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VICTORY

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May 2013

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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.

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

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Enjoy Life

stay current



I didn't come up with this saying myself, but I absolutely agree with it: *If you're not enjoying life, you're not doing it right.*

Especially if you're a Christian, you ought to be more and more blessed all the time. After all, Jesus didn't redeem you so that you could be sad, depressed, sick and broke. He came so you could have "life, and...have it more abundantly" (John 10:10).

by *Gloria Copeland*

I can honestly say, ever since the day Ken and I got born again, that's been our experience. We began to do better! Since we made Jesus the Lord of our lives, things have just gotten better and better for us. Now, after more than 45 years of walking with

Him, we have peace all the time and we have joy. We're living in the fulfillment of the prayer in 3 John 2, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

I realize all Christians don't have that testimony, but we do because we learned this a long time ago: To enjoy all the blessings God's Word promises us, we have to mix His Word with faith. We can't do what the Old Testament Israelites did

when God promised to deliver them from slavery in Egypt and bring them into the land of blessing. As Hebrews 4:2 says: "When the good news of deliverance from bondage came to them...the message they heard did not benefit them, because it was not mixed with faith... by those who heard it" (*The Amplified Bible*).

That was a tragedy! They could have believed what God said and been delivered from every kind of bondage. They



What exactly is faith?

could have enjoyed days of heaven on earth (Deuteronomy 11:21). But they missed out on it because they didn't mix faith with God's Word.

In the lives of many Christians, the same thing is still happening today. They sit in church every Sunday and hear the Word, but don't know they're supposed to believe it and walk in the light of it. So, even though they're God's people, they're still living in all kinds of bondage. They're still suffering under the curse instead of enjoying THE BLESSING.

I think of it like making a cake and leaving out the baking powder. Do you know what would happen if you did that? You wouldn't get the results the cookbook promises. The same is true in the Christian life; for it to turn out like God promises it has to be mixed with faith.

What exactly is faith?

It's the confidence to think, speak and act on the Word of God. It's believing what God says and acting like it's true. *The Amplified Bible* describes faith as "the leaning of the entire personality on God in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom, and goodness" (Hebrews 4:2).

Faith is so powerful it can change your whole life! It is, as 1 John 5:4 says, "the victory that overcometh the world."

Keep Moving on to Greater Things

If you've heard these things before, right now you might be thinking, *I know this, Gloria! I've been a faith person for years.*

That's wonderful! Ken and I have too. But even so, we're always up for a refresher course. We're continually endeavoring to stir up our faith and keep it strong.

Recently, when I was preaching to a congregation full of seasoned faith folks, the Lord gave it to me this way: He said we need to "stay current" on

It's the confidence to think, speak and act on the Word of God. It's believing what God says and acting like it's true.

our faith. Although I'd never thought of it in those terms before, I knew precisely what He meant. He was saying we must not only maintain the faith we've developed in the past, we must keep moving on to greater things.

As believers, we can't afford to get so busy with the mundane affairs of day-to-day living that we let our faith level get low. If we do, we'll be vulnerable to the conditions of this world...and, in case you haven't noticed, this world is a dangerous place. It's crazy!

The devil is stepping up his operations in a big way these days. The darkness out there is getting darker. We're living in the end times and bad things are happening in the world. But they don't have to happen to you and me. We can live like end time believers. We can overcome this

your faith strong. So it should always be first place in your life. Get up earlier in the morning or stay up a little later at night if that's what it takes to make time for it. Do whatever you have to do, because in these dangerous days what you need more than anything else is to hear the voice of the Lord, and the first place He will speak to you is through the Bible.

He'll also speak directly to your spirit if you'll take time to pray and listen to Him. Personally, I pray every morning before I leave the house. Sometimes I'll sense the Holy Spirit prompting me to change my plans for the day. I may have intended to run errands or go shopping, but if the Lord leads me to do otherwise, I obey Him. I don't have to have any explanation. I don't have to have a bad feeling or foreboding. All I need is a



We must not only maintain the faith we've developed in the past, we must *keep moving* on to greater things.

crazy world, and live in victory until Jesus comes.

As I've already said, however, to do so we must *stay current* on our faith.

That means, first and foremost, we must keep our attention on God's written Word. Because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17), we can't allow ourselves to get lazy about it. If things start coming up and suddenly we realize a week has gone by and we've only spent 15 minutes reading our Bible, we should make some changes. Fifteen minutes a week in the Word is not sufficient! We need to spend time in it every day.

Remember, the Word is what keeps

leading, an inner nudge from God.

I can't tell you how many stories I've heard about believers whose lives were saved because they paid attention to such leadings. I've heard about people who avoided losing money on bad business deals because the Holy Spirit warned them to stay away from them. I have pages of testimonies in my files from people who heard and responded to God's direction in their spirit on the morning of the terrorist attacks on 9/11 and, as a result, escaped that tragedy.

I'm not saying you need to be afraid. On the contrary, this is no time to fear! Fear opens the door to the devil. So, instead of being afraid, just let the Spirit of God make you aware. Make

an agreement with Him. Say, “Lord, whatever You want me to do, tell me. I’ll change any plan at any moment if You lead me to. Just show me whatever I need to do to follow You.”

If you’ll take that attitude and then pray every day, God will not only help you avoid danger, He’ll lead you to do things that will bless and help you. He’ll prompt you to go to a certain meeting, or go to the hospital to pray for someone who’s sick, or call someone on the phone and encourage them. He’ll help you develop the habit of following Him and obeying Him in little things so that when He speaks to you about something big, you’ll hear what to do.

That’s called being led by the Spirit—and these days it’s the only safe way to live.

Get in Sync

Once you’ve made it a priority to hear God’s words, if you want to stay

current in faith, you must also pay attention to your own words. God’s words and your words are the two elements involved in victorious faith. His words bring faith, and your words release faith.

If you just have God’s Word but He doesn’t have your words, nothing is going to happen. Faith has to be spoken. So, once you’ve heard the Word, start saying it and don’t say anything contrary to it.

Granted, when you’re first learning to retrain your mouth, this can be a real challenge. It’s tempting to join in when everyone around you is contradicting God’s Word. When they’re talking about how much financial trouble they’re in and how they’re afraid of catching the flu or losing their job, sometimes you might feel like saying, “Me too!”

But don’t do it. God hasn’t said anything about letting you go broke or get sick or end up unemployed.

He said He meets all your needs according to His riches in glory (Philippians 4:19). He said by Jesus’ stripes you were healed (1 Peter 2:24). He said you’re blessed, not cursed (Galatians 3:14)!

So you should be saying those things too.

No matter what happens to the stock market, no matter what symptoms of sickness might try to come on your body, no matter how much the government may frustrate you, you cannot let your words go crazy. If you want a supernatural life of blessing, increase, freedom, abundance, health and the salvation of your family, you have to sync your words with God’s Word. Then all things will be possible to you by faith!

Whatever He Says to You, Do It

The third thing you need to do to keep your faith current is this:

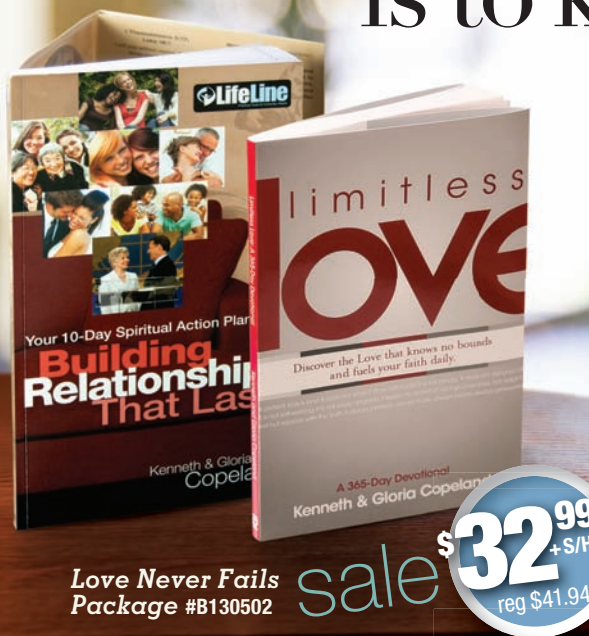
Obey the Word of God. Faith must be supported by obedience. So, whatever God tells you to do, either through His written Word or by the inward leading of His Spirit, do it!

If He corrects you, don’t grumble about it. Don’t resist. After all, He always has your best interest at heart. If He corrects you, that means you’ve been going in the wrong direction—and the wrong direction will get you in trouble. So accept His corrections with gratitude and be quick to obey.

Especially when it comes to walking in love.

As New Testament believers, love is our great commandment. What’s more, faith works by love (Galatians 5:6). Therefore to live by faith, we must continually walk in love.

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As believers, *we can't afford to get so busy* with the mundane affairs of day-to-day living that we let our faith level get low.

If we do, we'll be vulnerable to the conditions of this world.

I'm not saying we must just avoid doing really bad things, like killing or stealing. Every violation of God's law of love is a big deal to Him and it should be a big deal to us too.

Love is everything. If you're not walking in love, you're in a dangerous place. So stay current! If you've done anything unloving toward someone, do whatever the Lord shows you to do to make it right. If you have any unforgiveness in your heart against anyone, drop it. Forgive them.

"But, Gloria, you don't know what they did to me!"

It doesn't matter what they did. If you forgive them, you'll be free of it. If you don't, it will keep you in bondage.

I decided a long time ago, I want to be a forgiver. I don't want a black cloud of strife hanging over me and keeping me from receiving God's blessings. I don't want some unloving action or attitude to stop me from hearing something from God that would save my life.

I want to live life God's way. I want to live by faith. It takes work, but it's well worth the effort. Ken and I know that from experience. In the many years we've been living by faith we've faced a lot of challenges, but as long as we stood on the Word of God and didn't quit, we came out on top.

That's why we don't get upset anymore about what's going on in this crazy world or what they say on the news. It's why we aren't wringing our hands over the world's economic cycles. We've already survived the worst possible money crunch. When we started this faith walk, we didn't have any money. None! All we had were lots of debts.

But when we saw in God's Word that He wanted us to tithe, and that the windows of heaven would be open over us financially if we believed and obeyed Him, we did it. We took a tenth of the \$100 a week we were making and gave it to Him. At the time, it looked like we needed that money a lot more than God did, but within a year all our debt was paid off,

we had more money to live on, and we've been increasing ever since.

Today, I have no fear of the future whatsoever. When people start talking about the terrible economic conditions in the country, I don't fret about it. I just agree and say what God says: "I'm prosperous! I'm blessed! I am increasing!"

Times might be bad for other people, but I've mixed faith with God's Word where our money is concerned. God is our provider and He is not moved by a recession or a depression or a political administration. He doesn't cut off our provision when the country goes through bad times. He doesn't say, "Oh, I'd better not open the windows of heaven today. Down there in the United States they're having

some financial troubles."

No! God is always pouring out His blessings. So position yourself to receive them. Whatever happens in this natural realm, put your faith in God and in His ability. Keep His Word in your eyes and ears. Keep it coming out of your mouth. Keep saying what He's saying and obeying Him, and you'll have freedom from lack.

You won't have to go through the world's cycles. God will tell you what to do to prosper right in the middle of them. No matter what the devil and this world throws your way, your life will just keep getting better. If you'll stay current in faith, you'll not only enjoy life, you'll be living proof for all to see that "this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith!"



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— by Melanie Henry —

‘Just Say Yes’

Daniel Wermuth II felt the sudden impulse to get his office at the Joplin Family Worship Center in Missouri in order. Stepping through the doorway from the outer office into his work area, Dan paused, his attention riveted on the bookcase. It held a lifetime of treasures: books dating back to 1810, his parents’ Bibles, photographs and teaching materials from his trips to Europe and Haiti.



Sensing an unction of the Holy Spirit, he said, “Father, in the Name of Jesus, I rebuke any storm from coming against this building! I forbid any tornado from hitting it! I plead the blood of Jesus over it!”

Three days later, on May 22, 2011, Dan once again sensed a prompting of the Spirit that put him on guard. Something was clearly wrong. His heart alert to the warning, he watched over it prayerfully all through the Sunday morning service.

Although everything appeared normal, after church one of the members felt a deep burden to intercede. Slipping back inside after everyone had left, she fell on the floor and prayed for three hours.

Early that afternoon, Dan and his wife, Cindy, left Joplin to attend a baby shower in a nearby town. The festivities included volleyball and ice cream, and they were looking forward to having fun. But at the same time, Dan continued to sense that they were in the calm before a storm.

As the day edged toward evening, black clouds gathered, giving

the sky a bruised, ominous look. Behind the rain-wrapped storm, and invisible to the naked eye, a funnel cloud had formed—quickly growing into a monster F5 tornado.

It was nearly a mile wide when it hit Joplin.

Patsy and Bob Harbottle were putting groceries away when the winds hit their house. Moving quickly to get inside a closet, they huddled—listening as beams and Sheetrock ripped apart and scattered like confetti in the wind. The walls of the closet parted as though an unseen hand had removed the stitching that held them together.

Bob watched as Patsy was swept off her feet and into the air. Grabbing her hand, he held fast while she whipped in the wind. Above her, Bob glimpsed blue sky and knew that they were in the vortex of a huge tornado.

Without warning, Bob was suddenly lifted off of his feet. “Lord,” he screamed, “I’ve got her, but You’ve got to hold me!” A strong arm grabbed him, tethering them both like a kite, keeping them from

Behind the rain-wrapped storm, and invisible to the naked eye, a funnel cloud had formed—quickly growing into a monster F5 tornado.





We've served 90,000 meals, and we started our own Meals On Wheels program that summer. We still feed volunteer groups, and our 16,000 volunteers have repaired 700 homes.

sailing away. A few minutes later, they both crashed to the ground, pinned by debris. Pulling one another from the wreckage, they saw nothing but devastation as far as the eye could see.

At 75 years old, Sally Adams was one of the youngsters in her neighborhood. When she heard the siren blasting a warning, she'd hurried next door and brought her 85-year-old neighbor back home with her. A while later, the tornado smashed into the house like a giant wrecking ball.

"Lord, You will hide me in the pavilion!" Sally yelled. The roof moved forward, forming a pavilion of protection over the two women. The rest of the house was destroyed.

The monster tornado continued its carnage and destruction for 22 miles, wiping out a nursing home, destroying a hospital, leveling the Wal-Mart store and demolishing the high school.

At the baby shower, Dan pulled out his cellphone and read the text from Patsy Harbottle.

"House is gone. Alive but hurt."

Chills rippled across his scalp as he raced to the car. On the drive back to Joplin, Dan prayed in the spirit while Cindy tried to call or text church members. Nearing the city, they realized why they weren't getting through. Cell towers and power lines were down, sparking fires that burned amid the darkness of the rubble. On the highway, 15 overturned tractor-trailers littered the pavement and roadside. One was wrapped around what was left of a tree.

The city had been destroyed.

As a Partner with KCM, I had learned from Brother Copeland that the purpose of **THE BLESSING** is to be a blessing. I understood that God wanted to bless us so that we could be a **BLESSING TO THE CITY.**

His shepherd's heart breaking, Dan had one burning desire: to find his sheep.

A Path of Destruction

"The tornado was the deadliest one in America since 1947," Dan recalls. "It killed 158 people and injured more than 1100. Winds were clocked at 200 mph and X-ray film from the hospital was found 70 miles away.

"I spent all evening, most of the night and the next day trying to locate our members. Walking through the hospitals was like being on the set of a war movie. There were bodies everywhere: the wounded sitting or lying on the floor. I walked around a corner and found one of our members. He'd been in Wal-Mart when the tornado hit. A beam fell on him, crushing his pelvis. He was covered by carpet and people walked over him, rupturing his spleen and breaking bones. He was dropped six times as rescue workers tried to get him out of the carnage.

"The church had been in the direct path of the tornado, which is why the Holy Spirit prompted me to pray over it days before. In addition to the intercessor who'd prayed for three hours that day, when the warning sirens sounded, our associate pastor was at the church with the youth. He gathered all the small groups together and rebuked the storm. The tornado did something unexpected: It turned due east and moved away from the church.

"I knew that the Bible tells us

to feed the hungry, but in the face of such massive devastation I had no idea where to start. The church had been paying off debts since I'd arrived and we had nothing available for the kind of relief that was needed. I asked God for very specific direction."

God's Plan

Tuesday morning, the Lord spoke a clear word to Dan. *I'm changing the face of this ministry.* Rehearsing those words in his mind as he drove up in front of the church, Dan suddenly heard the Lord say something else: *Just say yes!*

That was it. *Just say yes.*

Without a phone or electricity, they had no contact with the outside world. A neighbor offered Dan his Internet phone and 1,000 feet of cord.

Dan said, "Yes."

Soon he was swamped with phone calls, offers, needs and requests.

"Do you want us to...?"

"Yes."

"Can we...?"

"Yes."

"They want to bring..."

"Yes."

"Can we provide a place for them to stay?"

"Yes."

"Can we feed them?"

"Yes."

"Can we repair the damage?"

"Yes."

Being a Blessing

The Wermuths' son, Daniel III, took a five-week emergency leave from his job as an Army combat

medic to come and work with his dad. Arriving on the scene, the younger Dan quickly formulated a logistical plan to respond to those in need, send out teams and volunteers, track their responses, and do logistical case management. One of the calls he answered was from the state's governor, who was offering to help with search and rescue.

A pastor from Arkansas arrived with huge barbecue cookers. And through its partnership with The Joseph Storehouse in Texas, Kenneth Copeland Ministries sent food supplies, camping gear and tarps. Some of the food was prepared on the cookers that arrived from Arkansas and fed to the workers. The rest was distributed to those in need. The camping gear was used to give the homeless and volunteers a place to sleep, and the tarps covered gaping holes to protect the elderly from the elements.

In short order, Joplin Family Worship Center became a point of refuge for many. Either Dan or someone he sent attended citywide committee meetings to offer their services and supplies. They set up tents, distributing clothing and supplies. Soon, the sanctuary was filled with pallets of food. Various church groups, agencies and even high-school students slept in Sunday-school rooms volunteering their services.

The more Dan said yes, the more provision arrived.

"As a Partner with KCM, I had learned from Brother Copeland that the purpose of THE BLESSING is to *be a blessing*. I understood that God wanted to bless us so that we could be a blessing to the city. I had

to stay focused on the Word and not let my mind get involved, because in the natural there was no way for us to do what we were doing. I understood that God was saying, 'Say yes to the blessed!' My job was to have faith in God, and say yes to being a blessing.

"We didn't realize at the time that we were doing what the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency normally do. Twelve top guys from FEMA arrived to see our operation. They asked us a

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few questions, smiled and said to keep up the good work.

"The temperatures soared with 10 to 12 weeks of triple digits that summer. Our electric bill was staggering, but the first check we received from KCM defrayed that cost. The second check they sent bought diesel fuel to keep the generators running and the food cold. People would call and ask for something, and before I could say anything except *yes*, it had arrived. It was supernatural provision."

Soon it became clear there were other supernatural things happening as well.

Butterfly Men

A local restaurant owner reported that he had run to the nearby Wal-Mart store just moments after it had been hit by the tornado, when he saw the tallest men he had ever seen. One man was lifting massive shelving units off the wounded. They never spoke or socialized. When asked what he had seen, he said, "I saw angels helping people out of the wreckage."

A sheriff's deputy interviewed a little boy found on the opposite side of town

from where he'd been lost. "How did you get here?" the deputy asked.

"I flew with an angel," the boy replied, adding that the angel also fed him.

One family that arrived for food at the church described what had happened to their 13-year-old daughter when the tornado struck. The girl was in a car when a piece of metal broke through the windshield, impaling her to the seat, they said. When rescue workers arrived, instead of being

terrified or in shock, the girl had remained calm.

"I'm just fine," she insisted. "He told me I would be OK."

"Who told you that?"

"*Him!* Don't you see him? He's right beside me."

The "him" she described was wearing clothes of glowing white material.

"He told me he would be with me until I went to surgery," the girl explained. "After that I won't see him again. But he said I'd be all right."

And she was all right. The metal that impaled her had missed her spinal column by a millimeter. Three weeks after surgery she was swimming.

There were so many encounters with angels that little children around Joplin referred to them as "Butterfly Men."

The Power of Covenant

Almost two years after the F5 tornado, the city of Joplin is still trying to recover. And still working right there alongside the town, and still saying yes, is the Joplin Family Worship Center.

"We had a congregation of about 350," Dan explains, "and we didn't lose a single one of them. Eighteen of the households had to be rebuilt or repaired. In spite of that, we've served 90,000 meals, and we started our own Meals On Wheels program that summer.

We still feed volunteer groups, and our 16,000 volunteers have repaired 700 homes.

"In 2009, God told me to believe Him to touch 10,000 families. He has changed the face of this ministry, and since the tornado, we've served almost that number of families.

"Growing up as a preacher's kid, I watched the impact KCM had on my parents. It was through KCM that my parents learned the most vital thing to any ministry—faith. When Cindy and I became Partners with KCM, I never imagined anything like the events that occurred on May 22, 2011. In the past two years, KCM has come here for Christmas and Easter outreaches, winning hundreds to Christ."

Today, Dan Wermuth thanks God for the partnership he and Cindy share with Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. He's grateful to

know that every morning when he wakes up, they are declaring God's BLESSING over him—and he is quick to agree with their prayer.

"My job is to say *yes* to THE BLESSING so that I can bless the world."

read **more** about our disaster relief »»»»»

Cindy and Dan Wermuth



KCM's Steve Poteest offers financial assistance to a Partner in LaPlace, La., whose property was damaged last August by flooding after Hurricane Isaac.

KCM Disaster Relief: *becoming part of something Big— right where you are.*

Hattie knew her home in Wichita, Kan., was in the path of the tornado, so she called Kenneth Copeland Ministries' prayer line. After the tornado had passed, she received a call back letting her know KCM was continuing to stand with her.

A few days later, Hattie and several other KCM Partners in the area received a visit from KCM's Disaster Relief Team, who provided each of them with enough money to cover the repairs of damages caused by the storm.

"I love being a KCM Partner, and I will be a Partner until the Lord calls me home!" Hattie said in response to the support she received from KCM. Not surprisingly, her words of gratitude echo the thankfulness of hundreds of Partners who have seen KCM come to their aid in similar fashion in times of need over the past several years.

Over the past two years, the KCM Disaster Relief Team has traveled to more than 30 cities in a dozen states to assist our Partners and Friends in relief efforts following major tornadoes, wildfires and hurricanes.

Among those cities are West Liberty, Ky.; Moscow, Ohio; Henryville, Ind.; Wichita, Kan.; Ruidoso, N.M.; Biloxi, Miss.; Fort Collins, Estes Park and Colorado Springs, Colo.; Woodward and Norman, Okla.; and LaPlace and Hammond, La.

The 2012 drought was one of the worst in U.S. history, affecting more than 1,000 counties in 26 states across the country. Almost one-third of all U.S. counties were declared disaster areas, making it the largest disaster declaration ever made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When this disaster struck, KCM was able to reach out to Partners and Friends in those areas with the largest disaster-related call project to date. We had the privilege of ministering to 166,290 U.S. Partners and Friends through these calls.

During the year, the Disaster Relief Team held "The Reach" evangelism events in Joplin, Mo.; Moscow, Ohio; and Henryville, Ind.; where a total of 4800 boxes of food, household items and personal care items were distributed to 1600 families. Over 660 adults and children gave their hearts to the Lord during those events.

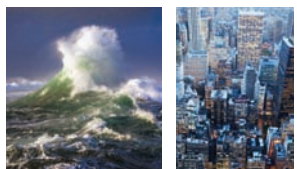
At Thanksgiving, the team partnered with The Joseph Storehouse in Haltom City, Texas, to give away 1500 turkeys and \$30,000 in grocery vouchers to 1500 families in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex area that were affected by tornadoes. And at Christmas, KCM partnered with the Joplin Family Worship Center in Missouri to establish "The Reach Toy Shoppe," a storehouse filled with \$50,000 worth of toys, which helped hundreds

of families still recovering from the devastating 2011 tornado.

At Kenneth Copeland Ministries, God has called us to express His love to people all over the world. We don't just wait for a phenomenal event to do that. We have been doing it for 43 years and know, in the days ahead, we will have plenty more opportunities.

We not only step up and complete the tasks the Lord calls us to do specifically in relief efforts, but as so many other Christian organizations do, we go into these areas knowing people's lives are shattered, their hearts are broken, and they are looking for lasting answers to their confusion and fear. We have the distinct privilege to proclaim to them the One who has all their answers—His Name is *Jesus*.

KCM reaches out and serves as a clearinghouse for financial aid to hurting nations. Through our Relief Fund we are here to receive the funds





Pastor Scott Stanek



Wildfires Bastrop, Texas

Pastor Scott Stanek said, "When tragedy hit, we were caught up in a whirlwind of helping people and opening the church as an evacuation center. KCM came and helped us! They redefined partnership for us. We didn't have to call them...they called us!"

our Partners have been directed of the Lord to sow into relief efforts. This arm of ministry allows us to reach out to our Partners first and then others in the nation. Our Partners around the world are providing tremendous aid to their fellow Partners and others in Haiti.

don't know of anything that illustrates the love of God as strong and powerfully as that."

In every outreach of Kenneth Copeland Ministries, our main purpose is to do what the Lord Jesus tells us to in order to demonstrate God's love. As we simply follow His direction, God gets all the praise and glory.

Everything we do worldwide, we do in faith, interceding for the people of the nations to come to their own saving faith in Jesus. Kenneth Copeland Ministries and our Partners and Friends remain dedicated to meeting the needs of people by putting feet to our faith and proclaiming to the world Jesus is Lord! As we continue to minister to the people around the world, we appreciate your participation as a member of the Kenneth Copeland Ministries family. Together, we will continue to see God do mighty things on behalf of people everywhere!

Says Poteet: "Just know that if a major incident occurs in your area, we're coming, and we'll come looking for you." ▼

"When tragedy strikes, we endeavor to find our Partners and make sure they're OK,"

said Steve Poteet, manager of KCM's Outreach Department. "If not, we're there to assist them spiritually, financially and socially, and to help them get their focus back on God. That's the heart of Kenneth and Gloria, and it's the heart of Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

"It's the most rubber-meets-the-road ministry I've ever been a part of," said Poteet, adding that most people are overwhelmed with emotion and joy when KCM representatives show up on their doorstep. "Showing up at your house to help you? I

Partnership.

Changing lives through faith and love.

4800 boxes
food, household & personal care items distributed
Joplin, Mo.
Moscow, Ohio
Henryville, Ind.

\$50,000
worth of toys distributed for Christmas
Joplin, Mo.

166,290
disaster-related contacts to Partners & Friends
United States

Hurricane Sandy 11 days

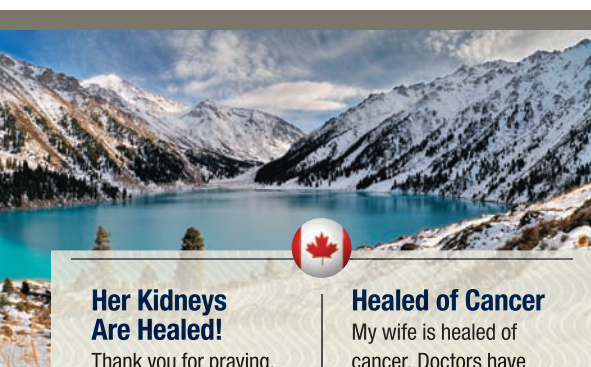
Our disaster relief team ministered to Partners and Friends in New York and New Jersey.

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Good News Gazette

“Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He shall give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4, *New King James Version*)



Her Kidneys Are Healed!

Thank you for praying. Praise God for 100-percent healing of my kidneys. In June, I went into acute kidney failure. KCM was contacted for prayer and my kidneys began to function again. I had gained nearly 30 pounds because of their failure. They are now normal and I have no damage to my kidneys. Praise God.

L.F. | Saskatchewan

Healed of Cancer

My wife is healed of cancer. Doctors have done all the tests and it has stopped. Praise God!

G.M. | Canada

Healed Watching the Broadcast

One night, I had gall bladder problems and was in pain. The next morning, as I was watching the broadcast, I was totally healed. Praise the Lord!

L.B. | Canada

Jesus Changed My Life!

I am currently an inmate in Santa Rosa, N.M., and was locked down in segregation for 18 months. About four hours after I was released from segregation, I was involved in a fight and put back in.

I had no physical contact with my wife and daughter this whole time. I am expected to be in segregation even longer now because of the fight. I was so depressed I didn't care what happened to me anymore. Luckily for me, the first person to walk by my door was the prison chaplain. He could tell that I was not in a good mood so he just slid one of your *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazines under my door. I didn't have anything else to read, so I picked it up and read it front to back. I read about how through our Lord and His Son, Jesus, I could have a better life. I have never been a very religious person, but as I prayed the salvation prayer that was in your magazine, I felt like everything was going to be OK between my prison time and my family.

I only have about three years left in prison. I am going to take advantage of the new life I have through the Lord, and I know it will be better. Thank you so much for helping me see what I was missing. Jesus has definitely changed my life.

T.M. | New Mexico

We Speak in Agreement!

We are praising God for the protection we experienced last week. A tractor battery blew up in my husband's face. He had no burns—only a little ringing in one ear that was gone in three days—hallelujah! Thanks for teaching us about speaking protection (Psalm 91). Praise God for the ministry of angels who are busy helping us as we speak in agreement with His Word!

S.D. | Ohio

My Son Is Finally Home

Thanks to you all for your prayers. After serving 30 years in prison, my son is now home and adjusting very well. He is a born-again believer—glory to God!

P.D. | Louisiana

Miraculously Freed From Addiction

I have been reading your *BVOV* magazine since childhood (over 20 years). Recently, I was led to partner with your ministry as God has ministered mightily through you numerous times.

I had been struggling with the spirit of nicotine for many years and felt defeated. I read your daily devotionals and made a commitment to accept only divine intervention for freedom from this habit. I was greatly

encouraged with your personal testimonies in the devotionals as to how God freed you from cigarettes.

I stood on the same principles and praised the Lord, in faith, for freedom. Praise the Lord! I was freed miraculously April 2, 2011, with no cravings or side effects. To Him be the glory, honor and praise. H.A. | Greece



We Owe Nothing!

Hallelujah! Thank you for praying regarding a situation with Revenue Canada advising us we owed them \$15,000. It has now been cleared up and we owe them nothing!

C. and M.W. | Canada

Denial Turned Around

I just want to say thank you for your prayers. Last month I received a letter regarding my admission into college. I was denied. So, I sent the letter to the ministry and I'm happy to inform you that I got another email saying that I have been accepted into the program. The people who denied me the first time are the same ones who accepted me and offered me admission. Thank you for your support and prayer. May the Lord bless you all. JESUS IS LORD!

N.Y. | Canada

The Word Came Alive

I have been following Kenneth Copeland Ministries since about 1997—listening to you on the broadcast, reading the *BVOV* magazine and books, listening to CDs, etc.—learning about and getting to know my heavenly Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I never knew I was *so loved* and protected!

I will be 72 years old this year. Growing up, I heard about God. But I never *knew* Him! Through KCM's teaching I've come to know that even the holy angels of God work for me, and I can tell them what to do by the Word of God! I also learned to take Communion in my house, as I need to! I have a prayer journal and most of my prayers are answered.

I will always follow your teaching. The Word of God came alive in my life and in those close to me through your teaching. Since 2000, I still read *From Faith to Faith* and *Pursuit of His Presence* every day. We have an awesome God! My financial breakthrough came through KCM's prayers.

Thank you. You are all in my daily prayers.

L.L. | Kenai, Alaska

I Have More Faith Each Day

To make a long story short, I have lost the most important earthly thing in my life—my family. Over the last few months I have been through so much that at one point, I thought about ending it all. That night as I sat contemplating my life, I turned on Daystar, and Jeremy Pearsons was teaching about “rest.” I sat there and listened to him, and I felt better. I came back the next night and listened again. By the time his teaching was done, I had repented and rededicated my life to my Lord Jesus Christ.

I am still dealing with my mistakes, but as each day passes I have more faith than the day before. My sin was against my family, and when this came to light, I knew I had done wrong. I have given my problems to the Lord and pray that somehow my family can forgive me. I know Jesus has forgiven me, thanks to the Word of God and your ministry.

C.A. | Idaho

'My Faith Is Stronger Than Ever'

I lost my 19-year-old son in a car accident in 2008, and I began to lose my faith in God. I was heavy with grief and sorrow. But, I found a good church and watched you every day. My faith became stronger than ever and I felt alive once again. I found peace, joy, strength and love. Thanks be to God and ministries like yours.

S.H. | Nevada

Miraculously Unharmed!

Since I became a Partner with KCM, I pray the Partner scriptures along with Kenneth's voice on the CD every day.

I was in a car accident last fall that was quite serious—my car was hit by a big 18-wheeler, and twisted and turned through four lanes across the freeway. The car was a total loss, but I walked out of it without any pain or hurt. The emergency doctor told me that I'd most likely have soreness for a few days, but when I went home I called my pastor for prayer, and I also listened

I Was in Prison I am so thankful for Kenneth Copeland Ministries. You helped me when I was way deep in the pig pen years ago and I mean way deep. I was in prison. I got hold of the *From Faith to Faith* devotional and then began ordering everything I could read. I am a Christian and minister today. Thank you! R.M. | Michigan

My Brother Is Saved Thank you for joining me in prayer about my brother. He is now saved and filled with the Holy Spirit. God is good. S.O. | North Carolina

Prayer is
our priority.

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24 hours a day, seven days a week.

to Gloria's Healing School from the 2008 Great Lakes Convention, which I have on iTunes. No pain or soreness ever came into my body! I visited my doctor for a follow-up, and I still had no pain.

Glory to God for His wonderful protection! Thank you for all the resources you provide for your Partners.

V.K. | Los Angeles, Calif.



Surgery Not Required

A few weeks ago I rang you for prayer for healing as I did not want to undergo surgery for the removal of gallstone problems. You prayed in agreement with me that I would not undergo surgery. Then you sent me a letter with a booklet *Receive as a Child, Live Like a King*.

I went to the hospital at 1:30 p.m. today and was out by 1:50 p.m. The consult and surgeon now say I don't need surgery. Praise God!

Caroline B. | Northern Ireland

PHILIPPINES

God Gave Me a Salary Increase

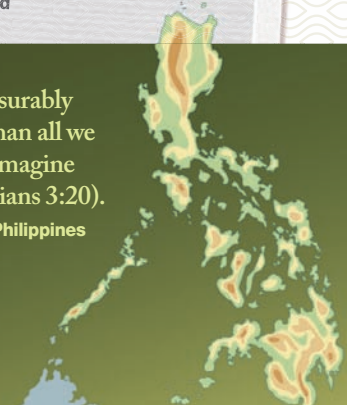
I became a Partner last month, and

God immediately opened the gates of heaven to pour out His favor and blessing on me. Behind the fact that many

nurses in Saudi Arabia are losing their jobs, God gave me a 20-percent increase in my salary. Thank you, KCM, for imparting the Word. Thank you for agreeing with me in the prayer request I sent, that God is able to do

immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

M.C. | Philippines





Historic Change!

NEW POPE

Viewed as Pro-Unity, Pro-Renewal of the Holy Spirit

Over the past decade the Rt. Rev. Tony Palmer, a former director of Kenneth Copeland Ministries' South African office and co-founder of The Ark Community, an international and interdenominational community of Christians based in the United Kingdom, has been extensively involved with the **Catholic Charismatic Renewal (CCR)**. :: In 2003, Palmer was invited by the Catholic Church to move to Europe and minister to Catholics within the CCR worldwide, as a non-Roman Catholic minister. As a result of this calling, Palmer has traveled to many countries around the world and participated in numerous meetings with leaders within the charismatic renewal.

BY RONALD C. JORDAN

It was during a mission to Argentina five years ago that Palmer met and soon became close friends with Argentine Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio.

“We had called on him to ask permission to minister in churches within his diocese for renewal,” Palmer recalled recently of that first meeting. “Immediately, Bergoglio shared his heart and appreciation for what we were doing, and fully embraced us and the work of the Holy Spirit in and through us—not only to Catholic people, but to all Christian denominations.”

On March 13, Bergoglio became the first non-European pope in more than 1,000 years when he was elected to replace the outgoing Pope Benedict XVI, who abdicated on February 28. The 76-year-



old Bergoglio, who has now taken on the name Pope Francis, after the humble Catholic friar St. Francis of Assisi, was installed at the Vatican on March 19.

“It is quite surreal for me to see my friend, spiritual father and prayer partner as the pope,” Palmer said while on a ministry trip to Italy.

“We have a good pope who is pro-unity and pro-renewal of the Holy Spirit. He believes that all Christians are one!”

Like the leader whose name he chose to draw from, Francis is himself considered humble and is described as

a conservative with “great compassion.”

In a speech he delivered to his cardinals two days after being elected, Francis showed signs of his humility, compassion and reverence of the Holy Spirit when he told them: “Someone said to me: The cardinals are the priests of the Holy Father. That community, that friendship, that closeness will do us all good. And our acquaintance and mutual openness have helped us to be docile to the action of the Holy Spirit.

He, the Paraclete, is the ultimate source of every initiative and manifestation of faith.... The Paraclete creates



Tony Palmer with Kenneth Copeland

“Diversity is divine, but division is diabolic. It’s time to celebrate diversity in the bond of unity. We are one Bride, one Body in one Baptism.” Tony Palmer



Pope Francis appeared in the window of his apartment in Vatican City to recite the Angelus prayer on March 17, shortly after his election.

Dan Kitwood / Getty Images News ©2013

spirit-filled,
born-again, faithful
Catholic Christians

180 million

all the differences among the Churches, almost as if He were an Apostle of Babel. But on the other hand, it is He who creates unity from these differences, not in 'equality,' but in harmony... The Paraclete, who gives different charisms to each of us, unites us in this community of the Church, that worships the Father, the Son, and Him, the Holy Spirit."

From the inception of The Ark Community, KCM has maintained a strong partnership with Palmer through prayer and by supporting his mission work. It was through Palmer's assistance that Kenneth and Gloria Copeland were able to minister to the Roman Catholic Church in Italy for the first time ever in 2006. They have since returned there to minister.

In light of the historic change taking place in the Catholic

Church, we asked Palmer for his insight into the election of the new pope, and what effect he feels this might have on the Body of Christ overall. Here is some of what he had to say:

BVOV: How do you believe this election will affect the Church, the Body of believers?

PALMER: It will greatly influence what's already happening. Things began to change between 1962 and 1965, when Pope John XXIII opened up the Second Vatican Council by invoking the Holy Spirit and asking God for a "new Pentecost." He asked that God would: "Renew Your wonders in our time...." God answered, and in 1967 a small group of faithful Catholics met in Pittsburgh, Pa., and called upon their Pentecostal friends to lay hands on them

so they (as Roman Catholics) may receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Pope John Paul II watched as this small group grew into a "movement" and expanded across the Atlantic and into many other countries. In 46 years, this group of Catholics has grown to over 180 million spirit-filled, born-again, faithful Catholic Christians. Pope Benedict XVI followed in Pope John Paul's footsteps and publicly supported and encouraged those involved in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. Now, as evidenced by the choice of his name, Pope Francis wants to honor St. Francis of Assisi, who was a Charismatic Catholic who founded an order of devout Christians professing to live the gospel and nothing else! Pope Francis is openly committing himself

The year of Great Grace

2013 SOUTHWEST BELIEVERS' CONVENTION July 1-6
Fort Worth Convention Center | 1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102
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Canada May 9-11

Victory Campaign

Hershey Centre | 5500 Rose Cherry Place | Mississauga, ON L4Z 4B6 | Canada

West Coast May 31-June 1

Living Victory Faith Encounter : Spanish translation available at this event

Hilton Anaheim | 777 W. Convention Way | Anaheim, CA 92802

Great Lakes Aug. 15-17

Victory Campaign

U.S. Cellular Arena | 400 W. Kilbourn Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53203

Venezuela Aug. 30-31

Victory Campaign : No preregistration for this event

Sports Center 'Pedro Elías Belisario Aponte', Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5 de Julio, Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela

East Coast Sept. 13-14

Living Victory Faith Encounter

Atlanta Marriott Marquis | 265 Peachtree Center Ave. | Atlanta, GA 30303

Word Explosion Oct. 10-12

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center | 1101 Lincoln St. | Columbia, SC 29201

Washington, D.C. Nov. 14-16

Victory Campaign : Spanish translation available at this event

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

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For a complete list of meetings, please go to

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Contact the host church for more details!

Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

25th Anniversary Celebration: May 4

River of Life Church | 377 Direct Connection Drive
Rossville, GA 30741 | 1-706-891-2120 | 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

2013 International Faith Conference:
September 9

Living Word Christian Center | 7306 W. Madison
Forest Park, IL 60130 | 1-708-771-8188
livingwd.org

8th Annual 8 Days of Glory:
October 14

Canaanland | 449 County Road 165
Autaugaville, AL 36003 | 1-334-365-2200
canaanland.com

Prayer Mountain Annual
Prayer Conference: October 23-28

Hilton Branson Convention Center
200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616
1-417-336-4877 | billyebrim.org

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

2013 Mother Daughter Banquet: May 11

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

Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans:
November 10-11

The Welk Theatre
1984 State Highway 165 | Branson, MO 65616
1-800-808-9355 | welkresorts.com/branson

Riley Stephenson

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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

Palabra de Vida: July 19-21

12401 Foothill Blvd. | Sylmar, CA 91342
1-818-969-3790



Lately, it seems my fellow believers are the ones most critical of my faith, and to be honest, I'd like to retaliate. I never hear you striking out at those who criticize you. What keeps you quiet?

The WORD of God! It says when I strike out against a fellow believer, I am actually hurting myself, because we are all one.

First Corinthians 12 says, "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.... And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it" (verses 12-13, 26). There's simply no way to cut another Christian down to size without diminishing yourself at the same time.

Silence, however, does not leave you defenseless. God Himself will take up your defense if you'll stand in faith on His promise in Isaiah 54:17. It says, "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn."

Personally, I stand on that promise every day. It's like a spiritual sword I hold out in front of me. Now it's not intended for believers. It's intended to protect me from the devil and his crowd. But if anyone decides to agree with the devil and attack me, they will run up on that sword just like he does.

I'm not glad about that. In fact, I pray for those who come against me. I don't want them to get hurt, and I know most of them are

simply being deceived. So I say, "LORD, open the eyes of that person's understanding. Don't let this situation destroy that child of God. Reveal to him the truth of John 17 and bring us into unity."

Now, that may not be my natural, fleshly reaction. But Romans 15:7 says, "Receive ye one another, as Christ also received us." How did Jesus, our Anointed Savior, receive us? In grace! He responded to us according to His love and His shed blood—not according to what we deserved.

Since the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts (Romans 5:5), we have the power within us to respond to our critics in grace too! And if we'll do it, God will work powerfully among us.

I won't kid you. It's not easy to walk The WORD's way in those situations. Sometimes you may get so angry with folks, you'll want to let them have it! But don't do it. There's no blessing in that. Instead, settle in your own heart and mind that you will walk in love, receive your brothers and sisters with the same grace by which God has received you, and trust Him to open their eyes and set things right.

In the end, you'll find He can take care of you just fine. 🍷

and the Church to emulate the spirituality of St. Francis and his followers, which is to follow Jesus wholeheartedly and establish the kingdom of God through living the Franciscan motto, which St. Francis is famous for saying: "Preach the gospel at all times and when necessary, use words." This is the central passion that drives Pope Francis. He always tells me that we all need to live like Jesus. It's all about Jesus! Pope Francis is openly supportive of the work of the Holy Spirit and the Charismatic renewal, and in his choosing of St. Francis' name, he promises to continue to support what the Holy Spirit has begun.

BVOV: What is uniquely different and meaningful about Pope Francis and his appointment?

PALMER: An important attribute that Pope Francis brings to the Papacy is his honest and sincere openness to the unity of all Christians. He is a man of God who understands the unity of the Church in its diversity. He constantly shows his public fraternal brotherhood toward all Christians. For example, when he was introduced during a large Christian meeting in Buenos Aires where over 5,000 evangelical Protestant leaders were in attendance, Pope Francis (then Cardinal Bergoglio) knelt down in front of the evangelical pastors and asked them to lay hands on him and bless him! Every year, as cardinal, he would join his evangelical brothers (pastors) for their annual weeklong retreat—not as a guest speaker to teach, but as one of them. During our times together, we have spoken about our shared pain of the division of Christians, and together we have shared

both tears and prayers for her healing—the one Bride of Christ.

BVOV: Why should we, as believers, be excited?

PALMER: I believe there exists enough evidence to cause every open-minded and open-eyed Christian to rejoice in the fact that a good man has been chosen to be pope—the spokesperson for western Christianity. He is a man after Jesus' heart and a man full of the Spirit of God—open and humble enough to forgive and embrace brothers and sisters from all Christian denominations, allowing and assisting wounds of division to be healed. The time of "spiritual apartheid" is coming to an end, and I believe Pope Francis will be one of the proponents of its demise. We have a worldwide charismatic movement of the renewal of the Holy Spirit within the Catholic Church, officially and publicly supported by the last three popes, as well as the current pope. We now live in a post-Protestant era with a pope who openly embraces his brothers and sisters of all Christian denominations to the point of publicly kneeling for the laying on of hands and prayer by evangelical leaders. God is continuing what He began when Pope John XXIII prayed for a "new Pentecost" back in 1962. He has heard the prayers and tasted the tears of the faithful who, over the years, have joined our Master and Captain in His High Priestly prayer in John 17:21: "Father make them one so that the world will believe that You sent Me." Diversity is divine, but division is diabolic. It's time to celebrate diversity in the bond of unity. We are one Bride, one Body in one Baptism.



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U.S. Cellular Arena | 400 W. Kilbourn Ave. | Milwaukee, WI 53203

Venezuela Aug. 30-31

Sports Center 'Pedro Elías Belisario Aponte'
Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5 de Julio
Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela
No preregistration for this event

Word Explosion Oct.10-12

Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center | 1101 Lincoln St. | Columbia, SC 29201

Washington, D.C.* Nov.14-16

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

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by Gloria Copeland

“Enfolded in love, [we] grow up in every way and in all things into Him Who is the Head, [even] Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).” (Ephesians 4:15, *The Amplified Bible*)



When God's on Your Side

When we yield to love, which is God's very nature (He *is* love!), we begin to look and act like Jesus Himself would if He were living in our bodies—which, of course, He is! Instead of acting like carnal Christian babies, we do what Ephesians 4:15 says and grow up enfolded in love.

It's love that causes us to grow up! It's love that will bring us to our ultimate goal of being “(the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ's own perfection, the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him)” (Ephesians 4:13, *AMP*).

I'll warn you though, if you decide to take the path of love, there will be times when it seems as though love will make you the underdog instead of the victor. There will be times when you're wrongly treated, and you'll feel like it would be to your disadvantage to be patient, kind and long-suffering. Your flesh will rise up and say, “Now wait a minute! If I just keep on being kind and loving, people will run right over me.”

But that's not true. You

see, when you walk in love, you put yourself in a position where God Himself can protect you. When you quit seeking your own, He seeks your own *for* you. And He is a great One to have on your side, because when He is for you, no one can stand against you (Romans 8:31-39).

You can see that in the life of Jesus. He always walked in love—not just when people were praising Him and honoring His ministry, but also when He was being bitterly rejected and mistreated (1 Peter 2:23).

As a result, no man or demon could touch Him. When the people at Nazareth tried to throw Him off a cliff, He just walked through the midst of them. When the soldiers came to arrest Him in the Garden, He just said, “*I am He,*” and they all fell to the ground under the power of God (John 18:1-6). If Jesus had not given Himself up willingly, He never could have been crucified, for He alone had the power to lay down His life. No one could take it from Him because He lived the life of love.

Love is powerful! If you're being mistreated, or if someone has hurt you deeply, yield to that powerful force of love on

the inside of you. Let it rise up strong in you and overtake that hurt. When you do, not only will you be healed on the inside, you will be victorious over the schemes of the devil on the outside. When you walk in love, God is on your side. And when God is on your side, you can't help but succeed. Love never fails. **♥**

Speak the Word

Enfolded in love, [I] grow up in every way and in all things into [Christ] (Ephesians 4:15, *AMP*).

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him (1 John 4:16).

Love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8, *New King James Version*).

What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?... Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us (Romans 8:31-37).

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me? (Psalm 118:6).

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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practicing the Principles of Discipline

Isn't parenting wonderful? I can honestly say that I have loved being a mother at every stage of my children's lives—from infancy through college. In raising the first four, and now Emily, my fifth, I've learned an important truth: God's grace is sufficient, no matter how old our children are. He always gives us the wisdom we need.

James 1:5 says, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." That's a great scripture for parents. We're not asking for wisdom from someone who won't give it. God says, *Ask and I'll give you more than you need. The Amplified Bible* says, "Ask of the *giving* God."

I once asked the Lord what He thought about parenting, and He said something surprising: *I want to help, but My people won't let Me. They close the door on My wisdom and grace.*

We do that by looking to the world for parenting instruction. Only God knows the best way to raise children. Remember, God made us and He made our children. He knows every little quirk and bent He put in them, so He knows what needs to be corrected in them. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go [and in keeping with his individual gift or bent], and when he is old he will not depart from it" (AMP).

I would like to share several principles the Lord has shown me about disciplining

No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening.... But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Hebrews 12:11,
New Living Translation



Just praying for your children won't make them doers of the Word.

children that will work for you too. If you'll allow Him to, God will give you wisdom to know how to handle each situation.

Do Things God's Way

One of the biggest ways parents close the door to God's wisdom is by thinking that His Word is archaic. Everything God says about parenting *works*—even what He says about discipline. But we must choose to be *doers* of His Word.

The Lord explained to me, *It's your responsibility to see that your child is a doer.* If you're not disciplining your child, you're not a doer. Not only that, by not being a doer, you are sowing bad seed in your child's life.

Matthew 7:26-27 shows the result of not being a doer of the Word: "And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

Temptations and pressures are great in the lives of children today. But if they have a deep foundation in the Word, and have learned to do what you say and what God says, they will be able to stand. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock" (verses 24-25).

Just praying for your children won't make them doers of the Word, and certainly if you are not a doer you aren't

being a good example. It's up to you to teach them the Word and teach them to obey and to be a doer yourself. The Word says to discipline them.

Discipline, Don't Punish

Discipline is not the same as punishment, and it's important to recognize the difference. It will change the way we respond to our children.

Punishment makes a person suffer for doing something wrong.

Discipline trains a person to develop skills or orderly behavior. It helps him become successful in life. According to Proverbs 10:17, "People who accept discipline are on the pathway to life..." (*NLT*).

However, Proverbs 1:7 says that "fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline" (*AMP*).

When we lovingly discipline our children, we are doing it for their benefit. Discipline creates needed boundaries, helps children develop self-control, and establishes order and peace in our homes.

As parents, it's our responsibility to explain the concept of biblical discipline to our children. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."

Sit down and teach your children what God's Word says so they will understand why they must be disciplined and how to repent.

Biblical Discipline, Repentance and Forgiveness

To begin with, explain that disobedience is sin. When a person sins, they walk away from God and there are consequences for that. Romans 6:23 says, "For the wages of sin is death." Sin opens the door to the enemy, and that enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Ephesians 4:27 says we are to give no place to the devil.

Through discipline and repentance, a person is able to repent and turn back to the Lord.

points to get you there

parenting



God knows the best way for us to raise our children, and gives us sound, biblical principles for disciplining them so they grow up knowing the Lord and walking according to His Word. Here are a few points to help you:

1 Do Things God's Way

Matthew 7:24-25:

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

2 Discipline, Don't Punish

Deuteronomy 6:6-7: "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children."

3 Biblical Discipline, Repentance and Forgiveness

Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

4 Say Goodbye to Excuses

Proverbs 29:17: "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest."

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But here's something I should point out: Discipline is not verbal. Proverbs 29:19 says a servant can't be corrected by mere words. Neither can a child.

According to Proverbs 22:15, "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." Foolishness is normal in the heart of a child, but if left there and not driven out as the Lord has commanded, it will pervert him or her. Proverbs 19:3 says, "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord." Proverbs 13:24 says, "He who spares his rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines diligently..." (AMP).

Did you notice how strongly that is worded? Most people would tell you that the Bible says, "Spare the rod, you *spoil* the child." But it says "Hate!" The world would have us believe that we shouldn't spank our children. But if we don't, and I can't emphasize this enough, we "hate" them. If we refuse to discipline our children God's way, we are setting them up for failure.

Spanking teaches a child that there is a sting to sin. It teaches them to repent quickly. That will carry over into their adult lives.

Now there is a right way to spank a child. Never should a child be beaten, abused or spanked in anger. Never use your hands, but rather use a "reedlike" rod as Proverbs 23:13 says in *The Amplified Bible*. I use something like a switch or a wooden spoon.

When my children were young, I explained that in the Old Testament, an altar was made of wood and a sacrifice was placed on that altar. The sacrifice was burned up, and then the people's sin was gone. When Jesus died on the cross, He died on a wooden altar and our sin was gone.

When a child willingly submits to discipline and repents, it is like an

altar of forgiveness. He is forgiven by his parents and by God. The sin is gone, and there is no place for the devil to get into his life.

Explaining this will help your children understand the point of discipline so they can come into agreement with what you are doing and not resist it.

You can also show them the benefits of being obedient with scriptures like Ephesians 6:1-3: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

The whole point of disciplining your children is that you want them to learn to repent, turn to God immediately when they sin, and close the door on the enemy.

After being disciplined, when a child truly repents and is forgiven, it sets him free. His heart is cleansed.

After spanking your child, pray a positive, restorative prayer. Hug him and let him know how much he is loved. Your child should leave the experience with a smile on his face!

As we discipline our children, we are teaching them how to quickly repent in the future when God admonishes them with words. That is something they need to understand in order to have a strong relationship with the Lord. Aside from this, discipline is so much more effective when Jesus, parents *and* children are on the same page and in agreement.

Say Goodbye to Excuses

Once when my older children were still small, I was asked to

teach about parenting. They were generally well-behaved but were still challenging me. I didn't feel qualified to teach on the subject and gave God excuses for why I shouldn't. He responded by saying, *If you make excuses for your condition or the condition of your home, you will not change.* He then added, *If you make excuses for your children, you won't discipline them and they won't change.*

That statement really struck me!

How many of us have been at a restaurant with friends when our little Suzie has thrown a fit? Rather than discipline her, we made excuses like, "She's just tired."

Instead we should tell our child, "That behavior is not acceptable," and deal with the situation according to the Word.

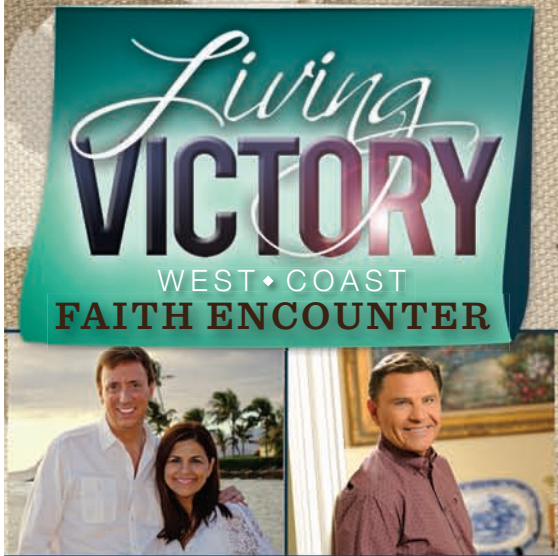
Proverbs 29:17 says, "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest...." That isn't easy or convenient at times, but it is necessary. No matter where we are, we must take the time to correct our children. As we sow seeds of discipline in their lives, we will reap a harvest of rest.

Parenting is one of the most important jobs we'll ever have. If we do it correctly, our children will grow up knowing the Lord and walking according to His Word.

God has a plan for the lives of our children and it includes discipline. We must base that discipline on God's Word, stop making excuses for poor behavior, commit to practicing discipline—not punishment—teach them to repent and offer them forgiveness. By disciplining our children God's way, we are setting them up for success! ♡



Kellie Copeland Swisher is an Outreach Minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ. Kellie and her husband, Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher, have five children and reside in Fort Worth, Texas.



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Impossible VICTORIES

IN THE COMBAT ZONE

What do you do when The LORD gives you an assignment you don't have the power to carry out? How do you handle it when He commands you—either through His written WORD or by the leading of the Holy Spirit—to do something it looks like you don't have the resources or ability to do? ∴ Those are questions every serious believer must confront at one time or another. It's just part of walking with God. He's famous for instructing His people to do things that, from a purely human perspective, seem downright impossible. ∴ The Bible gives us a number of examples.

Take what He told Moses, for instance. When he was trapped between the Red Sea and an Egyptian army bent on slaughtering the Israelites he'd been sent to deliver, God said to him, "Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it" (Exodus 14:15-16).

As great as he was, Moses didn't have any more ability in his own strength to divide a sea than you or I. But here's what he did have: the authorization that comes with a divine command, and faith in God. So he obeyed, the sea split and he led the Israelites through on dry ground.

Some 40 years later, Joshua had a similar experience. Standing on the edge of a giant-inhabited Promised Land with a new generation of Israelites who had never had any formal military training, he heard God say: "Arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them.... Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you.... No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you" (Joshua 1:2-3, 5, *New King James Version*).



To hear that command the same way Joshua did, you have to remember, he had been part of the 12-man recon team Moses sent to spy out that land a couple of decades earlier. Every member of that team except Joshua and Caleb had been scared out of their wits by what they had seen. They had come back talking dirt about God and terrifying the Israelites with bad reports. "The people in that land will eat us alive!" they said. "Their cities are surrounded by massive walls. The inhabitants are giants. We look like grasshoppers to them!"

Those negative reports

were the last thing Joshua had heard about the Promised Land. In spite of them, he had stood strong on his faith in God. But for 40 years those warnings about the size of the giants and the impenetrable city walls had been going through his mind. Now, God was telling him to go into combat and take the land.

Joshua knew that in himself he didn't have the power to do it. Neither did his wilderness-wandering band of Israelites. So he paid close attention to the specific instructions God gave him: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may



You have the blood of Jesus, the righteousness of God and the New Testament... the Holy Spirit inside you to continually tell you what Jesus is saying and to give you God's commands... His Name to authorize you, and the Father dwelling in you, to do the works.



observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (verses 8-9, *NKJV*).

Those instructions were vital to Joshua's victory, because as long as he kept his mind on God's WORD, he wouldn't be thinking about the walls and the giants. He wouldn't fall prey to the fog of war. As long as he remembered he was doing what God told him to do, he'd have the same elements working for him that Moses had: the authorization that comes with a divine command, and faith in God.

With that kind of supernatural artillery on his side, Joshua knew no giant anywhere could in any way defeat or overcome him.

Joshua, Jesus and You

“Well, I don't know what that has to do with me,” you might say. “I'm not exactly a Joshua.”

That's absolutely true. You're not Joshua. You have more than he did. You have the blood of Jesus, the righteousness of God and the New Testament. You have the Holy Spirit inside you to continually tell you what Jesus is saying and to give you God's commands. You have His Name to authorize you, and the Father dwelling in you to do the works.

With all those things working for you, not only can you follow the example of Joshua, you can follow the example of Jesus. John 14 makes that crystal clear. There,



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Jesus said to His disciples: “Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me. The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. 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” (verses 11, 10, 12).

Notice, according to those verses, Jesus followed what, in military terms, is called “a chain of command.” Just as a general gives commands to the soldiers under him and then backs those commands with his authority, the Father told Jesus what to say and He said it. The Father told Him what to do and He did it. Then the Father dwelling in Him did the works. He backed Jesus with His power and did things through Him that are humanly impossible.

That’s the way God’s system has always operated. Think again about Moses and the miracle at the Red Sea. What happened there? God gave Moses words to speak. He said, “Tell the people to go forward.” He also gave Moses a command to obey. “Stretch forth your rod and divide the sea.” When Moses said what God said and did what He commanded, the Father did the work.

The same thing happened to Joshua. God gave him words to say and commands to obey. When Joshua said those words and acted on those commands, God backed him and he kept winning one impossible victory after another.

It’s a simple process, and we can all operate in it. But to do so, as Jesus said, we must believe. We must have faith in God. Since faith comes by hearing God’s WORD (Romans 10:17), that means we have to do what Joshua did and make that WORD the priority and final authority in our lives, meditating it and speaking it all the time. You see, when you’re facing battles that appear to be impossible to win, your natural mind will stagger. Your physical senses will try to talk you out of obeying God’s command.

The circumstances won’t look right. Your emotions won’t feel right. People will be telling you not to do it, and Satan will come to steal that command out of your heart and try to get you to start saying what he says instead of what God said.

That’s exactly what happened to the Israelites after that first recon mission into the Promised Land. They let themselves be mentally and emotionally shaken by what the 10 unbelieving spies told them. They forgot God’s WORD and let themselves be overwhelmed by their natural senses. “Oh, the giants are so big!” they screamed. “We were like grasshoppers in their sight!”

According to natural, human logic, those words sounded reasonable and true. But here’s the irony: Factually, they were dead wrong.

It turned out that the giants in the Promised Land had *never* seen the Israelites as grasshoppers. In fact, the opposite was true! The inhabitants of that land had lived in fear of the Israelites for 40 years. “Your terror is fallen upon us,” one of them confided to Joshua’s men.

All the inhabitants of the land faint because of you. For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites...whom ye utterly destroyed. And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more courage in any man, because of you: for the Lord your God, he is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath (Joshua 2:9-11).

Can you see what had happened? God had already gone ahead of the Israelites and done the work. He had those tough-looking giants all softened up. While the Israelites were letting themselves be terrorized by the spies’ reports, the giants were wringing their hands and crying, “Oh, no! They’re coming! Those

sea-splitting, king-killing warriors of Almighty God are going to absolutely destroy us! What are we going to do?"

Think about that the next time you find yourself in the combat zone facing impossible odds. Remember that The LORD your God, He is God in heaven above, and in earth beneath, and He'll go before you and prepare the way. You don't have to make things work. All you have to do is pray, hear His instructions and obey.

Adventures in the Combat Zone

Gloria and I have seen it again and again in our own lives. One Christmas, for instance, we got a call telling us that our little 11-year-old granddaughter, Lyndsey, was critically ill. Our daughter, Kellie, had gone into her room to wake her up that morning and found her delirious. She was so out of it, she didn't even know her own parents.

They rushed her to a hospital in Fort Worth, where she was diagnosed with neisseria meningitis. An epidemic of the disease had broken out and several children locally had already died from it. The doctor who evaluated the fluid tests done on Lyndsey said hers was the worst case she'd seen. She did not expect Lyndsey to live.

Suddenly our entire family was in the combat zone. The devil was trying to kill one of us. Gloria and I were out of town at the time and we couldn't get to Fort Worth until 11 o'clock that night, but we immediately took Communion and stood on The WORD of God. Then I said to The LORD: "Sir, I'm asking You for wisdom about this. Give me the words that I must speak."

Sure enough, before long I heard His answer. He told me very specifically what to do when I saw Lyndsey. *Put your finger on her breastbone, right in the center of her chest, and speak to the anointing that is in her.* He said. *Command it to rise up.*

"Yes, Sir," I answered.

At the hospital, Gloria and I were

You don't have to make things work. All you have to do is pray, hear His instructions and obey.

required to put on bio-hazard suits. When we walked into Lyndsey's room, she was lying on the bed, seemingly unaware of our presence. With Gloria standing on one side of her and me on the other, I said, "Lyndsey, it's Pawpaw." Then I obeyed The LORD's command.

I said exactly what He told me to say and did exactly what He told me to do. I didn't add anything to it or take anything away from it. Putting my finger right in the center of her chest I said, "I speak to the anointing in you to rise up and put this disease out of your body."

Up to that point, Lyndsey hadn't said anything. Totally out of it, she hadn't spoken a word for hours. But

suddenly she gritted her teeth and shouted, "Pawpaw, I'M HEALED IN THE NAME OF JESUS!"

That was it. She was OK. God did the work. He did what the doctors said was impossible and she was healed.

Another woman whose grandson was in a bed just a few feet away heard us praying and ministering to Lyndsey and said, "Oh, sir! Could you come pray that for my grandson? His mom and dad don't care anything about God. But I've been standing here saying, 'Please, God! Would You send me someone who knows how to pray in faith? Someone who's got the Holy Ghost to help me?'"

That woman knew God could heal her grandson, she just didn't know



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how to cooperate with His process. But Gloria and I did. So I said, "Sure, we'll pray for him!"

As it turned out, that was just the beginning.

According to law, Lyndsey had to stay in the hospital eight more days for observation. So while she made the most of the time—celebrating Christmas, opening her presents, singing and talking to everyone about The LORD—the rest of our family went to work ministering to the other people there who were tending to children with meningitis. My daughter Terri and her prayer team, along with the soul-winning team from our church, just set up shop. They were praying for people all over that place.

Talk about victory! It was tremendous—and it all happened because we had two simple things: the command of The LORD and faith in God.

If you're a born-again child of God, those things are just as available to you as they are to Gloria and me. No matter how impossible the circumstances around you may appear, Jesus, your LORD, the Commander in Chief/Advocate General of the Body of Christ, has received command authority from the Father. If you'll ask Him for wisdom, He'll speak to you just like He spoke to me about Lyndsey.

He'll tell you what to say and what to do. All you have to do is listen, obey Him and have faith in God...and you can enjoy supernatural victory every day of your life. ⑦

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April 29-May 3 **Expect Daily Benefits From God**
Kenneth Copeland and Jerry Savelle

Sun., May 5 **Faith Takes It**
Gloria Copeland

May 6-10 **Love Your Way to Peace in Your Home**
Kellie Copeland Swisher

Sun., May 12 **Faith Works by Love**
Gloria Copeland

May 13-17 **Choose God's Love—Eliminate All Strife**
Kellie Copeland Swisher

Sun., May 19 **The Power of the Holy Spirit in You**
Kenneth Copeland

May 20-24 **10 Days of Debt Freedom—Part 1**
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sun., May 26 **Be Free From the Fear of Death**
Kenneth Copeland

May 27-31 **10 Days of Debt Freedom—Part 2**
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

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