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VICTORY

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COPELAND
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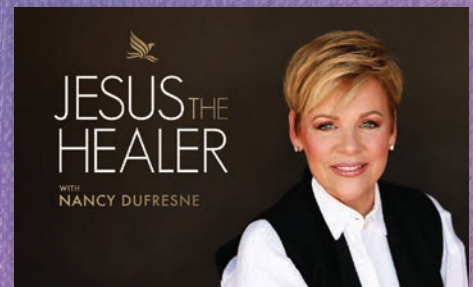
On the backside of a severe recession that greatly affected the entire nation, DaVon Alexander left his six-figure salary job in banking so he and his wife, Stacy, could start a church. It was a step of faith they would never regret.

Rest In Troubled Times

Dynamic Women's Programming

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Editor's Letter



Innocent, Even When Guilty!

"You got what you deserved!"

I don't know the number of times I heard that growing up, especially living in a household with four siblings—all boys!

Children have a tendency to want to "run and tell mom" whenever a sibling does something to them that they don't like. They look to mom to correct the situation—to come to their defense. But when the truth comes out, and it's determined that they were actually the cause of the trouble, there is no defending. Instead, coming from mom they hear a stern chastisement that goes something like, "Well, baby, you got what you deserved."

Getting what we deserve.

That's the way the world's system most often handles situations when the time comes to mete out justice. Or, at least, that's how our judicial system is designed to work. "Innocent until proven guilty" is how it's described.

Thankfully, our heavenly Father doesn't copy the world's way of doing things when it comes to dealing with us when we've done wrong. If that were the case, we'd all have been punished in some way by now.

Instead, God's judicial system is based on love, mercy and grace. When we go to Him in sincere repentance, seeking His forgiveness for whatever wrong we've done, God declares us "innocent, even when guilty."

Psalms 103:8-11, *New Living Translation*, says: "The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever. He does not punish us for all our sins; he does not deal harshly with us, as we deserve. For his unfailing love toward those who fear him is as great as the height of the heavens above the earth."

We all make mistakes—some worse than others. And sometimes we really do deserve to be punished. Thankfully, God doesn't see it that way. If we are willing to acknowledge our wrong; ask His forgiveness; and turn from wrongdoing to love, obey and serve Him, God will wipe our slate clean (1 John 1:9). Rather than giving us what we deserve, He will forgive our sin, and act as though it never happened.

Wrong is wrong. No one is ever given a license to commit sin. But it's comforting to know that when we do mess up, we can turn to a loving God who will pardon rather than punish us. He will declare us innocent, even when we're actually guilty.

Ronald C. Jordan
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"In three years I went from working at a bakery and making minimum wage to becoming a corporate financial relationship counselor and earning \$120,000."

— DaVon Alexander

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 50 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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Spanish edition
es.kcm.org/LVVC


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Listen

When You Pray



Over the years, I've found that one common mistake believers make when they pray is that they do all the talking.

They spend their entire prayer time telling God about whatever problem they may be facing, and that's it. Then they say, "Amen," without taking time to listen to what God has to say.

Prayer is meant to be a dialogue, not a monologue! All of us need to get the revelation one minister got about that years ago. Writing about it, he said that one day as he was lying prostrate on the floor before God, bawling and squalling about his troubles, it suddenly dawned on him: *Here lies a fool who knows nothing doing all the talking to the One who knows everything.*

Most all of us have fit that description at one time or another. But as born-again, Spirit-filled people, we ought to know better than that. Rather than wringing our hands in prayer and saying, "Oh, God, I don't know

what I'm going to do!" we need to learn to pray as the Apostle Paul did—for God to fill us "with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding" (Colossians 1:9). Then we ought to believe He's going to do it and wait expectantly in His presence.

Why can we be sure He'll speak to us and that we'll be able to hear Him?

Because Jesus said so! He told us He's the Good Shepherd, we're His sheep, and we hear His voice (John 10:4). He said the Holy Spirit whom He sent to live in us will teach us all things. That He "will guide you into all the Truth (the whole, full Truth). For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him]"

EVENTS 2023



Sacramento Victory Campaign

March 23-25
North Highlands, Calif.

Branson

Victory Campaign
April 13-15 | Branson, Mo.

Chattanooga Victory Campaign

June 22-24 | Chattanooga, Tenn.

Southwest Believers' Convention

July 31-Aug. 5
Fort Worth, Texas

St. Louis

Victory Campaign
Oct. 26-28 | St. Louis, Mo.

Omaha

Victory Campaign
Nov. 9-11 | Omaha, Neb.

**Kenneth Copeland is also
speaking here:**

Word of His Power Conference
Feb. 24-26
North Miami Beach, Fla.
wordsoflife.com

Word of Faith Convention
Aug. 9-11 : Southfield, Mich.
Wordoffaith.cc

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion
Aug. 18 : Brooklyn Park, Minn.
lwcc.org

For updated event information visit:

KCM.ORG/EVENTS

(John 16:13, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). What's more, James 1:5 promises us this: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him."

I'll never forget the first time I ever consciously stopped in the middle of a prayer to listen for God's wisdom. I was in desperate straits. I had moved my family to Tulsa, Okla., so that I could attend Oral Roberts University. But although I knew God had led me there, I had no idea how we were going to get by financially.

As a pilot, I could go to the airport and get a job, but then I wouldn't have time to go to school. If I didn't get a job, I'd have time to go to school but wouldn't have any money to pay the bills and take care of my family. *Woe is me!* I thought. *What am I going to do?*

Actually, that was the wrong question. The right one would have been, *What is The LORD going to do?* But back then, I didn't know to ask that question. So I did the only thing I could think of: I fell down on the floor and prayed in tongues as fast and hard as I could.

Usually, praying in tongues is a good thing to do. But in this case, I wasn't praying in faith, I was praying in fear because I really didn't know what was going to happen. After a while, I thought, *I wonder if God would say something to me if I just stopped this and listened.*

Sure enough, as soon as I got quiet, He said, *It's about time! I couldn't get a word in edgewise. Stand up on your feet!*

I jumped up, and He spoke again. *I sent you here and I'll take care of you here. These people can't make a minister out of you. All they can do is train you. I have already made a minister out of you. You're in your ministry now, not after you get out of this school.*

A Life-Changing Encounter

I told Gloria before I had gone in our bedroom to pray that day that I was going to stay in there until I heard from The LORD, even if it took all night long. So when I came walking out of the bedroom less than a half hour later, she looked at me in surprise. "All

night long?" she said. "You haven't been in there 20 minutes."

"That's all it took, girl!" I replied. "I got my answer!" Then I shared with her what The LORD told me. She smiled at me real big and said, "Well, let's go!"

The next day, I had to attend to some business at the ORU Learning Resources Center and, as I was about to leave the building, The LORD stopped me. He literally stuck my feet to the ground. *Go up to the sixth floor,* He said.

At freshman orientation they'd told us that students weren't allowed on that floor because that's where the executive offices were located.

"LORD, I can't go up there," I exclaimed. "That's the Vatican!" (I wasn't trying to be funny. That's just what came out.)

They work for Me, He replied. So, I went.

When I stepped onto the sixth floor, although I didn't know anybody up there, I saw Ruth Rooks, Brother Roberts' executive secretary, sitting behind her desk. Forcing my feet forward like I was walking the last mile to my doom, I walked up to her and just blurted it out: "My name is Kenneth Copeland. I'm a commercially rated pilot. I just enrolled as a freshman here. I know this ministry uses aircraft, and I need all the help I can get. Thank you."

Turning to leave, I came face to face with Brother Roberts. He had walked up behind me without my realizing it. Sticking out his hand, he introduced himself. "My name is Oral Roberts," he said. Dumbstruck, all I could do was stutter in response, as he continued.

"I understand you're a commercially rated pilot. Two weeks ago, I started to hire a new pilot, and the Spirit of God said, *No, I have a student coming that I want to have the job. You're my man!*"

Think of it: That happened because I listened. Instead of just praying hard, I gave God a chance to speak to me. As a result, He launched this ministry and my relationship with Oral Roberts—a relationship which continued until the day he went home to be with The LORD. Plus, He took care of my financial situation at the same time.



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A Subfloor Worth Millions

This is where a lot of Christians miss it where financial prosperity is concerned. They don't pray and listen to God. They don't listen to Him about where and how much financial seed they're to sow; and once they've sown, they don't listen to Him to tell them how to connect with their harvest. They just plunk their offering in the bucket in church on Sunday and hope financial BLESSINGS will somehow fall on them.

"Well, Brother Copeland, Jesus did say in Luke 6:38, 'Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom....'"

Yes, but that's not all He said in Luke 6. If you keep reading, you'll find He also said, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (verse 46). Just as you're not finished praying until you listen for His instructions, you're not finished giving until you've listened to Him and done what He said.

My friend Andre Roeber can testify to this. Some years back he was in need of a building to serve as his ministry headquarters in South Africa, so he bought an old warehouse, intending to renovate it. I saw it not long after he got it. It was huge and it was a mess! As he drove me through the building on a golf cart, he pointed out different areas and described his plans for them.

Clearly, the project was going to be expensive, and initially he had no idea how he was going to pay for it. He had, however, planted a substantial financial seed toward it. At the leading of The LORD, He'd given very generously into something we were doing here at KCM, and was believing that God would BLESS him in return with enough to complete his building.

In the meantime, he kept praying about it and listening to The LORD. As he did, he kept hearing the same thing. When he would ask The LORD where the money for the building was going to come from, The LORD would say, *The money is in the floor.*

What did that mean? He didn't know. But

as he proceeded by faith with the renovation process, it became clear. They ripped out the building's old floors and discovered the subflooring was made from a very precious kind of wood. The trees it comes from are so rare now, it's against the law to cut them down. Perfect for making guitars and fine furniture, companies will pay outrageous prices for it.

The wood from those subfloors turned out to be worth millions of dollars. After it was sold, Andre told me, it provided "more than enough" to pay for the completion of the building. The money *was* in the floor—and he found it because he listened!

Sons and Daughters, Not Slaves

"But Brother Copeland," somebody might say, "I just don't feel like I deserve that kind of BLESSING."

So? God's BLESSINGS aren't based on how you feel or what you deserve. They're based on what Jesus did for you and on the goodness of God.

God is a good, GOOD Father! He's the kind of father we see in Luke 15 in the story we often think of as being about the prodigal son. Actually, it's about a loving father and his two sons—neither of whom had listened to him enough to understand his heart—you may remember what happened between them. In the beginning of the story, the younger son said to his father, "Give me the portion of goods that falleth to me" (verse 12). The father responded by not only giving the younger son his part of the inheritance but by giving the elder son his as well. In other words, the father held nothing back from either of them.

The younger son took his portion, went to a far-off country, and wasted his entire inheritance on riotous living. So, when a famine hit the land, he found himself in danger of starving to death. To survive, he took a job slopping another man's hogs, which, as a Jew, meant he had to violate his covenant with God.

Even then, he ran out of food and couldn't get anyone to give him any. (Why wouldn't

anyone give to him? Because he'd spent everything he had without ever giving to anyone else. All he'd had on his mind was himself.) Finally, when he got to the point where he would have been glad to eat what the hogs were eating, he said to himself, "How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants" (verses 17-19).

Although it's sad to say, that's the kind of thing many Christians say when they pray. They call themselves sinners. They tell God how unworthy they are. They come to Him as lowly servants asking Him to give them just enough to survive. Then they say, "Amen," without ever listening to what He has to say about it.

The prodigal son almost made that mistake. Having prepared his little unworthy speech, he arose and came to his father:

But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, and am no more worthy to be called thy son. But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet: And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it; and let us eat, and be merry: For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found (verses 20-24).

Can't you just picture that father sitting on the porch watching the road day after day? He wasn't watching for a servant. He was watching for his son! He wanted to restore him to the family and put that signet ring on his finger as a sign that all of his father's wealth once again belonged to him.

That's a picture of your heavenly Father's heart for you! When He went out looking for you, drawing you to Himself so that you could get born again, He wasn't looking to make you a servant. He was longing to throw His arms

around you and tell you the good news: In Jesus you've become His son. You've become His daughter. You've been received into His family, and now, as a new covenant heir of everything He has, you can, "give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom" (Luke 6:38, *New King James Version*).

Sow generously [that BLESSINGS may come to someone] and reap generously and with BLESSINGS, "not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, 'prompt to do it') giver [whose heart is in his giving]. And God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, *AMPC*).

That's God's prosperity plan right there! He wants you prosperous. So, pray for Him to give you wisdom you need to receive everything He has for you. Then LISTEN! He will tell you what you need to know! 🙏

“This is where a lot of Christians miss it where financial prosperity is concerned. They don't pray and listen to God.”



POINTS TO
GET YOU THERE:

1

Every born-again child of God has the ability to hear from Him: "I am the good shepherd; and I know My sheep, and am known by My own... and they will hear My voice."

(John 10:14-16, *NKJV*)

2

You can pray for yourself the prayer Paul prayed for the believers in his day.

(Col. 1:9, *NKJV*)

3

Pray believing God to give you the wisdom you need in every situation.

(Jas. 1:5-6)

4

Listen to God when you sow financial seed; He will show you where to sow and guide you to your harvest.

(2 Cor. 9:8, *AMPC*)

5

In Luke 6, Jesus not only said, "Give, and it will be given to you," He also talked about the importance of hearing and obeying Him.

(Luke 6:46, *NKJV*)

Rest

IN TROUBLED TIMES

DaVon Alexander stood in the pulpit
at a church in Charlotte, N.C., and preached that Sunday
morning. He preached faith. How to live by faith. How to stand in faith.
How to grow your faith.

None of that was surprising. After all, DaVon had been in high school when his mother discovered Kenneth Copeland on TV in 1993. Two years later, when DaVon graduated from high school, the family packed their belongings and left California to move to Fort Worth, Texas.

DaVon had gone to work for KCM as an electrician's assistant. From 1998 to 2000, he attended Jerry Savelle Ministries International in nearby Crowley, Texas, and from there went to work in KCM's Partner Service department. He was also the junior high pastor at Eagle Mountain International Church.

After his job was eliminated at KCM, DaVon moved to Charlotte to help a friend with his church.

So it was no surprise that he preached faith. He'd cut his teeth on faith. It was his spiritual DNA.

Still, no one knew on that Sunday morning in 2007 that the country was sliding down a slippery slope and headed into what would become the Great Recession of 2008. The Holy Spirit had prompted DaVon to preach faith. They would all need faith in the coming economic crisis.

Following the service, Stacy, a young woman in the congregation, approached



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE FEB

		Old Testament	New Testament
Wed	1	Ex. 8-9	Matt. 23
Thu	2	Ex. 10:1-12:28	Matt. 24
Fri	3	Ex. 12:29-14:14	Matt. 25
Sat	4	Ex. 14:15-16:21	
Sun	5	Ps. 19-21; Prov. 4:1-19	
Mon	6	Ex. 16:22-18:27	Matt. 26
Tue	7	Ex. 19:1-21:11	Matt. 27
Wed	8	Ex. 21:12-23:9	Matt. 28
Thu	9	Ex. 23:10-25:22	Mark 1
Fri	10	Ex. 25:23-27:8	Mark 2
Sat	11	Ex. 27:9-29:9	
Sun	12	Ps. 22-24; Prov. 4:20-5:14	
Mon	13	Ex. 29:10-30:21	Mark 3
Tue	14	Ex. 30:22-32:29	Mark 4
Wed	15	Ex. 32:30-34:35	Mark 5
Thu	16	Ex. 35:1-36:30	Mark 6
Fri	17	Ex. 36:31-38:20	Mark 7
Sat	18	Ex. 38:21-39:43	
Sun	19	Ps. 25-27; Prov. 5:15-23	
Mon	20	Ex. 40:1-Lev. 2:10	Mark 8
Tue	21	Lev. 2:11-4:35	Mark 9
Wed	22	Lev. 5:1-7:14	Mark 10
Thu	23	Lev. 7:15-8:36	Mark 11
Fri	24	Lev. 9:1-11:19	Mark 12
Sat	25	Lev. 11:20-13:28	
Sun	26	Ps. 28-31; Prov. 6:1-19	
Mon	27	Lev. 13:29-14:32	Mark 13
Tue	28	Lev. 14:33-15:33	Mark 14

DaVon and gave him a homemade sweet potato pie. Later that day, DaVon sat down to eat it.

Wow. What was it about this pie?

DaVon was not a glutton. Nor was he a big fan of sweet potatoes. However, once he started, he couldn't seem to stop eating.

He ate the entire pie in one sitting.

DaVon had no way of knowing that Stacy had taken a stand of faith, even before hearing his message that Sunday morning—believing for a godly husband. As she made the pie the day before the Sunday service, she had whispered a prayer: “Father, if he’s my husband, let him like the pie so much that he eats it in a single sitting.”

Sweet Potato Pie

“It was weeks before I ran into Stacy again,” DaVon remembers. “When I saw her, I thanked her for the pie. At the last moment I admitted that I’d eaten the entire thing at one time. Stacy knew then that we would marry. She was wise enough to keep that information to herself. Not too long after that we started dating. After dating for two years, we married in 2009.”

DaVon had moved to Charlotte in 2004, years before meeting Stacy.

“I worked as a cashier for a bakery, making \$8 an hour,” he recalls. “I lived in a little apartment without cable or Wi-Fi.”

When his 18-year-old boss yelled at him and chewed him out one day, DaVon knew it was time to look for work elsewhere.

“I believe it was the favor of God on my life that caused me to get an entry-level position at Wachovia, a Fortune 500 bank,” he says. “That position paid \$28,500 a year. I worked in the call center on a campus with 10,000 employees.

“One day, I was outside on my break when I found a wallet filled with money. I took it inside and turned it in to security. A while later, a couple of my bosses came to my desk and thanked me for turning in the wallet. Apparently one of the managers had seen me turn in the wallet. I was told he went to my other bosses and said, ‘That’s the kind of character and integrity we’re looking for in

this company.’

“Afterward, a new position opened in one of the departments. I applied but didn’t get the job. They said it was over my head. Two days later, they reversed that decision and gave me the position. The man who saw me turn in the wallet said, ‘Give him the job. I’d rather have character and integrity than a skill set. I can train him.’

“At that point my salary doubled so that I was making about \$56,000 a year. Then, another position opened which I applied for. During the interview I didn’t know what kinds of questions they would ask. I didn’t understand some of the terminologies and the lingo, but by God’s grace I made it through the interview and was hired. With this position my salary doubled to about \$120,000. In three years I went from working at a bakery and making minimum wage to becoming a corporate financial relationship counselor and earning \$120,000. In 2008, I was the No. 1 sales rep in all the branches on the East Coast.”

Faith for Finances

Stacy was only 5 years old when her mother became a Partner with KCM. They watched the *Believer’s Voice of Victory* broadcast on TV every day. They devoured the magazine every month. Long before she became a social worker, Stacy knew how to live by faith.

That’s why when DaVon told her he believed God was calling him to walk away from his high-paying job and start a church, she didn’t waver.

“Let’s do it,” she said. “We’ve always known that call was on our lives. I only have one question: Can I still have my hair done?”

DaVon pulled her into a hug.

“We’ll make sure you get your hair done.”

There was a reason they could change their lifestyle. The only debt they had was their mortgage.

Leaving his career in banking, DaVon and Stacy started True Life Fellowship Church—meeting in a middle school band room. As the church grew, they moved to a high school. As the church continued to grow, they needed space for the children. Along with physical



“In three years I went from working at a bakery and making minimum wage to becoming a corporate financial relationship counselor and earning \$120,000.”

growing pains, everyone in the congregation had their own interpretation of what a pastor should do.

“You should be leading a sewing group,” Stacy recalls being told.

“You’ve got to take the microphone,” someone else said. “The church won’t grow unless you preach, too.”

After preaching a sermon exposing the spirit of fear, DaVon had someone tell him he was wrong—that fear was good.

“Everybody seemed to have their own idea

about what pastors did and taught,” Stacy recalls. “DaVon and I prayed about it. The Lord directed us to be true to who He created us to be. Would I have led a sewing group or taken the microphone before I became a pastor? If not, unless the Lord told me otherwise, I didn’t need to do it now.

“Likewise with DaVon. Being called to pastor didn’t mean he had to change himself. A pastor was who God created him to be. We refused to let anyone take away our individuality or our identity. We’d never



“The Lord directed us to be true to who He created us to be.”

expected those challenges, but they caused us to mature as pastors.”

Faith for a Home

In addition to a growing church, their family was growing as well. Stacy still worked as a social worker. The house they lived in had been great for a single person. It worked well for DaVon and Stacy. But there was no room for a growing family. DaVon would have bought them a new home, but the country was just coming out of the recession and the housing market was upside down. He wasn’t willing to sell their home at a loss.

“Can I go look at houses?” Stacy asked one day.

“You can look, but it doesn’t make sense to me,” DaVon replied. “We’re not going to buy anything because I won’t sell our house at a

deficit.”

Stacy found a house she liked and asked DaVon to take a look.

“There’s no reason for me to look because we’re not going to buy,” he told her.

“Come on,” Stacy pleaded. “Would you just take a look?”

He agreed to look.

“It was a new neighborhood and when we walked into the model home, I knew there was something special about the place,” DaVon remembers. “It wasn’t even the house Stacy wanted me to see. It was perfect for a growing family. The layout was ideal. It had an office at the front of the house so that if I had a meeting the kids could still play in the back.

“The Lord told me to buy the house. That didn’t make sense to me. Our home was \$10,000 upside down. I wasn’t willing to sell it at that kind of loss when I knew in time the prices would normalize again.

“A couple of days later, I finally obeyed and contracted to have a house built that was just like the model. Of course, we got an amazing deal on it. As soon as I’d done that, my parents called. Dad explained that they were moving to Charlotte and needed a place to stay. I told them to look no further. They could live in our house, and we wouldn’t have to sell it.”

Faith for a Church

While their house was being built, DaVon and Stacy had an opportunity to buy a building for the church. They had an option either to buy one half of the building, or the entire thing. At the time, they could only afford half, and even that would cost more than they were paying for rent.

“I’ve been praying,” Stacy said. “God wants us to buy the entire building. If we only get half we’ll have no room to grow.”

The Lord confirmed that with DaVon.

That meant that their monthly payment would quadruple. Yet, having heard from God, they signed the documents. Suddenly, they were building, and renovating the church building—all in a sagging economy. Through God’s grace and provision, the entire renovation project, plus the buying of

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equipment for the church, was paid for in cash.

Today, Pastors DaVon and Stacy Alexander lead a thriving True Life Fellowship Church. They also have a thriving family that includes four children: Ziyannah-Grace, 19; Zayvin, 11; Zarek Jai, 8; and 4-year-old Zage. They are a loud, boisterous and happy family.

“No one knew when the economy would recover,” DaVon explains. “My career in finance had taught me that the best time to buy was when the cost was low. The best time to sell was when the prices were high. That’s exactly what we did. We bought our house and church building when the economy was very depressed.

“My parents lived in our other home for several years. By the time they found a house they wanted to buy, the economy had recovered and we sold that house at a high price.

“After terrorism hit this nation and the Twin Towers went down, Brother Copeland went to war against fear. That series of teachings has always been one of my favorites. That’s when I really understood that there is no fear in love. First John 4:18 says, ‘There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love’ (*New International Version*).

Faith for the Future

“Brother Copeland taught on that for years. It was right after that teaching that I moved to Charlotte. I married Stacy. I left my job and a six-figure salary. We started a church. We built a house. We bought and renovated a building. All while coming out of a severe recession. Thanks to Brother Copeland, we were never paralyzed with fear.

“Partnership with KCM allows me to participate in and partake in all the gifts and callings on Brother Copeland’s life and ministry. I partake in his anointing, and that’s priceless. I’m so grateful for his faithfulness to teach on faith. I don’t think you could live in peace in this climate without faith. The opposite of faith is fear. Without faith, people live in fear.

“I think the Lord Jesus is asking the Church the same question He asked the disciples when they woke Him during a storm. He said, ‘Why is it you have no faith?’”



WORDS OF FAITH

Don’t ever make the mistake of thinking you’re too busy to spend time in the Word of God. The truth is, you can’t afford *not* to spend time in it.

Even if you’ve walked with the Lord for years, you can’t afford to rest on your spiritual laurels and just try to live on the Word you heard in the past. That’s a dangerous way to operate!

Put the Word of God first place!

What you consistently put in your heart will determine whether you walk in victory or defeat.

(Prov. 4:22)

Staying continually in the Word liberates you from the bondage of the devil.

(John. 8:31-32)

You fill your heart with the Word by listening to it and looking at it every day.

(Prov. 4:20-21)

As you feed on the Word and listen to God’s voice the fruit of the spirit flow out of you and overcome the law of sin and death.

(Gal. 5:22-23)

Time spent with God is never wasted, it always pays rich dividends.

(Gal. 6:7-8)





TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

'By His Stripes'

I wrote asking for prayer over the neuropathy pain in my heels. It had gotten to the point that I could not walk. I was in excruciating pain. Thank you for praying for me. Today I am without pain, and I know it is the Lord who did this for me at Calvary! By His stripes I am healed, and He wishes above all that I prosper and be in health even as my soul prospers.

J.K. | Nevada

Divine Direction

Gloria, your article entitled "How Much You Harvest Is Up to You" in the January 2022 *BVOV* magazine was amazing! I had been contemplating starting a Bible study and asked the Lord, "Where do I begin? Who will be a part of it and what will they need to hear first?" Then I read your article! Without a doubt, that was the answer. All I could do was highlight, underline, write a hearty AMEN in the margins and shout, "Thank you, Gloria! Thank You, God!" I marvel at God's faithful attention and tender love. Gloria, that teaching absolutely clicked in my spirit. Thank you for being God's available and obedient servant.

M.W. | North Dakota

Free From Grief

I thank Kenneth for his words on grief. My mother passed into heaven when she was 93. I sang "How Great Thou Art" to her moments before she passed. I didn't lose my mother, "I know where she is and she knows where I am," as Kenneth has said. So I don't have to wallow in grief and depression. Thank You, Jesus. P.O. | Maine

Life-Changing Message

I have been reading "Get Your Hopes Up" nearly every day since I got it on the website. It has changed my life, helping me realize that I must change my inner image to match the Word of God and that I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. Thank you for the wonderful work you are doing. Priceless revelation has come from reading and meditating on this message.

T.F. | California

Pandemic Prosperity

After university I ended up owing \$16,000. I was told I would be paying those loans off for the rest of my life. During the beginning of the coronavirus, I started listening to the Copelands, George Pearsons, Jesse Duplantis, Jerry Savelle and others preach on faith and how to sow your way out of debt. I became a Partner to KCM and got serious about paying off those loans.

My job was considered essential, so I worked from home at full pay. One of

my loans was sent into mandatory forbearance because of the state of the nation, but I paid anyway, far more than was required, all while sowing. It took about a year to pay off the loans.

Now I'm debt free and my bank account is growing. God prospered me during a pandemic! Praise be to God, and thank you, KCM and others, for teaching me.

R.M. | Texas

Safe in God's Care

My blood pressure was very low and my pulse was 26, so I went to the emergency room. Once there, I called KCM, and a prayer minister prayed that the doctors would immediately know what to do. The ER doctor came in and said he knew exactly what needed to happen; I would need a pacemaker. I knew that was God's answer and felt His peace, knowing He is always in control.

A nurse assured me they did this surgery all the time. I said I would be her testimony. After surgery, the doctor said I had flatlined and usually patients don't come back when the pulse gets as low as it did during surgery. Thank God for His protection and provision! I know He has restored my heart spiritually and physically. I thank Him for Kenneth Copeland Ministries and for all they do to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ!

D.W. | Illinois

'Clear and Free'

I have been healed from schizophrenia after having sent in my prayer request to KCM. Glory to God! Even my therapist has confirmed my healing and my mind has become clear and free. Thank You, Jesus; and thank you, KCM team, for praying for me!

V.K. | Switzerland

Claiming Tither's Rights

Today when I opened my refrigerator, apparently it had been off for several hours. I repeatedly turned the temp off and on, and prayed. Finally, I yelled and told the devil to get off

my fridge; that I'm a tither and that God has rebuked the devourer. I hit the side of my fridge and commanded it to work in Jesus' Name! God is so good—it came on instantly!

Thank you for all that this ministry has meant to me and millions of others around the world. I have been a Partner for many years and have been so blessed. B.T. | California



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, let us know of your decision. Call or go to kcm.org/salvation. We have a **Free Gift** to help you begin your new life in Jesus!

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Prayer Answered

*Thank you for praying
with me. I passed my CNA
state exams and recently
became employed as a
certified nursing assistant.
To God be the glory!*

S.S. | Nevada

A romantic couple is shown in a close embrace, smiling and laughing. The woman has long blonde hair and is wearing a floral top. The man has short brown hair and is wearing a plaid shirt. They are standing in a forest with tall evergreen trees. In the background, a calm lake reflects the warm light of the setting sun, which is partially obscured by the trees on the right. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and intimate.

The
Freedom
That Comes
• From

Forgiveness



The Bible makes it very clear that you and I are to live in the *now*. Second Corinthians 6:2 says, "...now is the day of salvation." Hebrews 11:1 tells us that faith is *now*. God wants to commune with you now, and I believe He wants you to live for Him now. Right now. Today.

But there is something that often hinders Christians from living for God right now—in the today of our lives. It's called our past.

Some people have pasts that they are not proud of. Many of us have lost expectations, failed dreams or circumstances from past failures. We've all experienced things that we didn't intend to have happen. Problems are a part of being human.

The key to a successful life with God is not getting it perfect all the time. If it were, none of us would qualify! No, the secret isn't perfection—it's being quick to repent and quick to forgive ourselves and others.

The Power To Move Forward With God

Now, let me be clear...repentance is not a free pass to do whatever you want. It's not a license to do something wrong. But repentance is crucial to our spiritual health, because it is the biblical way to handle things when we mess up. And it's important to be quick to repent—because that's how we connect with God's unlimited power to cleanse, forgive and move us forward in life.

Your past does not have to hinder you from moving ahead with God. I want to emphasize this, because many people feel they will never be able to move beyond their past. Many Christians use past mistakes as an excuse not to do what God has called them to do *today...in the now of their lives*.

If that's you, let me say what the Bible says: "For with God nothing shall be impossible" (Luke 1:37). The Bible says there is nothing too hard for Him. Whatever is in your past, it's not too big for God to handle. The key is that you give it to Him and be willing to change.

It's the Will of Jesus To Forgive and Heal

John 8 tells the story of the Lord's encounter with a woman who was literally caught in the act of committing adultery. The religious crowd—the Pharisees and those with a legalistic attitude—

“Be quick to repent—because that’s how we connect with God’s unlimited power to cleanse, forgive and move us forward.”

threw the woman at the feet of Jesus. They had rocks in their hands, because the Jewish law said that anyone caught in the act of adultery should be stoned to death.

Then they tested Jesus, saying, "The law of Moses says to stone her. What do you say?" (verse 5. *New Living Translation*). They were trying to trap Him. If He said, "Forgive her," they could accuse Him of violating the Law of Moses. But if He said, "Stone her," they could say, "You see, Jesus talks about God's love, but He doesn't live it."

When Jesus saw what was happening, He didn't respond the way the crowd expected. Instead, He got down in the dirt and began to write. The Bible doesn't say what He wrote, but when He was finished, Jesus looked up at the people who were ready to stone the woman and said, "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her" (John 8:7).

Do you know what happened? No one threw a single stone! The Lord's words pricked everyone's conscience. They knew they couldn't claim to be without sin, so they walked away. Then Jesus turned to the woman and said, "Where are your accusers?"

She said, "There are none, Lord."

He said, "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."

In the flash of a second, He gave her forgiveness and freedom from her past—and an instruction of how to live her life from that moment on.

Where Does the Past Belong?

You may say, "Richard, the answer to that question is obvious. The past belongs in the past." And yet, very often we carry our mistakes, missteps, and mess-ups into our present and future, allowing them to dominate our thinking.

The problem is this: As long as you are living in the past—or tied to it by a lack of repentance and



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For more information, go to richardroberts.org.



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forgiveness—you can't really live in the *now*. You can't focus on the good things that our unlimited God has for you *today* if you're tied to the past.

I believe this is why the Apostle Paul learned to put his past behind him. He said, "I have not arrived. I don't know it all. I've got a long way to go. But, there's one thing I've learned to do. I take the past, and I give it to God" (see Philippians 3:12–14).

Of course, if you know the story of Paul's life, you know he had made some terrible decisions in his past. He stood by and held the coats of those who killed Stephen, the first Christian martyr (Acts 7). And he didn't stop there: He persecuted and arrested many Christians before Jesus got hold of his life and turned him around.

Paul knew that he couldn't fully live for God if he didn't repent and move forward, in spite of how he once persecuted the Body of Christ. But Paul also knew that he couldn't live in his past triumphs. Remember, Paul experienced some wonderful miracles! He wrote much of the New Testament through the direct leading of the Holy Spirit. The handkerchiefs and cloths that he touched were used to point many people to God's healing power (Acts 19:11–12). The Bible records that during Paul's ministry, God raised the dead (Acts 20:8–12).

But in spite of all his successes, Paul knew it was important to live in the *now* of his life. I'm sure he thanked God for all those miracles, but he didn't dwell on them. He didn't talk constantly about what he had done in the past.

No, he learned to focus on what was happening in the *now* of his life. And because he did, he was a blessing to the churches of his time, and his letters are still a blessing to us today!

God's Forgiveness Is His Gift to You

Who doesn't relate to Paul when he talks about leaving his past behind him? I'm no different than you or any other human being. We all make mistakes (Romans 3:23). The good news is that there is nothing in our past that we can't give to God. He's willing to forgive it all, if we truly want to be forgiven and live according to His ways. As 1 John 1:9 says, "If we confess our sins, he (the Lord) is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Through the blood of Jesus, shed for you and me on the cross, we have forgiveness of our sins and mistakes. When we honestly admit we've done wrong, repent to God for it, make things

right, and change how we act in the future, we are honoring the sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

What To Do When You Have Messed Up

In my life, as soon as I realize I've made a mistake, I go to God to make it right. That's always the *first step*—to go to God the minute you realize that you have erred.

All it takes to give God your past is a simple, sincere prayer. Pray something like this: "God, I want to give You my past. Everything that is hurting and broken in me because of past mistakes, sins, and failures, I give it all to You now. Please forgive me, and set me free from anything that would hold me back. Help me to move forward in You, starting right now, with a clean slate, in Jesus' Name. Amen."

When you pray a prayer like that and mean it, God will honor it. He can help you avoid trouble in the future too, when you are willing to listen to Him and allow Him to direct your path.


After you make things right with God, you can go to step No. 2, which is to ask forgiveness from those you may have offended. Sometimes this means going to them personally, but if that's not possible, then God knows your heart.

It can sometimes be hard to humble ourselves before the people we've hurt. Sometimes, it can be a powerful step to take if you want to move beyond the past and walk with freedom into the plans God has for you. You can't control how others may respond, but you can make your own heart and your actions right. And that's a very important thing!

The third step is to forgive ourselves. Sometimes, this is the hardest thing for us to do. We think we should have done better, and we hold our mistakes against ourselves. But I believe that's called *pride*—maybe it's pride in reverse—and it's not the biblical way to look at ourselves.

Romans 3:10 says, "There is none righteous, no, not one." None of us are ever going to get it right 100% of the time, because there's only one Person who is perfect and sinless—and that's God.

So let God be the Perfect One. And remember, you won't always get things right. But you can repent, and you can be forgiven. And you can forgive yourself and move on!

The blood of Jesus can wash your sins and mistakes away. And you can receive His forgiveness and move forward with Him to do His will for your life. 

A close-up photograph of a cluster of small, light purple flowers with five petals each, set against a blurred teal background. The flowers are in sharp focus in the upper left, while the lower part of the image is out of focus.

Shut the Door on Strife

“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.”

James 3:13-16

As I’ve studied the Scriptures to find the enemies of love, I’ve come to believe there is one that is more insidious and more common than any other. It is the enemy called *strife*, which means: “vigorous or bitter conflict, discord and antagonism; to quarrel, struggle or clash; competitions; rivalry.”


According to James 3:16, where strife gets in, every other evil work will follow. Strife opens the door to the devil and licenses him to bring confusion and evil into our lives. That’s why he’s always pushing for us to argue with one another and get offended or critical of one another. It gives him access to us!

You see, Satan doesn’t want you

to enjoy THE BLESSING that is yours in Christ Jesus. He doesn’t want you to be healed, happy and prosperous because, if you are, other people will notice and want the same quality of life you have. They’ll give their hearts to God because of the goodness of God they see in your life.

To keep that from happening, the devil tries to steal THE BLESSING from you. He tries to trick you into opening the door of your life to him by bringing you an opportunity to have conflict with someone. He knows that the moment you step into strife, he can begin to gain mastery over you. The devil wants control of your life, but he can’t have it when you walk in love.

Don’t let him have control. Make a quality decision today to shut the door on strife. Refuse to argue with people. Refuse to fight back when people criticize or wrong you. Determine instead to respond in love—take no account of the evil done to you. When you do mess up and say harsh words, be quick to repent so the devil can’t get a foothold in your life.

I can tell you not only from the Word but from experience, it will be one of the best decisions you’ll ever make. It will take effort, but by God’s grace you will be able to do it. It’s a small price to pay for the freedom in THE BLESSING...and you’ll be forever glad you did. 

Shake It Off!

“We don’t have to follow the fear, panic and uncertainty that others experience.”

MY WIFE, VIKKI, AND I ONCE JOINED A GROUP OF 15 COUPLES FOR A MOTORCYCLE RIDE ON THE BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, A STUNNINGLY BEAUTIFUL DRIVE ALONG THE APPALACHIANS. AT ONE POINT, WE STOPPED TO TAKE A GROUP PICTURE. WHEN YOU’RE TRYING TO ORGANIZE THAT MANY PEOPLE, YOU MIGHT AS WELL ORDER OUT FOR PIZZA. YOU’RE GOING TO BE THERE A WHILE!



I went up to a pastor in the group that I hadn’t met before and introduced myself.

“I’m so glad you’re here. Tell me about yourself. Tell me about your church.”

As soon as I posed the question, he unloaded. The flood gates of information opened.

He had faced serious difficulties in his church. As we stood on the side of the road with people taking pictures all around us,

this guy was *bleeding*! He’d faced a split in his church, and the people who caused the church split left saying nasty things about the pastor.

The side of the road isn’t the best place for that kind of deep dive, but in that moment, God directed me to say, “Well, you know, God had a split in heaven, and it wasn’t due to a lack of leadership.”

God wanted this pastor to get out of his own head and quit listening to condemnation and discouragement: *What did I do wrong? What could I have done differently? Should I have done this or that?*

Should that pastor have handled the situation differently? Perhaps. But at that point, it was over. The best he could do was learn from his mistakes and keep moving. What he *shouldn’t* have done is let the devil take him out each and every day since.

Later, he told me: “Something had been on me for weeks, and—*BOOM!*—when you said that to me, it was gone!” As soon as he’d heard the truth, the condemnation and discouragement lifted.

Right away, he walked over to his wife who was sitting on their motorcycle and told her what I’d said. The same anointing hit her. That condemnation and discouragement left her just like it had him. Praise God!

I share this with you because if any of that trash—destructive thoughts, doubts, condemnation—has been on you, it’s time to shake it off.

Shake. It. Off!

That may sound too simple, too “Pollyanna,” for some people, but remember, you know a mighty God who raises the dead...and He is enough.

A Different Frame of Mind

There are two times when the devil attacks you: when you’re doing everything wrong and when you’re doing everything right. In other words, he doesn’t stop. There’s nothing new about that. A lot of heroes in Scripture faced the same pressures. For instance, the Apostle



“GOD WANTS AN ‘OVERFLOW OF POWER’ TO BE SEEN IN OUR HOMES, OUR MONEY... AND OUR VOICES.”

Paul faced a time like that.

Paul, then a prisoner, was getting a free boat ride via the Roman government, to preach in Rome. Paul had told the Roman officer over him that they shouldn't leave port because he had a sense that it wasn't safe (Acts 27:10, *The Passion Translation*). The captain of the ship didn't care what Paul thought. He loaded everyone up and headed for open waters. Paul had felt like trouble was coming, but it didn't matter. He had to endure the same trouble as the rest of the people on the ship. He went through the same “storm of hurricane force.... After many days of seeing neither the sun nor the stars, and with the violent storm continuing to rage against us, all hope of ever getting through it alive was abandoned” (verses 14, 20).

Then, he and the others encountered a shipwreck. While the others feared for their lives, Paul had a different frame of mind. He knew they would be saved.

That's what should distinguish us from the world—a different frame of mind. God has done something in us that's given us the right to believe differently than most people. That doesn't mean the unexpected won't happen. It will, but, like Paul, we don't have to follow the fear, panic and uncertainty that others experience.

After Paul and the others shipwrecked on Malta, he was helping build a fire when a viper bit his hand. Paul's reaction? “Paul shook the snake off, flung it into the fire, and suffered no harm at all” (Acts 28:3, 5).

Think about that. Paul had just helped save 276 souls from being lost at sea. He'd helped them get to shore safely. And just when they thought the trouble was past and they could enjoy a warm fire, a viper bit Paul. Talk about not having a good day.

Sometimes you can be in the middle of doing something good—helping others, sharing the gospel, doing all you know to do—and the devil bites you. It may not be a poisonous snake bite, but it can feel like one, coming out of nowhere and feeling like it's the end. Here's

the important part though: Paul had a different frame of mind. He just shook that viper off.

The islanders watching this happen thought he was a criminal that God was trying to kill. The ocean hadn't killed him. The hurricane hadn't killed him. So to them, God must have sent a snake to kill him. They waited for him to puff up and die.

Likewise, people may be waiting for the worst to happen to you too. They may be saying, “Oh man, this is it. He's done! Yeah, he deserves it.”

Then a few minutes later, when Paul didn't die, they changed their tune: “He must be a god!” (verse 6).

People can be fickle. For you, those onlookers may be well-meaning Christians who go to your church. Or they may be people sitting next to you at work. Or neighbors you pass every day on your morning walk. They're watching to see how you respond to being bit. They're waiting to see if you'll puff up and die... or just shake it off.

God Raises the Dead

Paul was no stranger to pressure. In 2 Corinthians, Paul talked about the trouble he'd faced in western Turkey. As you read what he wrote here, think of the times in your life—maybe even right now—when you've faced pressure, the kind that would make others wonder if you're going to survive.

“For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life. Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves...” (2 Corinthians 1:8-9, *New King James Version*).



Dennis Burke and his wife, Vikki, are co-founders of Dennis Burke Ministries in Arlington, Texas. For more information go to dennisburkeministries.org.

What hit Paul may be similar to what's hit you and me. *BAM!* It comes out of nowhere. Your mind starts to play a reel of questions that are full of doubt: *What are you going to do now? How are you going to get past this? Where is this going to end up?*

When your mind starts playing that kind of nonsense, remember where to keep your trust. Like Paul, you may seem to have a "sentence of death," but don't trust that. Instead, trust "in God who raises the dead" (verse 9).

It doesn't matter how hopeless things look. You serve a God who rescues you from hopeless situations. It doesn't matter how deadly that bite intends to be—*This is it for you; you're done now!*—you serve a God who *raises the dead!*

You can be sure that Paul was hit with the same kind of negative thoughts that try to hit every one of us. But when it happened, Paul shook it off.

No one may have known what Paul was going through on the inside, but he knew he had to address it. He didn't dwell on it. He didn't come up with Plan C or D or E. He stuck with Plan A. He said, God "delivered us from so great a death, and does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us" (verse 10).

Don't Quit

Paul gets into more detail on how to handle a bite later in 2 Corinthians. In Chapter 4, he wrote, "Now, it's because of God's mercy that we have been entrusted with the privilege of this new covenant ministry" (verse 1, *TPT*).

Can't we all say the same thing? It's not because we've been so slick that we're walking in the jobs, the churches or the families we have. It's because of God's mercy that we've been entrusted with "this new covenant ministry."

Then Paul adds this statement: "And we will not quit or faint with weariness."

Satan may try to silence your voice, quiet you down and wear you out, but like Paul said, "We will not quit."

Paul then reminds us that our thinking must remain steadfast. "We are like common clay jars that carry this glorious treasure within, so that the extraordinary overflow of power will be seen as God's, not ours" (verse 7). Notice

Paul used the phrase "overflow of power." God wants an "overflow of power" to be seen in our homes, our money, our marriages, our ministries and our voices. We may be common clay jars, but we have an "overflow of power." That power doesn't come because of us. It comes because Jesus has deposited all His resources on the inside of us.

In verses 8-9, Paul continued, "Though we experience every kind of pressure, we're not crushed.... We are persecuted by others, but God has not forsaken us."

Can you relate? Paul and his fellow ministers faced every kind of pressure, but they refused to be crushed. They refused to quit.

Satan would love to talk you into quitting the life and calling God has for you. That's his goal. But if you quit, you'll never discover the next step in God's plan. You'll never know what to do. You'll never figure out which direction you should go.

I don't know what you're going through, but I know these are the tricks the devil tries to play on every single one of us to get into our heads. We don't have to allow him to have his way. We are full of Jesus. We're full of the Word, and we renew our minds with that Word on a daily, even hourly, basis.

Second Corinthians continues: "We have the same Spirit of faith that is described in the Scriptures when it says, 'First I believed, then I spoke in faith'.... So no wonder we don't give up. For even though our outer person gradually wears out, our inner being is renewed every single day" (verses 13, 16).

Like scuba divers have to equalize the pressure in their heads to counteract the water pressure at different depths, so do we have to increase the Word inside us to counteract the pressure of the enemy on the outside. As we build up the Word inside us, the pressure of the enemy becomes less noticeable. It's in that place that we are able to shake it off.

When you get bit, shake it off. Speak the Word that you've deposited inside yourself. Stand on God's promises in the face of things gone wrong. Continue to believe His truth when the enemy, friends or popular opinion tells you that your life is over. It's *not* over. Let the pressure of the Word rise inside you so you, too, *can shake it off*. 📖



Rebel Against the Devil —and Enjoy the Good of the Land

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” Isaiah 1:19-20

As believers, we need to settle this fact in our hearts: Walking in love is not a suggestion The LORD has given us. It's not a nice thing to do or just a good idea. Walking in love is the New Testament commandment.

When we walk in obedience to that command with a willing heart, we open the door to THE BLESSING of God. We open the door to supernatural prosperity. We open the door to health and healing. We open the door to peace and well-being in every area of our lives.

The reverse is also true. When we disobey the command of love and yield to things like bitterness, irritation, unforgiveness and selfishness, we throw open the door to the devil. We give him an open invitation to come in with his sword of destruction and cut up our lives.

That's why the devil fights us so hard over the issue of love. That's why the moment we begin to study about love and commit ourselves to walk in it, the devil will try to see to it that someone challenges us. He'll try to make sure that someone does something to thoroughly offend us. He knows that if we truly begin to live our lives according to love, we'll get out of his reach. So he tries to pull us back into a life of strife.


Once, when I was preaching a series of meetings about

the Love of God in a church in south Texas, the devil pulled that kind of stunt and got the song director in a fuss with someone in the church—right in the middle of the meeting! Believe it or not, the guy got so mad, he threw a songbook while I was preaching about love!

“LORD,” I said, “what on earth is going on here?”

The LORD said, *Love is so powerful, it casts the devil and all his works right out of people's lives. So he's doing his best to throw a fit on his way out, hoping you'll back off a little and let him back in.*

When the devil does that to you, don't fall for it. Don't back off your love walk one bit. Just keep on being willing and obedient. Instead of getting mad at the person who offended you, get mad at the devil and rebel against him. Determine, *I'm going to be more loving still. I'll be kinder than I've ever been to that person. I'll not only forgive them, I'll give them a hug. I'll send them a card. I'll buy them a gift!*

Keep right on obeying the command of love and demolish the plan of satan. Make him sit and watch while you enjoy the good of the land! 



“The plan
God has for
your life will begin
to unfold in your heart
and before your
very eyes.”

by Gloria Copeland



Seek and You Will FIND



Over the years, thousands of people have written Ken and me to share their testimonies and tell us how God delivered them from sickness, trouble, poverty and distress, and filled their lives with His goodness. I've read many of their letters and I can tell you, they are happy people.

They've discovered the same thing I have—that when you do what God calls you to do and connect with His Master Plan, you're satisfied. The plan of God is where true peace

is. His plan is where true joy is. God's shining path is the place of freedom.

I don't know where you are on God's shining path today. You may be taking your first few steps. You may have strayed away from that path and want to return. You may have walked that shining path for years. Wherever you are, I can assure you it will take courage to keep going because along God's path there are surprises. There are twists and turns, mountains and valleys that will challenge



Kenneth Copeland

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Kenneth Copeland

Sun., Feb. 12
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Kenneth Copeland

Feb. 13-17
Healing Is a Property
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Sun., Feb. 19
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Words of Life
Kenneth Copeland

Feb. 20-24
Love: The Secret
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ET

your faith.

To meet those challenges, you must dare to believe God truly is as good as the Bible says He is. You must understand that you can trust Him absolutely and that everything He tells you to do is for your good. You have to trust God and what He says to you in His written Word and in your heart.

You must turn your back on the lies of the devil and believe what Psalm 145:8-9 says about Him:

» *That He is gracious.* He is disposed to show favors and likes to do good things for you.

» *That He is full of compassion.* He is absolutely overflowing with love for you. He cares deeply about everything that concerns you and has promised never to leave nor forsake you. Because He loves you as a father, He wants you to succeed and be blessed even more than you do.

» *That He is slow to anger and great in mercy.* When you disobey Him or make a mistake, He's not quick to punish you or make you pay. He just asks you to repent and confess your sin so that He can forgive it and help you get back inside His circle of blessing. Even if you've been a repeat offender and you're afraid you've worn out God's patience, He'll still receive you with open arms when you turn to Him. As Lamentations 3:22-25 says, "Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'Therefore I hope in Him!' The LORD is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him" (*New King James Version*).

» *That the Lord is good to all and His tender mercies are over all His works.* He doesn't have a great plan for one person and a lousy plan for another. He doesn't love one of His children more than another. He has a glorious plan for every one of us because He loves us equally and He is good to all! His plans for each person will be different because we're all unique. But you can be sure His plan for you will be just as good

for you as mine is for me.

How could His plan for you be anything less? It's been perfectly designed by the Master.

Once you begin to grasp how amazingly good God's shining path actually is, you'll have one burning question.

How do I find that path?

You won't be content to wander here and there, wherever circumstances might lead. You'll not be satisfied just getting up every morning, going to work, coming home, watching television and going to bed. You'll want to take definite steps toward your destiny. You'll want to be sure you're living according to God's Master Plan.

If you're anything like I was when I began my relationship with God, at first, you may feel overwhelmed by the challenge. You may look back at the mistakes you've made and the wrong turns you've taken, and wonder how you'll ever figure out exactly what God wants you to do.

If that's what you're thinking, I have good news for you. You don't have to be a spiritual genius to find God's shining path. You don't have to be an expert theologian or even an especially experienced Christian.

I can assure you of that, not only because the Bible says so, but also because I've proven it myself. I was totally clueless when I first gave my life to the Lord. I had no idea what God thought about things. I'd never learned much about the Bible. No one had ever taught me the powerful truths of the Word. I knew nothing about spiritual things. But God was able to help me anyway because He has made provision for people in that condition. His wisdom actually calls out to them. The Bible says:

Does not wisdom cry out, and understanding lift up her voice? She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, beside the way, where the paths meet. She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, at the entrance of the doors: "To you, O men, I call, and my voice is to the sons of men. O you simple ones, understand prudence, and you fools, be of an understanding heart. Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, and from the opening of my lips will come right things....

I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently will find me” (Proverbs 8:1-6, 17, *NKJV*).

According to that passage, no matter who we are or where we might be in life, God is speaking His wisdom to us. He’s making it available to everyone.

If we want that wisdom, however, we can’t just wait for it to find us. We can’t just sit around expecting God to look us up. He will do some maneuvering for us. He will help us. But ultimately, if we want to get the wisdom we need to find God’s shining path for our lives, we’ll have to do what this passage says. We’ll have to seek God’s wisdom diligently. To connect fully with God’s Master Plan, we’ll have to go after Him with our whole hearts.

The Bible makes that abundantly clear. It tells us again and again that the blessings and wisdom of God are reserved for people who avidly seek Him. It says:

» “Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, who seek Him with the whole heart!” (Psalm 119:2, *NKJV*).

» “Seek the LORD and His strength; seek His face evermore!” (1 Chronicles 16:11, *NKJV*).

» “He who earnestly seeks after and craves righteousness, mercy, and loving-kindness will find life in addition to righteousness (uprightness and right standing with God) and honor” (Proverbs 21:21, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

» “Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near” (Isaiah 55:6, *NKJV*).

» “When you pray, I will listen. If you look for me in earnest, you will find me when you seek me. I will be found by you,” says the Lord. “I will end your captivity and restore your fortunes. I will gather you out of the nations where I sent you and bring you home again to your own land” (Jeremiah 29:12-14, *New Living Translation-96*).

» “Seek first the kingdom of God and His

“
He has a
glorious plan
for every one
of us because

He
loves us
equally
and He
is good
to all!
”

righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33, *NKJV*).

You Can't Live Without It

According to the *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, when God says, "Seek My face," He means "inquire for and require My presence as your vital need." A vital need is something we can't live without. People who think they can live without seeking God are greatly mistaken. Without God, they're just existing. They're totally missing out on real, abundant life.

Once we, as believers, fully understand this, we'll get serious about seeking God. Once we realize it takes the wisdom and knowledge of God for us to live a truly blessed life, we'll find time to search out that wisdom, no matter how busy we are.

We'll get up early in the morning to spend time with the Lord or we'll go to bed a little later and seek Him at night. We'll even turn off the television. (Think of that!) We'll do whatever we have to do.

Obviously, it's going to take some effort. We can't just be casual Christians and find the fullness of God's wisdom and plan for our lives. We can't just show up at church once a week, sing some songs and listen to a sermon. Going to church is good, and any measure of seeking God will bring us a certain amount of blessing. But if we want to live in power and victory, if we want to operate in the gifts of the Spirit and see miracles in our lives, seeking God must be our No. 1 priority.

That's true whether you're the president of the United States, waiting tables or scrubbing floors. To be a success, you must make a lifestyle of going after God for yourself. You must be determined to get to know Him personally and find out what He has to say. Be willing to seek...and seek...and seek.

Exactly what does it mean to *seek* something? According to the dictionary, it means "to try to find, to search for, to look for, to explore, to ask, inquire for, to learn, discern, try to acquire, aim at and pursue." That definition, by itself, gives us a lot to think about. But the Hebrew definition for the word *seek* adds another dimension.

I discovered that definition when I was reading a book by a Jewish rabbi who became interested in what the Old Testament said

about the Messiah. He went to various Jewish scholars and teachers and asked them about the subject, but they wouldn't talk to him about it. Finally, after he became a rabbi himself, he decided he would do his own scriptural study on the Messiah.

He discovered many scriptures that instruct God's people to *seek* or *search* for Him. I learned from the rabbi that in Hebrew, the word *seek* actually means "to research." So the rabbi decided to do exactly that. He studied the Bible and researched every Old Testament scripture he could find about the Messiah.

Do you know what happened? That rabbi researched the Messiah...and found Him. He ended up receiving Jesus as Messiah and was born again.

Even though you and I are already believers, we can do the same thing the rabbi did. We can research God and get to know Him better. The more of Him we seek, the more of Him we'll find.

Where do we do our research? First and foremost, we go to the Bible. When you see the word *seek*, think "research."

I think the word *research* best describes what it takes to walk with God. It helps you to get hold of what *seek* really means. It is the best word for what it takes to live victoriously in the earth. That is what Ken and I have done for more than 40 years. We research God. The more we research, the more victory we find.

There's nothing in your life more essential than knowing what the Bible says because it's the revelation of God to you. God speaks and shows Himself to you primarily through His written Word. It's the key to connecting with God's will for your life. It's the place you'll find your Master Plan.

The Bible doesn't have your name specifically written in it. It doesn't spell out what vocation you should choose. It doesn't tell you whom you should marry and how many children you should have. But, even so, if you'll do what it says, step by step, the plan God has for your life will begin to unfold in your heart and before your very eyes. 🕒

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Explore: A New Kind of Love

Commander
Kellie's Corner

SUPERKIDS, WE'RE ONE MONTH INTO 2023. I AM ALREADY EXCITED TO SEE WHAT THE LORD IS DOING IN US!

Launching into a year of exploration in God's kingdom, we received a challenge to be different—to think differently and to expect greater miracles in our everyday lives. We are headed into a different kind of normal. I love the thought of that, don't you?

Let's start with a new kind of LOVE! It's easy for us to love people most of the time, but it can sometimes be a challenge. Let me show you what a big deal this is to the Lord, and how love connects with the extraordinary life ahead for us.

First Corinthians 13 is known as the Love chapter, but it is also about walking in great glory and power! Chapter 12 talks about the different spiritual gifts: tongues, healing, working of miracles and more. Verses 4-10, *The Message*, list some awesome powers God plans for us to walk in:

God's various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God's Spirit. God's various expressions of power are in action everywhere; but God himself is behind it all. Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, clear understanding,

simple trust, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues.

These are the gifts that make us different from the world. But as awesome as they sound, there is something greater: LOVE! Love is greater because none of these miraculous gifts work without it. First Corinthians 13:1-2 clearly tells us the best, most powerful and important part of living for God is LOVE. It says, "If I speak with human eloquence and angelic ecstasy but don't love.... If I speak God's Word with power, revealing all his mysteries and making everything plain as day, and if I have faith that says to a mountain, 'Jump,' and it jumps, but I don't love, I'm nothing." When we don't walk in love, all the good works we do don't connect people to Jesus. That is the very reason He came to earth and died on the Cross!

I have always tried to love like Jesus, but when someone isn't nice to me, the challenge to love them is hard. When I am in a bad mood, impatient or even tired, I can be the one who is unloving. So when Jesus needed me to love, I left people unloved. First Corinthians 13:2 (AMPC) says, "...If I have [sufficient] faith so that I can remove mountains, but have not love (God's love in me) I am nothing (a useless nobody)." I don't want to be a useless nobody to the Lord! I want Him to be able to flow through me to help others. But if I don't love, I am useless

to help. I can't love LIKE Jesus, I have to love WITH Jesus! This may sound like the same thing, but what a big difference this little difference makes!

Superkids, you have Jesus living inside you, you are ONE with Him. Jesus doesn't HAVE love, He IS love. He is the One who has unfailing love for others. He loves everyone equally and powerfully! All we have to do to love like that is to let Him do the loving through us. That may sound difficult, but it's easy when you stop trying so hard to love others by yourself. As you love this month, tell the Lord that He is free to love others through you. When you pray for people, let the Lord give you words to pray. As you give the Lord your life to love with, you will find that praying for people to be healed or helped will flow out of you along with His love.

THIS is the new kind of love for a new kind of Superkid! I will kick this love thing off by saying, Jesus and I love you, Superkids! ❤️





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