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VICTORY

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January 2013

Delilah and Jeffery Helms saw their problems begin to vanish when they turned in earnest to God, seeking from Him a heavenly grant.

Living on God's Heavenly Grant

by Melanie Hemry

inside

KENNETH COPELAND

The Answer That Never Changes

GLORIA COPELAND

Connected to THE BLESSING

new

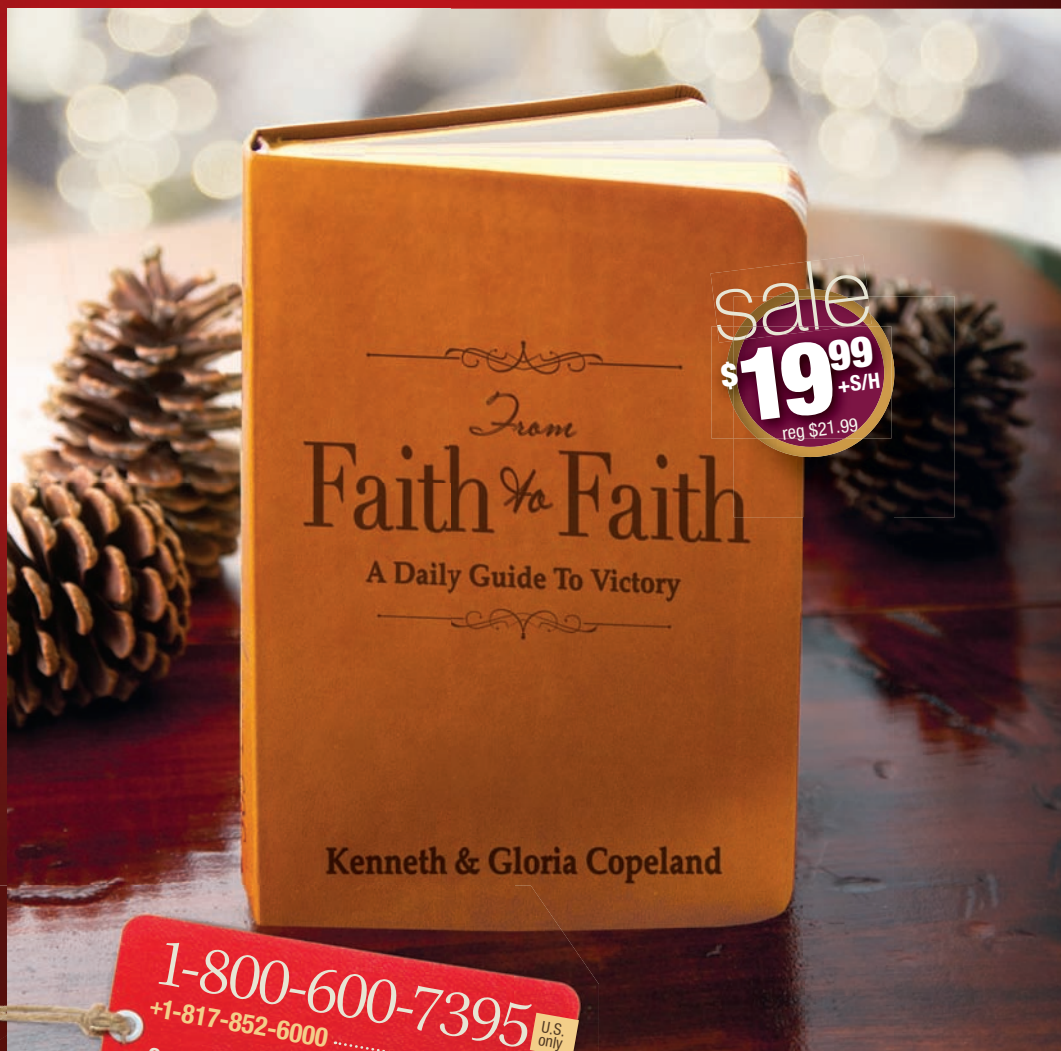
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The Answer That Never Changes

by Kenneth Copeland

Jesus has answered with four words the questions that all the newscasters and pundits in the world cannot answer with a million. He says, "Have faith in God!"

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When The LORD first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 40 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in everyday life.

Kenneth & Gloria



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Connected to THE BLESSING

by Gloria Copeland

Everything Jesus has and every victory He's won belong to you. He has redeemed you from the curse and given you THE BLESSING.

Pass this magazine on to a friend. It's a great way to recycle!

THE ANSWER

that never changes

by Kenneth Copeland



Leave it to Jesus to answer with four words the questions that all the newscasters and pundits in the world can't answer with a million. Leave it to Him to solve today's complex problems with a scripture so simple even a child can understand it, and so broad it covers every possible situation.

"Have faith in God," He said in Mark 11:22.

"But Brother Copeland, what are we going to do about the economy?"

Have faith in God.

"What are we going to do about the government?"

Have faith in God.

"What are we going to

do if countries around the world go bankrupt? What will we do if there's a flu pandemic? What will we do if oil prices continue to skyrocket?"

Have faith in God.

To have faith in God is to have faith in His WORD. The two can't be separated because God and His WORD are one.

“Oh, come on, that can't be the answer to everything,” someone might argue. “Jesus said those words 2,000 years ago and times have changed since then. Problems are more serious than they used to be. This world is in a bigger mess.”

I know it. That's what's so great about Mark 11:22. The person who bases his life on it never has to change his lifestyle to suit the times, the economy or anything else.

Faith in God never changes because God never changes. He's the same yesterday, today and forever!

Gloria and I can personally attest to it.

We first started learning how to live by faith more than 45 years ago. I was a student at Oral Roberts University and we were just getting started in ministry. We needed everything back then. We didn't have much of an income and, although God had called me to preach, I didn't have a single invitation.

But we'd gotten the revelation that Jesus is the Source of our life; He's the Supplier of all our needs and desires. So we sat down together at the little table Gloria had made, took Communion, and committed ourselves and our ministry to The LORD.

We promised Him we'd never ask for a place to preach, we'd never preach anywhere based on a financial arrangement, and we'd never ask or pressure anyone for money. “LORD, You are the Source of this ministry,” we said. “We will give and expect a harvest, trusting You to meet all our needs.”

That day, with a quality decision that changed our lives forever, we committed to have faith in God.

While we were still praising and worshiping The LORD at our little homemade table, the phone rang. I answered to find it was my pastor, Brother Harold Nichols, in Fort Worth. He was calling to ask me to preach at his church a few days hence.

I accepted the invitation, went to Fort Worth intending to preach Friday,

Saturday and Sunday—and wound up preaching a series of meetings that lasted three weeks! We had a glorious time and I've been busy ever since.

Of course, that was just the beginning for us. We've learned a lot more about having faith in God since then (and I'm sure we'll be learning for all eternity) but there are three things in particular we've discovered that every Christian needs to know.

1. Have Faith in The WORD

The first is this: To have faith in God is to have faith in His WORD. The two can't be separated because God and His WORD are one. As John 1:1 says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, *and the Word was God.*”

To have faith in The WORD means I believe I am what The WORD says I am, I can do what The WORD says I can do, and I can have what The WORD says I can have.

I found out just how important it can be to believe those things one day just a few months after I started preaching. Gloria and I had just come home after ministering on the road, and my dad—who was handling the ministry finances at the time—greeted us with some potentially alarming news.

Handing me a strip of adding machine paper with the figure \$5,000 printed on it in red, he said, “We need this much money right now!”

It doesn't sound like a lot these days, but back then \$5,000 seemed like an impossible amount. I'd never seen that much money in my whole life.

I immediately went into Dad's office, turned his chair around, got on my knees and put my Bible in front of me next to that strip of paper with the red numbers on it.

Turning from one scripture to another, I reminded myself that God's WORD says He'll supply all my need “according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:19). I reminded myself that Jesus said, “Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you,” and “what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them” (John 16:23; Mark 11:24).

Then, I started reading the prayer Paul prayed in Ephesians 3:14-16: “For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory....”

Faith comes by hearing The WORD, so as those words come out of your mouth and into your ears and your mind, they'll produce faith in your heart.



That's about as far as I got when something went off in me.

If God will grant me according to the riches of His glory, I thought, I can write out a heavenly grant for \$5,000 and simply believe I receive it!

Then I went back to John 16:23 and read it in the *Amplified* translation. “And when that time comes, you will ask nothing of Me [you will need to ask Me no questions]. I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, that My Father will grant you whatever you ask in My Name [as presenting all that I Am].”

Then, Mark 11:24, *The Amplified*



Bible: “For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].”

I’m telling you, I came out of that office hollering as loud as I could. Everyone started asking what happened, and I said, “We just got our bills paid, that’s what happened! I got a grant from heaven!”

Sure enough, the money came right on in just a few days later.

That wasn’t a one-time event, either. Gloria and I have been writing out heavenly grants ever since. Instead of sending appeal letters to people and begging for offerings, we’ve always increased the income of this ministry by putting our faith in The WORD and saying, “LORD, from this time forward, we must have so much per month to do what You’ve called us to do. We believe we receive it and thank You for it, in Jesus’ Name.”

2. Have Faith in Love

Another important thing I’ve learned about living by faith is this: Since “God is love,” to have faith in God, we must have faith in love. We must believe in the love God has for us, and have confidence that when we keep His command to “love one another,” we’ll be blessed as a result (1 John 4:8, 11).

In other words, we must believe that, in the end, love always prevails.

I’ve seen the love way win in my life and ministry again and again. One time many years ago, I saw it transform one of the stickiest situations I’d ever encountered. I was preaching a series of meetings in a little town and things had been going well for a while.

If you’ll keep believing God and operating by faith in His WORD, you’ll never have to change your lifestyle to suit the times.

In a week’s time, the attendance had increased to about 300 people. That was a big crowd in those days!

One night, however, as I was preaching on the reality of righteousness, having a great time, a woman stood up and interrupted my message by speaking out loudly in other tongues.

Although I appreciate the gifts of the Spirit, I knew right away something wasn’t right. It felt like someone had thrown a wet blanket over the whole room.

“Ma’am, would you hold that for just a moment, please?” I said.

She didn’t pay any attention to me. She just kept talking on and on. In fact, she got louder.

So I asked again...and she ignored me again. Then I told her. Again, she just got louder.

I didn’t know what else to do so I just waited for her to finish. Then I said, “Well, we lost where we were in the Spirit, so I’m just going to take this opportunity to teach you about this...”

Once again, I was interrupted, not by the woman but by the man sitting next to her. “Brother Copeland,” he said, “she can’t hear you. She’s stone-deaf.”

I found out later, he’d been using this woman to destroy meetings like mine on a regular basis. He’d take her into services and tell her, “I’ll let you know when it’s time for your gift.” Without her ever realizing what was going on, he’d used her to disrupt the services of traveling ministers, turn the crowd against them and drive them out of town.

The same thing was about to happen to me. The attitude of the congregation had already shifted. They were feeling sorry for her and mad at me. I didn’t know what to do. I was young in ministry and had never faced anything like this. So I did what my spiritual fathers—Oral Roberts and Kenneth E. Hagin—had taught me to do: I stopped, got quiet for a moment, and looked on the inside of me. When I turned inward, the word of The LORD came to me. *Call her up and lay hands on her. I’ll open her ears.*

I never would have thought of that on my own. I was too irritated about the situation. But God wasn’t because He is love.

So I did what He said, He did what He promised, and she got healed. She went home that night with her hearing restored, and the people went home having seen a miracle.

Now, that’s what I call a great meeting—and it happened because I had faith in God and faith in love.

Go the love way. It wins every time!

3. Have Faith in Light

Here’s a third thing I’ve learned over the years: The Bible not only says, “God is love,” it also says, “God is light” (1 John 1:5). Therefore, having faith in God is having faith in light. It’s believing that:

- There is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known. (Luke 12:2)

- The Spirit of truth...will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. (John 16:13)

- He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. (1 John 2:10)

When you have faith in light, you can rest assured that everything you need to know to triumph in every situation will be revealed to you. You can be confident that the devil can’t hide anything from you to keep you in bondage and under the curse. You know that because you’re a child of the

light, the wisdom of God is inside you.

Personally, I found out years ago, if I have faith in the light, I don't have to depend on the world or the news media to get my information (which is good because they don't know anything until after it happens). I can look to God and He will show me things to come.

That gives me an edge!

God can take \$1.50 and turn it into enough wealth to take care of me for the rest of my life, because He knows where this economy is going. He has inside information.

I don't have enough space here to tell you how much—just in terms of dollars and cents—that kind of information has meant to this ministry over the years. But I can tell you this: By giving us light about how to handle our finances, God started preparing us for the crash of 2008 decades in advance.

He taught us how to build this ministry debt free so that when people with big mortgages were finding themselves upside down, we didn't have a care in the world. He showed us how to generate our own electricity with natural gas that we pump from ministry property, so when energy prices went through the roof, we didn't miss a beat. He gave us our own water wells and our own sewage plant.

The LORD led us into those things so gradually, I didn't fully realize what He was doing until one day He asked me this: *What would happen if everyone just stopped giving to your ministry?*

"LORD, I don't want to think about that!" I answered.

I want you to think about it, He said. What would happen to the ministry?

I considered all the things I just told you and then it hit me. Nothing would happen! The bank couldn't repossess anything we own because we don't owe any money on it. We produce, on our own property, all the basic services we need to keep things going. So Gloria and I would just grab our Bibles, hit the road and keep on preaching.

We wouldn't have to change our

lifestyle because we're already living by faith!

"But Brother Copeland, God doesn't give me the kind of light He gives you."

Yes, He does. Jesus said so. All you need to do is start believing Him.

Build your faith in the light by taking His words and saying, "I believe hidden things will be revealed to me. I believe the Holy Spirit guides me into all truth and shows me things to come. I walk in the light and don't stumble over anything."

Faith comes by hearing The WORD, so as those words come out of your mouth and into your ears and your

mind, they'll produce faith in your heart.

It doesn't matter how messy this world gets, or how many crises it goes through, if you'll keep believing God and operating by faith in His Word, His love and His light, you'll never have to change your lifestyle to suit the times. You won't have to listen to the newscasters and the pundits to find out what to do.

While they're still asking a million questions, wondering how we're going to handle the economy, the government and everything else, you'll already have the four-word answer that never changes:






Have faith in God! ♣

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by Melanie Henry

Living on God's Heavenly Grant

Delilah & Jeffery Helms



Delilah Helms cleaned the kitchen and put away the dinner dishes. Pulling her thoughts from Desert Shield, she focused on her children, William and Alisha. :: “Finish your homework and get ready for bed,” she said. :: The days felt longer and the house lonelier since Delilah’s husband, Jeffery, had been deployed by the Navy to Iraq. Where was he right now? What was he doing? When would he be home?

Plagued by anxious thoughts, she remembered the advice the more experienced military wives had given her: “When you have a loved one in harm’s way, it’s important to stay abreast of the news.”

Glancing at the clock, she tuned the television to the world news.

“Navy ships in the Persian Gulf have become the tip of the spear for Operation Desert Storm,” the anchorman reported. “Following the failure of diplomatic efforts, the U.N. Security Council passed a resolution authorizing multinational naval vessels to enforce sanctions against Iraq and Kuwait....”

The words played like a loop in her mind as Delilah tossed and turned in the night, unable to sleep. Her heart pounded, beating like a machine gun.

Hearing voices, she bolted out of bed. Palms sweating and her mouth dry as desert sand, she searched the house. William and Alisha were asleep. The doors were locked and no one else was in the house.

What’s happening to me? she wondered. *Am I losing my mind?*

Battlefield of the Mind

“I’d been cautious about listening to negative reports since I’d started listening to Kenneth Copeland as a teenager,” Delilah explains. “When the other Navy wives insisted that I should know what was happening in the war, I started watching five minutes of news here and five minutes there. Five minutes turned into 10 and 10 turned into 20. Before long, I couldn’t get enough.

“Somewhere in the midst of hearing all those negative reports, a spirit of fear began tormenting my mind. Jeffery had enough to deal with, so I didn’t tell him what was happening. He had no way of knowing that while he was fighting for freedom, I was in a battle for my mind.”

Realizing she had allowed facts about the war to outweigh the Word of

God, Delilah turned off the television and spent more time meditating on the Word. Ordering teachings from Kenneth Copeland Ministries, she kick-started her faith by listening to the uncompromised Word of God day after day. Delilah ordered a specific teaching called *Lord of Our Breakthrough*, which she played continuously. She also listened to messages at night, allowing them to saturate her thoughts as she slept.

“It wasn’t a quick fix,” Delilah recalls. “I stood on the Word that says I have the mind of Christ. I believed I had peace in my mind in spite of symptoms to the contrary.”

Trusting Jesus as the Lord of her breakthrough, Delilah battled the thoughts which bombarded her mind for months. In time, the symptoms diminished. By the time Jeffery returned home safe and whole, she had won her war against torment.

Sowing the Word

Long before they faced the challenges of Desert Storm, Jeffery and Delilah had worked hard to build a solid foundation of faith. As newlyweds, they had become Partners with KCM and began each day in prayer, in the Word of God and watching the *BVOV* broadcast.

Putting their faith into action, they had agreed in prayer that Jeffery would graduate at the top of his class, thereby getting his pick of bases. When he graduated first in a class of 40 cadets in 1987, they moved to San Diego.

The following year, Jeffery and Delilah boosted their faith by attending KCM’s West Coast Believers Convention in Anaheim, Calif. After that, they attended the convention every year as a family vacation. Even after moving to Sacramento, they continued to attend the convention each year.



In 1995, Jeffery transferred to Norfolk, Va., where he was assigned to the *USS Ponce*. An Austin-class amphibious ship that was 570 feet

long and weighed 8,883 tons, she had already seen her fair share of conflict around the world.

“We moved to Norfolk to be closer to our families,” Jeffery recalls. “Once we arrived, we began attending the annual Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign in Woodbridge. We were grateful for all the years we had sowed the Word of God into our hearts because our family soon came under attack.”

During his junior year in high school, William was diagnosed with schizophrenia. The enemy had come against Delilah’s mind and she had won that battle, but now William was the target. They followed conventional treatment and gave him his medication, but they also took their stand on the Word of God and believed for his healing.

“While we followed the doctor’s orders, we told William he had the mind of Christ. We told him—and the entire heavenly host—that healing was the children’s bread and we claimed it for him,” Jeffery explained.

Continuing to stand on God’s Word, Delilah took William to a doctor who specialized in schizophrenia.

“We petitioned the Lord for everything we needed to get our house ready to sell. We petitioned God to be out of debt and for a heavenly grant in the amount of \$125,000.”

He conversed with and thoroughly evaluated him at several different appointments and concluded that William had been misdiagnosed.”

“The specialist confirmed what we already knew!” exclaimed Delilah.

They refused to be moved by what they saw, and believed God for peace, soundness and godly thoughts in William’s mind. The battle for his mind



“We hear people talking about how bad the economy is, but we haven’t suffered a downturn. During the recession, my wedding and event-planning business prospered.”

wasn’t easy, nor was it short. Jeffery and Delilah stood in faith for years, despite all odds, and won!

No Compromise

In 1997, Alisha, pregnant with her first child, invited Delilah to go with her for an exam.

“I have some news,” the doctor said. “It looks like this child may have Down syndrome. I recommend amniocentesis.”

“That’s a lie,” Delilah said, laying her hands on her daughter’s protruding abdomen. “I rebuke the demon of Down, in Jesus’ Name. This child is whole and healthy!”

The perplexed doctor watched with a puzzled expression as Delilah prayed in the spirit. In spite of Delilah’s insistence the baby was whole, the doctor pressed the family to take classes on how to care for a child with Down syndrome.

Having taken their stand on the Word of God, they refused the classes

and declined the amniocentesis. When Alisha gave birth, her daughter was perfect—without any defect.

Sailing the Seas

In 2003, the *USS Ponce* departed Norfolk, loaded with Marines for the invasion of Iraq. Once again, Jeffery was in harm’s way. But this time, Delilah kept her mind and heart steadfast on the Word of God, praying Psalm 91 and believing for divine protection.

By the end of February, the *Ponce* had become the commanding flagship of a team assigned to help clear a channel through naval mines that had blocked humanitarian aid to Iraq. Directed from the *Ponce*, Sea Dragon helicopters towing magnetic minesweeping sleds, trained marine mammals, unmanned underwater vehicles and EOD divers, swept the Khawr Abd Allah River and the port of Umm Qasr until a 200-yard channel was declared safe.

While hundreds of tons of food and water were offloaded through the channel, the team spent weeks widening the safety zone.

Two years later, in March 2005, the *Ponce* sailed back to the Persian Gulf conducting operations in support of the War on Terrorism. All the while, Delilah lived in peace, standing on the

Word with her confidence in God.

The favor of God rested on Jeffery and he earned the coveted rank of chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy.

Heavenly Grant

“In 2009, we attended the D.C. Victory Campaign and Kenneth Copeland instructed everyone to write a prayer of petition for what we believed to receive from God,” Jeffery remembers. “He said our requests had to be God’s will, and each one should have written alongside it the scripture that backed our right to claim it. He said we could petition God for a heavenly grant.

“Back home, we went upstairs and made a list of everything we needed. I had retired from the Navy and we wanted to move to Atlanta and needed to sell our home. There were many houses in our neighborhood which had been for sale for months or years. Some were in foreclosure.

“We based our petition on Mark 11:24 which says, ‘Therefore I say to you, all things for which you pray and ask, believe that you have received them, and they will be granted you’ (*New American Standard Bible*).

“We petitioned the Lord for new windows, new doors, new landscaping and everything we needed to get our house ready to sell. We petitioned God to be out of debt and for a heavenly grant in the amount of \$125,000. We signed and dated the petition, and called KCM asking them to agree with us for the money.”

Faith’s Reward

A year later, in 2010, money arrived for new windows. Jeffery and Delilah installed hardwood floors. They replaced doors and paid for new landscaping. Finally, they put their home on the market.

Their realtor, who had been in the business for 20 years, gave them the grim details. Sales were dismal. People weren’t buying. The economy had tanked.

“Our spiritual lives were built through partnership...”

Refusing to be discouraged, Jeffery and Delilah said, “We only need one buyer. Just watch, our house will sell fast.”

During the three months the house was on the market, their realtor announced, “The Helms have set a new record.” She’d never shown a single house to 30 different couples!

The 30th couple bought it.

With over 40 items on their prayer of petition, Jeffery and Delilah watched in awe as God brought each one to pass. When a check for \$125,000 arrived, they shouted for joy—praising God all the way to the bank.

“We paid our tithe and then planted offerings into the kingdom of God as seed,” Delilah says. “We paid off all our debts, bought a car for my sister and paid cash for it, and helped our children and grandchildren. We’d been so excited to become Elite CX Team members with KCM, and we were able to pay that vow in full. It was thrilling!

“We hear people talking about how bad the economy is, but we haven’t suffered a downturn. During the recession, my wedding- and event-planning business prospered so much we had to turn brides away.”

Eyes That See by Faith

Now living in Atlanta, Jeffery and Delilah enjoy being near their grandchildren and know they’re imparting faith to a new generation. Last year, Delilah walked outside to meet the school bus and was surprised when the driver shouted, “Come here! Your granddaughter can’t see!”

Groping as though in the dark, Arissa said, “The vision on the sides of my eyes is dark! I can only see in the middle!”

“Father, in the Name of Jesus, I decree and believe for perfect vision in these eyes!” Delilah prayed and immediately told Arissa to confess, “Thank You, Jesus, I’m healed!” as the sides were getting darker.

The doctor examined Arissa and

sighed. “I don’t know what’s wrong. If her symptoms get worse, take her to the emergency room.”

The following day, Delilah urged Arissa to keep repeating, “Thank You, Jesus, I’m healed! Thank You, Jesus, I’m healed!”

“You are healed, Baby.”

“I know I’m healed, Grandma, but the walls are pink.”

“The walls are white, Baby. Keep thanking Jesus that you’re healed.”

“Grandma, your pants are black.”

“No Baby, my pants are white.”

Following the doctor’s orders, Delilah drove Arissa to the ER. There, the doctor ordered a series of tests.

God had orders of His own. *Lay your hands on her head!* Obeying God’s instruction, Delilah laid her hands on Arissa’s head and declared her healing.

“Grandma, are the walls white?”

“Yes, Baby.”

“Are you wearing a red dress?”

“I am.”

Every test came back normal. On the way home from the hospital the few lingering symptoms fled. Today, Arissa’s vision is almost perfect—she barely wears the glasses she had worn for years.

“Our family is blessed,” Delilah explains. “William is off almost all his medication and is living on his own. I took a walk with Alisha recently and told her, ‘I’m so thankful God connected me spiritually with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland when I was just a teenager. The foundation of our spiritual lives was built through partnership and the revelation God gave them. I know that’s why we’re so blessed.’”

Jeffery and Delilah Helms tell everyone willing to listen, “We’re not recessing—God is still blessing!”



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GoodNewsGazette



Thank You, KCM

I want to thank KCM for opening my eyes to accepting Christ. KCM is the reason for everything that has happened.

M.F. :: Texas

You Stood With Me for My Healing!

When I got sick a year ago, God encouraged me to ring you. Speaking with and having you pray for me was so powerful. I needed people who understood the Word of God and how to pray in faith. I bought CDs from the ministry and listened to them over and over, especially when the doctors thought I had some rare disease they had no cure for.

At this point I phoned you again and you stood with me in faith that Jesus had healed me. To know KCM was standing with me at that point was invaluable.

I kept thanking God

and worshiping Him, spoke scriptures over myself and continued immersing myself in the teaching of Kenneth Copeland. I received my healing and the manifestation of it. Thank you with all my heart for your prayer teams and your ministry. Without you I would not have known how to stand in this very difficult time.

I can't find the words to tell you how much you have helped me in such a dark time. Your prayers entered heaven and manifested in the earth. I thank God for you. Jesus is Lord!

Ann C.
Woking, Surrey

Saved From Fire!

We are a family of nine, and my husband was working on another island one week when the Lord woke me up at 2:54 a.m., and I discovered the oven was just beginning to catch fire! Praise the Lord! He is always right on time—nothing and no one harmed!

Sunita N. :: Hawaii

I Received Jesus

I recently received Jesus while watching the BVOV broadcast.

P.L. :: Texas

“The kingdom of God is... righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” (Romans 14:17)

Tuberculosis Healed by the Word

In 2009, I was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. I was paralyzed for eight months. By the power of God, I received my healing but the doctor said my left lung was affected and damaged. But I stood on the Word. I went for an X-ray test, 7 May 2012, which confirms my lungs are normal and the TB is gone forever! Glory be to God. S.D. :: Africa

‘He Redeemed My Life From Destruction’

Three times I received treatment for alcohol addiction. Twice I was forced to do so. I did everything I knew, but then I would start drinking again. The diagnosis was chronic alcoholism. And there is no cure for it. Having lost hope to find the way out, I decided to commit suicide. But God saved me. He redeemed my life from destruction. I always asked God, *Why? I don't want to live life like it had been before, but I can't live any other way.*

Christian TV helped. While watching your broadcast I got revelations and encouragement. I started praying for my spiritual growth and the fruit of the spirit, understanding of the Bible, patience and then alcohol deliverance came to me.

I don't lie, I don't take what belongs to others, I don't cuss. It is three years I have been attending our local church. The thing that is impossible to men is possible to God!

L.V. :: Ukraine

Saved and Delivered

Thank you for your prayers. My grandson, who was strung out on cocaine, has gotten saved and is back home with his wife and four sons.

J. and K.P. :: California

Forgiveness Opened My Eyes

Thank you so much for the letters I receive as a Partner and for prayer when I need it. I want to report that I was so helped by Brother Copeland's teaching on responding with love when people are evil toward you. I struggled to forgive someone who had done me much harm. It took me eight months to actually begin to love that person as Jesus wanted me to love him. Then I prayed blessings upon him in all sincerity. I had prayed, *Bless him, Lord*, without feeling sincere about it, but in May I really meant it. All bitterness was gone. Today I found out the Lord answered one of my prayers for him and he got a visa to India for a family reunion that was impossible to get. He got it two days before his trip. I know my God gave him that visa because I fasted and prayed for it and exercised faith God would move for him. I am so grateful for all the teachings that made me understand how deeply God loves me, how He wants me to love those who hurt me and be His connection to them.

E.K. :: Norway

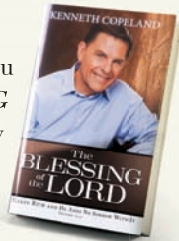


The Promise of Protection

My grandson was at a party where a gunman came in and shot four people. But God had already put him on my heart to be praying for him. At 2:15 in the morning I received a phone call from him. He was in the hospital with what he thought was a bullet in his leg. It turned out to only be fragments of a bullet. Praise God for His protection! **M.R. :: California**

'God Has Forgiven Me'

The last book you sent, *THE BLESSING of The LORD* by Ken Copeland, was really fantastic. The enormity of God's love for us is really described in that book.



Lots of good things have happened since I started partnering with KCM. My husband got a well-paid job. I have been healed and best of all I have learned how to really love people. I have hurt so many people in my life, but God has forgiven me and told me to guard my mouth! Amen! Thank you for your support and prayers—they are special to me and my family.

I know God is at work in all our lives, but He has really gone to work cleaning out my heart.

L.A.B. :: England

'God Came to Live in Me'

Over a year ago, I walked away from God. I'd had enough of God and Christians alike. I was tired of hearing how good God was. Day after day I saw God's people crying out to Him to no avail. That's when I began to question my understanding of God and His Word, and the Church's interpretation of it. I was met with hostility and later, silence. My world collapsed. I hated God and everything He stood for. I gave away all my books, CDs and DVDs, everything but one, *Pursuit of His Presence* by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Slowly I began to talk to God again, and 17 months later I turned on your program. I watched it, recorded it and watched it again, this time with my Bible and notebook in hand. I feel somewhat like the prodigal son. I have been living in a trough for the last year and a half and think, *Maybe it's time to go home*. It's taken a long time, but I now realize that God came to live in me not so I could call myself a Christian, but so that I could be His arms that reach into the darkness to help those who are still lost. God bless KCM and all your Partners.

T.V. :: Canada

Canada

Thank You for the Bible!

I would personally like to shake your hands for opening my eyes to a much more beautiful world! I wrote a letter a few weeks back asking for a *King James Version* of the Bible. Well, I was on my top bunk in my cell and praying to God asking for forgiveness

of my sins and asking Him to put me on the right path. Within two hours of asking our Lord Jesus for help and direction, a correctional officer handed me a Bible from your ministry. So, I would like to thank you personally...since I received the

Bible I have been reading it every day nonstop—for every word I read is more uplifting and more moving than any experience I have ever come across! So again, thank you so very much, and God bless!

Larry V. | Canada

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Faith in THE BLESSING

Thank you for the *BVOV* magazine. I was in the process of losing my home but God was telling me that He was in control and that all I needed to do was to have faith in THE BLESSING.

I cut out segments of your articles and read them over and over to keep my faith strong. I knew it would take a miracle. Little did I know that a friend's mother had been

praying at the same time for God to send her a family to help financially. Her husband had passed and she had some money that God had led her to give to someone in need. It was us! I was able to reinstate my mortgage and my daughter and I can keep our home. Thank you for the encouragement you give and may God continue to bless your ministry!

K.K. :: Florida

'Our Business Is Growing'

We are Partners with KCM, and wanted to thank you for the prayers. Our business is growing. R. and J.W. :: New York

God Promoted Me

I wanted Brother Copeland to know that I'm living out the Abrahamic Covenant Blessing. I'm grateful for his teachings and book *THE BLESSING*.

God has blessed me in marketing and a Christian recording studio.

God brought me off the road, and dealt with my heart to love my wife as Christ loved the Church. Tell Brother Copeland that THE BLESSING is amazing. As I've laid down my music career, God promoted me at the right time. Praise God!

G.B.J. :: Virginia

The Meaning of Salvation

The meaning of salvation had never been made clear to me until I listened to Kenneth and Gloria's CDs. There is so much more I've gained from just these two CDs. I've gone my whole life not knowing, now being taught. Thank you! [I can] dwell in the secret place of the Most High, so I can abide under God's protective shadow.

K.B. :: Illinois

by Kenneth Copeland

Living THE GREAT Adventure

Life as a born-again child of God is the most marvelous adventure you could ever imagine. You wouldn't know it by looking at most Christians, but it is. If we truly knew all that Jesus has done for us and all He has provided through His death and resurrection, we would wake up every morning full of joy and raring to go!



W

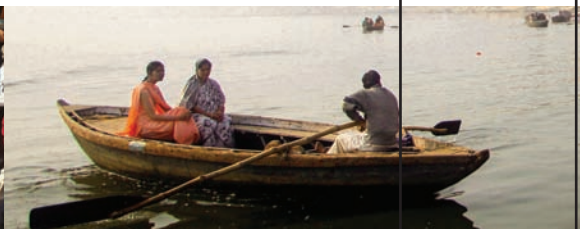
e'd bound out of bed saying, "There's someone out there who needs healing today and I can bring it to them. There's someone whose life will be changed by my testimony. There's someone who needs the joy and the love of The LORD and they're going to receive it through me!"

If we had a revelation of our inheritance in Jesus, we'd greet every day with a gleam in our eye and charge out the front door with confidence knowing there is treasure out there waiting for us. There's a wealth of souls waiting to be won. There are endless opportunities to bless people and minister to them by the power

Fear has deprived countless believers of the great adventure of the Christian life.

of God that resides within us. There are God-ordained financial fortunes ready and waiting for us so we'll have all the money we need to do what God puts in our hearts to do.

The scriptural truth is, as blood-washed, Holy Ghost-filled saints of the living God, you and I are a victory going someplace to happen. We are divinely designed to demonstrate the triumphant life of Jesus everywhere we go. We don't even have to worry about overcoming the devil and all his



It is absolutely essential that you understand this.

You are not just an old sinner saved by grace.

Your old man died the death of the Cross.

junk. Jesus already did it. He already defeated him. As long as we walk in faith our victory is inevitable.

Second Corinthians 2:14 says it this way, "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place" (*New King James Version*).

Why, then, don't more believers live that way?

I can answer that question with one word.

Fear.

Fear has contaminated the faith of far too many of God's people. Fear has robbed them of their victory and deceived them into accepting defeat at the hands of a conquered foe.

Fear has deprived countless believers of the great adventure of the Christian life.

It has reduced them to living from paycheck to paycheck because they're afraid if they tried something new they'd fail and lose what little they have. They're afraid to go out and lay hands on the sick. (*After all, what if nothing happens?*² says the voice of fear. *What if the person doesn't get healed?*²)

They're afraid of launching out into the deep waters of life and becoming fishers of men, so they settle for going to work, coming home, watching television and going to bed. It's the same thing every day...no one ever gets saved, no one ever gets filled with the Holy Ghost. They just barely get their bills paid. They fix one thing and something else breaks.

As born-again children of God, we don't have any business living like that! We should be the most outrageously daring people the earth has ever seen. We ought to be doing the impossible by faith every day. We should be turning the world upside down for Jesus and having the time of our lives!

An Age-Old Promise Fulfilled

"Oh, Brother Copeland," you might say, "I'd love to do that. I long to live that

way more than anything in the world!"

Then I have good news for you. *You can!*

Jesus has already done all that is necessary to enable you to do it. He has already conquered fear. He has stripped it of its power over you. He has set you free.

That's the thing the devil hasn't wanted us to know. He has wanted us to think we have to struggle along trying to manage our fears. He's wanted us to believe that we have to put up with them...and cope with them...and try to overcome them.

But they have already been overcome by Jesus Himself. He has redeemed us from fear. In fact, according to The WORD, that was a primary part of His mission as our Savior. He came not only to save us from sin, sickness, death and hell—He came to save us from fear itself.

We can see that in Luke where Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, prophesied about the coming of the Messiah. Notice carefully what he said about Jesus:

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began, that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us, to perform the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to our father Abraham: *To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in*

holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life (Luke 1:68-75, NKJV).

Freedom from fear isn't a new idea. It's not something we thought up recently because we need an answer for modern-day terrorism. The Bible says the prophets have been talking about it since the world began. Thousands of years ago, God swore to Abraham that through his Seed the power of fear would one day be broken.

When Jesus went to the cross, He fulfilled that promise. He paid the price so we could serve God without fear all the days of our lives. He destroyed fear's hold on us so we can stand up by faith in Him and be forever free.

Disconnected From Death... Connected to Life

Until Jesus came, the only man who had ever walked the face of the earth totally free from fear was Adam. He was originally created in the very likeness of God and he had within him the very attributes of God Himself. The divine nature that is full of love, joy, peace, goodness, meekness, kindness and patience flowed freely in Adam.

But when he sinned all that changed. Spiritual death came and perverted those divine forces. Every one of them turned into the exact

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opposite of what they had been. Love became hate. Faith became fear. Peace became torment.

Why?

Because by submitting himself to Satan, Adam disconnected himself from the life of God and connected himself instead to the nature of the devil. Satan himself literally became Adam's god.

Adam didn't intend for that to happen. He and Eve thought they could just be gods unto themselves. (That's what the devil told them they could do.) But that was impossible. Although man is created in God's image, he was not created to be spiritually sovereign. He must have a spiritual overlord. That's an inescapable fact.

Many people today still don't realize that. They think, *There's God...and Satan...and then there's me.* But there are just two spiritual families in the earth—God's and Satan's. Everyone in the world is under the lordship of one or the other.

But thank God, by saying "Yes" to Jesus and receiving Him as our LORD and Savior, we can change families. We can be delivered from the power of darkness and transferred into the family of God (Colossians 1:13-14).

When we do that, something wonderful happens. We are born again or, as Ephesians 2:10 says, we are "created in Christ Jesus." We are actually made "a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ..." (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, NKJV).

Think of it this way. Just as Adam was born again from life to death when he made Satan his lord, we were born

You don't have any business wearing those old, religious sin-tags anymore.

You don't have any business talking about what a sorry, no-good sinner you are.

again from death to life when we made Jesus our LORD. Just as Adam was separated from God and connected to Satan in his rebirth, we were separated from Satan and reconnected to God in our new birth.

The moment we were separated from Satan, all those things in our spirit that sprang from him died. Hate died. Lust died. Fear died. At that same moment, we were reconnected to God and the divine nature sprang to life within us. The attributes of God—love, joy, peace and all the other fruit of the spirit—began to flow in our spirits like a fountain.

For you to walk in the victory and freedom from fear that belong to you as a believer, it is absolutely essential that you understand this. You are not just an old sinner saved by grace. Your old man died the death of the Cross. The sin nature you inherited from Adam was crucified with Christ (Galatians 2:20). It is dead and gone! Now you are a child of the living God. You have Jesus' own nature and life within you.

You don't have any business wearing those old, religious sin-tags anymore. You don't have any business talking about what a sorry, no-good sinner you are. If you've been born again, you are no such thing. You are a new creation made alive with the life of God Himself!

Check Engine Now!

Where there was once a fountain of fear on the inside of you, there is now a fountain of faith. The devil can't pump fear into your spirit anymore. He doesn't have access to it. It's sealed by the Holy Spirit unto God (Ephesians 1:13).

The only way the devil can get fear into you is by feeding it to your intellect. He must try to get it into your soul (your mind, will and emotions) by talking you into receiving it and acting on it. Even if he is successful in doing that, he's still at a disadvantage because that fear will never take root in your born-again spirit. It has nothing to hold it in place. So the minute you rise up and start walking in the love of God, that love will wash the fear away.

That's an amazing thought but it's absolutely the truth. The WORD of God tells us that love will actually flush fear out of our souls!

First John 4:18 says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear..." (NKJV). The words translated *cast out* there literally mean "to flush out." When you begin to exercise the love of God and the tide of love begins to rise, it just doesn't leave any place for fear to reside. And since faith works by love, the higher the tide of love flows, the stronger your faith becomes. Eventually, you get to the place where all the fear is flushed away!

The problem most believers have had, however, is this. They've let fear creep into their lives a little at a time and over the years, they've gotten used to it. Fear has become such a normal part of life that they're blind to it. As a result, they don't do what's necessary to flush it out.

What can we do about that? The last part of 1 John 4:18 gives us the answer. It says, "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because *fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*"

Whenever we sense any kind of torment in our lives, it's a signal to us that we have some fear there. If there's torment...there's fear. And according to this verse, if there's fear, it's a sign we haven't developed the love of God in that area.

"Yeah, but Brother Copeland..."

Don't start with the "Yeah buts..." It's the truth. So instead of arguing

about it, put it to work for you. Think about it this way and you'll see how.

Whenever you sense torment about a situation, it's like the red "Check Engine" light blinking on the panel of your car.

If you pay attention to that light and do something about it, it will help you.

But if you just keep driving along thinking, *I wonder what's wrong with my engine?* you'll end up in big trouble. After that light has been blinking for about three months, you'll find yourself stranded on the freeway blaming the automobile manufacturer for a defective car!

Get the Gleam Back in Your Eye

Obviously, it's not the manufacturer's fault. They installed that red light to get your attention. You should have done something about it the first time it blinked at you.

The same thing is true about torment. Every time you notice a flutter of anxiety in your mind or a knot of worry in your stomach, it ought to be like a flashing red light to you. The moment you catch yourself thinking a fearful or worried thought, you should stop right then and deal with it.

Don't just go on and on thinking, *Oh, I don't know where my kids are. I hope they're not doing drugs. I hope they don't get out there on the freeway and get themselves killed....*

Stop these thoughts immediately. Start talking to yourself and say, "Wait just a minute here. The Scripture says he that fears is not developed in love. So I'm going to stop this fear right now and get over into the love of God before I get myself in trouble. I'm going to purposely disconnect from this fear and connect up with love."

Then just start worshiping and praising The LORD over His great love for you. Remind yourself of it and receive it by faith. Say, "Jesus, I love You and I know You love me too much to just let bad things overwhelm my life

and my family. Heavenly Father, John 17 says You love me just as much as You do Jesus Himself. And I receive that love right now. I know Your love has been shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost and I thank You for it."

Don't do it just once or twice either. Do it *every time* you begin to sense that torment. The moment it arises, immediately—*immediately!*—move over into the love of God.

Then start finding ways to manifest that love toward others. Go find someone to love somewhere. As you do, that love will begin to grow.

Keep that up and the process

of flushing fear out of your soul will continue until you reach the place where there's no fear there at all. You'll begin to live the fear-free lifestyle Jesus died and rose again to give you. Just as the prophets foretold, being delivered out of the hands of your enemies, you will serve God without fear all the days of your life.

You can get up every morning with a gleam in your eye, ready to bring the saving, healing, delivering power of The LORD Jesus Christ to a lost world that is waiting to receive it.

Your life will truly become the great adventure God intended it to be. ▼

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by Jerry Savelle

Understanding God's Favor



There's one thing that has blessed me more than anything else over my 40 years of ministry, it's the revelation I've received about walking in the favor of God.

I've come to understand that when I consistently declare the favor of God over my life, extraordinary things happen. I'm not talking about an occasional surprising occurrence; I mean that extraordinary things happen on an almost daily basis.

I have seen the favor of God open doors for me that no man could shut. I have received preferential

treatment in matters ranging from the mundane to the astonishing. I have witnessed God's favor change rules, regulations and policies, when necessary, to get me exactly where God wanted me to be. Having seen the favor of God work so powerfully in my own life, I can assure you it will bring you

through even the toughest times and the most overwhelming circumstances.

The *New King James Bible* identifies Psalm 102 as: "A Prayer of the afflicted, when he is overwhelmed and pours out his complaint before the Lord." The psalmist begins, "Hear my prayer, O Lord, and let my cry come to You. Do

not hide Your face from me in the day of my trouble; incline Your ear to me; in the day that I call, answer me speedily” (verses 1-2). He gets right to the point with God, doesn’t he? To paraphrase, he’s saying, “God, I need an answer fast. Don’t talk to me about being patient; I need to hear from You, and I need to hear from You, now.”

The psalmist goes on to say,

For my days are consumed like smoke, and my bones are burned like a hearth. My heart is stricken and withered like grass, so that I forget to eat my bread. Because of the sound of my groaning my bones cling to my skin. I am like a pelican of the wilderness; I am like an owl of the desert. I lie awake, and am like a sparrow alone on the housetop. My enemies reproach me all day long; those who deride me swear an oath against me (verses 3-8, *NKJV*).

This man was in a situation where not only were his enemies coming against him, but other people were also mad at him. Things had gotten so bad he was unable to make it through the day without weeping. The trial he was going through was so consuming it stayed on his mind 24 hours a day.

Oftentimes when we’re in the midst of a trial, the problem we’re facing becomes so overwhelming that we forget our covenant with God. As a result, we become problem-minded rather than being solution-minded. The psalmist apparently struggled with this same tendency:

For I have eaten ashes like bread, and mingled my drink with weeping, because of Your indignation and Your wrath; for You have lifted me up and cast me away. My days are like a shadow that lengthens, and I wither away like grass. But You, O Lord, shall endure forever, and

God’s people did not experience victory because of their own might.

The land that had been promised to them by God became theirs because of God’s favor.

the remembrance of Your name to all generations. You will arise and have mercy on Zion; for the time to favor her, yes, the set time, has come (verses 9-13, *NKJV*).

Notice that although this man was initially overwhelmed by his adversity, in the midst of his cry to God he remembered that he was entitled to God’s favor. The reason he knew he was entitled to favor is that he was a covenant man, and in declaring that the set time for God’s favor had arrived, he became a solution-minded covenant man.

When we choose to enter into covenant with God, we no longer have to fight our own battles; His favor will enable us to attain victory over every situation and circumstance. God’s people did not

received this revelation.

Often, when the battle is long, and people do not see their prayers being answered when and how they want them to be answered, they blame God. I’ve been asked, “Brother Jerry, why isn’t God listening to me? Why isn’t He doing something? What’s the problem?”

My answer is always, “God is not the problem. The problem is a lack of understanding.” Most of the time, the reason we experience delays in our prayers being answered is that we do not have a right understanding of the favor of God. Without an understanding of the favor of God, we will not appropriate it and confess it on a consistent basis.

What Is the Favor of God?

In order to understand the favor of God, we first need to know the meaning

There have been times when I’ve been through lengthy battles that I should have won long before I did.

experience victory because of their own might, their own strength, or their own power. The land for which they had believed—the land that had been promised to them by God—became theirs because of God’s favor.

I’m not saying that just because we are in covenant with God, we will never have to fight a battle of faith. I’m not a novice: I know how to believe God, I know how to walk in faith, and I know how to overcome adversities. Yet there have been times when I’ve been through lengthy battles that I should have won long before I did. My problem was that I had let the revelation of God’s favor slip. Others who find themselves engaged in long-term struggles may simply not yet have

of the word *favor*. The term has four main definitions. The first definition of *favor* is “something granted out of goodwill.” In other words, the favor of God is granted out of His goodwill toward us. It’s not something that can be bought, and it’s not something that can be earned. In the most profound demonstration of this kind of favor, Jesus willingly went to the cross on our behalf—not because we deserved to be saved, but because God chose to show us mercy (see Romans 5:8). Because of the price Christ paid, we are now entitled to walk in God’s favor from day to day. Many times, this kind of favor is manifested through God giving us the desires of our hearts.

For instance, I have always loved

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baseball. I love to play it and I love to watch it. As a kid growing up in Louisiana in the 1950s, my favorite team was the New York Yankees. My favorite player was Mickey Mantle; he was my idol. My glove had to be a Mickey Mantle signature glove, my Louisville Slugger had to have Mickey Mantle's name on it and my baseball uniform had to be number 7. I'm telling you, I loved Mickey Mantle.

I remember sitting with my dad in front of our black-and-white television, eating popcorn and watching the Yankees. Now and then, there would be a shot of the people in the stands, and I remember one particular time when I saw a little boy about my age sitting there in Yankee Stadium wearing his Yankee cap. I thought he had to be the luckiest kid in the world, because he got to watch Mickey Mantle knock the ball over the fence. Left-handed, right-handed—it didn't make any difference; Mickey could hit them out of the park either way. Then there were Roger Maris, Whitey Ford and, of course, Yogi Berra. Oh, how I dreamed of going to New York to watch the Yankees play! But for many years, it seemed like this Louisiana boy's dream would never come true.

Decades later, in the summer of 1994, I was in Canada prior to attending a scheduled meeting in New Jersey. I had a couple of free days before I was to preach, so I flew into New York City to spend time with some friends at their home. After having dinner together Friday evening, they asked if there was anything I would like to do the following day.

"Yes," I said, "I want to go see the Yankees play." Then I told them about my childhood dream of seeing Mickey Mantle in person at Yankee Stadium. Of course, by then Mickey Mantle was no longer playing ball, but I still wanted to watch the Yankees play.

"I don't even know if they are playing tomorrow," my friend told me. "They may be on the road, but I'll check and see."

A short time later, while I was in the guest room unpacking my bag, I heard the sound of someone running in the hall; after a few more seconds, my friend and his wife appeared at the door. "Brother Jerry," he said, "you beat anything we've ever seen."

"What do you mean?" I asked.

He explained he had just called a man he works with—a Yankee fan whose season tickets were on the front row of the box seats located right over third base. "The Yankees are in town tomorrow, and my co-worker wants you to be his guest for the game."

I smiled to myself as I thought about the favor of God. But then my friend added, "And guess what? It's Old-Timers' Day, and Mickey Mantle is going to be there!"

I went to sleep that night thinking about the goodness of God and thanking Him for getting me a ticket to see Mickey Mantle in Yankee Stadium.

The next day, as I sat in the box over third base with my Yankee cap on, it was 1957 again and I was that little boy at Yankee Stadium. So many of the old-timers I grew up watching on television were there in person: Joe DiMaggio, Whitey Ford and

my own hero, Mickey Mantle. It was a day I will never forget, because it was a day on which God favored me with His goodwill and fulfilled a deep-seated desire of my heart.

When we feed on God's faithfulness and favor, it is only natural that the desires of our hearts will be fulfilled—including those desires we have held close since childhood.

The second definition of *favor* is "a gift bestowed as a token of regard, love or friendliness."

Have you ever asked someone, "Would you do a favor for me?" What you're actually asking is: "Would you bestow a gift or a token of our friendship?" That's what a favor is—a token of friendship.

Not too long ago, a Christian businessman who also happens to be a friend of mine approached me after a worship service. He said, "Brother Jerry, I really need you to pray over my business. It's falling apart, and to be honest with you, without God's supernatural intervention, I'm going to lose it."

I had known this man for a number of years. He was a tither in his church, and he supported a number of ministries. He went on to tell me that it wasn't just his business that was at stake; his home and all of his personal property were also at risk.

"Brother Jerry, I know God gave me this business, and He has blessed me and my family through it. This is an all-out attack of the devil."

When my friend said that, the compassion of the Lord Jesus began to rise up in me. I took his hand and heard myself pray in an unexpected way. I said, "Lord Jesus, as a favor to me, intervene for my friend."

I can't think of a time I had

ever prayed like that before. I usually begin my prayers with “Father, in the Name of Jesus,” and then I quote the Word. But not this time. All I did was ask the Lord Jesus to do something as a favor to me.

Three days later, I got a call from my friend. When I answered the phone, he exclaimed, “Man, I’m telling you, I don’t know what you did or said, but God came through with a supernatural breakthrough!”

When I asked the Lord why He had moved so quickly in behalf of my friend, He said, *Because you asked Me for a favor.*

The third definition of *favor* is simply “preferential treatment.” We’ve already discussed the fact that we have the favor of God; according to His Word, we also have favor with man: “But let your heart keep my commands; for length of days and long life and peace they will add to you. Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart, and so find favor and high esteem in the sight of God and man” (Proverbs 3:1-4, *NKJV*).

I have found that when I consistently declare God’s favor over my life, I receive preferential treatment from all kinds of people.

When I was in high school, I loved working on cars; my ambition was to own my own business and spend the rest of my life on a racetrack somewhere. I also dreamed of going to the Indianapolis 500, but that was another youthful longing that went unfulfilled—until several years ago.

I got a call from a friend of mine who is a deputy sheriff in Marion County, Ind. He was planning a special meeting for people who lived in Indianapolis’ inner-city housing projects—an area struggling with high rates of crime, drug use and prostitution—and he wanted me to participate in the gathering. Of course, I agreed to go, and as it turned out, we had a great meeting.

Afterward, my friend said, “Brother

I have found that when I consistently declare God’s favor over my life, I receive preferential treatment from all kinds of people.

Jerry, I want you to come with me to the sheriff’s office, because there’s something we want to do for you.” So we got into his cruiser and off we went; I had no idea what they had planned, but it was fun getting to ride in the patrol car.

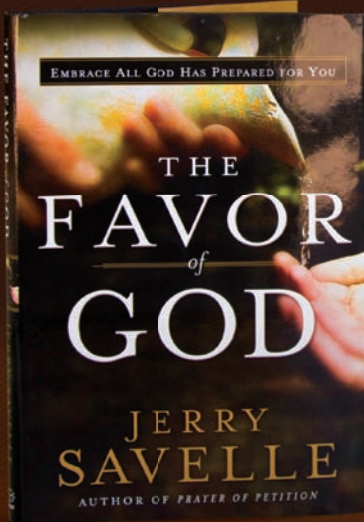
When we entered the building, I was asked to go into a small room and stand in a certain spot so that they could take my picture. Then my friend told me to wait for a few minutes, and he would be right back. I thought, *Dear God, what have I done?*

In a little while, my friend came back to get me. He escorted me to a room

where the sheriff and several other high-ranking members of the department were waiting. To my surprise, they presented me with a photo ID card (featuring the “mug shot” they had taken earlier) and a badge. The sheriff said, “We just want you to know how much we appreciate your coming here and helping us in the inner city. As a token of our appreciation, you are now an honorary deputy sheriff in Marion County, Indiana.”

I breathed a sigh of relief that I was not under arrest, and then I thanked him.

“We want you to understand that



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the title of honorary deputy sheriff entitles you to certain privileges,” the sheriff explained. “Is there any place in Indianapolis you would like to go?”

Without hesitating, I said, “Yes, sir, there’s something I’ve been wanting to attend since I was a kid—the Indianapolis 500.”

The sheriff said, “Well, we can make that happen. We’ll pick you up in a squad car and take you right in to the gate; you won’t have to fight the crowd. Just show your badge and you can get in to anything you want.”

I would have been totally happy just being in the stands somewhere and hearing the roar of engines, but God does exceedingly abundantly above all we can ask or think.

The following Memorial Day, just as they had promised, they picked me up in a squad car and drove me to the Indy. With more than half a million people already there, the crowd was pretty intimidating. But the sheriff drove me right up to the gate leading to the garages, where the cars and drivers were.

I stepped out of that squad car, walked up to the gate and showed the guard my badge. He let me through the gate, and I went straight to the garages, where I got to meet the drivers and watch their teams tune the engines before the race. But there’s more. I didn’t get to go to the Indy just once; I’ve been many times since that first race I attended. I have met the drivers, I’ve been allowed to sit in the cars, and I’ve been right there with them up until a few minutes before hearing those famous words: “Gentlemen, start your engines.”

The fourth definition of *favor* is “advantage.”

Having an advantage means having something working for us that others do not have working for them. For believers, that something is the favor of God.

When my wife, Carolyn, and I bought our first home in Fort

Worth, we experienced just this kind of favor. It was 1974, and we had been renting a house while I worked as an associate minister for Kenneth Copeland prior to launching out into our own ministry.

Before we moved to Fort Worth to work for Brother Copeland, Carolyn and I had owned several homes in Shreveport. We had good credit and funds from the sale of our last house available for a nice down payment, but as far as a lender was concerned, launching a ministry was the same as starting a business, which meant we didn’t qualify for a home loan.

We had learned how to live by faith, and we knew God would meet all of our financial needs. But the mortgage company wanted something more specific regarding where our support would be coming from. They also said we would need a co-signer.

Carolyn and I had found the house we knew God wanted us to have, and we informed our realtor that despite what the mortgage company said, the house would be ours. When he called a few days later to tell us the seller had accepted a contract from a couple that was qualified for financing, I told him, “I am not moved by what I hear.” He asked what on earth I was talking about, and I told him that according to Mark 11:23, I could have whatever I said, and I was saying that house was going to be mine.

Even though there was a contract on the house, and the other couple was well qualified, Carolyn and I continued to believe that somehow it would be ours. We would drive by the house and talk about what a wonderful time we were going to have raising our kids there.

Then, just a few days before the other couple was scheduled to close on the house, our realtor

called again. “Mr. Savelle, I don’t understand what just happened, but the other couple has decided not to take the house. All I know is that they said they felt like it wasn’t meant to be theirs. I don’t know what you and your wife have been doing or saying, but apparently this really is your house.”

“I’ve been trying to tell you that for two months,” I said. “The lease is up in two weeks on the place where we’ve been living; you and the mortgage company need to get to work on our new place.”

The day before we had to be out of our rental house, I called the realtor to let him know we were prepared to move into the new house the following day. He said, “You can’t move into that house. You don’t have loan approval, nothing’s been signed and it’s not yours.”

“Well, Carolyn and I believe we’ll be moving out of here and into that house tomorrow,” I said, “so you’d better get busy.”

Later that evening he called again. “I’ve never seen anything like this in my life,” he told me. “I just got the owner’s approval for you to go ahead and move in tomorrow.”

That’s just what Carolyn and I did, and we didn’t give another thought to the paperwork or the mortgage company’s requirements or what anyone told us we could or could not do where buying that house was concerned. We knew that was the house God wanted us to be in, which meant we had the advantage.

I want you to know that God changed all the rules and all the policies, and we finally bought that house.

When we have the favor of God on our lives, we’ve got an advantage. We’ve got something on us, around us and with us that others don’t have. Life gets more and more exciting every day when we understand that we have the favor of God, because we begin to expect it everywhere we go. ⑦



This article was adapted from the book *The Favor of God* by Jerry Savelle. For more information or to order, see the ad on Page 25. Jerry Savelle is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founding pastor of Heritage of Faith Christian Center in Crowley, Texas.



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Sometimes, as believers, we forget just how awesome that is. We forget what life was like before we had that connection. I don't mind telling you, for Ken and me it was a mess.

Neither of us was born again when we married, so it didn't take long for us to start making mistakes. A lot of them were financial, so we soon found ourselves in a desperate situation. We didn't have any money, and we were in debt. We were living in a leased house with no furniture, no refrigerator and no stove. We were in debt.

Ken had gotten a new job and we'd expected to buy those things with all the money he was going to make.

We don't know exactly what wonderful things He has in store for us until we step out by faith and do what He says.

But not much money showed up. So for months, all we had was a rented rollaway bed, a cardboard box on the porch that we used to keep our groceries cool (thankfully, it was fall), and a coffee table Ken made in high-school shop class.

I had no idea how we were going to get out of that situation. It looked hopeless. But one day I was walking around the house looking for something to do and I picked up the Bible Ken's mother had given him for his birthday. Opening it, I noticed what she'd written in the front.

Ken Precious,

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

I'd never read that verse before,

and I thought it was very good news. I needed a lot of things added to me! Eager to find out more, I looked up Matthew 6 and began reading. When I got to the part where it said God cares for the birds enough to feed them, a revelation hit me.

If God cares for birds, He cares for me!

That one glimmer of spiritual light was enough to convince me to give my heart to Jesus. "Lord, take my life and do something with it," I said. And with that simple prayer, I got born again even though I didn't know about the new birth, nor understand what I had done.

Faith Opens the Door

Shortly afterward, Ken was born again, too. Right away things began to get better. We started learning about the Bible. We got baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to follow His leadings. Ken realized he was called to preach.

We even moved into an apartment that had appliances!

But because we didn't yet know anything about faith, we had no idea how to get out of our financial hole. So the bills just kept piling up.

Then God told Ken to enroll in Oral Roberts University.

Although he wanted to obey the Lord, Ken couldn't see how it would work. He was 30 years old, had a family to support, a staggering amount of debt, and no money in the bank. How could he afford to move to Tulsa and become a student?

"Gloria, we'll starve if we do that!" he told me.

"We're starving now," I said. "We might as well starve in the will of God as outside of it!" (That was brilliant, wasn't it!)

That turned out to be the right thing for me to say at the time, but here's what I didn't realize: We *wouldn't* starve if we stepped out in faith and obeyed God, because faith is what connects us to His blessings. It's the bridge between the natural and the supernatural.

Faith—which is simply finding out what God says, agreeing with Him and doing what He says to do—opens the door to God and welcomes Him into our lives.

In the Old Testament, God explained it to the Israelites this way: “If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully keep all his commands that I am giving you today.... You will experience all these blessings...” (Deuteronomy 28:1-2, *New Living Translation*).

Why does God want us to obey Him? Is it because He's just hard to get along with and always wants His way?

No, it's because His way works. His way connects us to life and blessing, while disobedience connects us to death and the curse.

Even so, however, He won't force us to do what He says. He lets us make the decision. He says to us, as He said to the Israelites, “I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Oh, that you would choose life, that you and your descendants might live!” (Deuteronomy 30:19, *NLT*).

I may not be the smartest person on earth, but I'm smart enough to know that if I can choose between THE BLESSING or the curse, I'm going to take THE BLESSING!

That's what Ken and I did when we stepped out by faith, packed up our family and went to Tulsa. Granted, it didn't look like a very smart move at first. The house we rented there—I think it cost \$60 a month—was really bad. The walls were peeling so horribly that Kenneth Copeland actually painted them. (That is serious! He's never painted anything since.)

What's worse, it looked to Ken as if his aviation days were over. He was

passionate about flying, but he'd given up his job as a commercial pilot so he didn't have a plane to fly anymore, and he was broke.

It may sound like we were once again in a hopeless situation. But we really weren't, and here's why:

We were connected!

That became clear the first day Ken started classes at ORU. Unaware that students weren't allowed to go

see Brother Roberts uninvited, Ken went to his office and paid him a visit. Miraculously, no one stopped him. The next thing you know, he had a job as Brother Roberts' co-pilot, flying the finest airplane he'd ever flown in his life!

The job didn't pay much money but it put him in every one of Brother Roberts' healing crusades. Many times, Ken literally got to stand side by side

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with him as he ministered. He got to see the miracles. He got to lay hands on people and pray for them.

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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.

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“If you're not satisfied with what you have, change what you're saying.”

We also got a crash course in living by faith because that year Brother Kenneth E. Hagin decided to hold a series of 10-day seminars just across town from us. (As far as I know, it's the only time he did that.) At those seminars we learned about the integrity of God's Word. We learned how to believe it, speak it and act on it.

It was awesome! Yet we had no idea before we moved to Tulsa all those things were going to happen.

Get In on God's Great Plan

That's the way it is for all of us in our walk with God.

We often don't know in advance what great blessings are on the other side of our obedience to Him. We don't know exactly what wonderful things He has in store for us until we step out by faith and do what He says.

What we do know, however, is this: God has a plan for every one of us. It's a great plan! It includes prosperity, healing, peace, well-being and everything else we need to live a satisfying life.

"But Gloria," you might say, "how can I be sure of that? What if God doesn't want to bless me like He's blessed you?"

He does!

The Bible says so.

It tells us from Genesis to Revelation that God's plan is, and always has been, to bless His people in every way. That's why in the Garden of Eden God provided Adam and Eve with everything good and nothing bad. They had plenty of food, perfect weather and lots of gold. They were BLESSED!

Of course, they messed things up pretty quickly. Disconnecting

from THE BLESSING through disobedience, they brought the curse on all mankind. But God refused to leave things that way. He sent Jesus to redeem us from the curse and restore THE BLESSING (Galatians 3:13-14). He sent us a Savior so we can all live in the fulfillment of scriptures like Psalm 91:16 where God says, "With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation."

Satisfied in every area of life! That's what the Lord wants you to be. But what connects you to that satisfaction is faith. Without it, some things might work out for you, but there will always be problems you won't know how to solve. Bad things will happen and you won't know what to do about them. You won't have an answer.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that when you're connected, bad things won't ever happen in your life. Sometimes they might. But when they do, you'll have an answer for them. You'll be able to change them with the Word of God.

Don't Break the Connection

If you lost your job, for example, like many people have in recent times, you could believe God for another one. You could turn to Psalm 34:10 and say, "Lord, according to Your Word, those who trust in You will not lack any good thing. A job is a good thing! So I'm not going to be concerned about this. I know You have a great job for me and I ask You to show it to me. I believe I receive the perfect job right now, in Jesus' Name."

Actually, you can conquer any challenge that arises in your life by going to the Word and getting the

answer to it. If you'll believe, speak and act on that answer, you can keep walking forward with God, listening to and being led by the Spirit until whatever you need crosses the bridge of your faith, from the supernatural realm into the natural, and manifests in your life.

"But I've filled out dozens of job applications and no one wants to hire me!" someone might say. "I've been without a job for months now. I'm afraid I'll never find another one."

Well, that's your problem right there. Your words are breaking your BLESSING connection. You're talking fear instead of faith. You're talking the curse instead of THE BLESSING.

In Mark 11:23, Jesus said: "Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Notice, that verse doesn't mention your pastor, your mother or anyone else. It doesn't tell you that you'll have whatsoever they say about you. It says you'll get whatever you say about you!

That's one of the first things Ken and I learned from Brother Hagin the year we lived in Tulsa. He taught us, "If you're not satisfied with what you have, change what you're saying." So we did. We changed our words and changed our lives. That's the reason we're as blessed as we are today.

Of course, to straighten out our words we had to straighten out our hearts and our thinking. The Bible says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). So I made a decision back then to spend time in God's Word every day. I realized I'd have to keep it in front of my eyes and in my ears to keep my faith strong; I'd have to put it first place in my life and obey it if I wanted to walk in victory.

The same thing is true for you. Faith

comes by hearing the Word, so the best thing you can do is take time daily to read your Bible and pray. Get up earlier, if necessary. You can do without sleep, but you can't do without faith.

One of our dear friends in ministry, Brother R.W. Schambach, used to say this many years ago: "You don't have any problems. All you need is faith!"

That's as true now as it has ever been. So remind yourself of it often. Every time you watch the news on television, remember that you don't have to be moved by all the negative reports. You don't have to worry about recession, depression, inflation or anything else. You don't have to

be concerned about what happens on Wall Street.

Those things can't overcome THE BLESSING that's on your life. They can't defeat you as long as you believe God, say what He says and do what He tells you to do.

Through Jesus, you've been redeemed from the curse (which includes every bad thing you can think of), so no matter what happens in this crazy world, you can be prosperous. You can be at the right place at the right time with the right people.

You have Friends in High Places.

You're connected! 

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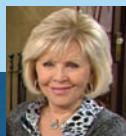


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January

broadcast calendar

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Dec. 31-Jan. 4

Authority by Command

Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, Jan. 6
**God's Plan Is Bigger
Than Your Storm**
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 7-11

Authority by Command

Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, Jan. 13
God's Plan Is Still Working
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 14-18

Ten Days of Wealth Transfer—Part 1

Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sunday, Jan. 20
Voice-Activated Victory
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 21-25

Ten Days of Wealth Transfer—Part 2

Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sunday, Jan. 27
**Receive Forgiveness
and Freedom**
Kenneth Copeland

Jan. 28-Feb. 1

Command

Jeremy Pearsons