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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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by Kenneth Copeland

Inside Out: Citizens of Heaven on Earth

For a few moments last November, after the results of the national elections came in, I almost let the outcome bother me. In fact, for about 30 seconds I did. But then The LORD spoke to me and changed my attitude. :: *What do you think your mother and daddy thought about that election?* He asked. :: It seemed like an odd question. :: "LORD, my mother and daddy are in heaven," I answered. "They didn't think about the election at all." :: *Then what are you thinking about it for?* He said. *You're in heaven just as much as they are. All the rest of My people are too—and I want you to go tell them that.*

So today, in obedience to The LORD's instruction, I'm here to tell you: As a believer, you're not waiting to go to heaven someday in the future. You're already there!

I know what you're probably thinking.

What do you mean, Brother Copeland? I'm not in heaven yet. I'm stuck down here on planet Earth. I'm still caught in all the mess that's going on in this crazy world.

Not according to the Bible you're not. It says you have already been raised with Christ, and "[as far as this world is

concerned] you have died, and your [new, real] life is hidden with Christ in God" (Colossians 3:3, *The Amplified Bible*). It says that you aren't bound to the lowlands of this world anymore. You have been transferred to a much higher place.

Again and again, the New Testament declares to all of us who are born-again children of God that:

"Our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ." (Philippians 3:20)



"[God] hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son." (Colossians 1:13)

"[He] hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:6)

"Well, I know those verses are in the Bible, but they're talking about

spiritual realities, not physical practicalities," you might argue. "They don't mean I'm in heaven. They mean heaven is in me."

Actually, they mean both. You see, as a believer you're created to live from the inside out. That's why Proverbs 4:23 says to

Your life flow is out of your spirit. Therefore if you have heaven in your spirit, you can have "days of heaven upon the earth."



“keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of

it are the issues of life.” Your life flow is out of your spirit. Therefore if you have heaven in your spirit, you can have “days of heaven upon the earth” (Deuteronomy 11:21).

This is one of the things that makes Christians different from everyone else. Other people—unsaved, unspiritual people—must live from the outside in. When they have a need or a want, they have to look outside themselves to someone else in this Babylonian world system to get that need met. They have to go to the boss for a raise, or to the company for a job. If all else fails, they have to turn to the government or go begging to someone else in the world for help.

Although we shouldn't have let it happen, in years past we let this outside-in, Babylonian mentality get into the Church. We started thinking we were as dependent on this world's

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“A dream based on God’s promises becomes more than a personal desire. It becomes spiritual seed that is guaranteed to produce fruit.”



economy as everyone else. When we did turn to God (often as a last resort) we cried and hollered like we were unworthy beggars reaching out to a God who was a million miles away.

I know this is true because when I first got saved I could bawl and squall with the best of them. But then I found two stunning things that revolutionized my perspective: 1) The God I was praying to is living on the inside of me; and 2) Every good thing I could ever need or want is already mine. I own it.

Everything You Need Is Already in You

“Oh, Brother Copeland! How can you make such statements? How can you claim that kind of ownership?”

It’s easy. I just believe the Bible.

I believe Hebrews 1:2 that says God has appointed Jesus “heir of all things” and He owns all the resources in heaven and earth. I also believe Romans 8:17 that says I am one of His “joint-heirs,” which means all those resources belong to me too. Because the kingdom of God is

within me (Luke 17:21), I don’t have to go running around looking here and there to find those resources, either. Everything I need is in me right now.

If you’re a believer, the same is true for you.

That doesn’t mean we don’t go to God to ask Him for things. But it does mean this: When we go to Him for something, we should understand that all our needs and wants have already been taken care of. It’s not a matter of whether or not we’re going to be able to get them. They already belong to us. They’re already on the inside of us. So all we have to do is obey Hebrews 4:16: “Come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Notice that verse doesn’t tell us to come *begging*. It tells us to come *boldly*. As I said, I haven’t always done that. I remember one day after I was already in the ministry preaching faith, The LORD pointed it out to me.

Kenneth, how do you see yourself when you’re at My throne of grace? He asked.

I had never really thought about it. So I took a moment, shut my eyes and acted like I was about to pray. When I did, I envisioned myself in God’s throne room lying face down on the floor, looking at Jesus’ feet. That’s when I realized, His feet were all I ever saw in there.

You need to get up! said The LORD.

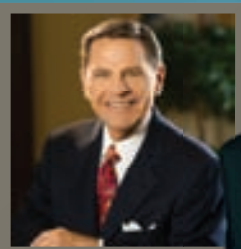
Now, there’s nothing wrong with prostrating yourself before God to honor and worship Him. But even when you worship you should do it with confidence. You should draw near to God with boldness, knowing that through Christ Jesus you have a

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I tithe and give; why don't I receive?

Be sure to tithe with an attitude of praise and worship. Then be patient and wait for The LORD to "open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10b).

But you need to depend on faith, not on sight, to know that your blessing is coming. The Apostle Paul encourages us in Galatians 6:9 to "not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Nurture your tithe with faith until your season comes.

Remember, your gifts are your seed. If you uproot your seed with unbelief and doubt, you won't see a harvest. For a seed is much easier to pluck than a full-grown tree with roots (Proverbs 12:3). And all Satan's efforts are aimed at stopping the growing time.

So stand in faith. Believe for a return. The seed WILL grow, and The LORD will produce a harvest of good results—when *He* decides the crop is ready. **V**

right to come into His presence.

I think of it this way: I should come to the throne of grace the way I come into my house. I don't walk trembling to the back door and say, "Oh, God, this is a fine, beautiful home. Please help me to have the faith to go into it."

No! The house belongs to me. I'm bold about walking into it. I'm not sassy about it, but I act like it's mine—because it is. God gave it to me. I live there.

In much the same way, God has given you and me free access to His throne of grace. He has seated us there as joint heirs with Christ. So instead of crawling into that throne room like unworthy worms, we should come walking in with faith, love and joy saying, "That's my heavenly Father. That's my LORD Jesus. He's my Savior and my Redeemer, and He's invited me to sit with Him in this room!"

If you've been groveling around in prayer just begging for crumbs from the Master's table, it's time for you to stop it. His table is yours. You're not a stranger there. You're a child of God, a citizen of heaven; and like all the rest of heaven's citizens, your needs are supplied according to God's riches in glory by Christ Jesus. There's a gold plate on the Master's table with your name on it. So get up and sit in your place.

Set Your Mind on Things Above

"If this is true," you might say, "if all heaven's resources are mine, then why can't I seem to get access to them?"

Maybe it's because you're trying to live in two kingdoms at once. Maybe you've gotten stuck in the world's way of thinking and you're trying to live from the outside in. That happens to a lot of believers. Although they're born again and they've been transferred into God's kingdom, they're still operating like they're in Babylon, trying to meet their own needs.

That doesn't work.

In the same way that someone who emigrated from China to America and yet continued to live according to

Chinese law wouldn't fully enjoy the blessings and benefits of this nation, believers who keep living according to the ways of this world can't take full advantage of what belongs to them in Christ. The Bible is clear about it. To enjoy the freedom and blessings of our heavenly homeland, we must live according to its principles and follow instructions like these:

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; [which means His way of doing things] and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33)

"Set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth." (Colossians 3:2, *AMP*)

In other words, get your mind off this world's Babylonian system and get it on God's kingdom. Start functioning like a citizen of heaven and drawing by faith on the limitless resources that belong to you in Christ Jesus. Start living from the inside out.

Exactly how do you do that?

You fix your mind on The WORD of God. You let the Holy Spirit reveal to you the reality of what God has said about your heavenly citizenship. You learn to see yourself already there, living in God's economy, as joint heir and joint owner of all things with Christ.

"Brother Copeland, I just don't know if I can think in those terms. I'd feel like I was taking a place that doesn't rightfully belong to me. All this is just too much for my mind to grasp."

No, it's not. You have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). Since the word *Christ*, literally translated, means "the Anointed One and His Anointing," the same anointing is available for your mind that was on His mind. Therefore you can think just like He does.

According to Philippians 2:6, He "thought it not robbery to be equal with God." So you and I, as His joint heirs, don't have to think it robbery either. We



points to get you there

Inside-Out Living

As a born-again believer, you aren't bound to the economy of this world anymore.

You've become a citizen of heaven. You've been raised up with Christ and seated with Him in heavenly places. Because the kingdom of God is within you right now, if you live from the inside out, you can enjoy "days of heaven upon the earth" (Deuteronomy 11:21). Here are a few points to help you:

1

Look to God, not to the world, to meet your needs.

Philippians 4:19: "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

2

Go to Him with boldness and make your requests, expecting to receive.

Hebrews 4:16: "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."

3

Fix your mind on God's Word instead of your circumstances.

Colossians 3:1-2: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

4

Practice seeing yourself as a citizen of heaven and a joint heir with Jesus.

Romans 8:16-17: "...We are the children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ."

can think of ourselves just like God says we are: seated right now with Christ in heavenly places. We are full-fledged citizens of heaven, delivered out of the dominion of darkness and living in the kingdom of God's dear Son.

How Far Can We Go?

Actually, the only reason we're still physically present on planet earth right now is because we are deployed here by God to be a blessing to mankind. We're members of His army on a mission to exercise authority over the powers of darkness, spread the light of the gospel and free a lost world from the devil's grasp.

We're not here to do our own will. We're here to carry out the commission of our LORD and Savior; and we can be confident that what He commissions, He provides for, not according to the meager resources of this world economy but—let me say it again—according to His riches in glory!

The more we renew our mind to this reality, the more we'll be able to live it out from day to day. How far can we go? How completely can we convert our way of thinking, leaving behind the old mind-sets of this world so that we can really live like inside-out people, as citizens of heaven on earth?

You can get a sense of what's possible from looking at what the devil has accomplished on the opposite side. After all, he can't create anything. All he can do is pervert things that already exist. So it's fair to say that if he can do something in the spirit, soul and body of an unsaved person, then God can do something much greater in us.

I thought about this recently when I heard a statement that was made by the perpetrator of a mass shooting. He said that while he was killing people, he actually thought he was playing a video game. It wasn't until

after the victims were dead that he realized what was happening was actually real.

How did this young man end up so deceived?

He focused on violent video games until he got good at them. He played them over and over until he could do it without thinking about it. He fixed his mind on them until he became a part of them and they became his reality.

That's a tragic thing...but here's the flip side of it. The devil doesn't have anything new. His stuff is just a low-grade counterfeit of the system God has already designed. So if he can convince that boy he was in a video game—which is a lie—then how much more can the Holy Spirit empower us to renew our minds with The WORD and convince us of the truth, which is that we're already in heaven?

We have the real thing working in us! Instead of being conformed to this world, we can be transformed by the renewing of our minds to the point where we can begin to think and talk and function like we're sitting with Christ on the throne of grace. We can begin to say, "What have I been worried about? I'm not in the kingdom of darkness anymore. I'm living in the kingdom of God!"

My mother and daddy, who are living in heaven right now, certainly aren't worrying about anything. They live with every need fully supplied all the time. That's how we're supposed to be living too. We haven't fully done it yet, but we're headed that way. We're learning to live more and more from the inside out as citizens of heaven...

On earth. 🍷

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Word Explosion Oct. 10-12

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

Washington, D.C. Nov. 14-16

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Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 | 1-763-315-7000
lwcc.org

2013 International Faith Conference: Sept. 9

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

Pastors George and Terri Copeland Pearsons

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Partner Church Meeting: Aug. 4

Church on Florida | 284 Florida Road
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South Africa | churchonflorida.org.za

KCM Africa Pastors Connect Meeting: Aug. 8

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Faith & Healing Seminar: Sept. 20-22

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Shalom Baptist Church: Sept. 20-22

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1-812-279-6670 | stonegatefaithcenter.org

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Friendship

knows no distance

Screams of surprise and excitement greeted Sandra Knowles as she entered the room where her two friends were waiting. ☼ It was the first time the three ladies had seen each other in six months which, in and of itself, was not so unusual. But this time Renée Ford, who had traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, from her home in Lake Havasu City, Ariz., noticed something different about Sandra. So did Dorothy Turman, who had come from Oceanside, Calif. ☼ “I’m wearing makeup,” Sandra confessed to her two friends. “I never wear makeup, but this time I wanted to do something different.”

“She never wore makeup before. She’s so beautiful!” Renée exclaimed.

Aside from the excitement over Sandra’s new look, the scene that day inside the headquarters building of Kenneth Copeland Ministries was only slightly different from what normally happens when Sandra, Renée and Dorothy get together. A similar scene has been playing out now for the past 28 years, ever since Sandra and Renée first met at a West Coast Believers’ Convention in Anaheim, Calif. The following year, in 1986, they met Dorothy at another West Coast meeting.

“Ever since then, we have pretty much been inseparable during that one time of the year,” says Sandra. “We don’t travel to visit during the year, so we really don’t get to see each other. But we do talk on the phone. The meeting is our draw. It’s our connection. We come for the Word, and we



come for the fellowship—to be with each other.”

Not a Chance Meeting

Ask how it all began, and some of the details can get a bit sketchy. After all, 28 years is a long time! But the three all agree that Sandra, who was volunteering at the annual Believers’ Convention back then, was the catalyst. In fact, she still ushers at KCM meetings today.

“I had become born again back in 1976, and was looking for a church when a friend told me about Crenshaw Christian Center,” Sandra recalled. “As a new Christian, I was hungry for God’s Word. One day I was in the church bookstore looking for something to read when the Lord led me to a book by Kenneth Copeland called

The Laws of Prosperity. I had never heard of Kenneth Copeland before, but as I read the book, there was just something different about the way he taught the Word.”

Two years later, in 1978, Brother Copeland came to Long Beach, Calif., to hold a three-day meeting called the Long Beach Victory Seminar. Sandra made a point of attending.

“The meeting was held in a ballroom,” Sandra remembered. “There was not a huge crowd, but then he was not very well known at the time either.”

The next year the meeting, now called the Anaheim Victory Seminar, was moved to the Anaheim Convention Center. Eventually, the meeting would become known as the West Coast Believers’ Convention.

In 1984, after attending for several years, Sandra started volunteering at the meetings to help with registration. The following year she became an usher.



“The meeting is our draw. It’s our connection. We come for the Word, and we come for the fellowship—to be with each other.”

Saundra

Saundra Knowles, Dorothy Turman and Renée Ford

This has not just been a friendship we have.

It's a partnership.

"That's when I met Renée, who just happened to be sitting in the section I was assigned to." Renée stood out from the crowd.

"She was a baby Christian, and she would get so excited during the preaching that she would start talking out loud and responding to the preaching, not realizing she was disturbing those around her. People would politely complain to me and ask if I could do something to calm Renée down."

Though a bit hesitant at first, Sandra politely approached the woman and requested she tone it down a little. Not long after that, Sandra learned the reason for Renée's excitement.

Much Reason to Praise

"I got born again in 1982, and went to my very first KCM convention that same year," says Renée, who is originally from Berlin and still speaks with a heavy German accent. "The Lord took all my American heathen friends away from me, and gave me Christian German friends and, like Sandra, I just wanted to get somewhere where the Word was being spoken.

"I had never heard of Kenneth Copeland either, but I

We have each other to rely on to keep us built up in the faith.

went to that meeting and as he was teaching, I remember thinking, *I've never heard this before.*

"During one of the evening services, he called for people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, so I asked a friend, 'Is this what I need?' She said yes, so I responded to the call. At the end of the service, Brother Copeland was praying for people with different illnesses. I had been bothered with an ulcer for a long time. When he prayed, I received my healing from that ulcer. It went away, and never came back!"

"I talked with Renée, and we just became the best of friends," says Sandra. "She lived in the valley in Lancaster, north of Los Angeles, and I was staying in the city. When I learned that she came to the meetings every year, I started saving her a seat in my section.

"I would bring my nephew to the conventions so he could attend Superkids, and Renée brought her grandson. We finally decided it would be wise for us financially to share a hotel room, which we started doing."

Unlike her two friends, Dorothy had become familiar with Kenneth Copeland and had partnered with his ministry years before meeting Sandra and Renée.

"I started watching Brother Copeland when he was on a local station in San Diego County, and I had actually been a Partner with KCM since 1980," she said.

Like Renée, Dorothy had also experienced a miraculous healing through the ministry of KCM.

"I had suffered with migraine headaches for as long as I could remember," Dorothy, who was a schoolteacher, said. "Sometimes they would be so severe I couldn't even work, and my principal would have to send me home. I was watching the broadcast one day when I heard Brother Copeland say, 'God is healing someone with migraine headaches.' I put my hand on my head as he prayed, and I haven't had a migraine since then."

Waiting and Waiting

She remembers the first time she attended a live KCM meeting in California with some friends.

"It was a Victory Campaign in the Shrine Auditorium back in 1981," Dorothy said. "We thought the meeting started at 9 a.m., and we wanted to get good seats, so we went early. I don't know exactly how long we stood out there, but we were there a long time and nothing was happening. Finally, a man connected with KCM came out and asked if we were there for the meeting.

"When we told him yes, and that we thought it started at 9 that morning, he apologized and said the meeting didn't start until 7 p.m. He felt so bad that we had been out there for so long that he gave us passes that allowed us to sit right up front on that first night," Dorothy chuckled.

The next year, Dorothy attended the first KCM meeting at the Anaheim Convention Center, when



Last year our Southwest Believers' Convention registered

10,889 attendees.

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the meeting became known as the West Coast Believers' Convention.

Five years later, she met Sandra and Renée.

In 1986, Dorothy brought her two sons and two of their friends to the meeting. Because she needed extra seating, and didn't want to be a distraction with the younger children, she decided not to sit in her original section on the main level, and instead moved to the upper level in the auditorium.

Meanwhile, Sandra had been reassigned from the first-floor level to usher in a section in the upper-level area. When she told Renée she would be moving, Renée responded that she wanted to go wherever Sandra went.

"I went up to Sandra and asked if I could sit in her section, and she was so nice," Dorothy remembers. "She let me hold seats for all of us. I remember thinking that I would have to look for her the next time." Every year since then, when Dorothy returned for the meeting, Sandra had reserved seats waiting for her—as well as for Renée.

A Lasting Relationship Begins

Eventually, Sandra introduced Dorothy to Renée and the three became friends.

"We would stay behind after the meeting was over and help Sandra tidy up her section, and then we would all go to lunch together," said Dorothy. "We exchanged phone numbers so we could keep in touch, and started calling each other throughout the year. When the next meeting came, we would see each other again. It just became something we looked forward to each year."

Over the past 28 years, Sandra, Renée and Dorothy have kept their friendship alive and active. It was only for a brief period,

from 2002 until 2009, that Renée stopped attending at the request of her late husband.

"I came home from the meeting in 2001, and he was climbing the walls," Renée said of her husband. "He said to me: 'Don't you ever leave me alone like that again.' Out of respect for him, I stopped going. But I stayed in touch with the others the whole time."

Her husband died in 2009, and Renée started attending again the following year.

Since the last West Coast Believers' Convention was held in July 2009, their reunions have taken place at the Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth.

"We look forward to this time each year," said Sandra.

"When we come together, we pick up like we'd just seen each other yesterday. It's like a pilgrimage. We're excited about being in the meetings and hearing the Word for six days. But we're also excited to be back together. It's a reunion for us.

"This has not just been a friendship we have. It's a partnership. We stay in touch, so we know what's going on in each other's lives. And we pray together over the phone. We have each other to rely on to keep us built up in the faith. We can depend on one another for help, prayer or whatever we need at the time."

The bond these three share cannot be any stronger than it already is. But the distance between them could likely be shortened in the near future. Sandra, who moved from Fort Worth to California as a child, and then returned to Texas in 1998 to

attend Eagle Mountain International Church, is now considering a return to California. The move, she says, would bring the three of them even closer together.

Regardless, they each agree that just as nothing can separate them from God and His love, theirs will always be a friendship that will never be separated by distance. ⑦



Dorothy, Sandra and Renée at last year's Fort Worth convention.

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Meetings are subject to change without notice.

by Kenneth Copeland

17 76



America's Spiritual Heritage

In many respects, July 4 may have appeared to be like any other day in that summer of 1776. But on this morning, when the first glimpse of light broke across the surface of the waters that had carried them to this new land, one imagines that the handful who were in the midst of making history had long since given up any attempt to rest.



This was not like any other day. This was Independence Day, and the responsibility for giving voice to the principles upon which a new union would be formed weighed heavily in the hearts of the fathers of this land.

Their words and writings reveal that what was to take place this early morning of July 4 was the manifestation of a long season of prayer... for these were men of faith.

The words of George Washington, historically

named the “Father of Our Country,” offered up a prayer for God’s blessing on the new nation: “We make our earnest prayer that Thou will keep the United States in Thy holy protection and that Thou will be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to [humble] ourselves with that...”

John Quincy Adams later said of this new society, America: “Is it not that, in the chain of human events, the birthday of the nation is fundamentally linked with the birthday of the Savior? That it forms a leading event in the progress of the gospel dispensation? Is it not that the Declaration of Independence first organized the social compact on the foundation of the Redeemer’s mission upon earth? That it laid the

cornerstone of human government upon the first precepts of Christianity?”

According to John Quincy Adams, Christmas and the Fourth of July were fundamentally connected.

On July Fourth, the founders simply took the precepts of Christ which came into the world through His birth (Christmas) and incorporated those principles into civil government.

James Madison said that this new nation had staked its future on the capacity of each citizen to sustain himself according to God’s Ten

Commandments.

Patrick Henry spoke of the foundation of this new government this way: “It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not by religionists, but by Christians. Not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

A holy faith burned in the spirits and guided the actions of all those who

set in motion the establishment of these United States of America. Their own words bear testimony to this truth. And it is no accident that in the few words chosen to declare independence on that summer morning, the Name of Almighty God appears as testimony to the faith of our fathers. ❷



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

—The Declaration of Independence



Our Glory

has never been
in our military
might. Our glory has
never been in our
education system.

Our glory has
never been in our
statesmanship and
diplomacy. Our glory
has certainly never
been in our
brilliant politics.

Our glory has been
in our people who
pray. Our glory has
been in the Name
of The LORD Jesus
Christ of Nazareth
and standing on His
WORD and we're still
standing there and
He's still God and
He's still LORD
of this nation.

—Kenneth Copeland

by Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher

believersstandunited.com

Religious Freedom in America's Schools

In recent years, the team from Believers Stand United has been working with a number of our government's elected officials, as well as other religious freedom organizations, to defend the rights of students, teachers and school officials to be able to share their faith in public schools.

The Bible reminds us in Galatians 5:1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery" (*New International Version*). Freedom is definitely not free. It is something each of us must acknowledge, protect and defend in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Last year, through BSU, we had the opportunity to stand in support of a young middle-school

student in Southern California who had been expelled from school for bringing his Bible to class. The student had done nothing out of the ordinary that would have been in violation of school policy. He had not been accused of anything such as reading the Bible during class, or being disruptive by attempting to preach to others. He had simply brought his Bible to class and placed it on his desk. Upon seeing the Bible, the teacher immediately sent the student to the administrative office, where he was summarily expelled and sent home for an indefinite period of time.

Gladly, BSU and other organizations intervened and the boy was quickly returned to class with an apology from the local school board, his principal and his teacher.

At BSU, we are

constantly asking the Lord's help and guidance as we explore ways to support freedom in our nation and stand up for people who may not have a voice. And, without fail, the Lord gives us and our partners the opportunity to do just that. This was just one example.

Last year, Kellie and I were invited to attend the annual Presidential Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., an invitation-only event that is attended by the president of the United States, senior members in his administration, and members of both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. This gathering affords us the opportunity to meet with our nation's leaders to share our concerns regarding religious freedom in our country.

This year, we were privileged to meet with Brenda Girton-Mitchell, director of Faith-Based Initiatives in the office of the Secretary of Education.



Seeing the Bible, the teacher immediately sent the student to the administrative office, where he was summarily expelled and sent home.


The Department of Education, which is based in Washington, D.C., is the parent organization which offers guidance and oversight to both public and private schools in America.

One reason for our meeting was to discuss with Director Girton-Mitchell the seven guidelines handed down by the Department of Education regarding religious freedom for those in America's school system, and the fact that little has been done to make these guidelines public.

After some discussion, the director agreed that more needs to be done and will be done to ensure that people are aware of these guidelines and other rules and policies related to religious freedoms in our public schools. In the near future, BSU will be working with the Department of Education on projects to accomplish this goal. Meanwhile, here is a summary of those guidelines:

- ▶ Students can pray, talk about their faith and read their Bibles during school time
- ▶ Students can organize prayer or Bible groups with fellow students and announce their meetings
- ▶ Students can express their faith in their class work and homework
- ▶ Teachers and school administrative personnel can organize prayer groups with their colleagues
- ▶ Students may go off campus for Bible studies during school hours, if approved in advance
- ▶ Students can express their faith at school events
- ▶ Students can express their faith at graduation ceremonies

Jesus is clear in John 8:32, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (*New King James Version*).

By working together, we can bring greater awareness of the rights students, teachers and school administrators have to express their faith while in the public-school setting. If you would like any further information or help in sharing this information with your community, contact us at believersstandunited.com. 

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It is important for this information to be made available to anyone involved with schools in our nation. You can help BSU spread the word by doing the following:

- 1** Contact your local school board to make sure they are aware of these guidelines;
- 2** Contact the parent/teacher organization at your child's school and share this information with them;
- 3** Make sure your local church is informed about the guidelines. Prayer is powerful!



Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher is the president and CEO of the Swisher Evangelistic Association Inc. He also serves as a consultant for Kenneth Copeland Ministries, where he directs Believers Stand United, the Kenneth Copeland Scholars Doctoral Program and Christians United for Israel. He also ministers with his wife, Kellie Copeland Swisher, at KCM's Living Victory Faith Encounters. Dr. Stephen and Kellie Swisher reside in Fort Worth, Texas, with their 2-year-old daughter, Emily.

GoodNewsGazette

“Be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him....” (Ephesians 6:10, *The Amplified Bible*)

Finally Free

I have been healed of chronic back pain after five years in bed and I'm off all medications after 30 years of suffering. Your ministry has helped me know the deep walk of faith we can all have by walking in the Holy Spirit. Praise God! D.R. | Ohio

'I Believed That I Received'

I was watching the broadcast one day when Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons were talking about prosperity. I read Romans 13:8 (NIV) and took God at His word: "Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law." I believed that I would pay cash for a new sofa. I trusted God, and I kept on confessing the Word. I believed that I received in Jesus' Name. I got my sofa March 8, 2012. Praise God! C.E. | Virginia

No Surgery Needed

Your prayer team prayed for me as I was in the hospital. I am now home and didn't need surgery. Praise the Lord! L.W. | Canada

Recovered From Bondage

Thank you for the CD I received from your ministry with the hymns sung by Kenneth Copeland. It is a real blessing...at the end of every song I whisper, "Thank You, Jesus." How blessed are those hands whom the Lord chooses from so far away to shake my soul here in Pakistan.

Nothing else could ever touch my soul. When I was young, I sang in St. Patrick's Cathedral Choir, and used to be the best soloist singing in Latin, English and Urdu.

With your prayers, my son has been recovered from 14 years of bondage to drugs and alcohol. He is the father of

three girls. I am sure with your prayers the Lord will reunite him to his family. I also thank KCM for the monthly free magazine which is a blessing.

J.A.B. | Pakistan

The Spirit of God Filled Me

I have been watching your program for quite some time on God TV. Today, as I was watching you and Jesse Duplantis speak on faithfulness, Jesse shared about his encounter with the Apostle Paul and his greatest surprise. As Jesse shared this, the Spirit of God filled me and I started speaking in tongues. Glory to God! I love the Lord and am grateful for your precious lives in His work. T.S. | India

Safety in the Secret Place

We are Partners with KCM and the Swisher Evangelistic Association. Our 20-year-old son lives on the street where the first bombings in Boston happened. He is a student at the Berklee College of Music, which is near the finish line of the Boston Marathon.

He said, "Mom, I was watching TV this morning and had the urge to turn it off and pray Psalm 91 and Psalm 112, so I did. I also pled the blood of Jesus over myself, all of my friends and family. We were about to walk down to the finish line when I thought, *Let's just go upstairs and hang out in the apartment for a while, then walk over.* As soon as we got in the apartment door the first bomb went off."

We are PRAYING for all of **BOSTON** and every person affected.

My son was shaken up, but safe and sound. I praise You, Lord God, for Your faithful Word, which kept our son, Your covenant child, safe in Your refuge. We are praying for all of Boston and every person affected. Liz Joy | New York

The Lord Is Faithful to His Word

I am writing to give a big praise report to our Lord Jesus Christ! Since 1999, when I gave my life to God, the enemy has attacked my medical reports saying

"possible cancer" of the uterus, breast, lungs and neck. For my husband it was heart disease, stomach problems, headaches, etc. But I stood on the Word of God and we are healed! No

cancer! Nowhere! Thank you, KCM, for being there for me every time I called for prayer, strength and faith. I give thanks to God for His Word that works! Glory be to God! D.G. | Canada

Our prayer ministers answered 1.2 million phone calls in 2012.




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our priority.

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24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A Strong Heart

I called the KCM prayer team and asked for prayer for my mom. Her blood pressure had gone up to 225 and she was rushed to the hospital. I have a good report: My mom came home after a 10-day stay at the hospital. The doctor said she has a very strong heart and she will not have any heart attacks. Praise God!

R.H. | Canada

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.

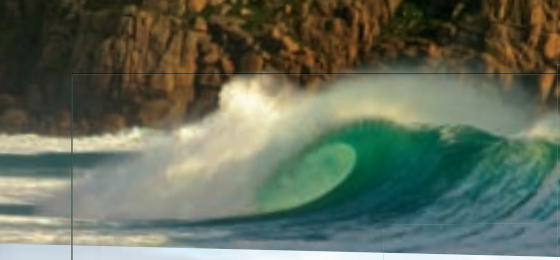
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PATIENCE Makes Perfect

by Jeremy Pearsons

this because it doesn't seem to be a "running, shouting, dancing at the altar" kind of message. But if we really understood the power of patience and what it is capable of producing in our lives, we might listen a bit more intently to what the Word has to say about it.

A Big Misunderstanding

The reason most of us don't particularly want to hear about patience, or our need for more of it, is because we typically associate it with one word: "waiting." Don't get me wrong, waiting can be powerful. Isaiah 64:4 says, "For since the world began, no ear has heard and no eye has seen a God like you, who works for those who wait for him!" (*New Living Translation*). But while there is an element of waiting involved, that is certainly not the fullness of it. Be honest.

When I say "waiting," you might immediately picture yourself in a crowded office or standing in a long line, your arms folded and your feet tapping as the feeling of annoyance grows. But patience is less about waiting and more about the condition in which you wait. It may help you to

Allow me to start with the brutal truth of where this teaching about patience is coming from. Sarah and I have a toddler. :: There. Now you know why patience is on my mind and why I am requiring of myself a better understanding of what it is, where it comes from, and, most importantly, how I can get more of it.

Our son, Justus James, is the sweetest, cutest, most lovable kid on the planet, and we fall deeper in love with him every day. But those of you who have toddlers, ever had a toddler, or have been around a toddler for more than a few minutes know about the need for patience. It's critical for the survival of all parties.

Running on Empty

When I found I was being short-tempered, consistently

frustrated and responding out of these feelings, I had to stop and have an honest conversation with myself. Like a driver whose car starts to sputter, I had to take a look at the gauges. Where is the first place a driver looks? The fuel gauge, because if you're out of fuel you can't keep going.

I had to check my patience levels. Like gas in the tank, patience keeps you running. Let me explain.

Hebrews 10:35-36 says,

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise." Many people are content to see patience as something either they're born with or they're not. And if they're not, then that's fine. But my friend, if the Bible says you need patience, then you need patience.

We don't talk much about

Endurance is the ability to keep going.... It is the refusal to quit.

What happens to believers who have run out of patience? They quit believing.

Resurrection life

Truly, it's time for us to stop looking for the living among the dead. It's time for us to stop wandering around in the cemetery of sin, sickness and failure and to step into resurrection life!

As a resurrected creature, you're no accident going somewhere to happen. Your life isn't just a loose web of events and circumstances. God has specific plans for you.

Maybe He intends for you to have the greatest healing ministry of this century. Or perhaps He wants to turn you into a tremendous preacher. Maybe He has a revelation prepared for you that will enable you to bless the whole world. But you'll never know what He has in store for you until you put your attention on Him.

That's why the devil works hard to keep you focusing

on the problems of life. That's why he tries to keep your attention turned away from the living Word of God. He doesn't want you to know you're full of the resurrection life of Jesus. In fact, the prospect of it terrifies him.

Why? Because once you truly understand that you have the life of God inside you, you'll begin to act just like Jesus did. You'll lay hands on the sick and they'll recover. You'll cast out demons. You'll preach the gospel to every creature.

In short, you'll be just what God intended you to be. You'll be the Body of Christ on the earth.

Don't let Satan bind you with the grave clothes of yesterday's sin and defeat. You're not dead anymore. You've been raised with Jesus. Come out from the tombs and start living resurrection life! 📌

"Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus." Luke 24:1-3

know that the word *patience* means "cheerful endurance."

Look at the same verses from Hebrews 10 in the *New King James Version*: "Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise" (verses 35-36).

Notice the same word translated *patience* is also translated *endurance*. Endurance is the ability to keep going without giving up or giving in. It is the refusal to quit. What happens to a car that runs out of gas? It quits running. What happens to believers who have run out of patience? They quit believing.

The *New Living Translation* makes it even clearer for us: "Patient endurance is what you need now..." Patient endurance is the key to receiving what God has told us we can have. But don't forget the word *cheerful*. Back up to verse 34 and you'll see exactly what I mean: "...for you had compassion on me in my chains, and joyfully accepted the plundering of your goods, knowing that you have a better and an enduring possession for yourselves..." (*New King James Version*). Can you see the connection between patience and joy?

Inside Information

You see this exact same concept again in James 1:2: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials..." (*NKJV*). How can we be expected to count it all joy when we fall into trials and are surrounded by opposition? What is going to keep us from quitting in the middle of this? Joy in a situation like this can only come as a result of knowing something that others do not.

Imagine you are watching a movie with a friend. It's one your friend has seen before and wanted you to see. The movie is suspenseful and intense

and you've been hiding behind a pillow most of the time you've been watching it. Now, the movie is about to climax and you can barely stand to watch. You glance over at your friend, surprised to see that he's just sitting there calmly with a sheepish grin on his face. As he watches in peace, you're squirming with riveted anticipation.

"How can you just sit there smiling like that?"

Just then you remember: He's seen this before. He knows how it ends.

That's how it should be for you when you fall into tests and trials, and life is at its most intense state. You can sit there with a smile on your face and count it all joy because you know something. You know that "the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing." Like your friend who knows how the movie ends, you have inside information. You know how this thing turns out in the end. In the middle of any trial you can look up and say with confidence, "Patience is working in me and soon I will be perfect, complete and lacking nothing."

Can you see yourself in that position? Can you picture yourself being perfect, complete, lacking nothing? It sounds good, doesn't it?

So how do we get there?

With patient endurance and a refusal to quit.

Recently, Sarah and I were dining with my grandparents when I asked my grandmother, Gloria Copeland, what I thought was a very deep and profound question. "Mimi," I said, "how do we get from where we are now to where we see ourselves in the future?"

She answered almost before I could finish the question.

"Just keep walking."

I should have known that would be her response, because that's how she

That's when the revelation hit us: It's not about the money; *it's about timing.*

and my grandfather got to where they are today. They just kept walking. The more I've thought about her answer the more I've realized exactly what she was saying. She was telling us not to quit. Don't give up. Don't draw back and don't be faint of heart. You will receive the promise if you just won't quit.

Good Timing

I actually asked my grandmother that question because in the last 18 months it's as though a vision bomb has exploded inside of Sarah and me, and we are beginning to see more of what God wants for us in our marriage, our family and our ministry. We've begun to see the need for land and a place to build. This vision really

started to pick up speed in December 2011, and we went to look at a beautiful piece of land that seemed, at the time, to be just right.

The price tag was about \$4 million. That was a lot of money to us, but I knew it was nothing to God. Well, you can imagine how disappointment tried to set in when we learned that property sold to someone else. But, thank God, not long after that we began to recognize that seeing that property was simply about enlarging our vision.

In the following weeks and months, as the vision became clearer, we realized that property would not have met the need of the fullness of what God was telling us to do. This may sound strange, but I am so glad I did not have \$4 million in December

2011. Why? Because, I would have made a \$4-million mistake.

That's when the revelation hit us: It's not about the money; it's about timing.

You see, you and I are heirs together with Jesus. That means everything that belongs to Him also belongs to us. And I'll just tell you now that while your mind may not be able to grasp the fullness of that statement, your heart can. The Bible tells us in Colossians 1 that Jesus has made us partakers of His inheritance. That's big! Actually, it's bigger than big. But you have to understand something about inheritance. An inheritance is something that belongs to you even though someone else worked for it. (Does that sound like grace or what?) But when it comes to drawing some of these things out of the spirit realm and into the natural, there is an element of timing involved and that's what makes your flesh uncomfortable.

Remember the young man Jesus told us about in Luke 15 who went to his dad and said, "Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me"? Talk about a serious lack of patience. In essence, he was saying to his father: "Dad, I can't wait until you're dead. I want my money now." And how did that turn out for him? Not good at all. All he did was ask for what was already his, and he got it. However, as we see later, he got it at the wrong time.

Proverbs 20:21, *NLT*, says, "An inheritance gained too early in life is not a blessing in the end." Since that time in December 2011, we have learned to rest. We think and pray far less about money and provisions. After all, it's already ours. Now, we think and pray about the timing.

"Wait" Training

With a situation like this, if I don't have the money, it must not be time to have the money. How did Abraham inherit what God had promised him? If you answered "by faith," then you are only partially correct. According to Hebrews 6, it was faith *and* patience.

Overcome every trial and trouble!

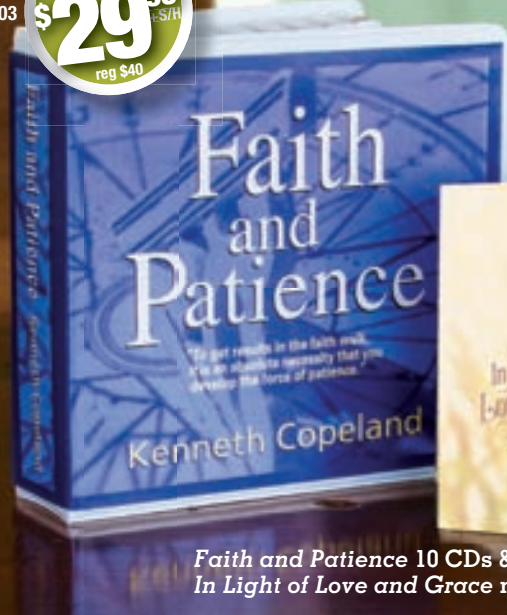
In the **Believe and Receive Package**, Kenneth Copeland explains why trials and trouble come and how to

overcome them by the Word of God, and shares how faith and patience will work on your behalf. This package includes *In Light of Love and Grace*, the new music CD by Sarah Pearsons.

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You and I inherit the exact same way.

We know that physical muscles develop as pressure is applied to them. They can grow from weak to strong just by using them. I have all the same muscles in my body as the guy who's out there winning body-building competitions. But my muscles don't look like his for one simple reason: He uses his more in an environment that puts a demand on them to grow.

You and I are probably alike. You've got a big vision for your life and you can see that God wants to give it to you in ways that you're not yet living in. So, here's the \$4-million question that I have had to ask myself: "Jeremy, if you can't find the patience and cheerful endurance it takes to live day to day with a 3-year-old, how are you ever going to have the patience to receive the fullness of your inheritance from God?"

Husbands, if you can't give your wife an extra three minutes without blaring on the car horn from the garage, how will you find the endurance to wait the 10 days, 10 months or 10 years that it's going to take to walk in all God has in store for you and your family?

Home is the environment in which patience is developed. Marriage and family are great places to work that patience muscle. As you do, you are filling the tank and enabling yourself to keep running. Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and

has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12:1-2).

His patience makes you perfect. ♡



About Jeremy and his wife, Sarah, are founders of Pearsons Ministries International. They travel to preach Jesus to congregations across the U.S. and around the world. For more information, visit them online at pearsonsmministries.com.

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God's got us
Covered

When I was a little girl, my granddad had a storm cellar. The best one in the little town where we lived, it was a very popular place. Even though (as far as I can recall) we never got hit by any life-threatening storms, my kinfolk never took any chances.

We all headed for Pop's cellar at the first sign of troublesome weather. At the time, I thought it was all pretty exciting. I liked the idea of having a refuge from the storm.



Truth be told, I still do.

These days, however, I want a refuge that protects me from more than just bad weather. I want a shelter from every other kind of danger as well, because these are perilous times we're living in. We're in the last days before Jesus returns. These are the days He was talking about in Matthew 24:7-8, *New Living Translation-96*, when He said: "The nations and kingdoms will proclaim war against each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this will be only the beginning of the horrors to come."

Normally, the word *horrors*,

which is used in that translation, isn't one I like very much. But I have to admit, it fits some of what we're seeing right now. There's been a startling increase in evil here in America in just the past 20 years or so. People

are behaving in crazy, devilish ways. Parents are killing children; children are killing parents. Young people are committing mass murder. We don't know what will happen next.

Personally, I believe the Church will be raptured out of here before the worst comes. But even so, I don't know how much this world is going to deteriorate before we're gone. Things could really get bad.

I'm not afraid, though, and you don't have to be either, because God promised to protect us right in the middle of it all. He said He will be our refuge.

God is a far greater refuge than my granddad's storm cellar



by Gloria Copeland



ever was! He's with us wherever we go. If we'll stay connected to Him, we can drive around in our car, fly on an airplane or walk down any street in any city in the world without ever leaving our shelter.

God's got us covered all the time!

Of course, to benefit from His covering, we have to do our part. We can't just live anyway we want, not pay God much attention, and think, *Well, if I ever get in trouble, I'll pray.* On the contrary! If we want to see God's promises of protection fulfilled in our lives, we have to remember and act on what Psalm 91:1 says: "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

The Hebrew word

translated *dwelleth* means "to lodge somewhere." It refers to a place where you live, remain and stay. When you're dwelling in God's secret place and abiding in His shadow, you don't come and go in your relationship with Him. You don't live all week trying to see what you can get away with and then show up at church on Sunday. You're in fellowship with the Lord and endeavoring to obey Him every day. You're living in all the light you have and always seeking more light.

The Hebrew word translated *dwelleth* means "to lodge somewhere."

It refers to a place where you live, remain and stay.



“Today, you are a picture of what you spoke from your heart in the past.”



I'm not saying you have to be perfect, of course. None of us is perfect. But as an abider, when you do stumble, you quickly repent and get things right again.

Living in a Bubble

In John 15:7, Jesus connected the concept of abiding with the Word of God. He said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you."

How do you know when the Word is abiding in you? It talks to you! It directs your thoughts as you go about your day. It comes to your mind when challenges arise, and helps you know what to do.

I've found in my own life that if I want the Word to abide in me I have to spend time in it. I can't just read it casually every now and then. I can't

just listen to sermons and let them go in one ear and out the other. I have to be diligent to read the Word and meditate on it every day and obey it. I must treat it like a priceless treasure.

That's not hard for me to do because I love the Word of God. It's precious to me. My deliverance, safety and well-being in life depend on it.

The same is true for you. So stir up your love for the Word by not only reading it, but believing what it says. Make it the most important thing in your life! Renew your mind to the fact that when you're abiding in the Word, you're abiding in your supernatural, divine shelter. You're living, protected from all harm, in the secret place of the Most High.

There's nothing better than dwelling in the secret place!

It's a bubble of protection where

you're surrounded with God Himself on every side. It's a place where you're concealed from your enemies and hidden from danger.

If you want to see how secure this divine place of protection can be, read in the New Testament about how Jesus walked unharmed right through the middle of a mob of people who wanted to murder Him. They couldn't touch Him because He was concealed in the secret place.

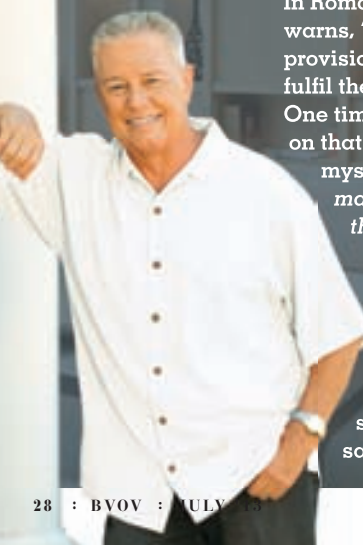
Or read the Old Testament story about how Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace without a hair on their head being singed and without even the smell of smoke on their clothes. The fire couldn't hurt them because they were in a supernatural bubble, completely encased by the power of God.

You can have that kind of protection, too, when you're abiding in the secret place. The Bible promises it again and again in scriptures like these:

"Blessed be the Lord my strength... my fortress; my high tower, and my deliverer; my shield, and he in whom I

by Jerry Savelle Victorious Christian Living

Put a stop to it!



In Romans 13:14 Paul warns, "...make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof." One time, as I meditated on that verse, I asked myself, *How do I make provision for the flesh and how do I stop?*

I found the answer in *The Amplified Bible*. That same verse says, "...make no

provision for [indulging] the flesh [put a stop to thinking about the evil cravings of your physical nature] to [gratify its] desires (lusts)."

That tells me that making provision for the flesh has to do with our thoughts. The word *provision* means

"forethought, preparation or a measure taken in advance." *Forethought* means "advance deliberation or consideration." Therefore, I make provision for something by thinking about it constantly and preparing for it in advance in my thoughts.

Of course, if I'm thinking about the Word of God, I'm making provision for God's best in my

life. But if I think continually about "evil cravings," I'll wind up in sin. I'll wind up fulfilling lust. I'll assist Satan in creating opportunities for me to miss the mark.

I've seen this happen. For example, I once knew a man who was at one time completely sold out to God. But then, I noticed a change in him. He no longer read his Bible

nor listened to Christian music. He wore loud-colored shirts with the two top buttons unbuttoned, and a gold chain around his neck. He got a dark tan. He tried to look young and "cool" even though he was in his early 50s.

We didn't know then that this man was considering divorcing his wife, but we could see that he was assisting Satan in setting himself up to fulfill the lusts of

trust.” (Psalm 144:1-2)

“But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, Lord, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.” (Psalm 5:11-12)

“Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word.” (Psalm 119:114)

“The Lord is thy keeper: the Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand. The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” (Psalm 121:5, 7-8)

“Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident. For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle

shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. And now shall mine head be lifted up above mine enemies round about me.” (Psalm 27:3, 5-6)

Notice those verses say that the Lord encompasses us like a fortress with His protection. He encircles us with His power so that when our enemies try to surround us, they find we’ve already been surrounded. They can’t get to us because God already has us covered all the way around!

Activate Your Protection With Words of Faith

“But Gloria,” you might say, “I love the Lord and His Word. I do my best to walk with Him and abide in Him, but I’m still not experiencing the kind of protection you’re talking about. Is there something else I need to do?”

Yes! Look again at Psalm 91 and you’ll see what it is. According to verse 2, to dwell in God’s secret place we must make this declaration, “I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

Why is it so important to say such words?

Because that’s how we receive everything God provides for us. We believe in our heart what He says in His Word, and confess it with our mouth. We act on what Jesus taught in Mark 11:23: “Whosoever shall say...and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.”

Isn’t that how you got saved? Didn’t you believe in your heart and confess with your mouth, “Jesus is my Lord and Savior”? Well, you receive protection the same way. You believe what the Bible teaches about it and say of the Lord, in every situation, “He is my refuge and my fortress.”

God’s promises don’t just work for us automatically because they’re in the Bible. They have to be activated by faith-filled words. That’s why over the years, I’ve made God’s promises of protection a daily part of my prayer life.

Every morning I pray for myself and my family members by name, plead the blood of Jesus over us, and declare that God is our refuge. I say things like, “Thank You, Lord, for our divine bubble of protection. Thank You for being our Shelter and our Shield today. You surround us so that no weapon formed against us will succeed, in Jesus’ Name.”


One morning a few years back, I was reminded in a big way just how vital such prayers can be. Not long after I finished praying, the ground under my feet began to shake. Ken and I were in a hotel in Hawaii at the time, on the 13th floor. We realized right away we were in an earthquake!

At times like that, you really find out what’s in you, because before you can even think, it comes out of your mouth. I’m happy to report that what came out of our mouths at that moment was the Word of God. Unlike the lady in the room next to us who ran out into the hall repeating a curse word over and over, Ken and I instantly took

his flesh. He was making provision for it through his thoughts.

The Bible warns us to “put a stop to thinking about evil cravings” because thoughts eventually lead to actions.

Let your thought life be consumed with God’s Word.

Make provision only for the things He wants to add to your life—exceeding abundantly beyond all you can ask or think. If you do, then you’ll put a stop to all thoughts about evil cravings and cut off all provision for the lusts of the flesh. 



Making provision for the flesh has to do with our thoughts.

About Jerry Savelle is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founding pastor of Heritage of Faith Christian Center. For information or ministry materials write to Jerry Savelle Ministries, P.O. Box 748, Crowley, TX 76036; visit his website at jerrysavelle.org; or call toll free 1-866-576-4872.

authority over the situation in Jesus' Name. We declared God's promises of protection at the top of our lungs. Then, calm as could be, we did what the Lord prompted us to do.

Although the hotel personnel had informed us the airport was closed and no flights would be going out, we felt led to go to the airport anyway. Sure enough, our flight departed as scheduled and, instead of being stuck in a hotel with no electricity and no restaurants (they all closed down) for the next few days, we went back to Texas, safe and sound, and enjoyed the comforts of home.

Bad Day at Black Rock

One thing I particularly remember about that earthquake is this: Ken and I had absolutely no fear when it hit. We didn't have to try not to be afraid. Fear just wasn't there!

That's not to say we're totally

immune to fear. On occasion, it does try to rear its ugly head. But whenever it does, we throw a Holy Ghost fit. We run it out of our lives with the Word of God and refuse to entertain it for a second.

Why are we so determined to stay free of fear?

Because it's impossible to trust in the Lord and be afraid at the same time; and trusting in the Lord is essential to keeping God's protective covering intact.

Look again at Psalm 91:2-5 and you'll see what I mean. It says: "The Lord is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid."

You can't be afraid while you're

taking the Lord as your refuge. You can't exercise your faith in God as your protection while you're wringing your hands and saying, "I'm afraid of storms. I'm afraid of tornadoes. I'm afraid of airplanes...and earthquakes...and whatever else."

Fear is deadly. It opens the door to the devil. When you let it into your life, you're saying to him, "Come on in!"

So anytime fear tries to come on you in any area of life, rebuke it. Resist it. Get scriptures that contradict what fear is saying to you and swing them at fear like a sword. Be violent about driving out all fear and seize the promises of protection God has given you. As Jesus said, "The violent take it by force" (Matthew 11:12)!

"But isn't that unrealistic?" you might ask. "Won't there be times in my life when I can't help being afraid?"

No, there won't if you take action on God's Word.

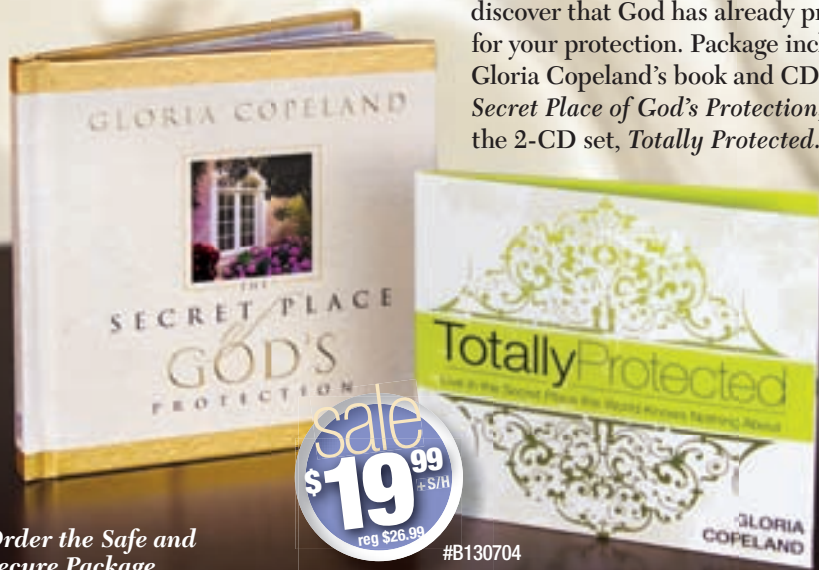
According to Psalm 91:7 even if "a thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand," you shall not be afraid because "it shall not come nigh thee."

I don't know how you would categorize that kind of situation, but I'd call it a bad day at Black Rock. It doesn't get much worse than seeing 11,000 people killed on every side and being the lone survivor. Yet, the Bible says we can go through even that kind of devastation unafraid and unharmed, if we abide in the secret place of the Most High, say of the Lord, "He is my refuge," and trust in Him.

As long as we do those three things, we can live—even in these dangerous times—in a bubble of supernatural protection. We can know that we're safe anywhere we go, no matter what's happening around us, because God's got us covered! 🍷

Stop living in fear—and learn how to live under God's divine protection!

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words
about **healing**



If I had to choose between
the New Birth and healing,
I would choose the New Birth....

But I don't have to choose!
Psalm 103 says, "Forget not all his
benefits." It doesn't say, "Choose one."
It says, "Don't forget any of them."

Gloria



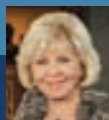
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Keith Moore



George Pearsons



Jeremy Pearsons

July 1-5 The Choice Is Yours
Kenneth Copeland and Keith Moore

Sun., July 7 The Kingdom of More Than Enough
Kenneth Copeland

July 8-12 10 Days of Debt Freedom — Part 3
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sun., July 14 In the Combat Zone
Kenneth Copeland

July 15-19 10 Days of Debt Freedom — Part 4
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons

Sun., July 21 Learning God's Kingdom Process — Part 1
Kenneth Copeland

July 22-26 Patience Makes Perfect
Jeremy Pearsons

Sun., July 28 Learning God's Kingdom Process — Part 2
Kenneth Copeland

July 29-Aug. 2 Perfect, Complete and Lacking Nothing
Jeremy Pearsons and George Pearsons

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