

Believer's Voice of

# VICTORY

June 2011

# Looking in the Eyes of LOVE

by Kenneth Copeland

**Bringing in  
the Harvest**  
by Gloria Copeland

**Are You  
on Cruise  
Control?**  
by Jesse Duplantis

**A Light in  
Darkness:  
The Island  
of Patmos**  
by Rick Renner

Looking in the  
Eyes of Love  
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Love, Daddy  
by Melanie Henry

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Good News Gazette

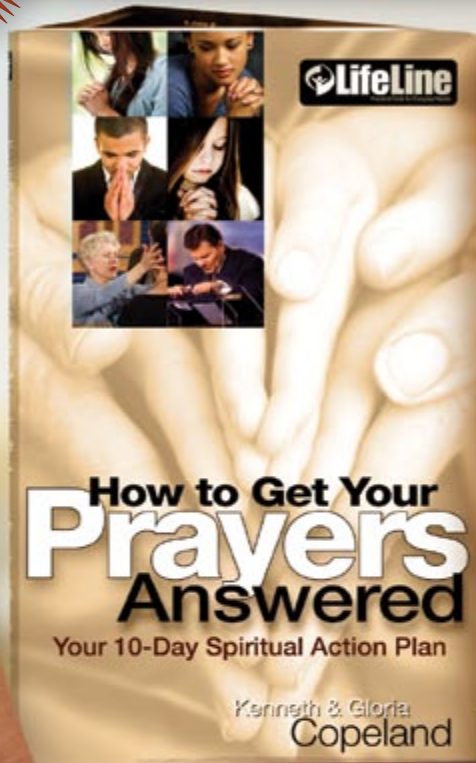
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—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland



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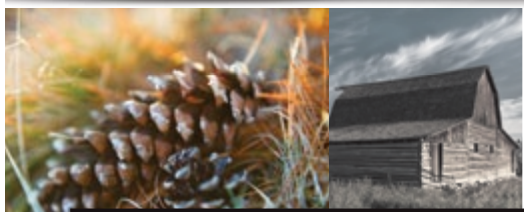
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BY KENNETH COPELAND



## Looking in the Eyes of Love



**There's far too much struggling going on in the lives of believers these days.**

Jesus has already done the struggling for us. He had to fight and defeat every demon in hell to secure the benefits of our redemption. He had to struggle in Gethsemane and overcome His own will. He had to battle sin, shame and death itself to purchase our victory. The struggling is over. Jesus finished it.

**All over the Body of Christ**—even among faith people—folks are struggling to receive the benefits that belong to them in Jesus: They're struggling to get healed. They're struggling to prosper. They're struggling to live free from sin, sorrow, fear and every other part of the curse. >> I know what that's like. I've been there. There were times in the past when I struggled just like everyone else. But these days, I'm not doing it anymore. I've made the decision never to struggle over any of God's blessings again. >> Why should I?

In His eyes, we're already healed. We're already prosperous. We're already blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenlies. Now it's time for us to simply take those blessings and enjoy them.

"That's easy for you to say, Brother Copeland. You're a preacher. You're a big faith man."



God doesn't heal me or prosper me because I'm a preacher. He has BLESSED me for the same reason He blesses you.

*Because He loves us.*

So what? God doesn't heal me or prosper me because I'm a preacher. He doesn't pour out His goodness on me because I have faith. He has BLESSED me for the same reason He blesses you. Because He loves us.

I know that sounds simple, but it's a vital revelation. It's a revelation that takes the struggle out of receiving from God, and it's rooted in the first Bible verses most of us ever learned: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved" (John 3:16-17).

You've probably read those verses hundreds of times, but right now I want you to read them again, and read them as if you've never seen them before. Let the meaning work its way into your spirit.

Did you notice that verse doesn't say God so loved the Christians? It doesn't say God so loved the people who were seeking Him and trying to be nice. No, it says God loved *the world*.

There was a time when you and I were both in that world. We were spiritually dead—steeped in sin and opposing God at every turn. Yet even then, even when we were at our worst, God didn't condemn us. Instead He loved us so much that He gave us His most precious gift. He sent His own Son, not just so we could go to heaven someday, but so that—right here and now—we could partake of His own, abundant life.

That's what the term *everlasting life* means. Translated from the Greek word *zoe*, it refers to the divine life that is the essence of God Himself. It's the God kind of life that gives us the ability to talk like Him, act like Him and get His results. It's the life that includes everything good that God is and has.

Think of it! Through Jesus, God gave us life when we least deserved it. Before we ever took one step toward Him, before we ever asked Him into our hearts, before we could ever do anything to prove ourselves worthy, He set the plan of redemption in motion...because He loves us.

### We're Already Qualified

Why should we have to struggle to receive from a God who loves us so much? Why shouldn't we receive healing, prosperity or any other benefit of redemption with simple

faith, like we did the new birth? Surely, as Romans 8:32 says, our loving God, who spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, will also freely give us all things. After all, we're not unsaved sinners anymore! We're God's "beloved." That's what the New Testament calls us. Now more than ever, we can be certain of His love for us. We have every right to take with boldness all the good gifts that belong to us as God's children, and say, "Lord, I believe it. I receive it! I take it! I have it! It's mine! I thank You!"

"Brother Copeland, there's more to it than that!" someone might say. "Now that we're saved, we have to qualify for God's blessings. We have to keep His commands, walk in love and live by faith."

Certainly, as God's children we want to do those things because they please our Father. But we don't do them to qualify for His BLESSING. It's too late for that! According to Colossians 1:12, God has already "qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light" (*New King James Version*).

In Jesus, we're already BLESSED!

If we understand that and fix our hearts on His great love for us, keeping His commands, loving others and living by faith is no sweat. It's simply our way of responding to what God has done for us.

First John 4 explains it this way: "Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another.... If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him" (verses 10-12, 16).

The reason so many Christians are struggling is because they haven't believed the love God has for them. They mentally assent to it. They talk about it in church. But deep down, they're not sure of it. They're still being tormented by guilt and condemnation.

It's no wonder they have trouble receiving from God! Every time they reach out to take what He's given them, their faith falters because "faith worketh by love" (Galatians 5:6). Love is to faith what air is to tires. A brand-new set of tires without any air won't support the load they were designed to carry. If you try to haul a truckload full of stuff across town on a set of flat tires, you're going to have a rough

time. Most likely, you'll never get where you're going.

Spiritually, that's the situation many believers find themselves in today.

How do we solve the problem? How do we fix our spiritual flats?

By putting God's love for us first place in our thinking—by fellowshiping with Him over it, meditating on it and talking about it. Something powerful happens when we start saying, "My God loves me! He loves me so much He gave Himself for me. I am My Father's beloved. He loves me just as much as He loves Jesus. Everything Jesus did on the cross, He did because He loves me. All the riches of redemption

are mine because He loves me. I can have faith because He loves me and His love for me covers all!"

That kind of thinking, according to 1 John 4:18, flushes fear out of our minds. It makes us bold in our believing. It empowers us to love God and other people—not like soldiers obeying a command, but because we, ourselves, are so loved that we have plenty of love to give.

That's when life really starts getting good!

### The Opportunity of a Lifetime

Mark 10 tells about a man who almost got hold of that kind of life. He wanted it so much that one day he came running to Jesus, got down on his knees in desperation and asked Him how to get it. He said, "Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God. Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother. And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth" (verses 17-20).

Notice that Jesus didn't list all 10 of the commandments there. He didn't even mention the first one, which is: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.* He didn't say anything about loving your neighbor as yourself. In fact, He listed only six commands.

Why did He do that?

Because, by the Spirit of God, Jesus knew this man. He knew that his idea of keeping the commandments included only those six. They were the ones he obeyed, and he didn't do it out of love. He did it because he was striving to be legally righteous. He did it to earn THE BLESSING of God.

Jesus didn't condemn him for it, though. Instead, "Jesus beholding him loved him."

*To behold* means "to look intently." So it's clear that Jesus didn't just glance at this man. He fixed His eyes on him with the very compassion of God, and said, "One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me" (verse 21).

Some people might think those instructions were harsh, but Jesus wasn't trying to be hard on this young man. He wasn't trying to strip him of the considerable wealth he'd accumulated. He was telling him how to receive his heart's desire. He was saying, in essence, "Take up My cause and follow Me. Come help Me build God's kingdom and you'll have the kind of life you've always wanted."

The man should have known exactly what that meant. After all, Jesus had been preaching THE BLESSING everywhere He went. As a Jew who understood THE

BLESSING of Abraham, this man should have realized that Jesus wasn't asking him to go broke—He was offering him the deal of a lifetime. He was giving him the opportunity to become a distributor of THE BLESSING—inviting him to exchange his limited, earthly wealth for the limitless resources of Almighty God.

### A Major Mistake

If he'd accepted Jesus' offer, that young man would have had more fun than he'd ever had in his life. The Holy Spirit would have directed his sales. The more he gave to the poor, the more his income would have increased. He would have gotten richer than he ever dreamed and been a blessing to the whole community.

But he missed the revelation.

Saddened by Jesus' words, he "went away grieved: for he had great possessions" (verse 22). What caused the grief? Fear. A sense of loss. He thought Jesus was trying to impoverish him by telling him to sell his stuff and give to the poor.

People make the same mistake today because the devil is still peddling the same lie. He's telling people that God wants them poor, sick and broken down. But God isn't like that, and the rich young man could have known it. If he'd stuck around instead of getting grieved and walking away, he would have heard the next words that Jesus said to His astonished disciples: "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (verses 29-30).

Just imagine how differently this young man's story would have turned out if he'd looked away from his fears and into the eyes of Jesus! Think what could have happened if he'd focused on that look of compassion and said, "Rabbi, all I see in Your eyes is love for me. I don't see any meanness there. All I see is that You want to bless me. You'd never make a poor man out of me. You've never made a failure out of anyone. You've been good to everyone who ever reached out to You and I know You'll be good to me. I'm ready and willing to sell whatever You want me to sell, Sir. I trust Your love!"

By simply putting his faith in Jesus' love and keeping it there, this man could have put his struggling days behind him. He wouldn't have had to beat his brains out striving in the flesh to keep those six commandments anymore. He wouldn't have stayed up late working to make a few extra dollars. He wouldn't have lain awake at night worrying about the economy. He could have put his head on the pillow and quoted Psalm 127:2: "It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep."

Knowing he was God's beloved, he could have enjoyed his life, lived in the limitless BLESSING of God, worked in the kingdom and slept every night like a baby.

You and I can do the same thing.

We, too, are God's beloved. Jesus—Love Himself!—is beholding us right now with the same love He had for that young man. We don't have to look into His physical eyes to see it. All we have to do is read the Bible. All we have to do is think about the price He paid for us on the Cross: how He sacrificed His very life and fought every devil in hell so we could have eternal life, peace, joy, healing, prosperity and every other manifestation of THE BLESSING.

Jesus did all that for me. He did it all for you. Because He loves.

The struggle is over when we look into the eyes of Love. **VICTORY**



JOHN COPELAND, CEO

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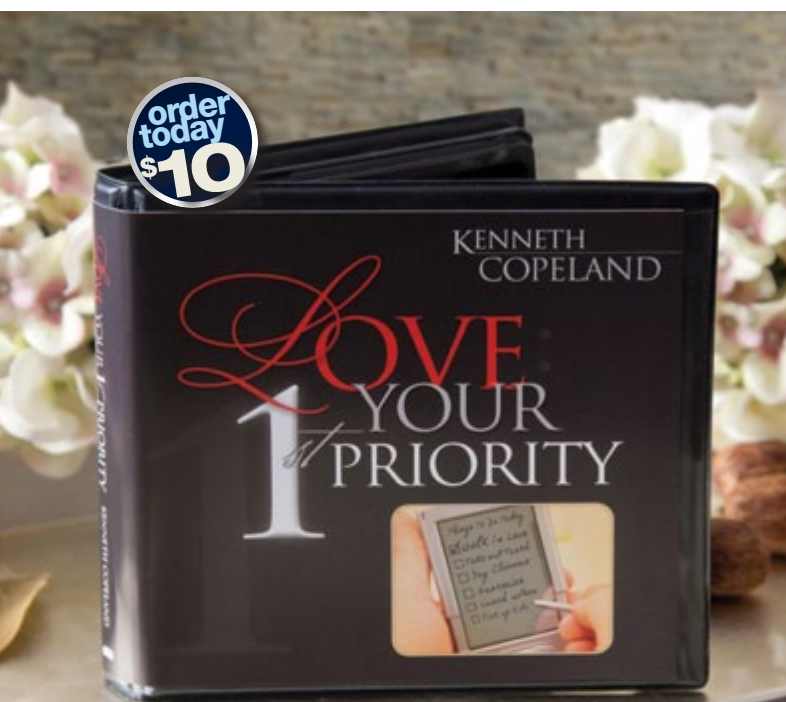
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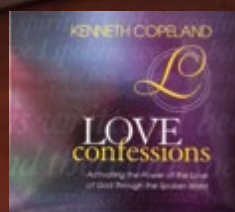
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"Take time to pray and listen to God...say, 'Sir, what should I say at this moment? What should I do? My ears are open and my eyes are open. I'm listening.'"  
—Kenneth Copeland



Kenneth Copeland



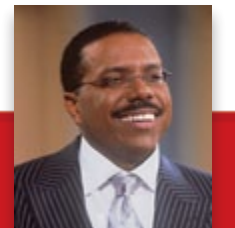
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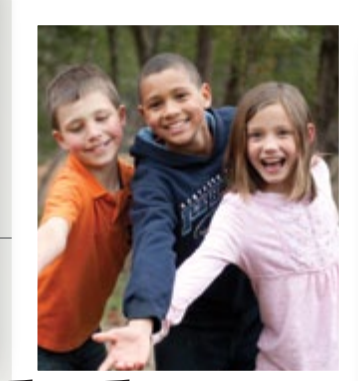
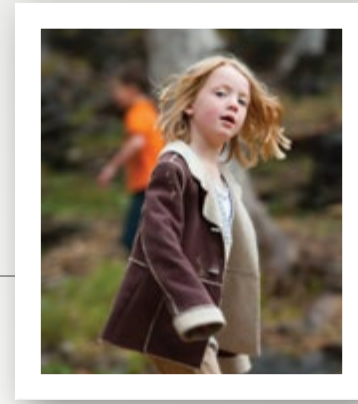
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Dan & Penny Koontz

BY MELANIE HENRY



# Love, Daddy

“Time for school, boys!” Penny Nelson called to her teenage sons, Brian and Ronnie. A single mother, the petite blonde bustled around the kitchen—a powerhouse of energy that belied her small frame. This morning, as every morning, she teased and cajoled the boys through breakfast in much the same way she did her clients at the health and fitness centers she owned. | “Mom, what’s wrong with your arm?” Brian asked.

“I’m not sure,” Penny said laughing. “It looks like little Pac-Men have taken bites out of me!” Indentations dotted her body in the same places where her muscles had been twitching, waking her each night from a deep sleep. In the past two months, the strange symptoms had worsened. Sometimes in her hurry to make her next appointment, Penny would stumble and fall. Worse yet, mind-numbing pain riddled her body. Even her *bones* hurt.

After the boys had left for school, Penny’s mind raced ahead to her workday as she locked the house and walked to her car. Without warning, her legs gave way and she fell. Only this time when she tried to get up, her muscles wouldn’t function. Helpless, she lay there all day, waiting for one of her boys to come home and help her up.

The doctor’s office brought back memories of pain and agony. Penny had been 3 years old when polio left her paralyzed. It had been a dark time for her family—three days after Penny was struck with polio, her father, a Marine fighter pilot, was shot down over Korea. Although she wasn’t in an iron lung, the paralysis had affected her breathing and Penny had been so ill the doctors didn’t want her to find out about her father. Since he normally sent her a letter every other day, the

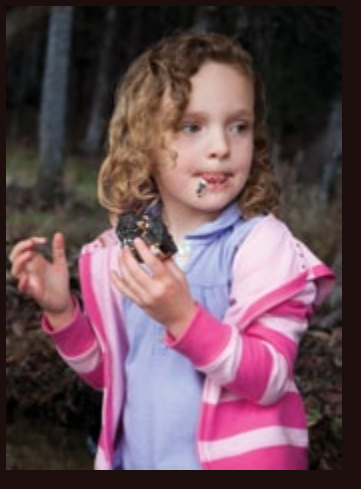
men in his unit took up the task of sending her letters that began, *Dear Penny* and ended *Love, Daddy*.

In addition to her mother, it had been the love and support of those courageous Marines that helped Penny endure the years to come. Eventually she started school on crutches and then progressed to braces. After a spinal fusion, she learned to walk unassisted. Now, all these years later, she sat in a wheelchair waiting for the doctor’s report.

“Most of the doctors who treated polio have retired,” her doctor explained, “but across the nation polio victims have been deteriorating rapidly. What you’re experiencing has been dubbed post-polio syndrome. The muscles that survived the first polio paralysis are now dead. I’m sorry to tell you this, but you’ll never walk again.”

## No Way Out

“I was devastated,” Penny recalls. “Within 30 days, I lost most of the muscle mass in my body and eventually weighed only 72 pounds. Two years before, in 1980, I’d given my heart to the Lord Jesus and joined Lakewood Church in Houston. I’d spent those two years under the teachings of John and Dodie Osteen, and Kenneth and Gloria Copeland,



who visited our church often. I'd become a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries and listened to their tapes day and night.

"I'd been witnessing to my doctor for a long time and now he asked, 'Did your God fall off His throne when you went into a wheelchair?' That shook me, because I knew God wasn't glorified by my situation. Then I got a phone call from an inmate with whom I'd been corresponding. He said, 'Sister Penny, I've been asking God why someone as sweet as you would be in a wheelchair.'"

"What did He say?"

"God said even if you had legs the size of toothpicks, you would walk."

Hearing those words, Penny turned to her friend and said, "I'm coming out of this chair...the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead dwells in me and will make alive my mortal body."

Eighteen months later, Penny walked away from that wheelchair and told her sons to get it out of her sight. Six weeks after that, Penny traveled to Europe...alone. There on business, her once-crippled legs walked her through five different countries in five weeks. And, for the next two years, she traveled extensively.

#### Thank You, Lord

"I was so grateful God had healed me, I wanted to do something special to thank Him," Penny recalls. "I told the Lord I would take one year off from my career and do anything He wanted me to do during that time. I had no idea He would ask me to do the one thing I never wanted to do."

"Earlier that year I'd visited a homeless shelter with a friend. I called it the "hotel from hell" and couldn't leave fast enough. The Lord instructed me to volunteer there for one year! The pastor running the shelter was surprised when I showed up and offered to work 9-5, Monday through Friday for a year. I had planned to help out and raise funds."

Her first day on the job, Penny assembled a gift bag for their newest client, a 42-year-old man named Roy (not his real name), who'd been in a gunfight. The next day, Penny found Roy sitting on the grounds, furious. His mother had told the police where he was staying.

"You can run, like you're planning," Penny said, "or you can go inside and wait on the police. Do you want to talk about it?" Roy shook his head and looked away. Shrugging, Penny went inside. Struck with remorse, she turned around and found Roy again. Kneeling down, she cupped his face in her hands and said, "Roy, could you use a little love?"

Tears sheeted down Roy's face. "I reckon everyone could use a little love," he replied.

#### A Little Love

In that moment, something happened to Penny. When she opened her heart to Roy, God opened it to all those in need. From that day on, Penny loved and laughed with them—and then...she was fired. The shelter was operated in a military fashion and her methods didn't mix well. However, a few months later, in September 1991, the shelter

was turned over to her and Roy.

Nine months into her year, Penny took in a young girl who'd been beaten, raped, dragged behind a car and left for dead next to a dumpster. "Can you identify the people?" Penny asked.

"Oh, Miss Penny," the girl said, "you're so naive."

When the girl went back to the streets, Penny was devastated. The pain was too much. "I can't take this," she told the Lord. "You asked me to love them, and now I do."

Planning on leaving the next day, Penny walked into her office and saw her Bible open on the desk. A verse in Jonah had been highlighted: *The vow I made I will keep.* (See Jonah 2:9.) Penny laid her head on the desk, and with a deep sigh agreed to stay, reminding the Lord that come September 1992, her obligation would be fulfilled and she'd be gone.

By the end of her one-year commitment, Penny had become so attached to the work God called her to do, she couldn't imagine doing anything else. She was content in spite of 27 septic tanks that were full, red water running out of the faucets and a health department that wanted them gone. Every day was a walk of faith, every crisis a test of faith.

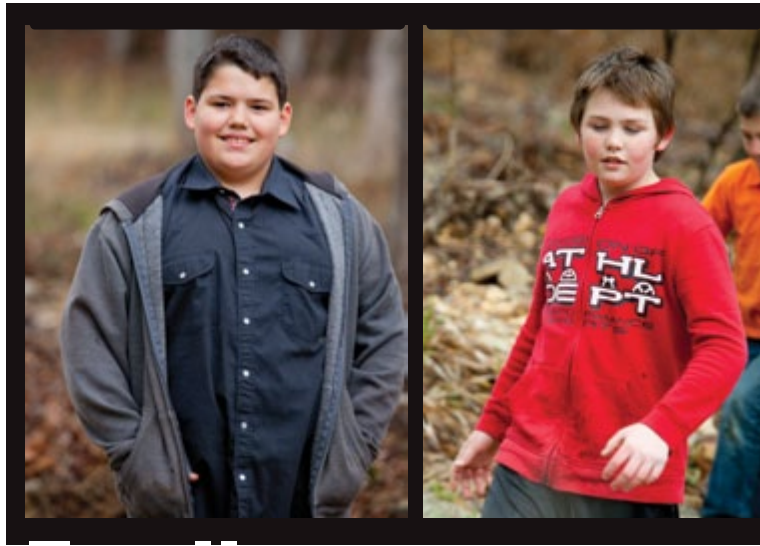
When the property that housed the shelter was sold, Penny moved it to a small hotel that needed a lot of work. She raised \$17,000 for the plumbing to be repaired, but the plumber stole all their supplies and left town.

Penny was exhausted. Her legs had gotten weak again and it seemed that she and Roy were at the end of their rope. Sobbing, she prayed, "Lord, You need someone smarter than me. I just don't know what You were thinking."

A few minutes later, a volunteer came in, "Miss Penny, do you remember the woman from England who gave us the turkeys for the holidays?" The woman had dropped off a card with a check for \$18,000 inside.

#### Love One Another

Penny had no idea her life was about to take another turn when a friend, a recovering alcoholic, asked to borrow her car to pick up a friend from Louisiana. The friend turned out to be Wayne Robichaux, the son of a police chief. With a personality the size of Texas, Wayne, who had been shot recently, was quadriplegic. His body may have been disabled, but his spirit and soul were so beautiful Penny fell in love with him. A year and a half after they met, Wayne proposed and



Penny accepted.

"Are you sure you won't regret this?" Wayne asked, indicating his wheelchair, "I am a lot of work."

"The only thing I'll regret is that we won't be able to raise children together. Children would flourish in all this love."

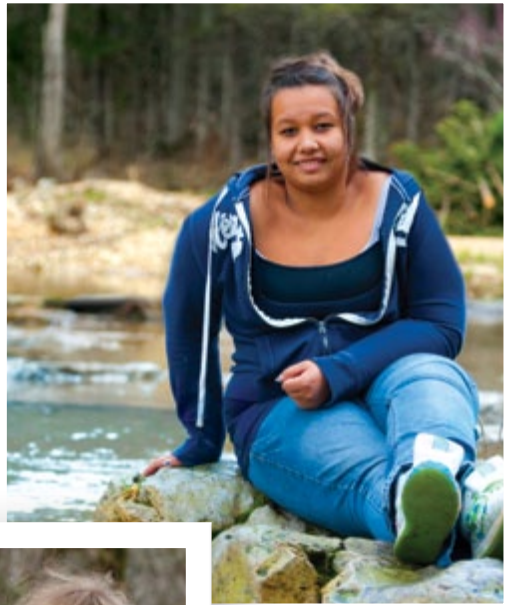
Penny wanted to give Wayne back some of his dignity. She realized Wayne was dressed in baggy clothes which were easier to change. When she asked Wayne what he wanted to wear, he was stunned. "Give me a shirt that fits, boot-cut jeans and cowboy boots," he answered with a grin.

Although Penny had very little muscle, she discovered that she could lift him because of the spinal fusion she'd had years before. So she herself was able to dress Wayne in the clothes he liked.

In addition to running the shelter, Wayne and Penny established a resale shop, an antiques store and a welding shop to help pay the bills. Wayne was slid under cars so he could do the welding himself, involved in every phase of work. As if they weren't already busy enough, one day while praying with her daughter-in-law, Penny heard the Lord tell her about a children's home. "I think we're going to help support one," Penny said. "One named Jacob's House according to Luke 1:33 (*The Message Bible*), 'And he will reign over the house of Jacob forever.'"

"No," Wayne said, "we're going to *run* one. They'll be bringing kids to us soon."

Sure enough, eight months after they were married, someone placed an infant in Wayne and Penny's arms and asked them to give him a home. Who could have known the first child brought to them would already be named Jacob Paul? They adopted him, and other kids kept coming—soon Penny and Wayne opened Jacob's House, a home for children.





**PARTNERSHIP**

# Alongside You

## Every Step of the Way

Throughout her life, Penny Robichaux-Koontz has faced some enormous challenges. And God has always provided her with partners every step of the way. Her father, his fellow servicemen, her co-workers, her devoted husbands, Kenneth Copeland Ministries—each helped Penny understand that every person needs God-ordained connections to overcome life's challenges and to walk out the divine destiny He has for them.

Ask the Lord today if now is the time for you to partner with KCM. Let Him show you all the ways He has planned for us to help you—to be alongside you every step!



**Inside your Partner package:**

- ▶ Brother Copeland's personal letter of welcome
- ▶ Benefits of partnership brochure
- ▶ Covenant Partner Card—good for a 10-percent discount at KCM-meeting book tables
- ▶ Ministry report DVD
- ▶ Scripture promises CD
- ▶ *The Anointing in Partnership* CD

Contact us and ask for our FREE "New Partner" package with complete information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more.

### Two Broken People

"It was as though the Lord decided to take two broken people and see what He could do with them," Penny explained. Together for 10 years, Wayne and Penny touched more than 8,000 lives and provided homes for 200 children. Then, Aug. 1, 2003, Wayne moved to heaven. It was without a doubt the blackest moment in Penny's life. Without him, her compass was gone.

"For years we'd taken the children to the Southwest Believers' Convention, and our adult children didn't think we should miss it. A friend paid for two rooms at a Fort Worth hotel, and two days after Wayne's home-going, the children and I were there. I was in the elevator with them when the door opened and Kellie Copeland stepped inside. I whispered to her that the children had just lost their father. Kellie dropped to the floor and wrapped them in her arms. Later, John Copeland prayed for me.

"I thought about my 30 years of partnership with KCM. Would I have had the faith to get out of that wheelchair without that divine connection? Never. Would I have known how to walk in faith through starting and running a homeless shelter and a children's home? No. Every step of the way, this ministry has given me what I needed to succeed. And in that moment, I realized that partnership was all about family—a wonderful family to cheer our successes and comfort our hearts at times like this."

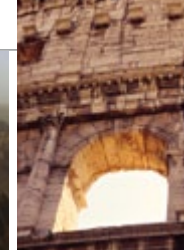
Two years later, in 2005, the Lord instructed Penny to move to Branson, Mo. By 2008, she was certain she had missed His will and asked for permission to go home to Texas. The Lord did not give it. Instead, He led her to a ranch near Branson that was for sale. Penny stepped onto the sloping hillside and looked at the beautiful expanse with two log homes and felt a chill run up her spine. This was the exact ranch she'd seen in a vision years before. She'd searched all over Texas for it. Now Penny realized God hadn't called her to Branson to retire, but to re-fire.

He didn't call her to do it alone, either. Shortly after she saw the ranch, Daniel Koontz, a man she'd been dating for two years, proposed. At the wedding, Penny was given away by several men of the USS Mispillion. The ship's crew had made her their "queen" in 1952, and also wrote her "daddy" letters. Together, Daniel and Penny bought the property and opened Jacob's House at Thunder Ranch. Today the ranch is filled with the voices of laughing children and beautiful music that Daniel coaxes out of their piano.

"Years ago, my father's wingman flew a Corsair airplane over the place where Dad died. He had painted the words *Miss Penny* across the fuselage," Penny says. "With that kind of history, how could God have given me any other kind of spiritual father than Kenneth Copeland? One who loves to fly and soars with the clouds."

It's been years since Penny Robichaux-Koontz fought for her life against polio. She still misses her father and loves the men who stepped in to take his place in her life. But in the years since then, she has found the Father of the fatherless. Every day when she picks up her Bible, she knows it's full of letters from Him. Each one begins, *Dear Penny* and ends *Love, Daddy. VICTORY*

**Editor's Note:** The children pictured in this article are currently in the care of Penny Koontz and Jacob's House.

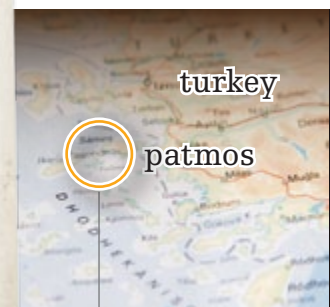


## *A Light in Darkness:*



# THE ISLAND OF PATMOS

BY RICK RENNER



## A.D. 95

a sailing vessel filled with prisoners slowly glided into the port on the island of Patmos. On board was the elderly Apostle John, one of the newest prisoners to be delivered to this forbidding fragment of rugged land jutting out of the Aegean's blue waters in the region known as the Icarian Sea. > Designated as a prison where many of Rome's

worst enemies and criminals were incarcerated, this small, desolate island belonged to a group of islands known as the Sporades. It was located 24 miles off the coastline of Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey), approximately 60 miles from the ancient city of Ephesus.

Ships arriving at the port of Patmos were filled with Roman prisoners who were considered the scum of society and the absolute worst of all humankind. Murderers, thieves, rapists, insurrectionists and perpetrators of other heinous crimes were all carried by boat to this remote volcanic island—the "Alcatraz" of the first century.

As this particular ship drew closer to shore, the rowers shoved their oars into the water to slow its pace. Little by little the vessel slowed as it approached the dock, passing the rocky crags that descended dramatically into the crashing waves of the sea along the coast of Patmos.

Many prisoners who tried to escape Patmos had been crushed on these sharp rocks by the strong currents that carried them to their deaths. As the ship glided past these jagged cliffs en route to the port, the prisoners on board

must have contemplated the fate of those hapless prisoners, as well as the impossible prospect of their own escape from this open-air prison in the middle of the Icarian Sea.

As the ship docked, soldiers on board yelled at the men fettered in chains, barking out commands for the prisoners to get up and start moving toward the plank that led to the dock. The crack of whips, the screams of the Roman soldiers, and the complaints of the captives could all be heard as the prisoners were herded like cattle off the ship. Down the plank the soldiers led their human cargo, handing them over to the merciless prison guards who waited for them on the dock. These guards would be the prisoners' hard taskmasters as long as the ill-fated captives were detained on the island. When the prisoners didn't move fast enough, the guards would lash their backs with whips and beat them with



**Watch Kenneth Copeland and Rick Renner** on the *BVOV* broadcast May 9-13 & 16-20.

clubs to forcibly keep them moving toward the desired destination. Roman society had a high tolerance for human abuse. Yet even Roman law demanded fair treatment of prisoners, especially if they were Roman citizens. However, since Patmos was isolated, desolate and mostly forsaken, what transpired there wasn't visible to the public eye. As a result, laws that guaranteed the good treatment of prisoners could be, and

often *were*, ignored. Thus, the Roman government considered Patmos to be an ideal place for especially dangerous criminals, who were often transferred there so soldiers, wardens and interrogators could treat them with a level of brutality that wouldn't have been tolerated elsewhere.

Common criminals vs. Political Offenders

#### Common Criminals vs. Political Offenders

When the prisoners disembarked from the ship, they were divided into two groups: *common criminals* and *political offenders*. Then each group was transferred to different parts of the island.

Common criminals were scourged as part of their official welcome to the island. This scourging was designed to serve as a warning that poor behavior would be dealt with swiftly and harshly. Criminals incarcerated on Patmos worked under the constant gaze of Roman soldiers, who watched their every movement and punished them ferociously for the least offense. Some early Christian writers recorded that prisoners on Patmos worked in mine quarries; however, archeologists have found no evidence on the island to support these claims.

Political offenders were treated with a greater degree of respect than common criminals on Patmos and were allowed to freely roam the barren island. However, this type of prison sentence didn't bode well for political prisoners, for they were not provided any clothes, food, water or medical services and were responsible for their own survival in the harsh conditions of the island. As a result, many died of starvation, disease, a lack of clean water or exposure.

Political offenders sometimes formed communities to create a better chance of survival in such a hostile environment. At the time the Apostle John arrived on Patmos in A.D. 95, it's known that several communities already existed, populated by people—and even entire families—who had been exiled to the island as political prisoners of the Roman Empire.

How did John, the sole survivor of the original 12 disciples by A.D. 95, become an exiled prisoner on Patmos? The answer to this question is vital to this book. We must therefore pause to recall the remarkable account of John's life in the years leading up to his exile on this forsaken island.

#### John and Mary's Residency in Ephesus

The role of the Apostle John was uniquely different from the other apostles because Jesus had given John the responsibility to care for His mother, Mary. As John wrote his own gospel, he vividly remembered when Jesus entrusted the care of Mary to him. In his own words, John related that moment: "Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing by, He said to His mother, 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother!' *And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home*" (John 19:25-27, *New King James Version*).

Early Church history confirms that John cared for Mary to the end of her life. When he and the other apostles left Jerusalem between A.D. 37-44, John ministered in various parts of Asia Minor, probably settling in Ephesus with Mary later, sometime around A.D. 67.

There is an array of historical sources confirming that Mary, the mother of Jesus, moved to Ephesus with John. Perhaps the most significant evidence that attests to Mary's residency in this city are the ruins of the ancient church building located in Ephesus that was named in Mary's memory—the *first* church building in the entire world to be named in her honor. Since churches were built in honor of local saints at that time, it is reasonable to conclude that Mary was once a local resident and that the church was therefore named in her honor.

John's residency in Ephesus is a fact established by many early writers, including Eusebius, the earliest historian of the Church. A second century bishop of Ephesus named Polycrates, who was born approximately 30 years after John's death, wrote that John's tomb was in the city of Ephesus and that he was the most beloved disciple. In A.D. 180, a bishop of Lyons named Irenaeus, a contemporary of Polycrates, recorded that John lived in Ephesus and wrote his gospel at his home there. Irenaeus personally knew Polycarp, the famous bishop of Smyrna, and wrote that Polycarp had personally known John while he was still alive in Ephesus. All of these historical records, and others too numerous to include here, are sufficient to show that the Apostle John lived and ministered in Ephesus during the latter part of his life.

John lived in a community located on a hill on

the outskirts of Ephesus, known today as Mount Ayasuluk. This small Christian community was situated high above the Temple of Artemis, just beyond the notice of Roman authorities.

A higher level of toleration was often extended to people living outside the city limits because their refusal to conform to local standards wasn't as obvious. Therefore, John, along with the small community of believers, lived on top of the nearby hill where they could avoid the constant pagan pressures that existed inside the city of Ephesus. These early believers had learned through hard experience that the authorities were more concerned with in-town residents who violated Roman law or the emperor's edicts for all to worship him.

Perhaps the most important reason John resided outside the city limits of Ephesus was that he gave oversight to all the churches of Asia, and therefore had to meet with leaders who traveled from across the entire region to see him. If John had lived directly within Ephesus, these visits would have been much more complicated and dangerous. But because John lived in a not-so-noticeable residence on top of a hill behind the Temple of Artemis, he could meet more easily with visiting leaders who were concerned about being arrested in Ephesus. On the other hand, Timothy was serving as pastor of the church of Ephesus at this time (1 Timothy 1:3-4) and probably resided within the city itself, since that was where most of his congregation lived.

As early as A.D. 381, John's residence in Ephesus was so well documented that Christian pilgrims were already coming to Ephesus to visit his home and to honor his burial place. An early church was also built on the site of John's tomb. Later the Emperor Justinian built a magnificent church on this same site. It was the second most magnificent church building ever constructed in Asia Minor—second only in size to Hagia Sophia in the Eastern Empire's capital city of Constantinople (the modern-day city of Istanbul, Turkey). **VICTORY**

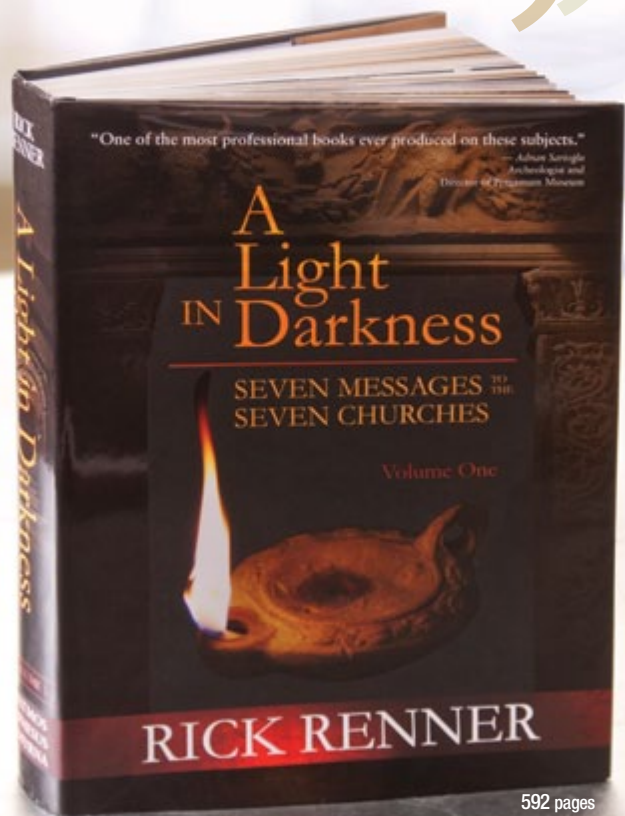
(This article is an excerpt from the book by Rick Renner titled, *A Light in Darkness*. For more information, go to [renner.org](http://renner.org).)

Rick Renner is a respected Bible teacher and leader in the international Christian community. The author of more than 30 books, his best-sellers include *Dressed to Kill* and *Sparkling Gems From the Greek*. In 1991, Rick and his wife, Denise, moved to the former Soviet Union with their three sons, establishing churches, a Bible seminary, a pastoral association, and the first Christian television network in the former USSR.

This is the most important book I've ever written.

It has completely transformed my life. I believe the truth it shares has the power to transform yours as well.

— Rick Renner



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# a meeting for the **entire family!**

## **The Southwest Believers' Convention.**

For the past 30 years, believers worldwide have gathered in Fort Worth, Texas, for a time of rich teaching, healing, encouragement and the joining of anointings. This year, the meeting has been moved up to July 4-9, and we'd like you to join us!

Featured speakers will include not only Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, but Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis and Creflo Dollar. And on Saturday morning, Gloria will teach Healing School—and as she often says: Jesus always shows up at Healing School!

The good news is that SWBC isn't just for adults. KCM is making sure that every member of your family, ages 6 and up, will be able to receive a word from the Lord.

## **Superkid Academy**

Parents have often wanted to send their kids to Superkid Camp for a week—and at SWBC they can, absolutely FREE! While moms and dads are in the main arena, kids ages 6-12 have the opportunity to attend Superkid Academy.

Led by Commanders Dana and Linda Johnson, children will enjoy a full week of services designed just for them. And this year, the services will be "revved up" with a race car-inspired theme to get ready...set...GO!

"We teach our kids Jesus is the only way to be free, have peace and be secure," said Dana Johnson. "He is the one way to find truth, life and love."

With six full days jampacked with fun games, rockin' live praise and worship, cool dances, hilarious skits, and amazing times with God, the last thing your children will be is *bored!* And parents can rest assured that the KCM staff is security conscious—utilizing safety measures that link parents to their children, so their precious ones are safe and sound.

## **14forty**

Just down the hall, there's also a place for your junior high and high-schoolers at *14forty*. Through this refreshing ministry, young men and women will experience great speakers, live worship, laugh-out-loud dramas, group games, valuable giveaways and more.

The ministry of 14forty is geared specifically to today's young people, reaching their generation right where they are. In a world where teenagers often feel completely overwhelmed by stress and pressure, 14forty will focus instead on being completely immersed in the unconditional, unrelenting love of God.

"This is an opportunity," says the 14forty team, "to shut down every voice that's trying to close in, and focus only on God's Word and His overwhelming love...for you."

It's time to get in over your head. Get saturated. Get soaked. Get immersed at 14forty!

## **One Vision—For the Entire Family**

"There is no price too big, no effort too great, no job too hard for our God to reach our children," said Brother Copeland. "Whatever we must do, we are going to reach our kids."

To learn more, visit [kcm.org/southwest](http://kcm.org/southwest) for speaker schedule, travel details, easy event registration and more.

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**Southwest Believers' Convention: July 4-9**

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](http://kcm.org/es) (in U.S.) | 261-786-4213  
[vicentemora.org](http://vicentemora.org) (in Venezuela)

**LIVE IT East Coast Faith**

**Conference: 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

Unable to attend? Some KCM meetings are available for viewing via live streaming. Go online to [kcm.org](http://kcm.org) for more information. Meetings are subject to change without notice. For details and updated information, please log on to [events.kcm.org](http://events.kcm.org) or call the KCM office nearest you. Partners and Friends within the U.S. call 800-600-7395.



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

Hylton Memorial Chapel  
 14640 Potomac Mills Road  
 Woodbridge, VA 22192

**Branson Victory Campaign: March 8-10, 2012**

Faith Life Church | 3701 W. Highway 76  
 Branson, MO 65616-3559

**Southwest Believers' Convention: July 2-7, 2012**

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

**Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign: November 8-10, 2012**

Hylton Memorial Chapel | 14640 Potomac Mills Road  
 Woodbridge, VA 22192

**Join Kenneth and/or Gloria at:**

**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](http://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](http://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](http://lwcc.org)

**2011 Faith Conference: September 12**

Living Word Christian Center | 7600 W. Roosevelt Road  
 Forest Park, IL 60130 | 708-697-5000 | [livingwd.org](http://livingwd.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](http://jdm.org)

**Prayer Mountain Annual Prayer Conference: October 27-31**

Hilton Branson Convention Center | 200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616  
 417-336-4877 | [billybrim.org](http://billybrim.org)

**2012 World Conference: January 4**

(Morris Cerullo World Evangelism) | Gaylord Opryland Resort  
 2800 Opryland Drive | Nashville, TN 37214 | 615-889-1000 | [mcwe.com](http://mcwe.com)

**United Theological Seminary: January 23, 2012**

4501 Denlinger Road | Dayton, OH 45426 | 937-529-2201 | [united.edu](http://united.edu)

**Abundant Life Church: August 17**

9365 Hooper Road | Athens, OH 45701  
 740-593-7500 | [theabundantlifetoday.org](http://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](http://tbn.org)

**Trinity Church: September 9-10**

701 E. Highland Drive | Jonesboro, AR 72401  
 870-935-7705 | [trinity-church.com](http://trinity-church.com)

**New Life Fellowship: September 11-13**

1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
 712-332-1982 | [gotnewlife.org](http://gotnewlife.org)

**Ambassadors Christian Center: September 25**

401 Western Lane, Suite H | Irmo, SC 29063-7953  
 803-749-0829 | [ambbcc.org](http://ambbcc.org)

**Word Alive Pastors' Conference: October 6-9**

Cloud of Fire Ministries | Lahore, Pakistan  
 923014353409 | [andreas\\_stefan@hotmail.com](mailto:andreas_stefan@hotmail.com)

**"Christmas in November" Women's Luncheon: November 5**

Redemption Church | 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road  
 Knoxville, TN 37921  
 865-521-7777 x229 (Katy Blackburn)  
[redemptionchurch.com](http://redemptionchurch.com)

**The Jim Bakker Show: November 10**

180 Grace Chapel Road | Blue Eye, MO 65611  
 417-779-9000 | [jimbakkershow.com](http://jimbakkershow.com)

**Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans: November 11**

The Welk Theatre | 1984 State Highway 165  
 Branson, MO 65616 | 800-808-9355  
[welkresortbranson.com](http://welkresortbranson.com)

**Word of Life Christian Center: November 19-20**

3001 19th St. NW | Rochester, MN 55904  
 (held at the Rochester Athletic Club)  
 507-271-2328 | [wolrochester.org](http://wolrochester.org)

**Grace Festival Crusade: December 7-11**

Ambon, Indonesia | Contact: World Impact Ministries  
 P.O. Box 968 | St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6Z4  
 Canada | 905-346-4828 | [petyryoungren.org](http://petyryoungren.org)

**Victory Christian Center's Women's Conference: February 29-March 3, 2012**

Victory Christian Center | 11520 Ellerslie Road SW  
 Edmonton, AB T6W 1A2 | Canada  
 780-988-5433 | [vcc.org](http://vcc.org)

**Living Word Bible Church: May 10, 2012**

3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213  
 480-964-4463 | [livingwordonline.org](http://livingwordonline.org)

**Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans: November 11, 2012**

The Welk Theatre | 1984 State Highway 165  
 Branson, MO 65616 | 800-808-9355  
[welkresortbranson.com](http://welkresortbranson.com)



**Join Pastor George Pearsons and/or Terri Copeland Pearsons at:**

**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](http://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](http://terricopelandpearsons.com)  
 Preregistration is open—go to [spiritledprayer.com!](http://spiritledprayer.com!)



**Join Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher at:**

**Souls Harbor Word of Faith Church: May 21-22**

110 Evergreen Road | Canton, GA 30114  
 678-644-5217 | [souls Harbor Church.com](http://souls Harbor Church.com)

**Kwanglim Methodist Church: June 5-7**

571-2 Sinsa-Dong | Gangnam-gu, Seoul, South Korea  
[klmc.net](http://klmc.net)

**New Beginning Christian Fellowship: June 12**

46-005 Kawa St. #212C  
 Kaneohe, HI 96744 | 808-247-4851

**King's Cathedral Oahu: June 14**

5740 Kalaniana'ole Highway | Honolulu, HI 96821  
 808-373-7415 | [kingscathedral.com](http://kingscathedral.com)

**Trinity Broadcasting Network LIVE Taping: June 14**

TBN Studios Hawaii | 1152 Smith St.  
 Honolulu, HI 96817 | 808-521-5826 | [tbn.org](http://tbn.org)

**King's Cathedral: June 15**

777 Mokulele Highway | Kahului, HI 96732  
 808-871-7311 | [kingscathedral.com](http://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](http://wohp.org)

**Brand New Life Christian Center: August 7**

1110-B W. Taft Ave. | Orange, CA 92865  
 714-396-8674 | [brandnewlifechurch.com](http://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](mailto:dunamispower247@yahoo.com)

**Believers' Victory International Church: August 9**

425 W. Torrance Blvd., Suite C | Carson, CA 90745  
 310-512-7705 | [bvic.org](http://bvic.org)

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 by Kenneth Copeland

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 by Melanie Hemry

A Light in Darkness:  
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Good News Gazette

Are You on  
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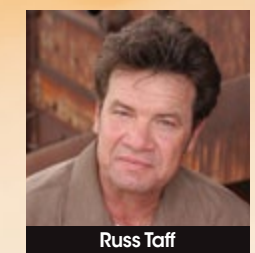


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Dr. Stephen Swisher

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# GoodNewsGazette

## Feeling Great and Pain Free

I cannot begin to express the gratitude I feel toward this ministry. It has truly been a blessing in my life. Although I have been a Christian for over 40 years, I did not know sickness was a curse. I thought it was part of my salvation to suffer for Christ.

Ten years ago, I received healing from excruciating back pain. When I was about 15 years old I began to feel pain in my back, and doctors could not find the cause. It got worse as I got older.

One day while I was listening to Kenneth Copeland, the Lord said to me, *Don't accept pain in your back, it is not from Me.* I got up, rebuked the pain, confessed my healing and have been healed since then. It's been 10 years...thank God for healing. It feels good to be pain free.

C.C. :: Pennsylvania

## TO KNOW HIM

Beyond Religion Waits a Relationship That Will Change Your Life



GLORIA COPELAND

## “With long life will I satisfy him and show him My salvation.”

(Psalm 91:16, *The Amplified Bible*)

### Walking by Faith

My wife and I were tithers and givers, my family lived well, and my business was prosperous. But our income just about matched our outgoings, tithes and offerings and we had a sizable mortgage on our home and a large bank loan I had used to start my business with.

In October 2008 the economy crashed and in the same month my bank changed my lending terms requiring extra payments from me equivalent to 75 percent of what my family and I had been living on. The logical thing to do was to discontinue all our tithing and giving, especially as people predicted my business would suffer greatly in the recession. But I meditated on how Isaac sowed in a time of famine and reaped a hundredfold. So instead of cutting back on our partnerships and giving, we asked God to show us how we could sow even more.

Although at first it looked impossible or at best unsustainable, God provided “seed for the sower” showing us how we could convert our monthly pension contributions to continue to pay, and in fact, increase our tithes and giving to God’s work. We filled our hearts with the Word and spoke what overflowed from our hearts.

Now, over two years later, having lived our normal lifestyle each month, my business has increased its profits and my wife and I have been able to clear all of our loans and give the equivalent of a full year’s pre-recession earnings to God’s work, over and beyond our normal tithes and giving! And all of this was during the worst recession ever. Surely that represents exceeding, abundantly beyond all we could ever ask, desire or imagine.

J.S. :: Bahrain

### The Lord Brings Increase

I’ve only been a Partner for a short time, but I’ve already had an increase in my monthly income. Praise God! Thank you for your prayers and support.

D.D. :: Florida

### A Precious Gift

My brother prayed the prayer of salvation last December—praise God! Thank you for the *BVOV* magazine and the salvation prayer in each issue. I have been a Partner for one year and through the leading of the Holy Spirit, God used me to lead my brother to salvation. Thank You, Jesus.

M.D. :: California

### Business Is Booming

Praise God for He is faithful and His Word is true! I’ve been believing for increase in my business and He has blessed me with six new people who have brought their clients. Thank you for your prayers and partnership with me over the last six years. I’m living in THE BLESSING!

C.N. :: Michigan

### Tremendous Favor

I thank my Lord from the very bottom of my heart for giving us the privilege to be Partners with KCM. Many good things are happening to us, although Satan comes so hard against us still. I know you stood with us in prayer agreement for the miracles and deliverances that we are experiencing right now.

I wrote and requested you to pray for our total debt cancellation. Because of your constant prayers we were directed to present our case to the government. We found favor in their eyes and the commission waived the interest completely and extended the years of repaying. Also, we have been asked to pay a very small amount monthly. My God is faithful.

R.A. :: France

### We Serve a Living God



We have been Partners with you for almost 10 years now and thank God for what He has been doing in our family through you and your ministry. We have been enjoying sound health, financial comfort and above all, because of your teachings, our lives and ministry have always been flourishing. Although we are foreigners in Italy, God has made us to prosper in every area of our lives ever since we have been your Partners.

Some months ago we wrote to you to agree with us for three things we are believing for: the pain in my chest to go; a new car; and a new, bigger place for our ministry. Well, God really answered and those things have been done! Glory to God, we serve a living God.

V.O. :: Italy

### Support in My Time of Need

I would like to take this opportunity to extend my thanksgiving to God for using you as my support during a time when I was not working. At some point I felt like giving up, as things were not really adding up in my life. But every time I called your offices, I was so encouraged to know someone was standing with me in prayer.

I have a good-paying job and I’m grateful for God’s favor upon my life.

M.M. :: South Africa

### Expenses Paid—Above and Beyond

I sowed a small seed in expectation of a miracle from God as I had need for a huge amount to pay rent for a clinic. We got a cheque from the insurance company covering all the expenses and even beyond. This cheque was expected normally by the end of the month or the beginning of the following month. I just want to give all glory to God and thank you, KCM.

D.Y.M. :: United Arab Emirates

### Deliverance From Above

We truly serve an awesome God. My family and I are more than grateful to you for all your sincere prayers for us.

It was raining very heavy one night when my uncle was driving home with my brother. Out of nowhere a big truck was heading straight toward them. My brother shouted out and what happened next was a miracle—God delivered them from a head-on collision. They were unable to explain how they avoided hitting the truck. All my brother could say over and over was, “It was God.”

We are so grateful to the Lord for His mercy. Prayer truly changes things.

A.P. :: England

### God’s Perfect Timing

Thank you for all your prayers. I sent a prayer request about getting a new job and to speed up the process of employment, because I needed a new job quickly. All thanks to God, I found a new job, it came quickly and the company even asked me if I could start earlier. My salary is more than double—all glory to God!

M.M. :: South Africa

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

### Partnership Makes a Difference

Thank you for your letter of love and encouragement. It was a blessing to me to know that you are praying for us as a family and also for Ireland.

God has been so faithful to us in 2010 and continues to bless our business. THE BLESSING works. It is a privilege and honor to partner with KCM. I am always encouraged and strengthened, and my faith grows and makes me an overcomer in every situation and circumstance that I face.

C.C. :: Ireland



### A New Life

In my life everything was bad. I had a bad relationship with my husband, our neighbors and colleagues. I even had problems with my two small children. It seemed as if there was no way out. Suddenly, God brought my attention to you!

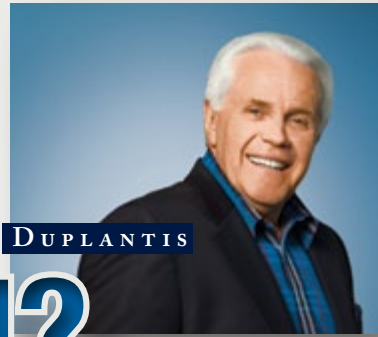
I repented when I was watching your broadcast, then I started sending my tithe to your office in our region. My friend invited me to a local “word of faith” church and I brought my children. I asked my

husband to attend and he went to see what we were doing there. That day we all repented and received our salvation.

By that time I had been watching your broadcast for a year. We didn’t own the house we lived in. I started praying and believing that in our house people will serve God. Now the house is ours and believers stay with us when they come to attend conferences.

L.Z. :: Ukraine

There's one thing that can save you from putting your faith on cruise control: **passion.**



BY JESSE DUPLANTIS

# Are You on Cruise Control?

Have you lost your passion?

Do you love the Lord, but you've lost the fire you once had? You may be active in church or heading a ministry. You may put on the appearance that your life is full of faith and everything is all right. But if you're honest with yourself, would you admit that it's almost as if you've pulled back, pressed the button and said, "I'm not messing with this anymore"? | In other words, have you put your faith on cruise control?

When you put your faith on cruise control, it's as if you've taken your foot off the gas pedal. Something is moving you, but it's not you and it's not God—it's a lulling momentum.

Maybe you're believing for healing and have said, "Well, whenever the Lord gets ready, it'll happen." That's cruise control.

Maybe you've sown a seed and said, "Well, I can't really believe for a full hundredfold." Cruise control.

"If it's God's will, my life will get better." Cruise control!

You can't stay on cruise control forever. Sooner or later, you have to hit the brake pedal, and when you do, you're going to slow down until you finally stop.

## Discovering the Cause

There's one thing that can save you from putting your faith on cruise control: *passion*.

If you want to get off cruise control and succeed in any area of life, you've got to have passion. You've got to believe that you *can*.

Get a glimpse into godly passion by looking at the life of David.

First Samuel 17 displays David's passion front-and-center. He was sent to the Israelite army camp to deliver some cheese and bread. But when he got there, he realized he had walked into a serious situation. Everyone around him was afraid of Goliath, an uncircumcised Philistine who was cursing God's army. David started asking questions and his oldest brother got upset that he was getting into their business.

But that didn't shake David—notice his response in verse 29: "What have I now done? Is there not a cause?"

And then, of course, you know the story. David, full of

passion, defeats Goliath, the biggest boy in the valley, and everyone suddenly sees David's potential!

This is exactly why God wanted David to be king: He knew the right question to ask: "Is there not a cause?" David understood what moved him to act. He understood *the cause*.

You need a cause to move you. You need a cause to be passionate about. A cause takes you off cruise control and puts your foot on the gas.

A cause is what moves me. Talk with me for five minutes and you'll see that I'm passionate about the cause God has called me to.

People have asked me, "Jesse, have you ever thought about pastoring?"

No—because that's not my cause. Now if God called me to pastor, I'd do it. But you can't do something well if you're not called to it. You'd be a square peg trying to fit into a round hole. You have to find the cause you're called to.

What moved David to stand before Goliath? He had a cause to achieve and the passion to achieve it. No one else in that army had a grasp on the cause like David did. Sure, they had the tools, and they tried to give them to David, but he didn't need them. He had something greater.

## Put the Pedal to the Metal

Once you've recognized the cause God has called you to, passion will get you there. Passion is the power that creates life and helps you to achieve the cause. It's your turbo-boost to the destination God has laid out for you.

In your spiritual life, passion means seeking God first (Matthew 6:33), reading His Word and spending time with your heavenly Father. It means not growing lax

about renewing your mind. It means surrounding yourself with others who are passionate about the Lord, too.

When it comes to personal relationships, passion takes you to the next level. You want a good marriage? Stay passionate—and I don't mean just physically, although there's nothing wrong with that! Stay passionate about your love for one another. Pay attention to what's important to your spouse. Sometimes I find myself not focusing enough on what Cathy says to me. But I've realized that if it's important to her, it should be important to me, and vice versa. And if it's important to both of us, you can bet it's very important to God.

When it comes to your finances, passion makes overcoming possible. Proverbs 13:22 says, "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children." That's big! How are you going to leave an inheritance for your grandchildren when you're struggling just to pay *your* bills? I'll tell you how: passion. It's possible—in your lifetime—to generate three levels of income: yours, your children's and *their* children's.

It's possible because God has given His kids the richest thing on the earth today. Not oil. Not minerals. *Ideas*. Take that idea God has given you, stir up the gift of God inside you and become passionate about it!

The Lord often gives me ideas, because I'm listening for His voice. He's shown me how to take nothing and turn it into something. I'm not being boastful about that; it's just a fact.

A few years ago, I received one of the greatest compliments of my life. I was meeting with my financial consultants and they said, "Rev. Duplantis, you ought to take your finances and place them here, here, here and here."

Now, I want to be successful and I'm passionate about being a good steward with money. So I said, "Let me go home and pray about it."

By the looks on their faces, you'd have thought I said the stupidest thing in the world. All those financial entrepreneurs just stared at me.

Still, it was my money, so I went home and prayed about it. Three days later, we met again. I told them, "I'm not going to do anything you said. Instead, I want you to take what I have and place it here, here, here and here."

They looked at me again like I was crazy. "Reverend...I just don't think that's going to work."

"Well, that's what the Lord said."

Say that to people who are used to only dealing with finances and they'll think you're a little bit off. They may not admit it, but that's exactly what they think. But it was my money, so I got to do what I wanted.

About nine months later, on Christmas Eve, one of the vice presidents brought a fruit basket to our house—a beautiful fruit basket, big as a coffin! I had never seen a fruit

basket that big in my life. Then he said, "Reverend, I have to tell you something. Do you remember when we had that financial meeting and we told you where to put your money and you didn't? Do you remember that you went home and prayed about it?"

"Yeah, I remember that."

Looking me right in the face, he said, "You're the only one of our clients who made money. The *only one*." He added, "The next time God tells you to invest something, would you call us and tell us where to put it?"

Praise God! That opened up an avenue to allow Christ in me to come out further. To this day, every once in a while I get a phone call asking, "So...what's the Lord saying?"

That's passion. Those men know more about finances than I do; that's what they do. But I have enough passion in my life to hear what God is saying.

Passion can turn your finances around.

"But I'm a fireman, Jesse! I don't make that much money."

Listen: It has nothing to do with how much you make. It has to do with how much you give—what you're sowing into good ground.

Passion means giving even when it's difficult. It may not make sense in the natural, but that's when you know God is working. It takes faith to flow.

Recently, a man approached me and said, "Brother Jesse, I'm gonna have to cut back on my giving due to this recession."

I said, "Oh, so you want to extend it?"

"Extend what?"

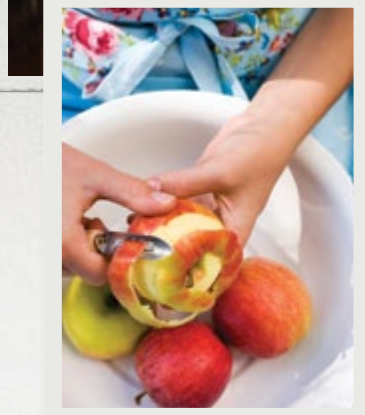
"The recession!" Because the minute you stop sowing, that's the minute your harvest begins to decrease. "It's fine to cut back on something," I said, "just not *that!*"

Your harvest may not appear immediately, but keep on sowing. That's passion. Passion gives because it recognizes there's a cause. Your brain might say, *You're stupid!* but your spirit says, *No, I'm committed. I'm passionate!*

Don't live your life on cruise control. Get out there and have a joy ride. Be successful spiritually, physically and financially. I've failed in life before and it wasn't any fun. Then I met Jesus—and failure was no longer an option!

If you're ready to put your foot back on the power, it's time to ask what David did: "Is there not a cause?" Then allow your passion to ignite. When you do, you'll sail down the highway of life as God blesses you beyond your wildest dreams. **VICTORY**

Jesse Duplantis is president and founder of Jesse Duplantis Ministries, with international headquarters in Louisiana and additional offices in the U.K. and Australia. He is a best-selling author and hosts a weekly television program. For ministry materials and information, write to Jesse Duplantis Ministries, P.O. Box 1089, Destrehan, LA 70047; call 985-764-2000; or visit [jdm.org](http://jdm.org).



BY GLORIA COPELAND

# Bringing in the Harvest!

If you are like most Christians, you have probably sown lots of good seed throughout your days as a child of God. >> Most likely, you have sown much financial seed. >> You have been a person who gives your tithe on a regular basis, and you have given offerings to people, ministries and charitable organizations. You have learned the biblical principle of sowing and reaping your finances and it has become a major part of your Christian life.

You have sown from the fruit of the spirit in your life into the lives of those with whom God has connected you—seeds of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23, *New American Standard*). In doing so, you have allowed the Spirit of Christ in you to minister to others and make Himself known to them.

You sowed your time and energy into helping people in their times of need. And in these days, when the world's economy is in sad shape, more and more people need a physical touch and a word of faith from God's people to let them know how much He cares for them and how they can have change in their lives through faith in Him.

Actually, every action in your life is a seed of some kind. Your time is a seed. Your thoughts are seeds. A word from your mouth is a seed. All the activities you are involved in every day are seeds. And every seed you sow has a harvest attached to it.

Now don't let that throw you. I know most of us have sown some seeds we would like to dig up—seeds on which we would just as soon not receive a harvest.

The good news is that as we grow in the Lord and in His Word we become aware that the power of our

repentance and the power of forgiveness—God's, ours and others—can repair the damage and bring healing to our lives and the lives we may have hurt through careless seed sowing. If we allow Him, God can take every seed and turn it into a good harvest!

## God's Word—Good Seed

The Word of God is the answer to bringing in our harvest. In fact, the Word itself *is* the source of your seed!

I trust you have sown the seed of God's Word into your life. The seed of His Word in our lives is the foundational seed that gives us the faith to receive the harvest on all the good seed we have sown.

A consistent sowing of the Word into our hearts brings faith and prepares us for great harvest.

The heart of God is to bring forth the fruit you are believing for and if the seed you sowed is based on the promises of His Word, it will bring forth that fruit. It will come to maturity and you will have a harvest!

Most of us wonder, *How long does that take? How long do I have to wait for my harvest?* I don't know, because every seed and every harvest is unique... as different as the person who sows them...and the situation into which they are sown. But I do know you will receive your harvest if you are willing to

The Word of God is the answer to bringing in our harvest. In fact, the Word itself is the **source of your seed!**



The heart of God is to bring forth the fruit you are believing for...



And [Jesus] said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

Mark 4:26-29, *New King James Version*



stand in faith until you see it. When you do see the fruit, you will know it's harvest time.

A farmer plants corn seed, and then he waits. He hasn't seen anything since he put the seed into the ground, but he keeps his eye on the spot where he planted the seed. He never forgets that it's in the ground. He waters it and he fertilizes it. Then, one day, he sees the first signs of the blade coming up—breaking through the soil. He watches the blade develop into a stalk. As he watches and waits, he sees the first signs of an ear appear. Then, when the growing time is complete, fully formed kernels appear on the ear. The farmer knows exactly when to harvest that crop.

What had to happen? Between the planting and the harvest there were periods of waiting and watching. The farmer never forgot his planting. He did what he needed to do to get his harvest. He watered and he cultivated. He never had any doubt the seed he planted would become a mighty crop. One little seed of corn became a stalk that yielded hundreds of seeds of corn on each ear. Ten seeds became thousands of seeds. He may have been able to count the number of seeds he planted, but it would take a lot of time and effort to count the number of seeds he harvested! Glory to God!

#### God's Plan for Harvest

This is the same way you receive the harvest on every kind of seed you sow in life. You sow the seed of love, faith, finances...everything and anything...and then you keep your eyes and heart focused on what God's Word says about your seed planting. Speak the Word over your seed (that's watering it), and the Word of God will go to work on your seed and give it the nourishment it needs to grow.

Now, you may have thoughts spring up in your mind that say, *That seed isn't going to produce anything.* What do you do? You continue speaking the Word over the seed—that's cultivating the ground around your seed. While

the Word is working on your seed, it will weed out those negative thoughts from your mind.

Be diligent to patiently watch and wait and use the Word as your water and cultivator. Soon, you'll begin to see some movement. You'll begin to see growth. And finally, you will receive your harvest!

This is the way God does things. It's His plan.

Every living thing starts as a seed, and produces seed. When we understand the way God operates His kingdom here on earth, we will be more proficient at planting, believing for and receiving our harvest. Mark 4:29 tells us, "When the fruit is brought forth, immediately he [the sower] putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come."

What is the sickle, and how do we put it in? Well, the sickle is the Word of God. In His appointed time, when your seed has come to maturity because you have used the Word to water and cultivate it, the Word itself will harvest your crop. One day the very Word you have consistently used on your seed will bring the harvest you have been expecting! You will receive multiplied return on the seed you planted!

This is the kingdom of God operating—the seed of the Word of God enters your heart. In the fertile soil of your heart the seed is activated. It grows there, fully alive yet unseen. Then it begins to make its appearance until the day it is fully formed, bearing fruit, yielding more seed. Then it's ready for the sickle... ready to be harvested. And, in order to keep the cycle alive, you have to always be prepared to plant some of that harvested seed again!

#### Seedtime and Harvest

One scripture that always comes to mind when we have seed of any kind in the ground is Genesis 8:22, *The Amplified Bible*: "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night shall

not cease." I once heard a preacher friend of mine say we should separate those two words into three words...seed, time and harvest...because no harvest is immediate. And you know, they're right. It's a process that takes time.

It takes your faith in the Word working on that seed, processing it. You put it into the ground and patiently wait. You don't go dig it up to see if it's still there. No, faith knows it's still in the ground, and patience waits for it to come to maturity.

It's going to take some time, but there's going to be a harvest if you'll stay with it. Remember Jesus' parable in Luke 8. In verse 15 He said of the man who sowed into good ground, "...on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience."

That helps me to be patient. It helps me realize that it's just a matter of time before my harvest comes. My job, and yours, is to plant our seeds into good ground, to keep them watered with the Word, to let the Word keep out the doubt, and then to patiently wait until it's harvest time.

Don't give up on your seed! Whatever seed you have planted according to the source (the Word), your harvest is coming!

What I have learned over these years of sowing and reaping is that the crop—harvest time—comes exactly when it's needed in my life. God knows when the right time is, and when I need it, it's there!

It's Time for the Greatest Harvest!

As Christians, our No. 1

priority in sowing every kind of seed is so that others can know Christ. Influencing and winning people for the kingdom is our greatest harvest...and it's time for it to come in. It's harvest time!

We have sown financial seeds into ministries for the preaching of the gospel so people can be saved, healed and delivered. We have sown time and energy into

#### 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.

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helping people in our churches, communities and the world so they can be relieved in dire situations. We have sown love, kindness, goodness and all the fruit of the spirit into our families and our neighbors so they will see Jesus in action right before their eyes.

Every day individuals in the Body of Christ sow diligently in one-on-one ministry to people in all walks of life—sharing God's Word and His love with them. And corporately, in churches around the world, millions of dollars in financial seed are sown into every kind of gospel outreach to connect with people, meet their needs and introduce them to Christ.

Christianity is the fastest growing religion in the world today and that is because God's people are continually willing to sow from the abundance of their lives into giving people Jesus! It's harvest time and the Lord is bringing it to us!

Jesus said that the kingdom of God is like a man who planted that seed in the ground (Mark 4:26). For generations Christians have planted their seeds of faith and every generation has received their harvest for the kingdom. Now it is time for this generation to receive its harvest!

Yes, we have seen harvest throughout the years on every kind of seed we have sown into the kingdom. And today we are convinced Jesus is coming back to earth soon. The signs are all around us. We know that the greatest harvest of souls the kingdom has ever known will come in before His return.

God is bringing in the harvest. He's bringing into His kingdom the most precious fruit on the face of the earth—people! People of every ethnicity, every language, every tribe and nation will be part of that great harvest!

Our part as the Church, the Body of Christ, is to be prepared, and to keep ourselves in such a place that we can be used of God to do whatever He wants to do in this hour.

I believe we are ready. We are ready to sow from the abundance of our lives whatever He asks of us, and we do it in faith according to His Word. We will sow bountifully and we will reap bountifully.

Jesus said, "Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest" (John 4:35).

Are we looking? Do we see it? Are we ready? Let's join together and say to Jesus, "Lord, we're ready to bring in the harvest!" **VICTORY**

"So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." Acts 19:20

BY KENNETH COPELAND

# The Word Prevails

*Even though you might be the one speaking God's Words, they have the same power as if Jesus Himself were speaking them.*

"But how can that be, Brother Copeland? I'm not Jesus!"

No, you're not. But when you speak and act upon God's Words in faith, they always release His power,

just like they did for Jesus.

Peter and John proved that the day they walked up to the lame man at the Beautiful gate in Acts 3. At the time, they only had a few words of the New Covenant. They just had the words Jesus spoke to them before He ascended (Mark 16:15-18).

But those were all the words they needed. When they believed and acted upon those words, the Holy Spirit went into action for them just as He had for Jesus—and a miracle happened. When they opened their mouths and said, "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk," that lame man "leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God" (Acts 3:6, 8).

They didn't stop with that one miracle either. Peter and John and the rest of the early disciples took those first few words of the New Covenant and turned the whole known world upside down! (See Acts 17:6.)

"Well, Brother Copeland, you know those men were apostles. That's

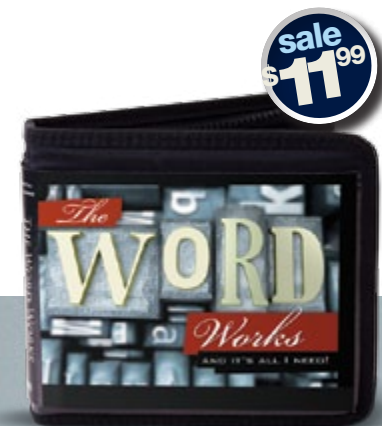
the reason they were anointed to do such miracles."

No, it's not! If that were the reason, then Acts 19:20 would say, *Mightily grew the apostles and they prevailed*. But it doesn't say that. It says, "Mightily grew the word of God and prevailed." Those early apostles were anointed to do such miracles because they spoke and acted on The Word of God. It was The Word and the anointing released by that Word that did the work.

Since The Word never changes, you can be confident that it will prevail for you just as surely as it prevailed for Peter and John. It will prevail for you as surely as it prevailed for Jesus. It will prevail for you as powerfully as when God Himself said, "Let there be light" (Genesis 1:3)!

What are you waiting for? You have the very power and Anointing of God Himself moving in your reborn spirit. You have The Word of God at your fingertips. And the more you fill your heart with that Word, the more you act on it, and speak it out in faith, the more freely that Anointing can function through you. So stop stalling! Get moving! Grab your Bible, take your stand on it and let's go! God's Word prevails! **VICTORY**

(This article was reprinted 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](http://kcm.org) or call 800-600-7395. You can also read the daily devotion online by going to [kcm.org](http://kcm.org).)



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## JUNE

### Broadcast Calendar

**May 30-June 3**

#### Another 10 Days of Prosperity—Week 2

Gloria Copeland and  
George Pearsons

**Sunday, June 5**

#### God's Word Works All the Time

Kenneth Copeland

**June 6-10**

#### How to Live Boldly Beyond Uncertainty

Jeremy Pearsons

**Sunday, June 12**

#### Forgive and Be Free to Love

Gloria Copeland

**June 13-17**

#### Speak the Language of Faith

Jeremy Pearsons

**Sunday, June 19**

#### Be a Man of Courage—A Father's Day Special: Kenneth Copeland

**June 20-24**

#### Receive and Take Your Healing Today

Gloria Copeland

**Sunday, June 26**

#### Today Is Your Day to Take Your Healing: Gloria Copeland

**June 27-July 1**

#### The Love of God and His Good Plan for You

Kellie Copeland Swisher