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VICTORY

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April 2013

by *Melanie Henry*

The DNA of Faith

When doctors told Mark and Cassandra Van Zant their newborn daughter, Sophia, might not survive a complicated premature birth, they spoke God's Word and saw their child make a miraculous recovery. [page10]



Kenneth Copeland

The Secret to Supernatural Living

Gloria Copeland

Don't Give Up Double Up!



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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



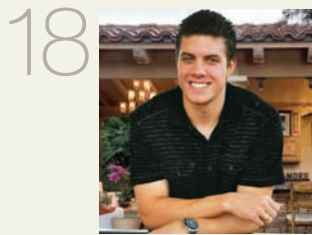
The Secret to Supernatural Living

by Kenneth Copeland

Slow down...Listen for Me and to Me. Those are simple, yet profound instructions we would all do well to follow. If we want to live the kind of supernatural life that Jesus lived, we must slow down enough to listen for and to our Father's voice.



10 **The DNA of Faith** by Melanie Henry
When Cassandra Van Zant went into labor five weeks early, doctors discovered her placenta had detached, leaving her baby without oxygen. Born with no brain activity, a collapsed lung and not breathing on her own, the doctors didn't expect little Sophia to live. Refusing to accept the doctors' report, Mark and Cassy spoke the Word of life over their child and saw her miraculously healed.



18 Where They Are Now

Cody Brunt was 6 years old when he became trapped underwater for seven minutes in a freak boating accident. Emergency crews revived him, and doctors predicted brain damage *if* he survived. But God had a different prognosis. In August 2012, 21-year-old Cody Brunt graduated summa cum laude from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston with a Bachelor of Science degree in diagnostic imaging.



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BY KENNETH COPELAND

The Secret to

SUPERNATURAL

LIVING



The LORD once said something to my good friend and preaching buddy Bill Winston that I'm convinced every one of us needs to hear. *Bill*, He said, *slow down...listen for Me and listen to Me.* ∴ Those are simple but profound instructions we'd all do well to follow.

I've been reminded of that in recent months as I've been studying the words and life of Jesus. I've seen again and again that when He was on earth, hearing and obeying the Father was essential to His success.

It's essential to ours, too. If we want to live the kind of supernatural life that Jesus lived, we must slow down enough to listen *for* and *to* our Father's voice.

"Oh, Brother Copeland!" you might say, "There's no way I can ever live like Jesus!"

Why not? You're His disciple, aren't you?

"Well, yes, but that doesn't mean I can actually be like Him."

According to Jesus it does. He said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). He also said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

The very word *disciple* means, "to follow a teacher in order to become like him." I found that out firsthand when I started learning to fly airplanes. As

an aspiring pilot, I became a "disciple" of my flight instructor. I didn't say, "I could never fly like he does." On the contrary, I fully expected to learn how to duplicate his expertise in the cockpit.

That was the whole idea! If I didn't duplicate him, I knew I'd wind up sticking the airplane in the ground like a dart. Since that's a good way to get killed, I made up my mind right away to follow my instructor's example.

He'd take the controls and say, "OK, I've got the airplane. Here's what we're going to do. You follow me through this." While he went through the

This is the secret to supernatural living! Take the time to listen to the Father who is dwelling within you. Inquire of Him.



maneuver, I'd rest my hands on the controls lightly, without putting any pressure on them, so I could sense what he was doing. When he finished, he'd say, "Now, it's your airplane. You take it." And I'd do my best to perform the maneuver exactly the same way.

Sure enough, I eventually learned to fly just like him.

We can apply the same principle to following Jesus. If we'll say what He said and do what He did, we'll get the same results He got.

I realize that idea upsets religious folks. They think it's blasphemous. "How dare you try to act like Jesus!" they say. "He's God!"

Certainly He is. But He didn't operate as God when He was on earth. As *Philippians 2:7* says, He laid aside all the divine power that belonged to Him as a member of the Trinity and operated as a man. In other words, Jesus was as dependent on the power of His heavenly Father for His success in life and ministry as you and I are today. He said: "I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak.... And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (*John 8:28-29, 14:10*).

This is how Jesus lived: He said only what He heard His Father say. He did what His Father taught Him to do. Then, His Father supplied the power and did the miraculous works everyone marveled over.

That process brought Jesus 100-percent success all the time in every area of His life. If you'll duplicate it, it will do the same for you.

Supernaturally Empowered in Every Area of Life

"But I'm not really called to be a preacher," you might say. "So I don't need any miraculous power working in my life."

Yes, you do.

It's not just preachers who are supposed to have supernatural signs following them. Jesus didn't say that *preachers* would cast out demons, lay hands on the sick, do the works He did and even greater works. He said those things would be done by *those who believe*. (See *Mark 16:17-18*.)

If you're a believer, you are called to live a supernatural life—and not just when it comes to things like praying and sharing the gospel.

As your Lord and Savior, Jesus is committed to empowering you in every area—spirit, soul, body, finances, relationships and everything else that pertains to life and godliness. As your divine Source and Shepherd, He is responsible for your overall success just as His heavenly Father was responsible for His overall success when He was on earth.

How does Jesus carry out that responsibility?

By using the process I just outlined. He speaks the words of the Father to you through the written WORD and the Holy Spirit. He tells you what the Father has planned for you, what He has said about you, and what He has laid up for you. As you hear those words, speak them and obey them, the supernatural power of the Father goes to work in every area of your life.

"That's fine for people like you, Brother Copeland, and for Brother Winston,

but the Holy Spirit doesn't ever say anything to me!"

I know you wouldn't purposely lie to me, but either you or Jesus—one or the other—isn't telling the truth, because Jesus said this to all of us who believe: "The Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach

you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak...for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you" (*John 14:26, 16:13-14*).

I've learned this from experience: When we, as believers, aren't hearing the Holy Spirit, it's not because He isn't speaking. It's because we need to clean out our spiritual ears. We've been so spiritually dense we haven't been hearing Him.

God is never an absentee Father. He is always there, speaking to us, teaching us and guiding us. Whether we're listening or not, He's talking to us in good times and bad times.

When the terrorists attacked on Sept. 11, 2001, for instance, He spoke to every human being in the

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 let us know of your decision.

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Whether we're listening or not, He's talking to us in good times and bad times.

Twin Towers and every person on those airplanes. Some heard what He said, acted on it and are still alive today as a result.

Gloria and I have friends who pastor a church on Wall Street. Most of their members work in or around those towers, but not a single one was hurt or killed in the attacks. One man was coming in the door of one of the towers just before the first plane crashed into it and he heard the Holy Ghost holler, *Run!* The man didn't stop to ask questions. (If he had,

he would have been dead.) He just whirled around, ran down the street and into the subway tunnel to safety.

Another church member was already in the tower when the airplane hit. He followed the leading of the Holy Spirit and just walked out the front door calm as could be. Debris was falling all around him but he came out without any ashes on his clothes or even the smell of smoke.

That's the kind of thing that can happen when we're aware of what God's saying.

The Happiest Man in Vietnam

Actually, no matter what God commands us to do—whether it's preaching in a church, teaching a kindergarten class, serving in the military, raising children at home or praying for a neighbor to be healed—He authorizes and empowers us to do it supernaturally.

One of my closest friends found that out in an amazing way years ago when he was flying an F-100 in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Although he later went into the ministry, back then he didn't know much about faith or how to hear from God. He was a praying man, though, and he knew God had called him to do what he was doing at that particular time. So he continually trusted God to keep him safe.

One night he started having a recurring dream about a particularly dangerous mission. Night after night, it interrupted his sleep. He dreamed it over and over for months. "When the dream finally stopped coming, I was the happiest man in Vietnam," he told me. "I was thrilled to get some rest."

A few weeks later, his squadron was given a high-risk assignment. During the briefings, they were informed that the casualty potential was 50 percent. But when the mission commenced, my friend suddenly realized he already knew everything about it.

"I knew the location of the enemy troops," he said. "I knew where their gun emplacements were so I was able to warn my guys about them. A couple of our pilots went down but I knew exactly where they were and I was able to direct rescue and get them out. It didn't dawn on me until about halfway through the mission that I was flying that dream!"

In the end, his squadron not only completed their mission successfully, they did it without suffering any casualties.

That's how we, as believers,

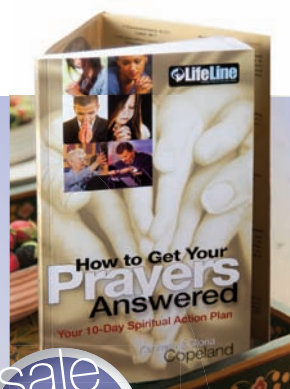
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are meant to live! God won't necessarily speak to us through dreams. (He did that for my friend because he was a relatively young believer at that time.) He'll primarily speak to our hearts through the written WORD and the leading of the Holy Spirit. But to benefit from what He is saying to us, we have to slow down...listen *for* Him and listen *to* Him.

That kind of listening is another thing I learned about when I started flying airplanes. The first time I heard my flight instructor talking to ground control on the radio, I couldn't understand a thing the controller was saying. It sounded like gibberish to me. "What did he say?" I asked my instructor.

"He told us to taxi to runway 1-7," he answered.

A week or so later, after I began to learn a few things, I was preparing for takeoff in the little Cessna I flew back then and I had a different experience. I called ground control, identified myself to the controller, told him where I was and what I wanted. Because I'd begun to get acquainted with the process, I had some idea of what he was going to say back to me. As a result, I was able to hear and understand him.

If you're trying to hear from God and you don't know The WORD, you're going to feel like I did when I heard ground control for the first time. You're going to have a hard time understanding what God is saying to you because you aren't acquainted with how He talks. You don't know what to listen for.

Most likely, you'll be expecting Him to say something religious. But He doesn't talk religion! He speaks in line with His written WORD. He speaks faith, hope and love. He speaks THE BLESSING language. The more familiar you get with that language, the easier it will be for you to identify God's voice and discern what He's saying.

Even then, however, you'll have to train yourself to listen for Him.

In my early days as a pilot, one of

the first things I learned to listen for was the tail number on my plane—55 X-ray—so I'd be sure to hear when the controller called it. That was important even back when I was flying in at 65 or 70 mph. These days it's even more vital. When I'm flying into places like New York City where planes are lined up, all of them flying 250 mph or more, I have to hear my number the moment it's called.

So what do I do? I listen for my instructions from the controller: I listen to them and I instantly obey.

That's what we all should be doing with the voice of The LORD!

As He told Brother Bill, we need to slow down and listen *for* Him and *to* Him. We need to take the time to do what He tells us to do in Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God."

This is the secret to supernatural living! Take the time to listen to the Father who is dwelling within you. Inquire of Him. Ask Him to train your ear. He'll teach you His voice. He'll teach you how to follow Jesus and become His disciple.

Before long, you'll begin to realize He is leading you and placing you in the same position Jesus was in when He was on earth. You'll realize He is doing His works in your life. He's moving supernaturally for you in certain situations and places, manifesting Himself according to John 14:21.

Because God is absolutely righteous (which simply means He is absolute rightness) when He manifests Himself, things in your life start working right. Like an engine that's operating exactly like it's designed to operate, your life runs smoothly!

When people ask how you do it, you can answer like Jesus did. You can say, "I don't make it work, I just pray and obey. I just listen for and to the voice of my Shepherd, say what He says, and do what He tells me to do. Then the Father dwelling in me does the works."

That's what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It means He commands, authorizes and empowers you. All you have to do is go! 📍

After the recent school shootings, I have become more and more concerned about the safety of my children. I'd like to believe God will protect them. But can I really know for sure that He will?

Yes! You *can* be sure God will protect your children because He's specifically said He will.

His written WORD is absolutely full of promises that, if you will believe and act on them, will guarantee the safety of you and your children—regardless of how dangerous the world around you becomes.

One of the most powerful ways to build your faith

and activate promises like these in your life is to incorporate them into your prayers every day. Jeremiah 1:12 says God watches over His WORD to perform it, so it makes solid, spiritual sense to pray The WORD!

Here's a sample prayer that's packed with scriptural promises to help you get started:

Prayer

"Father, I believe You contend with him who contends with me, and You give safety to my children and ease them day

by day. I confess that according to Psalm 91, You give Your angels special charge over my children, to accompany and defend and preserve them. No evil shall befall them, no accident shall overtake them, nor shall any plague or calamity come near them.

"Father, I thank You that You keep my children's feet from being caught in a trap or hidden danger. And I know Your WORD says they are taught by You and great is their peace. I commit my children to Your care and protection. You are my confidence, firm and strong, and I am persuaded that You are able to guard and keep that which I've committed to You. In Jesus' Name. Amen."

Read:
Jeremiah 1:12
Psalm 91



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What you continually
SAY WITH YOUR MOUTH
is what's in your heart.
That's what's going to
COME TO PASS.

Gloria Copeland

Words from last year's Southwest Believers' Convention

The power
of life and death
is in the tongue.
Increase begins
with the lips!

Kenneth Copeland

People who write
their goals are more
apt to see them
come to pass.

Jerry Savelle

God's humor is
for everyone's
benefit, and
not at anyone's
expense!

Keith Moore

**Wherever you
decide to go,
look behind you
because goodness
and mercy are right
there with you.**

Creffo Dollar

When you write
what you've seen
from the Word it
brings clarity. Write
what you see!

Jesse Duplantis

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BY MELANIE HENRY

The DNA of Faith

THE HOUSE WAS QUIET AS THE EYE OF A STORM AS CASSY VAN ZANT PACED. MOONLIGHT SHIMMERED THROUGH THE WINDOW LIKE A PALE PROMISE THAT THE ENDLESS NIGHT WOULD FINALLY GIVE WAY TO MORNING. NEITHER OF HER OTHER PREGNANCIES HAD BEEN THIS DIFFICULT. :: IN HER SEVENTH MONTH, SHE'D GAINED 30 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS. HER BLOOD PRESSURE HAD RISEN AND HER BODY HAD SWOLLEN.

She had also developed pregnancy-induced carpal tunnel syndrome. Every time she crawled exhaustedly into bed and tried to sleep, her arms felt like hot electrical wires, numb and tingling at the same time.

With one month to go before her due date, Cassy flipped on the television and listened as a minister talked about prayer cloths. She'd never heard of such a thing, but he read Acts 19:11-12: "Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them"

(New King James Version).

Cassy sighed—if only she had a prayer cloth.

By the time her husband, Mark, and their daughters, Victoria and Ana Grace, sat down for breakfast, her eyes felt gritty, like she'd fought her way through a sandstorm. How would she make it another month?

Later that day, at the end of August 2006, Cassy started having contractions. By evening, she was in full-blown labor. Mark took her to the hospital where she started bleeding.

"The baby's heart rate has dropped dangerously low," her doctor explained. "The placenta has separated from the uterus, which means the baby no longer has an oxygen supply. We've got to deliver her now."

The moment the baby was born, the doctor called a code and medical staff rushed into the delivery room. Cassy caught a quick glimpse of her

daughter. Her skin looked an odd combination of gray and blue.

As minutes ticked by, it wasn't what Cassy and Mark saw that disturbed them. It was the sound: the quiet murmur of voices behind masks, the clink of instruments, the rustle of gowns. What they *didn't* hear was the indignant wail of a newborn thrust into the world.

Their baby hadn't cried once, not even a whimper.

The silence felt as hollow and lonely as a graveyard.

Heaven Is Waiting

"Our daughter, Sophia, was whisked away to the neonatal intensive care unit where she was put on life support," Cassy recalls. "The neonatologist gave us the facts. She'd been deprived of oxygen and showed no brain activity. She wasn't breathing on her own. One of her lungs had collapsed. She weighed 4 pounds, 10 ounces. A



Cassy & Mark Van Zant

"Because we had learned to stand on the Word and speak the Word, we were able to operate from the offensive instead of the defensive."



normal, healthy child has an Apgar score of 10. Sophia's Apgar was 1. They didn't expect her to survive the night."

Standing next to the isolette, Mark and Cassy saw their daughter for the first time. She looked tiny, as shriveled as a little old man, with tubes and wires attached to every part of her body.

They knew enough to understand that this situation wasn't from God. Jesus said the thief came to kill, steal and destroy, but that He had come to bring abundant life. Looking at Sophia, they were certain she wasn't enjoying abundant life.

Looking back, they realized God had begun to prepare them for how to

In addition to Cassy and Sophia being in the hospital, he had two little girls at home. They all needed him to be strong. He settled into a chair next to Cassy's bed and thought about the years leading up to this event.

They had attended church, prayed, read their Bibles and loved the Lord. What puzzled them was that some people, like Cassy's brother, lived a more victorious life. Why did some people win more victories and seem more blessed than others?

Mark and Cassy asked God for answers, and in response, He arranged for them to meet their neighbors, who happened to be Partners with Kenneth

and His ways. In three years, we'd built a solid foundation of the Word in our lives. Still, I couldn't help wondering if we'd learned enough."

Agreeing With God

Early the next morning, Mark and Cassy met with the neonatologist. "The good news is that she survived the night and now we think she'll live," he said of Sophia. "The problem is that she was deprived of oxygen so the quality of her life is in question. She's at risk mentally and physically. Our greatest concern is that she'll have cerebral palsy."

Cassy tuned out the words. Under her breath she said, "I don't receive this in Jesus' Name!" Back in the NICU, she spoke to Sophia: "No weapon formed against you will prosper!" One after another, Mark and Cassy spoke healing scriptures over their baby.

Cassy's sister arrived and handed her a square of fabric. "This is a prayer cloth," she said.

"I just learned about prayer cloths and I wanted one!" Cassy replied. She tucked the cloth in the pocket of her gown and each time she visited Sophia, she rubbed it over her body, thanking God for healing her.

"We knew there was no reason to keep asking God to heal her," Cassy remembers. "Healing has been provided on the Cross just like salvation, so we continually praised God, thanking Him for her healing. Even so, the enemy taunted me saying, 'Don't get your hopes up.'"

"Where Sophia was concerned, I had bulldog faith. I grabbed hold of God's promises and refused to let go, even though days passed with no change in her condition. The hardest thing was watching the other babies in the NICU. One who'd been born the same day and with the same prognosis as Sophia, died. The baby closest to Sophia had been in the NICU for two months and was doing worse. Another baby never had a single visitor.

"Each of those situations hit me emotionally and I felt overwhelmed

Partnership with KCM was the foundation of our faith walk. We learned who we were in Christ and who He is in us. We discovered that God said His people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.

respond to this situation for three years. Would the faith they'd planted in their hearts be enough?

One thing was certain: Heaven was waiting on their response.

Cassy leaned over her daughter and said, "You will not die, but live and declare the works of the Lord!" Mark declared Psalm 107:20 over their daughter, whispering to her: "He sent His Word and healed you! He delivered you from destruction!"

A Solid Foundation

Mark helped Cassy back to bed, keeping a watchful eye on her. Cassy's only concern was for Sophia, but the doctor had warned him that Cassy was still at risk. She could have seizures, they told him. Mark stopped himself. He wouldn't allow his mind to go there.

Copeland Ministries. "Is healing for today?" Cassy had asked. "If so, show me in the Bible." Once a week the two couples met for a Bible study to answer Mark and Cassy's questions. Their neighbors introduced them to KCM, as well as the ministry's monthly magazine, *Believer's Voice of Victory*, and the daily television broadcast. Over time, the Bible study grew into a home church which evolved into Word of Faith Church.

"We became Partners with KCM, studied the word of faith, listened to teachings and read books," Mark explains. "We learned who we were in Christ and who He is in us. We discovered that God said His people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge. That's why we hadn't been living in victory; we didn't have the knowledge of His will

Today, Sophia Joy is 6 years old, in the first grade. **SHE IS JOYFUL, witty, funny and full of life.**

for those babies. However, I felt as though I was dripping in liquid love and wrapped in supernatural peace where Sophia was concerned.”

Mark and Cassy stood on the Word of God, believing His promises in spite of contrary circumstances. They continued to stand when Sophia showed no evidence of brain activity. They stood in spite of the fact that babies were dying around her. Having done all, they continued to stand.

The Third Day

On the third day, Sophia came to life. She opened her eyes and looked around—alert. She breathed on her own. The chest tube was removed and she wanted to nurse!

The neonatologist was optimistic and predicted that she would be discharged in seven weeks. However, on the *seventh day*, Sophia weighed 5 pounds and seemed to have fully recovered.

“She’s a miracle baby!” the doctor said, stunned. “She’s a superbaby!”

“That’s right,” Cassy agreed while dressing Sophia for her trip home. “God added His ‘super’ to her ‘natural.’”

At home, Sophia continued to thrive. “The Lord showed me the pivotal moment had been when I chose to agree with His Word rather than the doctor’s report,” Cassy explained. “Even though we didn’t see the result for days, that was the moment healing had been released.”

For her 8-month checkup, Sophia was examined by the neonatologist, a physical therapist and an occupational therapist. Afterward, one doctor said, “Her gross motor skills are average but she is above average in every other area! I know where she started...this shouldn’t be.”

Sowing Seeds

Today, Sophia Joy is 6 years old, in the first grade and lives up to her name. She is joyful, witty, funny and full of life. Her hazel eyes sparkle with humor beneath blond bangs.

“Partnership with KCM was the

foundation of our faith walk,” Mark says. “Because we had learned to stand on the Word and speak the Word, we were able to operate from the offensive instead of the defensive. Because I’m a pilot, I relate to Brother Copeland’s get-up-and-go attitude. Without that attitude and foundation of faith, Sophia would have had a very different outcome.”

Mark and Cassy wanted to help other people in similar crisis situations, so they started a ministry called Motivated4Life. They produce prayer cloths, which are bandanas with scriptures, confessions and prayers printed on them. In the past few years they’ve sent out more than 120,000 of them. Before a package of cloths is shipped, Mark, Cassy and their three children anoint their hands and pray over them, declaring God’s Word. They’ve received reports of tumors disappearing, kidney failures healed, salvations and supernatural protection.

“These cloths are just one way that God accomplishes His will on earth,” Cassy explains. “By faith, we believe the yokes and burdens will be broken in the lives of each person coming in contact with a cloth. According to Isaiah 55:11, ‘So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.’”

Because Sophia Van Zant’s recovery was so miraculous, her neonatologist suspected there was something unusual about her DNA. Of course, he was right. The key to Sophia’s miraculous recovery was the DNA of Jesus’ blood that ratified the New Covenant. It was the DNA of His stripes. It was the DNA of faith. ♡



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- Saturday morning Healing School with Gloria

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VENEZUELA AUGUST 30-31

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Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5 de Julio
Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela

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Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center | 1101 Lincoln St.
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Hylton Memorial Chapel | 14640 Potomac Mills Road
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Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

KHAN INTERNATIONAL INTERCESSION MINISTRIES: March 22

Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills
1902 E. 71st St. | Tulsa, OK 74136
Contact Ngul Lian Cing 1-918-810-4869

25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: May 4

River of Life Church | 377 Direct Connection Drive
Rossville, GA 30741 | 1-806-891-2120 | rolc.org

ANNUAL WORD of FAITH CONVENTION: June 14-15

Word of Faith International Christian Center
20000 W. Nine Mile Road | Southfield, MI 48075
1-248-353-3476 | woficc.com

Terri Copeland Pearsons

PRAYER CONFERENCE & SUNDAY SERVICE: April 12-14

Eglise La Bonne Nouvelle | Boscolo Park Hotel
6 Avenue de Suède | 06000 Nice, France
+33 (0) 6-58-73-62-84 | elbnfrance.com

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

JUBILEE CHURCH: March 23-24

Bowlingstraat 74 | 4902 AK
Oosterhout (NB) | The Netherlands | jubilee.nl

RHEMA BIBLE CHURCH: March 30-31

Stadhalle Bonn-Bad Godesberg | Koblenzer Str. 80
53177 Bonn | Germany
rhema-germany.de/home.0.html?&L=1

2013 MOTHER DAUGHTER BANQUET: May 11

Cornerstone Church | 18755 Stone Oak Parkway
San Antonio, TX 78258 | 1-210-490-1600 | sacornerstone.org

Riley Stephenson

Join KCM's evangelistic outreach minister
for evangelism training in your area.

FAITH LIFE FELLOWSHIP: April 5-7

17 S. Gilbert St., Unit A | Castle Rock, CO 80104
faithlifefellowship.us

HIS TABERNACLE FAMILY CHURCH: April 12-14

16 Level Acres Drive | Horseheads, NY 14845
1-607-739-5196 | histabernacle.com

FAITH FAMILY CHURCH: April 19-21

127 N. Spring Ave. | Sioux Falls, SD 57104
1-605-336-2227 | faithfamilychurch.com

VICTORY CHURCH: April 26-28

1208 E. Hardy St. | Hattiesburg, MS 39401
1-601-544-8485 | victorychurchhattiesburg.org

For a complete list of meetings,
please go to **KCM.ORG/EVENTS**.

Meetings are subject to change without notice.

GoodNewsGazette

Relationship Restored

My daddy was ignoring my calls as part of refusing me as his son. I was born outside of marriage. After reading a daily devotional of KCM by Gloria on the topic "Break the Wall," the next day my daddy called me and apologized for not communicating with me for a long time. He asked me to communicate with him at least twice a week. Glory to God! **T.M. | South Africa**

God Brought Me Through

About a year ago I lost a good friend, a dear nephew and my closest brother all within about three months, plus my marriage was about gone from an attack of the enemy. I went through a deep depression, but I reached out to God with all that was in me. I called your prayer line, and the scriptures the lady

gave me and the prayer we prayed, really gave me hope and strength. Through the Word of God, my confession and prayer, God brought me through.

Now, a year later, my marriage is strong, I have come out of the pit of depression and I want to thank God and your ministry for being part of my emotional healing and the healing of my marriage. Praise God for His goodness!

S.S. | Arkansas

Delivered in a Dream!

I'm 27 years old and for as long as I can remember I've been in bondage to lust and pornography. Even though I became a born-again Christian at 22, I still struggled... until June 11, 2012.

Brother Copeland and Brother Jesse had said on *BVOV* that week how it was time to let go of whatever God has been telling you to. I sowed a seed and believed I would be delivered of these things. Sunday night, June 10, I prayed and went to bed just like any ordinary

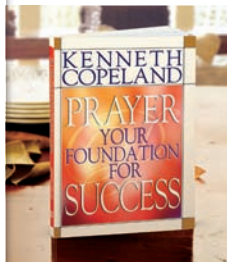
night getting ready for the week ahead. That night I had a dream that Brother Copeland laid hands on me and I was immediately delivered from lust and pornography. I'm ecstatic to say that since I woke up from that dream, I've had no struggle at all with either of these things; they are a thing of the past and I am FREE!

Thank you, Brother Copeland and Brother Jesse, for following the calling on your lives. You both have impacted my life forever.

B.T. | North Carolina

“...tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.”

(Mark 5:19, *New King James Version*)



Your Book Changed the Way I Pray

A few years ago when I was a soldier in Kuwait, I was attending a television conference where they allowed us to talk to our spouses back home. While waiting for my turn, I saw a few novels, Bibles and books on prayer and faith, so I gathered up a few and took them to my tent, but didn't touch them. One day several weeks later, I was cleaning up my area and started to get rid of them when I saw Kenneth Copeland's name on one of them.

It was a small book titled *Prayer—Your Foundation for Success* and once I started reading it, I couldn't put it down. It really opened my eyes as to why my prayers were going unanswered. And for such a small book, it was loaded with some powerful messages about faith, and expecting God to hear and answer our prayers. Thank you for that word, it really changed the way I pray and now I can pray and know God will answer because I am His child, praise God! God bless you and your ministry.

R.O. | California

'God Sets the Captive Free!'



A number of years ago, I was enjoying a cup of tea with a friend who reminded me to put into practice the tools I had been given and trust God to do the rest and I would see changes in my life.

I was striving to please God, yet feeling powerless and empty.

Exactly one year later, another friend encouraged me to attend a weekend ministry meeting in Chicago with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. That is where I had an encounter with God that changed my life.

Miracle after miracle began to happen. After two failed marriages to the same person, the loss of three children and multiple addictions controlling me, I'm living proof the power of God sets the captive free!

Doctors had diagnosed me with cancer, depression, a severe learning disability and a brain tumor. Today, my body and broken heart have been supernaturally healed, my family relationships restored, my debts paid in full and my past no longer controls my future! **Julie M. | Ada, Mich.**

Jesus Is Lord in Pakistan

Glory to God, I received first position in my BSN in nursing. God is good.



I am growing day by day in faith by listening to *BVOV* live broadcast. Thank You, Lord, for Kenneth, Gloria and KCM Partners who always connect in faith with me. Jesus is Lord.

R.C. | Pakistan

Jesus Turned Away the Fire

As Partners, we are very blessed that Kenneth and Gloria pray for us every day. We thank God for hearing our prayers.

Labor Day 2011, the wildfire in Bastrop County, Texas, was inching closer and closer to my sister and brother-in-law's property. Houses and trees were burning to the ground in their neighborhood. All

day long, my sister and her husband continued to pray, rebuke the fire and wind, and blow the shofar (ram's horn). In His perfect timing, Jesus turned away the fire and the wind.

The Lord gave them Isaiah 43:2: "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest

through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee."

We give all the glory to Jesus for hearing our prayers, turning the fire, and protecting my family and their home.

E.J. | Texas

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Your 1998 Partner Book Stirred Me Up, Again

I've been an active Partner with you from 1993. I would get your magazine every month and it turned out to be direct answer to my prayer by May 24, 1993. They burnt our house and all our belongings while inside the house. We survived all this by the grace of God. The *Victory* magazine helped me. I pray God to give me money and support your ministry. In 1998, you sent me a Partner book. I read it and after some time, shelved it. I just decided to take it down and read it again, and it is working wonders this morning! I was reading the title STIR YOURSELF UP. I am really stirred up and thank the Almighty for you.

S.M. | South Africa

Grateful for KCM

I wish to express my deepest gratitude to Kenneth Copeland and the ministry, for the generous gift of his latest book, which I requested and received, at no cost whatsoever. I am most grateful to this ministry for the teaching,

the revelations and the empowerment it invests in its Partners and non-Partners. Kenneth, Gloria and the ministry are indisputably anointed and used of God, and are unquestionably transforming lives for God's glory. I love and bless them in Jesus' Name. I am passionate about and for this ministry.

Claudia L. | Canada

The Prayer of Agreement Works! I was offered a full-time job after a KCM prayer minister agreed with me.
K.L. | Tennessee



God Called Us to Mexico!

My wife and I have been following your ministry for only a few months. In the last month God has done some life-changing things. Some of it is a result of KCM and all the wisdom and insight we have received from your ministry. We have been getting into the Word as

never before, and learning to pray and believe as never before. A few months ago God called us to be part of a mission group in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. We will be there in January [2013] for a month to help with a building program and teaching ministry. It is a step, or leap,

of faith on our part...but we have the prayer support of friends and family. We praise God for what He is doing in our lives and that we can trust in Him. And we thank God for KCM as you have been an influence in our lives.

M. and M.F. | Victoria, B.C.

From Faith to Faith Carried Me

I came across the book *From Faith to Faith* and wanted to let Kenneth and Gloria know this book carried me through a double mastectomy. I'm so grateful this book was available. It was very instrumental in building my faith through this trial. The doctors have given an excellent prognosis...they got all the cancer, and God gets all the glory. I received favor throughout this whole ordeal. I want to make sure Kenneth and Gloria get this information. I'm a Partner and 73 years old.

Janelle N. | Santa Rosa, Calif.

United Kingdom

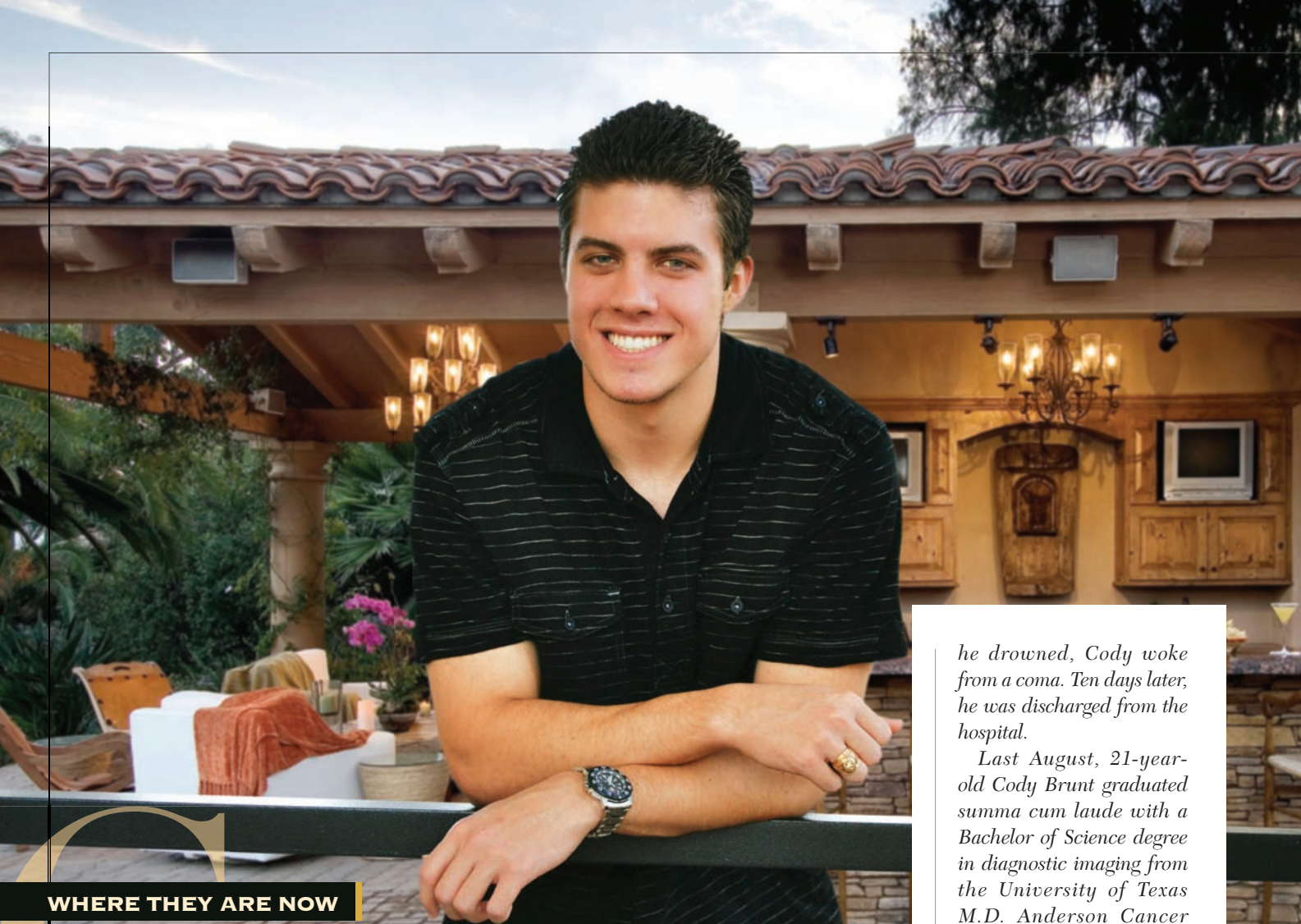
Allergy Bowed to the Name of Jesus

I have a severe allergy to mosquito bites and was recently bitten four times right at the front of my throat, which normally would be very dangerous. I laid my hand on my throat and declared, "I forbid you to swell in the Name of Jesus." The tissues of my throat did not swell at all. Praise God!

Vanessa T. | Southampton, U.K.

From Darkness to God's Love I would like to thank you very much. The day I received your *From Faith to Faith* was the day I began to slowly recover from my darkness. During that time, I was planning to hang myself. As I began to read *Faith to Faith* day after day, as well as my Bible, I began to realize that God did love me. I'm not saying that I recovered right then: Thoughts of killing myself were still there at times, but slowly they began to leave the more I learned of God's love. Your ministry started sending books and the *BVOV* magazine and I began to have faith in God and things began to turn around for me. I'm no longer locked in the bondage Satan had me in.

L.G. | Troy, N.C.



WHERE THEY ARE NOW

Cody Brunt was just 6 years old when a tragic boating accident nearly claimed his young life. It was a sunny day on July 2, 1997, when he, his mother, Ella, and his 8-year-old sister, Brittany, boarded the 18-foot boat docked at Clear Lake in south Texas for an afternoon outing. As the boat slipped away from the dock, a wind gust jolted the vessel, causing the three to fall overboard. In desperation, Ella struggled to hold on to Brittany while reaching out to grab Cody.

Unable to reach her son, Ella swam to safety with Brittany, thankful that Cody was wearing a life vest. But minutes later, Cody was still in the water—his tiny body submerged and entangled by a rope that pinned him to the bottom of the boat.

When rescuers finally freed Cody and brought him to the surface, his body was limp and lifeless. He

had no pulse, and was not breathing. He was dead. Though they were able to revive him, the prognosis was not good. Doctors said Cody likely suffered brain damage, and gave him a 1-percent chance of survival.

Taking their stand as believers, Ted and Ella Brunt refused to accept that report. Instead, they acted on something Ted

heard Kenneth Copeland say on his radio broadcast more than 20 years earlier in 1975: “Faith-filled words dominate the laws of death.” They determined that they would speak nothing but faith-filled words, not speak doubt and unbelief, and not allow anyone who would not speak faith to come near their situation.

Nine and a half days after

he drowned, Cody woke from a coma. Ten days later, he was discharged from the hospital.

Last August, 21-year-old Cody Brunt graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science degree in diagnostic imaging from the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. Today, he works as a CT supervisor at the Mainland Medical Center in Texas City, Texas.

“From that one word I learned from Brother Copeland back in the ’70s, God gave me a plan for how to stand for our son’s life,” says Ted Brunt, who has been a KCM Partner for more than 30 years. “We are forever indebted to him for that teaching.”

The following is a reprint of an article published in *Believer’s Voice of Victory* in April 1999, that told of the Brunts’ ordeal, and how God miraculously delivered Cody.

Editor’s Note

by
Melanie
Henry



a Miracle in Motion

HEAT SIZZLED off the pavement as Ella Brunt stepped out of the car near the dock at Clear Lake in south Texas. Sunlight shimmered on the blue water while a hot wind drove the waves against the shore. That day, July 2, 1997, the temperature had already risen to the high 90s.

What a great day to sail, Ella thought, waving to her 25-year-old nephew, Wallace, who already had his sailboat in the water. She snapped the orange life vests on to 8-year-old Brittany and 6-year-old Cody before letting them race to the water's edge.

Onboard the boat, Brittany and Cody were instructed to stay in a covered area near the bow until the sails were up. Ella took a position at the stern, leaving room for Wallace to work with the sails. A man in a power boat offered to pull them to deeper water so that Wallace could get the sails up and catch the wind.

Ella enjoyed watching the delight in her children's eyes as the boat began to move. Brittany stood on the left side of the bow facing Ella, and Cody sat on the right side—the boom separating him from his sister.

Soon the 18-foot sailboat was away from the dock. Wallace had just raised the jib when a gust of wind tilted the boat to the right. Wallace, standing on the left side of the boom closest to Brittany, grabbed the child and handed her to Ella. Cody held out his arms to Ella, his green eyes wide with fear.

For Ella, time stood still. She no longer heard the hum of motorboats and Jet Skis. She didn't hear Wallace's hurried admonitions. All she heard was one word, "Mama!" All she saw were those frightened eyes and grasping hands.

Holding Brittany tight, she lunged forward to grab Cody. Just then another gust of wind capsized the boat. Ella gasped

at the sudden shock of warm water on her hot skin, but she didn't let loose her hold on Brittany. Holding tight, she swam out from under the boat and pulled Brittany to the surface.

Thank God Cody has on a life vest, she thought, taking a great gulp of air. She scanned the water, anxious for a glimpse of him bobbing to the surface.

Nothing.

'Keep Trying'

Wallace dove under the boat looking for Cody, then resurfaced for air. Again and again he dove and came up empty-handed. Minutes passed before Wallace broke the surface, screaming one agonized word. "No!"

"Wallace, you've got to keep trying!" Ella begged, afraid to let go of Brittany and look for him herself. Wallace nodded and dove back into the water. He didn't try to tell her that he'd found Cody. He'd become tangled in a rope and was tied to the bottom of the boat like an insect caught in a spider's web. In the murky water, wearing his Astro T-shirt, shorts and tennis shoes under the bright orange life vest, Cody Brunt was pinned—lifeless.

No matter how hard he tugged, the wet ropes wouldn't come untied.

"Brittany, Cody's in trouble," Ella said. "Pray in the Holy Spirit."

Ella lost track of time as Wallace dove again and again. He didn't need to tell her what was under those waves. She

Ella lost track of time as Wallace dove again and again. He didn't need to tell her what was under those waves. She knew. Deep in her mother's heart, Ella knew that Cody was dead.



Although he was in a coma, test results showed that Cody's brain activity was that of a child who was sleeping.

From that one word I learned from Brother Copeland back in the '70s, God gave me a plan for how to stand for our son's life. We are forever indebted to him for that teaching.

—Ted Brunt

knew. Deep in her mother's heart, Ella knew that Cody was dead.

The devil flashed Ella a picture of Cody in a casket. She saw three people—her husband, Ted, Brittany and herself—walking through life without him.

“No, Satan, you're not going to steal my child!” she shouted.

Then she remembered the Bible story about the blind man who needed a miracle, but couldn't get to Jesus through the crowd. He'd screamed at the top of his lungs. “*Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!*”

The agony of loss that welled up in Ella's heart came out in the form of a scream that echoed across the lake.

“J-e-s-u-s! H-a-v-e m-e-r-c-y o-n u-s!”

“About then, a woman on a Jet Ski drove up and asked if she could help,” Ella remembers. “I sent Brittany to the dock with her. Then, I dove into the water and searched for Cody. The water was so murky I couldn't see, but I felt something cloth and pulled it to the surface. It was the blue casing for one of the sails. I threw it aside and dove again.

“Wallace continued to tug on the ropes, and suddenly they uncoiled. Cody was still tied to the boat, but Wallace was able to get him to the surface. The woman on the Jet Ski came back with another man. They were both off-duty police officers who knew CPR.

“One of the officers was able to get Cody loose from the boat. The man who had originally towed us out into the lake also returned and offered help. He was an off-duty 911 operator. The

men got Cody into the boat and began CPR. He had no pulse. He was not breathing. His skin was blue in color. He was dead.”

Back at the dock, a news helicopter hovered overhead. Paramedics from nearby NASA arrived to help, followed soon by a Life Flight medical helicopter. As the helicopter lifted off to take Cody to Hermann Hospital in Houston, Ella used her cellphone to leave a message for Ted.

Then she began the 45-minute drive from Texas City to Houston.

Ted Brunt knew his wife and children had gone sailing when he drove home from work that afternoon. He was a quiet man whose faith ran deep—all the way back to January 1975, when he was born again. In May of that same year, he had heard Kenneth Copeland on the radio teaching radical faith. Ted had looked up every scripture, and found that what he had heard being taught was scriptural.

Every afternoon at 4 o'clock, Ted taped Brother Copeland's 15-minute radio broadcast on a local station. After work, and on his days off, Ted would take his tape player, tapes and fishing rod to Galveston Bay, where he spent hours listening to the broadcasts. Later he added tapes by Jerry Savelle and Kenneth E. Hagin. Many times, Ted would listen to tapes all day.

Ted also read the testimony articles in the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. He often thought: *If anything like this ever happens to me, I'll know what to do.*

An Uneasy Feeling

Stepping through the front door of his home that scorching July afternoon, Ted paused. *There's trouble*, he thought, *with Cody.*

He checked the answering machine and listened to Ella's voice tell him there had been an accident. He could hear the helicopter in the background. Ted picked up his mother, who lived nearby, and began the 30-minute drive to Houston.

He'd been driving for a while when a voice spoke so clearly that Ted looked at his mother and glanced around the car. The voice sounded exactly like Kenneth Copeland's.

Faith-filled words dominate the laws of death.

Moments later, he heard the words again, only more emphatically.

Faith-filled words dominate the laws of death.

The words welled up on the inside of Ted and exploded. He knew exactly where he'd heard them before. Eighteen years earlier, he'd taped a radio broadcast where Kenneth Copeland spoke those exact same words.

A few minutes later, Ted heard another voice that seemed almost audible. This time it sounded like Jerry Savelle. *Bad news don't shake him.*

Jerry Savelle had said those words at a tent meeting in Galveston on Aug. 4, 1978. He'd been preaching from Psalm 112 about the man whose heart is fixed. “He's not moved by evil tidings,” Brother Savelle had said, “and bad news don't shake him.”

“I'm normally pretty laid-back,” Ted

said, “but the words I heard in the car sparked a boldness in me that I’d never known. By the time I walked into Hermann Hospital, I felt like the CEO of that place. I still didn’t know what exactly had happened to Cody, but I knew God had given me the game plan.

“When Ella arrived, I told her three things. First, that we would speak nothing but faith-filled words and the desired end result. Second, that we would not speak one word of doubt or unbelief. And third, we would not allow anyone who could not speak faith around the situation.”

It was almost 45 minutes before a doctor came out to talk to Ted and Ella. He looked Ted straight in the eye. “Cody is a very, very sick little boy,” he began. “We know he has brain damage. We just don’t know how much. His lungs are completely filled with fluid and bleeding internally. We can’t stop it. His brain is swelling, and within a few hours we’ll have to drill holes in his skull to release the pressure.” The doctor didn’t think Cody would live that long.

Ted looked the doctor in the eye. “Doctor, I appreciate your report, and all you’ve done. But now I want you to hear mine. We are Christians. We are *believers* in the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah 53:1 says, ‘Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?’

The Prayer of Faith

“We believe that the arm of the Lord will save Cody. He is a well mannered, above-normal, Spirit-filled child. He’s sensitive and compliant, and he will walk out of this hospital whole. All we ask is the opportunity to lay hands on him and pray.”

The doctor listened with compassion and understanding.

“First let us get him moved to pediatric intensive care,” he urged.

Later, the doctor in the ICU asked Ted, “What kind of Christian sect are you?”

“We just believe in Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father,” Ted explained. “We believe that Jesus is the

same yesterday, today and forever. If He raised people from the dead in the past, He’ll do it again now. All we want is the chance to lay hands on him and pray.”

“You can do that now,” the doctor said.

By then a crowd of friends and family had gathered.

“There are 19 of us,” Ted explained.

“They can all come in,” the doctor told Ted.

Nineteen believers laid their hands on Cody and released their faith for a miracle. Afterward, Ella taped a recent picture of Cody on the wall above his bed. Every time anyone came into the room, Ted or Ella said, “Cody will walk out of this hospital, whole and looking just like this.”

Five hours after the accident, Cody was on a respirator with 100-percent

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Executors of God's Will on Earth

Let's be honest. Every one of us has prayed prayers we felt weren't answered. We've known people who prayed... and prayed...and prayed, but nothing happened. Those prayers didn't make tremendous, dynamic power available. Somehow they missed the mark.

We can't afford to miss the mark in prayer because prayer is what makes God's power available to us. We desperately need the power of God released in mighty

ways to bring salvation, deliverance, healing and restoration into our lives, our families, our government and our world.

We must learn to stand up in the power of prayer and take dominion,

bringing the will of God to pass on earth as it is in heaven.

"I'm supposed to take dominion?" you ask.

Yes, you were destined and designed by God to be a ruler on this earth, not a victim of circumstance. If you're born again, you have dominion through Jesus Christ. Circumstances must bow their knees when you



pray—but only if you pray accurately.

To pray accurately, first find the will of God in a situation. First John 5:14-15 says, "If we ask any thing *according to his will*, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us...we have the petitions that we desired of him." You can know God's will through His Word—His written will and also by the Holy Spirit revealing it to you.

Once you receive a revelation of God's will, take hold of it in faith. The Spirit actually takes hold with you, strengthens you and helps you pray "according to the will of God" (Romans 8:27).

Now, refuse to let go until this natural world submits to spiritual truth and God's will is carried out in that situation. That's when you'll discover firsthand that your prayers really are powerful. You might say that through prayer, you are to be the executor of God's will on the earth! 📌

Terri Copeland Pearsons is the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland. She and her husband, George, serve as senior pastors of Eagle Mountain International Church at Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas. For information or ministry materials write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001 or visit terricopelandpearsons.com.

oxygen, yet his oxygen saturation level was only 40 percent. Miraculously, he survived the night—and the next day. Days passed without a single sign of improvement. In fact, he grew worse as aspiration pneumonia set in.

"At home, I pulled out the old tapes by Kenneth Copeland and Jerry Savelle. Brittany and I listened to them over and over driving back and forth from the hospital. We sang songs like, 'Cody is healed, Cody is whole, From the top of his head to the tip of his toes.'

"In the waiting room, other parents watched soap operas. We sang, 'Look what the Lord has done! He touched Cody's body, He touched Cody's mind, God saved Cody just in time!'"

When the phone rang in the waiting room, Ella answered, "Miracle in Motion—Cody's mom!" Ella and Ted read scriptures to Cody, rubbed his legs and declared that he would play T-ball again.

Doctors repeated CAT scans, MRIs and EEGs to try and prove that Cody was brain dead. Although he was in a deep coma, the tests showed the brain activity of a sleeping child.

It was five full days before any of the doctors began to suggest that Cody might possibly live. Nine and a half days after he drowned, Cody Brunt woke from the coma to hear a nurse talking to him.

"Yes, ma'am," he said politely.

A doctor sitting nearby dropped her clipboard and ran to his bedside. Fourteen days after the accident, Cody was discharged from Hermann Hospital to a rehab hospital where he was to stay for four to six weeks.

A Stunned Staff

Ten days later he was discharged.

When they left the rehab

hospital, Ted and Ella drove to Hermann Hospital and took Cody to the PICU. Green eyes flashing with good humor, Cody walked up to each person on duty and said, "Hi! I'm Cody Brunt, how are you?"

The hospital staff was stunned. He looked exactly like the boy in the picture. That day, one of Ella's friends phoned the local media. "You reported the bad news about Cody," she said. "Now will you report the good news?" They agreed. Cody's miracle received similar coverage as the accident.

At home, Ted and Ella were cautious about how much to tell their son. They showed him some of the news reports of his accident. Afterward they overheard him say to his sister, "Wow, you mean I held my breath for seven minutes?" he asked.

"Cody," Brittany said with a sigh, "you were graveyard dead. The only difference between you and Lazarus was that you didn't stink!"

Cody started first grade on time the following month and made the honor roll that year. The next summer, he played T-ball, and scored the most home runs on the team. In second grade, Cody continues to maintain a 98-percent average in school.

What does young Cody Brunt think about the events of that summer? His parents found out the first Sunday after he was discharged from the hospital. Pastor Walter Hallam asked Cody to take the microphone and speak to the members of Abundant Life Christian Center in LaMarque, Texas, who had faithfully prayed for him.

Ted and Ella watched their son square his shoulders, lift the microphone and speak in his most grown-up, 6-year-old voice.

"God *always* wins!" 📌

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the beginning....*



by Bill Winston

change your image, CHANGE YOUR LIFE



God wants all His children to live in abundance. . . Sadly, many are not living an abundant life—the kind of prosperous lifestyle God has planned. Why? Because of vision. They don't see themselves as anything other than poor and in lack, or “just getting by.”

entertainment, gambling, real estate, oil and in business, and who has most of the wealth in the world. I heard recently that there are 33 billionaires in Russia alone, and I would dare say most of them are not Christian. In the book of Jeremiah the prophet asked, “Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?” (Jeremiah 12:1). I'll tell you how they are prospering—by understanding and working the corrupt and failing world system. Jesus said, “For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of [God]” (Luke 16:8). They are using their

Inside every one of us is an image I call an “invisible fence,” which dictates how far we can go and what we see ourselves doing and being. It is an invisible wall between you and God, holding you back, and keeping you from stepping out and doing what seems impossible.

That sounds harsh, I know, but it is reality.

Most Christians today are living beneath their privileges, and not up to what God has promised and expects of them. They know they are saved, and they understand they have an inheritance that includes eternal life when they leave this earth. But when it comes to manifesting what we have been given here

on the earth, the vast majority has missed it. Why? Because they have a poor self-image—a distorted mental picture of themselves.

Meanwhile, the ungodly are increasing: “Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches” (Psalm 73:12). Look around and take note of what's going on in industries such as

THE Choice Is Yours

Although the life of Jesus in us produces the fruit of love, don't make the mistake of thinking you can just sit back and let Him do everything. He won't grow the fruit for you any more than the apple tree will take up the responsibility of the branch and grow apples straight from the trunk of the tree.

Jesus provides you with the power and the life. Then you must do your part by choosing to yield to that life. By an act of your will, you must let what He has put inside you manifest itself on the outside.

When someone says something ugly to you, for example, you have to make a decision: Will you yield to the irritation of your flesh and say something unkind in return? Or will you yield to your spirit and respond in love?

The answer to those questions will be determined by two factors. The first, of course, is the choice you make. The second is the condition of your heart.

If you've been neglecting your time with God, spending hours in front of the world's entertainment

“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you....”
Romans 6:13-14

instead of attending to the Word, you may find yourself too weak to obey the voice of the Spirit. Although your heart's desire is to act lovingly, your flesh will win the struggle with your undernourished spirit and lash out in anger toward the one who wronged you.

But, if you have been daily abiding in fellowship with the Lord, your heart will be strong and full of the spiritual energy necessary to overrule the flesh and let love flow. You'll be well able to make the right choice and Jesus' love will reach others through you! That love could be the avenue through which they discover the love of Jesus for themselves. We are living love letters from God to others (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). ⑦

system and working their way to the top, while at the same time gaining respect from the world.

What I'm saying is that the devil has a system for getting his people ahead and keeping them there.

A Prosperous Image

Well, God has a system, too. But His system doesn't involve deception nor is it corrupt or dishonest in any way. It involves you seeing yourself as God sees you and recognizing that your inheritance of the abundant life is here and now.

Working God's system begins with you developing a prosperous image inside yourself, according to His Word.

In Matthew 12:34, Jesus said, talking to the religious leaders, “You offspring of vipers! How can you speak good things when you are evil (wicked)? For out of the fullness (the overflow, the superabundance) of the heart the mouth speaks” (*The Amplified Bible*). That's where your prosperous image begins—in your heart or spirit.

As I studied carefully God's ways and the kingdom-of-God system, I saw that Jesus didn't spend time trying to get men out of poverty. He got the poverty out of them and they did the rest. If Christ were here today, He wouldn't move people out of the slums...He'd simply get the slums out of them. Their new inner image would eventually change their surroundings to match the new prosperous image on the inside.

God's way of changing your world is by first changing your self-image through His Word and the work of His Spirit on the inside of you. Jesus teaches, “The sower soweth the word” (Mark 4:14). When you acknowledge or confess God's promises, you are sowing the seed of His Word into the soil of your heart (spirit) where it begins to develop and bring to pass what you have spoken. *Out of that seed good things will grow.* Jesus goes on to say, “A good man out of the good [deposit] of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil [deposit] bringeth forth evil things” (Matthew 12:35).

The abundant life is already yours right now. Jesus saw to that a long time ago. He was rich in all things,

but became poor so that you could live an abundant, prosperous, rich life (2 Corinthians 8:9). Abundance, or prosperity, is so much more than money. God's idea of being rich is having more than enough in every area of your life—so much you can be a blessing and give generously to others.

Where Is Your Wealth?

The question still arises for the Body of Christ, *If God wants His people to abound in every area of life, and He has already made provision, why are so many believers not walking in that prosperity?*

When the 12 spies came back from spying out the land of Canaan, 10 of them had what the Bible calls an “evil report.” What they all observed was a pretty impossible situation in the natural. Joshua and Caleb, however, had a “good report.” “Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it” (Numbers 13:30). Joshua and Caleb's report was different not because of what they observed with their natural eyes, but because of how they saw themselves on the inside. They saw themselves and their situation in the light of God's Word and not according to what had been programmed into them during their years of bondage in Egypt. The Word, “the good deposit” in their hearts, was coming out of their mouths and God was bound to honor it. God said, “For I am alert and active, watching over My word to perform it” (Jeremiah 1:12, *The Amplified Bible*).

Do you see how bold Joshua and Caleb were? Proverbs 28:1 says, “The righteous are bold as a lion.” It was illogical to believe they could fight a nation of giants, win the battle and take their land. But the image the two spies had of themselves and their confidence that God was on their side caused them to declare the impossible: “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it” (Numbers 13:30). This is where most Christians fear to tread. It's where we must walk by faith and not by sight.

The other 10 spies had witnessed the miraculous parting of the Red Sea



This article was reprinted from the devotional book by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, *Limitless Love*. To order a copy of this faith-filled devotional, please log on to kcm.org or call 1-800-600-7395 (U.S. only) or +1-817-852-6000.

when God delivered them out of the hands of the Egyptian army. He was leading them into a “land of milk and honey,” but the image they had of themselves as grasshoppers gave them a sense of inferiority and powerlessness. Their confession was...“We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we,” which sounded logical. However, it was not in agreement with God’s Word and the promise He made to the seed of Abraham. They died in the wilderness without receiving their inheritance. This shows that your outlook is based on what you’re looking out from. The 10 spies had an image of lack and inferiority from 400 years of being brainwashed.

Remember, the key to our performance and achievement in life

is our self-image. The poor image of the 10 spies caused what made perfect sense to Caleb and Joshua seem impossible to them.

Come Out From Behind Your Fence!

Inside every one of us is an image I call an “invisible fence,” which dictates how far we can go and what we see ourselves doing and being. It is an invisible wall between you and God, holding you back, and keeping you from stepping out and doing what seems impossible. If you attempt to go outside this fence, your subconscious mind brings you back. I call it your “autopilot.” It’s designed to keep you on course at the level of your self-image.

Another barrier (fence) to possessing your inheritance can be condemnation. Satan uses it to get you to look at your past and destroy your faith for something you need or desire. Perhaps you lived a sinful life or have something in your past the devil is accusing you about. Well, here’s the good news. God does not remember it! When you got born again through the precious blood of Jesus, your past was expunged from His records. He said, “I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins” (Isaiah 43:25). If He doesn’t remember them, why should you?

In this situation, the invisible fence is nothing more than condemnation which brings a sense of guilt, shame and inferiority, and absolutely destroys faith. It is a disease that weakens your spirit so you cannot

receive from God. Instead of going to God in faith, you find yourself crying, whining and begging. Nothing delights the devil more than to bring up the past to get you off track when you are about to step out in faith and allow God to bless you.

Paul says, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1). God will convict you, but He never condemns. For Him to bring up your past would be a violation of His Word. He forgets, and so should you. Forgetting your past is a major step in rooting out your old self-image.

Joshua 1:8 is the success formula I used to break through barriers in my life. God told Joshua as he was about to lead the children of Israel into the land of abundance: “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” This is God’s way of changing what you believe and making what is impossible possible.

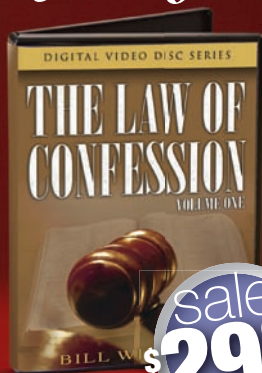
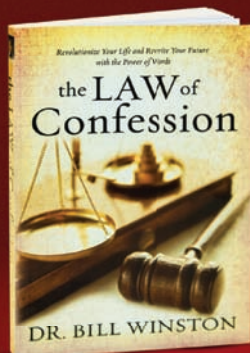
The Apostle John wrote, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (3 John 2). God’s way of prospering His people is from the inside out. If you’re living below your privileges, if it seems like you’re going around the same mountain and not making any progress, don’t complain or start blaming. Get into the Word of God, allow it to change you on the inside and experience God’s best for your life. You’ll no longer be working for the system—but the system will work for you.

The change begins with you. You can change your image with the Word and change your life. 📖



Bill Winston is founder and pastor of Living Word Christian Center, a more than 20,000-member church located in Forest Park, Ill. He is also the founder and president of the Joseph Business School and The Joseph Center® for Business Development. For more information write to Bill Winston Ministries, P.O. Box 947, Oak Park, IL 60303; call 1-800-711-9327; or visit his website at billwinston.org.

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Don't Give Up

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If you've ever run out of gas while driving down the road, you already know this to be true: You can't coast for long. You may be able to keep rolling for a little while, as long as you're on a straightaway or going downhill. But as soon as you hit an uphill climb, it's over!



by
Gloria
Copeland

You stop moving forward because a coasting car simply can't go uphill.

The same principle holds true when it comes to living a victorious life. If you don't keep your spiritual gas tank full by consistently putting God's Word into your heart, you may coast along OK as

long as things are going smoothly; but when trouble comes, you're going to stop moving. You won't have the power to overcome.

That's why you can't afford to get too busy to spend daily time in the Word. You always need to be ready to face the

Everything in your life depends on the Word of God!

hills you encounter on the road of life.

Those hills are coming, you know. The devil, who is our enemy, always makes sure of that. He's always out there trying to kill, steal and destroy.

If we resist him, he will flee from us (James 4:7). But resisting isn't always easy. It takes a heart that's full of faith because, as 1 John 5:4 says: faith is "the victory that overcometh the world."

Since faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17), to stay

Nothing else can give you the faith you need to walk in consistent victory. That's why putting the Word first place in your life every day is so vital.

strong in it we need a steady diet of God's Word. We must be like the man in James 1:25. That man puts the Word first in his life. He's faithful to it. He "perseveres in looking into it, being not a heedless listener who forgets but an active doer [who obeys]" (*The Amplified Bible*). As a result, he is blessed in everything he does.

Notice, I emphasized the word *persevere* there. It's especially important because lack of perseverance is the reason many good, Spirit-filled, Bible-believing Christians fail.

They get started in the Word. They read it, hear it preached and believe what it says about things like healing and prosperity. But then they get

distracted by the everyday cares of life. Their Bibles, instead of being opened and studied, start gathering dust. The faith messages they once listened to get shoved to the back of the closet. About the only time they give attention to the Word is on Sunday when they go to church.

I'll just be blunt about it: You can't keep the Word in your heart in abundance if you only pay attention to it for an hour on Sunday. Your faith can't survive on one meal a week. It must be continually fed and renewed. That's why Proverbs 4:20-23 says: "My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings. Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh. Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life" (*AMP*).

Feed on God's Word Every Day

Look again at those verses and you'll see why it's so vital for us, as believers, to persevere in the Word. It is "life"—not just to our spirit but to our physical body!

Ken and I can testify from much personal experience that the Word of God has supernatural healing in it. The first thing we do when a symptom of sickness comes our way is rebuke it in Jesus' Name and resist it. "No, you don't!" we say. "You're not coming on me!" Then, we immediately take the life that's in the Word of God.

We turn to the healing scriptures and read and confess them. We take healing scriptures like other people take medicine. Why? Because we know God's Word is healing and health to all our flesh.

We don't wait until sickness attacks us to feed on those scriptures, either. We don't ignore the Word until trouble comes and then grab our Bible and try to fill our hearts with faith. **WE PERSEVERE IN THE WORD ALL THE TIME.**

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Actually, I believe taking daily doses of God's medicine—His health-imparting, life-giving Word—can enable us to live for the most part in perpetual divine health. So I feed on God's Word every single day. I put it in front of my eyes and in my ears and mouth seven days a week. I continually let it correct me, endeavor to obey it and act like it's true. Because it is true!

As a result, I don't have sick days. I'm a healed woman. I feel good. I'm 71 years of age, I have plenty of energy and I'm well.

"But sickness isn't my problem," you might say. "What I'm dealing with is financial trouble. Can God's Word help me with that?"

Certainly! The heart-faith the Word produces can bring you victory in every area of your life.

According to Jesus, faith can move mountains (Mark 11:23). It can conquer the curse and replace it with THE BLESSING. Faith in God's Word about prosperity coming out of your heart and your mouth will push out poverty and replace it with plenty. It will overcome everything the devil throws at you and make you more than a conqueror through Him who loves you (Romans 8:37).

As we've already seen, however, to have that kind of strong, overcoming faith, you can't just look at the Word every once in a while. You can't just focus on it for a week or two and then quit. You have to *keep* it before your eyes. You have to be faithful to attend to it and obey it consistently.

Jesus said it this way: "If ye *continue* in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31-32).

Our victory in life completely depends on our *perseverance* in the Word.

What, exactly, does it mean to *persevere*?

It means "to persist; to stay with the program; to be set, fixed, and constant; to pursue steadily any business or enterprise undertaken, in spite of contrary influences, opposition, and discouragement."

If you're determined to persevere in the Word, you won't do it for a while

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and then quit when things get hard. You won't throw in the towel when the devil opposes you, and say, "Oh, I've tried that Word stuff and it doesn't work. I'm just going to quit reading my Bible. I'm going to quit praying and listening to that faith preaching. I don't have time for it anyway."

On the contrary, you'll keep at it, stick with it and carry on until it becomes a way of life. You'll refuse to be moved by the obstacles that come against you. You'll steadily pursue God's Word—when times are easy and when they're tough.

That may not sound like fun but it's what develops faith. It's what develops spiritual strength and character. You can't be a weak Christian and walk in victory. You have to have some endurance. You have to have some spiritual muscle!

Physically you can't develop muscle and endurance unless you press against something, by lifting weights, for example, or running an extra mile. Because such pressing can be uncomfortable, physical training isn't necessarily fun.

When you get busy and stop exercising for a while, if you go long enough before you start again, you get sore again. There's just no way around it. You are pressing some muscles that haven't been used in a while.

Although you don't like feeling sore, you persevere anyway because you know the results will be worth it. The press will help you get fit. It will help make you strong. That's a physical fact.

This is a spiritual fact: When you start to exercise your spirit daily by attending to the Word, obeying it and spending time in prayer, you will have to press through some pressure at first. The progress you want to see may take longer than you like. You may find yourself facing greater challenges than you expected. But if you'll persevere and stick with the program, you'll get wonderful results and it will be worth the effort.

Win the Argument

Everything in your life depends on the Word of God! Nothing else can give you the faith you need to walk in consistent victory. That's why putting the

Word first place in your life every day is so vital. It's also why the devil works so hard to keep you from doing it.

He'll give you all kinds of reasons why you can't spend daily time in the Word. He'll tell you repeatedly why you shouldn't obey it and act on it. When he does, just keep persevering.

I found out how much difference such perseverance can make many years ago when our son, John, was a teenager. He wasn't living right and I'd been wondering what to do about it. One day, Ken and I were attending one of Brother Kenneth E. Hagin's meetings, and he spoke a prophetic word by the Holy Spirit that I knew contained the answer to my question. "Spend just an hour or two a day in prayer," he said, "and all will be well with you."

That word lined up perfectly with the Bible. It tells us not only to attend to the Word but to pray. So I decided then and there to commit to praying an hour every day, believing that all would be well with my big problem—John Copeland.

When I started, it was wintertime. I'd wake up an hour earlier than usual and it would be dark. It would be cold. My body would say, "You do not want to get up and pray right now. This is not any fun. You need more sleep."

The devil would agree. "Yes, that's right!" he'd say. "Go back to sleep."

One definition of *perseverance* is "to persist in speech, interrogation, or argument; to insist." That's what I had to do when the devil tried to talk me out of getting up for my prayer time. I had to persist until I won the argument.

Oh, it was hard to drag myself out of bed on those cold, dark mornings! I can do it with ease now, but I wasn't used to it back then. I stuck with it though until, eventually, it became a way of life for me.

That was back in 1979, and I've been praying every morning ever since! It's turned out to be one of the greatest blessings of my life. It accomplished exactly what I expected—and much more!

John has long since ceased to be a problem. He's a strong man of God. He loves the Lord, has a wonderful family and serves as executive director of this

ministry. But that's just the beginning. Things are well with me today in every area of my life. I've received countless blessings—spiritually, physically, financially and in my family—by spending time every day in prayer.

I'm not saying you should do the same thing I did. You need to do whatever the Lord leads you to do. If you're a night person, He might lead you to spend time in the Word and in prayer in the evening before you go to bed. He might lead you to listen to the Word in your car while you're driving to work every morning, or spend your lunch hour reading your Bible.

One way or another, however, God will lead you to consistently spend time in His Word because you need it to make things right in your life. You cannot live in victory without a continual diet of the Word of God and spending time with Him, because that's where faith comes from. Whatever God tells you to do, do it. Persevere! Stay with it!

If you're believing for finances and it takes longer than you want for the money to come, don't quit. If you quit, it's all over. If you turn away from the Word, what else can you turn to? If you don't follow God's plan, whose plan will you follow? He is the only One who can cause you to triumph. His Word is the only thing that can give you victory.

Even if things are going smoothly for you right now and you don't have any problems today, that doesn't mean you won't have problems tomorrow. Jesus said, "In the world you will have [trouble]" (John 16:33, *New King James Version*). So stay strong and ready to overcome it.

Don't try to coast along on the Word you've put in your heart in the past. Fill up your spiritual tank every day. When the road gets rough and the devil pressures you to give up, double up instead! Double up on the Word. Double up on prayer. Be doubly quick to obey the Lord.

Say, "Oh, no, devil. I'm not going to quit. I'm just getting started. I'm going to persevere in the Word until I receive everything it promises." Then put the pedal to the metal and charge down the road of life with victory that overcomes the world—even your faith! 🇨🇦



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