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VICTORY

October 2013

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FUTURE

by *Melanie Henry*

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Good News! That's what *Believer's Voice of Victory* has been bringing to you each month since 1973. 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 through the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in their lives. We are committed to teaching you how to live a life of faith and experience God's victory—every day!

Kenneth & Gloria

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by Kenneth Copeland

Your Greatest Blessing *ever is at hand*

Christians may differ on a lot of things, but most all of us agree on this: If we know what God’s will is for any area of our lives, we should do it. That’s such an obvious truth, I think it could draw a hearty amen from a whole multitude of believers—including me. ∴ I learned years ago that the secret to success (which is not a secret at all but is plainly stated in the Bible) is saying to God every day, “I am Yours to command, Sir. Your will and Your plan be done in my life today.”

I also learned years ago that when it comes to embracing God’s will, there’s one area where a lot of really sincere Christians have trouble. Even though they love The LORD, they find it difficult to say, “Heavenly Father, it’s Your will for me to prosper, so I’m going to do it!”

For some reason, that

statement always thins out the crowd. Believers who are all gung-ho about God’s will being done in other parts of their lives suddenly start hemming and hawing when the issue of money comes up.

“Well, I don’t really need to prosper,” they say. “After all, my little family and I don’t require much to get along.”

I never have figured out the logic behind such statements. What does the family budget have to do with it? If it’s God’s will for us to have financial prosperity, who are we to tell God we don’t need it?

“Now, Brother Copeland,” you might say, “I think you put that a little too strongly. It’s not really the

absolute will of God for every believer to prosper, is it?”

Yes, it actually is. The Bible says that “Jesus... though he was rich, for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9). Look again at the last word in that scripture. What is it? It’s *rich*. *R-I-C-H...rich!*

The economy might be bad on earth but heaven’s economy is doing just fine; and that’s where your financial supply comes from.





Some Christians almost faint at the very mention of that word because they have it associated with sin and worldliness. But we need to get over that. Rich is a Bible word. It's a God word! He's the One who invented wealth. He's the One who put gold in the Garden of Eden and said, "The gold of that land is good" (Genesis 2:12). Adam wouldn't have known the difference between gold and dirt if God hadn't taught him. But He did, and His covenant people have been prospering ever since.

Think of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, for example. They were all extremely wealthy men. Think about the Israelites God freed from Egyptian bondage. Psalm 105:37 says, "He brought them forth also with silver and gold." If God's BLESSING caused His people to prosper materially under the Old Covenant, how much more should we prosper as New Testament believers? After all, we have an even "better covenant" (Hebrews 8:6). We have Jesus, who became poor for our sakes so that we through His poverty might be rich!

Not the Manger but the Cross

"But that verse isn't talking about finances," someone might argue, "it's talking about spiritual wealth. It's saying that Jesus left the riches of heaven to be born in a lowly manger so that we could go to heaven when we die."

I realize that's often taught, but it's incorrect. That verse was written to the Corinthians about giving financially into the kingdom of God. It's talking about money. And it doesn't say that Jesus came to earth as a poor man.

He didn't! On the contrary: Wise men showed up when He was born and provided Him and His family with significant wealth. After He grew up and went into ministry, Jesus was so prosperous He needed a treasurer to keep track of the funds. He always had plenty to give to the poor. Money or no money, feeding 20,000 people was no problem for Him.

Jesus was a prosperous man all His earthly life.

So, when did He become poor?
When He went to the Cross.

There Jesus became poorer than any human being has ever been. He took the whole burden of mankind's poverty upon Himself all at once. In the same way that He bore all our sins on the Cross so that we could be made as righteous as He is, He bore our sicknesses so that we could be as well as He is, and He also bore our poverty so that we could be as rich as He is!

Clearly, our prosperity is important to God. It's so central to His will that He included it in the price Jesus paid for our redemption. So it doesn't matter whether or not we think we need it. What matters is that God needs it!

"Oh, Brother Copeland, God doesn't need anything."

In one sense that's true. As Almighty God, He is complete in Himself. But let me ask you this: Does He need people?

Yes. Because He's chosen to, God does need people. Specifically, He needs you.

Does He need you to be an unsaved sinner running around doing the devil's will?

No, He needs you born again.

Does He need you sick and weak, unable to bear any fruit for His kingdom?

No, He needs you healthy and strong enough to serve Him.

Does He need you so broke that you can't bless anyone?

No, He needs you "always having all sufficiency in all things," so that you can "abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

That's why it bothers me so much when believers shrug off God's will concerning prosperity and say they can get along without much money. It's a selfish perspective. What about helping your church and your pastor? What about helping missionaries? What about giving to the poor?

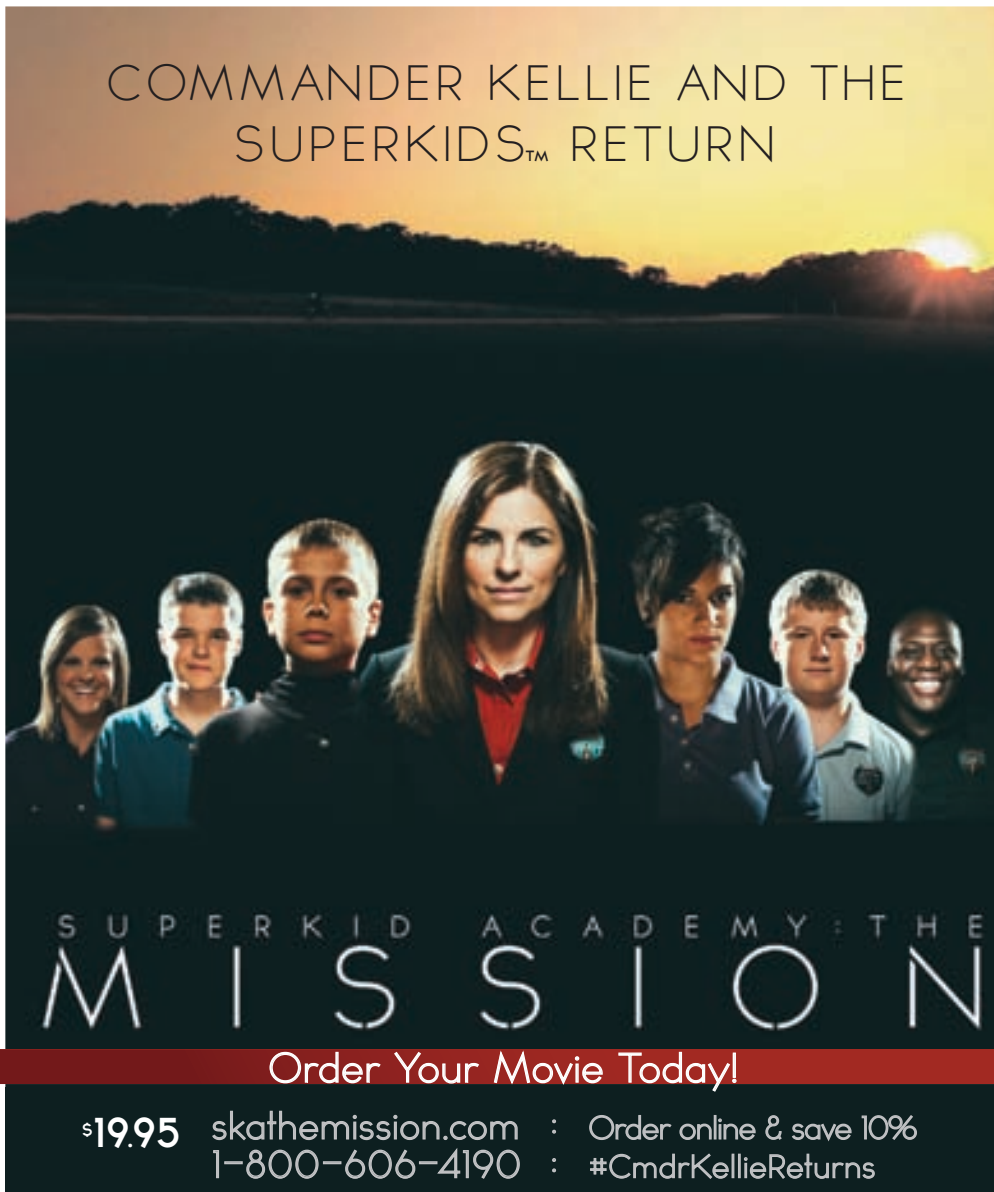
This isn't just about you and your little family, or me and my little family. It's about the kingdom of God. It's about being blessed so that we can be a blessing. No one said you have to keep all the prosperity God gives you. If you enjoy living on a shoestring, fine. Go ahead and live on \$500 a month, but believe God for \$10,000—and give \$9500 into the Kingdom.

"But how can I do that?" you might ask. "The economy has been horrible."

The economy might be bad on earth but heaven's economy is doing just fine; and that's where your financial supply comes from. As Philippians 4:19 says, "God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

You see, even though you live physically on earth, surrounded by the devil's kingdom, you're not a citizen

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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

Victory Campaign : Spanish translation and sign-language interpretation available
Hylton Memorial Chapel | 14640 Potomac Mills Road | Woodbridge, VA 22192

2014

Branson Feb. 27-March 1

Victory Campaign : Branson, Mo.

Southwest June 30-July 5

Believers' Convention : Fort Worth, Texas

Washington, D.C. Nov. 13-15

Victory Campaign : Woodbridge, Va.

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Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

Ensancha 2013*: Sept. 26-27

Casa de Dios Fraijanes | Km 21 to El Salvador
Fraijanes, Guatemala | casadedios.org

*There is a charge to attend this meeting.
Contact host ministry for details.

25th Anniversary Celebration: Oct. 6

Victory Christian Center | 7625 IH-35 North
Austin, TX 78752 | 1-512-458-9100
victoryaustin.org

8th Annual 8 Days of Glory: Oct. 14

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

Prayer Mountain Annual

Prayer Conference: Oct. 23-28

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

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

Shalom Baptist Church: Sept. 20-22

1111 24th St. | Newport News, VA 23607
1-757-245-2447 | theshalombaptistchurch.org

Faith Family Church: Sept. 29

95 Oakwood Drive | Glastonbury, CT 06033
1-860-633-0889

El Shaddai Christian Fellowship: Oct. 4-6

723 S. Airport Drive | Weslaco, TX 78596
1-956-968-8814 | elshaddai.org

31st Church Anniversary: Oct. 13

Victory Christian Center | 11520 Ellerslie Road SW
Edmonton, Alberta | Canada
1-780-988-5433 | info@victorychristiancenter.ca

Tony Orlando Salute to Veterans: Nov. 10-11

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

Grove City United Methodist Church: Nov. 17

2684 Columbus St. | Grove City, OH 43123
1-614-875-5612 | gcumc.org

Pastor Terri Pearsons

Gulf Coast Women's Convention: Feb. 27-March 1

9400 South Thomas Drive
Panama City Beach, FL 32408
1-850-872-1188 | goodnessofgodchurch.com

Riley Stephenson

The Family of Faith Church: Sept. 20-21

5833 53rd Ave. | Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4L4
Canada | 1-403-340-3880
familyoffaith.ca

Sunderland Chapel of Light: Sept. 28-30

Cornhill Road | Southwick, Sunderland SR5 1RU
U.K. | scli.org.uk

Foundation Christian Fellowship: Oct. 2

Unit One Woodcock Industrial Estate, Woodcock Road
Warminster, Wiltshire BA12 8DR | England
fcfwarminster.org.uk | 01985 217613

Hebron Christian Church: Oct. 4-6

The Forum | Longfellow Road | Coventry CV2 5HD
England | hebroncfc.org | 024 7767 8523

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were born to bless are
waiting for you to dream.
Don't let the devil
stop you.

Dream on, my friend.
Dream on.

Kenneth

of that kingdom anymore. When you were born again, God delivered you out of it and translated you into the kingdom of His dear Son (Colossians 1:13). You're not going to get into God's kingdom someday when you die and go to heaven; you're a citizen of heaven right now. You've already been raised up together with Christ and made to "sit together in heavenly places" in Him (Ephesians 2:6).

The politicians may be able to mess up the finances of this world, but they can't cut off heaven's budget. So you can prosper in any economy!

Do It God's Way

I know what you may be thinking. *If I can prosper in any economy, how come I haven't?*

Maybe it's because you haven't realized that prospering in heaven's economy is different from prospering in the world. People in the world have to make their provision their priority. They're always worrying about it and saying, "What will we eat? What will we wear?"

But Jesus said to us as believers, "Quit worrying about those things! Those are the wrong questions. Seek first the kingdom of God. Seek His way of doing things, and all these things will be added to you in abundance."

How can we seek God's way of doing things?

By looking at how Jesus did them! He said Himself, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). So, let's consider what He told us about His method of operation. He said:

The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise. I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5:19, 30). The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that

The secret to successful living is finding what God's will is in every area of life and doing it. According to the Bible, it's God's will for you to prosper financially. So that's what you should be doing! Here are a few points to help you:

dwelleth in me, he doeth the works (John 14:10).

According to those scriptures, Jesus performed all His marvelous works on earth the same way: He heard God's WORD, believed it, spoke it and acted on it. In response, the Father within Him did the works. That was Jesus' modus operandi every day of His earthly ministry. It's how He taught; it's how He did miracles; and it's how He prospered.

"Yes, but that was *Jesus!*" you might say. "I can't live that way."

Sure, you can. Jesus confirmed it. He said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). He also said, "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

That means every one of us can hear God's WORD, believe it, speak it, act on it and get the same results Jesus did. Why? Because the works He did weren't produced by His own power. They were produced by the power of God's WORD!

Plant Some Prosperity Seed

To understand this, you have to remember that God's WORDS aren't just information. They are "spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). In Mark 4, Jesus called them spiritual "seed." What happens when you sow seed? It grows. What does it produce? It produces after its own kind.

That's what happens when we plant God's WORD in our hearts. Because it contains within it God's own life and Spirit, when we receive it, speak it and act on it, it produces in us exactly what He said.

Gloria and I have seen it countless times over the years—not just in our own lives but in the lives of our Partners. I remember one, in particular, we used to call the "Dollar-a-Day Man." He was a minister who'd always believed that preachers were all supposed to be poor. Consequently, he'd been poor all his life. His income

had never even been up to the poverty level. But then he got hold of some of our tapes and started to see things in a different light. He realized it was God's will for him to prosper and be a giver so he began to pray, "LORD, I want to sow into Brother Copeland's ministry. I want to be a blessing to him and help get this message out to others. But what can I do? I don't have anything yet!"

The LORD answered him and said, "Send Brother Copeland's ministry \$1 every day."

Initially, he didn't know if he could come up with a dollar a day. But he decided if The LORD told him to do it, he could.

Soon those dollars started arriving at our ministry. Sometimes we'd get an envelope full of pennies. Sometimes we'd get dimes. Before long, our staff got excited and called to tell me about the "Dollar-a-Day Man." After a while, they called me again and said, "He's prospering! He's giving \$2 a day now."

Many years have passed since then and that man, his ministry and his family became very faithful supporters financially, and very strong Partners with this ministry.

How did a man who had been poor all his life end up with enough money to give so much? He found out it was God's will for him to prosper and decided he should do it. Then, he followed Jesus' system. He listened to God's WORD, received it, spoke it and acted on it. As a result, 2 Corinthians 9:8 came to pass in his life: "God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

The same will happen to anyone who operates by faith in God's WORD about prosperity. So if you haven't been doing it, get started. If you have, then stay where you are. Stay steady. Your greatest blessing ever is at hand! ⑦



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

1 Settle the fact with Scripture that prosperity truly is God's will for you.

2 Corinthians 8:9: "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

2 Believe that God is able to bless you financially and make you a blessing to others.

2 Corinthians 9:8: "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

3 Stop looking at the world's economy and focus on heaven's.

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

4 Do things God's way instead of the world's way.

Matthew 6:31, 33: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

5 Plant the prosperity seed of The WORD.

Mark 4:20: "And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred."



FAITH FOR THE FUTURE

by Melanie Henry

Fourteen-year-old *Nashon Walker* stared into the empty refrigerator, willing food to appear. His stomach grumbling, he checked the pantry. Nothing. // Nashon chewed his bottom lip. It had been three months since his dad left for a business trip and never returned. Nashon had taken care of his younger brothers as best as he knew how. They'd grazed through all the food in the house and Nashon had begged food from his girlfriend. His little brothers had stolen some. // Hearing a car door, Nashon peeked out the window. // *Cops!*



Get in the attic!" he hissed, herding his brothers up the steps and pulling the door closed behind them. Afraid to move, the boys held their breath as police searched the house, calling their names. Someone had turned them in to child welfare.

They were busted. Nashon had lived with his grandmother from the time he was 3 years old until his father had been released from prison. He'd been 12 when he met his dad and learned that he had not *one*, but *two* younger brothers. Now that he'd found them, Nashon couldn't stand the

thought of losing them. He knew what would happen if they got into the child welfare system: They'd be separated.

"Here's what we'll do..." he whispered.

Later, they climbed out of the attic. Each of them threw a few things into a trash bag and they slipped out the back door.

It was now official. They were homeless.

New Year's Resolution

"That was the first time I was homeless," Nashon remembers, "but it wouldn't be the last. We later learned that the reason our dad didn't come home was that he'd

been arrested. He was back in prison.

"Right after I went to live with my dad at age 12, he took me to a maximum security prison to visit my mother whom I hadn't seen in six years. The following year, she was released from prison and came to live with us. For the first time in my life I had a real family!

"But, it didn't last long. My parents couldn't get along and after four months my mom left us. I felt so rejected that I began dabbling in drugs. My brothers and I bounced all over the place until a woman named Jessica gave us a stable home.

"When I was 16, my father was released from prison and took us back to

live with him. Dad was home for about a year before going back to prison. By the summer after my junior year, I was homeless again. With help from my coach and an aunt, I finally graduated from high school. My mother called and promised to come, but she didn't show."

Nashon's hurt hardened to bitterness and his life spiraled out of control. In 1998, he celebrated the New Year with his best friend. "I'd like to toast my New Year's resolution!" he announced. "We're going to rob everyone we see."

True to his word, Nashon did just that. Heartless and without mercy, he robbed anyone and everyone. People in the neighborhood ran and hid when they saw him coming. When his father returned home from prison, he was stunned to find Nashon's dining table covered with cash, guns and drugs.

"Look," he told Nashon, "I can help you make money without violence."

Nashon wasn't interested. A month later, he robbed a major drug dealer. Barefaced.

"Are you *nuts?*" his father asked. "That guy has put a hit out on you!"

Nashon studied abroad with students from Cambridge, Wheaton and Duke. His roommate had studied at Oxford. As international business students, they traveled from country to country studying European and global economies.



Nashon at the 2013 Southwest Believers' Convention

Here's what I've learned: You don't have to stay trapped in your culture.

Faith in God's Word will break you out of *whatever* has imprisoned you...and lead you into your victorious destiny.

Hit Man

High on drugs and power, Nashon swaggered through town unafraid. He'd just stepped onto Jessica's front porch when she burst through the door screaming, "Nashon!"

Ducking, Nashon looked back and saw the hit man who'd been hired to kill him. "For the first time I was scared," Nashon admits. "I knew something bad was about to happen. I was going to kill, be killed or go to prison. That was our life."

Determined to save Nashon's life, his father talked him into a con job in Delaware. It was the first time father and son had worked together.

It would be the last. Caught and arrested in October 1999, Nashon and his father were codefendants. Nineteen-year-old Nashon was arraigned on seven felonies:

First-degree kidnapping.

First-degree carjacking.

First-degree attempted robbery.

Theft.

Second-degree conspiracy.

Second-degree burglary.

Criminal impersonation.

He faced a maximum mandatory sentence of 85 years.

Doing Time

Nashon spent his first night in prison in a holding cell where he met a man who'd been arrested for back child support. "You're facing 85 years?" the man asked. "Call on Jesus!"

Nashon didn't know anything about Jesus. He just wanted out. "How do I do that?" he asked. A short time later he made a desperate plea. "Jesus! Help me get out!"

"When you get to your cell, I want you to find a Bible and read it," the man said.

The next day, Nashon was ushered into his permanent cell. One man sat at a desk. Another man sat on the bottom bunk. Both men were reading Bibles.

"Man, y'all reading the Bible?" Nashon asked.

"Yeah. Got one for you too if you want it."

Nashon's crime made national news and other inmates saw it. When Nashon passed by, they pointed, "That's him!"

His cellmates nicknamed him "Youngblood." He was young, but they knew he was facing long, hard years in prison.

"I accepted Jesus on the bottom bunk of a maximum security prison," Nashon recalls. "My cellmate, who had served 23 years, led me to the Lord and then we studied the Bible and prayed together. Those men taught me about God and how to survive in prison.

"At the time I was functionally illiterate. I couldn't read or write very well, and I struggled to read the Bible. All I wanted to do was study the Word of God. I didn't leave my cell except for meals and to exercise. I started a Bible study and people started getting saved!

"Months passed but I was lost in the Word of God. As far as I was concerned, I wasn't in prison—I was in heaven! I was in Bible boot camp in search of wisdom. One day God translated me in a vision. I was running through a maze and finally burst through an exit. A heavenly being said, 'The Father has given you life!'"

An Uncertain Future

In March 2001, Nashon's vision became reality. Engulfed in the

presence of God, he blinked in surprise when, after serving 18 months, he was released from prison. Standing outside in a driving rain, he wasn't sure how to pick up the pieces of his life. His father was still in prison. One brother was on drugs; the other was locked up. It was Jessica who advised him. "Nashon, go back to school!"

For a while before his arrest, Nashon had attended a technical school. Now an ex-con, there was no way they'd let him re-enroll. Except... they did. One month after being released from prison, Nashon was studying electronics and computer engineering.

"The pull toward my old way of life was strong," Nashon says. "It was much easier in prison than out on the streets again. My mind still needed a lot of renewing and I found myself drifting away from the Lord.

"I didn't know it, but what I needed was the same kind of intense spiritual fellowship I enjoyed in prison. I needed a church. A man who had mentored me, introduced me to an inner-city church. The pastor there, Dr. David Kandole, had grown up in Uganda under Idi Amin's reign. After Dr. Kandole became a pastor, the Lord sent him to the inner city streets of America."

Dr. Kandole had learned to live by faith through the *BVOV* magazine while still in Uganda. Now a Partner with KCM, he taught young men from the streets that through faith, they too could live victorious lives. They learned that nothing was impossible with God.

With the strong support of his mentor and Dr. Kandole, Nashon graduated from technical school. Then, in December, nine months after being

released from prison, Nashon was accepted into Messiah College, and started classes there in January 2002. According to *U.S. News & World Report*, Messiah College is one of the top five private colleges in the nation.

Faith and Favor

It made no sense. Nashon had no SAT scores. No official college transcript. No money to pay the \$120,000 tuition. No family support or financial help. Applying for grants and scholarships, he cleaned toilets and did landscaping to earn money. "You'll never make it," family and friends warned.

"My first semester in college, Dr. Kandole gave me a series of teaching tapes by Kenneth Copeland," Nashon recalls. "I was in my dorm room listening to *The Winning Formula*. (Editor's note: This series is no longer available.) I couldn't quit! My hunger for God just soared! The only stability in my life was my church and those teachings from KCM.

"I was worshipping one day when the Lord told me to go find my mother. I was reluctant, but Dr. Kandole and men from his leadership team helped me, and we found her in a crack house in Philadelphia. He called someone at Bethesda Mission and they accepted her. We took her kicking and screaming, and then prayed she would stay and complete the program.

"The other thing the Lord instructed me to do was start a Bible study on campus. I started it with three other men and it grew so fast that Dr. Kandole said, 'Your Bible study is larger than my church!'"

International Business

A student in the school of business, in his junior year Nashon had the opportunity to apply to the International Business Institute. That year, in 2004, he stood in Paris, France, looking up at the Eiffel Tower. Drinking in the scene, one thought replayed in his mind.

Five years ago I was functionally illiterate. Only God...

Nashon studied abroad with

students from Cambridge, Wheaton and Duke. His roommate had studied at Oxford. As international business students, they traveled from country to country studying European and global economies. They did corporate analyses on companies such as Mercedes and the Swiss Bank. Nashon flew to Switzerland. He visited Britain's Parliament and Big Ben. He studied in Central America and walked among the Mayan ruins in Guatemala.

When he graduated, all those experiences dimmed in the light of one other. His mother—clean and sober—attended his graduation.

In 2006, the largest privately held communications company in America hired him at \$80,000 a year. By the end of 2007, at age 27, he'd been promoted to the highest sales position in the company, earning six figures.

In 2011, Nashon attended the Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. The following year, in 2012, he and Dr. Kandole attended together, refueling on the Word of God.

Today, Nashon Walker has left corporate America to start The Empowerment Center Worldwide Inc. He and his wife, Tiana, are the parents of three daughters: Taja, Mia and Ariana.

Nashon's father was released from prison in 2012, and God has restored their relationship. His mother earned a degree in social work and is the head counselor at the mission that once took her in. She is an integral part of his life and ministry.

"Two years ago when riots broke out in London," Nashon recalls, "the English blamed them on the street culture that had migrated there from America. That's the culture I grew up in. But here's what I've learned: You don't have to stay trapped in your culture. Faith in God's Word will break you out of *whatever* has imprisoned you... and lead you into your victorious destiny. What God has done for me, He will do for you." 📖

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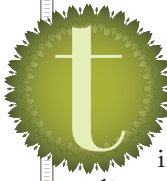


by Pastor George Pearsons

How to Believe God for a

“There’s no place like home!” :: My wife, Terri, and I have often declared that statement while walking through the back door of our home after a long, hard day at work. Sometimes after dinner, we will just plop down on the couch, kick up our feet and sigh a breath of relief. I appreciate The LORD for providing the peaceful, warm atmosphere of our home. After all, He was the One who got us there in the first place!

HOUSE



he LORD is interested in every detail of our lives, including where we live. Our homes should be places where we can be refreshed and receive from Him. Isaiah 32:18 (*New International Version*) says, “My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest.”

Consider the Garden of Eden.

It was God’s original intent for our earthly dwellings. The word *Eden* in the Hebrew means “the region of Adam’s home;

a house of pleasure.” THE BLESSING that God spoke over Adam empowered him to establish the Garden of Eden wherever he went.

That same empowerment belongs to us today.

Many do not realize that a beautiful home is part of God’s wonderful plan for their lives. He is our loving, heavenly Father who knows the very desires of our hearts. He is well aware of what kind of home will minister to us. His heart is to do everything possible to fulfill that desire.

God’s Will for Your House

Faith for a house begins where the will of God is known.

First John 5:14-15 (*The Amplified Bible*) says:

And this is the confidence (the assurance, the privilege of boldness) which we have in Him: [we are sure] that if we ask anything (make any request) according to His will (in agreement with His own plan), He listens to and hears us. And if (since) we [positively] know that He listens to us in whatever we ask, we also know [with settled and absolute knowledge] that we have [granted us as our present possessions] the requests made of Him.

As you can see, great confidence comes when we are assured of God’s will. God’s Word is His perfect will and the very foundation to your house. Luke 6:48

says, “He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”

That “rock” is God’s Word.

In the course of my study, I have researched over 20 specific “house scriptures” that prove it is God’s perfect will for us to live in a beautiful, debt-free home.

For instance, Proverbs 24:3-4, (*AMP*) says, “Through skillful and godly Wisdom is a house (a life, a home, a family) built, and by understanding it is established [on a sound and good foundation], and by knowledge shall its chambers [of every area] be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”

There it is! Your beautiful, completely furnished, debt-free house.





A Debt-Free Stand of Faith

Terri and I made a very crucial decision concerning our house.

It was the same decision Kenneth and Gloria Copeland had made many years before.

In 1967, Kenneth and Gloria determined they would immediately obey whatever they saw in God's Word. Shortly thereafter, they discovered Romans 13:8 which says, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another."

They thought they were doomed!

"How will we ever have a car, a house or even an airplane?"

Perhaps *The Amplified Bible* would give them an "out."

On the contrary. It was even stronger.

"Keep out of debt!"

They had already dedicated themselves to The LORD, and they were determined to act on whatever He said. In spite of the seeming impossibility of ever having anything, they made their quality, uncompromising decision of no retreat, no return and no turning back. They committed to live debt

free. That debt-free decision included both their personal and ministry lives.

The very first thing Gloria believed for was a house.

'I Hung My Faith on That Scripture'

"Satan would come to me," Gloria writes in her book, *God's Will Is Prosperity*, "with thoughts of doubt and say, 'There is no way that you can buy a house without going into debt.' When he would do that, I would trust in and continually confess 2 Corinthians 9:8 (*AMP*). 'And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to [me] in abundance, so that [I] may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation].'"

"It gave me the comfort and strength I needed to stand in faith," she writes. "I hung my faith on that scripture...believing God was the only way I could have my home."

They took their stand of

faith, refusing to be double-minded. They meditated on the Word until their house became a reality in their hearts. They believed God's Word more than what they could see or feel, never underestimating the creative power of their faith-filled words.

They released their faith while living in Tulsa. According to Gloria, she did not realize that the construction of her first dream house in Fort Worth started the very moment she began believing God.

"Let there be a house! And there was a house."

Gloria's Three Revelations

It took a while before they received that house.

In the meantime, The LORD gave Gloria three revelations. This scenario fits perfectly with Proverbs 14:1 that says, "Every wise woman buildeth her house."

The first was, *The Revelation of Divine Prosperity*.

The LORD showed Gloria that she could believe for divine prosperity in the same way she could believe for divine health. Both blessings already belonged to her. Jesus bore her poverty and lack in the same way He bore her sickness and disease.

We should refuse lack just as quickly as we refuse sickness.

Gloria writes, "If you make up your mind—make a quality decision—that you are not willing to live in lack, but that you are willing to live in divine prosperity and abundance, Satan cannot stop the flow of God's financial blessings."

Next was, *The Revelation of Peace and Prosperity*.

Isaiah 53:5 says, "The chastisement of our peace was upon him." God tells us in Isaiah 48:17-18 (AMP) that He is "the Lord your God, Who teaches

you to profit, Who leads you in the way that you should go. Oh, that you had hearkened to My commandments! Then your peace and prosperity would have been like a flowing river."

Peace and prosperity go hand in hand. Gloria realized that her prosperity had already been provided. It was hers now.

"By faith, we need to rest in the receiving of our homes."

The third thing The LORD showed her was, *The Revelation of Dominion and Authority*. He revealed to Gloria that she had the same authority over the earth that Adam had in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 1:28 (AMP) says, "And God blessed them and said to them, Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it [using all its vast resources...]"

"While we were standing in faith for the money to pay for our first house, The LORD reminded me of this scripture and revealed to me that every material thing here came from the earth's vast resources—every piece of lumber, brick and glass, the concrete, and the mortar. There was nothing in the makeup of our house that had not come from the earth's resources. I had the right to take authority over it and receive it as mine in the Name of Jesus."

Stand Your Ground

It took six years of standing their ground and continually acting on the Word. But the day finally came when their faith paid off. They took possession of their "beautiful, debt-free house."

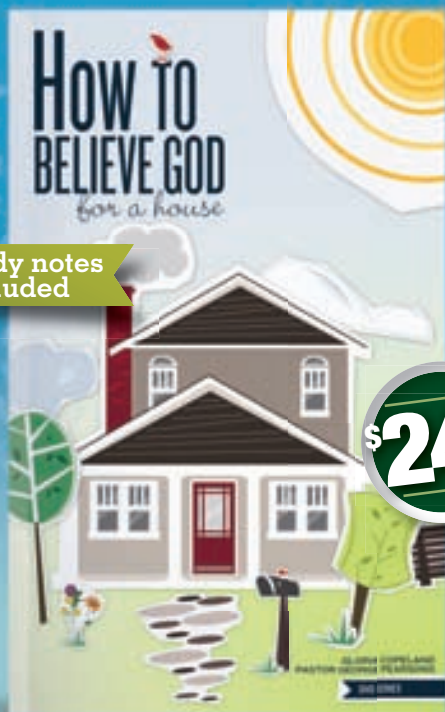
As for Terri and me, our circumstances were different, but the faith principles remained the same. Here is the short version.

We owned a home, paid it off and sowed it into a family.

We then borrowed the money to buy our next house.

On a worldwide TV broadcast of *Believer's Voice of Victory*, Brother Copeland asked me why I went back into debt. As a result, Terri and I made the quality decision to live debt free. We eventually sold

There's no place like home!



In this study series, Gloria Copeland and Pastor George Pearsons encourage your faith as they show that a home is part of God's promises of prosperity. Learn how to believe for the finances to build your dream home and furnish it with all

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the house and bought another.

The LORD worked out a way for us to purchase the new house without having to borrow the money. It took less than one year to pay off the house. And, it took four more years to renovate it by using cash. In the meantime, we lived in several rental properties.

Throughout our five years and the Copelands' six years, we all had to stand our ground. Galatians 6:9 (AMP) tells us to "not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint."

There were times when we would get discouraged, wondering if we would ever move into our house. But we determined to "not lose heart and grow weary." We continued to stand on the Word and keep our eyes focused on the desired result.

We refused to give up and quit.

We were thankful for the quality decision to pay for and renovate the house debt free. We averted a 30-year mortgage, having to pay thousands of dollars in interest, and did not have to bow our knee to a lender.

You are only one decision away from your debt-free house.

Simply make the same quality decision that Kenneth and Gloria, Terri and I made years ago. Take your strong stand of faith in God's Word. Believe and receive Psalm 107:7 (*The Message*) that says, "He put your feet on a wonderful road that took you straight to a good place to live."

Say this out loud right now. "I speak to my house in the Name of Jesus and command it to come to me! No matter how long it takes, I am standing my ground, walking by faith and holding fast to the Word. I refuse to give up and quit. I believe I receive my beautiful, debt-free house NOW!" 🍷



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.



"If you make up your mind—make a quality decision—that you are not willing to live in lack, but that you are willing to live in divine prosperity and abundance, Satan cannot stop the flow of God's financial blessings."

Gloria

GoodNewsGazette

“...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.” (John 6:63)

Counting My Blessings

I'm a disabled veteran who has been saved by the blood of Jesus since 1997. I haven't drunk alcohol or done drugs since Aug. 4, 1997. I don't want to kill myself anymore and I've been off medication for depression for four years.

Prayer works when you know Jesus loves you. I never thought I was worth saving, but I was wrong. I heard that song “Count Your Blessings One by One” and I have a lot to be grateful for—mostly my love for Jesus. I really enjoyed Branson, Mo., last year and this year at Faith Life Church. I haven't had to use a cane since Gloria's Healing School in March 2012. R.D. | Wisconsin

Life Has Never Been Better

I received an email saying that someone was going to mail me a *From Faith to Faith* devotional, and I just want to thank whoever is sending or paying for this product. I just overcame a heroin addiction and now I'm currently going to church. I obtained my GED and my life has never been better, all thanks to the work of our Father. Thank you, again. It's all I can do since I don't have the resources coming right out of rehab, and that book besides the Bible helped me through some tough times. God bless. B.S. | West Virginia

Healed and Made Whole

We really appreciate your ministry. The convention in Fort Worth, Texas, was phenomenal! I was healed of kidney stones, and my husband was healed on his right foot. Glory to God! I'm ordering more *God's Prescription for Divine Health* books by Gloria Copeland. This book has [helped] people we've given it to get healed. One person got healed of bone marrow cancer and another person was healed from heart disease. The Word works! A.P. | Canada

THE BLESSING Has Benefits

I have been listening to your message for the *BVOV* broadcast from August 14, 2012, “The Benefits of THE BLESSING” many times over and over. Since knowing that

Abraham's blessings are mine, the Lord used the teaching to heal me of excessive coughing (I would have lost my job about a year ago)!

C.R. | Canada

Miraculous Recovery

In January 2012, my son's father-in-law, Simon, had a scan and was diagnosed with a large malignant tumor in his colon. Without surgery he was given two to six months to live. During surgery, they found that the tumor was not in his colon, but near his spine and pressing on his colon. It was very large and entwined around numerous nerves and blood vessels, making it inoperable. He was prescribed a course of chemotherapy for six months with the hope it would give him more time.

On May 30, halfway through the chemotherapy, he was rushed to the hospital with a blocked bowel and underwent surgery to remove the blocked section of the colon. During the operation, the surgeon noticed the large inoperable mass had not only shrunk, but was now soft and pliable. The surgeon was able to take hold of the tumor and unravel it from the surrounding nerves and pull the *whole tumor* out. The surgeon had never experienced this before and called it a miracle.

In June 2012, Simon was declared cancer-free. Simon and his mainly non-Christian family and friends say this is a miracle. We, as praying Christians, know this is clearly the power of God. I thank all the many people who were praying throughout Simon's treatment, including Kenneth Copeland Ministries' many prayers on the telephone. Praise God for answered prayer. May His Name be glorified.

J.C. | United Kingdom

It's Never Too Late

I rededicated my life to the Lord after reading the *BVOV* magazine. Now I can truly be a Partner with Kenneth and Gloria. M.K. | Texas

God's Mighty Hand of Protection

I would like to testify about divine protection and thank God for His mighty hand that kept me during a storm. The rain was so strong with hail, and the storm swept away a number of houses around here in Kroonstad. During that time I opened Psalm 91 and Isaiah 54, declaring the covenant of Noah. Oh, what a mighty God we serve! Then I continued to sing and worship God. Within less than 15 minutes the storm was still and we were spared. Glory to Jesus!

J.R. | South Africa

Great Grace

For the longest time, I had been trying to identify a nudging in my spirit. I was doing a check and balance in so many areas of my life, trying to solve the problem, but to no avail. Jeremy Pearsons said it plainly and I knew immediately this was the answer. He said, “That's the answer you've been looking for this entire time, your entire life, that's the solution for every problem...a manifestation of Jesus.” I am so grateful for HIS great grace!

E.G. | Louisiana

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Love From the Father

I wondered for years why I couldn't accept the love of God. Jeremy Pearsons' teaching revealed that it was because of the abuse experienced from those who claimed to love me. I don't want to reject God's love anymore. Thank you!

A.W. | Illinois

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, "Whoever 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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we have to allow God to
express His perfection in
our lives. We do that by
keeping His WORD.

by Kenneth Copeland



“Jesus left no room for compromise—especially when it comes to love.”



The world's systems and ideas are accepted as the norm, but they are not. God's WORD is the norm and the standard of life we are to maintain. Man was created to function on God's level. Adam walked on that level in the Garden of Eden; but when he disobeyed God, he fell from his position of fellowship and oneness with God. It took Jesus coming to earth as a man to reclaim the authority that Adam gave over to Satan. Today, every born-again believer can live on that supernatural level through the power of God's love, by the Holy Spirit.

I've heard the love walk described this way: "To walk in love, to live in this God kind of love, is like a man walking in a dense, early morning fog. He walks in it until his clothes are saturated with moisture, until the brim of his hat drips with water." You can walk in the love of God to the point that your whole being is saturated with love. Every word you speak drips with love and everyone you come in contact with is affected by that love. Hallelujah!

I have set myself and am determined to be "Holy-Spirit-possessed." I have made up my mind to come to that place in love—to be totally and completely filled with the Holy Spirit in every area of my being.

Become Love-Conscious

In studying the love of God, you must remember this: Walking in love is not just "being nice." Jesus was Love

manifested in the flesh, but there were times when He didn't appear to be "nice." One time He called the people snakes. He said, "Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers" (Matthew 23:33). Another time He called a Syrophenician woman a dog (Mark 7:27). It didn't sound very sweet, but His words were effective. They got her attention and penetrated her unbelief. When He got through to her, she quit

begging, looked Him straight in the face, and said, "yet the dogs under the table eat of the children's crumbs" (verse 28). She let Him realize she wasn't leaving there without the deliverance of her daughter. Jesus then said, "For this saying go thy way; the devil is gone out of thy daughter" (verse 29).

Love is a way of life—a life of being love-conscious instead of self-conscious. If you are not being love-conscious, you will always take the selfish route. Being love-conscious does not come automatically; it requires training. The WORD says we are to practice love. If we love one another, God dwells in us, and His love is perfected in us (1 John 4:12). As we love one another, God's love is perfected in us. Now you can see why walking in

love is walking in the highest spiritual realm of existence—you are walking in God and God is walking in you.

Human beings are supernatural beings. Every person has a deep desire to walk in the supernatural. It is that desire which motivated you to reach out to God.

The First Step

The first time you ever touched the realm of the miraculous was when you were born again. Someone preached The WORD of God to you. You called on the Name of Jesus and reached out into that realm. The experience of the new birth is the most miraculous event that will ever occur in your life. You were reborn from a death of trespass and sin and made alive to God. You were re-created and made to be righteous—a spotless child of the God of heaven and earth. "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17). You instantly became a new creature. One translation says you became "a new species of being that never existed before."

Some people have experienced only the new birth, not realizing God has provided much more. Many have taken a step further and experienced the infilling of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking with other tongues. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1, 4). With



Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:13-16

The things I am going to share with you now are the things that will put us in a position to walk in that fullness of greater works.

the Holy Spirit active in you, you have the ability to witness to the world of God's great power and love.

The Commitment

A few have decided to live in that realm, renewing their minds with The WORD and separating themselves from the carnal ways of the world: "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will

of God" (Romans 12:1-2).

This is the committed believer—one who has made the decision to be a holy vessel of honor, sanctified and meet for the Master's use, prepared unto every good work (2 Timothy 2:21). A born-again child of God is bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh, joined one spirit with The LORD (Ephesians 5:30; 1 Corinthians 6:17).

Standing in Full Measure

This is the ultimate realm of God's power and love—the place where all phases of ministry come together and operate at their fullest capacity.

God has been dealing with me

about walking in the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit. In my estimation, the best I have seen of spiritual gifts in operation has fallen short of what God wants to do.

I have been very blessed to see great and miraculous happenings, both in church congregations and out in the streets. I have seen the power of God in operation, but I have never yet walked away satisfied that God did *everything* He wanted to do. The time is coming and now is at hand for the fullness of the gifts of the Spirit to operate, for God to do what He has been wanting to do all these years. Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). The things I am going to share with you now are the things that will put us in a position to walk in that fullness of greater works.

We haven't reached that place yet, but we are headed that way now. Glory to God! We have finally come to the place where many of us are joining together and worshiping God in unity, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). That is one of the most important steps that has to happen.

"(Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:9-12).

God said this to me: *The time is coming and even now is, for people to walk in the fullness of their callings.* No, the day of the apostle is not over. The day of the prophet is not over. The evangelist and the pastor are not the only two ministries left in operation.

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More Than Enough

The day is coming soon when we will see people walk in apostolic and prophetic power in full measure. We will see people walk in the office of evangelist in such a way that it will shake and startle the world.

First Corinthians 12:28 refers to other ministries that have been set in the Body of Christ; “And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.”

Some people are called primarily to one office of ministry, such as miracles or gifts of healings. There are offices where people are called just to do miracles. There are people set in the Church to do nothing but minister healing to the congregation. Kathryn Kuhlman walked in that ministry. She preached to people who didn't know much about The WORD. God called her to minister in the gifts of healings; and thank God, she accepted it!

There is an office of governments and an office of helps. The office of helps is the most underdeveloped ministry in the Body of Christ today. It is a vital ministry, just as real and necessary as the office of pastor. God is raising up men and women in these last days to walk in the fullness of helps and governments. He said to me, *I will bless them for their commitment to see My covenant established in the earth. They will be there watching as the dead are raised and the blind see and the lame walk!* Praise God! Think about it—you and I seeing ministries operate in full measure.

The New Breed

Our job is to walk in love toward one another and walk in this magnificent realm of the miraculous.

“Speaking the truth in love, [we] may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole

body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” (Ephesians 4:15-16).

In the Greek text, the word *edify* means “to charge,” as you would “charge” a battery. As we edify one another in love, we pump one another full of power! By speaking the truth in love to each other, we grow up into Him in all things and walk the earth in full stature as believers continually building each other up with The WORD.

Jesus is not coming back for a weak, sickly Church that has been defeated and beaten down by Satan. No, praise God, we are going out of here in a blaze of glory!

You can walk in the realm of the miraculous, using the authority of God; but you will never do it until you put God's WORD first place in your life and walk in love. That is the realm of the miraculous!

In Deuteronomy 28, The WORD says, “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments [now there is only one to observe and do] which I command thee this day...all these blessings shall come upon thee and overtake thee...” (verses 1-14). Then you will be walking by faith on the highest level there is. God's miraculous power will operate in you and you will see great and mighty things take place.

You will be counted among “the new breed” that shall go forth to the world. You shall no longer walk as other gentiles walk in the vanity of their minds; but you shall walk in love *even as* Jesus walked—men and women knowing their full rights and privileges in Christ Jesus. You shall rise up, proclaiming the mighty Name of Jesus, and prepare the way of The LORD's coming! ①

Sometimes, when you tell people that God loves them (especially when they're in the midst of trouble or a trial), they act like it's no big deal. They aren't comforted or encouraged because they've let their problems become bigger in their mind than God. They've magnified their circumstances instead of the Lord, so they don't think His love is enough to get them through.

But the Bible says we should do just the opposite. It says we should magnify the Lord! How? By focusing our hearts, minds and mouths on Him until He is the biggest thing in our lives. We make Him big in our own sight by talking about His great power and love.

The fact is, no matter how much we magnify God, we'll never be able to make Him as big as He really is. We'll never be able to overestimate His love. God's love is so great, we'll spend eternity exploring it. He's so good that no matter how good we think He is...we'll continually discover He's better than we thought!

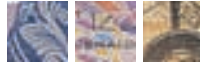
Some time ago, Ken and I received a letter from a little lady in Russia who had been watching our television broadcasts. Her letter blessed me tremendously. Even though she had more problems than most of us ever will, she was happy because she was confident in God's love, and she believed He could do anything for her.

“O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together.” Psalm 34:3

She told us how God had put food on her table and given her a place to live. She wrote about how greatly her life had improved since she'd found out about God's goodness and made Jesus her Lord. Then she said something that made me laugh out loud. Apparently on one of the broadcasts she watched, one of the ministers had said something about God being able to give you an airplane. (To those of us who are called to preach all over the world, an airplane is a great help!)

In response, she wrote something like this. “I like everything you say and agree with it. But I don't know what I would do with an airplane. It would be so much trouble for me. I'd have to hire a pilot and find a hangar where I could keep it. You have no idea how complicated that would get for me. If you don't mind, I think I'll just pass that blessing by. I don't think I want it.”

Isn't that wonderful? It never even occurred to this faith-filled little lady that God might not be willing or able to give her an airplane. She knew how big and loving He is. She had magnified Him greatly in her heart and life. In her mind, her problems were no big deal because she had magnified the Lord, and she knew He is more than enough! ①



by Keith A. Butler

Causing Your Nation to PROSPER

“God wants you to prosper.” :: I know, you’re probably thinking, *OK, we hear that all the time. So what else is new?* :: Well, I can’t say what I’m about to share is exactly new, because it’s been around at least since God first pronounced His blessings on Abraham. But I can for sure tell you that it’s true. God wants you to prosper. The Bible says so in 3 John 2: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”



The truth is God *does* want you to prosper. But there’s something else He desires. He wants you to go beyond seeking your own prosperity and start causing your nation to prosper. That’s right. It’s God’s ultimate desire that the entire world prosper, and He expects you to be right there in the middle of helping to make it happen.

You see, God may use His Word to deal with us as individuals, but there are times when He makes decisions or judgments that affect entire families or nations.

Let me show you what I’m talking about.

In Proverbs 14:34, the Bible says, “Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is

a reproach to any people.”

Take a look at those first two words: *righteousness* and *exalteth*.

The word *righteousness*, which literally means “justice,” comes from the word *righteous*, a word that is defined as “characterized by uprightness or morality.” As born-again believers, that describes who each of us has been made in Christ. Like Jesus, we are people of honesty, integrity and morality. We believe in justice.

To *exalt* means to “lift up.”

In other words, in order for our nation to be lifted up, it’s going to have to happen through the hands of the righteous. Why? Because, as we just read, righteousness exalts or lifts up a nation.

Who’s in Charge?

Notice what happens when the righteous are in authority or, as we would consider it in today’s society, in charge or control. In Proverbs 29:2, the Bible says: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

Why do you suppose the Bible says, “the people rejoice”?

It’s because when righteous people are in charge, justice prevails. And when justice prevails, you get honesty. You get fairness, compassion, peace and prosperity. In other words, things are done for the good of all.

Sadly, that’s not the case when it comes to



unrighteous, ungodly leaders ruling. The last part of that scripture proves it: “but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

I don’t have to tell you that wickedness is the same as sin. And the Bible

Whether it’s in your home or on the job, in the church or over your city, state or country, the person in charge—the one you have to follow—matters.



When righteous people are in charge, justice prevails. And when justice prevails, you get honesty. You get fairness, compassion, peace and prosperity. In other words, *things are done for the good of all.*



Did you catch what that scripture said in the last part of verse 26?

Not only did Nadab sin, but the entire nation followed his path and was led away into sin. A little further down in that same chapter, in verses 33 and 34, we see the same thing happening again: “In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.”

And in Chapter 22, we see wickedness continuing during the reign of Ahaziah, the son of Ahab. In each instance where a king “did evil in the sight of the Lord,” the nation he ruled over suffered. Its people paid the price.

Preparing to Prosper Your Nation

There are consequences to be paid for sin. But if you are walking in righteousness and living a life of obedience to God and His Word, you don’t have to worry about those things. You can rest assured that not only will you prosper, but your nation will also prosper.

It is vital that every believer see this. The reason Satan so desperately desires to destroy this country is because it is the lighthouse of the gospel

clearly states in Romans 6:23 that “the wages of sin is death.”

When wicked people rule, or are in control, the end result is always going to be death. It may not come in the form of physical death, but you can be assured the results are going to be bad. In Old Testament times, for instance, we saw it manifest in such forms as sickness,

disease, pestilence, plagues, famine—even death. And while those things happened back then, there is nothing that says they can’t be repeated in some form today.

The thing we have to understand, though, is these things all happened because of wickedness. They happened because the unrighteous were in control. And they happened to entire nations.

Look at what the Bible says in 1 Kings 15:25-26 about King Nadab, a ruler over Israel: “And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.”

In each instance where a king “did evil in the sight of the Lord,” the nation he ruled over suffered.

Its people paid the price.

for the entire world. But God is not about to see that happen. He has a job for this country to do, and to help get the job done He has placed you in this nation—a nation that from its very beginning started out with the purpose of bringing all mankind back to Him.

He has brought people from every part of the globe and opened the door to the gospel to those who have never heard it preached before. More money is spent in the United States to evangelize its own citizens and to evangelize other countries, than all the other nations

of the world combined. And more missionaries come from America than all other parts of the world combined.

In God’s grand scheme of things, that can only continue until the whole world knows that Jesus is Lord, and He saves, heals, delivers and sets free.

How will this happen? It will happen through believers like you and me—people who are committed to stand firm on God’s Word, walk in obedience to what He tells us to do, and always do good in His sight.

The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6:17-19, “Ye

shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers. To cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the Lord hath spoken.”

Notice what it says in verse 18: “And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee.”

That’s the key. If we do “that which is right and good,” then the Bible says, “it may be well with thee.”

Do you understand what the phrase “well with thee” means? It means that things will work out for you, you’re going to wind up being blessed coming in and blessed going out; blessed whether you’re in the suburb, the city or urban America. It means you’ll live in peace and not fear. It means sickness and disease will not come near your dwelling, and that destruction and calamity will pass over you.

“Well with thee” means you will prosper. And because you prosper, so will your family and your nation.

Friend, who is in control does matter. Whether it’s in your home or on the job, in the church or over your city, state or country, the person in charge—the one you have to follow—matters.

The Bible declares that through God you have been made righteous. You are the seed of Abraham, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. As the righteousness of God, you have authority—not only over your life and destiny, but over that of your nation.

You can cause your nation to prosper! ⑦

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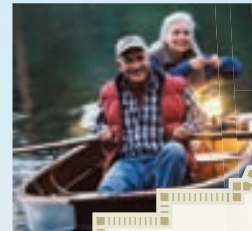
Keith A. Butler is founder of Word of Faith International Christian Center in Southfield, Mich., and serves as senior pastor of Faith4Life churches in Round Rock and Dallas, Texas, and in Jackson, Miss. For more information, go to wordoffaith-icc.org.

Living by faith
in God's Word is the best decision Ken and I ever made. We've been at it a long
time now, and I can say that without hesitation.



— by Gloria Copeland —

What a Way to Live!



Over the past 45 years, God has answered our every prayer of faith. He's given us everything we have believed for. Although we've faced challenges and gone through some tough times, we've never lacked for anything. We've been absolutely, completely BLESSED!

I suppose that's one reason we never get tired of preaching. We want everyone everywhere to get in on the faith life.

There are some people, however, who don't share our enthusiasm.

"Those Copelands are fanatics!" they say. "They think they can have whatever the Bible



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7 p.m. Kenneth Copeland

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promises just because they believe it. That's crazy!"

Bless their hearts. I just can't understand those people. Maybe they heard erroneous reports about the faith message. Maybe someone told them God doesn't keep His promises today. But whatever their reasons for turning down the opportunity, I wish I could convince them all that living by faith in the Word isn't crazy—it's great!

Faith will heal your body. It will straighten out your children. It will cause your finances to flourish. Faith will remove limitations and conquer anything the world can throw at you because, as 1 John 5:4 says, "This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith."

It's no wonder God said:

A righteous person will live by faith. (Hebrews 10:38, *New Living Translation*)

Have faith in God [constantly]. (Mark 11:22, *The Amplified Bible*)

It is impossible to please God without faith. (Hebrews 11:6, *NLT*)

As far as God is concerned, faith is non-negotiable!

Why? Because we don't receive like He wants us to without it...and our receiving is extremely important to Him! After all, He sent Jesus to the cross to take upon Himself the whole curse—every sickness, every disease, all poverty and every other kind of defeat—so that we could be BLESSED.

He paid the price of His own blood to purchase our salvation, our deliverance, our healing and our prosperity. He sacrificed His own Son to provide us with abundant life—and the only way for us to fully receive it is *by faith!*

"But Gloria," you might say, "living by faith takes a lot of effort. Can't I just leave everything up to God and hope for the best? Can't I just let Him give me whatever He thinks I need?"

You can, but you'll miss out on a lot because that's not the way He designed things to work. As one of my favorite preachers says, "We can't leave up to God what He has left up to us." And He gave us the responsibility of receiving His blessings by faith.

I'm not saying that we shouldn't hope for things. Hope is good—and it certainly beats hopelessness. But hope by itself won't change our lives. It takes faith to do that.

As Hebrews 11:1 says, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is what turns hoping into having! So let's check up on ourselves today. Let's take a fresh look at how faith acts and make sure we are really doing what it takes to live by faith.

Faith Hears

No matter how many years we've been walking with the Lord, this never changes: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Faith

that is vibrant and alive is faith that hears!

That means our first priority as faith people must be spending time in the Word. Without the Word, the principles of faith become nothing but an empty formula—a formula that doesn't work.

Ken and I learned this from Brother Kenneth E. Hagin back when Ken was a 30-year-old freshman at Oral Roberts University. We had two little children at home, no money to spare and we could hardly afford the gas to drive across town. But when Brother Hagin started holding 10-day faith seminars, we did whatever it took to be in every meeting. We drove through rain, sleet and snow because we knew we had to hear the Word!

Although that was years ago, I still have the same attitude. I never let a day go by without spending time in God's Word. If you're going to live by faith, neither should you. Why? Because the Word is what supplies you with the faith you need to receive God's blessings. It's where your life is. It's where your healing is. It's where your prosperity is. It's where you'll find the solutions to the problems in your family.

Amazing things happen when you keep the Word in front of your eyes and in your ears so that it gets into your heart in abundance. It starts

talking to you on the inside. It gives you answers to the questions you're facing. If your body starts feeling symptoms of sickness, the Word will speak up inside you and say, *Jesus bore your sicknesses and carried your diseases.* If you get a bill in the mail you didn't expect, it will say, *God meets your needs according to His riches in glory.*

Daily time in the Word helps you think like God does about any challenge that comes your way. It fuels your faith so you can get where you need to go!

Faith Believes

Although it might not be necessary to remind you that *faith believes* (since, by definition, faith is believing) we all need to be refreshed now and then on this particular point: Believing and doubting cannot coexist. Therefore, to live by faith we must keep doubt out!

In Mark 11:23, Jesus put it this way: "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 whatsoever he saith.*" (emphasis mine)

This is where many Christians get tripped up. They start out strong, believing God for something, but then they find themselves thinking, *What if my faith doesn't work? What if*

I didn't pray right? What if this doesn't work out?

Those kinds of thoughts come to all of us. The devil is an expert at sending them into our minds. But here's the good news: Those thoughts don't become ours until we start entertaining them. They don't take power until we speak them. (See Matthew 6:31.)

Remember that the next time you're believing to be healed and you have the thought, *I'm not going to get healed this time.* Acknowledge where that thought came from and spit it right back in Satan's face. Say, "Devil, you're a liar and I rebuke you! I AM healed by the stripes of Jesus and I believe it!"

Then spend some extra time meditating on scriptures that promise you what you're believing for. Fill your heart with them until it overflows. Kick doubt out of your heart and mouth with the Word of God.

Faith Speaks

According to what Jesus said in Mark 11:23, another indication that we're truly operating by faith is this: We talk to the situations in our lives and say what we're believing.

That's what Jesus did when He encountered the fruitless fig tree in Mark 11. He spoke to it by faith and said, "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever" (verse 14).



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Courage Comes From Faith

“Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.” (Joshua 1:9)

Courage comes from trusting God. It can't be mentally drummed up. It comes from believing what God says, regardless of what the circumstances look like. Courage comes from faith!

Where does discouragement come from? From fear and unbelief. It comes when you listen to the devil's lies about what God is *not* going to do for you.

As the people of God, you and I must shake off discouragement and rise up with courage! We must quit looking at our own abilities, failures and limitations and start looking to God. We must rise up in the Name of Jesus and the power of His Spirit and establish the kingdom of heaven upon earth.

If you've been discouraged lately, stop listening to Satan's lies. Stop receiving evil reports. Whenever someone tells you God is not going to deliver you, you tell them, “He's already delivered me, in the Name of Jesus.”

Once you begin to realize who you are and what you've been given by the power of God, you'll quit letting the devil run all over you. God didn't suggest that you be strong and courageous. That is His command! **▼**

Why did He say that? Because the fig tree was out of line with the will of God. Its job was to be a blessing to Jesus and provide Him with food when He was hungry. But instead it became a hindrance.

In essence that tree said to Jesus, “I don't care if You are the Son of God, You're not getting any figs off me!” So He answered it with words that went right to the root of the problem. By the next day the tree had withered up and died!

Wouldn't you like to be able to do that with the hindrances in your life?

According to Jesus, you can!

He said, “*Whosoever...shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass...shall have whatsoever he saith.*” That means you can command problems to be gone; you can command resources to come; you can tell your body it is healed; and if you believe what you say comes to pass, it will happen.

To do this, however, you must develop confidence in your words. You must practice speaking in line with the Bible and believing all the time that you will have what you say. As Ken and I found out early on, that's not easy. When we first started trying to talk by faith, we messed up all the time and said things we didn't want to come to pass. When we did, we'd repent and say, “I cancel that out in the Name of Jesus.” Then we'd re-establish our declaration of faith.

Because we'd spent years speaking unbelief, it took a while to turn our mouths around. Now, after years of speaking faith, we're more adept at it. We don't wait until we have symptoms of sickness to speak healing anymore. We confess that we're healed all the time. It's working, too! I celebrated my 71st birthday this year and I'm still full of energy and going strong. I'm not on any prescription drugs, either. Neither is Ken. We don't need them because our faith speaks. We faithfully feed on God's Word—daily. We have what we say, and we say we're well!

Faith Takes and Faith Possesses

In Mark 11:24, Jesus identified two more characteristics of faith we must have if we're going to operate in it successfully. He said, “What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”

The word translated *receive* in that verse can also be translated *take*. It's a more aggressive word than most people think. It means “to lay hold of; to take in order to carry away; to claim or procure for one's self and not let go; to seize or apprehend.”

Receiving isn't just praying for something and hoping it happens. Receiving is reaching out with the hand of faith and taking what you pray for. Say, for example, you're asking God for a car. If you're operating in faith, instead of just saying, “Lord, I'd like to have a car,” you say something like this: “Heavenly Father, You promised to supply all my needs and I believe it. So I'm asking You for a car and I take it by faith right now.”

Once you've said that, you act on Jesus' promise. He said if you “believe that ye receive...ye shall *have*.” *To have* means “to possess,” so you take possession of that car by faith. You say, “Thank You, Lord, that I have it!” From that point on, you think and talk like the car is already yours.

Most of the time things don't happen instantly, so days, weeks or months might pass before your new car actually shows up. So what do you do? You keep saying, “I have” and you keep thanking God for it. You maintain possession of it by faith until it manifests.

Ken and I have seen this work again and again in every area of our lives. We've not only laid hold of healing and finances this way, we've gotten answers to our prayers for our children. Our son, John, for example, was a bit on the wild side when he was young. But we prayed that he would walk with the Lord and turn out right. We believed and wouldn't

let go. Today, all that wild stuff he did when he was a kid is done and gone. He's a very good man. He loves the Lord, he's a great father and he's the executive director of this ministry.

What happened in John's life? Faith won!

It always does.

Faith Fights

If you're wondering right now if those kinds of faith victories are available to you, I can assure you they are. God's Word says so. There is one thing you must keep in mind, though: Such victories often involve a fight!

To walk in everything Jesus purchased for us on the cross, we have to take a stand against the devil. Satan

is a persistent cuss and he'll try his best to discourage us and get us to doubt. He'll do everything he can to delay things and make them difficult for us.

As faith people, however, we don't quit just because we have to stand for a while. We don't give in to the devil's tactics. When we find ourselves in trouble or in a tight place and it looks like there's no way out, we stick with the faith program until what we're believing for comes to pass. We keep on keeping on until we can say like Paul did: "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to

me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

The faith life may not always be easy, but it's always worth the effort. There's no better life on earth. So let's live it to the max! Let's believe God every day—not just so we can receive what He wants us to have down here, but so we can have a crown waiting for us when we get to heaven.

Let's keep living by faith until the day comes when we hear Jesus say, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"



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

I've heard people talk about "the prayer of faith" but I'm not sure I understand how to pray the prayer of faith. Would you please explain it to me?

To understand how to pray the prayer of faith we need first of all to understand what faith is, and Hebrews 11:1 gives us the answer: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." *The Amplified Bible* says, "[faith perceiving as real fact what is not revealed to the senses]."

We also need to know how to develop faith if we are going to pray in faith. Romans 10:17 tells us: "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

From these scriptures we understand the prayer of faith, then, is a prayer that is based on God's WORD and

it is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen. When you pray the prayer of faith you start with the answer, The WORD, instead of the problem. God's WORD holds the answer to your situation. So if you're sick, find healing scriptures; if you have a financial need, find promises in The WORD about provision.

Then when you pray, say what The WORD says about your situation. Believe it, declare it and continue to confess God's WORD over that situation.

Call those things that be not as though they were. Before you see any evidence of change, believe that it's done according to The WORD of God. See yourself with

the answer. See it on the inside, act like you already have it and praise God for the answer!

It's also important to realize that the prayer of faith changes *things*, not God. You're not trying to convince God to do something for you... He's already given you the victory. So renew your mind to what The WORD

says, then let that be the final authority. That problem may represent the facts, but if you will stay on The WORD, the Truth will change the facts!

Faith requires no outside evidence or support. God's WORD is faith's final answer. Faith praises God for the answer before it is manifest to the five physical senses.

The prayer of faith will work if you'll stand on The WORD of the living God instead of believing the circumstances. Contrary evidence of the senses is no reason for doubting. The evidences on which our faith rests are far more reliable—they are eternal. God's WORD never fails.

Make a point of reminding yourself and reminding the devil that you are not *going* to believe God but you have *already* believed God. Many times when I pray, I actually take my foot and draw a line across the floor and say, "That's the line of faith. As I step over it I believe I

receive the promise. Now Father, I have prayed the prayer of faith in the Name of Jesus. I believe that I have the petition that I desire of You. I've stepped over this line of faith and I'm never going back. As far as I'm concerned, it's done. Amen, so be it."

Now, when there is a contrary symptom or negative words spoken by others to try and make me believe something other than what I've prayed, I refer to that moment when I crossed the line of faith. It helps me stay focused in my mind. It helps me take a stand against fear. It reminds me that I have believed God and now I'm walking in faith, expecting the desired result.

Victory is inevitable—for you and for me—if we'll stay in faith and not quit.



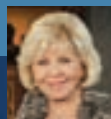
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- Sept. 30-Oct. 4** **How to Believe God for a House—Part 2**
Gloria Copeland and George Pearsons
- Sun., Oct. 6** **Breathe In God's Life**
Kenneth Copeland
- Oct. 7-11** **Faith for Life**
Kenneth Copeland and Keith Butler
- Sun., Oct. 13** **Authorized to Be Strong**
Kenneth Copeland
- Oct. 14-18** **The Revelation of Jesus and Who He Is**
Kenneth Copeland and Keith Butler
- Sun., Oct. 20** **God Working in You and Through You**
Kenneth Copeland
- Oct. 21-25** **The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength**
Gloria Copeland
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