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APRIL 2024
KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

"Turning the care of this nation over to Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and believing He'll do something about it, is the most responsible thing I can do for this country!"

a Born-Again NATION

P.4

BY KENNETH COPELAND

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Editor's Letter

Let Them Finish, Please!

Not long ago I was having a conversation with one of my sons when, as he was explaining something very important, I suddenly interrupted to offer my opinion. Immediately, he responded by saying, "But you didn't let me finish." Slightly offended, but mostly embarrassed, I quickly apologized and urged him to continue his thought.

But the thought of what had just happened didn't end there. In fact, it lingered long enough for me to really think about what had just happened, and to examine my actions. Not only had I acted rudely by interrupting my son's effort to share something that was obviously very important to him, but I had disrespected him in the process. In essence, I had sent him a message that giving my opinion was more important than listening to what he had to say.

The more I thought about it, the more I realized that really wasn't a first for me. Truth is, it was pretty much a habit that I'd not recognized I had—until now. In retrospect, it was pretty commonplace for me to cut off people midsentence to offer my "expert" advice—even when it wasn't requested.

To be honest, I realize I had even been guilty of acting the same way with God.

How often, I wondered, *have I gone to God in prayer and stated my case, only to butt in with my unsolicited retorts while He was trying to respond to me?*

What am I proving by interrupting someone's thoughts to offer my opinion before it is asked? That I'm smart and have all the answers? No. I'm really showing that I lack wisdom—that I'm not respectful, and that I'm pretty good at being rude.

Proverbs 18:13, *The Message,* backs that up. It says, "Answering before listening is both stupid and rude." The *Good News Translation* says: "Listen before you answer. If you don't, you are being stupid and insulting."

This is not an interruption. It's an apology—to God, to my son and to anyone else I may have inadvertently offended.

Lesson learned.

Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor

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"I connected with some Pentecostals who got me baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Nothing was as exciting to me as learning how to live by faith in God's Word."

—Roxanne 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 51 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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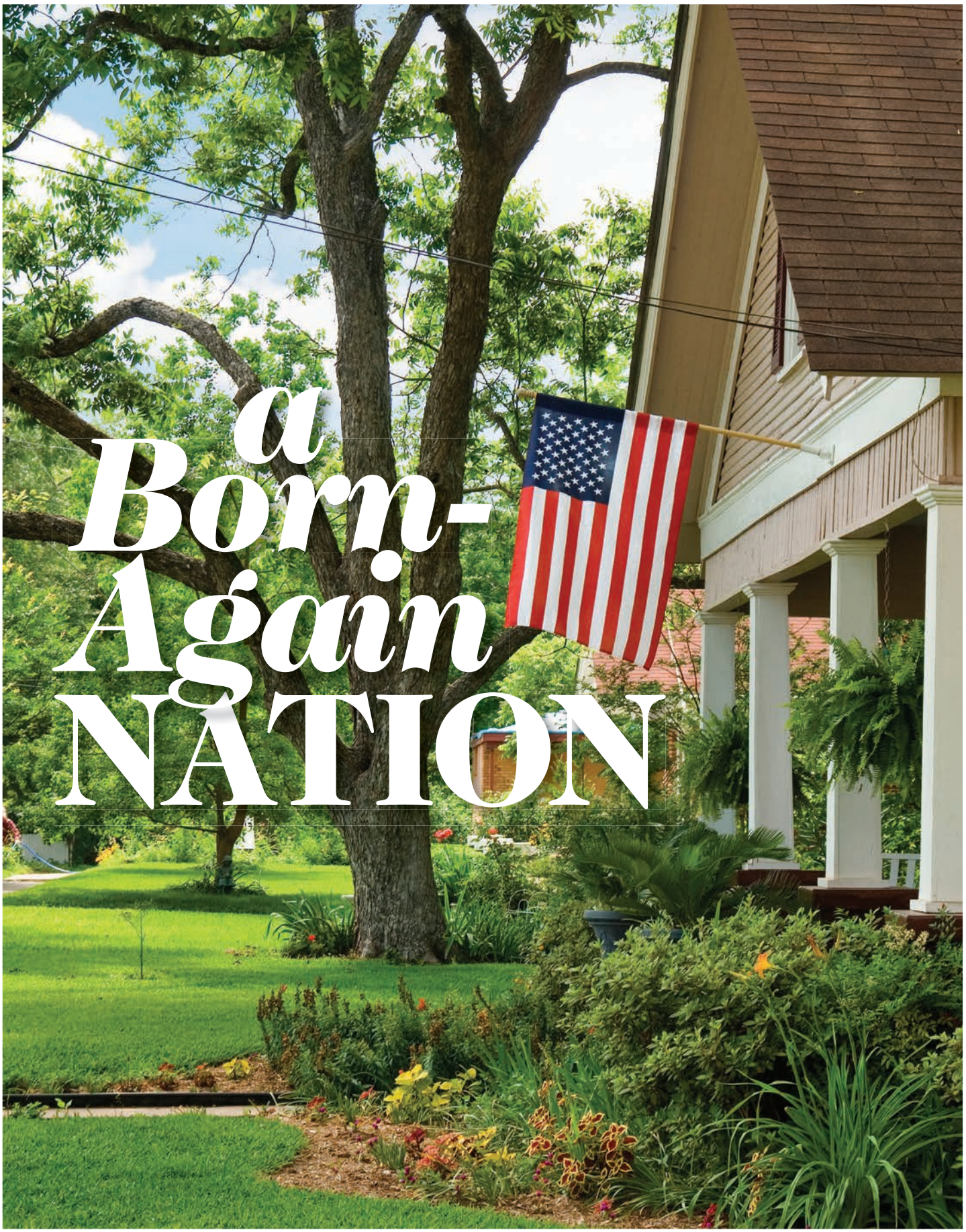


a Born-Again NATION

by Kenneth Copeland

GOD & YOU Elections 2024

Years ago, as I was I was praying for this nation The LORD presented me with a question: *Do you think George Washington, John Adams and Benjamin Franklin had any idea what the United States would eventually look like?* He asked.

The answer was obvious. They didn't have a clue! Nothing like this had ever existed before. They couldn't have possibly known how it would turn out.

Kenneth, at this point in time you're in the same situation they were, The LORD told me. *I am causing the United States to be born again, and you don't have any idea what it's going to look like when I get done with it because there's never been anything like this before.*

In the years since The LORD spoke those words to me, I've pressed in to find out more about what He's doing in this nation. I've listened more attentively to what the Holy Spirit is saying, and asked Him to show me what's going on here—not in the natural, but from God's perspective.

As a result, I've seen some things in times of prayer that have absolutely thrilled me. I've seen this nation coming to the place where it's fulfilling God's original plan. I've seen it by the Spirit, overflowing with an outpouring of the gospel of Jesus Christ that's so outlandish it's affecting nations all over the earth.

I've seen all races of people worshipping together, showing the world what it looks like when racism is defeated. And I've seen the Body of Christ coming together as one—just as Jesus prayed in John 17.

"Brother Copeland, that sounds wonderful," someone might say, "but it also sounds rather unrealistic. With political parties in this nation

POINTS TO GET YOU THERE:

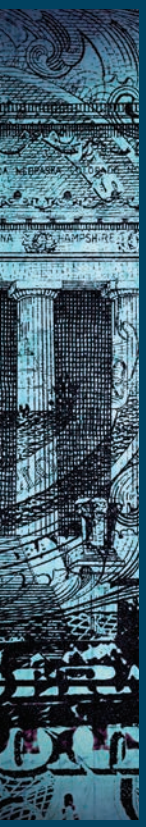
1
No matter how many messes the politicians may have made, God can straighten them all out.
(Matt. 19:26)

2
He simply needs us to pray and believe He will do it.
(2 Chr. 7:14)

3
When you don't know exactly what to pray for, pray in other tongues.
(Rom. 8:26)

4
After you pray in tongues, ask God for the interpretation expecting Him to give you new insights about the nation.
(1 Cor. 14:13-14)

5
There's no limit to what God can do for this nation through people of faith.
(Mark 9:23)



> WHAT'S BEING JUDGED IS THE BABYLONIAN SOCIALISTIC SYSTEM. IT'S A DEMONIZED COUNTERFEIT THAT'S MADE OUR COUNTRY SICK, AND **GOD, IN HIS MERCY, IS OVERTURNING IT.**

practically at each other's throats and protests breaking out all over, America seems more divided now than ever. The way things are going, I'm wondering if we're experiencing the judgment of God and we're about to go under."

No, this nation isn't going under! It's not being judged by God. What's being judged is the Babylonian socialistic system that's been attacking it for more than 115 years. That system is not the form of government our forefathers, under God, set up. It's a demonized counterfeit that's made our country sick, and God, in His mercy, is overturning it.

That's why there seems to be so much upheaval right now. This nation is getting operated on. It's going through some serious surgery, and what it needs from us, as believers, isn't a bunch of fear and fretting. It needs us to get with God's program, add our faith to what He's doing, and assist in the healing process that's taking place right now.

You can be part of that process, you know. As a believer, you can use the same faith God gave you by which to be born again, to help bring forth the fulfillment of God's great plan for this nation. You can use your faith to change not only your own life but your family, your community, your state and, yes, even your nation.

I don't care how many goofy things the politicians may have done. I don't care how many messes they've made, God can straighten them all out. If you doubt it, look in the Bible! It not only says that "with God all things are possible" and "all things are possible to him that believeth" (Matthew 19:26; Mark 9:23), it clearly declares we can believe for the impossible where our country is concerned.

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

Turn Off the Bad News and Turn On the Good

The problem has been that, until the past several years, not many people have actually believed God for the United States to be healed. A lot of Christians have been praying for it to happen, but they haven't been praying in faith.

How can you tell whether you're praying in faith or not?

Faith calls things that be not as though they were. It sticks with God's WORD and refuses to be moved by contrary evidence. Faith doesn't sit at the dinner table grumbling about the evening news. It doesn't get mad and say things like, "I just don't know what this is all coming to. Those knotheads in Washington are going to ruin this country for sure."

No, if the news reports become bothersome, faith just shuts them off. It does what The LORD told me to do a while back. I had the TV on and I was getting irritated, judging everyone from the politicians to the reporters, and He said, *Kenneth, you can't be trusted with news*

broadcasts. Quit watching them.

I said, "Yes Sir, amen," and did what He said. I turned off the bad news and tuned in to the good news. I got back over in faith and Love, cast the care of this nation over on The LORD, and started rejoicing in Him.

"Brother Copeland, how can you rejoice when there's so much trouble and turmoil in this country? Don't you care?"

No, I don't.

I used to. I used to care heavily, but I'm not carrying that care anymore. I'm obeying The WORD instead. I'm acting on the command in 1 Peter 5:6-7, which says, "Therefore humble yourselves...under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you, casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully" *(Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

Turning the care of this nation over to Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and believing He'll do something about it, is the most responsible thing I can do for this country! Not only does it align me with the will of God, it brings exaltation—and that's what this nation needs. She needs to be exalted by the hand of God.

I'm not saying, of course, that I've given up praying for this nation. I haven't! Although I'm not carrying the care of it, I still pray for it every day—for the most part in other tongues.

Why do I pray for it primarily in tongues?

Because I don't know exactly what to pray as I ought. In the natural my knowledge is limited. When I pray in tongues I rise above those limitations. The Holy Spirit takes hold together with me and prays "according to and in harmony with God's will" (Romans 8:27, *AMPC).*

Each time I pray in tongues for this nation I know I've prayed the perfect prayer, so when I'm finished I make sure to release my faith. I say, "Thank You, Father. I believe I receive."

I also ask The LORD each time to further enlighten my mind by giving me the interpretation of what I prayed (1 Corinthians 14:13). Since Jesus said, "Every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth" (Matthew 7:8), I expect when I'm seeking the face of God about this nation to find out something about it—and I always do. That's how I found out God had a plan for this nation to be born again!

The Prayers That Make All the Difference

"Yeah, but Brother Copeland, you're a prophet. I'm not."

That doesn't matter. You don't have to be a prophet to receive insight from God. You can get it just because you're a believer. You can get it because you have the Holy Ghost living in you, and He's been sent by Jesus to "teach you all things" and "guide you into all truth" (John 14:26, 16:13).

You can find out anything from God if you'll pray in tongues long enough! He'll give you all kinds of wonderful revelations. You just have to position yourself to receive them by praying in the spirit, listening for the voice of The LORD, and releasing your faith.

As I've already said, prayers of faith are what this nation needs most right now! It needs the confident prayers of Christians who believe God's WORD, are free of strife, and are walking in Love. It needs intercessors who are clearheaded and tuned in to the voice of God so that when the Holy Spirit calls on them and says, *I need you to pray right now!* they're quick to hear and respond.

How much difference can the prayers of such believers make?

All the difference in the world!

Abraham proved that in the Old Testament. When he found out from God that the city of Sodom was about to be destroyed because of its sin, he interceded for it. He asked God if He would spare it for the sake of 50 righteous men. Sure enough, The LORD agreed to do it and said, "'If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the

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"You don't have to be a rocket scientist...to bring the wisdom of God on the scene and

BE A POSITIVE FORCE IN THIS NATION."

city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes.' Then Abraham answered and said... 'Suppose there were five less than the fifty righteous; would You destroy all of the city for lack of five?' So He said, 'If I find there forty-five, I will not destroy it.' And he spoke to Him yet again and said, 'Suppose there should be forty found there?' So He said, 'I will not do it for the sake of forty'" (Genesis 18:26-29, *New King James Version).*

Abraham kept on interceding and standing before God on his covenant authority until God eventually agreed He would save the entire city of Sodom if He could find just 10 righteous people there. Think about that: Ten good people could have turned the destiny of that place.

Certainly the United States has a lot more than 10 righteous people in it!

There are multiplied thousands, even millions, of believers living in this nation. There are churches all across this land full of born-again people, and Jesus has said to every one of us, "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

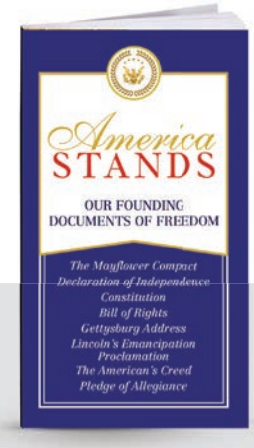
It's no wonder God said this nation is in the process of being born again! He not only has a Body of faith-filled believers agreeing in prayer for it to happen, He has a bunch of people like you and me who are eager to be part of it. He has an ever-growing group of WORD-believing, tongue-talking Christians seeking Him for ways to be a BLESSING—in their neighborhoods, their communities and their workplaces.

There's no limit to what God can do through such people!

I'm thinking right now, for example, about what He did a number of years ago through Clyde McGee. A good friend of our family, Clyde worked back in the early 1960s for an aerospace company that was trying to develop technology for the government. His job was to help figure out how to build a communications satellite, park it out in space 24,000 miles away from the earth, and keep it steady in one spot.

At the time, no man knew how to do that. But God did...and Clyde not only knew God, he knew how to connect with His wisdom by praying in the Holy Spirit. Time after time Clyde would come home from work and say to his wife, "OK, sweetheart, the project has hit another snag. We need to pray."

He couldn't tell her any details because



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the program was top secret. So they'd just pray together in the spirit, believing they'd receive. Eventually, Clyde would get the answer. "That's it!" he'd say. Then he'd go back to work and implement the solution to the problem.

Clyde's team members thought he was the smartest guy who ever lived. He later became known as the Father of the Satellite. But it was really the God he was talking to who is the smartest One who ever lived. God knows everything! He knows all the answers to all the problems everywhere. He knows everything from how to cook...to how to turn around a floundering business...to how to fix the clutch on a '47 Dodge.

Best of all, He knows how to communicate His knowledge to you. He just needs you to give Him some faith to work with. He just needs you to stop worrying and saying, "I don't know," and start praying in tongues and believing you receive.

You don't have to be a rocket scientist like Clyde McGee to bring the wisdom of God on the scene and be a positive force in this nation. You have the mind of God inside you! You have the most gigantic, magnificent storage of information in existence available to you 24 hours a day.

What are you doing wasting your time whining around in the natural about politicians and all the problems they're causing? Come on up into the realm of the supernatural where you, as a born-again believer, are created to live.

Do in the spirit what I do as a pilot when I get into the cockpit of a jet airplane. Fire up your spiritual engines by praying in other tongues and keep pushing up the power until you take off and rise above the realm of the flesh and the carnal mind. Let the lowlands of the natural drop away behind you and soar up to the place where you can view things from God's perspective.

I can guarantee you'll like what you see from up there. Instead of seeing this nation in a mess and going under, you'll see a land that's being healed. You'll see a nation that truly is being born again!

by Terri Copeland Pearsons

PRAYERS WITH PUNCH START WITH POSITION

Imagine getting up early one morning to get away to your prayer closet.

You slip out of bed, feel your way through the dark and somewhat sluggishly settle in to that familiar place where you "meet with God" for a few quiet moments before the sun comes up.

This morning, however, is not the same.

You gently turn the knob, as you've done so many times before, and open the door for a time of intimacy with Him. But this time you're met with a blasting voice that knocks you to your face.

When you finally come to your senses, that same voice—which sounds like the waters of a rushing, mighty river—beckons you, "Come up!"

Come up...to where? your mind asks.

Suddenly, you're jolted again. Intense, blazing torches and flashes of lightning fill the air, followed by peals of thunder and lingering rumblings. Visions of kingly men in golden crowns and science-fiction-like creatures cause you to blink your eyes to see if this is all real.

But you know it's real the moment your eyes settle on the one central figure, as described by the Apostle John:

Clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast. His

head and His hair were white like white wool, [as white] as snow, and His eyes [flashed] like a flame of fire. His feet glowed like burnished (bright) bronze as it is refined in a furnace.... And from His mouth there came forth a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday (Revelation 1:13-16, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition).*

That's right. It's Jesus. And He's standing right in the middle of *your* prayer closet.

Is it a dream? Maybe a vision?

Not quite. Read Revelation 4.

It's simply a "day in the life" of the throne room of God.

Take Your Place of Authority

Imagine having an experience as dynamic as this every time you open the door to your prayer closet. Think of how it would revolutionize not only your prayer time, but especially the results that would follow! Knowing your place of authority, and taking it, makes a world of difference when it comes to praying.

Ephesians 2:6 explains that place of authority like this: "And [God] raised us up together with [Jesus] and made us sit down together [giving us joint seating with Him] in the heavenly sphere [by virtue of our being] in Christ Jesus (the Messiah, the Anointed One)."

God has given us a real seat, or place of authority, in Him. And it's not just a place for us to sit so we don't have to stand. No, it is a position of authority and dominion from which we are to rule.

We often hear about someone having a "seat" on a board of directors. We say that person *sits* on the board. It could be for a school, a corporation or maybe a church.

The same applies to state and federal legislators. In the United States we say they have a *seat* in the House or a *seat* in the Senate. It is a position or place of authority from which those elected officials exercise their authority.

It's no different for us, as believers. In fact, we hold a seat of even greater authority because Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father, which is the seat of *all* authority, and we are seated with Him.

Before He left this earth, Jesus told His disciples, "All authority (all power of rule) in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go then and make disciples of all the nations" (Matthew 28:18-19). In other words, all that authority and power to rule was invested in Jesus. Then He turned around and handed it over to us, which was God's plan from the very beginning.

What's more, when Adam walked this earth, his God-given authority only covered this earthly realm. And he only exercised very little of that, because it wasn't long before he relinquished his authority to the devil by disobeying, thus rebelling against God.

But when Jesus came on the scene, and paid the price to take back that authority, He not only recovered Adam's authority over the earth realm—He also went into the pit of hell and seized authority over that realm, as well.

Before He was through, Jesus regained authority over the heavens, the earth and hell itself. Then He empowered us with that same authority, which we are to exercise under His direction.

Some believers think they take their highest place of authority in prayer when they march around in their prayer closets, stomp the floor and yell at the devil.

Terri Copeland Pearsons, the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, is chief visionary officer of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and president of Kenneth Copeland Bible College®. Along with her husband, George Pearsons, she is also senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM in Fort Worth.

Squeezing Out the Fear

So, how do we exercise this awesome authority to rule in heaven and on earth—especially in prayer?

Like everything else in the kingdom of God, we do it by faith.

Some believers think they take their highest place of authority in prayer when they march around in their prayer closets, stomp the floor and yell at the devil, "I take authority over you,

you wicked spirit!" And certainly, authority can be released in that.

But exercising the authority that Ephesians 2:6 describes goes much further than that. It is a knowing not so much in the head, but by the spirit. And it has everything to do with *position.*

Let's say the Holy Spirit brings a situation to mind that He wants you to pray about—the nation's economy, for instance. Just the week before, your spouse was laid off work and the pantry is nearly empty. So, sure, you are more than glad to pray about the national economy.

The challenge is, will you pray from the right position?

You could easily find yourself praying from a place of being *under* the pressure of the situation—a position *beneath* your God-given authority. Or, by an act of your faith, you can pray from a place *above* the pressure—where you belong. Then the circumstances must change to fall in line with God's will because someone in a position of authority—that's you—says so!

Obviously, this is the time when faith-*filled* words need to pour out of your mouth—not faith-*sounding* words that are really full of fear, words that get squeezed out of you once panic sets in over a situation.

The point is, the position you take in prayer determines the outcome of your prayers.

Any time you pray faith-*sounding* words that are actually motivated by fear, you are praying from a position that is beneath your true seat of authority. And that will get you nothing. Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24 describes your position like this:

You have not come [as did the Israelites in the wilderness] to a [material] mountain that can be touched, [a mountain] that is ablaze with fire, and to gloom and darkness and a raging storm, and to the blast of a trumpet and a voice whose words make the listeners beg that nothing more be said to them.... You have come to Mount Zion, even to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to countless multitudes of angels in festal gathering...and to the God Who is Judge of all...and to Jesus, the Mediator...of a new covenant.

God has authorized us to sit in heavenly places with Him in the Anointed Jesus. So the call to us today is, *Come up!*

Come up to a higher awareness of your rightful position at the very throne of God.

Come up and begin to pray from a position that is *above* the circumstances of this world—and not beneath.

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by Melanie Hemry

A Different Life

ROXANNE ALEXANDER RAN HER FINGERS ACROSS HER MOTHER'S CASKET. *HOW COULD SHE BE GONE?* HER MOTHER HAD ONLY BEEN 62. THIRTEEN MONTHS EARLIER, HER DAD HAD DIED AT 65. BETWEEN THOSE TWO LOSSES, ROXANNE HAD GONE THROUGH A DIVORCE. IF THAT WEREN'T BAD ENOUGH, THE BUSINESS SHE CO-OWNED WITH A FRIEND WAS CRUMBLING.

At 32, she'd lost both parents, and now was a single mom with a failing business.

Roxanne had been raised in a church that taught that God brought problems in your life to teach you a lesson.

God must have felt like He needed to knock a lot of sense into me, she thought.

Sure, she'd made mistakes. But for the most part, she colored between the lines in her life. She'd done the best she could.

As a child she'd had a fanciful imagination. While other little girls imagined being a princess, Roxanne dreamed larger. She imagined herself standing behind a pulpit. Nothing seemed more exciting to her than preaching the gospel.

Those flights of fancy quickly died, though, when adults assured her that no *girl* would ever preach.

Back home, after the funeral, she sat on the side of her bed and wept. She didn't feel rebellious toward God. She felt...defeated.

When she thought about going back to church, something inside her whispered,

READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

APRIL

		Old Testament	New Testament
Mon	1	Deut. 2:16-4:14	Luke 22
Tue	2	Deut. 4:15-5:33	Luke 23
Wed	3	Deut. 6:1-8:10	Luke 24
Thu	4	Deut. 8:11-10:22	John 1
Fri	5	Deut. 11-12	John 2
Sat	6	Deut. 13:1-15:11	
Sun	7	Ps. 42-44; Prov. 9	
Mon	8	Deut. 15:12-18:8	John 3
Tue	9	Deut. 18:9-21:9	John 4
Wed	10	Deut. 21:10-23:18	John 5
Thu	11	Deut. 23:19-26:15	John 6
Fri	12	Deut. 26:16-28:32	John 7
Sat	13	Deut. 28:33-29:29	
Sun	14	Ps. 45-48; Prov. 10:1-17	
Mon	15	Deut. 30:1-32:14	John 8
Tue	16	Deut. 32:15-33:29	John 9
Wed	17	Deut. 34:1-Josh. 3:8	John 10
Thu	18	Josh. 3:9-6:11	John 11
Fri	19	Josh. 6:12-8:23	John 12
Sat	20	Josh. 8:24-10:27	
Sun	21	Ps. 49-50; Prov. 10:18-32	
Mon	22	Josh. 10:28-12:24	John 13
Tue	23	Josh. 13:1-15:12	John 14
Wed	24	Josh. 15:13-16:10	John 15
Thu	25	Josh. 17:1-19:16	John 16
Fri	26	Josh. 19:17-21:19	John 17
Sat	27	Josh. 21:20-22:34	
Sun	28	Ps. 51-55; Prov. 11:1-23	
Mon	29	Josh. 23:1-Jdgs. 1:15	John 18
Tue	30	Jdgs. 1:16-3:11	John 19

Why bother? Still, she prayed for guidance and God answered quickly!

A Different Message

"The next day I turned on the television and heard this blue-eyed man saying things I'd never heard," Roxanne remembers. "He said God was *good!* That was news to me. If He was so good, why had He taken my parents so young?"

The man she heard speaking turned out to be Kenneth Copeland.

"He challenged a whole lot of what I'd been taught," said Roxanne. "I just couldn't get enough."

After learning from the broadcast she was watching that Brother Copeland would be preaching at an upcoming meeting in Anaheim, Calif., Roxanne and a friend arranged to attend the meeting. Weeks later, a spiritually hungry Roxanne found herself in attendance at another of Brother Copeland's meetings—this one in Fort Worth, Texas. It was the Southwest Believers' Convention.

Not long after that meeting, Roxanne came across some books by another man she was not familiar with, Kenneth E. Hagin from Tulsa, Okla. While his teachings grabbed her attention, because they were similar to what Brother Copeland taught, Roxanne didn't take to them as quickly.

"I read them and got mad," Roxanne remembers. "I thought he was arrogant and full of himself."

That's when she heard the voice of the Lord say to her, *He's right. You're wrong.*

"From that day forward, I ran full force into the Word of Faith message," Roxanne recalls.

In 1987, she and her friend returned to the Southwest Believers' Convention. This time, they brought 18 other believers along with them.

"We've never missed a meeting since," she said.

In 1990, Roxanne's zeal for the Word of Faith led her to start a home Bible study. It quickly grew to about 42 people.

"I just wanted people to hear and know what I was learning."

Called To Pastor

"I finally went back to church," said Roxanne, "and the first time I was there the pastor called me out. She said, 'You're a teacher and you have a prophetic gift.'

"I figured that must be right. Back when I was 21, I connected with some Pentecostals who got me baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Two weeks later, I started prophesying. I didn't know what I was doing. I just *knew* things. Still, nothing was as exciting to me as learning how to live by faith in God's Word."

For a while, Roxanne served as children's pastor for a church in Austin, Texas, but was soon called to be the assistant pastor at another church in San Marcos, Texas. During that time, she was asked to help lead one of the pastor's two churches. In 1995 Roxanne and Deb Field, her then-business partner, rented a small building on the side of a county road to use as a teaching center. One day, as Deb tried desperately to cut down waist-high weeds on the property with a lawn mower, a worker who had been mowing grass for the county drove up.

"Hey, ma'am! Move out of the way! I'll knock this down in five minutes!" the man said. Within minutes, the job was done.

That incident, the two realized, was not just a random act of kindness by some good Samaritan. It led them to establish a faith statement that would guide them spiritually for years to come: "Just start, because the big tractor is coming!"

The first "big tractor" showed up when their business had fallen into heavy debt, Roxanne recalls. This time it came in the form of employment that helped to eradicate their debt in about eight months.

"I preached at a Women's Aglow meeting and some people from Marble Falls, Texas,

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attended," Roxanne says. "They asked if I would come to Marble Falls to speak, and I agreed. People kept calling me back."

Another "big tractor" showed up shortly after that.

After she told her former pastor that there might be an opportunity for him to start a church in Marble Falls, and offered to help out if needed, he told Roxanne, "Yes, we're going to start a church in Marble Falls, but you're going to be the senior pastor."

"When we were getting ready to plant the church, I sold a piece of river property and planted the money in the Kingdom for the church," Roxanne recalls. "Marble Falls is located on Highland Lakes, which is the largest chain of lakes in Texas. I told the Lord that I wanted a house on a lake with a boat and a Sea-Doo.

"I called about renting a house on the lake that I thought might work," Roxanne said. "When I went to see it, the owner dropped the price by $500. Then he took my friend and me out to lunch. He drove us to the marina in his boat. On the way back, he asked if I could drive the boat and navigate my way back to the boathouse. As the boathouse winch lifted it out of the water, the man handed me the keys. He said, 'You can take the boat out whenever you want to. By the way, there's the Sea-Doo. You can use it too!'"

"I never imagined getting to live the life I have. I will always be a Partner with KCM, and so will our church."

In 2002, Roxanne planted Victory Church of Highland Lakes in Marble Falls, where today she serves as senior pastor and Deb is associate pastor.

"Our church family isn't huge," Roxanne said, "but we've got solid, mature people. About 90% of them are Partners with KCM. We're very generational, and we've been able to minister to thousands through different outreaches."

In 2016, another "big tractor" showed up after Deb heard from the Lord that she was to help finance sending some Jews from Ukraine to Israel.

He told her, *If you bring them home, I'll bring you home,* Roxanne recalled.

When Roxanne announced to the church family what God had directed, everyone wanted to get involved, she said. In time, they raised enough money to pay the way for 16 Jews to leave Ukraine and travel home to Israel.

"We sent those Jews home to Israel in 2016, and God sent us to our new church home, which is debt free! We have continued to bring many more Jews home since then.

"I've enjoyed all these blessings because I'm a Partner with KCM," Roxanne declares. "That partnership is just as important to me as being in ministry. I count it an honor and privilege."

This year, Victory Church celebrated 22 years in existence.

"As a child, when I dreamed of standing in a pulpit I never imagined getting to live the life I have. I will always be a Partner with KCM, and so will our church.

"We have a saying in Texas: It's important to dance with the one who brung you. This is a different life than I ever expected to live. Thanks to KCM, I'm enjoying every moment of it—and I'm enjoying the dance. I'll never leave my Partner."

TESTIMONIES OF REAL-LIFE VICTORY

Whom the Son Sets Free, Is Free!

Twenty-eight years ago while in prison, I picked up a *BVOV* magazine. Understand I was one who never read anything. Suddenly I got an unavoidable urge to read that magazine. After reading it four times, I wanted to know more about the God that Copeland fella was talking about! So I wrote KCM, and they sent me free of charge a Bible and *Faith to Faith*.

The *Faith to Faith* became my Bible school in prison. Three years after my release I found myself a graduate of Rhema Bible College, licensed and a Partner with KCM. The Lord has blessed me with 26 years of partnership with KCM and full-time ministry as a chaplain to jails, prisons, residential rehabs and Union Gospel Missions. And it all started with the *BVOV* magazine! May God continue to bless the Copelands and all at KCM!

C.D. | Arkansas

'Growing In The Word'

I am so blessed by your teaching through the BVOV broadcast. I am growing in the Word and putting my faith to work. Through His Word, God is working in my life evidently and surely.

G.M. | Kenya

The Beauty of Vision

Thank you for producing *Inside the Vision.* I have been a Partner with KCM, along with my husband, for many years. It is a joy to see all the facets of this beautiful ministry. Kenneth Copeland has not changed his message and it is as powerful today as it was years ago. He is a man of honor, faithfulness, and blessing, and he has brought other honorable men and women into our lives through his ministry. Thank you!

J.D. | South Carolina

"When you become connected to the Word, you won't see yourself in failure any longer. You'll see yourself in God!" —Gloria Copeland

He Hears Our Prayers

On the day I was scheduled for surgery, someone from KCM Prayer called out of the blue, and asked if I needed prayer. They prayed about the surgery scheduled that day. Fast forward, I am recovering very nicely and give all the glory to God. Praise the Lord. J.T. | Louisiana

'God's Goodness and Mercy'

I am writing to testify this day of God's goodness and mercy in my life and in my marriage. God's hand has been moving on my husband and me and on our three children. Thank you so much for your support, prayers and dedication. I read *Faith to Faith* and have been so blessed by your ministry, Reverend Copeland. God bless you and your family and all the ministers of KCM and VICTORY Channel. I pray for you and all the Partners of KCM.

A.H. | Kansas

He Gives Seed to the Sower

I asked the Lord for a large offering for the Chattanooga Campaign. I wanted to give $1,000 each day. Later I received a $10,000 bonus at work, which answered my prayer.

J.M. | Tennessee

Our Miracle Worker

I had been diagnosed with uterine cancer. As eMembers, my husband and I always received prayer as part of the online congregation. We always feel the presence of the Holy Spirit when watching the services. Recently my husband was praying for me, then the Lord spoke to him and said, *I (the Lord) have already dealt with it.*

Recently, I returned to the doctor's, but the doctor could not find any trace of cancer, and the fibroid tumor was completely gone. It was huge! The doctor said, "I believe in miracles." PTL!

G.B. | Washington

What God Has Joined Together

I called for our marriage to be restored. It is now restored and better than ever. We're in a covenant marriage now.

B.T. | North Carolina

Healing Is Our Portion

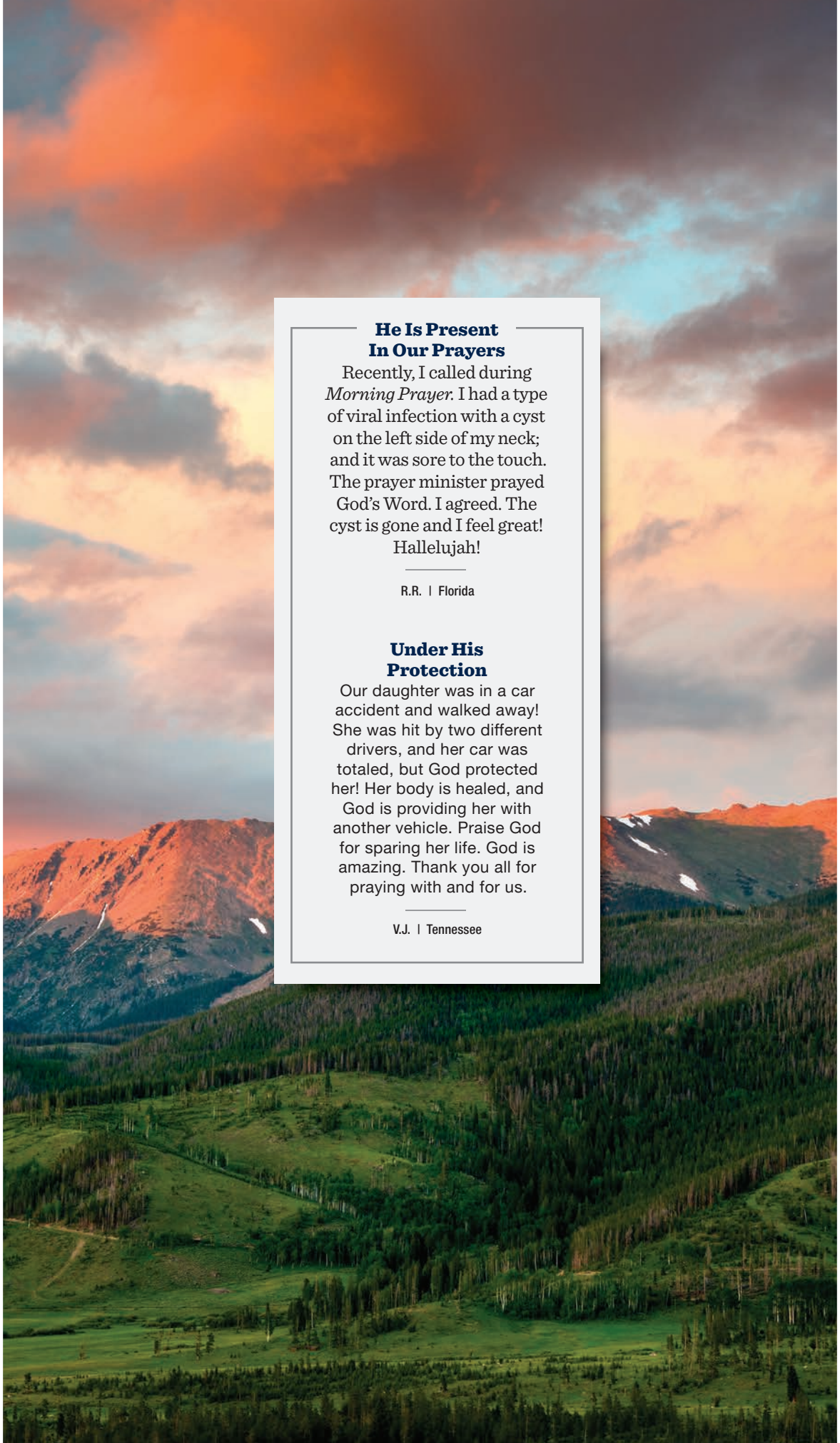
My brother was supernaturally healed through much prayer from this ministry. He was in the hospital for dehydration for about two weeks. He had a hard time regaining his memory, and his organs had started to shut down. God healed him!

L.S. | New Mexico

Prayer Produces Results

I called the prayer line twice for prayer on prostate cancer. I went to surgery and got the results. I am now completely clear of cancer.

R.G. | Texas



He Is Present In Our Prayers

Recently, I called during *Morning Prayer*. I had a type of viral infection with a cyst on the left side of my neck; and it was sore to the touch. The prayer minister prayed God's Word. I agreed. The cyst is gone and I feel great! Hallelujah!

R.R. | Florida

Under His Protection

Our daughter was in a car accident and walked away! She was hit by two different drivers, and her car was totaled, but God protected her! Her body is healed, and God is providing her with another vehicle. Praise God for sparing her life. God is amazing. Thank you all for praying with and for us.

V.J. | Tennessee

SALVATION PRAYER

If you do not know Jesus as your Savior and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. 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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IT'S TIME TO TAKE OWNERSHIP

Little Rock, Ark., is where I call home. Since the late 1990s, I have had the privilege of praying with every one of the Arkansas state governors, visiting the governor's mansion and the state capitol. Each time I visit, I say the same thing: "Agape Church is here. Is there anything we can do for you?"

That offer has opened the door for our church to minister to the public servants at every level in our state—from the governor to the police. In fact, one time the Holy Spirit led us to take an offering for the police officers in our city. We divided it up equally among every officer on the force. The next week, many of those men and women came to our church to thank us. We have also taken the responsibility of holding funerals for Arkansas' and Little Rock's police officers. It's a privilege we take seriously.

We do this because we're investing in our state and our local officials. We

by Happy Caldwell

do it because we're *taking ownership* of what goes on in our city.

Taking ownership is not only a good, civic practice; but it's also a biblical one that transcends where we live. It's time for all of God's people to take ownership of what He has given us and what He's called us to do.

Ownership Versus Stewardship

I once heard a message about the enemy restoring sevenfold all that he'd stolen. The minister spoke on Proverbs 6:30-31: "Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; but if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house."

The context of this verse deals with adultery, but the principle applies to more than adultery. I went to bed thinking about it, and when I woke up the next morning, I heard God's voice. He said:

It's not about running after the devil to get what he has stolen. It's about ownership. Who owns the earth? You've always been on the defensive. It's time to be on the offensive. The Church is running after the devil to get back what he has stolen when you should be taking ownership of what I have given you.

Ministers have different opinions about whether we are owners or stewards. Some say that we don't own anything. They point to Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." They teach that we're only stewards, or managers, of what God has given us. But that's not quite correct. According to Psalm 115:16, God has given *us* this world: "But the earth hath he given to the children of men." In other words, He created it, and He gave it to us.

It would be the same if I gave you the ballpoint pen in my pocket. It was mine, but I gave it to you. It's yours now. You own it. What you do with it, however, is the key.

Stewardship is what you do with what you've been given. It's up to each of us to take ownership of what the Lord has given us and then steward that thing according to the Word of God.

When our ministry started building Victory Television Network®, the Lord told me, *You must do this. This television network is for the state of Arkansas. It's not for you. It's for the people. That little television screen is My window that I pour Myself out of every day—into the homes, hotels and hospitals.*

He gave VTN to us, but we became stewards of it according to what He had commanded us, according to the Word. And the Lord has been faithful to His promise. We've had people watching from hospitals who got up and walked away healed. We've heard of others who were delivered from demonic oppression and addiction. The inmates in the state prison, men and women who are often overlooked and discounted, hear about Jesus because of it.

God is using VTN to deliver the Word to people right where they are. They're hearing Kenneth Copeland, Rick Renner, Andrew Wommack and others. He gave VTN to our ministry. We are now stewarding it according to the Word of God. As a result, He is using it to minister to believers and unbelievers; bring salvation, deliverance and healing. It's a glorious thing!

Dividing the Word

The Apostle Paul told his spiritual son, Timothy, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). That doesn't say, "rightly dividing between error and truth." It says, "rightly dividing the word of truth." That's an

"Taking ownership is not only a good, civic practice; it's also a biblical one that transcends where we live."

important distinction. We must distinguish between what is real Truth (God-inspired) and man-made truth (seemingly good ideas that can go awry) when we're taking ownership. Even what starts as real truth, when pushed to an extreme, can lead to error. That's when we begin to speculate and participate in conjecture about the mysteries of God. That's when we take an element from Scripture and build a premise without sufficient proof. It doesn't hold.

Those of us who have been in the Body of Christ and those of us who have served in the fivefold ministry for a while have seen our share of error: well-meaning believers who add rules to biblical principles. Before we know it, they can get off track. But we can know and apply real, God-inspired truth without getting into error if we have personal maturity; an understanding of the Word of God; the leading of the Holy Spirit; and relationships with fellow mature, Spirit-led friends, leaders and mentors. That's when we can take ownership of our callings, our cities and our countries and do what God has called us to do in a way that brings results.

> ***We must distinguish between what is real Truth (God-inspired) and man-made truth (seemingly good ideas that can go awry).***

The Disciples and Ownership

When Jesus ministered to His disciples on the Mount of Olives before His crucifixion and eventual resurrection, He spoke to them about His second coming. He said, "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:30).

Notice this wasn't about the Rapture, as some have suggested. It was about the Second Coming. The Hebrews of that time would have had no concept of the Rapture. It wasn't a concept they would have understood. No, Jesus was telling them about His return and the rewards that they would receive for taking ownership of what the Lord had given them.

Verses 45-47 says, "Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods."

Jesus knew what was coming. He knew He was leaving this physical world. He also knew there was more work to do. He'd invested three years training His disciples. They were going to be without Him very soon, and He needed to convey the importance of ownership to them. They were going to have to step up and take charge of sharing the gospel with unbelievers so that lives would continue to be changed. That was the ultimate goal. Yes, they would have the Holy Spirit to direct, convict and comfort them, but they had a responsibility. They had to take ownership of their calling.

Reward for Our Works

If you've ever lived in a rental house, and then bought your own home, you know there's a big difference in the two. Once you sign your name on the line, you care a whole lot more about the home you own than the house you rented. You want to take care of it and, you know if you don't, you'll pay.

It's the same with every area that God has given to us: our callings, our cities, even our countries. There's a weight, an importance and a responsibility that comes with taking ownership of them. We must take care of them. Protect them. Do what needs to be done.

Each of us will appear at the judgment seat of Christ. That moment won't be about salvation or punishment; it will be about rewards for our works. We will each be rewarded for what we did in the Body of Christ...not what *we* wanted to do but rather what *He told us* to do. That's what our reward will be based on: whether or not we took ownership of what God gave us.

It isn't enough to sit back and wait for things to happen. We have to rightly divide the Word of truth and follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. We must take ownership.

Happy Caldwell is founder and pastor emeritus of Agape Church in Little Rock, Ark. He is also president and founder, along with his wife, Jeanne, of the Victory Television Network® in Little Rock.

For more information, go to vtntv.com.

by Annette Capps

Bringing Anxiety Captive

Webster defines *anxiety* as "a state of being uneasy, apprehensive, or worried about what may happen; concerned about a possible future event." Anxiety is a fact of life in our modern-day society. Stress-related illness is one of the most popular topics in today's health magazines.

Although some people are more prone to worry than others, I don't think anyone is immune to anxiety and worry. That is the reason the Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Philippi: "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:6-7).

God's peace is superior to every frame of mind! Where does worry and anxiety begin? It begins in the mind, with thoughts. Thoughts of fear produce worry and anxiety.

Do you have any fears that cause you anxiety and worry? You need peace in their place. You always overcome the negative with the positive. God's peace is positively greater than all your fear. One translation says, "And the peace of God which surpasses all power of comprehension shall mount

"Counting your blessings and giving God praise will change your frame of mind—from negative to positive!"

guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." You may not be able to comprehend it, but the peace of God will guard your heart and mind from anxiety.

The Word of God states that you can have peace if you will do three things: pray, supplicate (ask or request), and give thanks.

Focus on God's power, not on the fear.

There are many different types of prayer, but all kinds are effective against anxiety. Many times, I have worried about something for days before I finally prayed about it. Often, I have just prayed in the spirit about something and felt a release. Sometimes, as I prayed in the spirit, I could picture the worry or care as an obstacle being bombarded by my prayers and being demolished. Regardless of how you pray, any kind or type of prayer will help get rid of anxiety.

Supplication is a simple request. When you are worried and anxious about the future, you can simply ask God to direct you and change circumstances to His will. If you are not clear on what needs to change, it is much more effective to simply ask God for His will to be done in that situation.

There are some things that we do know how to pray about. We know that it is God's will to heal, although we may not know exactly how He will accomplish it. You could receive a miracle, or be directed to the right doctor, but asking God to move on your behalf or on behalf of others will bring more peace. Personally, I like to "call things that are not." I always call for God's "highest and best" to be manifest in every area of my life and the lives of others.

Worry, stress and anxiety decrease if you are giving thanks. When you begin to give God thanks for things present, past or future, you are painting a positive picture and giving yourself a good image. There is a lot of value in the old song "Count Your Blessings." Counting your blessings and giving God praise will change your frame of mind—from negative to positive! The word *thanksgiving* comes from a Greek word meaning "grant freely" and "will." So the giving of thanks opens the heart as it freely grants gratitude to the Lord.

Change Your "What Ifs"

If you want to remain in peace after praying, you need to get rid of the negative "what ifs" in your life. Saying things like: "What if I get sick?" Or, "What if I have a wreck? What if my son is hurt? What if my husband loses his job?"

These negative "what ifs" will bring anxiety right back on the scene.

What if you change your "what ifs" to: "What if something good happens? What if my husband loses his job and gets one that pays twice the salary? What if I live to be 100 years old? What if my son graduates with honors and lives a long, healthy, successful life?"

Thinking on those kinds of positive "what ifs" will change your whole attitude! If you think on positive things, you will have peace and good expectations in your life.

Face Your Fears

Second Timothy 1:7 says, "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind" *(New King James Version).* The word *fear* is interpreted from the Greek as dread, terror, cowardice and timidity. Fear produces anxiety! It comes from a dark place. But God is light and the light of the Word will cause it to disappear, dissipate and cease to exist.

I once read an article that stated that people who do not face and deal with their fears find that the fear grows larger. Fears seem even bigger if you continually try to ignore them. Pulling them out into the light, looking at them and acknowledging them makes them smaller. Confronting them in a practical manner and dealing with them will take away their power.

We do not have to face our fears alone. We can face them with the angelic host surrounding us and the Greater One within us! Perfect love casts out fear and turns it

Annette Capps is the president and CEO of Capps Ministries in Broken Arrow, Okla. Along with continuing the radio ministry of her late father, Charles Capps, she is host of the *Concepts of Faith* television program, which airs on numerous independent stations and networks including Daystar, TCT Network, and VICTORY Channel.

For more information, go to cappsministries.com.

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ET

out the doors. If you have fears that you have ignored, you can safely deal with them and get rid of them forever through the power of God!

Change the Channel

Have you ever had the devil flash pictures of tragedy, death and destruction before you? Many years ago, he used to play movies before me to try to bring fear and anxiety. Praise God for the Holy Spirit, who showed me how to overcome these negative movies by changing the channel.

When you watch TV and see a show you do not like, you simply change the channel to something you do like. When the devil would give me pictures of car wrecks, I would see myself supernaturally delivered by the angels of God. I changed the channel to a movie that I picked. I replaced the negative with a positive picture. I have found that this is a very good way to get rid of anxiety. If you do not like the picture the devil gives you (sickness, death, poverty), change the channel!

Guard Your Thoughts

Worry and anxiety begin in the mind; therefore we need to guard our thoughts. There is such a small percentage of things that we worry about that ever happen. Think about all the things you have worried about in your life. How many of them ever took place? Now think of all the time and mental, physical and emotional energy wasted. That's energy that you could have spent meditating on the good "what ifs." Bring that worry and anxiety captive. Don't let your imagination run free unless it is on the positive side.

The Wuest version offers an excellent translation of 2 Corinthians 10:4-5: "The weapons of our warfare are not human but mighty in God's sight, resulting in the demolition of fortresses, demolishing reasonings and every haughty mental elevation which lifts itself up against experiential knowledge of God, and leading captive every thought into the obedience to the Christ."

How can you bring anxiety captive? Focus on God's power over your fear. You can do it by prayer, by counting your blessings, and by making supplication in faith. Then you can do what 1 Peter 5:7 says: "Casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]" *Amplified Bible.*

Act On God's Word

Here are some practical ideas for capturing and releasing anxiety:

1) Write your worry on a piece of paper, hold it up to God, and tell Him you are giving it to Him. Then crumple it up and throw it in the trash can. Toss it over on Him!

2) Make a place to put your written concerns and worries. I once made a lockbox and put God's Name on it. Every night before I went to bed, I wrote my concerns on a piece of paper, gave it to God, and then locked it in the box. I cast my cares on Him and left them there!

3) Write your prayers. There is something very powerful about putting words on paper. Several years ago, I began a prayer journal and each day I wrote my request to God for guidance and help. I listed each area of challenge I was facing, like writing a letter to God. It was short, just a list; and a request for God's guidance and help. I can look back days, weeks or even years later and be amazed at how God handled each challenge I faced.

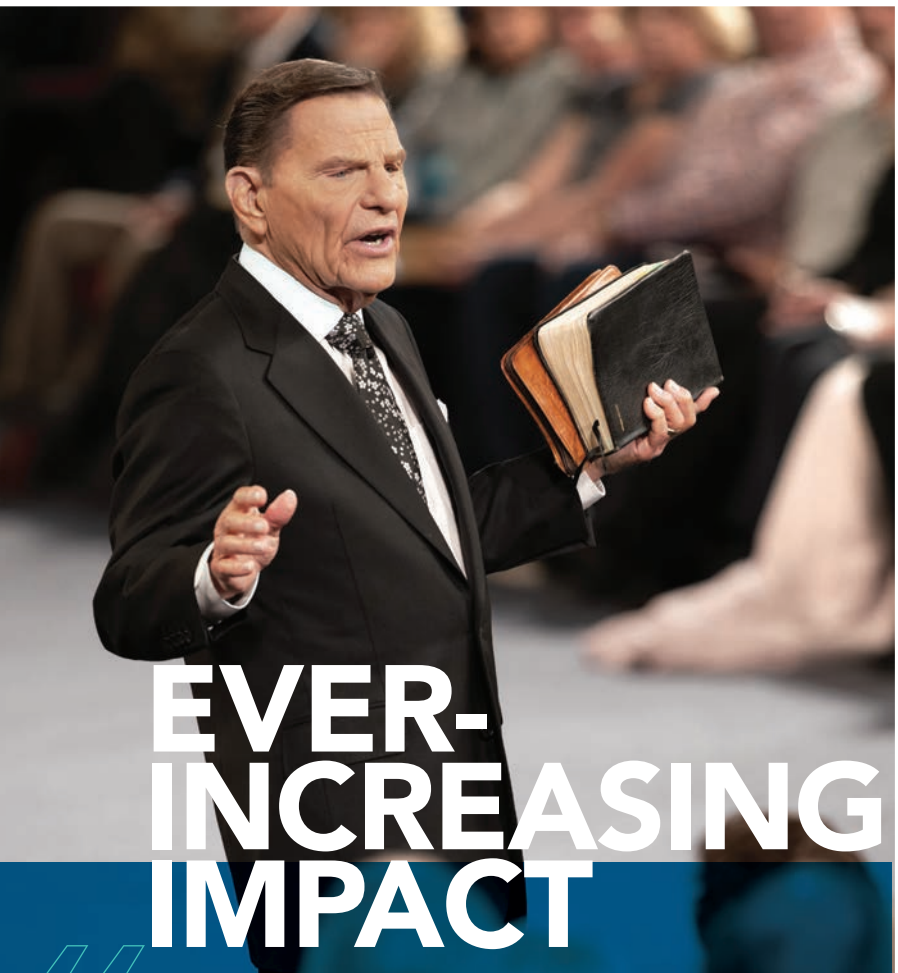
It's much more effective than worry!

"You may not be able to comprehend it, but the peace of God will guard your heart and mind from anxiety."

Supplication is a simple request.

When you are worried...you can simply ask God to direct you and change circumstances to His will.

by Kenneth Copeland



EVER-INCREASING IMPACT

We're all called to have an impact for God on this world... whether we're behind a pulpit, at home, in our neighborhood, at school, in the workplace or somewhere else.

A few years ago, as I was praying and preparing to preach at a ministers' conference in Lagos, Nigeria, I heard The LORD say, *Impact should always be increasing.*

At the time I was thinking about the ministers at the conference, who were for the most part full-time preachers. But I've realized since, that The LORD's statement didn't just apply to them. It applies to every born-again child of God.

No matter what our natural vocation might be, as believers we're all called to ministry. We're all called to have an impact for God on this world and that impact should always be increasing—whether we're behind a pulpit, at home, in our neighborhood, at school, in the workplace or somewhere else.

Having the same impact today that we had five years ago is not enough. God is a God of increase. He intends for our spiritual influence to grow: for us to put more pressure on the forces of darkness with every passing year. For the impact of our ministry upon people's souls (their minds, wills and emotions) and their physical health to keep growing...day after day, month after month, year after year, for the next 30, 40, 50, 60 or 70 years.

"But I'm 50 years old," someone might say. "For me to keep increasing for another 70 years I'd have to live to 120."

Good! As far as God is concerned, that's a normal lifespan. He said in Genesis 6:3 that man's "days shall be an hundred and twenty years," and He never changed that number. It's His standard of longevity all the way through the Bible.

Increase In Spiritual Walk

God needs us to stay here for a long time. He needs us to keep growing in our walk with Him and increasing in our spiritual impact. Why? Because, if we do that, by the time we're 120 years old we'll be walking in so much of the power and life of God, that people will say about us what they said about Peter and John in Acts 4:13, that surely "they had been with Jesus"!

That's what believing for long life and increasing impact in ministry is all about. It's not just about us chalking up a lot of birthdays, or people being impressed with us. It's about them being impressed with Jesus. It's about us being vessels through which God can increasingly touch people's lives and manifest the light of His kingdom in this sin-darkened world.

We've been born again in the image of Jesus, about whom God said, "from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." We're partakers of His "excellent ministry." We've been made one with Him and inherited His most "excellent name." (See 2 Peter 1:17; Hebrews 8:6, 1:4.)

By our very nature in Christ, we're created to excel!

God has called you to have an impact for Him on this world, and that impact is to be always increasing. Year after year, you're to be touching more lives and manifesting the light of God's kingdom more brightly. Decade after decade you're to keep expanding your influence for Him until one day, at a very old age, you hear Jesus say, "Well done, faithful servant. Come on home!"

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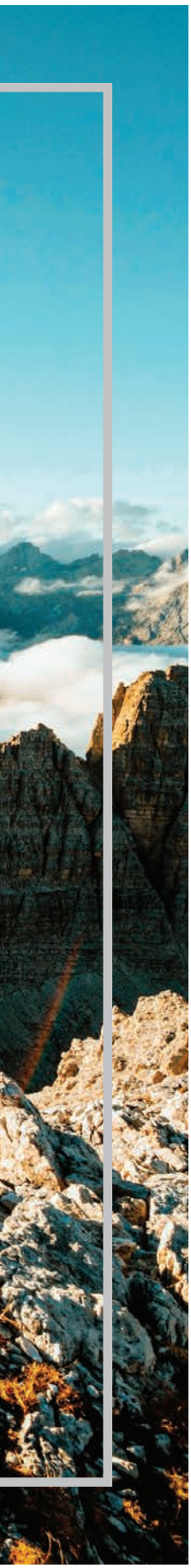
STANDING IN YOUR DREAM



by Gloria Copeland

If God has given you a dream—

a dream of doing something so great and so wonderful it seems almost impossible—this article is for you.

My reason for writing it is to encourage you to hang on to that dream, to remind you that no matter how small you feel right now and no matter how big your dream may seem to be, God is powerful enough to bring it to pass.

The Scriptures reveal that truth again and again. They show us Abraham, who dared to dream that God would give him a son even though at 100 years old he was childless and his wife was old and barren. No doubt the people around him laughed when, at God's command, he began to call himself the Father of Many Nations. But Abraham kept on believing and eventually he found himself standing in his dream.

The Bible is full of people with impossible dreams. God intended for us to read about them and be inspired. But all too often we look at them as if they were somehow different from ordinary people like us. We forget that they had faults and failures, weaknesses and inadequacies just like we do (James 5:17).

As a result, we sometimes shy away from the great dreams God tries to give us. We stagger at the thought that God might be able to work through us in the same powerful ways He worked through those faith heroes of old.

That's why I want to show you today, not just from the Bible, but from my own personal experience that if you'll just believe Him, God can do impossible things through you. I know that's true because today Ken and I are standing in our dream. We are seeing things come to pass that God put in our hearts many years ago.

If you've only known us over the past few years, you may not realize what an amazing work God has done in our lives. You may think God has given us a worldwide ministry—opportunities to spread the gospel, and allowed us to participate in bringing millions of souls into the kingdom of God each year...all because we're something special.

But I want to assure you that Ken and I aren't anything special. We aren't super-successful people God was grateful to find for His service. On the contrary, before He got hold of our lives, we were an absolute mess.

Big Debts and Bad Decisions

You see, Kenneth and I haven't always been preachers. In fact, I'd always said I'd never marry a preacher and the first time I ever saw Kenneth Copeland, he was far from a preacher. He flew planes and sang in nightclubs, and the first weekend we went out, he asked me to marry him.

What surprised me was when I heard myself say, "Yes." I couldn't believe I had done it. Of course, I was only 19 years old and I didn't have much sense. I thought, *What have I done? I hardly know this guy.* (He was quite a charmer. I'd never had anybody look into my eyes and sing "Misty" to me before.) Then I assured myself, *I can get out of it later!*

Unfortunately, in those first few years, the

kinds of adventures we had weren't exactly what I had hoped for. For one thing, we started out deeply in debt. I married Kenneth Copeland and his notes. Debt had always been a way of life for him. Sometimes I think he borrowed money on his tricycle!

What's more, we immediately began to make dumb decisions. (I know you probably think you're the only one who's done stupid things financially, but trust me, we all have.) Right after we married, Ken went to work with a great new company that was just getting started. We were so sure it was going to make us rich quickly that I quit my job and went to work there too. I was the secretary... but only for two weeks. Then the company went broke.

I'll never forget those desperate days. While Ken was out hunting for a job, I sat alone in the three-bedroom house we had rented and wondered what would become of us. My world had crumbled. I had nowhere to go. No money. No job.

We didn't even have any "real" furniture. Just a rented rollaway bed that sagged in the middle, a wrought-iron coffee table Ken had made in his high school shop class (you can imagine what a stunning piece that was!), a black-and-white TV, and a couple of lawn chairs. Nothing else. No refrigerator. No stove. I cooked in my coffeepot and an electric skillet. And since it was winter, I put the food outside in a cardboard box to keep it cold.

If God Cares About the Birds...

Worst of all, I had no hope. I didn't know to trust in God. I'd been raised in a denomination that taught He didn't do anything anymore. Healing, miracles and all that had passed away...or so I'd been told. I didn't think anyone could even be sure of getting to heaven. You just had to take your chances and, odds are, you wouldn't make it.

One day, I picked up the Bible Ken's mother had given him for his birthday. In the front she had written, "Ken precious, seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you (Matthew 6:33)."

I didn't know much, but I did know I needed a lot of things added to me, so I opened to that passage. I read about how God feeds the birds and clothes the grass of the field, and I thought, *If He cares about them, He cares about me!*

I had never before known that. No one had ever told me God would help me. Spiritually, it was the first good news I'd ever heard. That day, I prayed and told Jesus that if He could do anything with my life, He could certainly have it.

With that simple prayer, I was born again. I didn't realize it, of course. I'd never heard anything about the new birth. I just knew that after that, my heart began to change. I started wanting to know more about God. I even wanted to go to church.

Within two weeks, Ken had a new job. We moved into a new apartment. We bought a better car. And in the midst of it all, another amazing thing happened. God spoke to Ken and said, *You have to get this family in line with Me now!*

Even though Ken's mother and dad had always been strong Christians, Ken had been running from God most of his life. But the Lord dealt with him so strongly this time, he couldn't ignore it. So he followed the instructions he'd heard years before from his boyhood Sunday school teacher, Mrs. Taggert. He bowed his head and asked Jesus to come into his heart.

The day we moved into our new apartment, Ken called me into the living room and said, "What would you think if I started preaching or making talks about the Lord?"

I remember thinking, *You, preach? I can't even get you to go to church!*

Soon after that we went to a meeting with Ken's parents where we learned about receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. I'd never heard of anything like that before and I wasn't sure if it was of God or not. So I went out to smoke a cigarette and think about it.

While I was out there I said, "Lord, if this is of You, I want it." I must have looked funny to heaven, sitting there smoking a cigarette and worrying about receiving something that wasn't of God!

A Big Dream In a Little House

You may be expecting me to say that after we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, Ken and I heard the call of God and started turning the world upside down for Jesus...but we didn't. We grew a little spiritually. But for the most part we just rocked along, barely keeping our heads above water.

Experience God's extraordinary goodness.

Far too many people—even Christian believers—are living with too little of God's provision. Why? For the simple reason that they've never discovered the blessing of fellowship with Him and His care for them.

What about you? Do you know in the depths of your heart just how extraordinarily good God is? Do you know all the good things He wants to do for you? You can, if you will spend time with Him.

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During the next five years we moved to Fort Worth and Ken went to work for his father selling insurance. The problem was he didn't like it. And in spite of the fact that he was a natural-born talker, he wasn't a very good insurance salesman. (His dad used to jokingly say, "Ken, according to the Bible, Samson killed a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass. I believe you've killed 10 times that many sales with the same weapon!")

We were still facing overwhelming debts. Creditors were threatening to sue us. Financially, we'd had one failure after another and we couldn't even make ends meet. On top of it all, Ken began to sense the Lord leading him to go to Tulsa, Okla., and enroll as a student at Oral Roberts University.

To Ken, the idea of becoming a college freshman at 30 years old seemed absurd. "I don't even have a job in Tulsa," he said. "We'd starve."

"We're already doing that," I answered. "We might as well go to Tulsa and starve in the will of God as stay here and starve outside His will!"

Ken agreed, so we packed up what we had, put our two little children in the car and moved. Naturally speaking, things were worse there than they'd ever been. We lived in a shabby little house with brown walls! I wouldn't unpack for weeks.

But God was helping us. The first day Kenneth arrived on the ORU campus, he got a job as Oral Roberts' co-pilot. His salary was $100 a month.

As tight as things were financially, we were happier than we'd ever been. We were in the will of God at last! For the first few months, Ken worked at his studies and flew with Brother Roberts to his meetings. Once there, Ken's job was to drive him to the meetings and do anything that was needed. Ken loved it. And what an opportunity it was. He got to watch and learn firsthand from Brother Roberts, and that was a blessing.

Hungry to know exactly what God was calling us to do, Ken decided one day in May 1967, to go down to the river near our house.

It was there that God began to speak to Ken about a worldwide ministry. *You will preach, sing, pray and minister to the people—My people, by My power. Whole nations will come to Me....* And He gave Ken the dream of ministering to millions for Jesus.

Of course that all sounds very grand and he was excited, but you must realize that once he received that great word from God, he had to march right back to that dumpy little house where we lived. He had to reconcile that big dream of preaching all over the world with the fact that it was a challenge to even have enough money to go to Fort Worth to visit his parents!

Our First Steps of Faith

But, praise God, we were learning what to do. We'd been going to Kenneth Hagin's meetings and learning about the integrity of God's Word. We'd discovered that we could trust the written Word just like we'd trust the word of a doctor or a trusted friend. The fundamentals of living by faith were filling our hearts and mouths.

We knew the only way we could get out of the mess we were in—and into the plan of God—was by faith in God's Word. So we gave it our total attention. For about a year, we hardly did anything except listen to teaching tapes and study. After a while, Ken was out preaching. I was at home with the children, but we were both in the Word day and night.

That year, every time Brother Hagin held a seminar (and he held a number of 10-day seminars that year) we were there. Some winter nights we had to slide over there on the ice—but we did it because we were hungry for the Word.

Then we started taking the first faith steps

GLORIA'S SCRIPTURES FOR

Believing God for a House

Luke 4:18
1 Corinthians 2:7-10
Amos 9:13-15
Acts 17:26
Deuteronomy 6:10-11
Proverbs 9:1
Proverbs 10:22
Proverbs 12:7
Proverbs 15:6
Proverbs 22:4
Proverbs 24:3-4
Proverbs 24:27
Isaiah 32:17-18
Jeremiah 29:4-7
Jeremiah 31:12-14
Psalm 16:5-6
Psalm 31:19-20
Psalm 66:12
Psalm 68:6, 10, 19
Psalm 107:7-9
Psalm 107:29-32
Psalm 107:35-38
Psalm 107:41-43
Psalm 112
Psalm 118:5, 23

Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.
Psalm 66:12

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
Proverbs 24:3-4

By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.
Proverbs 22:4

The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot. The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage.
Psalm 16:5-6

APRIL BVOV BROADCAST CALENDAR

Kenneth Copeland

George Pearsons

Terri Copeland Pearsons

April 1-5
Core Values for a Victorious Life—Part 1
Pastors George & Terri Copeland Pearsons

Sun., April 7
Discover Your Covenant Relationship With God
Kenneth Copeland

April 8-12
Core Values for a Victorious Life—Part 2
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 14
Be Fully Persuaded of God's Covenant Promise to You
Kenneth Copeland

April 15-19
The Covenant vs. the Contradiction
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 21
Right-Standing With God Is Part of Your Covenant Benefits
Kenneth Copeland

April 22-26
A Covenant of Grace and Faith
Kenneth Copeland

Sun., April 28
Your Words Activate the Fundamental Laws of Faith
Kenneth Copeland

Broadcasts subject to change without notice

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ET

toward our dream. When I say that, I don't mean we went out and bought radio airtime. No, we had to start right where we were. We had to have a car, a place to live—in other words, we had to start believing for the necessities of life. We had to start by believing God for food on our table. Some days I had to exercise great faith and pray in tongues just to make sure I had enough money to pay the cashier at the grocery store!

That may sound like an insignificant thing. But years later, Ken and I found we could use that same kind of grocery-store faith to believe for millions of dollars needed for television broadcasts.

Actually, when I look back now I can see that during those times God was laying the foundations in our lives. He was teaching us the lessons from His Word that would equip us for what we're doing now.

It was in those days, for instance, we learned about tithing. In earlier days, we'd tithe and then stop because we figured we needed the money more than God did. But as we studied the Word, we made a quality decision that we were going to tithe no matter what. We decided that even if we had to go hungry—we would give God His part of our increase first.

Financially, that was a turning point in our lives. That was when things began to consistently improve for us, and we're still benefiting from that lesson today. In return, God has been faithful to do what He promised. We continually live under an open window.

Watch the Spanish broadcast Enlace or es.kcm.org

It was also in those early days that we found the scripture in Romans 13:8 that says, "Keep out of debt and owe no man anything, except to love one another..." *(Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)*. I'll admit to you that initially we weren't thrilled with the idea of living without debt. We had lived on borrowed money for years. *How can we ever have a car?* We thought. *How can we ever have a home? How can we ever build this big ministry God has put in our hearts?*

We didn't know the answers to those questions, but we already had made a commitment to obey God's Word no matter what, so we immediately stopped charging anything or borrowing any money. We weren't doing it to be blessed financially. We didn't have much revelation of prosperity at the time. But we did know that God had promised to take care of us, so we just put our trust in Him.

Eleven months later, we were completely out of debt. I still don't know exactly how it happened. We weren't making much money and we owed thousands of dollars. But somehow during those months we paid it all off.

Little did we know that God was laying a foundation, training us in the principles that would eventually enable us to head a worldwide outreach and fulfill all we are called to do, without depending on the world's system of finance.

The Longest Night In History

God taught us vital lessons about ordering our home life according to His Word in those first years too. We learned the importance of agreement, for example (Matthew 18:19). We saw in the Bible that "where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work" (James 3:16). So we made a decision that we would walk in love and keep strife out of our home at all costs.

I have no doubt that if we hadn't learned that early in our lives, the devil would have used strife to stop the power of God in our ministry at some point.

Of course, I could go on and on about all God has done for us and taught us over the years. I could tell you how we had to hold on to the dream of worldwide ministry when people were staying away from our services by the millions. In the beginning Ken preached meetings where just a handful of people attended. Back then a crowd of 300 seemed like a multitude. (It took a long time to get 300 people.) But no matter how few people were there, Ken preached like there were thousands...because that's what God had promised him. That's the dream he had in his heart.

Someone once said to Ken, "Your ministry just took off overnight."

"If it did, it was the longest night in history!" he answered.

Remember that next time the devil tries to discourage you by pointing out how slow things seem to be progressing in your life. When he taunts you about your failures and shortcomings, when he magnifies the obstacles in your path and says, "You'll never make it; you don't have what it takes to do anything that big," don't let him to steal your dream.

Just answer him and say, "Yes, I do. I have Jesus. I have the Word of God. I have the power of the Holy Spirit. And that's all I need."

Ken and I can tell you from personal experience, that's the truth. We were total failures before God got hold of us. Now, look what He has done. We are standing in our dream, and if you'll continue trusting and obeying Him, one day you'll be standing in yours too.

Adopted by the King

April is for Adoption!

Adopt a pet? Adopt a fish? Who is adopting whom?

I got your attention, didn't I?

The good news is that God adopted YOU!

As we have studied Ephesians this year, adoption has been a theme we've seen. Let's review a few verses.

Ephesians 1:5 says, "God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure" *(New Living Translation).* And Ephesians 2:10 reminds us that "we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago."

If you read these together, you can see that God planned for us to be adopted into His family. He planned good things for us. He planned our lives like they were a great work of art. That's what a "masterpiece" is—a great work of art!

It's easy to read this in the Bible and not truly grab the reality that God brought us to Himself to be His family. Paul, the writer of Ephesians, REALLY wanted us to understand and believe this good news! He knew that people would have a hard time believing this was real and walking as true children adopted by God.

This is why Paul says it again, in a different way, in verses 11-22. He tells the church at Ephesus to remember that not only were they sinners, but they weren't even Jews! The Jews were considered God's people by birth. The Ephesian people didn't even have that natural-born privilege, but were gentiles (non-Jewish). Verse 12 says, "…You lived in this world without God and without hope."

The Jewish people had a covenant with God. They were, and still are, God's chosen people. Even today, when you hear stories about Israel, remember to bless and pray for them.

The gentiles were orphans and had no connection to God. They lived in this world without hope or help. Thankfully, God did not leave them (or us) this way! Paul wanted them to remember the truth we see in John 3:16-17: "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him." God did not leave us separated from Himself, but sent Jesus to bring us close!

The only way to do that was for us to become part of Him. Ephesians 2:13 says, "But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ."

This is how He did it! By dying on the Cross, and pouring out His blood for you and me, He made us His blood brothers and sisters. All we have to do is believe it, and we belong to Jesus and to the Father! This is the miracle of being born again by the Holy Spirit when we say *yes* to the Father's plan for us. He loves us all the time. But when we accept Jesus, we become HIS special treasure too. Verse 19 says, "So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God's holy people. You are members of God's family."

We are adopted into the family of God!

Say this out loud every time you think of it: "I BELONG to Almighty God! No one can snatch me out of His hand, or remove His love from me." (John 10:28)

God's plan is to bring us all, natural-born Jew or born-again adopted, into Himself; and make us the place where His Spirit lives. This is our identity. Adopted sons and daughters of God, where He Himself lives. WE are God's people by rebirth: BORN AGAIN. We were adopted when we were born again. Better than any fairy tale you've ever heard about kings adopting orphans—it's a TRUE story!

Superkid, is it your story? If not, we can take care of that right now! Ready to be adopted into the family of God? Pray this with me:

"Father, I want to be adopted and belong to You! I believe You sent Jesus to die on the cross for me. Jesus, come into my heart. I give You my life and I receive the Holy Spirit, filling me up with You!"

Now we ALL belong to the King!

Commander Kellie

Kellie Copeland is responsible for Covenant Partner Relations at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.

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