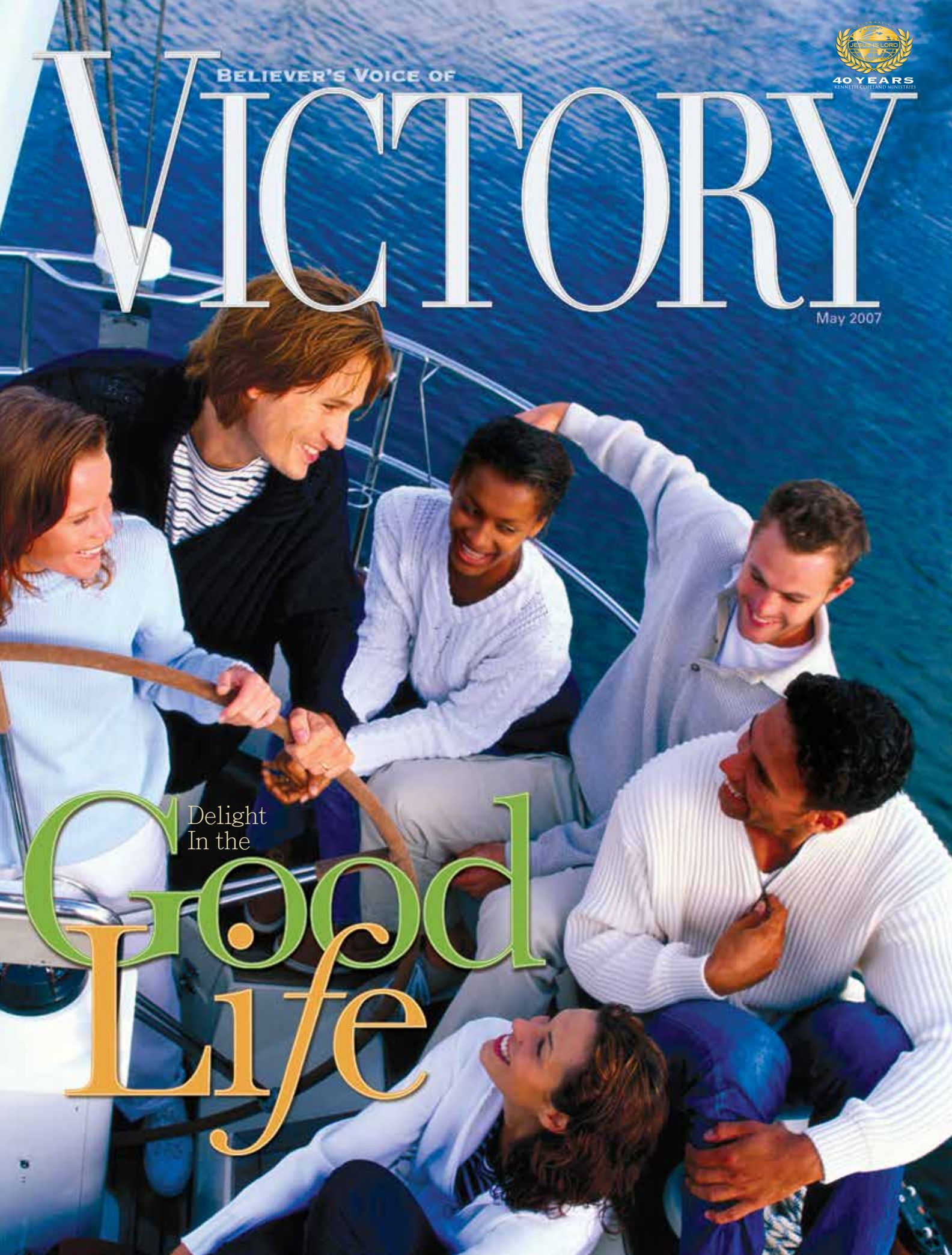




BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

VICTORY

May 2007



Delight
In the

Good Life

God Is Speaking Are You Listening?



Stress can press us. Questions can flood our minds when we're seeking the right path to take. But God is speaking. And He wants us to turn to Him for the answers and direction we need for our lives.

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Are You Listening?

Hearing From Heaven

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by Kenneth Copeland

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God's words are spirit and life. Agree with His Word, spend time with Him every day and live in the blessing of God!



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

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In 1979, Gloria Copeland heard the voice of God in a way she had never heard it before, I want you to start teaching on healing in all the meetings. Three months later, Healing School became a permanent part of all KCM conventions and campaigns.

BY KENNETH COPELAND



Delight In the Good Life

IF YOU'RE A CHRISTIAN, YOU SHOULD BE ENJOYING LIFE. | DID YOU KNOW THAT? | If you're born again, if you've made Jesus Christ your Lord, you should be so satisfied—so joyful, so overflowing with life that you should seem almost ridiculously optimistic to the unbelievers around you. You should greet every day with such confident expectation that it's going to be filled with the goodness of God that others watch you with wonder and ask, "How can you be so full of hope when the world is so dark? How can you be so certain your life will be blessed?"

Those are the kinds of questions the early New Testament believers heard all the time. That's why Peter had to write them and say, "...be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you"

(1 Peter 3:15). Apparently, those first century disciples understood what many, long-faced, woe-begone Christians today do not. They realized Jesus truly meant it when He said in John 10:9-10 (*The Amplified Bible*), "I am the Door; anyone who

You don't have to look to your employer, the government or anyone else. Jesus is your Shepherd and He will lead you. He will provide for you.

enters in through Me will be saved (will live). He will come in and he will go out [freely], and will find pasture. The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)."

Most believers today can quote those verses, but few fully believe them. They don't realize if we, as Christians, are not enjoying abundant life we're missing it somewhere. We're not taking hold by faith of what Jesus came to give us.

WE HAVE A GOOD SHEPHERD

"But, Brother Copeland, you don't understand my situation," someone might say. "I have some serious problems. I came from a poor family. I don't have the opportunities most other people have. My circumstances are bad."

That may be true, but according to Jesus, all those things are irrelevant. He said *anyone* who receives Him as the Door of salvation becomes a free person. They can come and go and find plentiful pasture (or provision) for their spirit, soul and body. They can have abundant life.

Notice Jesus didn't say that just certain people—like preachers, or highly educated people, or people of a certain color and a certain social standing could do it. He said *anybody* who came through the Door could have and enjoy overflowing, abundant life.

If you are an *anybody* you qualify. You're free to come and go as the Lord leads you. You're not trapped inside your natural circumstances, or locked out of God's blessings. You have become a free person, and wherever you go you're going to find pasture. You don't have to depend on someone else to give it to you. You don't have to look to your employer, the government or anyone else. Jesus is your Shepherd and He will lead you. He will provide for you. What you have depends only upon what you are willing to receive from Him.

Oddly enough, many well-meaning believers seem more willing to receive what the devil wants to give them than what Jesus has for them. They're constantly embracing devilish gifts like sickness, oppression and lack because they've been religiously brainwashed to believe God sent those things to teach them something.

But they have it backward. The devil—not Jesus—is the one stealing their health and their finances. He is the one trying to kill and destroy them. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd risks and lays down His [own] life for the sheep" (John 10:11, *The Amplified Bible*).

Does a good shepherd pick up a little lamb and break its legs just so he can demonstrate his ability to fix them? Does a good shepherd starve them or leave them without water? Certainly not. When you're under the care of the Good Shepherd, you can say what David said in Psalm 23: "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake" (verses 1-3).

CHASE AWAY THE SHADOWS

"Yeah, but that psalm doesn't stop there," someone might say. "It says that sometimes we'll have to go through the valley of the shadow of death."

Sure it does. But you can even enjoy life in that valley if you'll stay with your Shepherd. That's one thing I've learned over the past 40 years. I've found out that it doesn't matter where I go, if Jesus is with me, things will be good.

He'll turn that valley of the shadow of death into a banquet hall for me. He'll lead me into green pastures. He'll make me lie down beside the still waters. He'll make sure I have everything I need to have and enjoy abundant life even in that seemingly dismal place.



You stop worrying about how they're treating you and concern yourself instead with how you're treating them.

So if Jesus says we need to go through the valley of the shadow of death, I don't mind going there. I just say, "Well, praise God, let's go! I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me."

"But, Brother Copeland, what about the shadow of death? Doesn't that scare you?"

Why should it? My Lord and Savior is the biggest Person in the valley and He is right there with me. What's more, a shadow never hurt anyone. All a shadow can do is scare you. The shadow of a dog may look big enough to bite your head off. But when you turn on the light, you find out the dog behind the shadow is half the size it appeared and it doesn't even have any teeth!

Remember that the next time you're in a valley and the devil tries to cast a shadow over you. Instead of letting that shadow scare you, just turn the light on and get rid of the silly thing. You're fully equipped to do that because the Bible says you are born of light (Ephesians 5:8). It says you can walk in the light as Jesus is in the light (1 John 1:7). You can cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light (Romans 13:12).

As a New Testament believer, you don't have to put up with the shadow of death like the Old Testament saints did. You've been delivered from the power of darkness and conveyed into the kingdom of the Son of Light (Colossians 1:12-13). So don't let the devil darken

even one of your days. When he tries, throw him into confusion with the brightness of your light.

WHY STUMBLE IN DARKNESS?

Think about it and you'll see why. Have you ever walked out of a dark room into the bright sunshine? You couldn't see anything for a moment or two, could you? That's what happened to Saul on the road to Damascus. He'd been living in darkness, persecuting Christians, and when Jesus shined the light of God's glory on him, he couldn't see for three days. Someone had to go pray for him to be filled with the Holy Spirit before he could get his sight back.

According to John 1:5, that's the effect light always has on darkness. That's why, when the light of Jesus shines in the darkness, *the darkness comprehends it not*. The word translated *comprehends* (or *comprehendeth* in the *King James*) can also be translated *find*. So you might say it this way, when the light shines in the darkness, the darkness can't find it.

Wouldn't you like to live so fully in the light that the devil couldn't find you? According to the Bible, that's possible. It tells

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us we can live in such a way that the wicked one touches us not (1 John 5:18).

First John 2:10 gives us the secret to that lifestyle. It says, “He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.” In other words, the key to living in the light is keeping the New Testament command of love.

Once the Lord spoke to me and said, *Wouldn't it be foolish to walk through the door, turn out the light, and stumble over everything in the room? Yet that's the way most of My people try to live. They turn the light out by neglecting to keep the commandment of love. They yield to unforgiveness, strife, envy and all kinds of other unloving attitudes and behaviors. Then when they can't find their way in life, they start crying out to Me. "Oh God, lead me! God, direct me! God, help me!" But all they really need to do is turn the light back on. All they need to do is repent and start walking in love.*

The more I thought about that, the more it dawned on me how true that is. Jesus proved it when He was on the earth. No matter how hard the devil tried to corner Him, He could find the way out of any difficulty because He always walked in the light of love.

LIKE HEAVEN ON EARTH

As His disciples, Jesus intends for us to operate the same way. That's what He had in mind when He said, “...whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also” (Matthew 5:39). He wasn't telling us to just let people beat the daylight out of us. He was teaching us to put on the armor of light, to step under the protective covering of love so the devil couldn't touch us.

The only time we see the Church as a whole walking in that kind of love was during the first great spiritual outpouring in Jerusalem right after the Day of Pentecost. The book of Acts tells us the believers at that time “were of one heart and of one soul” (Acts 4:32). They loved each other so completely that they “sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need” (Acts 2:45).

As a result, the power of God got so strong among them that sick people who got within a shadow's length of Peter would be healed. Sometimes people think the shadow itself did the healing. But there wasn't any healing power in Peter's shadow. The power or the light of God that was coming out of him was doing the work.

You were born again as a child of light, so that light is in you in its most powerful form. But it cannot shine forth

as long as you keep clouding it with strife, unbelief and unforgiveness.

If you want to walk in the full power of that light, you'll have to repent of all those things. I don't mean just feel sorry for it. Repentance isn't just being sorry, it's getting in agreement with God about those things, acknowledging to Him that they're wrong, and then believing you receive your forgiveness for it and your cleansing from it.

Once you've done that, determine to become so committed to keeping God's command of love that you'd rather die than violate it. If someone mistreats you, take the position Jesus and Stephen did when they looked at those who were about to murder them and said, “Father, forgive them....”

That kind of love literally arms you with light. It protects you so that the ugly stuff people say and do doesn't bother you. You stop worrying about how they're treating you and concern yourself instead with how you're treating them.

I'll never forget the day the Lord showed me that perspective. I'd been moping around because I felt like Gloria wasn't paying attention to me the way I thought she should, and I said to myself, *Aw, she doesn't care about me anyway.*

The second I said that, the Spirit of God jerked me to attention and almost hollered at me. *It's none of your business whether she cares about you or not! It's your business to care for her! It's enough for you to know that I care about you. So you see to it that you care for her and whether she cares a thing about you or not is between Gloria and Me!*

The Lord's tone of voice was so strong it left me trembling. I didn't want Him to ever have to speak to me like that again. So I committed myself right then and there to do what He was telling me to do.

As a result, Gloria and I have walked in the light where our marriage is concerned, and the devil hasn't been able to touch it. It's like heaven on earth in our house.

That's the way our Good Shepherd wants us to live all the time. Everywhere we go, in everything we do, He wants us to enjoy green pastures and rest beside still waters. He wants us to live in freedom, coming and going wherever He leads us. He wants us to enjoy abundant, overflowing life.

Whether we're walking through the valley or sitting on the mountaintop, He wants us to be living in the light.

VICTORY



If Jesus says we need to go through the valley of the shadow of death, I don't mind going there.



BY BILLYE BRIM

Fulfilling Our HEAVENLY MINISTRY

WHAT WOULD BE YOUR REPLY IF I ASKED YOU, “HOW IS YOUR LIFE GOING?” | OR “HOW IS YOUR BUSINESS DOING?” | OR “HOW IS YOUR MINISTRY GETTING ALONG?” | YOU MIGHT SAY, “EVERYTHING IS GOING PRETTY GOOD! THE KIDS ARE DOING WELL,” OR “MY BUSINESS INCOME PICKED UP A LITTLE LAST YEAR.” OR YOU MIGHT REPLY, “WE ARE BUILDING A NEW CHURCH FACILITY, AND WE HAD 250 IN SERVICE LAST WEEK.”

You would speak to me about things in your life in terms of performance.

The success of our earthly life has everything to do with how well we are able to perform. And by “life” I’m talking about every realm—personal, family, church, community, state, nation and

world. We speak of the progress of God’s purpose and plan in our generation in terms of our and others’ performance.

For most of us, our lives go along very smoothly, but we may have certain persistent obstacles or periodic detours that challenge us. And for others,

their lives just seem to be one long rocky road, filled with potholes and breakdowns at every turn.

In this life on earth we are going to face challenges that hinder our productive performance. But the question I'm really asking is, how are we handling the hindrances? Have we identified their origin? Are we responding according to God's Word when we face them?

Over recent months, the Lord has renewed my understanding of how our performance and fulfillment of God's plan and purpose for our lives is accomplished and how hindrances are overcome.

The key is this—the authority of the believer.

The renewal of this biblical foundation to the Church couldn't be more timely. I know in my own life and ministry, and from accounts I'm hearing from other people, we are under attack of the enemy of our soul like we have never known before. Satan and his demonic powers on every level are on the move. Actually, they are on the run because their time is short, and they are attempting to drag down everything and everyone in their path of destruction.

We know Jesus' return to this earth is close. And the devils know it, too. By standing up and taking its rightful authority over the works of the enemy, the Body of Christ will pave the way for total fulfillment of God's purpose and plan for the earth and humanity.

WE MUST BE WHO WE ARE

Our days of complacency and ignoring the Word on this subject are over. The time has come that the Church step up and be who the Word says we are and exercise the authority the Word says we have. The authority of the believer is a heavenly ministry to which we have all been called.

Pick up your Bible right now and read Ephesians 1-2:7, paying close attention to verses 17-23 in chapter 1.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above

all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Look also at chapter 2, verses 4-7:

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

I have focused on these scriptures for over 40 years. But in these prophetic days, my eyes are more enlightened toward them than ever before. The Holy Ghost has awakened me to see the vital position of the authority of the believer in His end-time plan—His last-day move as we fulfill our heavenly ministry.

We are at a threshold—at the doorway to a great realm of revelation and operation in our authority. The Lord has shown me that, as Ephesians 1:20 and 2:6 so clearly reveal, the ultimate goal of the gospel is that we assume our position in Christ—risen and seated with Him at the right hand of the Father.

When the Father raised Jesus to this exalted place, He raised us and seated us there. Even when we were dead in sins, God made us alive and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Everything Jesus accomplished from His birth to His ascension was to lift us to that place of authority.

Before He went to the cross, He laid out all the truths of the new covenant for the disciples, and for those who would come after them. He emphasized the relationship we would have with the Father in the days ahead. In John 14:1-2 we are told that Jesus was going to prepare the place. He said to the disciples, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).

The Body of Christ throughout the centuries has accepted these truths. But we have relegated them to life after death or after-the-Rapture status. Of course,

The unified, glorious Church, walking in the love of Jesus, is the one force that will usher in this end-time work of the Lord.

our future holds wonderful things for us. Yet, there is a place at the right hand of the Father we are to occupy now. It is the place from which we can work with Him to perform His plans and purposes for this last hour.

IT'S TIME WE TAKE OUR PLACE

In his powerful little book *The Authority of the Believer*, John A. MacMillan wrote:

The elevation of His people with Him to the heavenlies has no other meaning than that they share His throne. To share a throne means without question to partake of the authority which it represents. Indeed, they have been thus elevated in the plan of God, for this very purpose, that they may even now exercise, to the extent of their spiritual apprehension, authority over the powers of the air and over the conditions which those powers

have brought about on the earth and are still creating through their ceaseless manipulations of the minds and circumstances of mankind.

The time has come that we take our place and refuse to be unseated. We must

stop putting up with the work of the enemy in our lives. We must stop his attempts to distract us from the purpose and plan of God on every level.

Do you believe we share the throne with Christ Jesus? Do you believe we have the right—the responsibility—to take authority over these things from our position in the heavenlies? I believe it and I've begun to act on it!

I have been dealing with a once very close, personal relationship that has been broken for more than 10 years. One morning last December, I took my place in the heavenlies and began to exercise authority over it. I spoke to the enemy who had contributed to the break and fueled it through the years with his harassment and lies. I commanded him to cease and desist in the Name of Jesus. That was on a Friday. I phoned that person and thought I left a voice message. As it turned out, I had dialed the wrong number. Yet, on Sunday afternoon I received a call from that person. Before the call was

over, our fellowship was restored. We spent Christmas together for the first time in years! We went to church and worshiped the Lord together at Prayer Mountain. We have talked several times now, confirming our love for one another and praying together. How wonderful to have that sweet relationship restored.

My children and staff are taking their place and exercising their authority in the Name of Jesus in their families and ministry. They are even taking authority over demonic influences against their children's academic and athletic activities. Things are changing on all fronts. As a family and ministry team, we are becoming skilled at exercising authority against the enemy's attempts to hinder our performance of God's plans and purposes for us.

WE ARE THE ONE

God has a plan and purpose for the earth and all mankind...to show forth His glory, to bring the revival and move that will bring the greatest harvest of all time. We know it's true. We want it! But, there is a hindering force. The enemy is so frightened that he is endeavoring with everything in his power to stop it.

We must take our place and stop his maneuvers. The enemy recognizes the authority we have and he must obey us, just as he obeyed Jesus.

The unified, glorious Church, walking in the love of Jesus, is the one force that will usher in this end-time work of the Lord. We are many gathered into one Body. We need each other and God needs us! We each must "take care of business" with what I call low-level devils in our own homes and churches, and then cooperate with the whole Body of Christ in taking our authority over principalities and powers that are wreaking havoc around the world.

God has opened doors for us to walk through in 2007—doors no man can shut. The only thing that can keep us from being in the right place at the right time is our unwillingness to take our place. I am willing and I trust you are, too! Let's firmly plant ourselves with Jesus at the right hand of God and take our authority over the enemy. He's depending on us to fulfill our heavenly ministry! **VICTORY**

Billye Brim is president and founder of Billye Brim Ministries and Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks. For information or ministry materials write to Billye Brim Ministries, P.O. Box 40, Branson, MO 65615, call 417-336-4877 or visit her Web site at www.billyebrim.org.



May

Believer's Voice of Victory
Broadcast Calendar



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



John Copeland



Marty Copeland



Kellie Copeland



Terri Copeland
Pearsons



Bill Winston



David Barton



John Hagee

DAILY

30 Mon	1 Tue	2 Wed	3 Thu	4 Fri
<p><i>Words Have the Power to Change Your Life</i></p> <p>John Copeland and special guest Bill Winston finish their series on confession, showing how words can make or break your victory.</p>				
7	8	9	10	11
<p><i>The Copeland Girls' Mother's Day Treat!</i></p> <p>This special week before Mother's Day, join Gloria Copeland, Kellie Copeland, Terri Copeland Pearsons and Marty Copeland as they talk about the power of living as women of God.</p>				
14	15	16	17	18
<p><i>The Revelation of Jesus</i></p> <p>Join Kenneth Copeland and John Hagee as they talk about Jesus—the <i>real</i> Jesus—who He is, and what a revelation of Him means to you.</p>				
21	22	23	24	25
<p><i>The Real Jesus in Revelation</i></p> <p>Kenneth Copeland and John Hagee continue their discussion about the real Jesus, digging into the book of Revelation for powerful truths that will set you free!</p>				
28	29	30	31	1
<p><i>Your Vote Makes the Difference</i></p> <p>Special guest David Barton joins Kenneth Copeland to talk about the believer's involvement during election time and how your vote counts.</p>				

SUNDAY

6	<p>Gloria Copeland</p> <p><i>How to Stay in the Safety Zone</i></p> <p>There are signs of the times all around us. Discover how being obedient to God keeps you safe!</p>
13	<p>Gloria Copeland, Kellie Copeland, Terri Copeland Pearsons and Marty Copeland</p> <p><i>Mother's Day Special</i></p> <p>The Copeland Girls celebrate Mother's Day with a special message for women and those who love them.</p>
20	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>God Is Absolute Good</i></p> <p>God is good, all the time! Find out how His goodness can break every yoke and remove every burden in your life.</p>
27	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>God's Compassion Poured Into You</i></p> <p>THE BLESSING is a manifestation of God's compassion...compassion that has been poured into you. So get ready to receive!</p>

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BY GLORIA COPELAND

*“He who dwells in the secret place
of the Most High shall remain stable and fixed under the shadow
of the Almighty [Whose power no foe can withstand].”*

(Psalm 91:1, The Amplified Bible)



DWELLING IN THE
SECRET PLACE

As a believer, God's Word promises that divine protection belongs to you. However there are some conditions you must keep in order to activate that protection in your life. The Word of God makes these conditions very clear. | You can find the first one at the beginning of Psalm 91, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty." | If you are to enjoy God's protection, you're going to have to abide in Him. To *abide* means to "dwell in." It is a word that implies not a temporary situation but a permanent dwelling place—the place where you make your home. It doesn't indicate a coming in and going out but a continual dwelling under God's shadow.

What does it take to become an abider? Putting God's Word in your heart, for one thing. In John 15:7, Jesus said, "If you live in Me [abide vitally united to Me] and My words remain in you and *continue to live in your hearts, ask whatever you will and it shall be done for you*" (*The Amplified Bible*).

The truth that is alive in your heart is the truth you act on every day.

It doesn't come from simply reading a scripture once, shouting hallelujah twice and going on.

No. Truth comes alive in you when you think about it, meditate on it and apply it to your life. So at the moment of danger, the Word of God is your first thought.

Abiding under the shadow of the Almighty is the result of spending so much time in the Word of God and in His presence that His truth governs your actions without even a conscious thought. If you want to be an abider, you can't afford to simply get into the Word for a while and then quit. You need to be consistent. Spend time in the Word day after day. Read Psalm 91 daily until it becomes engrafted in your heart.

Remember this: It's the Word you act on today that will get you delivered. It's not what you heard last year. It isn't even what you know. It's what you *do*. Keep yourself full of God's Word.

If that sounds like a tall order to you, let me promise you something: Every minute you invest in the Word of God will yield a hundredfold return in health, faith and deliverance. You'll never regret a second of it.

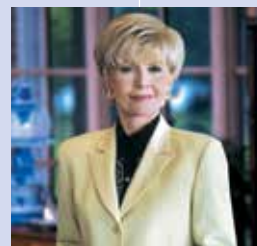
Disobedience Is Dangerous

Another definition of abiding is simply obeying. First John 3:6 says, "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not." The reverse of that is also true—whoever sins (or is disobedient) does not abide in Him.

If you'll look at Proverbs 1, you'll see just how dangerous disobedience can be. You will see why, when most people need supernatural protection, it isn't there for them.

In 1994, Gloria Copeland was voted "Christian Woman of the Year," an honor conferred on women whose example of faith and excellence "exemplifies godly character and leadership."

Founded in 1983, the Christian Woman of the Year Association chooses one outstanding Christian woman annually through nominations and votes of evangelical women in leadership. Recipients of this award are outstanding achievers among their peers—women whose activities, attributes and accomplishments reflect a life of devotion to God, to the principles of His Word and to meeting the needs of people.



Gloria received the honor because her impact for the kingdom of God has been felt worldwide through her teaching at conventions and meetings, on television and radio, in books, and through audio and video materials.

In addition to a special award presentation conducted in the company of family, friends and the KCM staff in Fort Worth, Gloria Copeland was honored with a trophy, a certificate of recognition, and a beautiful photo album filled with congratulatory letters from family, friends, and church and world leaders. Among those congratulating Gloria were President Bill Clinton and then Texas Governor George W. Bush.

But perhaps the most heart-warming tribute to Gloria's life and ministry was found in a letter from her husband, Kenneth, who wrote in part:

"I have watched you go from a little, small seedling, reluctant to speak up, into a mighty giant oak among ministers of the gospel.

You are unparalleled in strength, commitment, determination, faith and obedience to the heavenly vision. It has been a marvelous experience to watch and be part of this

unfolding of God's miracle power in the life of someone who has been and continues to be totally committed to His Word...I love you with all my heart."

Gloria's own life exemplifies the victory she unwaveringly proclaims is available to all who will commit themselves to the Word.

Every heart that has ever been touched by the compassion of God flowing through Gloria's life agrees that her greatest attribute is her living, tangible example of the love of God. As a result, to those of us at KCM and to our Partners and Friends, Gloria Copeland is Christian Woman of the Year—every year.

VICTORY

Beginning in verse 23, God says:

If you will turn (repent) and give heed to my reproof, behold, I [Wisdom] will pour out my spirit upon you, I will make my words known to you. Because I have called and you have refused [to answer], have stretched out my hand and no man has heeded it, and you treated as nothing all my counsel and would accept none of my reproof, I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when the thing comes that shall cause you terror and panic.... Then will they call upon me [Wisdom] but I will not answer; they will seek me early and diligently but they will not find me. Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord.... But whoso hearkens to me [Wisdom] shall dwell securely and in confident trust and shall be quiet, without fear or

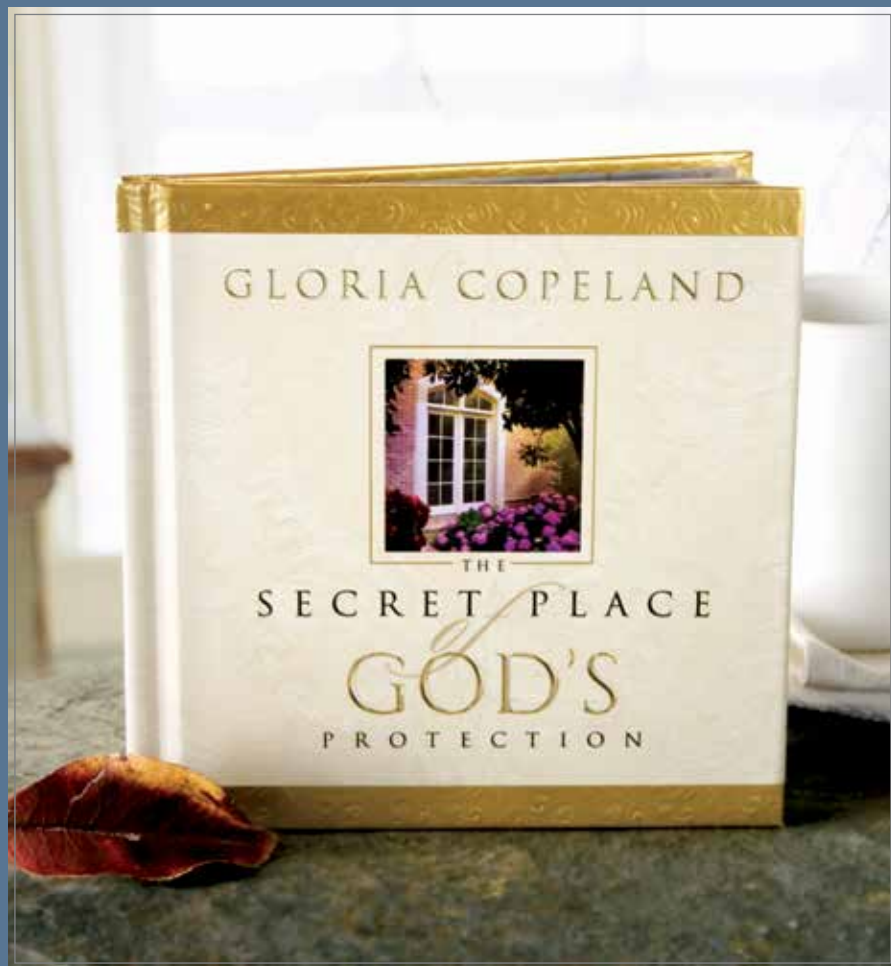
dread of evil (verses 23-33, *The Amplified Bible*).

Thank God, we're living in the day of grace and mercy and it's never too late to call upon the Lord! But I am going to tell you this: If you haven't been abiding in the Word (God's wisdom revealed to us), it's going to be difficult for you to call on Him in faith when calamity comes. If you've been living every day by the world's standards, at the moment of crisis it will be hard for you to depend on Him.

But the good news is—you can start abiding in the Word of God today! You can draw close to the Lord, and the Bible promises: "Whoso hearkens to me [Wisdom] shall dwell securely and in confident trust and shall be quiet, without fear or dread of evil" (Proverbs 1:33, *The Amplified Bible*).

That's the kind of supernatural protection promised to those who abide in Him. That's the kind of supernatural protection promised to *you!* **VICTORY**

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—Gloria Copeland

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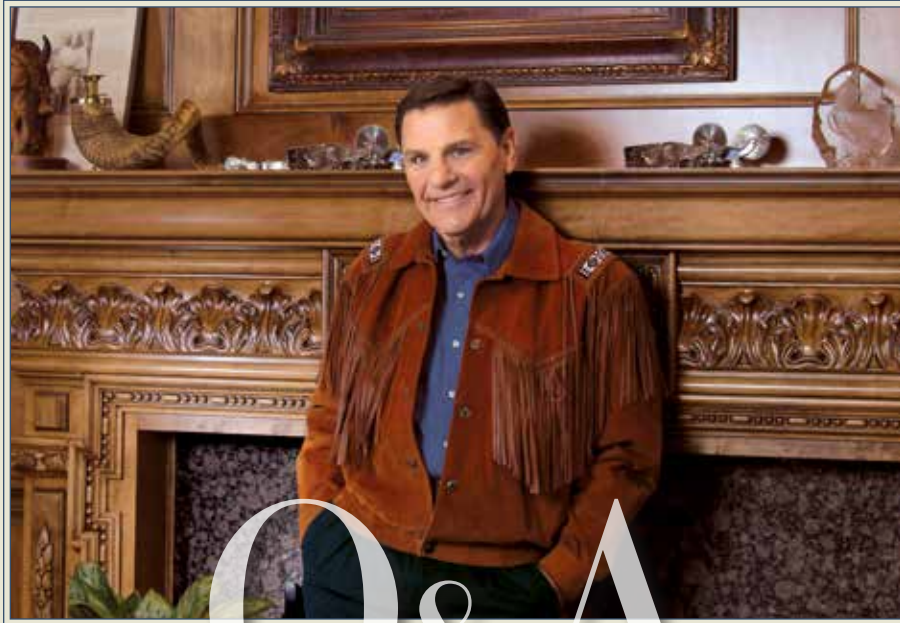
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Q&A

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: *I've always heard that it's God's will for His Word to produce a hundredfold blessing. But when I plant the Word of God in my life, it seems like things get worse instead of better. What am I doing wrong?*

A: The answer to your problems can be found in Mark 4. There Jesus said that after God's Word is sown in the heart, Satan immediately comes to take it away.

What tools does he use to dig up the planted Word? Jesus tells us: afflictions, persecutions, cares of this world, deceitfulness of riches and the lust of other things.

Whenever you sow the Word, Satan is going to send some of those things your way in an attempt to pry you loose from the Word of God because he knows that Word will give you victory over him. So be prepared to resist him. No matter what happens, stick with the Word. Study it and apply it every day. Learn to take that Word and use it as the sword of the Spirit to stop Satan's attack (Ephesians 6:10-18; 2 Corinthians 10:4-5).

As you persist in speaking and acting on the Word, Satan will flee (James 4:7). And that's

when you'll begin to see the hundredfold return become a reality in your life!

Q: *Through your ministry, I have learned a great deal about finances and tithing. My question is this: When I tithe my income, should I tithe on the net or on the gross?*

A: Proverbs 3:9 says, "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the *firstfruits of all thine increase*." That means tithes are to be given from the first fruits—from the top—which is the gross, not the net (Deuteronomy 26).

When you tithe on the amount of income you receive before taxes are taken out, you're acknowledging Jesus as Lord over all your money—even that which goes to the government. That way, the money you use to pay taxes with becomes more than just dollars and cents, it becomes blessed seed that you invest in your government.

Tithing off the gross also opens the door for Jesus, Himself, to help meet your tax needs. Since Gloria and I began tithing that way many years ago, we have never failed to have more than enough to pay our taxes when they're due. **VICTORY**

GoodNewsGazette

Partnership Is Powerful

I just wanted to let you know how much I rejoice in being Partners with you. My husband and I joined your wonderful ministry back in 1995. Since then, you've taught us how to love, forgive, rejoice, be generous—and above all, you've taught us to go get our blood-bought rights through our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Through your teachings and anointed prayer we have seen miracle after miracle! The house we purchased, the cost was miraculously lowered by \$23,000. Twice now, we have been given automobiles. Our daughter's life was saved at birth and her diagnosis of cerebral palsy is being lifted off her legs before our very eyes! You have been there for me when my so-cherished grandmother died of cancer. You have taught me and encouraged me when I have faced personal struggles. We go to your conventions and tell everyone about your ministry. We buy and hand out Gloria's books on healing to everyone! In a nutshell, you make us joyfully seek Jesus. What else can we say but thank you and Amen!

Laura Evans
Anderson, Ind.

AND THE PEACE OF GOD, WHICH PASSETH ALL UNDERSTANDING, SHALL *keep your hearts* AND MINDS THROUGH CHRIST JESUS (PHILIPPIANS 4:7).

Robbed, but Kept Safe

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for sharing your knowledge and wisdom with me. About a month ago, Gloria taught a message on Psalm 91. I must admit, I don't have the chance to watch your program every day, but on that particular day, every time I turned the channel you were there. So, I realized the Lord must be trying to tell me something.

I watched and was very delighted that you had given me the scripture that I desperately needed. You must understand, I'm a newfound Christian, but I'm growing in God's Word more and more every day. I was so excited once I learned that the Lord would protect me, I immediately prayed the scripture and planted it in my life. Since then I meditate on it all the time.

the Lord would
protect me

A couple of days ago, my wife and I were walking home from the store. Suddenly, like out of a nightmare two gunmen appeared and robbed us in broad daylight. After taking what little we had, the moment approached when they had to decide whether to shoot us or let us go. So, I started quoting Psalm 91 and the Lord, who is true to His Word, took us and hid us in His secret place. It was like while I was quoting the scripture everything just disappeared and the only thing that remained was the promise of God. I was saying, "Lord, You said that You would be our refuge and fortress, and that no evil shall befall us lest we dash our foot upon a stone." And the Lord with His actions unquestionably said, *And I am faithful to perform it.* When I came back to reality I realized that the gunmen had fled and just as the Lord had said, no harm, not even a scratch had befallen us.

Had it not been for the Lord guiding your heart, directing you to teach that powerful message that day, I'm sure we would have fallen at the hands of the evil one. So again, I just want to thank you and share with you this believer's voice of victory.

Tyrone Boyd | Michigan

Fear Flees—Freedom Comes

Since the early '90s I have received so much spiritual help from the Copeland family. I was suffering a mild bout of agoraphobia—the result of four muggings—and could not sleep. So with a cigarette in one hand and the remote in the other, I was TV surfing at 6 a.m., when suddenly there was this man pointing at me and telling me firmly that I need not fear. I lit another cigarette, sat down and listened. Then I ordered the tapes that were being offered. I played them day and night for months after they arrived. Those tapes and others got me through a terrifying financial time; a successful removal of part of my colon; and not least of all, giving up cigarettes.

Now this week, you stood in my living room and taught me how to pray effectively. Praying has always been rather hit or miss, even though we used to gather around the dining room table before breakfast and Mother was capable of getting prayers answered—I guess I missed the rudiments. I now expect to be able to draw on the same power Mother did, thanks to you. Thank you and all your family for the spiritual strength you have given me for over a decade.

N.S.



Prayer Proves Doctors Wrong

In April 2006, I began asking God to give my husband and me another healthy baby. In August, I realized I was pregnant again.

In November, I had an ultrasound done. The doctors told me that my baby would either have Down syndrome or severe heart problems. However, I chose to believe God for a healthy baby. I called your prayer line, and along with the prayers of others, I trusted God for good results. On December 20, I was told my baby was and would be normal. Praise God, to Him go the honor and glory!

Sallie Miller - Virginia

The Word Works

I just want to say thank you for your teachings. I commenced studying with your ministries and all the anointed men and women of God on your show exactly 15 months ago, and today I am seeing the glory manifest in my life daily. Your passion for God and His Word, expressed in your teachings, has helped me beyond my wildest expectations. I was awakened by a dream on March 9, 2006, in which God said *I am sending you a financial anointing through Kenneth Copeland Ministries, pay attention; study the teachings, and you will be blessed.*

I attended your Woodbridge, Va., meeting in November 2006, and was directed by the Holy Spirit to become one of your Elite Team Partners, which I obeyed. Since that time I received an unsolicited call from a COO regarding a permanent job opportunity. The voice message left by the COO stated, "I have a job for you which is so good that if I did not have a job I would apply for it myself. Additionally, you can make the job whatever you want out of it." The COO indicated that it was a six-figure salary...I am scheduled to start in a few weeks.

I stood on the scriptures from your blessing CD; and the Woodbridge 2006 prophecy, and all your other daily suggested prayers coupled with books and CDs. The only thing that has gotten into my ears and eyes for the last year and a half has been the Word of God messages. I am experiencing the glory of God in every area of my life and receiving answers to all my prayers. Thank you for all the other anointed men of God you partner with to bring more knowledge to your Partners.

L.L. | New Jersey

Crippling Debt Is Broken

Sometime this year, I wrote to you asking for your prayers so that I may be set free from a crippling debt I was in. You replied to me through a letter in which you encouraged me to be in agreement with you according to Matthew 18:19-20. Praise God, today I am completely free. I thank God for linking me with you. I never knew how good it is to be out of debt. Now I am able to get paid, pay my tithes, offerings and discuss with my wife how to spend all the other remaining balance. This is very new to us and it has really brought a lot of peace and love in our marriage.

May my sovereign Lord bless you abundantly, as your candle gives light to our candle. God bless you.

S.M. | Zimbabwe

Family Receives Salvation and Healing

When in Scotland for my brother's funeral, I got to know my youngest brother and his wife better. Just before I left, I shared a few scripture words, because Pat was suffering from tremendous back pain. She was told she may have to have surgery and the insertion of metal rods. Every time I met her she would say "I believe," "I know He can heal," but I still didn't do anything. The last time I saw her and my brother, I suddenly felt such compassion for her in this pain, and put my hand on her back and prayed in tongues.

When I got back to Australia, I was speaking to her on the phone and was told she was walking again, so I asked her if she believed Jesus was the Son of God and again I got the answer "I believe." I asked if she had asked Jesus into her heart and the answer was no. My mind went back to your magazine and I quickly asked her if she would like to do that, and asked her to repeat the salvation prayer from the *Victory* magazine, which she did. Neither my brother nor his wife go to church, but as we speak on the phone it is a quick update on family and 45 minutes about Jesus! The *Victory* magazine goes to her after I have read it.

Thank you for the magazine—there is so much she can learn from it—as I do!

J.M. | Australia





Sticks and Stones May Break Your Bones...But

NAMES

Are What Can Heal Them

For hundreds—even thousands—of years man has been trying to figure out what makes the universe tick. | While I may not be a rocket scientist, I can summarize the driving force that's behind this world in just one word... *words*. | That's right, *words*. Words are what created our world. And words are what keep it going.

Actually, it's not so much that words have created everything we see around us as it is *names*.

You see, a *name* is what I would call a “creative confession.” For example, when I say the word *moon*, you instantly know in your mind what I'm talking about. Your mind pulls up an image of the moon.

You can trace this process back to its origin when God said, “Let there be light: and there was light” (Genesis 1:3). He spoke the name, *light*, and light came into being—and light continues to be.

Psalms 147:4 and Isaiah 40:26 tell us that God calls each one of the stars and planets by name. What's more, Hebrews 1:3 says that He upholds all things by the *word* of His power.

So every time God spoke a name—*light*, *heaven*, *earth*, *man*—the thing bearing that name came into existence.

But now, not only do we have these examples of God speaking names into being, we also have examples throughout the Bible of God changing names.

Take Abraham, for instance.

While Abram was still childless, God changed his name to *Abraham*, which meant “Father of a great multitude.” God told Abram, “Thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee” (Genesis 17:5).

And that's exactly what happened. Abraham's name actually became God's creative power at work, making a childless man what he truly was created to be...a father of multitudes.

Case of Mistaken Identity

In Matthew 12:37, Jesus brought further revelation to the power behind words and names when He explained, “For by thy *words* thou shalt be justified, and by thy *words* thou shalt be condemned.”

Don't go around
speaking out of your
physical condition.
Speak from your
position in
Jesus Christ.

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.

Words are what created our world. Words are what keep it going.

How could words have such a powerful impact?

Well, just a few verses earlier Jesus had said, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34-35).

His point was, things don't just "come to pass" and then somehow get into our hearts. No, first they get into our hearts. Then they come to pass.

Jesus was describing the governing factor in every person's life—words coming out of your heart, through your mouth and setting the course of your destiny.

Remember, those words—or names—have creative power. And when you call a thing by a certain name over and over and over, you are enforcing what that name says.

Never before did the truth of that become so real in my own life than when the Lord told me years ago, *Son, you are not the "sick" trying to get healed. You are the "healed" and Satan is trying to take your health away from you.*

Basically God was saying that He named us *healed*. He didn't name us *sick*. In fact, He called each one of us *healed* long before this world was ever created. Then He sent His Word, Jesus, to establish our health (Psalm 107:20).

That meant, all we had to do was what Abraham did—get in agreement with God. Throw off the old name *sick* and take on our new identity, *healed*.

Only if You Say So | The Word says our name is *redeemed*. And Psalm 107:2 says, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so...."

So, that's where our mouths come into play.

If we go around telling everyone, "I'm sick...I'm sick and tired...I'm sick of the politics in this nation...I'm sick of this...I'm sick of that...I'm sick...I'm sick...."

Guess what we will end up being?

Sick!

When we give the name *sick* lordship in our lives through our words, when we do not take authority over it, and command it to bow its knee, then it—sickness—will take a position of lordship over our body. And rightfully so. We opened the door to it.

"Yeah, but Brother Copeland, how can I say I'm healed when everything in my body tells me that I'm sick?"

Simple. Because you are healed. *Healed* is who you are.

Don't go around speaking out of your physical condition. Rather, speak from your position in Jesus Christ, which is eternal.

You are the redeemed, so start saying so. You've been redeemed from sickness—so say so. You've been redeemed from lack—so say so. You've been redeemed from hell—so say so.

Don't answer to *sick*, or *broke*, or *worn out* any longer.

Ephesians 3:14-15 says that we—the family of God—have been named after the Father and after the Son, Jesus.

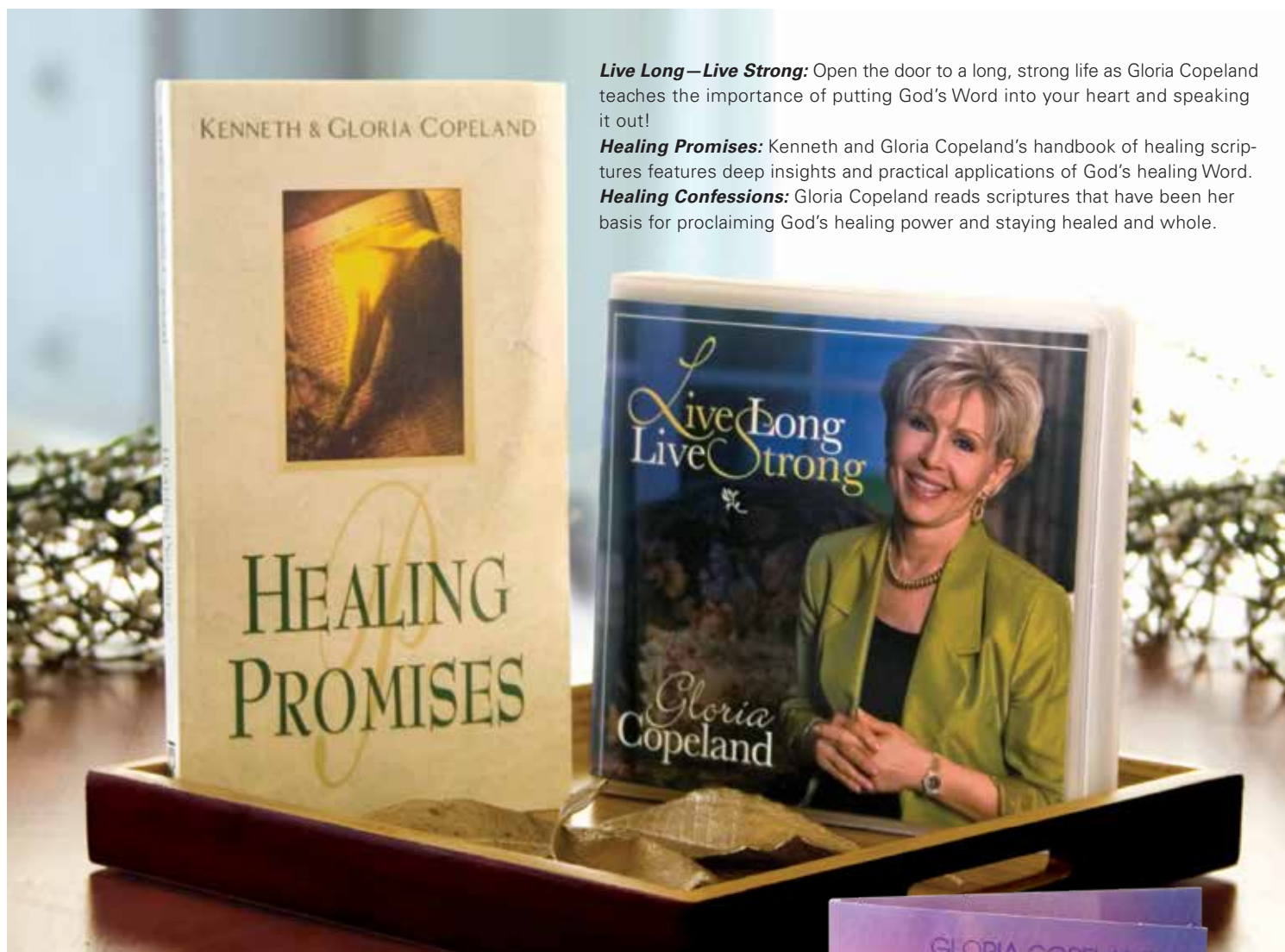
That means you and I have just as much right to that Name as Jesus Himself does.

Not only that, but that Name is above every other

name that is named (Ephesians 1:21).

So the next time sickness calls your name, or fear calls your name, or worry over money calls your name—don't answer. Because that's not who you are. That's not who you were created to be. That's not what your Father named you.

So, just say so. **VICTORY**



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JESUS BEGINS HEALING SCHOOL

I want My people well. I have desired for My people to walk in health. I have desired for My people to know how to walk in health regardless of what ministry is in town. | I want My people to know how to take My Word, and stand on My Word, and receive My healing power and know that I am the Lord. I want My people to walk with Me in health and life and know the good things that I have prepared for them. | I have set a table before you in the presence of your enemies. You shall not be an orphan group. You shall not be hungry. You shall not be in want, for I am the God-Provider. I am the Lord God that heals you.... | I will have My people well, saith God. | So My instruction to this ministry is: Continue this Healing School...until I return.

—Prophecy spoken to Gloria Copeland by Kenneth Copeland, 1980

Early one summer morning in 1979, Gloria Copeland woke up and slipped out onto the back porch of the family's cabin in southwest Arkansas. While everyone else slept, she took the opportunity to pray.

It was in those quiet moments alone with God that Gloria remembered a prophecy she had recently received from someone that said she was about to hear from the Lord concerning something He wanted her to do.

Thinking about that prophecy, she spoke from her heart and said, "Lord, You know I'll do anything You want me to do. Just tell me what it is."

When she finished praying, Gloria went inside to get ready for the day. A few moments later, as she was bent over a sink washing her hair, God spoke to her and said, *I want you to start teaching on healing in all the meetings.*

Gloria heard the voice of God in her spirit in such a way she had never heard it before. It was strong and powerful. But what was really shocking was what God wanted her to do.

Me, Gloria Copeland...preach? And on healing?

Yet, she loved the Lord and His Word more than anything, so she never questioned whether or not she would obey. She just decided she would be another living example of 1 Corinthians 1:26-31...God calling

the simple ones of this world to confound the wise.

In September 1979, three months after that encounter with God, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland obeyed God by adding a Healing School to each of the meetings they had scheduled for the rest of that year—and Gloria began teaching on healing. It was during those meetings that the Lord also instructed

her to begin laying hands on the sick and praying for them. So she did.

By the beginning of the next year, with a few meetings behind her, Gloria thought she was finished. She had obeyed God, and thought she could stop now. But then another prophecy came. And this time, it was clear to Gloria when God intended for Healing School to end. He wanted her

to preach healing, and He wanted her to preach it until Jesus returns.

Today, almost 28 years later, Gloria Copeland has taught Healing School around the world to countless numbers of people. In Healing School, she steps out onto a platform in an auditorium full of people and boldly declares—*Jesus always comes to Healing School!*

And thousands of people have received God's Word on divine healing and have applied it to their lives—and thousands have seen the results. To God be the glory! **VICTORY**

**"Lord, You
know I'll do
anything You
want me to do.
Just tell me
what it is."**



Keeping Your Edge

BY GLORIA COPELAND

I *I'm going to do what I always do and wreak havoc around here*, Samson thought. 🌿 But that's not what happened. 🌿 Instead, when Samson was unexpectedly confronted with trouble, he discovered he lacked the ability to whip his enemies. This man who had always walked in tremendous supernatural strength was *shocked* when the Philistines were able to grab him, gouge out his eyes, shackle him in irons, and haul him to prison (Judges 16:21). 🌿 How was it this great, dynamic man suddenly found himself weak and helpless against the Philistines? How was it this judge and defender of Israel (Judges 15:20, *The Amplified Bible*), who had always had the capacity to take vigorous action against the enemies of Israel, fell so long and hard? 🌿 Quite simply, Samson had grown so spiritually dull "the Lord had departed from him" and he didn't even know it (Judges 16:20, *The Amplified Bible*)! When he chose to go out in the darkness and live in disobedience to God, Samson became an easy target for his enemies.

Abiding in the Lord means spending time in the Word,
time in prayer, listening to and obeying Him, and
walking in love...every day.

Believe it or not, that same thing could happen to you or me should we become spiritually lazy.

But keep in mind, God has given us the spiritual ability to defeat the enemy. So, it certainly doesn't have to be that way, and clearly that would never be God's will! He desires for every believer to be blessed and effective for Him. Christians are *supposed* to make a difference in this world. But we have to do it God's way, and we have to watch out for Satan's traps.

Don't Take the Fall | I'm reminded of something the Lord told Ken years and years ago. *When you think you've made it to the top*, He said, *be aware that it's a long fall to the bottom. So, stay in the Word more, not less.*

I want you to know, we work to keep our edge! We always have.

Whether you've been in the Word a few months or a lot of years, you have to do what it takes to keep your faith strong. And, when God blesses you and your life begins going well, it isn't smart to prop your feet up on the coffee table, lean back and take it easy.

No. Don't slack up on the Word and prayer time at this point!

There's only one way to keep your edge and stay spiritually strong, and that's to *abide—stay in union with God*. That's the God-appointed method of living the Christian life. Abiding in the Lord means spending time in the Word, time in prayer, listening to and obeying Him, and walking in love...*every day*.

Ken and I learned this truth years ago.

A Seven-Day-a-Week Thing | We also discovered the Christian life isn't trouble free. I believe it could be if we were 100 percent accurate at walking in the power of God and obeying His Word. The more accurate we are and the more we continue to grow in the Word of God, the freer we become and the fewer problems we have.

There's a devil out there, however, and we're not all that smart, except in God.

So the more we know about the Word, the safer we are. When we began to see that, Ken and I went all out for the Word. We realized that going after the Word isn't just a Sunday morning thing—it's *a seven-day-a-week thing*. This walking by faith, walking in obedience, walking in the light, and giving no foothold for the devil takes time and attention.

In this day and age, it's easy to stay really busy, but you can't afford to be sidetracked in this area. Talk to the Lord, read His Word and put it in your heart. Spend time with

Him every day before you go out into the world. *That's how you abide in Him.*

Here's why that is so important...

You Don't Want to Be a Do-Nothing | Jesus said, "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me" (John 15:4).

We're either going to abide in the Lord, or we're not going to bear any fruit. And, not only that, in the very next verse Jesus goes on to say, "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: *for without me ye can do nothing*" (verse 5).

We can either abide in Him or we can be a *do-nothing*!

By staying close to God and His Word, we can do something worthwhile in this world. Among other things, we can walk on the path He has chosen for us. Proverbs 4:18-22 says:

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble. My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

Here we see that you and I have a choice. Either we attend to His Word and get on the path of the righteous that is shining with love, good, blessing, favor and health, or we go the way of the wicked and walk in darkness. Remember, Samson chose a dark path, and he took a very long fall!

The wise thing to do, of course, is to go God's way.

Attending to His Word has many benefits. For one thing, Jesus said when we abide in Him and *His Word abides in us*, we can ask what we will and it shall be done (John 15:7). In other words, our prayers are answered.

And, His words "are spirit, and they are life" unto those who find them (John 6:63).

What about those who don't find them? They're still wandering around out there in the dark without the blessing of God making life good!

Putting the Word in our eyes and ears until it gets down in our hearts, causes the forces of life to flow out of us and the fruit of the spirit to become evident in our lives. It enables us to walk in "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no

Remember faith comes by hearing, and hearing
by the Word (Romans 10:17). And then faith goes out your mouth in words and
pushes away bad circumstances. It rebukes the devil and his works in your life.

What you say makes a difference!

law. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:22-25).

When we maintain our union with God—abide in Him and His Word—we stay on the path of His goodness, and bear fruit.

Don't Give Up—Double Up! | Now, what if we aren't abiding in the Lord? What happens then?

Jesus tells us plainly. He says, "If a man abide not in me"—he's not vitally united to Me, he's not spending time in the Word, he's not talking to Me, he's not doing what it takes to stay in living contact—"he is cast forth as a branch, and is *withered*; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned" (John 15:6).

If we're not vitally united to the Lord, we become vulnerable to outside forces—to Satan and the circumstances he brings. We *wither*, which means we "shrivel, lose energy, force or freshness." We lose our strength. We dry up spiritually. Our faith begins to recede—that energetic force that receives the blessing begins to weaken.

The word *energy* means "capacity for vigorous action, capacity for doing work." If we don't remain vitally united to Jesus through His Word, prayer and time with Him, we'll lose the capacity for vigorous action. Like Samson, in an unexpected crisis we'll find ourselves spiritually dull. Our faith won't be strong enough to stand against trouble.

The flesh begins to take over and the spirit man is pushed back when we become spiritually lazy. And, the flesh has a loud voice that will dominate us if we don't dominate it with the Word of God.

If you're in that position and you know you're missing it, double up on the Word. If you aren't walking in faith, the way you once did, make a change. Become more *diligent* about the things of God.

You know, a sinner—a proficient sinner—doesn't get that way overnight. He gets that way by practicing—by sinning over, and over, and over again.

At a meeting several years ago, Ken and Creflo Dollar talked about a person having the habit of chewing tobacco. What would a man have to do to get good at that habit? He'd have to be diligent and practice. His first chew is terrible. That stuff will make you sick, but if you stay with it you can chew and spit with the best of 'em, or should I say the worst of 'em.

Now let me make it perfectly clear, that's the "don't do it" side—the bad side!

But, you can become proficient on the good side the same

way. You can become skilled in the things of God by being diligent in the things of God.

For instance, if you desire to become an abider and a lover of God, you spend time with Him and spend time meditating on His Word. If you want to successfully walk in faith and live by faith, you will be diligent to read the Word and exercise your faith. If you'd like to walk in love consistently, you will meditate on the scriptures about love and you *practice* walking in love.

Hang in there. Do it over, and over, and over again until it becomes second nature to you.

Every accomplished person—a pianist, singer, athlete, etc.—would say it takes *continual* practice to stay sharp. To become successful at anything, a person must be diligent.

To live a long, good life, we must abide in the Lord. *Continually* spend time with Him. *Continually* keep His Word going into our spirit. We must be diligent about the things of God, otherwise we wither and shrivel and lose our force, our capacity for vigorous action. Samson found that out the hard way.

I've been in the things of God a long time, but I cannot do without my everyday time in the Word. I have to have an ongoing injection of the Word to keep my faith strong and keep my spiritual edge. And so do you.

If you haven't been feeding your spirit like you feed your body—*every day*—it may take time to regain strength. So get started. Draw close to God. Think about ways you can get more of the Word in your mind and in your heart.

Could you make plans to get in meetings where the Word is being preached? Listen to Word CDs while you're getting dressed in the morning or while you're in the car? Read your Bible during your lunch break? Watch the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast while you're folding laundry? Or better yet, take the time to sit down with your Bible and give your full attention to teaching and encouragement every day.

Whatever it takes to get built up and keep your edge—do it! You never know when a situation is coming your way that will require you to take spiritual action.

So, double up on your Word intake.

Remember faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word (Romans 10:17). *And then faith goes out of your mouth in words and pushes away bad circumstances.* It rebukes the devil and his works in your life. What you say makes a difference!

Shaping Your Future | The fact is you can't say one thing and get another. You have to have your heart *and* your mouth working for God. Your words have to be in agreement



Tribute to a HERITAGE OF FAITH

with the Word of God to change things in your life. And, whatever is in our hearts will come out of our mouths and shape our future.

When people live in darkness, they tend to speak foul language, and they reap the consequences. One scripture says that those who love cursing will wear it as a garment (Psalm 109:17-19). A person can't speak or confess perverse things and expect to stay well, blessed and whole. So, it's just not smart to have a disobedient mouth. Proverbs 4:24 says, "Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee."

I understand it may seem a bit fanatical to watch your words. Perhaps you've tried and failed at doing that. The fact is, you can't *decide* to make right confessions. You must have enough Word in your heart to back up what you're saying. If unbelief is in your heart, unbelief will come out of your mouth. If the Word is in your heart in abundance, faith is going to come out of your mouth.

Luke 6:45 makes it plain when it says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

By putting the Word in your heart *in abundance*, the Word is sure to come out of your mouth and affect your life.

If you'll abide in the Lord, and stay full of His Word, you can walk and live in the spirit. You can have the joy of the Lord overflowing in your life (John 15:10-11). It's so worth any time or effort it takes.

I know that from experience.

The other day, I was walking along and I thought, *Lord, my joy is full! You have been so good to me!* It's a beautiful thing to be filled with joy. This realization of the goodness of God continually comes into my thinking as I experience His blessing taking place.

God desires for *you* to experience that. Why? Because...

[you] are God's [own] handiwork (His workmanship), recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that *[you]* may do those good works which God predestined (planned beforehand) for *[you]* [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that *[you]* should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for *[you]* to live] (Ephesians 2:10, *The Amplified Bible*).

The truth is God is altogether *good*. He wants to do good. He loves to do good. It gives Him great pleasure to do *you* good! He desires for you to walk in all the good things He has planned for you!

And you can, if you'll abide in Him and keep your edge!

VICTORY

Dearest Kenneth and Gloria,

You two mean the world to me. Everything about our relationship reveals the hand of God. The Lord told me, long ago, *In the glorious Church there are glorious connections. Some are from the past, He said, and some are people you connect to now to do the work of God. The entire Body is one, but not all the Body works together closely.* Our connection however is a glorious one. We will, I believe, be connected in the glorious future.

In 1967, God began to connect us, directing our steps from quite different places to a meeting in Tulsa to sit under Kenneth E. Hagin's ministry. The Lord began to bring about, on a broad scale, "the teaching of His people, faith" so that "when He comes He will find faith in this world." You and Gloria were our pathfinders—our trailblazers. Brother Hagin was thrilled when he first heard that you were teaching faith. With supernatural speed, the Lord magnified your voices. I stand amazed at where your voices reach today!

You and Gloria have been there during very significant moments in my life.

Gloria, you are one of my best friends. I can share my deepest thoughts and even beliefs with very few people. You are one of them. When you allow me to sit across from you in the television studio, it is a privilege.



I am eternally grateful for the influence and input both of you have into our family. And in my own life, principles, phrases and prophecies, which I heard from you, continually spring forth from my spirit. One that changed my prayer life is: God is not moved by need. He is moved only by faith. And I still remember Gloria's revelation concerning *every word we say* literally sweeping over all of us learning to live by faith in those early times. I have watched you walk in love, in faith, in the spirit and in integrity. Thank you for everything. And, thank God for you and our glorious connection.

Billye Brim

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