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May 2012



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BY GLORIA COPELAND

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Living the Dream

by Gloria Copeland

What God wants to do in your life is much higher, greater and more exciting than anything this world has to offer, so sell out to Him! Make the decision to be a dwelling place of God and let His light shine through you to those in darkness around you.

4

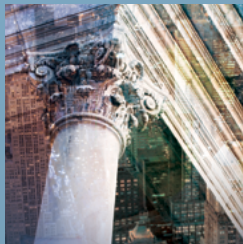
10



The Family Business

by Melanie Henry
Tony Watson was 14 years old when his mother welcomed him into the family business—dealing drugs. By 18, he was living large, and at 24, he was arrested on drug charges and sent to jail where a team from KCM shared Jesus with him. Years later, he found himself all alone—estranged from his family with no place to go and no one to turn to. In despair, he tried to kill himself, but God....

16



What to Do When You See the Wicked Prospering

by Billye Brim
On much of the world's stage, the wicked seem to prosper in disproportionate measure to the righteous. But we have the answer. We can dwell in His sanctuaries, we can live above the fray, even in the midst of it.

19



Closer Than You Think

by Gloria Copeland
Ever since the world began God has been looking for people who by faith and obedience would allow Him to bless them right here on the earth—whose supernaturally abundant lives would make them a walking advertisement of the mercy and power of God.

Kenneth & Gloria

features

15 KCM Events

Live your faith and share the Word—bring someone you know to a KCM event!

22 Good News Gazette

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

24 Reaching a Nation Behind Bars

Find out how KCM is ministering to men and women who are incarcerated...in the U.S. and around the world!



26

What Are You Seeing?

by Kenneth Copeland

The Lord told Brother Copeland that this is going to be the finest, most outstanding year we've ever experienced—a time of great wealth and great opportunities, a time for glorious "suddenlies," for full recovery of everything that's been lost, and a release of heaven's increase. If you haven't been seeing the glorious things God promised for 2012, you can turn things around.



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 39 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.

BY GLORIA COPELAND

Living the DREAM



*H*ow would you like to spend the rest of your days living the dream? :: As a born-again believer, that's exactly what you're created to do. You're divinely designed to spend your life fulfilling a plan so supernatural, so thrilling and so satisfying that no human being could have ever come up with it. You're called to get up every morning and live out the dream plan conceived by God Himself.



GOD'S DREAM has always been to dwell in the midst of His people. One of His greatest desires has been to fellowship with us and manifest Himself in and among us.

That's the whole reason He created mankind.

If you want to know what that dream involves, all you have to do is read the Bible. It's all there—from Genesis to Revelation. You can see it in the Garden of Eden when God made Adam in His own image, gave him dominion over the earth and then came to walk with him in the cool of the day. You can see it at the end of the age when a voice from heaven makes the grand announcement, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God" (Revelation 21:3, *New International Version-84*).

Ever since time began, God's dream has always been to dwell in the midst of His people. One of His greatest desires has been to fellowship with us and manifest Himself in and among us. That's the whole reason He created mankind.

He wanted someone to fellowship with on His own level. He wanted relationship and companionship with others like Himself. He wanted to give His love and have it received and returned by beings created in His image.

I got an understanding of that some years ago when I read a book by John G. Lake. In it, he told about an extended season he spent ministering in Africa among people who had no understanding of his way of thinking or his culture. Although he loved those people and they were precious to him, because of their different life experiences and backgrounds he couldn't enjoy close fellowship with them.

As a result, when he returned to the United States, he was so starved for companionship he spent an entire year just visiting his friends. He felt such a longing to get in contact with men of his own country and mindset who could understand the things that were moving in his soul, who could comprehend the things

he cared about, that sometimes he sat and talked with them all night long.

As I thought about Brother Lake's experience, I realized God has that same kind of longing in His heart! He wants people He can talk to about the things that interest Him. He yearns to live in and among a people who love Him, understand Him and give Him the freedom to be Himself—in all His power and glory—in their midst.

The People Who Ran Away

Although it's sad to say, God didn't exactly have an easy time getting that dream fulfilled. For thousands of years His people absolutely refused to cooperate with Him. But, because God never changes, He never gave up. That's just the way He is: He's patient and He always gets His job done.

When Adam and Eve messed up their fellowship with Him in the Garden by committing high treason and siding in with the devil, God stuck with His plan. He went right back to work bringing it to fruition by making covenant with Abraham. Through that covenant, God raised up the nation of Israel. Then, just as He always does with His people, He endeavored to get as close to them as He possibly could. He said: "...if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people" (Exodus 19:5).

We think about treasure as silver, gold and jewels. But God builds houses and streets from those things. They're not His treasure. He values people who will listen to Him and obey Him.

Because the Israelites weren't born again and they possessed a sinful nature, God couldn't actually move into their hearts. But, even so, He had such a desire to be with them, He decided to come down to earth

in person and pay them a visit. Assuming they'd be excited to see Him, He told Moses:

Lo, I come unto thee in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with thee, and believe thee for ever.... for the third day the Lord will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying, Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it...(verses 9, 11-12).

The “bounds” were meant to protect the Israelites, to prevent them from getting too close to God’s sin-killing presence. But as it turned out, they weren’t necessary. God didn’t receive the warm welcome He wanted from His people. They didn’t try to rush up the mountain to meet Him. On the contrary,

All the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.... And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was (Exodus 20:18-19, 21).

Think of it! God descended from heaven to be with His people—and instead of running toward Him, everyone ran away from Him!

Everyone but Moses, that is. He did just the opposite. God said to him, “Come on up here with Me!” and he walked right into the thundering and lightning of God’s glory. While others backed off, he went to the top of Mount Sinai and spoke with God face to face.

During their conversation, God talked to Moses about His favorite subject—His people. He said to Moses, “Let them make Me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them.... And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony...” (Exodus 25:8, 22, *New King James Version*).

Since the Israelites wouldn’t let God manifest Himself among them out there in the open, He told them to make a container for Him to inhabit, a closed-in place with no windows called the holy of holies, so

that He could be close to them without harming them. Isn’t that amazing? Isn’t it something that God wanted to be with His people so much that if He couldn’t do it one way, He’d do it another way?

Mobile Temples

All Over the Earth

Dwelling in the holy of holies, however, wasn’t really God’s dream. It never satisfied His heart’s desire. So even in the Old Testament, He started telling His people what He was going to do for them through Jesus and the New Covenant. He said:

A new heart...will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God (Ezekiel 36:26-28).

A few thousand years later on the day of Pentecost, those words came to pass. After Jesus was crucified, raised from the dead and had ascended to the right hand of the Father, God found 120 people gathered in an upper room in Jerusalem. They were obedient, willing to receive Him and didn’t back off from the fire of His presence. So He poured out His Holy Spirit on them, moved out of the holy of holies and into their born-again hearts.

At last, God’s dream was becoming a reality! He no longer had to dwell inside a single, dark sanctuary. He didn’t have to live in the center of an Old Testament temple. He could live within and among His people. He could reveal Himself through them in power and glory. He could have mobile temples all over the earth.

Do you realize that’s what you and I are?

We are a “habitation of God” (Ephesians 2:22). We are “the temple of the Holy Ghost” (1 Corinthians 6:19). God has put within us the same Spirit and glory that once indwelt the Ark of the Covenant, the same divine Presence that met with the high priest of Israel at the mercy seat.

What does God want to do now that He’s living inside us? The same thing He did through Jesus and the first apostles. He wants to manifest Himself to people through us. He wants to do good to everyone. He wants to heal the sick through our hands. He wants to speak His Word through our mouths. He wants to love people

through our hearts and actions. In other words, He wants us to let Him be God in the earth.

I don't think we fully realize the high privilege we've been given! We haven't really grasped the fact that God's own life is in us and we can give it to anyone who will receive it; that wherever we go, God goes too—in all His miracle-working power.

"But Gloria," you might say, "I'm not a minister. I'm just an ordinary Christian. Why would God want to do miracles through me?"

Because that's part of His dream! He doesn't just want to take up residence inside His people, He wants us to let Him be manifest and brought into this natural realm of sight and sound.

He's always wanted that. Even back in Moses' day, after the Israelites had run away from Him and worshipped a golden calf, He so desired to demonstrate His might and power among them that He said: "Behold, I make a covenant. Before all your people I will do marvels such as have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation; and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord. For it is an awesome thing that I will do with you" (Exodus 34:10, *NKJV*).

Be the Devil's Worst Nightmare

Throughout history, God has done marvels and wonders among His people. But He has not yet done all He wants to do. He's saved the best for last. The greatest miracles that have ever been seen will happen through the Church before Jesus returns.

My, what a day this is! We're

living in the completion of God's dream!

The only thing that can stop Him from manifesting His presence and power through us now is disobedience. So if you have any in your life, get rid of it. If you've been holding onto anything that you know displeases the Lord, drop it. Lay aside the things of the world and dedicate yourself to being God's temple.

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God has a dream He has cherished in His heart since the beginning of time. He wants to be actively involved in all that His people say and do. In *God's Dream for Man* by Gloria Copeland, you'll discover how to let God's desires become living realities in your life—so you can start living in His dream.

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greater and more exciting than anything this world has to offer anyway. So sell out to Him. Make the decision: *I'm going to be a dwelling place of God. That's my calling and I'm going to make it the sole aim and goal of my life.*

Then tune in to the voice of the Holy Spirit. He'll show you how to do it. He'll teach you how to manifest God's presence all the time. He'll turn you into the devil's worst nightmare.

He'll bring someone across your path who has been trapped in darkness for years, someone Satan has spent decades teaching and training. With a ruined life, a messed-up mind and buried in sin, the guy might be one of the finest works of the kingdom of darkness. Yet when you show up as a temple of the Holy Spirit and speak words of life to him, something will happen to him.

The light of the gospel will shine through the deception that's enshrouded him for so many years. The glory of God's Word coming out of your mouth will flash into his spirit. In an instant his days of darkness will all be over. Satan's work will bite the dust and the man will get born again.

That's how dangerous God's temples are to the devil's work!

If you aren't that dangerous yet, just spend some time in the Scriptures meditating on these truths. Give the Lord the opportunity to reveal to you the glory that's within you. Talk with Him. Fellowship with Him. Get in His presence and stay there for a while.

Remember what happened to Moses? He stayed in God's presence until he reflected His glory. He visited with the Lord until the skin of his face shone so brightly with the radiance of the Spirit, he had to put a veil over his face to keep from alarming the people.

The same kind of thing will happen to you and me if we'll draw near enough to God. His glory that's on the inside of us will show up on the outside where people can see it. We can be sure of it because 2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "...we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord" (NKJV).

I've heard prophets of our day prophesy that before Jesus returns, God's glory will be so apparent on the faces of believers, we'll just be walking through the grocery store and people will stop us and ask us to pray for them to get saved. So let's get ready. Let's listen to God, maintain a lifestyle of hearing from heaven and do what He says.

Right now, He's calling us higher. He's saying to us like He said to Moses at Mount Sinai, "Come on up here with Me. Come...live the dream." **VICTORY**

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the Family Business

Christy & Tony Watson



Fourteen-year-old TONY WATSON stared at the clock on the classroom wall, willing the hands to leapfrog ahead to the hour mark. Closing his blue eyes, he heard the teacher drone on and on. *Boring!* :: Not that Tony applied himself in school. He didn't. Hadn't since third grade when his parents divorced. He'd been a good student until his dad moved out. The youngest of four kids, the divorce seemed to hit him the hardest. Although he'd gone through the motions, inside he'd given up—on school...on life...on himself.

When Tony was 12, one of his friends had found a stash of drugs. Smoking pot made everything feel OK again. Now 14, Tony had his own stash.

The bell rang and Tony shot out the door like a bullet. He could hardly wait to get home and mellow out with drugs and alcohol. At home, his mother met him at the door. Only this time there wasn't a smile, a hug or a snack. Her face tight and lips thin, she held his stash in her hands.

I'm so busted!

Taking a deep breath, Tony prepared for the worst.

"Look Tony, if you're going to deal drugs, I'll be your supplier. It's safer that way."

Tony listened in shock as his mother welcomed him into the business.

The family business.

Rolling in Dough

"I married at 14 and had my first child at 15," Tony's mother, Glenda Watson Handy, recalls. "By the time I was 20, I had four kids and no parenting skills. When they were young, I held every office in the PTA. Later, I went to nursing school and earned my license as an LPN. After the divorce, I worked long hours taking as much overtime as possible.

"I remarried to a man who owned a roofing company and I was able to quit my job and stay home with the kids. We hadn't been married long before his brother



talked him into selling his business and investing in meth labs in Texas, Oklahoma and Colorado. Soon, we were rolling in money, but he started using cocaine and became abusive. I got hooked on amphetamines, but I was really addicted to the money. I brought all four of my kids into the business."

By the time he was 18, Tony had \$375,000 in cash and assets, including a dozen El Caminos and a couple of Trans Ams. A drug dealer in his own right, he felt invincible.

Glenda didn't do things in a small way. They weren't street dealers. She supplied methamphetamines to Las Vegas. They were the suppliers police cut deals to catch, and they were also under federal investigation.

When Tony was 22, his mother was busted in a sting operation and sentenced to 25 years in prison. Assigned to maximum security, she listened to the gospel being preached by ministers from Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Alone in her cell, she knew that back home all four of her children were dealing drugs—and that she'd set them on that path. She had set things in motion she had no idea how to stop. She wanted to be a good mother, to set an example and help her kids avoid prison.

But there was nothing she could do. It was too little, too late.



In prison I listened as a minister from KCM talked about *the goodness of God and how much He loved me.*

The Deal of a Lifetime

Two years later, Tony was arrested for drugs and put in Tarrant County Jail in Fort Worth, Texas. When a ministry team from KCM arrived, Tony listened to what they had to say. As a businessman, Tony knew a good deal when he heard one. So he pondered the gospel. Jesus had paid the price for his sins? He was forgiven and his slate could be wiped clean before God? Tony accepted Jesus as Savior and God called him to the ministry.

You're going to serve Me in prison ministry, the Lord told him. Either in prison or out of prison, that part's up to you.

In his cell, Tony read the Bible and other materials provided by KCM. He learned about the authority of the believer and that he was the righteousness of God in Christ. When he read a book by John G. Lake, he started looking for sick inmates so he could lay hands on them. He had a miracle ministry in county jail!

"When I accepted Jesus as my Savior, I didn't make Him Lord of my life," Tony explains. "I still wanted to call the shots and do my own thing. I guess I thought God would sprinkle magic dust on me and my life would change, but that didn't happen. I still had choices to make and I made the wrong ones.

"When I got out of jail, I went to get high and the Lord spoke to me. He said, *You'll never prosper at anything outside of My will again.* I'd made so much money selling drugs I didn't see any way for it to stop. But what the Lord said happened. From 1997 to 2004, no matter what I did, nothing turned out right and I never made money from drugs again.

"Over the next five years, I was in prison five times. To make matters worse, I got busted again. I knew that when I went to court this time, I would get 99 years. So I assumed a false identity and disappeared."

Life on the Lam

Life on the run was dismal. Addicted to drugs, Tony lived for his next high. Destitute, he didn't even own a car. Riding a bicycle one day he heard someone say, "Tony!"

Certain he'd been spotted by a cop, Tony pedaled across a field. Fleeing from the police, he tried to jump a fence and popped his front tire. Leaving the bike, Tony

fled on foot and ran behind a house. He crawled under bushes and climbed a tree where he crouched for hours. When he sobered up, Tony realized no one had been chasing him except his own demons.

Miserable, Tony cried out to God: "I love this stuff! I can't get off of it unless You deliver me and give me a new desire!"

Nothing helped. Years passed while he stayed on the run. Finally, in despair, realizing he had no family to turn to, nowhere to go and no one who loved him, Tony decided to kill himself. Although he'd never used heroin, he bought enough to kill a horse. He shot up five times and saw demons everywhere as darkness overwhelmed him. Dying, he seemed to be nothing more than smoke in the wind. Then the smoke faded into nothing.

When Tony opened his eyes, shock waves rippled through his body as he realized he was alive. At that moment, he surrendered everything to the lordship of Jesus. Then he heard His voice. *I've seen your tears and heard your prayers. I've delivered you and given you a new desire.*

The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had spoken.

A New Creature

"When I made Jesus the Lord of my life, everything changed," Tony explains. "I never went through withdrawals, and I lost every desire for drugs. Instead, I had a burning desire to preach the gospel. I called a man who worked for KCM and told him I was homeless and needed help. He let me move into his house and attend his Bible study. I devoured all of his books and CDs from KCM. I also listened to Bill Winston, Keith Moore, Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis and Creflo Dollar.

"As I studied the Bible, the Lord impressed me to face my past in court and He would set me free. Besides, I was tired of running. I hired an attorney, then walked into court and pled guilty, knowing full well that unless God intervened, I would be sentenced to life in prison. God turned the heart of the judge in my favor—I was sentenced to five years probation! The first thing I did was start preaching in prisons every weekend. I saw men serving 30- and 40-year sentences and just wept."

In 2006, Tony took a job laying gas pipeline. Working

in a field, he saw something blue sticking out of the ground. Digging it up, Tony found a blue crate. Inside he discovered \$50,000 to \$60,000 of pure meth and another drug with a street value of \$30,000 to \$40,000.

“This was every dope dealer’s dream,” Tony recalls. “The devil figured if he could get those drugs in my hands he’d have me. But I didn’t have a single twinge of desire—not for the drugs and not for what they could buy. I called the police, who later confirmed what I’d found was pure ice—the kind of drugs people kill to keep.”

And Then There Were Two

That same year, Tony ministered to a group of prison inmates. Among them was a young woman named Christy. Raised by her grandmother, she’d become rebellious and eventually got into drugs—using, manufacturing and selling meth. The first time she’d been arrested Christy weighed only 86 pounds. When she appeared before the same judge a second time, he sentenced her to six years.

“Christy,” he warned, “I know the potential you have. But if you show up in my courtroom again, I’m going to give you life in prison.”

She knew he meant it.

“In prison I listened as a minister from KCM talked about the goodness of God and how much He loved me,” she recalled.

A few weeks later, Christy made Jesus the Lord of her life, promising to serve Him no matter what.

In her cell she read KCM’s *From Faith to Faith* devotional, *God’s Will for You* by Gloria Copeland and studied the Bible. When Christy stepped out of prison, she was a new creature in Christ. Full of the Word of God, she desired nothing more than to serve Him.

In July 2008, Tony and Christy were married.

The Good Life

“It’s amazing what God can do when one person surrenders to Him,” Tony says. “Since I made Jesus Lord, my children have been restored to me. Every member of my family is born again and serving God. The greatest miracle is still—and always will be—the new birth. We are new creatures in Christ and old things have passed away.”

Today, Tony and Christy Watson, along with Glenda and other family members, minister through their discipleship program, Right Standing With God. Along with their pastor, they minister in prisons through Warriors for Christ. They also host a motorcycle rally, Biker Bash Texas.

For Glenda Handy, the change in her family is nothing short of miraculous.

“The best thing that happened to Tony, Christy and me was going to jail where ministers from KCM presented the gospel and taught us how to live in victory. Had it not been for KCM, none of us would be who we are today,” she says.

“As a mother, it was so hard, knowing my children were addicted and selling drugs because of my influence. The good news is that nothing is impossible with God and it’s never too late to become a godly mother.”

Watching her children serve the Lord, every day is Mother’s Day for Glenda. Once again, the whole family works together. Only this time it’s doing their Father’s business. **VICTORY**



KCM&You

In the Business of **SAVING Lives!**

Except for God’s miraculous intervention and the ministry of KCM, Tony Watson might not be alive today! Tony, his wife, Christy, and his mother, Glenda, once in the business of destroying lives, are now in the business of saving lives and discipling men and women, young and old.

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July 2-7 | Fort Worth, Texas

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GREAT LAKES Victory Campaign

August 9-11 | Milwaukee, Wis.

LIVING VICTORY East Coast

September 14-15 | Orlando, Fla.

Spanish translation available at this event

VENEZUELA Victory Campaign

September 28-29 | Maracaibo, Venezuela

Preregistration is not available for this meeting.

WORD EXPLOSION

October 11-13 | Columbia, S.C.

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November 8-10 | Woodbridge, Va.

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Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

Faith Conference: April 26

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955 Mt. Cross Road | Danville, VA 24540
434-799-8213 | abundantlifeworldoutreachchurch.org

Annual Word of Faith Convention: June 8-9

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

Father's Day: June 17

Word of Life Church
544 Queen St. | Honolulu, HI 96813
808-528-4044 | wordoflifehawaii.com

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion: August 23-24

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

International Faith Conference: September 10

Living Word Christian Center
7600 W. Roosevelt Road | Forest Park, IL 60130
708-697-5000 | billwinston.org

Prayer Mountain Annual Prayer Conference:

October 25-29 (Billye Brim Ministries)
Hilton Branson Convention Center
200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616
417-336-4877 | billyebrim.org

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

Brand New Life Christian Church: April 22

1110-B. W. Taft Ave. | Orange, CA 92865
714-974-7031 | brandnewlifechurch.com

Dunamis Power Ministries: April 22

200 W. Olympic Blvd. | Montebello, CA 90640
562-688-4974 | 562-965-3007
dunamispower247@yahoo.com

Jasper Christian Center: April 29

12696 Highway 78 East | Jasper, AL 35501
205-221-1747 | jasperchristiancenter.org

Living Word Bible Church: May 9-10

3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-964-4463 | livingwordonline.org

The 21st Annual TBN Eurospirit Convention: May 16-18

Victory Outreach Auditorium | Amsterdam, Holland
H.J.E. Wenckebachweg 117 | eurospirit.nl

New Life Fellowship: June 3-5

1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501
713-322-1982 | gotnewlife.org

Only Believe Ministries: June 27

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

Only Believe Ministries: June 28

(Kenton Campus) | 809 S. Detroit St.
Kenton, OH 43326 | 419-675-0027 | obmcc.org

Word of His Power Faith Christian Centre: July 21-22

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

Maranatha Christian Center: September 12

3506 N. Harbor City Blvd. | Melbourne, FL 32935
321-259-5962 | mccmelbourne.org

The Master's Touch International Church: September 16

555 Markham Woods Road | Longwood, FL 32779
321-304-4111 | tmtic.com

The Jim Bakker Show: November 7

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

Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans: November 11

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

Terri Copeland Pearsons

Ecuador Conference: May 24-26

Fraternidad Cristiana | Av Mariscal Sucre S27-126
Pasaje A | Quito, Ecuador
+593.2.2620797 | patricio_venegas_uio@yahoo.com

Riley Stephenson, KCM's Evangelistic Outreach Minister

Big Shanty Outreach: April 18-22

Harvestfire Church International
975 Cobb Place Blvd., Suite 205
Kennesaw, GA 30160 | 770-944-9377
harvestfirechurch.org

Victory Life Fellowship: April 28-29

1635 Bertram St. | Kelowna, BC V1Y 2G5 | Canada
250-862-3044 | victorylifefellowship.net

The Family of Faith Church: May 2

5833-53 Ave. | Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4L4 | Canada
403-340-3880 | 866-740-3880 | familyoffaith.ca

Bonnaroo Outreach: June 5-11

Sojourner's Fellowship | 911 McArthur St.
Manchester, TN 37355 | 800-391-6944
sojournershub.org

Jasper Christian Center: June 22-24

12696 Highway 78 East | Jasper, AL 35501
205-221-1747 | jasperchristiancenter.org

Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons

BEHOLD Conference: May 10-12

Beyond Church | 4510 Highway 71 N.
Alma, AR 72921 | 479-632-2340
BeholdTheLove.com

Venezuela Victory Youth Campaign: August 24-25

Sports Center "Pedro Elias Belisario Aponte"
Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5
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What to do when you see

THE WICKED PROSPERING



by Billye
Brim

The first thing

I do almost every morning is spend time with the Lord. Reading His Word. Meditating. Praying. Much of my prayer is communion with Him in a two-way conversation. And, in fact, I endeavor to keep up this communication with Him throughout the day. As Brother Lawrence advised 400 years ago, “Have lots of little conversations with God.” This is a must for an overcoming life and ministry—the assurance of “no-burn-out” service to the Lord. ∴ So, it was not surprising to hear the voice of the Lord the morning of Dec. 20, 2011. As soon as I awoke, I heard, *Read Psalm 73. I want to speak to you today out of Psalm 73.*

I went to the bookshelf and got the book, *ArtScroll Tehillim*. It is an excellent translation of the Psalms from Hebrew into English. The original Hebrew is on one page and the English translation is on the opposite page. Comments from the sages and noted rabbis are below the Scriptures.

I read the first verse. The Psalm opens with one brief positive statement: “Only God is good to Israel, to the pure of heart.”

In other words, God is only good. He is nothing but good—to Israel, and to the pure in heart. We qualify as the pure in heart. Jesus did that for us. We

are made the righteousness of God in Him. So, praise the Lord, I was off to a good start in hearing what the Lord wanted to speak to me from this Psalm.

But after the first verse, the Psalm seemingly goes downhill. It goes on and on about the wicked. Reading on, I questioned, *Have I missed it?*

“But as for me, my feet were nearly turned astray, like nothing—my steps would have been washed aside; for I envied the madmen when I saw the peace of the wicked” (verses 2-3).

The Psalmist expresses disillusionment and doubts which, Rashi comments, could almost turn one’s path of life toward the direction of disbelief. The wicked prosper so “why should I struggle to purify my thoughts and actions?” (*Rashi; Radak*).

They direct their mouth against Heaven, and their tongue struts on earth (verse 9).

Behold these are the wicked—always at ease, they accumulate wealth (verse 12).

Surely in vain have I kept my heart pure... (verse 13).

Eventually, however, the Psalmist comes to the amazing answer to the enigma: “And when I reflected to understand this, it was iniquity in my eyes, *until I entered into the sanctuaries of God*; then I understood their end. Only on slippery places do You set them...” (verses 16-18).

After more verses declaring the inevitable judgment of the wicked, the place of the righteous is revealed. The righteous one’s confession is:

But I am always with You, You grasped my right hand.
With Your counsel You will guide me, And afterwards,
with glory You will receive me. My flesh and my heart
yearn—Rock of my heart and my portion is God forever.
But as for me, God’s closeness is my goodness, I have put
my refuge in my Lord, HASHEM/ELOHIM, so that I
may relate all of Your mission (verses 23-24, 26, 28).

The *ArtScroll’s* note on the Hebrew word translated *mission*, thrilled me and awakened me to the message the Lord woke me up to receive.

Literally, a מלאך, [malach as in Malachi], *angel*, is a *messenger* charged with transmitting God’s wishes. Similarly the psalmist perceives in his heart a flash of Divine inspiration, which contains a message for mankind. He communicates this faithfully to his audience. The psalmist has no greater desire than to continue to discharge this duty.

I perceived that this Psalm is a “now message” to all of us. We can look around and see the wicked as the *ArtScroll* translates, “They direct their mouth against Heaven, and their tongue struts on earth” (verse 9). On so much of the world’s stage, the wicked seem to prosper in disproportionate measure to the righteous.

But ah! Here we have the answer. The sanctuaries of the Creator are open to us. We can dwell in His sanctuaries—the only place of understanding. We can live above the fray, even in the midst of the fray.

There is so much to glean from this Psalm, but its epitome is in its finale. “But as for me, God’s closeness is my goodness...so that I may relate all of Your mission.”

God has a mission and we are His missionaries! God has a message and we are His messengers!

It is only as we walk in closeness with God that we can relate and transmit His message in these times that try men’s souls. It is only in closeness with God that we can begin to function as manifested sons of God.

Practicing the Presence

When I finished reading the Psalm on that morning in late December, the Lord spoke to me. He began, *An inspired messenger I have made you....* And He went on with detailed instruction concerning my personal part in relating His mission.

This happened just before the beginning of the new year. Thank God for new years. New months. New days. New mornings. New beginnings. So it came at a time when I could easily resolve afresh and anew to consciously live in the sanctuary of God. To abide in the shadow of Shaddai. To practice the presence of God.

As an aid, I use the book, *Practicing His Presence* by Brother Lawrence and Frank Laubach. The timeless testimonies of Brother Lawrence from the 1600s and Frank Laubach in the 1930s, seem alive as I read them. They urge my spirit to surge to the sanctuary of God. Here are a few words from Brother Lawrence that inspire me:

I have found that we can establish ourselves in a sense of the presence of God by continually talking with Him... (my note: The busiest mother, the engaged business person, the confronted soldier, etc., can do this.)

I have always been governed by love without selfish views, and have resolved to make the love of God the end of all my actions. I have been well satisfied with this single motive. I am pleased when I can take a straw from the ground simply for the love of God, seeking Him only and nothing else....

In order to first form the habit of conversing with God continually and of referring all that we do to Him, we must first apply ourselves to Him with diligence. After a little such care we shall find His love inwardly excites to His Presence without any difficulty....

In all things we should act toward God with the greatest simplicity, speaking to Him frankly and plainly and imploring His assistance in our affairs just as they happen. God never fails to grant...assistance....

The shortest way to God is to go straight to Him by a continual exercise of love and doing all things for His sake. [Brim note: for His glory]

Letters to his father journal the beginning of a practice that resulted in Laubach carrying the presence of God in a way that made him well-known and highly honored. Here are some of his inspiring words:

I have done nothing but open windows—*God has done all the rest.*

...this year I have started out to live all my waking moments in conscious listening to the inner voice, asking without ceasing, “What, Father, do You desire said? What, Father, do You desire this minute?” It is clear that this is exactly what Jesus was doing all day every day.

...I feel convinced that for me, and for you who read,

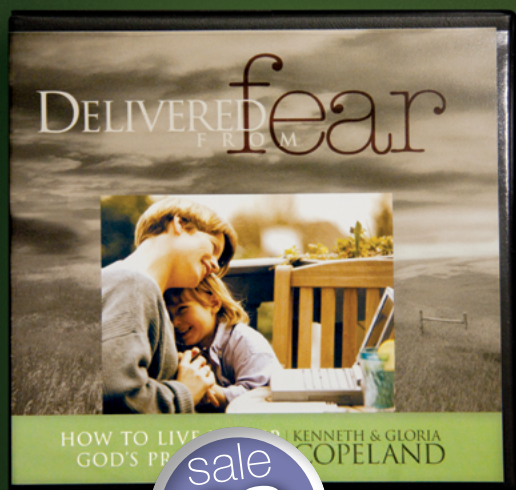
there lie ahead undiscovered continents of spiritual living compared with which we are infants in arms.

Oh, this thing of keeping in constant touch with God, of making Him the object of my thought and the companion of my conversations, is the most amazing thing.... It is working. I cannot do it even half a day—not yet.... It is a matter of acquiring a new habit of thought. Now I like the Lord’s presence so much that when for a half hour or so He slips out of mind—as He does many times a day—I feel as though I had deserted Him, and as though I had lost something very precious in my life.

As I analyze myself I find several things happening to me as a result of these two months of strenuous effort to keep the Lord in mind every minute. This concentration upon God is strenuous, *but everything else has ceased to be so.* I think more clearly, I forget less frequently. Things which I did with a strain before, I now do easily and with no effort whatever. I worry about nothing, and lose no sleep. I walk on air a good part of the time. Even the mirror reveals a new light in my eyes and face. I no longer feel in a hurry about anything. Everything goes right. Each minute I meet calmly as though it were not important. Nothing can go wrong excepting one thing. That is that God may slip from my mind if I do not keep on my guard. If He is there, the universe is with me. My task is simple and clear.

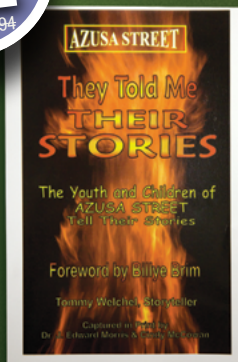
God has a mission. We are His missionaries. We are His messengers. To communicate that message, to manifest Him and His ways, we have entrance into the sanctuary of God. We can abide in the secret place of the Most High. And mystery of mysteries, He abides in us. What understanding! What authority! What peace! What joy! **VICTORY**

Billye Brim is president and founder of Billye Brim Ministries aka Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks. For ministry materials and information write the ministry at P.O. Box 40, Branson, MO 65615; or call 417-336-4877. In Canada, write to Billye Brim Ministries, P.O. Box 20085, Kelowna, BC V1Y 9H2; or call 877-868-8470. Visit her website at billyebrim.org.



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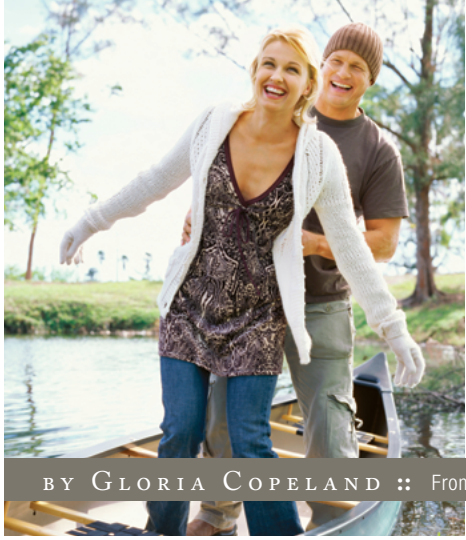
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BY GLORIA COPELAND :: From the *BVOV* Archives: This classic teaching originally appeared in February 1992.

If you've been wandering in the wilderness, your promised land may well seem worlds away. But head for it anyway and you'll quickly discover that it's

CLOSER THAN YOU THINK

If all you want from your salvation is the privilege of going to heaven when you die, you don't need to read this article. Because this article is for people who want more than that.

It's for people who aren't content to get born again and yet still live their earthly lives in sickness and defeat. It's for believers who aren't content to let Satan run their lives and tear up their families and steal their money.

It's for those who don't want to postpone their victory until the sweet by-and-by, who want to live as more than conquerors in the here and now.

If you're one of those people, God is looking for you.

That's right. If you'll read the Bible, you'll see that ever since the world began He's been looking for people who by faith and obedience would allow Him to bless them right here on the earth. He's been looking for people who would allow Him to demonstrate His power on their behalf. People whose supernaturally abundant lives would make them a walking advertisement of the mercy and power of God.

For example, look in the Old Testament at the children of Israel. That's the kind of people He wanted *them* to be. He prepared a marvelous land for them to live in. A land, the Scripture says, that was flowing with milk and honey (Exodus 3:8). It was a land of rest. A place of abundance where no enemy could stand before them and no sickness or disease could stay on their bodies (Exodus 23:25).

In fact, after God brought them out of slavery in Egypt, He wanted them to go immediately into that land. It was only a short journey, and God was ready to take them. But they wouldn't go! Instead they spent 40 years wandering around in the wilderness getting nowhere.

Now I know all that happened thousands of years ago, but do you know what? God hasn't changed one bit since then (see James 1:17). He still wants to lead His people into a place of blessing and prosperity.

The problem is that in many ways His people haven't

changed that much either. And the same thing that kept Israel from going into the Promised Land back then is keeping most of His people out of our promised land today. Do you know what it is?

It's unbelief.

I bet you're thinking, *Well, that doesn't apply to me. I believe in God.* But that doesn't necessarily get you off the hook. Israel believed in God too. They'd seen Him do signs and wonders with their own eyes.

Yet even though they believed *in* God, there were many times when they didn't believe what He *said*. When He told them about the Promised Land, for instance, He assured them they wouldn't have to take it in their own strength. He said: "I will send My terror before you and will throw into confusion all the people to whom you shall come, and I will make all your foes turn from you [in flight].... I will deliver the inhabitants of the land into your hand and you shall drive them out before you" (Exodus 23:27, 31, *The Amplified Bible*).

But when most of the scouts they sent into the land came back and reported there were giants there, they got scared. "Why, we can't try to fight those people," they said. "We look like grasshoppers."

If they had believed God, it wouldn't have mattered how big those giants were, they could have marched right in there expecting God to make those giants scatter in every direction. *But they didn't believe God.* So, instead of following His instructions and going forward to victory, they simply refused to go into the land.

Now I want you to notice something. Their unbelief led them into disobedience, didn't it? Unbelief always does that.

You Don't Have to Be Smart

So often we try to be smart and figure things out instead of just trusting God and doing what He says. And as a result, we end up in disobedience.

Listen, God doesn't ask us to be smart. All He asks us to do is to listen to His Word and obey His voice. Why? Because He knows that if we don't, we'll end up living out our lives on this earth in a wilderness of defeat like that generation of Israelites did.

Read the warning the Apostle Paul gives us in Hebrews 3. There he says:

Then while it is [still] called Today, if you would hear His voice and when you hear it, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion [in the desert, when the people provoked and irritated and embittered God against them]. [For] we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest], because of their unwillingness to adhere to and trust and rely on God [unbelief had shut them out] (verses 15, 19, *AMP*).

In the next verse, Paul says something else that's very important so read it carefully. He says, "Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still holds and is offered [today], let us be afraid [to distrust it]..." (*AMP*).

"Let us be afraid to distrust God's promise." Did you know we're not supposed to fear the devil? We're supposed to fear God. We're to have so much reverence and respect for Him that we would immediately make any adjustment in our lives just to please Him.

When He tells us to do something that looks risky from a natural point of view, we ought to be more afraid of what we'll miss if we don't obey Him than of what will happen if we do.

In other words, when He tells you that you are more than a conqueror (see Romans 8:37) and instructs you to march in and take back some part of your life the devil has stolen from you, you shouldn't sit around debating about whether or not you can do it. You should just start marching!

"Well, I just couldn't do that. After all, I've been defeated in that area of my life for so long that I've got a poor self-image."

If that's what you're thinking, let me tell you something. If you'll believe God, even a poor self-image won't keep you from success. There's one Israelite who proved that. It was Moses.

Moses didn't have a very good self-image. He'd made a terrible mistake early in his career. It was a mistake that drove him into the wilderness and kept him there for 40 years herding someone else's sheep.

No doubt he assumed his ministry as a deliverer of God's people was over. But as far

as God was concerned, he hadn't even started.

In fact, when God came to Moses in that wilderness and gave him his seemingly impossible assignment, He didn't ask for Moses' credentials. He didn't mention his shady history. He just told him to go see Pharaoh and tell him to let God's people go.

Moses, however, was still wrestling with his poor self-image. "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh?" he stammered.

Just Believe God

You know what God said in response? He just said, "Certainly, I will be with thee" (see Exodus 3:12).

He didn't say one word about who Moses was. He just said, I will be with you. You see, it didn't matter who Moses was. What mattered was that the living God was with him.

The same thing is true for you today. When God calls you to do something—whether it's to lay your hands on a sick person or go to another country and preach the gospel—it doesn't matter who you are. What matters is who is with you.

We've got to get away from being so self-conscious, so aware of what we think we can or can't do. That's what keeps us from entering into our promised land. Instead of simply obeying God, we start to wonder, *Now what will people think of me if I do that? What if I command that person to get out of the wheelchair and he doesn't get up? What if I start believing for prosperity and go broke? What about that, God? I won't look too good, will I?*

It doesn't matter how you look! What counts is that you obey God. Your own reputation doesn't count and the sooner you forget it, the better off you'll be.

But you know what's ironic? Once you do that, your reputation gets better. Funny thing. When you lose that desire to protect your image, your image gets better. Why? Because then the image of the Lord Jesus can come forth instead of that puny little image you had of yourself.

"Certainly, I will be with you," God said. And He's said it to us just as surely as He said it to Moses (see Hebrews 13:5).

That's what we need to grab hold of. That's what will cause us to live in the supernatural and do impossible things. We've got to quit hanging on to our own idea of ourselves. We've got to do what Moses finally did—abandon our ways of thinking and start agreeing with God.

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 Gift** we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Go to kcm.org and type Salvation Package in the search box, check the box on the response form in the center of this magazine or call 800-600-7395 inside the U.S. or 817-852-6000 outside the U.S.

We've got to stop looking at things with a natural perspective. Because a natural, worldly perspective will keep us from living the life God intends for us to live. It will keep us from being supernaturally healthy and prosperous and peaceful.

Remember what I said a moment ago about fearing God instead of the devil? Believers who have a natural rather than a supernatural perspective get that switched around. Instead of walking in the fear of God, they walk in the fear of the devil and his work. In the fear of death. In the fear of sickness. In the fear of poverty. And those fears keep them from listening to and obeying the Word of God.

Look again at what the Israelites did when they came out of Egypt. They had just seen a marvelous display of God's miraculous power. Yet as they faced the Red Sea with the Egyptian army at their backs, they turned on Moses and said, "Is it because there were no graves in Egypt that thou hast taken us away to die in the wilderness?"

What could possibly have caused them to doubt God and make such a traitorous statement after all He had already done for them? Fear.

They began to fear what the enemy could do to them, and they were overwhelmed by the drive toward self-preservation. Let me tell you something. That apparently innocent desire you have to protect yourself will cost you dearly when it comes to walking with God.

It infected the Israelites to such a degree that they forgot the signs and wonders. Suddenly they saw themselves as just people again—not people with whom God dwells, but just people.

If you don't watch out, Satan will try to give you that perspective too. When you start believing the promises of God and marching toward victory over sickness or sin or poverty, Satan will try to tell you you're just a natural person. He'll tell you that you can't trust the supernatural power of God to pull you through.

Rest in Him

That's why you need to learn to think with the mind of Christ. You need to learn to live with your thoughts on the things of God instead of the things of the world, to come to a place where you're resting in the power of God.

God wants us to rest in His power. He wants us to know Him so well and trust Him so much that when Satan tries to threaten us, when he tells us we're going to go broke or we're going to die or whatever manipulation he uses, we just laugh at him.

You and I need to come to a place in this world where we trust God with every detail of our lives. When we do that, when we're not trying to preserve or protect ourselves but trusting in the living God to do that for us, we'll be in that place of rest we read about in Hebrews.

Make no mistake though, that place of rest is not a place

of inactivity. In fact, to get there and stay there, you'll have to take more aggressive action than you've ever taken before. The difference will be that your action will be based on God's plans and power instead of your own.

When Moses and the Israelites were caught between the Red Sea and the Egyptian army, Moses appealed to God and God said a remarkable thing.

He said, "Moses, why are you crying to Me? Speak to the children of Israel. Tell them to go forward. You lift up your rod and stretch your hand over the sea and divide it." That's what we need to do, too. We need to hush up our complaining and rise up in faith. When we do, the same thing will happen to us that happened to them. God will give us His plan of action, and He'll deliver the power to carry it out.

If you'll determine to go forward with God, He'll tell you what steps to take. Moses didn't know what to do in that impossible situation. But he did know how to rise up. He knew how to tell the children of Israel, "On your feet. We're going on."

You see, the hard part of walking with God is not the miraculous. Moses didn't have to know how to part the Red Sea. All he had to do was lift up his rod and speak the command. God did all the rest.

I'll tell you what the hard part of walking with God is. It's learning to give Him your time and attention so you can come to know His voice.

That's where the labor comes in. If you're going to march forward in victory toward your promised land, doing what God says for you to do, you're going to have to know what it is He's saying. You're going to have to learn to hear His voice.

The hard part for Moses was not that moment at the Red Sea when he lifted up his staff and commanded the waters. The hard part was the time of preparation, that time when nothing significant seemed to be happening. That time of learning about God, of learning to trust Him, to obey His voice and know His ways.

What if, during those preparation days, Moses had said to himself, *I don't know about all this. I've failed so much already. I don't think I can ever learn to know the voice of God.* What if he had let his past, his opinions or his self-image stop him?

Thank God, he didn't! And you don't have to either. It doesn't matter if you think you've failed or succeeded, or what you think you've done with God in the past. Remember, it doesn't matter who you are...it matters who is with you.

So don't look back. Today is a new day. Determine that you are going to rise up in faith. To throw aside that fear. To throw aside the unbelief that has kept you from taking God at His Word.

Determine to rise up and go forward. Don't put it off any longer. Your promised land is closer than you think. **VICTORY**



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

The Breath of Life

I just wanted to let everyone at KCM know that the Lord healed me! In the past, whenever I came to North Carolina to visit my family I would have major allergy and asthma attacks. I grew up listening to KCM, so whenever these attacks would start I would begin praying and listening to Gloria's teachings on healing. One day I was led to listen to May 14 of the 2011 Canada Victory Campaign and I am totally healed! Praise the Lord! While I was listening I began to breathe easier and all of the coughing stopped. And by the end of the video my sinuses were completely clear and healed. I can now spend time with my family free of sickness!

E.B. :: North Carolina

“...He will cover you with His pinions, and under His wings shall you trust and find refuge; His truth and His faithfulness are a shield and a buckler.” (Psalm 91:4, *The Amplified Bible*)

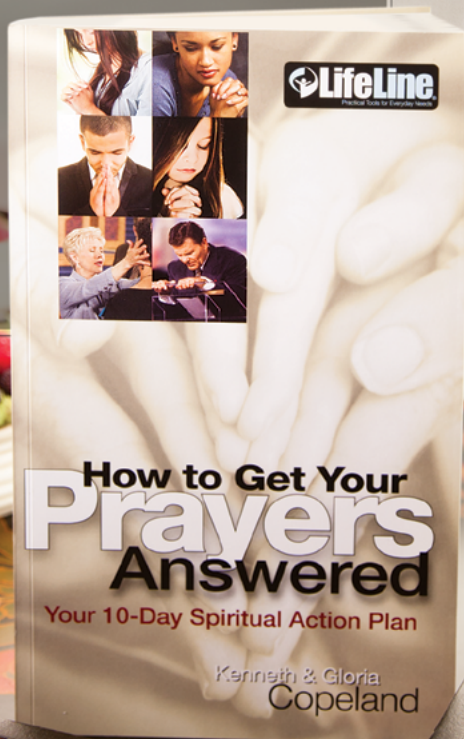
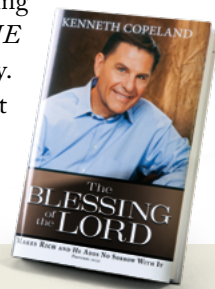
Relationship Without Religion

I rode with my husband for three years in a truck (he was a cross-country trucker). About a year before I stopped, I was looking up at the night sky and asked the Lord to send someone to teach me about Him. I already loved Him, but wanted to *know* Him. In 1990 we came off the road and lived in a little motel suite in Beaumont, Texas. I was adamant that religion didn't need to be on radio or television; I was saved, but didn't know it at the time. I would watch a Sunday morning program and then rush to turn the TV off before the “religious stuff” came on.

One day in 1991, I wasn't fast enough and Kenneth Copeland came on. I stood and listened. I can remember to this day that he was teaching on Ephesians 4. It was the most peaceful hour I'd had in my life up to that point. I sat down and asked the Lord, “Is this who You want to teach me?” Shortly after that, a neighbor lady invited me to church. It was like asking someone who was dehydrated if they wanted a glass of water.

Eighteen years later I'm still at that church, and our pastor is teaching THE BLESSING on Wednesday nights. I'm so excited about *THE BLESSING* book I can't put it down and I'm seeing things differently. It confirms some things I've heard, and is opening up things I thought I knew. I have respected Kenneth ever since that day in 1991 because the Lord led me to him to be my teacher.

N.S. :: Texas



Free From the Bondage of Debt

Between Jeremy Pearsons and his parents teaching on the broadcast about prosperity—including writing the scriptures on our bills—we are almost debt free.

Jeremy was the catalyst that inspired us, and we have paid off \$25,000 in three months. We have one more charge card to pay off, and our car, and we will be debt free. Two years ago, we were looking at foreclosure twice but we just paid off our house. The IRS was trying to audit us, but we got through with no penalties.

B.A.B. :: Massachusetts

No Amount Is Too Small

I was watching the broadcast on an “Offering Day” in December 2011. As I was praying I heard the Lord say, *Give \$1*. This took me by surprise because it was such a small amount. I called in my \$1 offering and a few days later I arrived at work and received a \$2,000 Christmas bonus and a raise. Praise God!

Isabel Chandler :: San Antonio, Texas

You Got My Attention

I was channel surfing and something Brother Copeland was saying caught my attention. I believed in God but never really read my Bible or tried to get to know Him. I never watched the *BVOV* broadcast before, but have been watching since that day, and I ordered the Salvation Package.

C.S. :: Florida

Safety From Above

We had a burden to pray for our community because of gang activity and the drug trade, so we decided to fast and seek the Lord. After completing the fast, we took Communion, proclaiming Isaiah 58:6-12 and reminding the Lord of our commitment to His blood covenant. We were scheduled to eat on Saturday morning, and had been up late praying in the spirit and singing praises. The Lord showed us two demonic strongholds operating in our community—a spirit of violence and a drug devil. We commanded them to leave and knew we had obtained the victory in prayer.

The next morning, my wife, Karen, went grocery shopping. As she was placing the groceries onto the passenger seat of the van, she heard the Holy Spirit say, *Lock the door!* She hit the lock button on the door, which electronically locked all the doors to the van. As she walked around the back of the vehicle to come in between our van and another one, a man who had been hiding on the other side of the van jumped up, looked at Karen, and shouted, “Give me your money or I will shoot you!”

When Karen asked the Lord what should she do, she heard these words: *Slap him!*

Before she could think, Karen asked the man, “Do you know about the blood of Jesus?” When he repeated his demand and threat, Karen said, “I know about the blood of Jesus and I bind you, Satan!”

When he tried to raise his pistol to fire, he couldn't lift his hand. He kept jerking it. Then he started staring at his hand. Then, Karen reached up and slapped the man across the face with all her might! God must have been in it, because she's only 5 feet 2 inches and the man was over 6 feet tall. When the man dropped to the ground on his knees, Karen ran back into the store and a security guard called the police.

A couple of weeks later, a police detective called and said the store cameras had recorded the entire episode and that the man had been identified. A warrant had been issued for his arrest. The detective also told us how three other detectives had continuously replayed the video while laughing hysterically at the little woman who slapped the gunman to the ground!

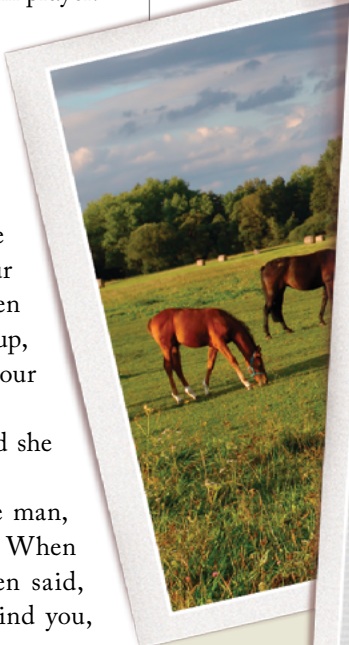
God is good! Psalm 91 proclaimed and believed will stop gunmen, for it is written: “No weapon [gun, knife, fist] that is formed against thee shall prosper...” Isaiah 54:17.

C.W. :: Oklahoma

Desperate, but Delivered

I'm Jewish, and my brother was saved before me. About 20 years ago I suffered a second miscarriage and was depressed, despondent and desperate. I was so desperate, that when my brother sent a box full of Kenneth Copeland's tapes, I listened to them! Then I called the ministry. I received a pamphlet on childbirth from KCM. A month later I was expecting twins.

S.G. :: Orange, Calif.



Imprisoned on the Outside, Free on the Inside

First, I would like to thank God for choosing you to touch millions of people. I was blind, now I can see. I was in the dark, now I am in the Light. I liked to speak doubt and fear, but now I speak faith words. Feelings and circumstances used to move me but not anymore—I listen to what the Word of God says now and do it.

I'm writing this letter to inform you that I'm going home. KCM, you have done a very great job in changing my life. I'm still looking forward to our partnership in the Lord. While here in prison I managed to order some of your books and now that I'm going home I will be able to have more. Truly Jesus is Lord. You made my life, though in prison, feel free. I mean stress free, worry free, filled with joy and praising the Lord. I always pray for you and your ministry team. I love you very much.

M.B. :: South Africa

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Heavenly Utterance

I've been believing God for the gift of speaking in tongues for a while now. I logged onto the KCM website and found the prayer that Brother Copeland wrote about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. I prayed that prayer and asked the Holy Spirit to rise up in me and give me the utterance and praise God, I received the gift and started speaking in tongues. Thank you, Brother Copeland. I am so excited and had to share my excitement with you and your ministry—glory to God!

G.M. :: New York

Not Moved by Circumstances

Praise God! We enjoyed being at the Canada Victory Campaign with you. We have gotten more and more out of debt since. Our vehicle sold, and we paid off two charge-card debts. I was laid off from *two* good-paying but stressful jobs. I decided not to be moved by circumstances. Now I am a site manager over two, four-story condos which doubled my income from my former jobs.

K.B. :: Canada



45 years



Dec. 25,
1994

...And the greatest revival of all shall be in the prisons of the land. Great ministers of the gospel shall come out of prisons all over this nation. All over this world.

*Prophecy given by
Kenneth Copeland*

Reaching a Nation BEHIND BARS

The mission of Kenneth Copeland Ministries is to preach the gospel from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around. Through every available voice, whether in person, by print or electronic media, KCM is taking the good news of Jesus the Anointed One and His Anointing to every nation. And that includes one of the largest segments of American society—the prison population.

The most recent edition of the World Prison Population List, published by the International Centre for Prison Studies, reports that “more than 10.1 million people are held in penal institutions throughout the world,” and that almost half of them are in the United States. The report also stated that, as of May 2010, the U.S. had the highest prison population rate of any country, at 743 prisoners per 100,000 of the national population.

While these numbers may be staggering, the individuals they represent

are not without hope, because each and every day inmates are discovering salvation through Jesus Christ. And KCM and its Partner ministries are reaching out, providing them with the tools they need to discover who they are in Christ...full of hope and love, living lives of victory, purpose and prosperity—even behind bars.

At the Heart of KCM

KCM’s prison outreach began in 1981 through correspondence with inmates. Since then, through letters, magazines, complimentary books and audio teachings, and even special victory meetings in prisons, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland have worked diligently to establish and maintain a more personal relationship with inmates. To make sure all who want ministry receive

it, the Copelands created a special prison ministry staff dedicated to ensuring every letter, order and prayer request is read and responded to promptly. This can be a warm ray of sunshine, especially to inmates eagerly awaiting a response from someone...*anyone*.

It’s their way of being obedient to what the Scripture says in Matthew 25: “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: [for] I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me” (verses 34, 36, 40).

“From the time we began this ministry, that scripture...became very alive in me,” says Brother Copeland. [Prison outreach] was not the mainstream calling of this ministry, but it’s everyone’s calling to a degree. So every door that was open to us, we stepped through it.”

Over the years, KCM has worked hard to share the power of The BLESSED life to those behind bars—from supplying books and other resources for chaplains; to donating \$250,000 to construct a chapel for inmates in Texas; to partnering with others like Mike Barber Ministries, dedicated solely to prison ministry.

In 1995, Barber became the catalyst enabling KCM to broadcast the Eagle Mountain Motorcycle Rally live via satellite to inmates in Texas and 15 other states. In Texas alone, 87 of the 104 state prisons received the satellite broadcast. To more than 150,000 men and women who had access to the broadcast, Brother Copeland’s message was clear and strong: “God is for you, not against you!”

Today, Daystar Television Network maintains the prison satellite network, installing their own dishes and receivers to feed their Word-filled programming into the prisons.

Daystar hopes to expand soon to nationwide coverage.

Meanwhile, KCM receives an average of 15,856 letters a month, and each month an average of 1620 inmates are added to KCM's mailing list. In 2011, KCM sent more than 432,000 Bibles, devotionals and other products to chaplains and prison inmates free of charge.

Jean D., an inmate in Daytona Beach, Fla., wrote to us recently and said, "I'm an inmate and wanted to thank KCM for all the support and prayer over the last year; it has made me see there really is a purpose for my life."

KCM Australia's prison outreach is ministering to over 1,000 inmates in

Australia
New Zealand
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Fiji
Solomon Islands
Japan & Thailand

An International Cause

While more than 56,600 inmates received ministry from KCM's U.S. headquarters, another 7200 receive ministry from KCM's international offices. For example, KCM Australia's prison outreach is ministering to over 1,000 inmates in Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Japan and Thailand. In 2011, KCM Europe's prison ministry team visited eight prisons, ministering to 390 inmates, had 42 confirmed salvations, sowed 2,977 KCM prison Bibles into the lives of inmates and chaplain teams, and sent more than 2600 copies of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazines into prison chapels and libraries in Europe.

A letter we received from Irene M. in Istanbul, Turkey, perhaps speaks the thoughts and feelings of many like her who are incarcerated around the world. She wrote:

I thank the Lord for this opportunity to share a word or two with you and the entire prison ministry team: God has continued to be faithful and gracious to me, and my husband in the men's prison, and our entire family back home. I am very grateful—I don't take it for granted. I keep considering myself very much blessed despite the incarceration situation my husband and I are living in right now. We both continue to give our lives to Him fully, to do His will.

Thank you all for your continuous guidance in way of letters and making inspirational books and materials available to us as often as you do. The monthly letters bring us together in worship...and so thank you for all your effort to make sure the message reaches us, despite the distance.

The books, too, are such a blessing to go through.... I have no words to express my gratitude toward the ministry for what you are doing; so thanks a lot and may you all and your family be mighty blessed. I am honored to be a part of your family till the very end of this race on earth, to eternity, in Jesus' Name.

KCM's prison ministry is one more way we're here for you—no matter who you are, where you are or what you've done. And it's one more way our Partners are there for each other.

"We've been ministering in prisons for a long time and we know it makes a difference," said Gloria Copeland. "We want to thank you, our Partners, because you supply all the material—whatever we have, [the inmates] can have—and you're the ones who help us do that." **VICTORY**



JOHN
COPELAND,
CEO

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Project Manager—Marketing

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Other positions available. Go online for more information!

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Customer Service Representative

Senior Video/Network Maintenance Engineer

Developer/Systems Administrator

Events Technical Coordinator

Call Center Supervisor

Executive Assistant

Mail Processor

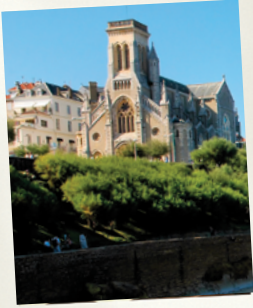
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“Seeing is vital!

That’s why at the same time the Lord told me about how marvelous this year was going to be for His people, He said, You tell them to get their eyes on Me. I have a plan...and they can walk in it!”



WHAT ARE YOU SEEING?



I started saying this at the beginning of 2012,

and I’m going to keep on saying it because I heard it from the Lord and it is such good news: This is going to be the finest, most outstanding year we’ve ever experienced! It’s a time of great wealth and great opportunities. It’s a time for glorious “suddenlies,” for full recovery of everything that’s been lost, and a release of heaven’s increase. ∴ This year is going to be so exciting, so full of overtaking blessings, that when it ends, instead of being glad the year is over, as we’ve been all too often in the past, we won’t want to see it go!

BY KENNETH COPELAND

This is going to be the finest,

most outstanding year we've ever experienced! It's a time of great wealth and great opportunities. It's a time for glorious "suddenlies," for full recovery of everything that's been lost, and a release of heaven's increase.

"Oh, Brother Copeland, I wish I could believe that," you might say. "But so far things aren't looking very good. My circumstances are just as bad as they were at this time last year and I can't see how they're going to change. Do you think what the Lord said about 2012 really applies to me?"

What I think doesn't really matter. It's what you believe that counts. All I can tell you is that the day the Lord spoke this word to me, He specifically said it wasn't just for me and my family. *This is for everyone who will believe it and take it*, He said. So if you're not enjoying the fulfillment of this, it's not because God didn't include you.

"Well, what's the problem then, Brother Copeland?"

You already identified it. You said you "can't see" 2012 being a great year for you.

Seeing is vital! That's why at the same time the Lord told me about how marvelous this year was going to be for His people, He said, *You tell them to get their eyes on Me. I have a plan...and they can walk in it!*

Although those instructions were quickened to me by the Holy Spirit in a fresh way for this year, they're not new. We find them in the Bible again and again. Take what God said to Joshua when he was about to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success [or deal wisely in all the affairs of life]" (Joshua 1:8, *New King James Version*).

According to that verse, you have to see or "observe" what God says about your prosperity and success before you can do it. You can't do it if you can't see it.

Think about the situation Joshua was facing when the Lord said that to him and you can understand why it's true. He was about to go into Canaan and fight an enemy he hadn't seen in 40 years. The last time he'd laid eyes on the giants there, they looked so big they hardly seemed human. They lived in walled cities that appeared impossible to conquer.

This was serious business! Heading into combat, every scrap of military intelligence Joshua had was bad news. The only recon team he'd ever known anything about

had described this foe as utterly undefeatable. What was he going to do?

If he'd been like most people, Joshua would have focused on his negative mental pictures. He would have looked at the problems those city walls presented and thought, *I can't see how we're ever going to do this!* He would have been whipped before he began.

But God got hold of him and redirected his eyes. He said, "Joshua, look at Me! Don't look at the enemy. Don't look at the circumstances. I'm the One you need to pay attention to. Get your eyes on Me and meditate day and night in My Word. You get it in your mouth and don't say anything else. Don't think anything else. Look at Me until you see what to do."

Sure enough, Joshua obeyed. He kept listening and listening to The Word. He kept meditating on the fact that God had said to him:

- "Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you..." (Joshua 1:3, *NKJV*).
- "No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you" (verse 5, *NKJV*).
- "Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them" (verse 6, *NKJV*).
- "Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (verse 9, *NKJV*).

As he put his attention on those words, Joshua began to see them coming to pass—not with his physical eyes but with his mind. He got his eyes full of God. He got his mouth full of God. He got his heart full of God. Then he went out and conquered Canaanites left and right. He faced every battle without fear because he'd already seen the victory. He'd won it inside himself before he ever went to fight!

If Jesus Can Do It So Can You

Although we don't all have exactly the same assignment Joshua did, God has given us all essentially the same instructions. He tells us in Proverbs 4:20-23 (*NKJV*): "My son, give attention to my words; incline

JESUS IS LORD

KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES 2012

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your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh.”

Hebrews 12:1-2 says it this way: “Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame...” (NKJV).

Since Jesus is The Word made flesh, when we have our eyes on Him, we’re looking at The Word; and when we keep our eyes on The Word, we’re seeing Him. So, let me ask you something:

What are you looking at this year? What are you seeing?

Are you seeing your past failures? Are you seeing your present circumstances? Are you seeing your fears about the future? Or are your eyes fixed on Jesus and The Word of God?

“Well, I try to keep my attention on Jesus but my circumstances are too distracting. I just can’t do it.”

Yes, you can! The Bible says, “He who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him” (1 Corinthians 6:17, NKJV), so you have Jesus’ spirit inside you. When you were born again, you received His faith in the same measure. He has sent the same Holy Spirit to enable you who enabled Him. So if He could *despise*—that means “pay no attention to or give no authority to”—the shame of the cross and keep the joy of God set before Him, you can do the same with the contrary circumstances coming against you.

“But Brother Copeland, that was Jesus—He was God!”

I know, but He didn’t do those things as God. When He came to earth, He emptied Himself of His divine privileges and operated as the Son of Man. He became subject to everything you and I are subject to and said, “...the Father who dwells in Me does the works” (John 14:10, NKJV). “The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do” (John 5:19).

Sometimes we read those scriptures and think Jesus saw the Father in a different way

devotion # 164:

faith works by love

fuel your faith

than we do. We think He could see God with His physical eyes. But that's not true. The Father was just as invisible to Jesus in the natural, physical world as He is to us. So Jesus had to do what Joshua did. He had to do what we have to do. He had to stay in The Word of God, listen to it and meditate on it, until He could "see" something.

If that sounds strange to you, as if it's some super spiritual ability you can't relate to, let me assure you that you do it every day. So do I.

For instance, I can close my eyes right now and see with perfect clarity the little house Gloria and I bought back in 1986, in the mountains of Colorado. I can see the driveway circling around in front of it. I can see the picture window in the living room that perfectly frames the ski mountain on the other side of the valley. I can see the deck off the front porch and the burnt orange tile in the mudroom just inside the door where you can leave your muddy boots and stuff.

I'm looking at that little house right now and to some extent so are you just by reading my description of it. But you know what? The house doesn't exist anymore! We sold it in 1999, and the guy who bought it took a bulldozer and wiped it off the face of the earth.

But we can see it anyway, can't we? We can turn words into inner images, and see with the eyes of our mind...which is no big deal when all we're looking at is a little mountain house in Colorado. But when we're looking at Jesus and the truth of His Word, it changes everything.

I'm living proof of it.

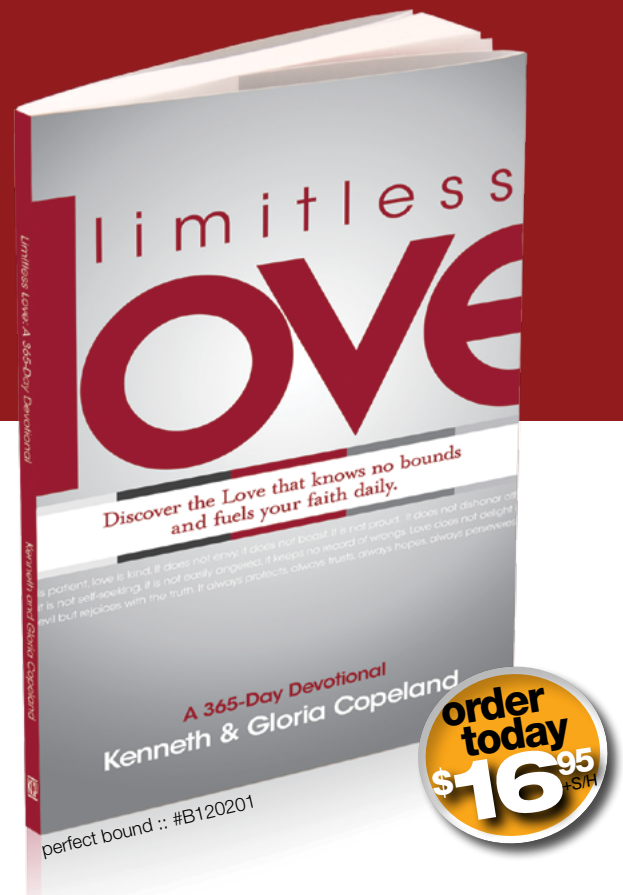
From Poor to Prosperous

Some 45 years ago, when the Lord began preparing me to preach and told me to go to Oral Roberts University, I saw myself as a total failure. I'd failed at everything I ever attempted to do—failed miserably and in a big way. By the time I married Gloria, I was so deep in debt, so broke and so lacking in prospects I'd created my own personal third-world economy.

Having lost money on every business venture I'd undertaken, I really didn't want to try anything else because I knew in advance it was going to flop. Then I'd just have another mess to clean up.

I knew it was true because I could see it. I had my eyes on failure and I was looking at it all the time.

As a result, when I started school at ORU our family needed everything. Our car was completely worn out. I owned one suit that had been altered so many times it



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didn't look right anymore. We'd just moved into a house so run down Gloria refused to unpack for two weeks. We had two little children to take care of and no money in the bank.

Then one day I heard Brother Kenneth E. Hagin preach Galatians 3:13-14: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ..."

I didn't know back then what THE BLESSING of Abraham was, but I decided if it belonged to me I'd better check it out. So I opened my Bible and started reading about it. What I found startled me so much I didn't have the guts to finish it. The more I read, the richer Abraham got. As Genesis 13:2 said, He was "very

rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

Oh Lord, this can't be right! I thought. *I'm old Mr. Failure himself. How can I live in that kind of BLESSING?*

For a while, I said that to myself every time I read it. Then I'd go back and read the same thing again. I kept putting it in front of my eyes.

I also kept it in my ears. I went to Brother Hagin's headquarters, picked up all the teaching tapes he had available at the time, and spent seven days out in our garage listening to them. I was so focused on The Word, I told Gloria, "When supper is ready, let me know. If I'm not there in five minutes, you and the kids go ahead and eat."

At night I'd go to bed and the next morning I'd go back out to the garage and turn on the tape player again.

When Brother Hagin would quote a scripture, I'd stop the machine, look up the verse for myself and read it. I didn't just read one verse, either. I read the whole book that contained it.

The more I read, listened to and saw what was in those tapes and in the Scriptures, the more the image of it grew in me. I began to see things the way God sees them, looking through His eyes. I began hearing through His ears.

One day it hit me. I went running into the house with my Bible opened to Galatians 3 shouting, "Gloria, look! Look at this! We're rich! We're rich! My God, woman, do you understand this? According to this Word, we're rich now. It's just a matter of time!"

All of a sudden I didn't see myself as a poor boy. I didn't see myself as a failure going somewhere to flop. I saw myself as BLESSED!

Of course, that wasn't the end of the matter. We had to stay with it. Faith comes by hearing The Word so we had to keep meditating The Word and letting our faith get bigger. As we did, Jesus—the Author and Finisher of our faith—kept developing us.

Once we got going in the ministry and I was preaching nearly seven days a week, sometimes two or three times a day, He told me to go on the radio. Do you know what my first response was? "Lord, I just can't see how I'm going to do that!" (Sound

LOOKING LIKE JESUS
BEGINS WITH LOOKING AT JESUS

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familiar?) “I’m busy night and day as it is. I’m going to wind up making radio tapes in the middle of the night.”

For a while, that’s exactly what I did...because it’s all I could see.

I also struggled with the financial aspect. Our ministry budget for the entire year at the time was \$350,000. If I followed God’s instructions (which I did) and went on every gospel radio station in North America (which I did), my radio bill alone would be \$400,000 (which it was). I’d promised the Lord not to use my airtime to ask for money. How was I going to pay the bill?

I didn’t know. So I stayed in the Scriptures and meditated God’s Word some more. As I did, I learned to concentrate on my giving and I began to see how the money was going to come. I’d think, *Yes! That’s it, right there. I see it!*

Then the Lord told me to go on television. At first, I couldn’t imagine how I was going to do that either. But I put my eyes back on The Word and before long I could see it—and we’ve been on television ever since.

You can do the same thing in your own life. If you

haven’t been seeing the glorious things God promised for 2012, you can turn things around. You can start right now by saying this and meaning it with all your heart:

Lord, I believe this is a year of great opportunities for me. I believe it’s a time of glorious suddenlies and overtaking blessings. I believe THE BLESSING of Abraham is mine through Jesus Christ and that BLESSING makes me rich in every way. I open my heart to You, Lord Jesus. Let me know how to change and what to change in my life. I am Yours to command. I put Your Word first place. I attend to it. I incline my ear unto Your sayings. It is my will, Sir, to say only what I hear You say and do only what I see You do. I rejoice now, knowing that as I meditate Your Word day and night, I will begin to see this as my greatest year yet—a year of prosperity and good success that brings glory to You.

I receive it and thank You for it now in Jesus’ Name. Amen and amen! VICTORY

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CONSIDER THE LILIES OF THE FIELD, HOW THEY GROW;
THEY TOIL NOT, NEITHER DO THEY SPIN: AND YET I SAY
UNTO YOU, THAT EVEN SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY WAS
NOT ARRAYED LIKE ONE OF THESE.

the Seeking Life

All the days of my early life, though I believed in God, I didn't know God actually cared for me. I didn't realize He was interested in whether a person had a job or decent clothes, or the prosperity of every aspect of this life. | But one day, I began to find out some things about God! | In the little house where we lived as newlyweds, with a rented rollaway bed, a metal table Ken made in high-school shop class, and a coffeepot—the only way I had to cook potatoes—I discovered God. For lack of anything else to do, I picked up the Bible Ken's mother had given him, opened it up and read the inscription: "Ken, precious, seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these other things will be added unto you (Matthew 6:33)."

BY GLORIA COPELAND



Yes, I did believe in God and didn't expect He would ever lie to me. I thought, *This is for me. I need this. I need to know this.* I had a lot of things that needed to be added to me. So, I turned to Matthew 6 and began to read: "Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?" (verse 26).

I thought to myself, *I didn't know God cared for the birds. I didn't know He fed the birds. If He feeds birds, if He cares for them, then He would care for me.* This was a revelation to me. It was an insight I did not have, and it was all good news. I asked the Lord that day to take my life and do something with it. Now, I had never heard the term "born again" that I remember—but that day, with those simple words, I *was* born again.

God got me that day! He got my attention because I had so many needs in my life. But, more than that, He got my heart. I began to realize there was so much to know about Him that I did not know, and He made me want to know everything about Him I could find out. On that day, He started me on a new way of life—a life of discovering His will and His ways—a seeking life.

IT'S ALL GOOD

I soon discovered all the good things I was looking for in this life would come from only one source, and that was God. He is the focus of the seeking life!

He started me out with that scripture, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...." That was all I knew to do. I began to seek Him. I became a student of His Word, and I became consumed by God and His Word.

To this day, every time I open the Bible I do it with purpose and with great expectation. I expect to hear from Him!

That's how Ken and I approach His Word—knowing that as we seek Him, we'll find something about Him we've never known before. We expect Him to speak to us. I'll say, "Ken, look." Or, Ken will say to me, "Look, Gloria. Look what I saw in the Word." It's a treasure hunt for us, and we always uncover something good!

I have no doubt about Matthew 7:7, "Ask, and it shall be given you; *seek, and ye shall find*; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." As I have discovered God's will for my life through His Word, I have asked Him for many things in these more than 42 years of ministry, and He has given me what I've asked for. I have sought healing and prosperity for myself and others and have found everything I need. I have become a child who boldly knocks on my Father's door because I know He is a Father who gladly opens every door to His children.

As I have lived seeking Him, I've discovered God is good and He loves us. His deepest desire is to give His children a good life filled with good things—to do the highest good for us.

God wants to add all good things to us. What things? Look at Matthew 6:25-32 and you'll see.

Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

He knows what we need and He wants to give us those things: food, shelter, clothing, well-being—all the necessities to have and enjoy life. And, according to these scriptures, we don't ever have to worry about these things.

NO WORRIES

Just like most people who don't know God cares for them, I had always thought it was my duty to worry. And I had gotten pretty good at it, fretting about things: *How are we going to make it? What are we going to do about furniture? Am I ever going to get a cookstove?*

Then Matthew 6:31-32 became real to me: "Therefore do not worry and be anxious, saying, What are we going to have to eat? or, What are we going to have to drink? or, What are we going to have to wear? For the Gentiles (heathen) wish for and crave and diligently seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows well that you need them all" (*The Amplified Bible*).

Do not worry, Jesus said! We don't have any reason to worry. We have a Father who makes sure all our needs are met. We are not like the people in this world who worry and seek after the basic necessities because they are without a Father to take care of them. Besides that, we know all the

worry in the world will not provide anything we need.

We have a Father who knows exactly what we need every day of our lives and He takes pleasure in loading us up with all good things to enjoy!

Jesus went on to say those words in Matthew 6:33 that “got” me that day—“But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides” (*AMP*).

In other words, don’t fret and worry and use all your energy seeking the *things*. Relax, focus on Him and put your energy into finding out all the wonderful things you can about your heavenly Father and how He provides for you. Do that and the *things* will come to you!

FIRST THINGS FIRST

The No. 1 thing in your life is the kingdom of God and His right ways. We need to know how God does things because the way He does everything is right! That’s what the whole Bible is about. So we seek.

I have discovered the seeking life is a life intent on finding what it’s looking for. One meaning of the word *seek* is “to go after,” which is what I have done from that day in that little house. But *seek* also means “to search for; to try to find; to look for; to go to; to resort to; to explore; to ask or inquire of; to learn or discern.” The Hebrew word for *seek* means “to inquire or require” and its root meaning is “to tread or to frequent.”

Seeking is not a casual or part-time activity. It’s a full-time job that requires our full attention. And when we understand that everything we have need of comes from seeking God and His kingdom (according to what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33), we will be wise to invest the time and effort. Every day of our lives we can be on a great treasure hunt that’s guaranteed to bring results!

Seeking Him first means before you do anything else you spend time with Him and His Word—before you start your day, before you go to work, before you wake the kids. And I’m here to tell you, it works!

Years ago the Lord led me to spend the first hour of every day with Him. That single act of obedience has made all the difference in my life and in the lives of my family. God promises when we do what the Word says we’re going to always come out on top. I can look at my life, Ken’s life and the lives of our children and grandchildren and say, “Thank You, Lord. You are true to Your Word!”

Ken and I have been living this life of seeking God for more than 42 years. That’s longer than the children of Israel were in the wilderness. We haven’t been in a wilderness—we’ve been walking a blessed life of continual

increase. And we have no plans to ever change our direction. He will always be our first priority.

KEEPING ON

The *New Living Translation* of Matthew 7:7 says, “Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.”

That’s exactly what Ken and I have planned for the rest of our days here on earth. We’ll never quit doing that. We know God has more to give, more to show us, and more for us to do than one lifetime can discover. So, we’ll keep on asking, seeking and knocking; and God will keep on giving, revealing and opening.

This is the most solid plan I can imagine to sit back and enjoy our “golden years.” It’s the plan that will keep us going when others may be ready to quit. It’s the plan that will keep increase coming to us, and allow us to keep sowing seed into the work of the gospel.

We have not spent our lives seeking Him just to receive blessing only for us and our family. Yes, we have discovered God’s will and His ways for our lives. But we haven’t stopped there. That has never been God’s plan for anyone who seeks Him.

His plan for all His children is that we help others find Him—help *them* get on the path to the seeking life.

Whether we are called to a worldwide ministry or a ministry to our neighbors, we can help someone find God’s will for them. We can help them develop their faith. We can help them become seekers of His kingdom. We can help them receive the things God has for them.

Little did Ken’s mother know the Bible inscription she wrote for *him* would turn *Gloria* into a God-seeker!

Seeking God is the key to a good life, a happy life, a blessed and abundant life. It’s a life that goes after the things of God and receives all He has! It’s a life that enjoys every day because every day God shows us something about Himself.

The seeking life gets up every morning asking, *God, what do You want me to do today? What would You like to show me?* He will tell you, and then you take one step at a time! Just go after it and keep on going!

God has a lot in store for you—everything you will ever need plus the most amazing treasures along the way. All you have to do to discover His plan is begin today to seek Him. **VICTORY**



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Sunday, May 6
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Kenneth Copeland and Rick Renner

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Do It God's Way—
A Mother's Day Special
Gloria Copeland

May 14-18

10 Awesome Days of Prosperity—Week 1
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sunday, May 20
Living the Good Life
Kenneth Copeland

May 21-25

10 Awesome Days of Prosperity—Week 2
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Sunday, May 27
Choose God and Live
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May 28-June 1

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