessed.

So what will keep *you* in a state of always being empowered by God to prosper? Seek to empower those around you to prosper in every area of their lives—spiritually, mentally, physically, financially and socially. If you bless others, God will bless you!

Galatians 3:29 promises that the blessings of Abraham

are yours in Christ. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Notice again that this is in the present tense. If you are in Christ, you are Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise made to Abraham.

Just like the lady in Luke, you *are* loosed from your infirmity. You *are* empowered to prosper in every area of your life—right now! Don't put it off to the future—some day in the sweet by-and-by—or think that it passed away with the first disciples. You *are* empowered to prosper today! **VICTORY**

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CANADA

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or call 800-600-7395.

Join Gloria Copeland for Healing School

Saturday, May 14, at 9:30 a.m.

Join Terri Copeland Pearsons for

Pre-Service Prayer

30 minutes prior to the morning and evening services in the main arena.

Wednesday Prayer Service

May 11, 7 p.m., at the Sheraton Guilford Hotel



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 U.S. call 800-600-7395.



35 Kenneth Copeland Ministries
YEARS OF MINISTRY
IN CANADA
1976 - 2011



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

Seek and You Shall Find

I have been using *From Faith to Faith* as one of my daily devotionals for two years now. I am a commercial lobster fisherman and I tithe faithfully. In November 1997, I rededicated my life to the Lord (I had wandered for close to 20 years). My wife and I had separated and I had two children, ages 5 and 7, living with me. God showed me that my wife of 10 years was looking for the same thing I was—Jesus Christ.

He showed me in His Word my marriage would be restored, and two years later, in December 1999, my wife moved home with us. Within two days, she accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. Glory to God!

Vince Guptill
Canada

“Beloved, let us love one another, for love is (springs) from God...” (1 John 4:7, *The Amplified Bible*)

Believed God’s Word—Became Debt Free

I am sending this to give God thanks for becoming debt free as a result of believing God’s Word. After completing steps to change things in my life using scriptures, I began to ask God to help deal with my finances and set my monthly expenditures, including tithe and offering, and how I should save.

I must admit, my financial state was self-inflicted due to years of poor financial management! I was living off an overdraft with which I tried to pay my debts. I confessed the scriptures and watched encouraging preaching about receiving the liberty that God has set me free. I was led to go to your Rome meeting after becoming a Partner with KCM, and heard more about THE BLESSING.

I have to testify that I was able to pay all my debts after selling my house, during a so-called difficult time! I had to trust God and believe that His way is the only way. I would like to thank you for standing in prayer, sharing God’s Word and helping to make a difference in my life, so I can share it with others.

L.W. :: United Kingdom

No Gift Is Too Small

Last month I had only \$2 to sow. At first, I was too embarrassed to send it and then I remembered the “loaves and fishes,” so I prayed that God would multiply it and I sent it off. A few weeks later I received a personal letter thanking me for my \$2! You prayed a blessing over it in the letter. I was impressed that you took the time to thank me for such a small offering.

Well, two weeks after receiving that letter someone gave me a gift of \$200. So now I am sowing a tithe of \$20. I am expecting a harvest—God is good! At this time I had been also trying to get a loan modification for a year on our home with no success. Foreclosure had begun and it was going up for auction on December 30. In tears, I called KCM for prayer and that afternoon I received the modification. Praise the Lord!

B.C. :: Idaho

LifeLine Kit Provides Help

I fell very ill and at one point believed I was dying. The Lord used your 10-day Healing & Wellness Lifeline Kit to heal me. Since then I have not been ill, and given up painkillers! Praise the Lord!

J.C. :: England

Completely Healed

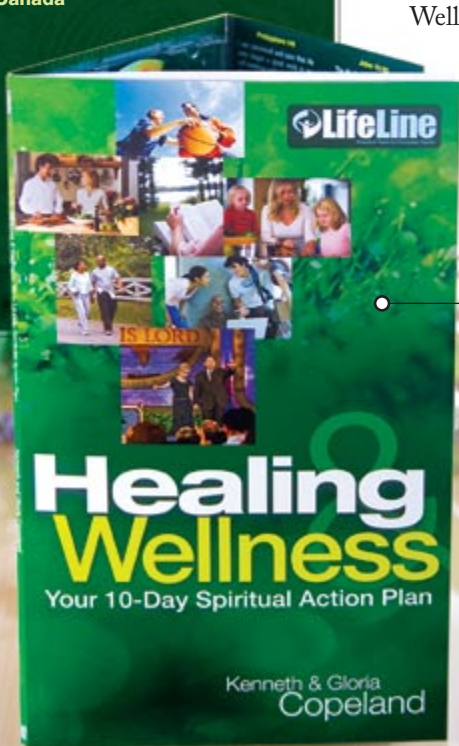
Recently, I called and one of your prayer ministers agreed with me for healing. I had a serious abdominal problem, but wasn’t a candidate for surgery. The Lord has completely healed me. He is so great! Thank you so much for your prayers. I pray for you, your family and staff regularly.

W.W. :: Colorado

Bondages Broken

God has set me free from a smoking habit of 27 years and a drug problem of 13 years. Thank God I’m set free from bondage!

T.G. :: Canada



Faithful to His Word

My IT contract came to an end in September 2009. I'd proceeded to job hunt since that date. It became a very frustrating and harrowing experience. My work experience of 16 years didn't seem to count. For four months I didn't get an interview.

My husband, children and I stood on God's Word. We studied the Word and completely immersed in it. We knew the path of the righteous was like the light of the dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the perfect day (Proverbs 4:18).

The devil had convinced us at some point to stop giving our tithes from my husband's salary, but we rebuked ourselves and asked God for forgiveness. We made a quality decision to either trust God, obey and face the consequences of trusting Him, or disobey completely and remain where we were. But the Word grew mightily in us and prevailed.

It was a year of unemployment when God, in His mercy and favor, delivered us from pain, confusion, gloom, doom, shame, fear and everything hell and Satan has to offer. I got one of the best jobs ever in a global firm, my position being in top management, saddled with the control of managing the processes of this enterprise in 10 European countries. I started work in September 2010 and it is a permanent job position, not a contract position. We believed God for this and He delivered handsomely. My God, our God, is a *good* God—praise His holy and mighty Name!

K.O.I. :: England

Answered Prayer

I thank you for your prayers for my baby. She had a cyst in the middle of her brain causing seizures, and now she is healed and doing very well. Thank You, Father in heaven, for answering our prayers. All the glory be to God!

C.H. :: Colorado

A Grateful Heart

Thank you so much for the tremendous blessing that you and KCM have been to me and our ministry outreach to Kenya.

I am most grateful to the Lord for the covenant partnership that I have with KCM and for the recent connection He has given me with you. I appreciate the time and assistance you have so willingly given, and treasure the seed sown of the KCM teaching products into the hands of the pastors and ministers in Kenya. On behalf of the dear brothers and sisters in Kenya and myself whom you have helped, thank you for your generous and faithful giving. May the seed you have sown be multiplied back to you abundantly.

It is an honor to be your Partner in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ!

S.L.W. :: Kenya

Living in a Higher Place

In spite of the tough situation with unemployment in Germany, my son has a very good job. As Kenneth teaches, faith does not depend on economics.

By God's grace he got his first job because I sowed my seed for it in faith. Then, I started believing about better conditions of work and higher salary. When the period of his contract ran out, I confessed that he would never be unemployed and again, in a miraculous way, there was not a day that he stayed without a job.

Recently, he told me he would have to stop his work because of lack of clients. But praise God, again by faith He did not let my son go without work and he's still working. The Lord is good!

L.T. :: Germany

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L.W. :: Texas

Supernatural Restoration

Even though I have been a Christian all my life, you have made a big difference in it. I'm in my 70s now and in good health—thank God! However, I wasn't so happy late last year.

I was planning to take a cruise with one of my daughters, but I suddenly became very ill. I thought I'd be fine in a few weeks, but I wasn't. Two days before we were to leave, I called my daughter and told her we had to cancel the trip. Later

that afternoon I received your book *And Jesus Healed Them All*. Immediately after reading page 32, I spoke to my disease and commanded it to leave in Jesus' Name.

Praise the Lord, He healed me and my daughter and I had a wonderful cruise. I'm so thankful for you and your faith. I am sharing your book with many others!

C.B. :: Florida



BY DR. STEPHEN L. SWISHER

Engaging GOD's Plan *for Your Life*



God has a plan for your life. >> I can imagine your first thoughts after reading those words were probably something like, *Oh boy, here we go again. Someone else saying God has a plan for me. I keep hearing it, but so far I've not seen it. Nothing's happening in my life to indicate that God has anything planned for me. And if He does, why am I not seeing it happen?*

I realize it can be somewhat frustrating to continually hear such encouraging words, and never see any evidence. But I want you to know: God really does have a plan for you. A good plan, in fact! And if you will just make up your mind to do what it takes to engage Him, you'll begin to see His plan for you unfold.

What do I mean by engage? The word *engage* has several meanings, but one I particularly like, especially where it pertains to the Word of God, is “to attract and hold fast.” That’s because being attracted to and holding fast to God’s Word are key elements in the life of a born-again believer. When we acknowledge that the Word of God is really God speaking directly to and about us, then we can claim it as ours. We can hold fast to that Word, apply it to our lives, and begin to move forward in all He has for us.

Embracing His Plan

Engaging in God’s plan is not difficult, but it does take some effort. I’m not talking about applying some “four-steps-to-success” program and then, all of a sudden, there it is—you have everything God has for you. What I’m talking about is putting into practice a few principles

from God’s Word that will help you get there. I’m talking about applying the Word to your life so you can understand what God has called you to and be able to walk out your destiny.

The first of these principles is faithfulness. If you want to engage God’s plan for your life, you must learn to be faithful—first to God and then to others, including yourself. Second Timothy 3:14-15 tells us, “But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus” (*New Living Translation*).

Being faithful to the Word is key to walking out His plan for your life because it shows how committed you are to trusting God. It shows you’re willing to put His will above your own, and that you are relying on Him to fulfill His plan for you.

Growing up, I heard stories about my great-grandfather, and how faithful he was in serving the Lord and the church. In winter, he would always arrive at church early to make sure there was wood or coal burning

in the stove so the building would be warm when others got there. During the summer, he would show up in time to open the windows before service so the church wouldn't be hot and stuffy.

For a time, my grandparents apparently strayed from church. But that didn't keep my mother from acting on what she had already learned from them about God. I'm told my mother picked up her first Bible when she was 4 years old and that she literally taught herself to read. She was so hungry for the Word that when she was 6, she would walk to church by herself.

Once my mother told me that every Sunday in church she would pray: "Dear God, please bring my daddy to You...please bring my mommy to You." She prayed those words faithfully, Sunday after Sunday, until one day it happened. When my grandparents learned that my mother had walked to the local schoolhouse and enrolled herself, it spoke to their hearts. In their young daughter, they saw something they didn't have—faith and a relationship with God. Suddenly, they realized they wanted it, too.

My mother believed God would bring her parents to Him, and He did. Her faithfulness to pray, to stand and believe for them to have a true relationship with the Lord eventually led my grandparents to reconnect with Him. Then, as they were faithful, God honored their faithfulness and my grandparents ended up being one of the most successful and financially prosperous families in all of West Virginia.

If you want to embrace and engage God's plan for your life and really live it out, start by being faithful.

Activate Your Faith

The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6, "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." In the *New Living Translation*, the last part of that verse says, "Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him."

It's one thing to have faith, but it's another thing to act on it. Believing God will do what He says is putting your faith into action. When you truly believe God is working in your life, you won't have a problem when it comes to trusting His Word. You can stand firm and say with all assurance, "God is working on my behalf. He will do exactly what He said He would do. I have faith in Him and His Word!"

It's not seeing, then believing. It's exercising your faith before you see it in the natural—faithfully taking God at His Word and trusting Him to deliver. That's how the saints of old lived out their lives and were blessed:

It was by faith that Noah built a large boat to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about things that had never happened before. By his faith Noah condemned the rest of the world, and he received the righteousness that comes by faith. It was by faith that Abraham obeyed when God called him to leave home and go to another land that God would give him as his inheritance. He went without knowing where he was going. And even when he reached the land God promised him, he lived there by faith—for he was like a foreigner, living in tents. And so did Isaac and Jacob, who inherited the same promise. Abraham was confidently looking forward to a city with eternal foundations, a city designed and built by God. It was by faith that even



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Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. And so a whole nation came from this one man who was as good as dead—a nation with so many people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore, there is no way to count them (Hebrews 11:7-12, *NLT*).

You can see from these verses how important it is to activate your faith. Noah acted on his faith in God and his family was saved from a flood that would have destroyed the entire human race. Because of his faithfulness, Abraham left his family to go to a strange land where God eventually fulfilled His promise to make Abraham the “father of many nations.” And it was by faithfully trusting God that Abraham and Sarah became parents at a ripe old age.

The Bible is full of stories about people who acted on their faith and were blessed—people like Jacob and Isaac, Joseph and Gideon, Samson, David and Samuel. Moses put his faith into action and saw God part the Red Sea and lead the children of Israel to safety on dry land. Because they activated their faith, by stepping out and putting works with their faith in God, these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice and eventually received what God had promised them.

It’s no different for you and me today. Acting on our faith is a godly principle that produces God’s results.

One Yes Deserves Another

The third principle that will enable you to engage God’s plan for your life is simply to say yes to God. In 2 Corinthians 1:18-20 we read: “As surely as God is faithful, my word to you does not waver between ‘Yes’ and ‘No.’ For Jesus Christ, the Son of God, does not waver between ‘Yes’ and ‘No.’ He is the one whom Silas, Timothy, and I preached to you, and as God’s ultimate ‘Yes,’ he always does what he 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” (*NLT*).

Look at verse 20 again: “For all of God’s promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding ‘Yes!’” Notice it says *all* God’s promises are fulfilled. Not just one or two, but every one! That’s because God is faithful to His Word. It’s because Jesus is firm and solid, and He does not waver. He says yes.

When God puts something in your heart, when He has an assignment for you, He’s looking to you to be quick to obey—to respond with a resounding “Yes, Lord.” God

has a plan for you, but you have a part to play. He needs your cooperation if His plan is ever to be fulfilled.

It’s been said that at the end of a person’s life their only regrets are those things they failed to do. If you’re a person of faith, you can see how that would make a lot of sense. But as a born-again believer, you should never have regrets. Not when you’re yielding to the Lord and allowing Him to lead and guide you.

Sadly, many miss out on what God has for them because they refuse to see Him working in their lives. They allow doubt, fear, even lack of self-confidence to keep them from walking in His blessings. Don’t let that happen to you. Don’t let anything or anyone hold you back or hinder you from reaching your destiny. Get rid of the negative words and thoughts that cause you to say things like “I can’t do that,” or “I’m not good enough.”

Don’t dwell on hurtful things people have said in the past that resulted in your having low self-esteem. Take out your spiritual scalpel and cut those words and thoughts from your mind. Replace them with the assurance from God’s Word that He is always with you, that He will uphold you, that He most assuredly has a plan for your life, and that He will see that it comes to pass.

Tell yourself, “I can do all things through Christ...” (Philippians 4:13), then listen for the voice of God as He whispers to you: *You can, if you will. You are smart enough. You are rich enough. You are good-looking enough. You are powerful enough. You have everything you need to do everything I have called you to do. Now, go and do it!*

God really does have a plan for you. But it’s up to you to engage in it. Decide now to engage in God’s plan for your life! Be faithful—to God and to those around you. Then be quick to activate your faith. Say yes to God and get busy doing whatever it is He leads you to do. Then, expect to see it happen. **VICTORY**

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher is the senior manager over the Associate Minister/Ministerial Relations, Partner Relations, Emergency/ Disaster Relief and Believers Stand United departments at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. He also oversees the Public Relations department and is director of the Kenneth Copeland Scholars Doctoral Program in partnership with United Theological Seminary. He has served as a senior pastor for 15 years in churches ranging in size from 100 to 6,000 members. Stephen and Kellie are the parents of five children. Their newest child, Emily JeanAnn Swisher, was born Jan. 8, 2011.





Freedom in Forgiveness

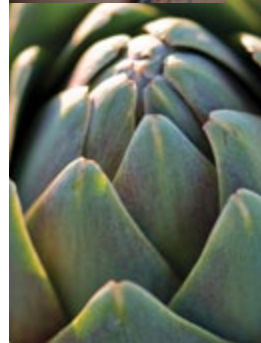
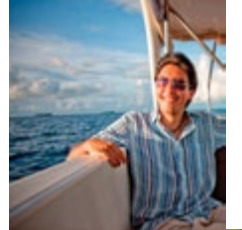
What do you do when you make a mistake? How do you handle sin that may show up in your life? Do you become discouraged and condemn yourself because you did something stupid? Maybe you spend hours or days going over and over your mistake, trying to figure out how to avoid doing it again. ∴ Has sin got you tied up in knots?

None of us has to respond to our mistakes in any of these ways. The truth is, no more than you or I could have earned the forgiveness and remission of our sin that Jesus provided at the cross, can we work ourselves out of sin today. Jesus set us free from the power of sin,

and He intends for us to stay free!

If you've got sin in your life, confess it to the Lord and get rid of it. Stop it! Be willing to receive His forgiveness and forgive yourself.

Neither you nor I can know the number of times in our lives we have



uttered the words, “Father, forgive me.” We do know, though, that when we ask for His mercy, we receive it when we say, “Lord, forgive me for that. I repent of it.” We receive His forgiveness by faith because we believe His Word that says, “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

If you’ve sinned and asked the Lord to forgive you, then you must be willing to receive His forgiveness, and to forgive yourself. When you do that you are free to move on with your life and not get tied down with the guilt that accompanies sin.

If we resist God’s mercy and forgiveness in the face of sin in our lives, we restrict ourselves in receiving all He has for us. We may find ourselves stuck in an illness, or struggling financially, or unable to maintain healthy relationships, all because we resisted God’s willingness to set us free of all sin in our lives!

As we are quick to repent, we stay open to receive God’s love, mercy and forgiveness flowing into our lives. His will is that the flow of forgiveness and freedom continues on through us to those He brings into our lives—from our family, friends and co-workers, to the cashier at the grocery store and those we minister alongside in church. He expects it to flow to everyone.

The Power to Set Others Free

You and I have the power to forgive. It was given to us directly from Jesus, who said on more than one occasion to His disciples, “Forgive.” Jesus taught them on the hillside, saying, “Forgive, and you will be forgiven” (Luke 6:37, *New King James Version*). And when Peter asked Him how many times a person should forgive another, Jesus answered, “Seventy times seven” (Matthew 18:22, *NKJV*).

In telling His disciples how they

could expect faith to work for them, Jesus clearly connected their faith to their power to forgive:

Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, “Be removed and be cast into the sea,” and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says.

Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. *And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him* (Mark 11:22-25, *NKJV*).

After He rose from the grave, and before ascending into heaven, Jesus told His disciples, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:23, *NKJV*).

Those are some pretty significant words from the Lord.

You and I have the power to forgive! Because of the authority Jesus has given to us, we can literally loose people from any sin they commit against us. Now, you may be wondering, *But Gloria, how can that be? How can I have that kind of power?*

When we acknowledge that we have been forgiven of all our sins by the blood of Jesus, when we can call on the Lord to forgive us when we mess up or miss the mark, then it only stands to reason that, in God’s eyes, we should be able to walk in forgiveness toward others. After all, He said we could do it!

Don’t Be Tied Up

It just makes sense, forgiven people forgive people! That’s God’s plan!

Yet, it’s not hard for any of us to think of Christians we know who hold grudges or who just won’t let go of offenses. They hold within

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, call 800-600-7395, or click on the button below.

their hearts the power to forgive...to free people and, in many cases, themselves from hard feelings. Yet they choose not to forgive. They stay tied up in unforgiveness, choosing to hold on to hurts, and live with pain and resentment toward others.

By hanging on to hurts we have received from others, we actually end up hurting ourselves more than they hurt us. How is that? The bitterness and resentment we hold works against us in so many ways.

First of all, it works against the inner man of our spirit. Our inner man knows the Word of God; it knows God said we should forgive. We grieve the spirit within us when we hold on to bitterness (Ephesians 4:30-31).

Unforgiveness is completely contrary to the heart of God...to the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. It works against our souls as well, because it affects how we think, how we make decisions and how we feel not only about the person who offended us but about others as well. We may become cynical about people's motives or actions and shut ourselves off from the relationships God has prepared for us.

Unforgiveness also works against our bodies. Medical science has proven that chronic disease and compromised immune systems can be the result of a person's failure to deal with emotional pain. Any number of physical complications can result from holding on to offenses... all resulting in possible life-shortening illnesses.

Now, perhaps, you can understand how it is possible that your unforgiveness can hurt you *more* than what another person may have done to hurt you. Knowing how holding on to hurt in our lives works against us, we would all be wise to

allow the Holy Spirit to work with us to let go of the hurt and to forgive. Remember, He has given us the power to forgive. Remember in the Word of God we are told to forgive if we have aught against any (Mark 11:25). That covers every situation.

Setting Ourselves Free

Are there things you've asked God to provide that you haven't seen manifest yet? Have you prayed, "Lord, I do have faith in You. You said if I ask anything and believe, I will have it. So, where is what I've asked for?"

Look again at Mark 11:25 (NKJV), and you just may find your answer. Jesus connected faith to forgiveness in that verse when He said, "And

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When you walk in unforgiveness you actually punish yourself because you sabotage your own faith.

whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him.”

Many Christians when they used their power to forgive, have caused the windows of heaven to open up for themselves. They received God’s promises in all areas of life—healing in their souls and bodies, financial provision, relationships strengthened—you name it!

You may say, “Oh, but Gloria, you don’t know what they did to me. I loved them and they hurt me so badly.” No, I don’t know what they did. And aren’t we often hurt the most by the people we love? But I don’t see anywhere in the Bible where Jesus mentioned any exceptions to forgiveness. I do see in 1 Corinthians 13, however, that love forgives!

You may think that by not forgiving someone you are punishing them for the pain they have caused you. It’s really just the opposite. When you walk in unforgiveness you actually punish yourself because you sabotage your own faith.

As born-again believers, we all have a mandate from Jesus to forgive. We have the power of the Holy Spirit working in us to enable us to forgive, and we can do it. Sometimes it’s not easy, but we can do as the Bible tells us and pray for those who despitefully use us (Luke 6:28).

You may be thinking of someone right now who has said or done something to offend or hurt you. You can pray for that person right now. Pray for them like this: *Heavenly Father, You know this person. You love this person. You have forgiven them. If they don’t know Jesus as their Savior, I pray they come to know Him soon. Today, by faith...because You said so...I forgive them for the hurt and pain they have caused me. I know that I am a forgiven person, and I choose to forgive them, too. I set them free, and I set myself free of the bonds of unforgiveness. You are good and faithful to forgive us all our sins, and I will not let any unforgiveness in my life keep Your goodness from me. I forgive! I pray this in Jesus’ Name. Amen!*

Now, there may be more than one person in your life whom you need to forgive. You may have to pray like this every day. If that’s the case, then just do it! Don’t go another day holding unforgiveness in your heart against anyone. When you release them through forgiveness, you will feel like a burden has lifted off your mind and body, off your life...because it has! Glory to God!

The First Step to Freedom

There is one more person you need to be sure you have forgiven, and that’s you! This is actually the first step to freedom once you have said *yes* to Jesus and accepted Him as your Lord and Savior.

Are you holding on to your own failures and regrets? The same truth applies to you as to others. You have been forgiven! Your sins have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus because God loves you!

There is nothing His blood left uncovered... no sin too big or too horrible or too shameful. And you don’t have to be bound by your own sin any more than you do someone else’s sin against you. *Forgiven* means just that—FORGIVEN!

If you have been holding on to something in your life that has haunted you since you received Jesus as your Savior, let it go today! Go back to the prayer we just prayed, and put yourself in it. God has too much to give you, too much planned for your life, for you to be held back by your unforgiveness of your own past. He has so much blessing, so much good health, so many great relationships, so much love for you to receive—and to give!

Don’t lay down your power to forgive! Jesus gave it to you because He knew you would have all kinds of opportunities to use it. Your effective faith depends on your power to forgive! Make the decision right now that you will walk and live in forgiveness.

Believe the best, and expect the best of every person. And if they trip up, be quick to forgive them. And forgive yourself, too! Set people free and be free yourself! **VICTORY**

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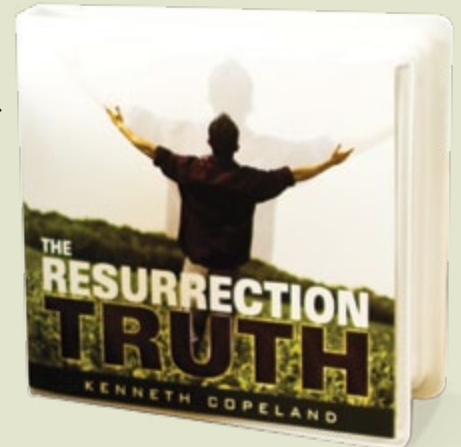
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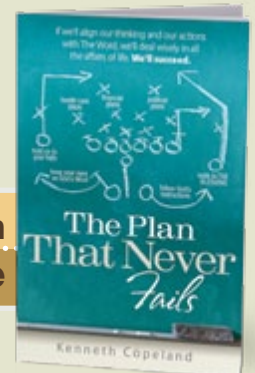
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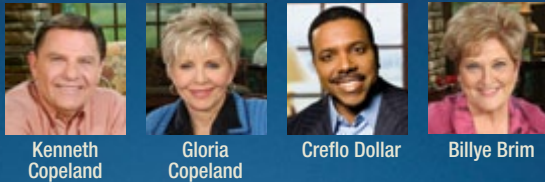
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April 11-15

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Sunday, April 17

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Kenneth Copeland

April 18-22

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