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VICTORY



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June 2013

Gone Fishing!

Kenneth Copeland



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by Kenneth Copeland

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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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BY KENNETH COPELAND

Gone Fishing!



If you've had trouble hearing from God about any area of your life, here's some encouraging news for you: God is not your problem. He's not keeping any secrets from you. He doesn't have some mysterious plan for your life that He's determined to hide. :: On the contrary, if you're born again, He's talking to you all the time—telling you exactly what you need to know. He's continually fulfilling the words Jesus spoke not only to you but to all of us as believers:

The Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you *all* things. He will guide you into *all* truth” (John 14:26, 16:13). “For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad” (Mark 4:22).

Jesus doesn't exaggerate. When He says He'll reveal all truth to us, He means *all*. When He says nothing shall be hidden, He means *nothing!*

“If that's true, Brother Copeland,” you might say, “why does it seem like God is keeping me in the dark about so many things?”

That's a great question,

and it's one Jesus answered in Mark 4.

Right after He preached an entire message on how to receive revelation from God's WORD, right after He promised nothing would be kept secret from us, He said this: “If any man have ears to hear, let him hear. Take heed what ye hear: with what

measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given” (verses 23-24).

Everyone has physical ears. Everyone has flesh paddles on the sides of his head. So obviously that's not what Jesus was talking about there. What He was referring to was spiritual hearing. He was talking



the day Jesus spent the morning preaching from his fishing boat. After Jesus finished teaching, He turned to Peter and said, “Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught” (Luke 5:4).

Those were simple instructions. They were easy to understand. But Peter didn’t have ears to hear them. He didn’t measure them with faith. Because He didn’t yet have a revelation of who Jesus is, he didn’t realize he’d just received wisdom and guidance for his fishing business from the Anointed Son of God. He simply thought a well-meaning rabbi had asked him for an inconvenient favor.

Don’t get me wrong, I’m not suggesting Peter didn’t respect Jesus. I’m sure he did. After all, he’d just seen Him heal his mother-in-law. She’d been so sick with a fever that she was delirious. Jesus had rebuked the fever and she’d gotten out of bed completely well and cooked supper. So Peter honored Jesus as a minister.

He just didn’t think Jesus was much of a fisherman. If He was, Peter reasoned, He would have known you can’t catch fish in the daytime in the Sea of Galilee. Peter had already fished all night with no success. He’d washed his nets and he was ready to go home.

Still, he didn’t want to refuse Jesus’ request. So, he said, “Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing; nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net” (verse 5).

Look again at that last word. *Net. Singular.*

Peter wasn’t physically hard of hearing. He knew Jesus had



He didn’t want you to have to go around with your hat in your hand looking to human beings for a bailout.... No sir! You’re supposed to be prosperous.

about having ears of faith. He wanted us to know that if we don’t take heed to what God says and measure it with faith, we won’t be able to receive what He is

trying to get across to us. We’ll hear His instructions and yet still miss the point.

It happens to people all the time. Take Peter, for example. It happened to him

The LORD isn't trying to keep secrets from you. He's speaking to you, teaching you and guiding you all the time.

So just inquire of Him and say, "LORD, there is a mountain here in my life. I see in Your WORD where I'm supposed to have victory over it. I see in Mark 11:23, that I can speak to it by faith and it will be removed. So I'm asking You to give me wisdom. Show me what You would have me say and what You would have me do. I have ears to hear."

instructed him to let down his *nets* (plural), he just decided to ignore it. He thought, *If the preacher wants to go fishing, I'll take him. I'll throw one old rotten net in the water a few times and he'll be happy. Then we can go back to shore and I can go eat breakfast.*

Jesus, of course, didn't say a thing. He let Peter do what he wanted to do. As a result: "When they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink" (verses 6-7).

Can you imagine how frustrating this must have been for Peter? Every fish in the Galilee was gathered up around his boat that day. But he couldn't haul in a single one of them because all he had in his boat was one

the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). What's more, he listened to Him preach The WORD day after day.

After a while, another situation came up that required Peter to choose how he was going to measure Jesus' instructions. The temple tribute collectors (aka *tax collectors*) were wanting money and Peter, not knowing what to do about it, took the problem to The LORD.

The solution Jesus came up with was this, "Go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his

You have to quit thinking lack and measuring with a poverty stick.

rotten, broken net.

If he'd had any idea that Jesus had been offering him the business opportunity of a lifetime, he would have followed His instructions exactly and thrown every net he had into the water. But he didn't, because he wasn't expecting Jesus to do anything for him financially. He wasn't measuring what He said in terms of who He is and what God has promised in His WORD. He wasn't listening with ears of faith.

Another Peculiar Fishing Trip

For Peter, however, this wasn't the end of the story. As soon as he realized what he'd done, he repented. He followed Jesus, became His disciple, and got the revelation that He is "the Christ,

mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee" (Matthew 17:27).

From a natural perspective, these fishing instructions sounded even more peculiar than the first ones Jesus had given Peter. But do you know what Peter said when he heard them?

Nothing.

Nothing at all.

He didn't say, "Oh, come on now, LORD! Fish don't eat money!"

No. He just turned around and grabbed his fishing pole. He just headed for the lake fully intending to come back not only with the money to pay the taxes but with dinner as well. (After all, Jesus hadn't said, "Open the mouth of the *only* fish you catch." He said, "Open the mouth

of the *first* fish"; and I suspect Peter had figured out that when it came to finances, if he listened to Jesus and obeyed Him, he'd wind up with more than enough.)

Can you see how Peter had changed?

This time he was ready to hear, quick to obey and he didn't talk back. Because he had a revelation of Jesus' authority, His power and His WORD, he measured what he heard with a miracle-sized measuring stick.

If you want to really hear what God is saying to you about your life right now, you'll learn from Peter's example. When The LORD speaks to you, you won't respond like he did the first time by saying things like, "Oh, but LORD, You don't understand my situation. This won't work."

No, you'll respond by saying, "Sir, yes Sir! Be it done unto me as You have spoken."

From the Dump to the Boardroom

"But Brother Copeland, I need a lot of money right now and I can't figure out how God can get it to me."

Have you gone fishing lately?

I don't mean that literally. What I mean is have you done what Peter did? Have you taken time to inquire of The LORD, hear His instructions and act on them?

"Well, I've prayed about the situation," you might say. "I've asked God for the finances I need but I haven't really heard anything. So

I'm not sure it's God's will for me to have them."

That's a common problem. Many Christians stumble over the question of whether or not it's the Father's perfect will to prosper His people. Since faith begins where the will of God is known, you need to get that settled.

How?

With the written WORD of God.

Get out your Bible and read scriptures like Psalm 113:7-8, for instance. It says God "raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth the needy out of the dunghill; that he may set him with princes, even with the princes of his people." Think about that. According to the Bible, God takes His people from the dump to the boardroom!

"He hasn't done that for me, Brother Copeland!"

Yes, He has. He did it for you in Christ. When you were dead in your sins and trespasses, He raised you up together and made you sit together with Christ Jesus in heavenly places. Talk about being promoted! You've already made it to the top!

This is what God had on His heart and mind when Jesus went to the cross. He wanted to get you up out of the dirt and the dunghill. He didn't want you to have to go around with your hat in your hand looking to human beings for a bailout or a handout. No sir! You are a joint heir with Christ Jesus. You are a child of the living God. You're supposed to be prosperous.

But to have ears to hear what Jesus is saying to you about how to walk in that prosperity, you have to get your mind out of the dunghill and the garbage heap. You have to quit thinking lack and measuring with a poverty stick. People may have called you "poor boy" all your life. But you need to renew your mind with God's WORD and start saying, "I don't answer to 'poor boy' anymore!"

That's what I did 46 years ago. You've probably heard Gloria and me tell the story. We didn't have anything

financially except a mountain of debt. But I found out from The WORD of God that because I'm in Christ, I'm Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise. Everything God promised to Abraham belongs to me!

One day the truth of it hit me so hard, I started preaching to Gloria right in the middle of our little run-down rent house. "Hey girl, we are rich now!" I said. "It's only a matter of time until the debt is paid and we have plenty of money."

How could I say such a thing?

I'd changed my hearing! I was hearing The WORD talk to me on a whole new level. I could finally hear with ears of faith what Jesus had to say to me about money!

You can do the same thing if you'll open up your spiritual ears by planting the written WORD in your heart.

God is saying to you right now what He said in Isaiah 55: *My ways are higher than your ways. My thoughts are higher than your thoughts. That's*

why I've given you My thoughts in My WORD. I want you to forsake your ways and start following Mine. My WORD will prosper and accomplish whatever I send it to do. So get that WORD in your heart and in your mouth. Come on up here and think with Me.

If you'll take God up on that offer, before long, you'll have a bigger measuring stick. You'll be like the farmer who wrote to tell us about the financial blessing he experienced. A Partner with this ministry, he'd grown in his faith and been able to pay off all his debts except what he owed on his farm. He wanted to be completely debt free but the amount seemed overwhelming. *I just can't see how The LORD could do that*, he thought.

But instead of giving up on the idea, he just kept meditating on The WORD. Finally one day, he had ears to hear what God was saying to him. He got so thrilled, he ran into the house and said to his wife, "Praise

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God, we're going to pay off this farm! God just got through to me. If you can pay off a charge card, you can pay off a farm! If you can pay off a car, you can pay off anything!"

The LORD will talk to you just like He did that farmer. It doesn't matter what problem you may be facing, He has a plan to solve it. So just inquire of Him and say, "LORD, there is a mountain here in my life. I see in Your WORD where I'm supposed to have victory over it. I see in Mark 11:23, that I can speak to it by faith and it will be removed. So I'm asking You to give me wisdom. Show me what You would have me say and what You would have me do. I have ears to hear."

Of course, if you're going to ask for wisdom, at some time or another you're going to have to sit down and listen, expecting to get it. So start listening. Instead of spending so much time watching television and listening to the news, spend time in the Scriptures. Get some preaching DVDs of people like Bill Winston, Keith Moore, Creflo Dollar, Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis, or Gloria and me, and feed your spirit.

The LORD isn't trying to keep secrets from you. He's speaking to you, teaching you and guiding you all the time. If you have ears to hear, before long you'll be going fishing! 🎣

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"I will be attending the Southwest Believers' Convention this year for the first time, and I already believe it will be a tremendous blessing for me and my family."

"I was at Southwest Believers' Convention this past year. The word of the Lord was amazing! Recognizing what God was doing and saying was not just at the conference, but in church and with other groups around the world!"

"Totally changed my life being in the Word for a week. I have been to SWBC a couple of times and I never leave the same way I came. I was healed of lupus and hepatitis C, which are both death sentences in themselves. The Word of God I received in these services is a big part of the reason I am healed!"

"Best vacation I ever had. I went with a broken left hand and left better than before. It has never hurt since. Praise the Lord! I was able to be in every meeting and was blessed each time."



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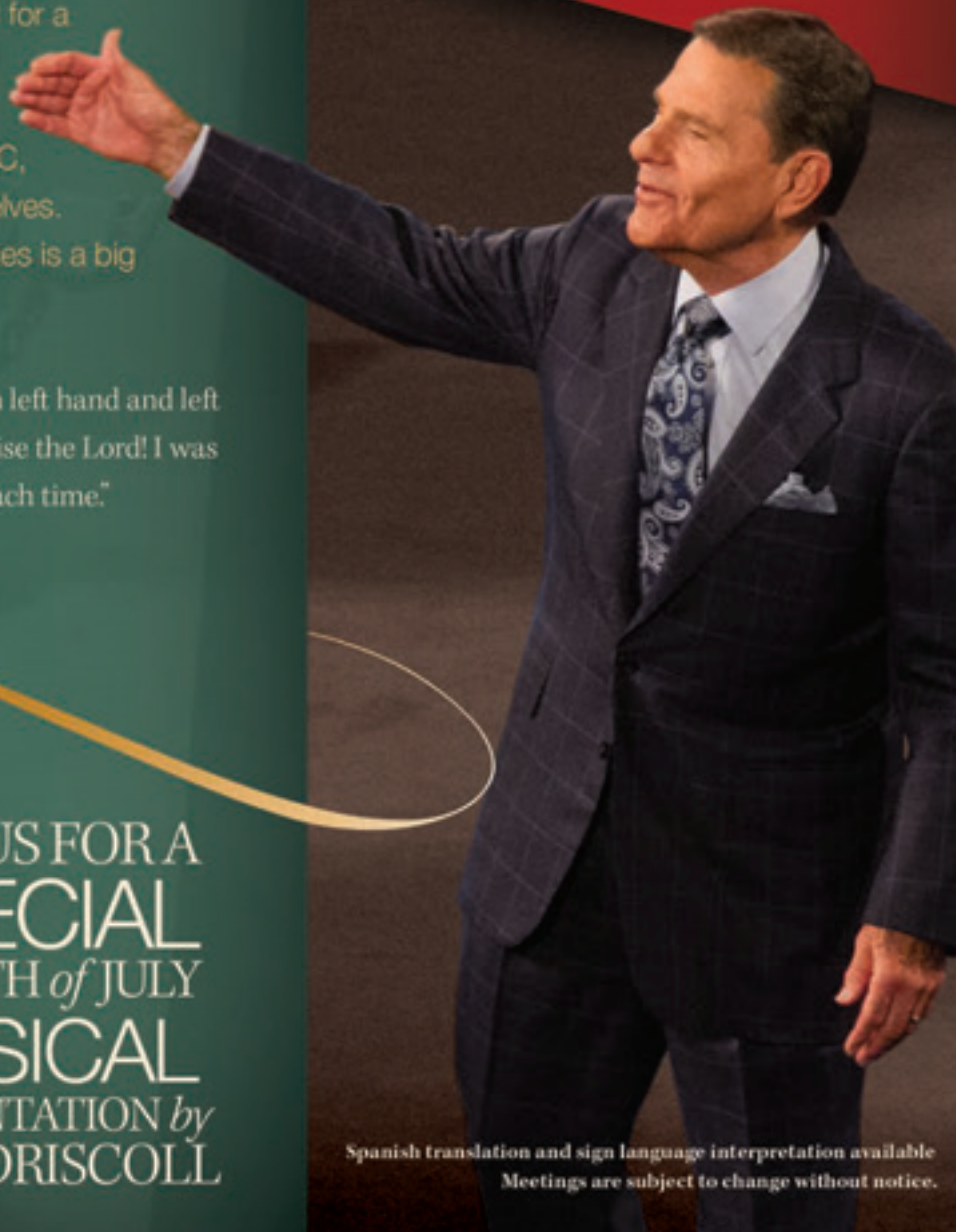
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the ABCs of

FAITH

Marissa Boggs glanced out the window of the salon. Her day almost over, she checked her client's nail polish and noticed it reminded her of sunset over the Rio Grande Valley. "Nice color," she said smiling. "It's dry so you're free to go." Watching the client leave, Marissa counted her money and felt her heart drop like an elevator in a high rise.

There isn't enough.

— by *Melanie Henry* —



she'd been suicidal, living a nightmare she never wanted her own children to experience.

Raised as an only child in a prosperous family, she'd attended Catholic mass on Easter and Christmas. But nothing in those services prepared her to battle the spiritual darkness that had engulfed her. If it hadn't been for the help and prayers of Jonathan's sister, Angela, and others in his father's church, she might not have survived.

There has to be a way to keep them in this school.

Marissa recounted the money in her wallet, but she hadn't made a mistake. Between Jonathan's salary and what she brought home, there wasn't enough to pay the bills and tuition.

There might have been,

Marissa admitted, if she and Jonathan had used more financial wisdom when they were married at age 19. But they were so naive back then! Within a few years, they had accumulated a staggering \$35,000 in debt—most of it on charge cards. Now creditors were harassing them, and they couldn't even keep up with the minimum payments—much less reduce the debt.

Marissa rubbed her hands over her face, blinking back tears.

There must be a way out of this!

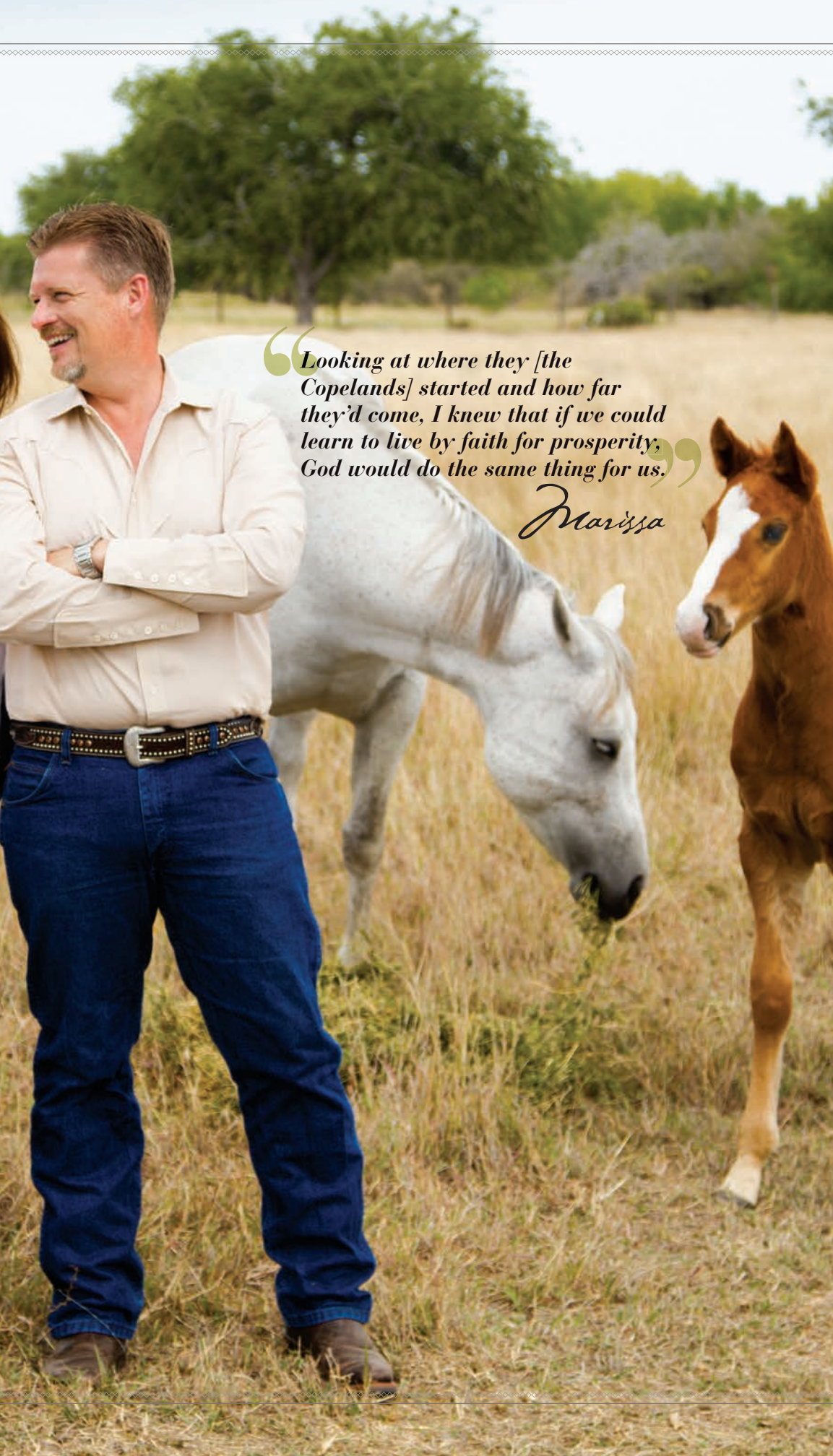
Picking up her purse, she drove to her children's school. Inside the school, she explained their plight and begged for mercy.

"I'll do anything to work off the tuition," she said. "I'll clean the school—



Tuition was due at the Christian school where she and her husband, Jonathan, had enrolled their children, Amanda and Aaron. What could she do? The last thing Marissa wanted was to put her children back into public school. They were still so young, so vulnerable to the influences of the world.

Thinking back to her own youth, Marissa shuddered. As a teen,



“Looking at where they [the Copelands] started and how far they’d come, I knew that if we could learn to live by faith for prosperity, God would do the same thing for us.”

Marissa

whatever you need done.”

“I’m sorry, but unless you pay the tuition I’m afraid your children can’t come back.”

Leading Amanda and Aaron to the car, Marissa tried to explain why they wouldn’t be in class with their friends and teachers the next day.

Searching for Answers

“I tried home schooling,” Marissa recalls, “but Amanda and I both had strong personalities and it became a source of frustration for us. In addition to wanting my children in a Christian school, our financial problems were overwhelming. With \$35,000 of debt, it looked like we would be paying on it for the rest of our lives. We needed a miracle.”

The problem was, no one in the Boggs family believed in financial prosperity by faith. They believed everything else in the Bible, though, and lived it, too.

Especially Jonathan’s father, Max.

He’d been in the ministry for years. Having attended Christ for the Nations, he had started out as an evangelist in Oklahoma. He had also run a Christian school in Dallas before accepting the position as superintendent at a Christian academy in Tulsa, Okla.

In 1984, God had called Max to the Rio Grande Valley. So he

new

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and his wife, Linda, had left everything to start over in the southernmost tip of Texas. In a primarily Hispanic culture, the Boggs' five blond children were an unusual sight in Edinburg. But the family quickly made the town their home. In 1986, Max started World Harvest Training Center. The beautiful facility located on sprawling acreage had originally been a clubhouse built for an exclusive subdivision.

Max Boggs had always believed the Bible over any man's opinion. So when he discovered books by Kenneth E. Hagin and realized that the word of faith message was biblical, he embraced it. He even left his denomination when he was instructed to stop preaching it, Marissa explained.

But one aspect of the word of faith had troubled him: the concept of faith for prosperity. Words like wealth and riches seemed to him to be almost...evil.

A Company of Believers

Marissa, however, couldn't afford to shy away from the prosperity message. Searching for answers to the financial woes she and Jonathan were facing, in the mid-1990s she started reading the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine.

"This ministry is amazing," she told the family. "Look, they're having a convention this summer in Fort Worth! I want to go!"

Marissa's family was unsure of her attending. For the most part even Jonathan didn't want to go. Undeterred, Marissa and her one ally, a sister-in-law who shared her enthusiasm, decided to make the trip anyway. Their husbands dropped them off in Fort Worth during convention week and then drove to the family farm in Oklahoma.

On Saturday, the last day of the convention, the two men walked into the convention center looking for their wives. Catching the last part of Gloria Copeland's Healing School, they drank in the teaching. Both men believed in healing and taught it, but Gloria's healing school felt like a shot of Holy Ghost adrenaline to them.

"That convention gave me hope that

we could get out of the financial hole we had dug for ourselves,” Marissa remembers. “As I listened to Gloria tell about their financial struggles and their debt as a young couple, it sounded very similar to what we were going through.

“Looking at where they started and how far they’d come, I knew that if we could learn to live by faith for prosperity, God would do the same thing for us. It also blessed me to hear how Gloria walked by faith for her children, confessing the Word over them and refusing to worry. She inspired me to do the same.

“The Copelands were my heroes.”

Things begin to change so much for the Boggs that from then on the family’s yearly trip was attending the Southwest Believers’ Convention.

When Max decided to attend the convention, he told his wife, “If we’re going to spend all this money for hotels to attend these meetings, we’re not going to miss any of them.” True to his word, Max and Linda attended every session of the convention that year.

Back home in his pulpit the Sunday following the close of the convention, Max repented to the congregation for his attitude toward teaching on prosperity, and began teaching the church about the tithe. From that day on, the ministry began to prosper!

Standing in faith to be debt free, Jonathan and Marissa prayed, confessed the Word, stood on Scripture and put as much money as possible toward their debt. When the Lord led Jonathan to leave his job and go work for World Harvest, they took a leap of faith and obeyed. But, instead of getting easier, it seemed as though their battle to break free of the spirit of poverty intensified.

Mountain of Debt

“When God told me to give my time to the ministry, we had collection agencies hounding us!” Jonathan explains. “If that weren’t bad enough, we had a lawsuit filed against us regarding the debt. Early in our marriage, Marissa’s parents had co-signed for us on some of our

debt. Now our creditors were going after them.

“We had to answer a lawsuit the Monday after convention that year. We were so close to falling into fear and worry that we almost didn’t go to the convention. However, the law firm that had filed against us was in Fort Worth. We decided to attend the convention and go speak to the attorney in person.

“When we arrived at the law firm, they refused to see us. During the convention, Dad and I were sitting three rows from the front. In the middle of his message, Brother Copeland walked over and pointed between us. I thought he was going to read my mail.

“Instead, he prophesied. ‘If you’ve been sued, a whole office full of

attorneys won’t do you any good. You roll the care of this over on to Me. Trust God.’ Then he went on with his message.

“Dad and I walked out of the meeting rejoicing. Before we got back to our hotel, God dropped the name of an attorney into Dad’s heart. Dad called the man and he said, ‘Max, I’ll answer the lawsuit on Monday. Don’t worry about it. I’ll take care of it.’”

The lawsuit was dropped. And their attorney refused to send them a bill.

The battle had swung in their favor.

Little by little, the floodwaters of debt began to recede.

Fulfilling the Vision

Max’s vision had always included a Christian school, but he had not yet been released by God to open one. In August 1999, during the Southwest Believers’ Convention the Lord spoke to Marissa’s heart, *It’s time to start a school.*

Then, Brother Copeland stopped his teaching, pointed at them and said, “Whatever the Lord has told you to do, do it!”

Surprised to realize God had called them to fulfill that part of the vision, Jonathan and Marissa returned home with the Lord’s instruction in their hearts. Two weeks later, with Max’s support and direction they started a school.

Jonathan’s dream had been to be a farmer, rancher or veterinarian. He had told the Lord many times, “I’ll go wherever You send me. I’ll do whatever You call me to do, except be a pastor.”

In addition to not wanting to be a pastor, he had no interest in running the school.

Until the moment God laid it on his heart.

“The church can’t support the school,” Pastor Max explained to Jonathan and Marissa. “The school has to support itself.”

God gave Jonathan and Marissa His guidelines for the school: 1) The school would have no debt; 2) The staff would be believers out of the local church; 3) They were to keep the cost as low as possible; 4) No child would be turned away due to a lack of finances.

“We’re so thankful to be Partners with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

That partnership translates into multiplied power and multiplied anointing to minister.

Jonathan



With no financial support, Jonathan and Marissa made fliers and placed them on the windshields of cars in a Wal-Mart parking lot.

Equipped for Life

"We began Harvest Christian Academy in 1999, with 12 students," Jonathan remembers. "Parents of only three of the 12 paid the tuition of \$100 a month. The entire staff was Marissa, me and two ladies from the church. Our take-home pay for the year was a \$50 Christmas bonus.

"We had moved our family into a rundown mobile home on church property so we didn't have to pay rent or electricity. We had two children and to say our circumstances were humbling would be an understatement.

"It was important to us that in addition to preparing our students for college, we also prepare them to live a life of victory. We taught the kids how to pray and how to release the anointing.

"For the grade-school children, we took Kellie's Superkid curriculum and expanded it to work all year. For junior-high and high-school students, we used in-depth teaching from Kenneth Copeland, taken from such materials as *Covenant Made by Blood*, *Understanding Who You Are in Christ*, *Integrity of God's Word*, *Six Steps to Excellence in Ministry*, and now we're adding *Blessed to Be a Blessing*.

"In addition, the high school students receive teaching on finances and how to manage money," Jonathan said.

Living Long Term

More than anything, Jonathan and Marissa wanted the Name of Jesus to be exalted at Harvest Christian Academy. In Texas, to be accredited with the Texas Accreditation Agency means the state determines how much they can say about God. Therefore, Jonathan and Marissa chose not to seek accreditation.

Over the years, many parents were concerned that the school's non-accredited status would make

their children ineligible for college. But because God showed Jonathan and Marissa how to word their transcripts, in the 14 years the school has been in operation not a single student has been denied admission to college.

"We've had students graduate and get accepted to the University of Texas in Austin, Texas A&M, Baylor University, Oklahoma State University, Oral Roberts University, as well as colleges and universities in other states," Jonathan says.

Nine years ago, Pastor Max Boggs installed Jonathan and Marissa as pastors of the World Harvest Training Center. He and Linda then moved back to Oklahoma, where they started Camp Eagles Nest summer camps for children and youth on the family farm. He also plans to duplicate the church and school in Southeast Oklahoma.

After graduating from Harvest Christian Academy, Jonathan and Marissa's daughter, Amanda, now 20, attends the University of Texas in Edinburg, and their son, Aaron, age 18, attends Eastern Oklahoma State College in Wilburton, Okla., and helps his grandfather on the 170-acre farm. Andrew, 11, is still a student at the academy.

Today, Jonathan and Marissa Boggs are debt free and living in the center of God's plan for their lives. The school enrolls nearly 300 students each year, and the church is prospering. Having learned what they term "the ABCs of faith," they are now teaching them to a whole new generation.

"We're so thankful to be Partners with Kenneth Copeland Ministries," declares Jonathan. "That partnership translates into multiplied power and multiplied anointing to minister." 

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.

today's ch it's the

They're hungry for it—and they need it. But Satan is doing all he can to keep our kids blinded from the Truth.

Several years ago, God showed me one way the devil does that. It happened when one of my girls brought home her Sunday school lesson: "God made the trees and the flowers." The moment I saw it, I wondered, *Why don't I like this?* Then God showed me something I'd never seen before.

The Lord took me to the book of Genesis, and showed me that throughout Chapter 1, He's called "God"—the all-powerful Creator. In Chapter 2, though, something changes. God begins to make provision for man and He's called "Lord God." By adding "Lord" to His Name, He added the meaning of "the self-existent One who reveals Himself."





**Children baptized
in the Holy Spirit**
at Believers' Conventions
in the past 14 years

Children are looking for something... *supernatural.*

“There is no price too big, no effort too great, no job too hard for our God to reach our children. Whatever we must do, we are going to reach our kids.” — Kenneth Copeland

If He's just "God," that's wonderful. But that doesn't mean much to us if He hasn't revealed Himself. By being both "Lord" and "God," He becomes the "all-powerful Creator who reveals Himself" to us.

Then, in Genesis 3:1, Satan said to Eve, "Yea, hath God said...?" Did you catch that? From the start, Satan left something out—"Lord," the Revealer. He's still doing that today.

Satan has worked hard to hide the fact that God reveals Himself to His children. He's even had us carrying out his agenda in our Sunday schools. We've taught our children about God making the trees and flowers, and Jesus dying on the cross, but we've left out what it means to them.

We've forgotten to tell them, "You can go to God. You can have His power operating in your life. He will reveal Himself to you."

As the parents of the next generation, now is the time to act. Begin to teach your kids about God, the Revealer. Get them involved in a faith-teaching children's program. Children who discover God's supernatural power today won't be looking for *something* later. They'll already have everything they need. ♡



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GoodNewsGazette

“I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes.” *(Romans 1:16, New King James Version)*

Answered Prayer

I'm an inmate whose prayer to get back in touch with my family was answered. I received the first letter in two years from my dad, and the whole family is flying down to visit! This was after being prayed for during a chapel service.

R.M. | Florida

I'm Excited!

I'm 33 years old and I've been a Partner since I was 16. And I'm still excited! I meditated healing scriptures and prosper-

ity scriptures from books by Kenneth Copeland Ministries, and healing and prosperity manifested in my life. It's like a reward!

Darrell C. | Chattanooga, Tenn.

Hearing and More Restored

My husband had a serious problem. He could hardly hear and his balance was out of whack. I called your prayer team and explained the situation, then put my husband on the phone. Even though he couldn't hear, he could agree and believe. Now he can hear, doesn't lose his balance and can even drive again. Thank you for being there.

Donna D. | Hamilton, Ontario

Healed of Tuberculosis

Through the KCM team I have found myself healed and strengthened to overcome my daily challenges. Before I became a Partner, I was sick with tuberculosis. It had taken control of my life when

a friend of mine introduced me to KCM. The next day, I called the prayer line and someone prayed for me. At that moment, I felt a rush of heat flowing through my body from head to toe—I knew it was the Holy Spirit flowing

through me—and God healed me! I have stopped taking medication and am now TB free, and it's all thanks to God Almighty and the KCM team.

P.N. | South Africa

Thank You!

Hey KCM, I was listening to the Southwest [Believers'] Convention online and wanted to make sure that I sowed into the ministry. The conference so touched me and amped my faith to believe for what's to come next in my life. Thank you so much for being believers of faith! Jesus is Lord.

*Crystal L.
Burlington, Ontario*



I Got My License!

Praise the Lord, KCM prayer department! I would like to share with you the good news that God answered the prayers that you prayed with me concerning my driving license. I had worked so hard to get the license, but kept failing. After praying with one of your prayer ministers, I went back, repeated the exam and got my license. I give all the glory to God. Thanks, KCM, for being there for me. May God richly bless you.

Jane F. | Herzogenaurach, Germany

'My Husband Is Healed'

KCM has blessed my life so much! In August 2012, my husband was diagnosed with stomach cancer and they surgically removed half his stomach. He was very ill. Through your prayers, and our studying and reading your book *How to Get Your Prayers Answered*, my husband is healed and back at work. People ask how he is doing so well and I tell them Jesus left healing here for us and we must believe. Through your teaching I knew right away to go to God.

Barbara A. | Chicago, Ill.

I Am Changed

I would like to thank KCM for the spiritual growth taking place in my life. I am a changed person because of your teaching.

M.G.K. | South Africa

Europe Victory Campaign: Wonderful!

It's been just a week since we arrived in London for

the 2012 Europe Victory Campaign! We believe God has purpose and divine appointments for our lives (Jeremiah 1:5) and we had looked forward to this meeting for a long time. You are part of the people

we met and we are thankful for you, your love and your service. We're now back in Switzerland and rejoicing about all the blessings we experienced during this time. It was wonderful!

Stephan and Isabel R. | Switzerland



You have helped our **Ukraine** office minister faith and love to more than **35,000** Partners and Friends in 49 countries.

Volodymyr Kolesnyk
KCM Ukraine
Director



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God Touched Me

Praise the Lord! I sent a prayer request as I had terrible pain in my hip. There has been a tremendous change and I feel so much better. Thank you for standing with me. I will keep on doing the confessions and the Word. I thank God that He touched me. God bless you all.

F.W. | South Africa

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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Developing Faith in The Father's Love

In this day and hour, we as God's people are taking our rightful position...dedicating ourselves to God, renewing our minds with **The WORD**, setting ourselves apart from the carnal ways of the world and committing ourselves to walk in the love of God. ✿ God has promised us the knowledge of His love. First John 4:16 says, "We have known and believed the love that God hath to us..." Believing that love is acting on it, putting it into operation. When we do, we reach out into areas that pass human knowledge. ✿ Again, Ephesians 3:17 says, "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love."

We are to be *rooted* and *grounded* in the love of God. In His parable of the sower, Jesus said those by the wayside "have no root in themselves" (Mark 4:17). They heard **The WORD** with gladness, but when persecution and affliction came for **The WORD'S** sake, they were offended. They didn't respond in the love of God. They responded in the natural realm and Satan stole all **The WORD** that was in them. They were not rooted in love.

God is declaring to you and me that we can have a comprehensive revelation of His love—its height, its depth, its width and its breadth. To know His love is to know God because He *is* love. God is telling us: "I'll teach you all there is to know about Me." He has been wanting, since the beginning of time, to share



Himself with us—not part, but *all!* Think about that! God is offering you and me understanding of the height, depth, width and breadth of Himself. It's almost unbelievable, but it is true.

God has a spiritual capsule and this capsule goes into effect when you get into **The WORD** and allow God to minister to you. God will, by His Spirit, build that capsule around you and protect you

from all that is happening in the outside world. If you will walk in **The WORD**, you can be protected at all times and the wicked one will not be able to touch you. That capsule is the shield of faith. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by **The WORD** of God (Romans 10:17).

Faith works by love. The Bible says in Ephesians 6:16 that faith quenches *all* the fiery darts of the

wicked one—not part of them, *all* of them. The first time I heard Brother Kenneth Hagin say this, I was thrilled! He spoke to Satan and said, "Satan, my household is off limits to you." Then he put a sign on the world of the spirit that said, "Off limits, Satan. This means you!" Glory to God! I had always thought that Satan held the key to my back door and could come and go as he pleased. Then I found out my authority as a believer.

Developing Faith in God's Love

You might ask, "How do you know when your faith is developed in a certain area?" The same rules apply to the development of faith in every area of life. Faith is faith in any Bible subject—whether it is the new birth, the infilling of the Holy Ghost, right-standing with God, divine health, divine prosperity or some other area. It is the same

by *Kenneth Copeland*



spiritual substance. It works the same in every situation.

1. Put *The WORD* first place. Don't be moved by feelings. To develop your faith in God's love, or in anything else from God, you have to learn what *The WORD* says about it. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by *The WORD* of God (Romans 10:17). For instance, Psalm 23:6 says, "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life." Put *The WORD* first place. Don't ever go by how you feel about the love of God. Don't confess anything else. Be confident in the fact that God's mercy and goodness follow you all the days of your life. You should read the book of 1 John over and over on a regular basis.

2. Meditate on the scriptures concerning God's love. Meditation develops the capacity for faith. As you meditate in God's *WORD* and your capacity begins to grow, you recognize the power that God's love can have in your life. Then, the things of Satan will begin to shrink and lose their grip over your life, as you realize the fullness of God's *WORD*.

3. Act on *The WORD* concerning the love of God. First John 4:11-12 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." By practicing this love on one another, the love of God is perfected in us. The word *perfected* means "allowed



It is a necessity that we renew our minds to the supernatural power of the love of God.

We must develop our faith and renew our minds so that we respond in love without having to think about it.

to run its full course.” You can let God’s love run its full course in your life. Love never fails. Here we are reaching for that “zero failure rate.” It is possible, and it *will* come to pass! How are we going to do it? Not by becoming perfect ourselves, but by acting on The WORD of God and allowing the love of God, which is perfect, to run its full course in our lives. Even though we make mistakes, that love force will be there to prevent failure.

4. *Decide to live the love life.* Make the quality decision to live by love. To

develop your faith in divine healing, you have to make the decision to be well, or you never will be healed. A quality decision is a necessity in learning to live the love life.

What is a quality decision? A decision from which there is no retreat. It simply means this: “With God in heaven as my helper, He that is within me is greater than he that is in the world. I refuse to allow anything to hinder me from walking in love. I make the quality decision to walk the love walk, whether anyone else does or not.”

It is a necessity that we renew our

minds to the supernatural power of the love of God. We must develop our faith and renew our minds so that we respond in love without having to think about it. We must learn to live in love, walk in love, talk in love and edify one another in love. Then when the pressures come, when the hard times come, when disasters approach us, we won’t have to stop and think. We will immediately react in love.

The secret to successful combat against Satan is to retaliate in the spirit, not in the natural. The love walk is 100 percent in the spiritual realm. This is where God wants the Body of Christ to walk. By developing our faith in the love of God, it will work and bring about that “zero failure rate.”

Now, say this: “O God in heaven, I commit myself today to develop my faith in the love of God. I commit myself to Your WORD, to be pleasing to You—to walk in love, even as Jesus walked. I make the quality decision now to walk in love, talk in love, think in love and respond to all things in love. I renounce selfishness in the Name of Jesus. It has no part in me. I am born of love, so I will walk in love!”

The Power of God’s Love

By walking in God’s love, you release a force to work in your behalf—a force that has all the appearance of weakness but is stronger than any force in existence. To walk in love is to step aside and allow the power of the universe to come between you and the situation you are dealing with.

Romans 8:37 says, “Nay...” In other words, “No, you are not a lamb to the slaughter.” It says, “Nay,

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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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The Gathering—Finance Session: July 15

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2500 Burdett Road | College Park, GA 30349
1-770-210-5700 | worldchangers.org

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion 2013: August 22-23

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 | 1-763-315-7000
lwcc.org

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
Autaugville, AL 36003 | 1-334-365-2200
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“Whatever He (Jesus) heard the Father say, that's what He said. Not one more word, and not one less word.”



in all these things we are more than conquerors....” You are more than a conqueror! It is one thing to conquer; it is another thing entirely to conquer and occupy! Praise God! You are one spirit with the Lord. Glory to God! He paid the price, so that you wouldn't have to pay it. You didn't have to go to the cross; He went there for you.

You are more than a conqueror through Him who loved you—through the power of that love. There is an unseen power that goes into operation when a person is developed in the love of God and knows how to walk in it. When the world starts to run over you because you appear to be weak, they will run into the unseen power. It's all around you. It's in you—ever ready for whatever comes. God wants you to be full of The WORD and use His Name without fear. It is yours to use; and God will back you with His power just like He said He would.

One of the most outstanding examples of the power of God's love was manifested during Jesus' ministry. In the eighth chapter of John's Gospel, Jesus was confronted by some Jews as He was teaching in the Temple. His words were so forceful in the face of their traditional thinking that they were angered. Verse 59 says, “Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.” Jesus just turned around and walked through the midst of the crowd. They were trying to stone Him and He walked off! They couldn't even see Him! This verse says that He hid Himself. He was protected by an invisible shield—the love of God.

I have known men who walked in that kind of protection, and I have walked in it myself from time to time. It

is the protective shield of God's love that every believer can walk in, but very few know how. Jesus said, “Strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:14). But thank God for the few who do! And I have made up my mind to be one of those!

To walk in love is to walk in the very highest spiritual realm there is. Jesus walked in that realm. We have seen it operate in His earthly ministry.

Another example of the power of God's love is found in Acts 7. It is the story of Stephen as he stands before the high priest, accused of blasphemy. Acts 6:5 describes him as “a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost.” Verse 8 says, “Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.”

Stephen preached the gospel as

his defense and his accusers were outraged:

When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with their teeth. But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, and cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet,

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God's love

whose name was Saul. And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep (Acts 7:54-60).

Stephen was demonstrating the love of God. He said the one thing that Jesus said at Calvary: "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Stephen showed that he had the same capacity to love as Jesus. The love of God was perfected in his life. He imitated Jesus. How did Stephen learn? By waiting on tables. By serving people. Through Stephen and his ministry, great miracles were done. Where were they done? Among the people.

First John 5:1, 4-5 says, "Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him. For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" God is love, and we are born of love. Every born-again believer on the face of this earth is a world overcomer. He is not *in* the process of overcoming the world; he *is* a world overcomer. You can be a world overcomer and never overcome. You can be a rich man and starve to death. You are a creature with a will and a choice. You may never realize it in your own life, but as far as God is concerned, you have already overcome.

Let's read Romans 5, beginning with verse 3: "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience;



and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

We know definitely that we have the same capacity to love as Jesus does because it is the love of God that has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit. Think about that. The love of God is shed abroad in *your* heart. God's love is in you because He is in you. You are *born* of Him. You have been made one spirit with The LORD. What is that spirit? The Holy Spirit. Who is He? He is compassion and mercy and love.

Rooted and Grounded in Love

First John 2:5 says, "Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected...." There are two ways to perfect the love of God in your life: 1) by keeping The WORD of God, and 2) by practicing love on others. Love takes practice, and we can practice on each other. You won't operate perfectly in love at the very beginning; but as you keep at it, you will get better and better. If you fail, just simply confess it as sin, receive your forgiveness, and go on. Keep loving. Keep overlooking the shortcomings of other people. Look for Jesus in them! ①

Faith is faith in any Bible subject—whether it is the new birth, the infilling of the Holy Ghost, right-standing with God, divine health, divine prosperity or some other area. It is the same spiritual substance. It works the same in every situation, and the same rules apply. Here's how you can develop your faith in God's love:

1 Put The WORD first place, and don't be moved by feelings.

Learn what The WORD says about faith. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by The WORD of God (Romans 10:17). Put that WORD first place. Don't ever go by how you feel about the love of God. Be confident in the fact that God's mercy and goodness follow you all the days of your life (Psalm 23:6).

3 Act on The WORD concerning God's love.

First John 4:11-12 says, "Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." By practicing this love on one another, the love of God is perfected in us. Love never fails.

2 Meditate scriptures concerning God's love.

Meditation develops the capacity for faith. As you meditate in God's WORD and your capacity begins to grow, you recognize the power His love can have in your life. As you realize the fullness of God's WORD, the things of Satan will begin to shrink and lose their grip over your life.

4 Decide to live the love life.

A quality decision is one from which there is no retreat. Say this: "With God in heaven as my helper, He that is within me is greater than he that is in the world. I refuse to allow anything to hinder me from walking in love. I make the quality decision to walk the love walk, whether anyone else does or not."



Enjoyed this article? For more insightful teachings, go to kcm.org.

by Pastor
George Pearsons

“Fear is expectation going
in the wrong direction.”



my wife and I are expecting! ❖ Isn't that wonderful news? We are so excited. The big day is right around the corner. All the necessary preparations are being made. ❖ Oh. Wait a minute! ❖ You, no doubt, thought we were expecting a baby. That's what it sounded like. Right? ❖ Well, let me clear *that* up.

The Power of Expectation

Jeremy and Aubrey are our only children. They're grown, and they both have children of their own. Terri and I are joyful grandparents, and we have *absolutely* no plans for

having another baby!
We're leaving *that* up to our kids!
What Terri and I are expecting, though, is the manifestation of what we have prayed for based

on God's Word. We are expecting wisdom. We are expecting provision. We are expecting the fulfillment of God's perfect plan for our lives. So, in that sense, we are

pregnant—pregnant and filled with anticipation. We are carrying the seed of God's living Word in the womb of our hearts. And we are “showing” more and more every day.

Go Where the Secrets Are Kept

“Start Packing”

The very moment we found out that Terri was pregnant with Jeremy and then Aubrey, we started getting ready. After all, we *were* expecting. There was much to be done. Brand new little people were about to enter into our lives. There were rooms to decorate, cribs to buy and names to choose. Our lifestyle was about to be drastically altered.

We got busy.

We didn't wait until the “day of” to make preparations. When Terri said, “It's time,” I didn't look at her and ask, “Time for what?” No, we were counting down the days (and eventually the contractions). We had completely redecorated the entire house right before Aubrey was born!

Our first little house was more than sufficient to handle Jeremy's arrival. There was even room to spare. By the time Aubrey came along, we were living in a bigger house. Again, there was plenty of room for all.

But as our children grew older the house seemingly got smaller. More space was needed and we knew it was time to move. We agreed together for a new house that would accommodate our needs. Because faith always prepares, we asked the Lord to show us what to do to “get ready.” How should we feed our expectation?

After much prayer, the Lord said, “Start packing.” So, we did. Boxes were stacked everywhere. They became our point of contact. During the first few weeks, we expected to move at any moment.

Time went by, and the boxes remained stacked. Soon, they started to blend into the house. Discouragement tried to settle in. Our expectation started going in the other direction. “We're moving tomorrow” slowly became “Will

we ever move?” We were still expecting—only now it was in the wrong direction. We began to wonder if we would ever move to a bigger house. Fear crept in and our expectation took a nose dive.

Expectation Gone South

Fear is expectation going in the wrong direction. You are still expecting something, but your expectation is coming out of fear instead of faith. Fear is the reciprocal of faith. They work the same way, but they are opposites. Both are forces. One is positive; the other is negative.

For instance, north is the reciprocal of south. They are points on the compass, yet they lead you in different directions. North leads you up, south leads you down. In the same way, faith leads you to success but fear leads you to failure.

Fear is your expectation gone south.

Faith expects success, fear expects failure. Faith expects the best, fear expects the worst. Faith expects the desired result, fear expects the dreaded outcome.

Job expected the worst-case scenario concerning his family. He said, “The thing which I greatly feared is come upon me. That which I was afraid of is come unto me” (Job 3:25). Job expected the worst, and the worst is what he got. It was a fearful expectation.

Faith is having right expectations. Fear is having wrong expectations.

Faith fearlessly believes that everything is going to work out perfectly, right in line with God's Word, will and purpose.

Hebrews 11:1 tells us that “faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” True Bible hope is defined as “a red hot, burning, earnest

I know when God calls me to do something for Him, I am already equipped to do it. Why? Because I have the Spirit of God living on the inside of me.

Now it's one thing to know that we already have the power of God to do any task He calls us to do. But it's quite another to know how to tap into the anointing—the burden-removing, yoke-destroying power of God (Isaiah 10:27)—and walk in what is rightfully ours. Causing the anointing to manifest in the natural often requires that we tap into what the Bible calls “the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began” (Romans 16:25).

Even though the Bible says the mysteries are hidden, God is not keeping them from us—rather, He is keeping them *for* us. They are not kept secret to keep us from understanding how to tap into the power we need to do God's work. In fact, they are mysteries He intends to reveal to us



(Romans 11:25; Matthew 10:26). But if we are ever going to find out what they are, we must learn to go where the secrets are kept.

Contrary to what some may think, it's not a hard place to find. Psalm 91:1 tells us that the secret place is in the presence of the Most High. When you need wisdom to do something beyond your natural ability, simply go to God in prayer. His wisdom can be found by spending time in His Word. It can also be found by praying in tongues, because when you pray in other tongues, you pray the answers to the mysteries. Ask God for the understanding of what you have prayed in the spirit and receive your answers by faith.

Remember, it's one thing to know *about* God—and another to *know* Him. And you'll never know Him without spending time with Him in the secret place. If you continue to rely on your wisdom rather than seeking God's wisdom, you will only create limits for yourself. ❖

About

Creflo Dollar is the founder and senior pastor of World Changers Church International in College Park, Ga.; World Changers Church-New York; and several satellite churches across the country. For more information, visit crefflodollarministries.org.

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1 Unity in the Body of Christ

"Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13 *New King James Version*)

2 Reach more places, help more people

"And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations." (Matthew 24:14, *NKJV*)

3 Launch of Spanish ministry

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:19-20, *NKJV*)

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expectation with outstretched neck."
Faith fearlessly expects the best!

Paul's Fearless Expectation

On the surface, things appeared hopeless. The future, bleak.

The Apostle Paul was locked up in prison. From a dark cell, he wrote to the Philippians, but it wasn't a "woe is me," downhearted dissertation. This was the happiest, most joy-filled letter of his life. Why? Because he lived in a constant state of fearless expectation. His expectation, propelled by faith, was pointed in the right direction. In spite of the circumstances, he was expecting God to show Himself strong! He kept his expectations pointed upward. In Philippians 1:19-20 he wrote: "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death."

Did you read what he said? The direction of his expectation would turn into his salvation. To turn something around means to go in another direction. His deliverance, *as always*, was according to *his earnest expectation* and *his hope*. Note that it said *his earnest expectation* was going in the right direction.

Each of us has our very own, "inner expecter" that is directed by faith or by fear. Paul's "expecter" could have gone in the wrong direction. Based on fear, he could have said, "According to my fearful expectation, I don't think I'm going to make it. I'm going to shut down the 'Apostle Paul Evangelistic Association.' It doesn't look good at all. We're going down the tubes!"

No way!! Are you kidding? This is the man who said, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" He was totally persuaded that

nothing could separate him from the love of God. He kept his fearless expectation going in the right direction.

Direct Your Expectation

Let's get our expectation going in the right direction. Expect the best. Expect to succeed. Expect to live debt free. Line up your expectations with God's Word.

Psalms 62:5-6 says, "My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved." Expect to win. Expect to overcome. Expect to prevail over fear.

Your Word-based, fearless expectations will come to pass.

There was a day when we finally loaded those boxes onto a truck and moved to our new house. There were opportunities to lose hope. When our expectation was slipping southward, we would get back up on our confession. We would point it in the right direction. We would direct it with our faith-filled words.

Get your expectation pointed in the right direction. Begin now to use your faith and expect the very best. Don't ever underestimate the power of expectation.

Release your faith right now and declare this out loud: "I walk by faith and not by fear. I believe God's Word. I expect the very best. I expect to succeed and not fail. I expect to win and not lose. I expect my future to work out perfectly. I am headed up and not down. I am going over and not under. According to my earnest expectation and hope, the situation I am in right now has turned to my salvation in Jesus' mighty Name!" 🙌

George Pearsons is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For more information or ministry materials write to KCM, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001.



Your Faith Shield



don't let it slip

If you've been at it very long, you've already figured out by now that living by faith isn't always easy. To believe and act on God's Word, you have to go against the grain of the whole world around you. You have to stand against an enemy named Satan who is continually fighting you. ∴ You have to be tough.

Sometimes, when the fight gets particularly hard, you might even wonder if it's worth the effort. You might be tempted to get tired and quit. That's when you need to remember what Ephesians 6:16 says: "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to

quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

No question about it. There are a lot of fiery darts flying around these days, and you need to be able to quench ALL of them. You don't want to walk around vulnerable to the devil's attacks. When he

shoots arrows of sickness or poverty or some other wicked thing at you, you want them to hit your faith shield and bounce off!

So even when the going gets tough, you need to keep that shield up high. You can't afford to get spiritually weary and let it drop. You



I can tell you from experience, making time for the Word is well worth the effort.



have to stay strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. You have to stay filled with His Word, and make sure you're acting on it.

That's something Ken and I have been endeavoring to do in our own lives for more than 45 years now. Brother Kenneth E. Hagin, in particular, helped us learn how. In the early days of our ministry, when learning to fight the fight of faith we'd go to his meetings to get recharged again.

Back then, we were usually facing a financial challenge. Ken has always been eager to do what God told him to do. So whenever he got a leading

I don't mind telling you, I like the way that fig tree died!

It dried up from the bottom, not the top. The words Jesus spoke to it went straight to the roots.

from the Lord to do something in ministry, we'd jump on it and go, no matter what it cost or how impossible in the natural it looked. As a result, it seemed we were always stretched to the max believing God for something that took a lot of money.

Because we often had to stand in

faith longer than we expected for the finances to come in, many times we came dragging in to Brother Hagin's meetings needing a strong faith injection. We didn't necessarily need to hear anything new. We'd been walking by faith for a while so we had a pretty good idea of how it works. We'd just slowed down on putting it into action, which was a big problem because it's not just what you know that wins the victory. It's what you actually do and say.

Thank God for Brother Hagin! He always stirred up our faith. God only knows how many times he preached to us from Mark 11:22-24. (God had directed him to teach on faith and healing, and because he always stuck to his assignment we heard some of the same sermons over and over.) Before long our spirits were strong and we had our faith shield up high again!

Ever since then, Mark 11 has been one of the primary passages of Scripture Ken and I go to when we want to refresh our faith. It strengthens us when we've had to stand for a protracted period of time believing God's Word in the face of contrary circumstances. It helps us to keep our eyes on Jesus and keep following His example of faith.

I believe it will help you, too. So, no matter how many times you've read these verses, I want you to take time to read them again.

Faith Gets to the Root of the Problem

And on the morrow, when they [Jesus and the disciples] were come from Bethany, he was hungry: And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. And Jesus

by Kenneth Copeland

I know God respects the free will of every man. So does it really do any good to pray for people who consciously refuse to receive Jesus as LORD? Can they be saved against their will?

One of the primary keys

to understanding how to pray effectively for the lost can be found in 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. There the Apostle Paul says, "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

Most every unbeliever who has purposely refused to receive Jesus as LORD thinks he's made that decision of his own free will. But according to the Bible, that's not the case. Unbelievers are being blinded by Satan. He's blocking their perception of the truth. Thus their decision hasn't been freely made at all.


That's an important point for you to grasp. Because even though there is no prayer you can pray that will change the will of another human being, through the prayer of intercession you can interfere with the satanic forces that are influencing him.

You can also change circumstances with your prayers and help create situations that will bring him in contact with The LORD. You're well within your spiritual rights when you do that. In fact, Jesus Himself instructed us to "pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Ask The LORD to send His messengers—tongue-talking, faith-preaching,

WORD-believing folks—across the paths of your lost friends. I prayed that prayer with a friend of mine once who'd been praying for his lost brother for years. He'd done everything else he knew to do to get him into the kingdom of God, but the boy wouldn't budge.

In almost no time at all, his brother called him, and sure enough, he'd been born again. "What have you been doing up there?" he asked. "In the past few days, everyone I've come across has started preaching to me. Today I was hitchhiking and I got into a car with this guy. He handed me what I thought was a newspaper—it turned out to be a Bible!"

Don't sit by and let the devil take your friends without a fight! Pray. Pray. Pray. For in every circumstance and in every life, "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16). 

MAKE THE DECISION TO COME.
BELIEVE GOD FOR A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE!

answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it (Mark 11:12-14).

Notice that even though the disciples heard what Jesus said, they didn't say anything about it. They made no comment and here's why: It looked to them like nothing at all happened to the fig tree.

That tree looked exactly the same both before and after Jesus spoke His words of faith to it. There was no immediate, visible change. But that didn't bother Jesus. He didn't get upset and say, "I wonder if it worked?" No, He just released His faith and went on His way expecting 100 percent results.

As believers, if we want to keep our faith shield up, that's what we must do too. We must speak the Word to the problems in our lives just like Jesus did. Then we must believe and stand by that Word regardless of how long it takes to get the job done.

I'm not saying we should plan on things taking a long time. But sometimes it can take a while for symptoms of sickness to leave our body, or for circumstances to get in line with God's Word. If it does, we don't have to be discouraged. We can just remind ourselves of this:

When Jesus spoke to the fig tree, He didn't see instant results either!

That didn't mean, however, that His faith had failed. On the contrary, it immediately went to work underground. From the moment He spoke, the fig tree began to change. So the next morning when Jesus and the disciples passed by it again, "they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots" (verse 20).

And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away. And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have

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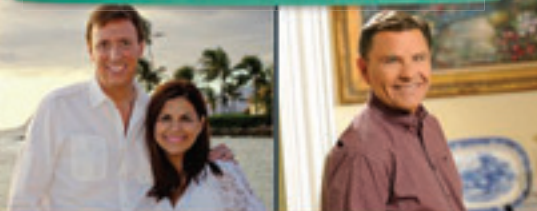
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whatsoever he saith (verses 21-23).

I don't mind telling you, I like the way that fig tree died!

It dried up from the bottom, not the top. The words Jesus spoke to it went straight to the roots. If His faith had just gone to work on one side of the tree or a few of its branches, it would have survived. It could have hung around to cause trouble. But Jesus' faith dealt with the very source of that tree's life, so by the next morning it was gone.

Why is that important to you and me?

Because Jesus said faith will work for us just like it worked for Him. That means when we speak by faith to the problems that are coming against us, our faith will go straight to the root of those problems. It won't just deal with temporary situations and symptoms; it will deal with the heart of the matter. It will destroy Satan's schemes from the roots up!

One Dead Debt Tree

Ken and I know firsthand how wonderful this can be. We've seen it happen again and again. When we first started learning how to live by faith, for instance, we had a big, ugly fig tree of debt in our lives. It had been there since before we met.

I didn't think to ask Ken before we married how much money he owed—but I soon found out he owed a lot! I sometimes say that I married him *and* his notes. He was so deep in debt, he must have borrowed money on his tricycle! If that wasn't bad enough, we spent the first few years of our marriage making the situation worse by borrowing money we couldn't afford to repay.

Then we saw what the Word of God says about prosperity. We found out the blessing of Abraham was ours and that we were to "owe no man any thing" (Romans 13:8). So we decided we wouldn't borrow money anymore and started speaking

faith words over our finances. The moment we did that the root of debt in our lives began to dry up. We learned to walk by faith under fire!

Did we see the results instantly?

No. But because of what we'd learned from Mark 11, we knew that appearances didn't matter. So we just kept believing and talking faith. We didn't give up. We kept trusting and obeying God while our faith worked on the root of the problem.

Eleven months later we were debt free. What's more, we are still debt free because we learned how to walk by faith in God's Word.

I'm not saying we haven't faced financial challenges. We've had times when it looked in the natural like we didn't have enough money to buy what we needed. We started out having to believe God for grocery money...and today we have to believe Him every month for over a million dollars to pay ministry television bills and expenses. But I'm here to tell you, God has never failed us. He's met every need and financed everything He's called us to do.

The force of faith has run debt out of our lives forever, and as long as we stick with it and don't quit, debt can never take root in us again.

Daily Word Brings Daily Victory

Personally, I love living by faith! Yes, it's hard sometimes but it's also exciting. With faith you can have days of heaven on earth. With faith you can do the impossible because "all things are possible to him that believeth" (Mark 9:23).

On the other hand, if you don't have faith, you can be born again and filled with the Holy Spirit; you can be a relatively nice person, but you won't be able to do the impossible. You won't receive everything God wants to give you. You won't have the protection you need when the devil fires his darts your way.

It's no wonder Jesus said, "Have faith in God!" It's essential to a

victorious Christian life.

“But Gloria,” someone might say, “I don’t really know how to get that kind of faith.”

It’s simple, really. Faith comes “by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

You can’t get it by wishing or praying for it. It can’t be imparted to you through the laying on of hands. The only way to get faith is by doing what Proverbs 4:20-21 says to do: “My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.”

I like to say it this way: Doubt goes out as the Word of God comes in!

When the Word gets down on the inside of you, in the midst of your heart, it starts talking to you about the fig trees and mountains in your life. It produces faith so that you can say to them, “Be removed and cast into the sea.” It chases away doubt so that you can do what Jesus said and believe, without doubting, that your words will come to pass.

In my own life, I feed on the Word every day. Even though I’ve been studying it for decades, I’m diligent to read and meditate on it now more than ever.

“Well, I’m too busy to do that,” someone might say. “I don’t have time.”

You’d better make time because this is the truth: The devil comes to everyone’s life. He comes to steal, kill and destroy. When he does, you can’t stop his attacks by saying, “Devil, I’m too busy for this.”

You have to be ready and have your shield up. You have to have the Word implanted in your heart, so you’ll be able to speak that Word by faith and thwart Satan’s plan. If you keep saying you don’t have time for the Word, you’re going to end up spending time doing other things that you don’t want to do—like going to the hospital because of sickness, or going to the lawyer’s office because of legal trouble, or going to the bank because of financial trouble.

You can either do those things or you can make time to put God’s Word first in your life and live free, healthy and prosperous. It’s your choice. But I can tell you from experience, making time for the Word is well worth the effort.

Nothing you’re doing is as important as getting full of the Word of God and full of faith. So when you start to get weary and feel your faith shield slipping, pull aside and spend some extra time in the Word. Then do what Jesus did. Start talking to the fig trees in your life. Get a grip on your words and say only what you want to come to pass in your life.

Don’t just speak faith at church when people are listening, and doubt at home when there’s no one around.

Everything you say is important. According to Jesus, whosoever believes will have what he says, so every word you speak is either working for you or against you. It’s your responsibility to say the right things!

Sure, you’ll miss it sometimes. No one is perfect. Ken and I have been at this for a long time and we’re still working on it. When the pressure is on, we’re tempted just like everyone else is to talk the problem instead of God’s Word. But we make every effort to watch our words. If we mess up, we repent and go after it again.

We keep putting our faith to work on the root of the problem with our words. We keep lifting up our shield of faith and quenching all the devil’s fiery darts! 🏹

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- June 10-14** **Get Wisdom: It's the Principal Thing**
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- Sun., June 16** **Who Cares About You?**
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- June 17-21** **Receive Your Healing and Renew Your Strength**
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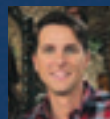
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