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## KENNETH COPELAND'S PARTNER LETTER P.9

"I write the letters because I want to BLESS my Partners.... I want to share with them the revelations God has given me."

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# Editor's Letter



## Second Chance!

Most of us have been there. We look to the start of a new year as the *perfect time* to start over—to get a better grip on those things we intended to do last year that either we never got around to, or we started but never finished. Maybe it was to eat right, exercise more and shed unwanted pounds. Or perhaps our goal was to do a better job at work; improve our relationships with others; or maybe even develop a closer, more intimate relationship with the Lord. The idea is to take advantage of a new beginning—an opportunity to start over and prayerfully succeed.

Now that we're three months into the new year, let me ask: How's it going?" If you answered something like, "Not too well, but I'm working on it," I understand. I'm right there with you.

I'm glad to know there are second chances. And I'm even more thankful that, as a Christian, my second chances don't come only at certain times of the year. Lamentations 3:22-23 gives that assurance: "It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." God knows everything about us. He's watching when we mess up, slip up or just plain miss the mark. And He loves us so much that He is not willing to make us wait a year, a month or even a day to get back on track. He makes His mercies, His second chances, available to us every day.

Whatever you intended to do in 2021 but failed to accomplish, whatever commitment you made that slipped away, don't fret or feel guilty over it. God has provided a second chance for you to start over. His mercies are not far off in another year; they are right here, right now.

This month, we share the story of how Kenneth Copeland's Partner Letter began. And speaking of goals, read how an injury brought Creflo Dollar's dream of playing professional football to a screeching halt, and how one word from a fellow athlete put him on a different playing field—one that helped him realize that having a relationship with the Lord is "like winning the Super Bowl."

Enjoy!

Ronald C. Jordan  
Managing Editor



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**"Trust and faith are not synonymous—even though they are often treated that way."**

—Mac Hammond

Pass this magazine on to a family member or friend.



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 49 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His WORD and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

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by Kenneth Copeland



# DOING BUSINESS WITH JESUS

Misguided religious traditions are sneaky. Even after you've learned better than to believe them, they can creep back into your thinking. Unscriptural teachings about finances are especially insidious. If you don't watch out, they can slip up on you because they've been so prevalent over the years.

One reason I teach for at least a few minutes about heaven's economics in almost all my meetings is because our minds need to be continually renewed in that area. Otherwise, wrong things we've heard can start sounding right again. We can start thinking things like, *Maybe it's not really God's will for me to prosper. After all, Jesus is my example, and He was poor when He was on earth.*

"Well," someone might say, "Jesus actually *was* poor, wasn't He?"

No, He wasn't!

That would have been a scriptural impossibility. God always keeps His WORD, and He told

the Israelites in Deuteronomy 15:4 that if they obeyed Him, "There should be no poor among you" (*New Living Translation*).

Did Jesus obey God?

Certainly, He did! He's The WORD incarnate.

Plus, He was a tither, which means He qualified for the promise in Malachi 3:10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." For

Jesus to be poor, God would have had to break that promise, and He DOES NOT break His promises.

"But Brother Copeland, the Bible does tell us that Jesus' disciples were poor. In Luke 9:3, it says He sent them out to minister without food, money or even

**When you're working for a Man who can take a little boy's lunch and feed 10,000 people with it, you are not going to lack.**





## EVENTS 2022

### Branson

#### Victory Campaign

April 7-9 | Branson, Mo.

### Sacramento

#### Victory Campaign

May 12-14 | North Highlands, Calif.

### Knoxville

#### Victory Campaign

May 26-28 | Knoxville, Tenn.

### Fargo

#### Victory Campaign

June 16-18 | Fargo, N.D.

## Southwest Believers' Convention

Aug. 1-6

Fort Worth, Texas

**Kenneth Copeland is also speaking here:**

#### Word of His Power Conference

Feb. 18-20

North Miami Beach, Fla.

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For updated event information visit:

**KCM.ORG/EVENTS**



Schedule is subject to change without notice.

a change of clothes.”

He didn't do that because they were poor! He did it because they were rich. Every one of Jesus' disciples was a wealthy man. He told them when He called them into His service not to bring their wealth with them because He didn't want them relying on their own resources. He wanted them to learn how to live by faith in God and experience His supernatural provision.

Jesus' disciples didn't wear the same clothes for three years! They didn't go hungry and do without. Are you kidding me? When you're working for a Man who can take a little boy's lunch and feed 10,000 people with it, you are not going to lack, and the disciples didn't either.

They testified to it themselves in Luke 22:35. There, Jesus asked them after they'd been with Him for three years, “When I sent you without purse, and scrip, and shoes, lacked ye any thing? And they said, Nothing.”

“But what about the story of the rich young ruler?” you might ask. “Didn't Jesus essentially tell him to take a vow of poverty? That to get right with God he had to give away everything he had?”

No. That is not what Jesus said. According to Mark 10, the young ruler came running to Jesus, kneeled before Him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17, *New King James Version*).

So Jesus said to him,

“Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery,’ ‘Do not murder,’ ‘Do not steal,’ ‘Do not bear false witness,’ ‘Do not defraud,’ ‘Honor your father and your mother.’” And he answered and said to Him, “Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth.” Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me” (verses 18-21, *NKJV*).

#### What To Say When You Don't Understand

Jesus didn't ask that man to embrace poverty! He didn't tell him to give away everything he had.

He told him to sell it and give to the poor.

What's the difference? When a man starts selling and giving at Jesus' direction, he's essentially going into business with Him, which means he's about to become wealthier than he's ever been in his life. Not only is he about to have abundant treasure in heaven, he's setting himself up to receive a hundredfold return here on earth.

The young ruler didn't understand this. He didn't stick around long enough for Jesus to explain it to him, either. Instead, he was saddened by Jesus' words and “went away grieved” (verse 22).

Grief is a killer that will cause you to make stupid decisions. It's brought about by a heavy sense of loss, and to the young ruler giving represented loss. Once he heard the word *give*, sorrow overtook him and he didn't hear anything else. As a result, he missed out on the biggest thing Jesus said: “Come; follow Me.” Talk about missing out on the invitation of a lifetime! The only people to whom Jesus said those words became Apostles of the Lamb.

The young ruler could have and should have accepted that invitation. He could have said, “Jesus, I don't understand why You're asking me to sell what I have and give to the poor, but I'm not leaving You. You have the words of life, and I'm staying with You.” Then he would have been there when Jesus told His disciples a few moments later, “Whatever anyone gives up for God's kingdom will be multiplied back to them a hundredfold.”

Jesus fully intended for the rich young ruler to hear that. But he chose to leave instead. What's more, Jesus didn't stop him. He let him go.

This is something you need to know about The LORD: He is not going to explain to you why He wants you to do something before He tells you to do it. If He did, you wouldn't be walking by faith you'd be walking by sight.

Fifty-five years ago, when He told me, *Kenneth*, I want you to preach the uncompromised message of faith on every available voice, that's all He said. He didn't tell me all it would involve. He just gave me the command, and I said, “Yes, Sir.”

Shortly thereafter, He spoke to me about going on radio. Already preaching almost seven days a week, I did not want to do it. So, I put it off

for a while. When The LORD got onto me about it, I said, “You spoke to Moses through a burning bush. I claim a burning bush experience. If You give me one, I’ll go on the radio.”

Don’t ever be that stupid. If God tells you to do something, just do it. Don’t ask for a sign, just obey. Back then, I didn’t have that much sense. So, in His mercy, God accommodated me. One day the phone rang in our little office and my secretary told me it was Jimmy Swaggart calling.

I thought she was joking. Brother Swaggart was on radio stations all over the country, and we’d never even met.

“Really, it’s him!” my secretary said. Doubtfully, I picked up the phone.

“Why aren’t you on the radio?!” Jimmy hollered. Then he proceeded to tell me he was going to set me up with his media buyer and help me get started.

*There’s your burning bush,* The LORD said.

See? God already had a plan, and it was already underway. Before He ever told me to go on the radio, Jimmy Swaggart was already listening to my tapes and getting excited about my ministry. But The LORD didn’t tell me that. He didn’t say, “Now, I’ve contacted Jimmy. He’s going to help you get on the radio. So, don’t worry.”

No, He wanted me to walk by faith.

That’s what Jesus wanted the rich young ruler to do! He wanted him to step out by faith, trusting that whatever Jesus asked him to do would ultimately work to his benefit. But instead, he walked away. Afterward, Jesus said to His disciples, “How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!” (verse 23, *NKJV*).

If the disciples had been poor men, they would have immediately agreed with Jesus. “Yes! Preach it!” they would have said. But instead, they “were astonished at His words... Who then can be saved?” they asked (verses 24, 26).

Jesus answered them by saying again, “Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!” (verse 24). In other words, He told them the riches aren’t really the issue. The trouble comes from putting your faith in them instead of in God.

That was the young ruler’s problem. He didn’t live by faith in God. He lived by faith in his money. He would have had to change his way of operating to obey Jesus. He would have had to use his faith first to sell, then to find out where to give. He wasn’t used to doing that. He was accustomed to being financially independent, buying whatever he wanted whenever he wanted, and paying whatever price he wanted to pay.

# “Riches aren’t really the issue.

THE TROUBLE COMES FROM PUTTING YOUR FAITH IN THEM INSTEAD OF IN GOD.”



POINTS  
TO GET  
YOU  
THERE:

**1**

Jesus wasn’t poor when He was on earth; that would have been scripturally impossible because He obeyed God and was a tither.

(Mal. 3:10)

**2**

Jesus’ disciples weren’t poor either; they were all wealthy when Jesus called them and during their three years with Him, He provided well for them.

(Luke 22:35)

**3**

Some have taught that Jesus told the rich young ruler to simply give away everything he had; but that’s not actually what He said.

(Mark 10:21)

**4**

Jesus wasn’t trying to take from that young man, He was trying to get something to him.

(Mark 10:22)

**5**

When you start selling and giving at Jesus’ direction, you’re going into business with Him. You’re about to become wealthier than you’ve ever been.

(Mark 10:29-30)

### **The Best Deal Isn't Always the Best Deal**

As believers, we can sometimes make the same mistake. As all our needs begin to be satisfied and we begin to prosper we can forget to look to God for financial guidance. When we see something we want, we can just think, *Well, I have the money; I believe I'll buy that*, without asking God about it at all.

"But Brother Copeland, I always try to be a good steward of my money. I get the best deal on everything I possibly can."

That may be true, but sometimes what you consider a good deal can be very different from what God has in mind. I was reminded of this one time when I was thinking about buying a little twin-engine plane. I wanted it just for my own personal use and could easily afford it, so I could have just found one through a trade magazine and bought it. But instead, I took some time to pray about it—and am I glad I did!

As I began to pray, what came out of my mouth surprised me. Rather than simply asking God to lead me to the right plane, as I'd intended, I said, "LORD, there's someone crying out to You right now. They have a Beechcraft Baron they need to sell, and I can answer that need."

Those words were prophetic! As it turned out, a woman in Harrison, Ark., who had suddenly been widowed, desperately needed to sell the Beechcraft Baron that had belonged to her husband. The woman's daughter went to Keith Moore's church in Branson. She requested prayer regarding the situation, and I heard about it.

When I did, I got excited. Widows are dear to God's heart! He commands us in 1 Timothy 5 to take special care of them, and it was clear He wanted me to help this dear lady. I called her and said, "How much do you need to get for your husband's plane?"

"Brother Copeland," she replied, "right now the plane isn't worth that much because of the recession."

"I didn't ask you what it was worth," I said, "I want to know what you need." She told me; then I had an appraisal done on the plane and sure enough it came in at less than she needed. I bought the plane anyway and paid the appraisal amount plus enough extra to make up the difference.

I wasn't at the airport when they closed the deal, but I found out later her lawyer, trying to protect her interest, said, "She is not going to pay for the appraisal you ordered!"

"No, she's not," replied my representative. "Brother Copeland has already paid for the appraisal, and he's paying her more than her airplane is worth." Another man who happened to be standing there heard the exchange and said, "That's how a ministry ought to be!" Then everyone in the room

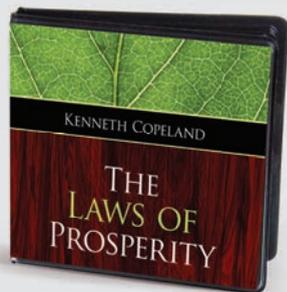
started crying. News quickly spread all over the airport about what had been done for this widow, and God got the glory!

Afterward, I thought, *What am I going to do with this airplane?* I looked to The LORD, and before long a man contacted me wanting to buy it. He gave me more for it than I paid.

Hallelujah! It's wonderful doing business with Jesus! When you do deals His way, you get to be a BLESSING and be BLESSED.

If the rich young ruler had stuck around long enough, he would have found this out. But he didn't. At least, not right then. Later though, it seems he caught hold of this revelation and became known as Barnabas, one of the most notable givers in the early Church; a man who had most assuredly learned the lesson Jesus ultimately taught His disciples in Mark 10:29-30: "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life." 📖

**"As all our  
needs begin  
to be satisfied  
and we begin to  
prosper we can  
forget to look to  
God for financial  
guidance."**



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*“The LORD has BLESSED me with many good friends over the years, but the best friends I have are the people who have partnered with me in this ministry. Those are the people I write letters to every month.”*

## KENNETH COPELAND'S PARTNER LETTER

Every month since penning his first Partner Letter in February 1986, Kenneth Copeland has faithfully fulfilled his commitment to write a letter and send it to all his Partners, year in and year out, without fail. It's timely, it's real and it's personal...

because as far as Brother Copeland is concerned, he's writing to his closest friends.

### A Lifelong Commitment

Kenneth Copeland learned the importance of letter writing from his

spiritual father, Oral Roberts, years ago when the two met early one morning at Brother Roberts' request to have Kenneth “help him” write his own partner letter. Sitting across the desk, Brother Roberts held up his Bible and asked Kenneth a pointed question:

“What is this?”

“That's The WORD of God.”

“What is this?” Brother Roberts asked again.

Kenneth knew he hadn't given the right answer, and he tried again.

“Well, it's the Old Covenant and the New Covenant.”

“What is this?” Brother Roberts asked a third time.

“It's the Bible.”

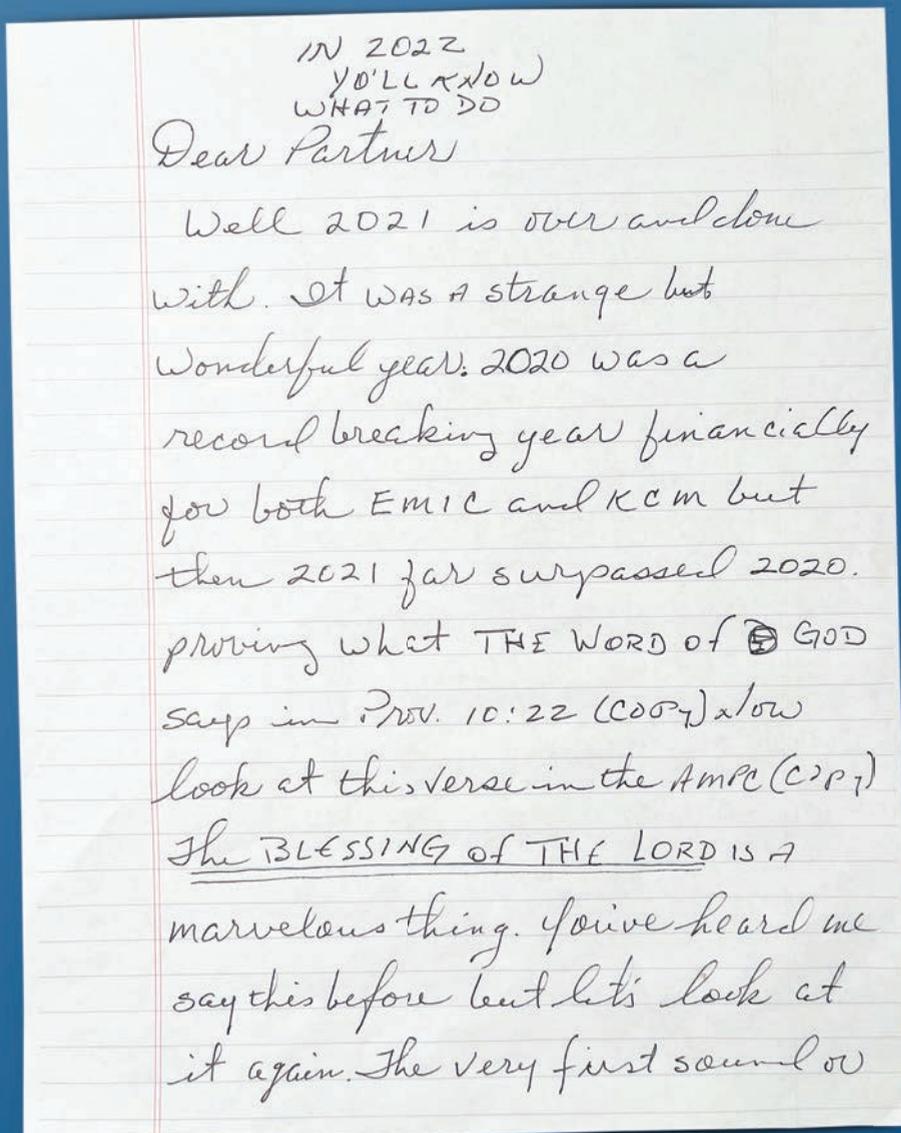
Wham! Without warning, Brother Roberts “shovel-passed” the Bible across the desk and hit Kenneth right in the chest with it—nearly knocking him over in his chair.

“Those are letters!” he said, the anointing all over him. “And they're just as anointed today as they were the day they were written!”

Letters!

The word reverberated to Kenneth's core. He thought, *The New Testament is mostly letters from the Apostle Paul to his partners in the churches at Ephesus, Philippi, Galatia, Corinth, Rome, Colossae and Thessalonica—letters written to encourage them and*

**“I write the letters because I want to BLESS my Partners. Since they are partakers of my grace (Philippians 1:7), I want to share with them the revelations God has given me.”**



to help them overcome every obstacle!

Then, Brother Roberts spoke again:

“I’m going to ask you to make one of the most serious commitments you’ve ever made in your life,” he told Kenneth. “I want you to commit to God that every 30 days, for the rest of your life, you will pray in the Holy Ghost until you have something anointed to write to your partners, just the way Paul wrote to his.”

That day, Kenneth made a lifelong commitment. The LORD then led him to study Philippians—a letter from Paul to *his* ministry partners—as an example of how the Holy Spirit could use him to write his own letters.

“From that time until now,” says Kenneth, “I’ve written a letter every month to my friends who are in partnership with me. They aren’t money-raising letters. I don’t write them for that reason. God is my Source, and *He* meets all my needs. I write the letters because I want to BLESS my Partners. Since they are partakers of my grace (Philippians 1:7), I want to share with them the revelations God has given me.”

And they aren’t off-the-cuff revelations.

Each letter represents hours upon hours of prayer on Brother Copeland’s part. Through them, he personally shares the things The LORD is teaching him with a desire that they will strengthen and encourage all who receive them.

“I agonize over those letters,” says Kenneth. “I pray...and pray...and pray...and pray. Then I go back to prayer until I hear what’s on God’s heart. Sometimes it comes to me in the middle of the night. But one thing’s for sure—I wait until I hear from

heaven. I don’t just sit down and put something on paper.”

Perhaps no one knows better the time and commitment Kenneth spends each month writing his Partner Letter than members of his own family.

“Mother and Daddy have always been committed to our Partners,” says daughter Kellie Copeland, who remembers growing up watching her dad handwrite the Partner Letter each month.

Kellie recalled how her dad would routinely spend hours, with pen and legal pad at hand, “praying over the Partner Letter until he hears from the Lord.”

“We would go on vacation, and if it was time for the Partner Letter, Dad wouldn’t do anything until it was written. He wouldn’t ski. He wouldn’t go to the lake. He wouldn’t budge from his chair until it was finished. It was like the Partners were on vacation with us.

“And when he had finished writing, if he couldn’t hold that letter up and say from his heart to the Lord, ‘This is what You’re saying to the people, and this is to get their needs met—not mine,’ I don’t care how great a letter it was, he would wad it up, throw it on the floor, and start over again.”

### **The Heartbeat of Ministry**

Since its inception, Kenneth Copeland’s Partner Letter has been not only an encouragement to Partners, but also a source of truth and victory. For instance, when a recession hit Canada several years ago, one Partner there remembered the instruction the Lord had given her through Brother Copeland’s Partner Letter in February 1992: *Don’t join the recession! So she didn’t. After heeding that word, the Holy Spirit instructed her to take it a step further and pray the recession would work for her and not against her.*

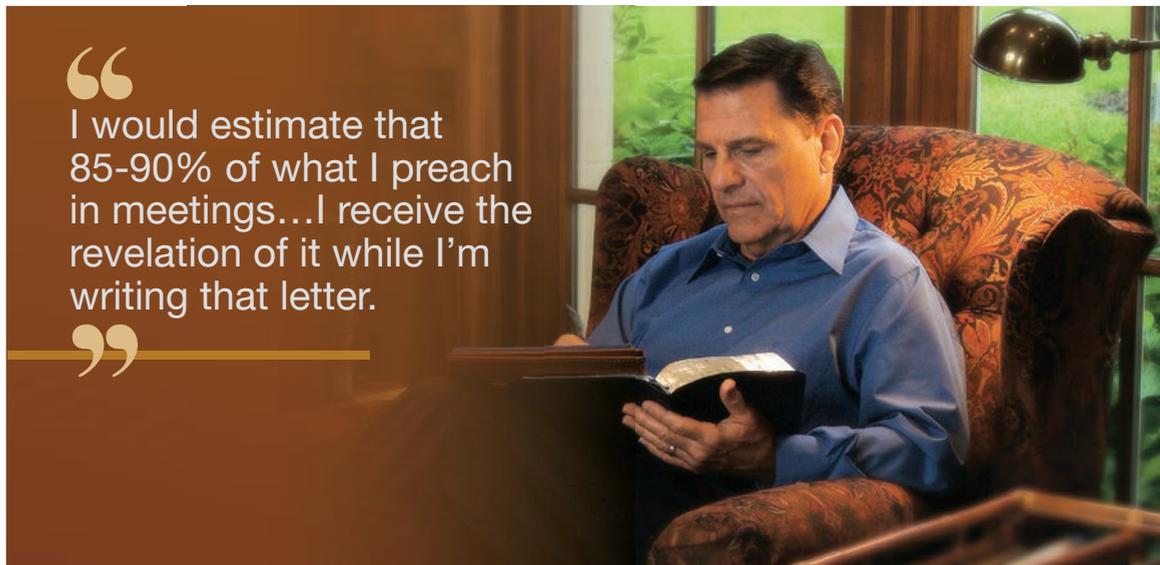
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“ I would estimate that 85-90% of what I preach in meetings...I receive the revelation of it while I’m writing that letter.

”



# First Partner Letter

## FEB 1986

Brother Copeland recounts, “The first thing that happened was, instead of being a victim of downsizing in her company as a result of the recession, she was promoted to a position in human resources.” Soon after, she was given the opportunity to finish her education. “As the world around her was going through a recession, she chose to participate in THE BLESSING of provision and promotion in God!”

Recently, a Partner wrote to express how grateful she was for the Partner Letter. She said, in part: “I just received my Partner Letter and I am praising God for Kenneth and his ability to let God just flow through him. In the very first paragraph, God came right through his words and into my exact circumstances. My daughter, who is in her 30s, was hospitalized suddenly for what the doctors thought was a slight stroke...God, in His grace, in two days, brought it all to nothing and she is home today normal as can be. Also I have major tax debt to the IRS. Your letter pointed these two things out specifically and I felt God say, *Honey, I know and you know I’ve got you covered by grace through your faith.* Just had to thank you for delivering this miracle word.”

Moreover, Kenneth Copeland’s Partner Letters have become the heartbeat of the ministry itself. “I would estimate that 85-90% of what I preach in meetings...I receive the revelation of it while I’m writing that letter,” Kenneth said. “I’ve been doing it for a number of years and it’s a constant flow and a constant fountain of revelation for me.”

Today the Partner Letter, which is mailed to nearly 300,000 people worldwide each month, is one of the most important ministry tools extending from Kenneth Copeland Ministries. It travels the world, from the top to the bottom and all the way around the middle, providing strength and resulting in thousands of testimonies of salvation, healing, deliverance, restoration and increase.

Though most material by KCM takes several months to produce, the Partner Letter is considered top priority and takes only a matter of days from conception to completion.

“These letters have changed lives—my Partners’ and mine,” says Kenneth. “Thanks to God, and to the Holy Spirit working through the Apostle Paul and Brother Roberts, we have all been BLESSED!”

Throughout the years, we have seen that partnership is indeed dynamic. But partnership is not a one-sided relationship. Partnership implies “participation” or “taking part in something.” As the Apostle Paul said, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you...for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now...because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace” (Philippians 1:3, 5, 7). 📖

Dear Partner,

Recently The LORD has given me a new and deeper calling to minister directly to you, my Covenant Partner, through my letters to you. In the light of God’s WORD, I’ve seen those letters in a new and powerful way. And no matter how much of my time and prayer it takes, I’m going to do my very best to get an anointed, faith-filled letter to you each month to help you live that month in greater victory. This is my commitment to you.

Ever since the Church began, letters have been a powerful tool in God’s hand. He entrusted His precious gospel to be communicated by letters. These letters by Paul, John, Luke and others carried The WORD of His Power to His people. They still do.

In Paul’s letters, he referred to the times he spent in prayer for the people and then wrote by inspiration of the Holy Spirit. That means the letters of Paul and the others God inspired to write are the Holy Scriptures. The letters you will receive from me will always be based on and subject to those inspired letters of God’s eternal WORD.

As I intercede in prayer for you, I expect the Holy Spirit to anoint me with an anointing that is greater than your needs. Out of that anointing will come my letters to you.

So pay close attention to them. Treat them with great respect, for the anointing will be on them. After they have ministered to you, don’t just forget about them. Continue to think on them. Give God the opportunity to continue to use them in your life as seeds of my faith for your prosperity.

You have my word, that everything I say I will do for you in these letters, I will *actually* do! You know I’ll keep my word.

I’m working on your next letter now. I am charged with God’s power. Be expecting it. I can hardly wait for you to read it. I believe it will be almost like talking face to face. Until then, remember that Gloria and I love you—and Jesus is LORD!

Your Covenant Partner,



Read  
previous  
Partner Letters

[kcm.org/PartnerLetter](http://kcm.org/PartnerLetter)



“  
*As soon as  
I heard Kenneth  
and Gloria preach,  
I knew that they  
were my spiritual  
parents.*  
”



# DATE WITH DESTINY

Seven-year-old Creflo Dollar took a deep breath before walking into his second-grade classroom at Kathleen Mitchell Elementary School. A hush fell over the room, followed by whispers and giggles.

Racial reconciliation wasn't a term that Creflo knew or understood.

He didn't understand anything about destiny, either. But Creflo knew about racism and bigotry. He'd learned those lessons long before he reached elementary school.

College Park, Ga., his hometown, had been split into two sections for years. It was nice and tidy. One section for white folks. One section for Blacks.

For some reason, it was all right for his mama—a Black woman—to cook in the school's cafeteria. But it hadn't been acceptable for her children to learn to read in the same school.

Until now.

Creflo was the first Black child ever admitted to Kathleen Mitchell Elementary School. He was also the first Black child many of his white classmates had ever seen.

He tried not to take it personally.

But it *seemed* personal when every white face in the school turned to stare at him. It *seemed* personal when the other kids crowded around him at recess and tried to rub the color off the skin on his arms. It *seemed* personal when they took turns touching his hair with wide-eyed curiosity.

In time, Creflo won friends at school.



READ  
THROUGH  
THE BIBLE

MARCH

		Old Testament	New Testament
Tue	1	Lev. 16:1-18:18	Mark 14
Wed	2	Lev. 18:19-20:7	Mark 15
Thu	3	Lev. 20:8-22:25	Mark 16
Fri	4	Lev. 22:26-24:9	Luke 1
Sat	5	Lev. 24:10-25:46	
Sun	6	Ps. 32-34; Prov. 6:20-7:5	
Mon	7	Lev. 25:47-26:46	Luke 2
Tue	8	Lev. 27-Num. 1:29	Luke 3
Wed	9	Num. 1:30-3:4	Luke 4
Thu	10	Num. 3:5-4:16	Luke 5
Fri	11	Num. 4:17-5:31	Luke 6
Sat	12	Num. 6:1-7:35	
Sun	13	Ps. 35-36; Prov. 7:6-23	
Mon	14	Num. 7:36-8:4	Luke 7
Tue	15	Num. 8:5-10:13	Luke 8
Wed	16	Num. 10:14-11:35	Luke 9
Thu	17	Num. 12:1-14:10	Luke 10
Fri	18	Num. 14:11-15:31	Luke 11
Sat	19	Num. 15:32-16:50	
Sun	20	Ps. 37; Prov. 7:24-8:11	
Mon	21	Num. 17-19	Luke 12
Tue	22	Num. 20-21	Luke 13
Wed	23	Num. 22:1-23:26	Luke 14
Thu	24	Num. 23:27-26:34	Luke 15
Fri	25	Num. 26:35-28:8	Luke 16
Sat	26	Num. 28:9-29:40	
Sun	27	Ps. 38-41; Prov. 8:12-36	
Mon	28	Num. 30:1-31:47	Luke 17
Tue	29	Num. 31:48-33:9	Luke 18
Wed	30	Num. 33:10-34:15	Luke 19
Thu	31	Num. 34:16-36:13	Luke 20

But the victory was bittersweet. His buddies' parents couldn't stop Creflo from attending the school, but they didn't allow him into their homes.

Creflo was an average student, and he might have remained one had he not overheard some teachers talking in the hall one day.

"Black people just aren't smart," one of them said.

"That's right," another agreed. "They just don't have the innate intelligence that whites have."

Those cutting remarks might have defeated some children, but Creflo was tired of stereotypes. For the next three quarters, he made straight A's. By his senior year in high school, he was elected president of the student body.

Although Creflo was in the forefront of Southern integration, racial issues weren't his passion. Football was.

"I started Little League when I was 8 years old," Creflo recalls. "From that moment on, my one burning dream was to play professional football. It was my desire to play football that fueled me, fired me and kept me going during rough times. I played football all through high school, then I made the team at Concord College in Athens, WVa."

Tough times weren't over for Creflo, though. While he was in college, his aunt was kidnapped, murdered and found in the trunk of a car. In the aftershock of that family disaster, his mother became ill.

To be closer to his family, Creflo transferred to West Georgia College in Carrolton, Ga. Once again, he made the football team—only to be injured in the first few weeks of the season.

"I injured the ligaments in my hips," Creflo remembers. "The doctor also found a hernia which required surgery. He warned me that one direct hit could result in internal bleeding, so I was sidelined. I lost 20 pounds in the aftermath of the surgery."

As each pound melted away during his lengthy recovery, Creflo realized that he was losing more than muscle.

He was losing his dream.

For Creflo Dollar, football *was* his life.

Everything he'd hoped for was gone.

In despair, Creflo phoned a friend who was a track star at the University of Alabama. "My life has disappeared," he moaned.

The young sprinter on the other end of the line didn't just sympathize with Creflo, but rather shared something that would change his life forever. He said he'd discovered that life's race has nothing to do with sports. Then he introduced him to the Star of all stars—the One called the Bright and Morning Star. The One

whose Name is Jesus.

"I'd been raised in church," Creflo says, "and I directed a gospel choir in college, but I had never met Jesus. Soon after I was born again, I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit."

After years of religion, a relationship with the Lord Jesus was like winning the Super Bowl. Creflo was baptized in water at an apartment swimming pool. Afterward, a man began to prophesy over him.

"You will minister to thousands," the man said. "You will counsel, and you will preach to thousands, and then to hundreds of thousands."

*Is he on dope?* Creflo wondered, walking away. *He must be because I'll never be a minister.*

"I didn't have to think twice about what that man said," Creflo explains. "My only objective as a Christian was to share my experience with my family. I didn't want any part of the ministry, and I couldn't abide the idea of being called Reverend."

"I had always been afraid of responsibility where other lives were concerned. I never wanted to be a teacher for fear I'd teach something wrong. I couldn't be a lawyer because I was afraid I'd make a mistake and cause my client to go to jail. I wouldn't be a doctor for fear that my patients would die.

"Being responsible for someone's eternity was simply out of the question."

True to his commitment, Creflo shared his salvation experience with his family. One by one, they were born again. At college, Creflo witnessed to one girl.

She told five others.

Soon, 20-year-old Creflo Dollar was leading World Changers Campus Ministry—a Bible study attended by more than 100 students. A young girl named Taffi gave her heart to the Lord at Creflo's first campus Bible study. He had no way of knowing then that meeting her was part of his God-ordained destiny.

In December 1984, Creflo graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. For a while, he taught high school social science in the same school system that he'd helped to integrate.

Later, he worked as an educational therapist for the Brawner Psychological Institute—a hospital for deeply depressed and suicidal teens.

"The kids were really troubled," Creflo said, "but for some reason I knew I was good at counseling. Still, it was a difficult job. No matter what you did, some of them killed themselves. It was hard to take."

"You've got a new kid," Creflo was told one morning. Picking up the chart, he read Greg's history. The 14-year-old boy had been hospitalized for depression. He was a white kid, pale and thin, with a familiar lost look in his eyes—a look that tugged at Creflo's heart.

Greg had come from a family who'd done all they

knew to do for him. His dad had left the home, and the boy's mother had reached her limit. As weeks passed, Creflo grew more concerned for him. He needed someone to guide him safely through to adulthood. But who?

*You do it*, the Holy Spirit spoke to Creflo's heart. Creflo was stunned. *Me? Lord, I'm only 23! I'm not even married!*

*You do it*, the Lord insisted.

In his heart, Creflo knew that the consequences of disobeying God might well be Greg's death. Creflo suggested to Greg's mother that perhaps *he* could guide her son through his next few crucial years. She agreed to terminate her parental rights, and turn Greg over to him.

"What is love?" Greg asked Creflo unexpectedly one day.

"Love," Creflo explained, "is when you see someone about to be hit by a truck, and you push them out of the way. They live...you die. That's love."

"I..." Greg began, "I'd push you."

Creflo felt like soaring. It was a start. The pain and rejection ran deep in Greg, but this was the first fragile sign of trust.

"It wasn't always easy," Creflo admits. "Greg was in the middle of an identity crisis. He was highly influenced by certain friends. He ran away from home three times. Thankfully, I was able to lead him to the Lord. Besides Greg's long-standing problems, some people had a problem with a Black man raising a white son. That attitude even prevailed in certain churches."

"For someone who didn't want to take responsibility for other lives, I had come a long way. About a year after I agreed to raise Greg, the Lord spoke to me about starting a church. I also knew by then that I wanted to marry Taffi. She was understandably hesitant to enter a marriage with a ready-made, troubled, teenage son, and a new church to build."

Creflo was relieved when Taffi overruled her own objections.

Unfortunately, Greg did not. He *finally* had a father, and he wasn't ready to share him. In a sweeping display of his objections, Greg refused to attend the wedding.

Creflo had a new son, a new wife and a new church.

All of whom needed his attention.

Creflo knew that, given time, Taffi would win Greg over. What concerned him more than his struggling family was his struggling church. Sure, it had grown since their first meeting of eight people in the cafeteria of Kathleen Mitchell Elementary School—where his mother had worked for 20 years. But Creflo knew the church had not grown like the Lord desired. Something was holding them back.

Seeking the Lord, Creflo was directed to make reservations seven months in advance for the 1987 Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth.

"The Lord gave me four keys to making the church successful," Creflo said. "First, He told me to make prayer our foundation. I was instructed to teach the people to pray for an hour a day. Second, He told me to make the church a Partner with Kenneth and Gloria (Copeland). We were to tithe and sow seeds into their ministry. Third, He told me to teach the Word of God so simply that people could do what I taught. Fourth, He told me to be consistent."

"As soon as I heard Kenneth and Gloria preach, I knew that they were my spiritual parents. It was as clear to me as when I knew that I was to be Greg's father. I bought every tape Kenneth and Gloria offered. I listened to them until I started to sound like Kenneth. I also put the keys God gave me to work. The church just took off!"

"The following year at the Believers' Convention someone introduced me to Kenneth. I was so in awe I could hardly speak."

Later, Creflo was able to attend the first Ministers' Conference held on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Sitting next to Greg, Creflo watched with interest as Brother Copeland motioned for someone to come up to the pulpit, and said, "Say whatever God puts on your heart."

"Dad," Greg whispered, "he's calling you!"

No...Creflo thought. He looked up, directly into Brother Copeland's eyes.

*He is talking to me!* Creflo realized.

For a few minutes, Creflo stood at Brother Copeland's podium. The experience left him



shaken. There was no mistake about it—Kenneth had been observing Creflo.

When Creflo attended the second Ministers' Conference the following year, he was invited to the Copelands' house for fellowship.

During the fellowship, Brother Copeland's blue eyes connected with Creflo's brown eyes. "I believe," Brother Kenneth said, "that today, destiny is looking one another in the eye."

#### *Destiny?*

"I was so scared that I couldn't stay," Creflo admits. "I got up and left."

But the words Brother Copeland spoke wouldn't leave.

Creflo shifted uncomfortably in the car. For some reason he remembered the prophecy spoken over him the day he'd been baptized: *You'll minister to thousands, and thousands...and hundreds of thousands.*

"The Lord began to deal with me," Creflo recalls. "He had already dealt with me about my fear of ministering. Now, He began to deal with me about my fear of Kenneth Copeland. It was a reverential fear because I hold the man in such esteem. Still, that reverential fear had gotten out of balance and was blocking God's plan for me. If I was going to fulfill all that God called me to do, I was going to have to not only stop the fear, I was going to have to operate in faith."

"Father," Creflo declared, "in the Name of Jesus, I'm going to be what You have called me to be—without fear!"

The next time Creflo and Taffi attended a Believers' Convention, he pointed to the platform where Kenneth preached. "One of these days, I'm going to be down there ministering with Brother Copeland," he said.

Creflo didn't just make that bold declaration once. He made it every time he went to a Believers' Convention.

"It helped that I started agreeing with God's plan for my life," Creflo recalls, "but when Brother Copeland asked me to be on television with him, it didn't stop my palms from sweating. In spite of that, I resisted the spirit of fear until it had to leave.

"Every time Taffi and I have found ourselves up against a brick wall, we've discovered the same underlying problem. Either we didn't have enough seed in the ground to produce the faith crop we needed, or our words were out of line with it."

In the years since they first began listening to the Copelands, Creflo and Taffi have spoken faith-filled words and planted seeds in every area of their lives and ministry. It hasn't always been easy, but it has always worked—just as the Bible says.

Once, for example, they found themselves in the middle of a debt-free building program and needing \$1.5 million within 10 days.

"We took every thought and every word captive,"

Creflo recalls. "Then we started planting more seed. We gave away almost everything we had. Once again, God met our need."

Finances aren't the only thing that World Changers Church International sows in abundance. Although Greg is now grown, married, and a father, Creflo has continued to take in troubled teens and impart to them. Following his lead, the church began a mentoring program to help troubled teens.

The results have been amazing. When a church plants seed into souls—it reaps souls. When a church sows time into troubled families—it reaps strong, healthy families.

Today, World Changers Church International has grown to approximately 30,000 members. Their World Dome, a \$16 million facility, sits on 60 acres in College Park, Ga. The land, and the building, are the evidence of faithfulness in prayer and faithfulness in planting. They are debt free.

You might say that Creflo Dollar's entire life is one example after another of seed, time and harvest. He planted racial reconciliation at Kathleen Mitchell Elementary School, and he is reaping it in the very city that once shunned him. He planted spiritual seeds of fatherhood in Greg's life, and he reaped a spiritual father in Kenneth Copeland.

Life couldn't be better for Creflo and Taffi as the leaders of a flourishing, thriving church. It would be enough for anyone, but they serve the God who is more than enough.

God continues to open doors of destiny before them.

Over the years, Brother Copeland continued to invite Creflo to minister alongside him at Ministers' Conferences and Believers' Conventions. Creflo and Taffi were just leaving one such divine appointment at a West Coast Believers' Convention when Brother Copeland ran out to their car.

"The Spirit of God has spoken to Gloria and me, to Jerry and Carolyn, and to Jesse and Cathy," he said. "We all believe you are to be a member of our team. Would you pray about ministering with us around the world?"

"Yes, sir," Creflo said softly, "I will."

He was quiet and reflective for the first few minutes after they left. Then, suddenly, he shouted, "Stop the car!"

As the car rolled to a stop, Creflo jumped out, laughing and weeping. "Taffi," he cried, "I told you!"

It's sobering to realize that fear could have stopped Creflo from walking through the doors of destiny God had opened for him. Thankfully, it didn't. Creflo knew that God had given him an antidote for fear.

It's called faith.

He used it, and put fear to flight.

He kept his date with destiny. 



Watch  
Creflo Dollar  
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## VIRTUAL INTEREST MEETING

APRIL 16, 2022 | 3 P.M. CT



# A Righteous REVOLUTION



**We are in a righteous revolution. Switch on the television or read the headlines and you'll see:**

**There's a revolution going on in our country, and the righteous have a key part to play in it. When the Bible talks about the righteous, it's talking about us.**

In Proverbs 28:1, the Bible says, "The righteous are bold as a lion." And in Proverbs 29:2, it says, "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice."

The Bible also says, "Righteousness exalteth a nation" (Proverbs 14:34).

Our country is stirred up. Our media is stirred up. Why? Because we're in the middle of a time when the biblical values we hold dear are being tested and tried. But it's also a time when things are turning around. Things are realigning with God's standards, and it's our responsibility to keep this righteous revolution alive.

## Our Responsibility

Psalms 11:3 says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?" The word *foundations* refers to the moral and political standards of a nation.

Notice David didn't write, "What can the sinners do?" He didn't write, "What can the government do?" He wrote, "What can *the righteous* do?"

The moral and political standards of our nation are our responsibility as believers, and we cannot afford to lose the momentum that God has given us to hold fast to biblical values and stop any godless agendas.

When you look at Scripture, you can see that this is nothing new. God always holds the

righteous responsible for the well-being of a nation. When God judged Sodom and Gomorrah, He looked to the righteous.

And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know (Genesis 18:17-21).

The Lord was heading down to Sodom and Gomorrah to hold a judicial investigation, but He already had Abraham—His righteous servant—in mind, ready to deal with the situation.

And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? (verses 23-25).

Abraham had the Lord's ear. He pleaded his case based on the number of righteous in those cities. And today, God still looks for the righteous to stand in the gap for the land. For us, that means America, or the nation in which you live.

Though things may look dire—especially if you watch the news—the truth is, God has laid a foundation for His people. He has placed many pro-life, pro-family, pro-marriage and pro-Israel representatives in charge, and it's up to us, His righteous people, to take a stand with them and pray for them.

## You Are the Righteous

You may not have ever thought of yourself as "righteous," but righteousness is the ability to stand in the presence of God without guilt or shame. It means having no concept of your past life, no concept of failure or lack. As a believer, that's you!

Every believer has received the gift of righteousness (Romans 5:17). The Creator of the universe has made us sons and daughters. That's

by Happy Caldwell



# Hold fast to biblical values and stop any godless agendas.”

not an arrogant or prideful statement; it's simply the truth. You have authority and God is ready to use you. First Peter 3:12 says, “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers.”

Now in Genesis 15:6, it says Abram was “counted” righteous because he believed in God. But it's different for us. Our righteousness is not counted or reckoned. The Bible says we were *made* righteous. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, “For [God] hath made [Jesus] to be sin for us... that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”

You may recall that the Scripture specifically says our righteousness is as filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). “There is none righteous, no, not one” (Romans 3:10). But that's the key. We're not talking about *our* righteousness. We're talking about *His* righteousness.

You and I are not righteous because of anything we've done. We are righteous for only *one* reason—because of what Jesus did.

I was blessed with a good dad. He provided for me and my sister. He had gone through the Great Depression, fought in World War II and helped rebuild America. He worked *hard*, and when he died, we inherited everything that he had willed to us.

When I found out, I said, “Lord, I didn't do one thing to deserve any of this! I didn't make it. I didn't build it. I didn't create it. The only thing that I did to deserve what my father left me was that I was born his son. That's it!”

And the Lord responded, *Yes, and all you had to do to inherit what I gave you is to be born again, born into the family.*

Our righteousness is inherited as a gift from God. We didn't do one thing to deserve it, to earn it or to make it. The reason we can stand in His presence without any guilt or shame is because we didn't do anything to get it. Jesus did.

In Philippians 3:9, Paul says, “And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.”

God has already done what He needed to do, legally, for us to be righteous. Our part is the “by faith” side. And it's a vital side. It's the side that works this out day by day.

## What We Can Do

So...what *can* the righteous do to uphold moral and political standards of a nation?

First, we can pray. James 5:16 says, “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” Like the saints of old, we need to pray with determination, not letting go until our prayers are answered.

Second, we can stand before God. Romans 5:1-2 says, “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: by whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.” Remember, we're justified by faith, so as the righteous, we alone can stand before God without guilt or shame.

Third, we can stand in the gap for the land. Ezekiel 22:30 says, “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” It's not in God's DNA to destroy. That's not His M.O. Satan is the destroyer (John 10:10). That's why God sought for someone who would make a hedge and stand in the gap.

We can pray; stand before God; and stand in the gap for our cities, our states and our nation. At our church, we've taken a stand. We've gathered our church together and joined our city's meetings. We've prayed for the board of directors. We've prayed with the governor. We've prayed with members of Congress. We've become involved, not to criticize and judge them...but to *support* them. In doing so, we've been able to help everyone from the homeless to the politicians.

Remember 2 Chronicles 7:14. “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”

## The Awakening We've Wanted

We are living in a righteous revolution. This is our time to take our place in Christ and take our stand for what is right. It's time we stood in prayer, before God, standing in the gap for our nation.

Pray for our leaders, all the way from the national level down to the local level—regardless of what party they belong to. Pray that no weapon formed against them will prosper and no evil will befall them.

As we do, this righteous revolution will continue and flow like a wave. It's an awakening, the revival we've been waiting for. 🙏



Happy Caldwell is founder and pastor emeritus of Agape Church in Little Rock, Ark. He is also president and founder, along with his wife, Jeanne, of the Victory Television Network® in Little Rock. For more information, go to [vtntv.com](http://vtntv.com).



# TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

## Grateful Partners

It's amazing how Brother Copeland has written so many Partner Letters! My husband and I first were introduced to him in 1979 or '80 and grew in our faith through his ministry. KCM Canada even helped us when we were in financial difficulty at one point. We so appreciated the practical assistance received. We have been Partners for quite some time, have been greatly blessed, and support KCM faithfully. The Lord led us to KCM and others, so we have obeyed His direction for us. Be in divine health, be blessed and stay safe!

A.Z. | Canada

## Precise Answer to Prayer

I called asking for prayer concerning my husband's results to be released so he could graduate. Then he called saying the results have been released and he passed, so he will be graduating. Praise God! Thank you and God bless KCM Africa.

M.M. | South Africa

## Faithful God

I called the prayer line to pray for my sister-in-law who was diagnosed with Guillain-Barré syndrome. She was unable to walk or dress herself. Following several weeks in the hospital and rehabilitation, she went home using a walker. After a long process of physical therapy, she now walks, drives her car and goes grocery shopping—a complete healing! The power of agreement with KCM was so important as I know they pray and believe the Bible is truth. Praise God for His faithfulness.

M.E. | Texas

## 'Believing and Receiving'

My husband and I found ourselves without a vehicle. We didn't have a plan to get another one until I started listening to *The Prosperous Life* podcast. One day Pastor George gave a scripture about believing and receiving THEN, and said he was in agreement for those who were believing God for a vehicle. I knew at

that moment it was done and two weeks later a couple in our church gave us a truck! Our perfect heavenly Father provided just what we wanted and needed. Thank you, Pastor George and Gloria, for being faithful in following the Holy Spirit.

K.H. | Scottsdale, Ariz.

“**Make seeking God, praising Him and commanding your angels your continual lifestyle.**”

—Kenneth Copeland

## 'A Testimony to God'

My mother was seriously ill, nearly in a coma. The doctor said only a miracle could save her.

At the hospital, a KCM prayer minister called and asked if I had a prayer request. I explained the situation. He immediately prayed and spoke life as I kept the cellphone over her. Then he said to me, “It will be a testimony to God.”

Well, it is a testimony—after three weeks she is out of the hospital, a little tired but absolutely well again. God intervened supernaturally! Thank you, prayer minister and KCM, for phoning me at the crucial moment—it is a miracle to us.

C.W. | South Africa

## Over a Faith Line

I was watching the 2021 Branson meetings online and stepped over a line for greater faith. God is so good. My legs, knees and feet are healed. Thank You, Jesus, and thank you, KCM.

J.S. | Oklahoma

## Timeless Teaching

I have been in prayer for this nation over the past several years. I listened to Brother Copeland's *BVOV* teaching “A Higher Place of Authority” and it hit me—this is like *Authority of the Believer 2.0!* That teaching is so timeless it is like the Lord prepared it for what we are experiencing now! I'm going back over the teachings with my husband and sharing them with others.

What a reminder about our authority on the earth and the importance of our obedience to take our rightful place (on our knees) and see the hand of the Lord move and deliver on our behalf.

Thank you so much, Brother Copeland. We so love and appreciate you and Sister Gloria!

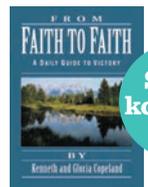
J.B. | Colorado

## Learning for a Lifetime

I have the *Limitless Love* devotional. May 17, you shared how we could spend a lifetime learning to walk in love. I couldn't agree more! Every day since I received this book, I have read these devotions and they speak great wisdom into my life for everyday living.

Thank you for sharing your wisdom, which has impacted my life immensely!

C.T. | Texas



Shop [kcm.org](http://kcm.org)

## Daily Blessing

*From Faith to Faith* has impacted my life; it continually changes me and starts my morning off well!

C.G. | Indiana

## 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.

### *connect with us*

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. We have a Free Gift to help you begin your new life in Jesus!  
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I'm a single mother of two college kids. I felt led by the Holy Spirit to believe for a 35% higher salary than what I was making. Then shortly after moving into a home of my own, I got the news that my department was being eliminated.

As Brother Copeland teaches, I knew my first words would set my course, so got up from that call and praised God for my next job, declaring it would be better than the one I lost because the Lord takes what the enemy meant for evil and turns it for my good—and meets all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus! I kept that confession for six months. I also called the prayer department, and God met all our needs.

I recently started a new job, and the salary is exactly what the Lord had told me to believe for earlier.

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An aerial photograph of a large, ancient stone castle built on a rocky, elevated hillside. The castle features multiple towers and a central cylindrical structure. In the background, a lush green golf course is visible, surrounded by rolling hills and a layer of mist or fog. The sky is a soft, hazy blue. The text "MAKE GOD YOUR STRONGHOLD" is overlaid in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the image.

# MAKE GOD YOUR STRONGHOLD



For believers, success means the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives. It means peace, joy, contentment, health, prosperity and protection. It's the life every one of us wants to live!

## But this kind of success isn't automatic.

Every day, Christians find themselves besieged by evil instead of experiencing success. Why? Because the God kind of success is only available to believers who make God a stronghold in their lives.

In Scripture, the term *stronghold* refers to a walled city. During Old Testament times, bigger and stronger walls meant security for the stronghold's inhabitants—whether they were good or bad. The same is true of spiritual strongholds. They can be big and strong in our lives, and they can be godly strongholds or satanic strongholds. Those strongholds define our level of blessing.

Take a few minutes and read Psalm 91 and take note of all the blessings afforded to those who have made God their stronghold. I'm presenting it here in *The Passion Translation* so you can get a better understanding:

When you abide under the shadow of Shaddai, you are hidden in the strength of God Most High. He's the hope that holds me and the stronghold to shelter me, the only God for me, and my great confidence. He will rescue you from every hidden trap of the enemy, and he will protect you from false accusation and any deadly curse. His massive arms are wrapped around you, protecting you. You can run under his covering of majesty and hide. His arms of faithfulness are a shield keeping you from harm. You will never worry about

an attack of demonic forces at night nor have to fear a spirit of darkness coming against you. Don't fear a thing! Whether by night or by day, demonic danger will not trouble you, nor will the powers of evil be launched against you. Even in a time of disaster, with thousands and thousands being killed, you will remain unscathed and unharmed. You will be a spectator as the wicked perish in judgment, for they will be paid back for what they have done! When we live our lives within the shadow of God Most High, our secret hiding place, we will always be shielded from harm. How then could evil prevail against us or disease infect us? God sends angels with special orders to protect you wherever you go, defending you from all harm. If you walk into a trap, they'll be there for you and keep you from stumbling. You'll even walk unharmed among the fiercest powers of darkness, trampling every one of them beneath your feet! For here is what the Lord has spoken to me: "Because you loved me, delighted in me, and have been loyal to my name, I will greatly protect you. I will answer your cry for help every time you pray, and you will feel my presence in your time of trouble. I will deliver you and bring you honor. I will satisfy you with a full life and with all that I do for you. For you will enjoy the fullness of my salvation!"

Often, believers will say, "Yes, Psalm 91 is true for me. No evil will befall me. No plague will come nigh my dwelling!" But when you became a Christian, you didn't automatically make God your stronghold. It takes deliberate or subconscious action for that to happen. Of course, we can't make God our stronghold without having a covenant with Him—but we *can* have a covenant with Him without making Him our stronghold.

### Trust vs. Faith

To make God our stronghold, it's not enough to say, "Well, I'm just going to focus on the Word and spend time with the Lord." Those things are important to do, but there are other, deliberate steps we can take to make God our stronghold in all areas of life.

Nahum 1:7 says, "The Lord is good, a stronghold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that **trust** in him" [emphasis mine].

Trust is a defining consideration for the strongholds we build. Trust and faith, however, are not synonymous—even though they are often treated that way.

Faith relies on the degree to which you have the Word coming into your life. By hearing and hearing and hearing the Word of God, maturity begins to occur—but that's not trust. It's possible to have faith, even at a reasonably high level of maturity, and still not trust.

I've seen this in myself. I may believe it's the will

of God that I be healed because I believe He's my healer. Yet, with enough bad reports from the doctor and enough symptoms in my body, doubt starts to cross my mind.

This is the carnal nature we have to deal with every day. It's possible to believe that God is our healer, our deliverer and our provider, but still not quite trust Him to do those things for us. For some people, like those who grew up chronically ill, receiving physical healing for themselves is hard. Infirmary has been a constant part of their lives. People who grew up in poverty may have a hard time making the shift to prosperity. It's easy for them to believe God takes pleasure in their poverty. Past experiences like these can establish areas in our lives where it's hard to trust that the God kind of success is possible.

And then there's condemnation. Someone might say, "I've messed up. That must be why I'm not getting what I need." But that's just not true. You are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Period! There is no condemnation in Him. The Word says when you acknowledge you've missed it in some area, the blood of Jesus cleanses you from all unrighteousness. That wrong thinking is the byproduct of a religious, legalistic-works mentality.

In all these cases, the problem is that there is a lack of *unconditional trust* in the Lord. Unconditional trust is what's required for us to accept the healing, prosperity and protection that belong to us...

- ...no matter what is happening in or around us.
- ...no matter who is in the Oval Office.
- ...no matter which party has the balance of power.
- ...no matter what our employer threatens to do.
- ...no matter what illness sweeps through the masses.

### Strongholds and the Mind

The New Testament also has a lot to say about strongholds. Second Corinthians 10:4 says, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." This is talking about the evil kind of strongholds, the walls the enemy places in our lives.

The next verse tells us how to pull them down: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (verse 5).

Strongholds—whether good or bad—are built in our minds. That's where the war against the enemy's strongholds will be waged and where good strongholds, based on God's Word, will be

built. We don't defeat evil strongholds with carnal weapons but rather spiritual ones.

The first step to defeating strongholds is to take wrong thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ. Romans 12:2 says, "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."

Renewing the mind means getting rid of every thought that exalts itself against Christ and replacing it with thoughts based on the Word of God. This is a continuous practice. Just like hearing the Word means hearing and hearing and hearing it, renewing the mind means renewing and renewing and renewing it. The mind determines whether we elevate our trust in God to a point where *He* becomes our stronghold. It's a mental activity that must complement the faith we build in our hearts.

If your thinking isn't right, your words won't be right, and eventually your behavior won't be right. All believers who want to make God a stronghold in their lives have to work on this, especially when you know that certain thought patterns are wrong. Those patterns may be toward an individual or a people group. They may be toward a physical ailment or a financial state. When you identify wrong thinking, you must ruthlessly rid yourself of it and replace it with a God thought.

In time, replacement becomes automatic. I know this from personal experience. There used to be issues I had to think about a lot in order to align my thinking with the Word. Then, one day I realized I could reject those thoughts before they took root. My thought patterns changed, and I was able to build a kind of stronghold that I could live in—one built on God and His Word, rather than the enemy's distortions.

### Daily Practice

As we train and renew our minds over and over on a daily basis, eventually it becomes easier. When your thoughts are wrong, grab them. Take those thoughts captive and filter them through the Word of God.

Nothing brings success like making God a stronghold in our lives. This kind of unconditional trust invites the life we, as God's people, want to live—lives of peace, joy, contentment, health, prosperity and protection. It is what Jesus provided through His death and resurrection. And as we renew our minds with the Word, we position ourselves to experience it. That's when Psalm 91 becomes a reality in our lives—fully and completely. 📖



Mac Hammond is senior pastor of Living Word Christian Center, in Brooklyn Park, Minn. For more information, go to [lwcc.org](http://lwcc.org).



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1986 A HISTORIC MOMENT:

# EAGLE MOUNTAIN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH



The first building completed and occupied at the Fort Worth headquarters facility of Kenneth Copeland Ministries was the chapel—the gathering place for Eagle Mountain Church. When the staff moved to “the mountain” in November 1986, the church had already been drawing people together for worship services for months.



By 1993, when the Lord called George and Terri Pearsons to pastor the local congregation, the church had become Eagle Mountain *International* Church. Today, they lead the international congregation of believers where not only have hundreds made their way from around the world to become part of the local church, but thousands have connected through live services broadcast over the internet, at emic.tv and on VICTORY Channel™.

Under the leadership of Pastors George and Terri, EMIC quickly grew to the place that a new church facility was needed.

May 18, 1997, during the groundbreaking service for the new building, Pastor George told the congregation and guests: “What you’re seeing with this building is just the outflow of what’s going on inside of us. What takes place on the inside is much more important than what you see on the outside. You’re believing God for a building on the inside of you...your aspiration. This building is a point of contact for whatever you are believing God for in your life. And you’re going to see the completion of it.”

Kenneth Copeland dedicated the new building on Aug. 30, 1998, praying:

Father, we give You place and honor in this structure. And in the Name of Jesus, we dedicate this [building] to the presence and the glory of Jesus, His blood, His Name and His people; so that men and women who walk through these doors will sense the presence of God so heavily that they will be convicted of their sins and they’ll fall on their faces before Almighty God. And that sickness and disease can’t pass beyond those doors...the glory of God will heal them from the crown of their head to the soles of their feet. We pray and ask You for the presence of Your glory until Jesus comes!

Since the day the doors of the new EMIC sanctuary opened, people from all over the world have been saved, healed and delivered by the ministry of Jesus through the men and women of God who have dedicated themselves to His service there.

Today, the building is also home for Kenneth Copeland Bible College®, as well as Superkid Academy and 14forty youth ministry. The theme scripture for the SKA/14forty facility applies to every phase of EMIC’s growth as an international ministry center—both in external buildings and inside the hearts of its people: “For [of course] every house is built and furnished by someone, but the Builder of all things and the Furnisher [of the entire equipment of all things] is God” (Hebrews 3:4, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).<sup>1</sup>



“You can  
come to Him  
for healing with  
confidence,  
knowing that in His  
goodness He will give  
it to you.”



by Gloria Copeland

# Living In Divine Health

There's been much debate lately about what people should do to stay healthy despite the pandemic. Even medical experts, it seems, don't all agree. Some extol the safety and effectiveness of one kind of medicine. Others warn against that treatment and endorse another.

Who's right? Not being a medical or pharmaceutical expert myself, I wouldn't presume to say. But I will say that, while I appreciate the natural wisdom medical doctors bring to the table and believe we should avail ourselves of it as the Holy Spirit leads, there's really only one Doctor who can truly promise us divine health.

Dr. Jesus!

He's the Great Physician and the medicine He prescribes is unsurpassed. It can heal anything.

Whether you're dealing with a cold or terminal cancer; whether you just need a part of your body repaired or you need an entirely new part; Jesus' medicine can get the job done. What's more, it has no harmful side effects, only beneficial ones. You can take as much of it as you want, and it will just keep making you healthier.

What is this wonderful medicine?

The Word of God!

Although man-made medicines can be helpful, no man-made medicine anywhere can do what God's Word will do. His medicine knows no limits. Quite literally a cure-all, His words "are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh" (Proverbs 4:22, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).



**1**

The medicine of God's Word is quite literally a cure-all.

(Prov. 4:20-22, AMPC)

**2**

You can come to God for healing with confidence, knowing that in His goodness He will give it to you.

(Ps. 145:8-9)

**3**

Jesus' ministry proved that God always considers sickness to be bad and healing to be good.

(Acts 10:38)

**4**

Jesus healed all who came to Him and never turned anyone away.

(Matt. 12:15)

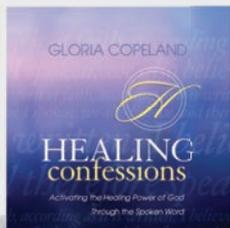
**5**

You receive healing the same way you received the new birth, by believing in your heart and confessing with your mouth.

(Rom. 10:10)

## Speaking healing scriptures

over yourself is the key to staying healed and whole. Ground yourself in God's healing message, speak it out in faith, and get ready to live a life of health and power!



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For God's medicine to work most effectively though, it must be taken continually. You can't fully experience its benefits by just occasionally reading a few healing scriptures, or by turning to them only when you're feeling sick. You need to feed on God's healing Word regularly, even when you're well, because that's the way you *stay* well.

Personally, as much as I like getting healed from sickness, I like living in divine health even better. That's why in my own life I regularly go over familiar healing scriptures that I've stood on for many years. Some of my favorites include these in Psalm 145:8-9: "The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."

When you're looking to God for healing, or believing for divine health, you always want to remember: You're looking to Someone who is gracious or disposed to show favor. Someone who is full of compassion, who has an eager yearning to do good.

You're looking to Someone who has great mercy, who doesn't give up on you. Because God's mercy endures forever, you can never wear it out. Also, because He is good to *all*, when it comes to healing, He doesn't leave anyone out. His tender mercies are over all His works, and Ephesians 2:10 confirms you are "His workmanship." So, you can come to Him for healing with confidence, knowing that in His goodness He will give it to you.

"But Gloria," you might say, "what if God decides it would be good for me to stay sick? Doesn't the Bible say somewhere that sickness is sometimes a blessing—that on occasion God puts it on us to teach us something?"

No, it doesn't say that!

Confused religious people sometimes say that, but not God. He's never been confused about what's good and what's bad, what's a blessing and what's a curse. He says in the Bible that "every sickness, and every plague" is part of the curse (Deuteronomy 28:61) and that when Jesus came, who is the very embodiment of the blessing, God anointed Him with the Holy Ghost and with power, and He "went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him" (Acts 10:38).

### Quick To Heal All and Every

Healing is always the will of our good God! That's the reason Jesus always healed people when He

was on earth. He was, and is, the visible, physical manifestation of His heavenly Father. He said it Himself, "He who has seen Me has seen the Father" (John 14:9, *New King James Version*), and He was quick to heal all who came to Him of every sickness and every disease.

We see Him do it all through the Gospels. In the book of Matthew, for instance, we read:

"Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people...and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them" (Matthew 4:23-24).

"They brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:16-17).

"Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people" (Matthew 9:35).

"When he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" (Matthew 10:1).

"Great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all" (Matthew 12:15).

"Great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel" (Matthew 15:30-31).

Talk about some powerful medicine! You can get a megadose just from meditating on how often the words *all* and *every* are used in those verses. While you're at it, you can also get set free from

any idea you might have gotten that God gets glory by the noble way His people patiently put up with the pain and the agony of disease. That idea is nothing but a devilish lie!

God is not so hard-pressed that He has to build His reputation by making His people suffer sickness. He's God! He builds His reputation by working miracles for people. He gets glory when the sick get healed, the lame start walking, and the blind get their sight.

Because God is Love (1 John 4:8), He enjoys doing those kinds of things for people. So much so, that in Jesus' ministry, He always made it easy for people to receive. When they came to Him for healing, Jesus just did whatever they said.

In Mark 5, for instance, the woman with the issue of blood said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well" (verse 28, *NKJV*), and that's exactly what happened. When she touched the hem of Jesus' garment, power went out of Him and healed her body, and He said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction" (verse 34, *NKJV*).

The same thing happened with Jairus when his little daughter was at the point of death. He came to Jesus and said, "Come and lay thy hands on her, that she may be healed; and she shall live" (Mark 5:23), so that's what Jesus did.

As you may remember, while they were on the way to Jairus' house, he got news that his daughter had already died. But that didn't deter Jesus. He told Jairus not to fear but to keep believing. Jesus went on with Jairus to his house, "took the child by the hand, and said to her... 'Little girl, I say to you, arise,' [and] immediately the girl arose" (verses 41-42, *NKJV*).

Then, there was the Roman centurion, in Matthew 8, whose servant was "sick of the palsy, grievously tormented" (verse 6). Although Jesus offered to come heal him, because the centurion felt unworthy to have Jesus in his home, he said, "Speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed" (verse 8). What happened? Jesus spoke the word, just as the centurion requested. "As thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee," He said. "And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour" (verse 13).

#### Faith Declares the End Result

Notice that each one of those people spoke words of faith to Jesus. They didn't just moan and cry and talk to Him about how bad things were.

To live in divine health, look up the following verses and read them aloud daily.



For a FREE download of these healing scriptures, go to [kcm.org/maghealing](http://kcm.org/maghealing).

- Ex. 15:26
- Ex. 23:25
- Deut. 7:14-15
- Deut. 30:19-20
- 1 Kgs. 8:56
- Ps. 91:9-10, 14-16
- Ps. 103:1-5
- Ps. 107:19-21
- Ps. 118:17
- Prov. 4:10
- Prov. 4:20-24
- Isa. 41:10
- Isa. 53:4-5
- Jer. 1:12
- Jer. 30:17
- Joel 3:10
- Nah. 1:9
- Matt. 8:2-3
- Matt. 8:16-17
- Matt. 18:18-19
- Matt. 21:21
- Mark 11:22-24
- Mark 16:14-18
- Rom. 4:16-21
- Rom. 8:2, 11
- 2 Cor. 10:3-5
- Gal. 3:13-14, 29
- Eph. 6:10-17
- Phil. 2:13
- Phil. 4:6-7
- 2 Tim. 1:7
- Heb. 10:23
- Heb. 10:35-36
- Heb. 11:11
- Heb. 13:8
- Jas. 5:14-16
- 1 Pet. 2:24
- 1 Jn. 3:21-22
- 1 Jn. 5:14-15
- 3 Jn. 2
- Rev. 12:11

“When all you do is pray the problem, you don't give God anything to work with....

He wants to hear what you're believing to receive.

”

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The woman with the issue of blood said, "I shall be made well." Jairus said of his daughter, "She shall live." The centurion said, "My servant shall be healed."

That's the way faith talks. Faith doesn't say, "I hope so." Or, "Maybe something will happen." It declares the end result.

Over the years, people have often testified in Healing School, that they began saying long before coming to the meeting, "I'm going to be healed in that service." Sure enough, Jesus did for them what they said. Because they had already released their faith with their words, sometimes they got healed the moment they walked through the door.

This is where people miss it a lot of times: They don't release their faith. They just go to God and tell Him how sick they are. They just keep praying the problem.

When all you do is pray the problem, you don't give God anything to work with. He knows about the problem. He knows if you're sick. He wants to hear what you're believing to receive. He wants you to speak faith so He can make you well.

God's system is a faith system! It always works the same way: You believe in your heart what He says, and confess it with your mouth.

That's not only how you get born again, it's how you receive everything from God—including healing, financial prosperity and every other blessing.

According to Romans 1:17, as believers, we "live by faith." And according to Jesus, he who has faith in God 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" (Mark 11:23).

Your faith is what gives God an open door of access to move in your life. So, keep the door open to Him by believing and speaking His Word. When symptoms of sickness try to come on you, instead of talking the problem, say what you want to come to pass. By faith, tell that sickness to get off you! Say to your body, "You are healed, in the Name of Jesus."

If you catch yourself speaking unbelief and saying negative things about your body and your health, get your mouth turned around by spending extra time in the Word. Feed your spirit by meditating on healing scriptures. Take big doses of God's medicine by putting in your heart

and in your mouth verses like these:

Psalm 103:2-5: "Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's."

Exodus 23:25-26: "Ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil."

Deuteronomy 7:15: "And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and none of the evil diseases of Egypt which you knew will He put upon you" (AMPC).

Isaiah 53:4-5: "Surely [Jesus] has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains.... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities...and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole" (AMPC).

Those verses from Isaiah were written before Jesus came. In the New Testament, the Apostle Peter rephrased them. Looking back at what Jesus did for us on the cross, he wrote that "by [Jesus'] stripes ye were healed" (1 Peter 2:24).

You're on this side of the Cross! Healing is no longer just a promise, it's an accomplished fact. Jesus has already borne for you everything that could ever go wrong in your body. He took upon Himself every sickness and every disease at the same time He took on Himself all your sins.

How did you receive forgiveness from your sins? By believing on Jesus and confessing Him as Lord of your life. How do you receive your healing? By believing and confessing that He is your Healer.

Dr. Jesus is always on call! So keep putting your faith in Him and taking His wonderful medicine. Look to Him today and every day and receive what only He can truly provide—a life of divine health! 🙏

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ET

# Listen Up!

Commander  
Kellie's Corner

**Listen up, Superkid! That's not just my opening line, that's what I want to talk about. Listening requires a certain something—special attention, dedication and a certain specialized skill to be able to REALLY listen.**

We know that listening is important in everyday life, but how does it shape your life at home, at school and most importantly, with Jesus?

There are many reasons to be a skilled listener at home, but let's talk about a few really big ones; PEACE, PROTECTION, OBEDIENCE and GROWTH. Parents are responsible to correct you when you are wrong, and to teach and instruct you every day. It's not an easy job, but when you are listening, it does make it much easier. This not only keeps the frustration levels down for moms and dads, but it also helps when parents don't have to raise their voices to be heard. You can actually make a big difference in having a peaceful home.

Listening brings protection because as you listen and obey your parents' instructions, corrections and directions, you will walk in wisdom and avoid dangerous situations. We've all heard our parents say, "Don't touch the stove! It's hot!" If you don't listen, you don't obey; and if you don't obey... "OUCH!" Listening and obedience go together, don't they? One is not good without the other.

We can see this in Ephesians 6:1-3, *The Passion Translation*: "Children, if you want to be wise, listen to your parents and do what they tell you, and the Lord will help you. For the commandment, 'Honor your father and your mother,' was the first of the Ten Commandments with a promise attached: 'You will prosper and live a long, full life if you honor your parents.'"

To be able to obey, listening comes first. What comes next speaks of the protection I spoke about. A promise is given: You will prosper (be a success) and live a long, full life. This includes protection and well-being.

So how does listening make us grow? I'm not talking about growing taller but growing wiser and smarter, in other words,

growing UP. When you listen to your parents' instructions, little by little you become as smart and wise as they are! Even now as an adult, I walk in the wisdom and instruction of my mom and dad EVERY DAY! My parents worked hard to teach me all they knew about life and especially about Jesus. I didn't always listen as well as I should have, but I quickly realized that things always worked better when I was an active listener.

An active listener listens with a heart to be obedient. Sometimes I would listen with a plan to argue! Not good, huh? At times, I would be thinking about what I wanted to say to my parents instead of thinking about what they were saying to me. Usually, I didn't know or couldn't remember what they actually said! I was not always a skillful listener.

Do you know who the best listener is? He is not only Someone we should listen to, He's Someone we should LEARN listening skills from. Guess who? YES, Jesus! There are many examples of Jesus listening to His elders and learning from them.

When His parents were searching for Him, they found him in the Temple, learning from the teachers and priests. The Bible says in Luke 2:46-47 (*King James Version*), "And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."

Then it says in verse 51, "And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them."

This means He listened to and was obedient to His parents. We see the promise from Ephesians come true for Jesus in verse 52, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man."

Jesus was a skillful and active listener. Because of this, He was a follower of His heavenly Father! All through His life on earth, He ALWAYS listened to the Father. John 5:30 (*The Message*) says, "I can't do a solitary thing

on my own: I listen, then I decide. You can trust my decision because I'm not out to get my own way but only to carry out orders."

Do you see how Jesus listened? He already planned to do what the Father told Him to do before He even knew what it was. Superkid, this is important for us, because in the moment when Jesus was thinking about going to the cross to die for our sins, He didn't want to do it! Matthew 26:39 (*TPT*) says, "My Father, if there is any way you can deliver me from this suffering, please take it from me. Yet what I want is not important, for I only desire to fulfill your plan for me."

Superkid, LISTENING is the key to how Jesus was always obedient and able to follow the Father's plan perfectly, even in the hardest choice anyone has ever had to make. Are we perfect like Jesus? No. Does Jesus expect that? No. But we GROW more complete and wiser as we LISTEN. Listen to our parents, teachers and, most importantly, listen to Jesus. In the easy times and in the hardest times, doing what is right and best becomes simple. And when it isn't easy, there is a great reward to make listening worth it.

COMMANDER KELLIE,  
OVER AND OUT! 📻

**"Let's LISTEN UP and we will GROW UP, so we can always be like Jesus and SHOW UP!"**



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