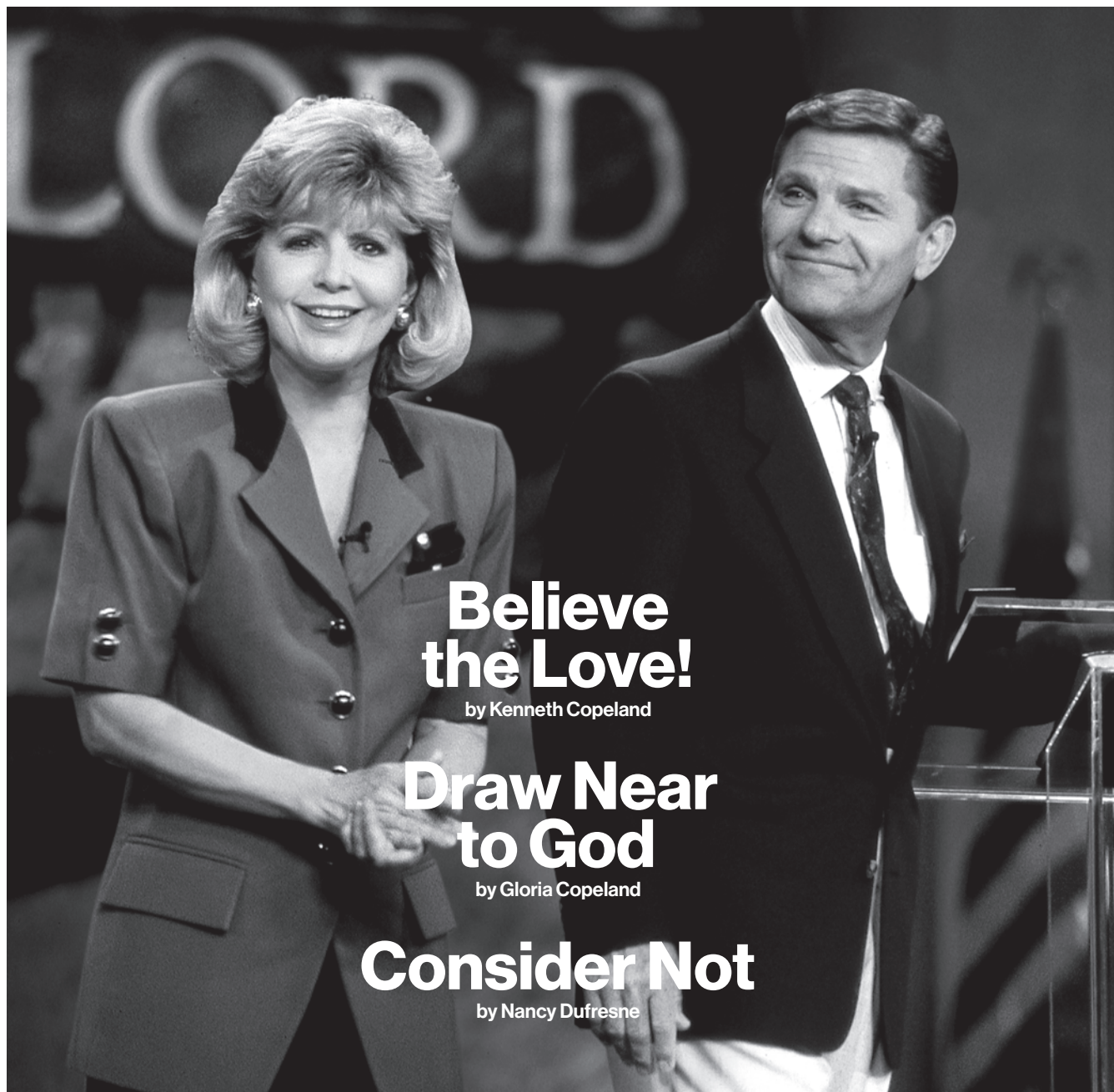


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the Love!**

by Kenneth Copeland

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“The moment you
turn to Him, He’ll
be there for you.
But don’t wait
until hard times
come to turn to
Him. Develop
a lifestyle of
living contact.”

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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 53 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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From The Editor

RESPOND WITH LOVE!

"I should have said...."
"Why didn't I just tell her what I thought?"
"I can't believe I let him talk to me that way!"

Likely you've been on the receiving end of someone's mistreatment, harassment or abuse at one time or another. Someone said something that hurt, offended or maybe just stung a little, and you quietly stood by and said nothing. Later, after you had time to rethink the situation, you're angry—more at yourself than at the one who offended you—and you're ready to lash out, retaliate, defend yourself.

More than likely, you became upset that you didn't strike back—that you kept quiet instead of giving them a piece of your mind.

Truth is, your response was the best response. You didn't *just* keep silent. You responded in *love*.

The Bible says in Matthew 5:44-45 that, as born-again believers, it is not our responsibility to retaliate, but to love our enemies. "Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst," is how *The Message* says it. "When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the supple moves of prayer, for then you are working out of your true selves, your God-created selves. This is what God does. He gives his best—to everyone, regardless: the good and bad, the nice and nasty."

The Message offers an even stronger admonition in Psalm 4:4-5. It says, "Complain if you must, but don't lash out. Keep your mouth shut, and let your heart do the talking. Build your case before God and wait for his verdict."

For many, walking away from a difficult situation is not the way we would prefer to handle it. The flesh cries out for us to "stand up for ourselves" and not wimp out. But in reality, when you choose to walk away rather than stand and defend, you are standing up for yourself. You're protecting your character and your Christian testimony. You're also showing the love of God.

The Bible encourages us in 1 Peter 3:8-10, *MSG*, to "be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless—that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing."

Did you get that? "No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless." That's our job.

The next time someone says something that sets you off, that causes your blood to boil or makes you want to jump to your own defense, stop long enough to ask yourself if your response will bless or curse. Will it reflect God's love and your Christian testimony? If it makes you look like anything other than the child of God you know yourself to be, don't go there!

Speaking of love, the Bible says in Romans 5:5 that the Holy Spirit has filled our hearts with God's love. In his article this month, titled "Believe the Love!" Kenneth Copeland shares steps to help us cultivate our faith in God's love. Make sure you take time out to read it.



Ronald C. Jordan
Managing Editor



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by Kenneth Copeland

Believe the Love!



“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:8, *NKJV*)

“God loves me! He just can’t help Himself!”

If you’ve been to one of our conventions in the past few years, you’ve probably heard those words from my friend (and one of my favorite preachers) Jesse Duplantis. Every time he speaks those words, he always flashes that wide grin of his that lets you know he’s full of the joy of The LORD.

Jesse is so joyful, it amazes and even irritates some people. But he can’t help it. He’s a dearly beloved child of the Almighty God of this universe. He knows his heavenly Father loves him with a powerful, all-forgiving, never-ending, BLESSING-giving Love! He lives in the consciousness of that Love and because he does, he thoroughly enjoys living.

Now, most folks think Jesse is unusual. They think he has some special “joy anointing” or something. But the fact is, every believer on earth (including you) has just as much reason to rejoice as he has, because God loves each one of us with that same kind of Love.

That’s right. God loves you just as much as He loves Jesse Duplantis. He loves you just as much as He loves Gloria and me.

What’s even more amazing is this: God loves us all just as much as He loves Jesus.

The first time The LORD said that to me, my mind just couldn’t comprehend it. I thought, *How can that be?* To this day, I don’t fully know the answer to that question. I don’t know how God could possibly love me as much as He loves Jesus, I just know that He does! Jesus said so Himself in John 17. In His prayer to the Father, Jesus said:

I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.... and



have loved them as You have loved Me (verses 20-21, 23, *New King James Version*).

Use Your Faith

If there’s one thing the Bible doesn’t leave any doubt about, it’s the fact that God loves us! Scripture after scripture bears it out. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son...” (John 3:16, *NKJV*). “But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us...” (Ephesians 2:4, *NKJV*). “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8, *NKJV*). “Behold, what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!” (1 John 3:1, *NKJV*).

Yet in the face of all this biblical testimony of God’s Love, I have heard Christians—WORD-believing Faith people!—say things like, “Yes, Brother Copeland, I know what the Bible says, but I feel so unloved that it’s hard for me to believe it.”

Now those very same people will stand up against symptoms of sickness and say, “I’m not moved by how I feel! I’m moved by what I believe, and I believe that by the stripes of Jesus I am healed!” They’ll look lack right in the face and say, “I don’t care if I do have holes in my shoes, devil! My needs are met according to God’s riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”

But in the area of believing the Love of God, before they can believe God really loves them, they’ll drop their faith and sit around waiting for

“It was David’s confidence in God’s loving care that inspired him to write the 23rd Psalm.”

the right “feelings” to chase them down and jump on them. If you’ve been doing that, I can tell you right now, it will not happen. Your “feelings” can never reveal to you the depth of God’s Love.

Faith works the same in every area. You didn’t *feel* like you were saved or have a consciousness of salvation until you released your Faith in The WORD of God and believed He had saved you. You don’t *feel* healed until you’ve released your Faith and believed you’ve received that healing. By the same token, you won’t *feel* the Love of God on a consistent basis until you cultivate your Faith in that area and start believing God loves you—whether you feel it or not.

“You mean I have to believe for God’s Love?” you ask.

Yes! Of course, God loves you whether you believe He does or not. But if you want to enjoy the benefits of that Love, you’ll have to get your Faith involved. As 1 John 4:15-16 says, “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him” (NKJV).

Notice that verse doesn’t say, “We have known and *felt* the Love that God has for us.” It says, “We have known and believed!”

Put The WORD First

Exactly how do you go about cultivating Faith in God’s Love? The same way you cultivate Faith in any other area of life. First of all, you put The WORD first place and not your feelings.

The reason most of us have been so slow to do that in this particular area is because we’ve had love mixed up with feelings for so long. We’ve thought that if we didn’t feel love, we didn’t have any. But that’s not true.

Remember this: Just because you feel unloved, doesn’t mean you actually are unloved! Just because you feel unwanted doesn’t mean that God doesn’t want you. He does want you. He paid a staggering price to have a relationship with you. And there’s nothing you can do to make Him stop loving you. So believe it!

“Well, I’m trying. But I’ve just done some terrible things and I feel so condemned.”

That may be true. You may feel condemned, but if you’ve repented you aren’t condemned. Those feelings are just a lying trick of the devil to keep you in bondage to him, so stop tolerating them and rebuke them instead.

Years ago, when my son, John, was about 12 years old, The LORD instructed me to say something to him that marked my thinking from then on. He directed me to say, “John, you know I’m a man of my word, don’t you? You know if I give you my word, I’ll stick to it.”

“Yes, sir,” he said.

“Well, I’m giving you my word before God, that no matter what you may do wrong, I’ll always love you and you’ll always be my son. Any time for the rest of your life, if you do something wrong—no matter how bad it may be—I want you to come to me with it. If you do, I give you my word I’ll never hurt you, and I’ll do everything I can do in my strength and in God’s strength to get it straightened out. And we’ll succeed too, because you and I and God together can do anything.”

Do you know why I could say that to John? Because God has already said it to me. He’s given me and every other believer His WORD that “if we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9, NKJV).

God’s Not Out To Get You

When you start taking God at His WORD and just start believing His Love, it will strengthen you inside. A consciousness of God’s Love will make you a spiritual giant faster than anything else I know.

One reason is that fear is one of the tools the devil uses to make you weak, and “there is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear” (1 John 4:18, *NKJV*).

One of the first fears that begins to crumble is an unjustified fright of God. Although we are to have reverence and respect for God, there is no biblical reason to be afraid of Him.

Why should we ever be afraid of a God whose mercy is new every morning? We shouldn’t! But many people have been afraid of God because of religious traditions. Instead of believing what the Bible says, they’ve believed unscriptural songs like one recorded years ago titled, “God’s Gonna Get ‘Cha (For That)!”

Listen, God doesn’t want to “get” anybody. If He wanted to get anyone, we’d all be gotten by now! Granted, calamity often comes when people get into sin, but God isn’t the One who brings it on them. Calamity happens because, when they step into sin, they step out of His protection and into the curse the devil is still bringing on the world.

Meditate on God’s Mercy

The second way to cultivate your faith in God’s Love is to meditate on it. Sit down with your Bible. Look up scriptures about God’s Love and mercy and compassion. Then, as you read them, ask yourself questions like these: How do these truths change my life? What do they mean for me?

David, the Old Testament psalmist and king, is an excellent example of what that kind of meditation can do for you. He meditated on the Love and mercy of God so much that he was completely confident in it. It was David’s confidence in God’s loving care that inspired him to write the 23rd Psalm, which begins with the words, “The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.”

There is no doubt that David knew God loved him!

“Yeah, well, he was King David,” you might say, “one of the greatest men in the Old Testament!”

He was also a man who committed some of the most outrageous sins imaginable. Spiritually, he did some of the most foolish things a man can do. Yet, because David meditated on and trusted in the mercy of God, he knew how to

throw himself on that mercy. David knew how to come before God with such confidence in His Love, that God eventually called him a man after His own heart.

Right now, you may not feel like God loves you at all. But if you’ll continue to meditate on what The WORD says about His Love, eventually the reality of it will take authority over your feelings.

Behave Like You Believe

The third step you can take to cultivate your faith in God’s Love is to act on The WORD.

Purposely start behaving like God loves you. Get up in the morning and treat God like your Friend. Don’t change your tone when you start to talk to Him. Don’t get all religious and say “Thee” and “Thou.” Just be honest and straightforward with Him.

You may find that difficult to do at first because religion has trained us to be phony. It has given us the impression that God is a divine dictator



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who needs to be conned into BLESSING us. Toss out silly religious ideas like that. God is your Dad, not your dictator. And there's no sense in trying to con Him. He knows the truth whether you tell Him or not.

What's more, there's nothing you can say that will shock Him.

Remember, Jesus has lived on this earth. The Spirit of God is here now. He knows about all the filth and corruption that goes on here. So there's no reason for you to change your personality when you talk to Him and try to convince Him you're more "spiritual" than you are. He was there just a few minutes ago when you were talking the other way. You might as well just get real.

You don't need to whine when you talk to God, either. Do you remember when your children went through the whining stage? I do. When my daughter, Kellie, was about 3 years old, she whined all the time. Finally, one night we were

Live the Lifestyle of Love

The fourth step to cultivating Faith in God's Love is to make the decision to be loving toward others. Make the commitment to act in Love—not just when it looks like it would be to your advantage, but all the time.

If you're not certain how Love acts, then spend some time studying 1 Corinthians 13. It gives the finest, most succinct description of Love you'll ever find.

How does acting in Love toward others help us believe God's Love for us? It gives us additional ammunition against the devil. When he comes to tell us that we don't really belong in God's presence, when he tries to make us doubt that God's Holy Spirit is truly dwelling in us, if we've been walking in Love, we can shut the devil down quickly.

The Apostle John said it this way:

“There's no reason for you to change your personality when you talk to Him and try to convince Him you're more 'spiritual' than you are.”

sitting at the supper table and I'd had all I could stand.

“Kellie!” I said, “Stop that whining! I'm your daddy. I love you. You don't have to be afraid of me. I want you to talk to me, but if you can't do it without whining, then don't talk to me at all!”

Just as I said that, the Spirit of God spoke up on the inside of me and said, *Kenneth, I'd appreciate it if you'd do the same for Me.*

God doesn't want us to come cowering and whining to Him. That kind of behavior stems from an “unworthy mentality.” It stems from the traditions of men that tell us we don't deserve to be in the presence of God because we're just old sinners saved by grace.

Get rid of that kind of thinking. You were an old sinner, but you're not one anymore. By the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Ghost, you've been made the righteousness of God! You've been born into this royal family. God Almighty is your Father and Jesus of Nazareth is your Brother.

You belong in the throne room of God! Not because you've earned it or deserved it, but because your Father said you do!

So start acting like it. Start talking like it. Start behaving like God loves you...because He does!

Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity). By this we shall come to know (perceive and recognize and understand) that we are of the Truth, and can reassure (quiet, conciliate and pacify) our hearts in [God's] presence (1 John 3:18-19, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

In the past, you may not have acted very lovingly toward others. But don't let that affect you. Just repent of it and move on. Now you can love others because you know that you are loved.

You know God loves you with an all-forgiving, never-ending, BLESSING-giving kind of Love that never fails. You know that He loves you just as much as He does Jesse Duplantis. He loves you just as much as He loves Gloria and me. He even loves you just as much as He loves Jesus.

So, stop looking to your feelings and start rejoicing in the truth. Believe the Love God has for you and the benefits will quickly follow. You'll soon find yourself laughing and loving and enjoying life to the fullest. You'll find yourself saying things like, “Hallelujah! God loves me. He just can't help Himself!” 🙏

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by Ronald C. Jordan



Healing From the Inside Out

Laurie Graves serves as Gloria Copeland's personal trainer

**“If your soul is prospering—
free from bitterness, shame and fear—your body will follow.
So many of us focus on diets and workouts, but true wellness
starts with forgiveness, with releasing pain, with
allowing God to renew your mind.”**

By any measure, Laurie Graves could be considered a powerhouse of transformation—not just in body, but in mind and spirit as well.

As a certified personal trainer through the National Academy of Sports Medicine, Laurie has worked with contestants from TV’s *The Biggest Loser* and *Extreme Makeover: Weight Loss Edition*, as well as helping hundreds seeking to reclaim their health. She continues to help people move from exhaustion to energy, from shame to strength, and from defeat to victory.

But by her own admission, Laurie’s passion didn’t come from textbooks or classroom training. It was born out of her own story; a journey of brokenness, restoration and divine renewal.

“During my late teenage years, I became severely depressed,” Laurie explains. “I began practicing anorexia and bulimia to make myself as thin as possible. As a result, I became severely malnourished.”

Malnutrition, Laurie says, caused extensive medical problems.

“My bones were breaking for no apparent reason, and my hair was falling out. For nearly two decades, I cycled between weight gain and extreme dieting, trying to fit into society’s standard of what the female physique should look like.”

The turning point for Laurie came in 1999

when her former husband, who worked for a worldwide audit company, accepted a job assignment that moved the family to the Netherlands. While spending three years there, Laurie says she found that the lifestyle differences between Americans and the Dutch to be “very striking, and convicting.”

“The Dutch live differently than we Americans,” Laurie recalled. “They love nature, eat healthy, walk daily and practice moderation. Almost everyone I knew was thin, fit and strong. I realized that the American diet and way of life didn’t support optimal health.”

That revelation didn’t result in much change in her unhealthy lifestyle and habits while living in the Netherlands, Laurie says, but the thoughts lingered after she returned to the United States in 2003.

“I remained overweight and out of balance, both physically and spiritually,” she says.

Laurie reached a defining moment in her life in August of 2003 after a personal trainer left a flier on the door of her home.

“I called her and explained that, while I wanted to hire her for personal training, I couldn’t because of my newborn,” Laurie recalls. “I asked if she could come to my home to train me and she agreed. She would come to the house, and we would train while my daughter was napping.”

Through training, and shifting her focus

“Everything is a seed. If you take a short walk today, for instance, then you’ve sown a seed in the realm of health—and you can expect to reap a harvest.”

to proper exercise and good nutrition, over time Laurie lost 90 pounds. Over the next seven years, she had completely transformed her body and her life—going from being “an overweight, worn-out mom” to a four-time fitness competitor, winning trophies in three competitions.

Not only did her health metrics reverse dramatically, she says, but Laurie also noticed that her depression lifted.

Over the years, she has gained knowledge about health and nutrition that she uses to help clients improve their health.

One major thing she discovered, Laurie says, was the importance of hydration.

As she sees it, hydration isn’t just a physical act but is what she calls “spiritual stewardship.”

“Water refreshes not only the body, it refreshes the brain,” she said. “It’s one of the simplest ways we can honor the vessel God has given us.”

Regarding nutrition, Laurie teaches her clients to see food as a life source, not as punishment or pleasure. Instead of indulging in foods that are bland, Laurie’s philosophy involves what she refers to as “eating from the rainbow.” In other words, eating vibrant, natural foods filled with life.

“We have plenty of access to fruit and vegetables, but instead of eating those we gravitate more toward the bland colors,” she explains, “the sad colors, the browns, the whites and the beiges—things that are fried. These are the types of foods that really alter how our bodies operate on a daily performance basis.

“They not only bring the nutrition level down, but when we eat a lot of prepackaged foods, foods that aren’t optimally nutritious, they bring our performance levels down, mentally and physically. On the other hand, when we eat from the rainbow—beautiful reds, greens, yellows, oranges—all those fruits and vegetables bring happiness to our bodies.”

Laurie ties this colorful approach to a spiritual principle: “The Bible says He satisfies our mouth with good things so that our youth is renewed like the eagle’s (Psalm 103:5). We’ve developed a perverted mindset of what’s *good*. When God first used the word *good*, He was referring to the foods He created in the garden—fruits and herbs designed for our nourishment—natural, unprocessed, life-giving foods. Our foundation should be what He called *good*.

“People think *good* foods are things like pizza and fries. That’s a perverted mindset. We can go to the law first mentioned in Genesis and see that in the garden God created herbs and trees. That’s our reference point when it comes to eating—we should be eating more fruits and vegetables. It just doesn’t make sense to always eat hamburgers and think they’re nourishing your body.

“It also doesn’t mean we have to maintain an ultra strict diet,” Laurie says.

“The Lord wants us to have freedom in what we eat. For instance, most of the time I eat fruits and vegetables, lean meats and some healthy fats. But once a week I may go out to eat and I’ll have something I really enjoy. But then I get right back on my healthy eating program.”

Exercise as Worship

Laurie's approach to exercise is deeply spiritual, she says.

"Everything is a seed. If you take a short walk today, for instance, then you've sown a seed in the realm of health—and you can expect to reap a harvest. Even small, consistent acts of movement create profound results.

"When you sow a seed of exercise, you're partnering with God in your own healing and He multiplies that time."

Her own fitness practice is rooted in prayer.

"I keep my tennis shoes by my bed. Each morning, I walk laps in my house or outdoors and pray. Sometimes it's warfare, sometimes intercession for friends. I give the firstfruits of my day—my movement and my spirit—to the Lord. This is my worship."

The True Root of Wellness

Laurie believes every physical transformation begins with healing the soul.


"The Bible says in 3 John 2, 'Beloved, I wish above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers.' If your soul is prospering—free from bitterness, shame and fear—your body will follow. So many of us focus on diets and workouts, but true wellness starts with forgiveness, with releasing pain, with allowing God to renew your mind."

This philosophy defines Laurie's programs.

Her mission is simple: to help others discover what it means to be truly fit—body, mind and soul. Her approach to health and wellness is not about restriction or vanity. It's about victory—the quiet, steadfast triumph that comes from living as a whole person.

"Because I know what it's like to be sick and weak," Laurie says, "I have an intense passion to help others feel strong and free. Health isn't just about losing weight. It's about living out your God-given purpose

with energy and joy. We are designed for great exploits."

"You can start today. Drink your water. Eat from the rainbow. Take that walk. Invite Him in. And watch how your body, mind and spirit come into alignment." 

I lost 90 pounds by implementing these steps:



Set small realistic goals and define those goals by being specific: "I want to lose 6% body fat in the next 3 months." "I want to lose 7 pounds this month."

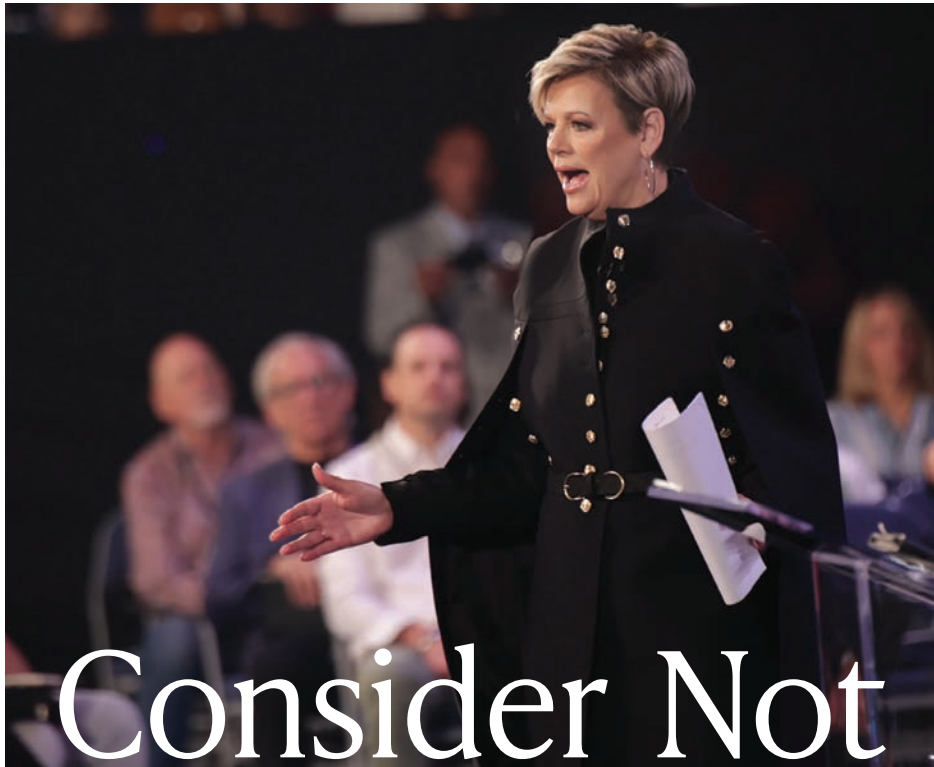
Surround yourself with positive influences: If all of your friends have food addictions of their own, it may be very hard to be successful on your journey toward weight loss.

Write down a plan of action to get you to the goal: "I will start engaging in aerobic activities five times per week." "I will implement a new nutrition plan."

Make a friend at the gym who is working toward the same goals you are. Ask your partner, children or another family member to join you for exercise.

Start a food journal: Buy a notebook and write down what you eat, or keep track on a phone app or nutritional website. For accountability, ask a trusted friend or family member to check your journal.

Join or start a weight loss support group at your home, office, church or gym.



“When fiery darts come against the mind, we are authorized to not consider them, to not be moved by them, and therefore, to be completely untroubled.”

When Jesus ministered to the sick, He said, “According to your faith be it unto you” (Matthew 9:29). Faith is simply believing what God says in His Word and *acting* like it’s true.

Faith means acting on the Word!

Even if circumstances and situations around us tell us something different than what God says, we still choose to believe what God says about it. If our body and what we feel tell us something different than what God’s Word says, we still choose to believe what God says. If thoughts bombard our mind against what God says, we still choose to believe what He says.

Abraham’s faith pleased God. So, we can look at what he did and know what we are to

do to have faith that pleases God. Romans 4:17-21 reads:

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were. Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be. And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

and being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Make the Right Choice

God told Abraham that he was going to be the father of nations, but Abraham was childless and 90 years old. His body's ability to produce a child was dead.

When Abraham's body told him something different than what God said, he had a choice to make. He chose to believe what God told him rather than what his body told him. If we are going to receive healing and walk in health, we must choose right—we must believe what God's Word says over what our body says.

Verse 19 says, "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead...."

How does someone weaken their faith? They consider what they ought not to consider. When our attention goes to and stays on the wrong thing, it weakens our faith. To keep our faith strong, we have to keep our attention on the right thing—on what God says. Where our attention goes affects our faith.

Abraham protected the strength of his faith by keeping his attention off the wrong thing and keeping it on what God said.

To *consider not* means to not think about it, don't touch it, don't turn it over in our thought life. We must discipline our thought life to not allow our mind to consider, entertain or turn over wrong thoughts—thoughts against the Word. We can't keep wrong thoughts from coming to us, but we can refuse to entertain them—to not turn them over and over in our mind. We can't keep birds from flying over our head, but we can keep them from building a nest in our hair.

We are going to have to answer every circumstance, every symptom and every thought that says something different than what God's Word says, not just once, but every time the thought comes! When we answer wrong thoughts with what the Word says, it stops the movement

“When Abraham’s body told him something different than what God said, he had a choice to make.”

of those thoughts around our head.

After we answer, then we are to continuously praise God for His Word coming to pass in our life.

Consider not doesn't release us from exercising our faith. We must still release our faith, even though we refuse to focus our attention on opposing circumstances.

Abraham "considered not" his own body. He didn't touch in his mind and in his thought life what his body told him. His body told him something, but he refused to focus or put his attention on that. Although he didn't consider his body, he still released his faith; he believed what God said. Verse 18 tells us Abraham "believed in hope... according to that which was spoken." Faith holds to what God says, despite all opposition!

Abraham didn't consider his own body, but he also didn't consider the body of his wife: "And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb."

If we touch in our thought life the condition of someone else's body, or why someone else failed to receive healing, it will weaken our faith.

"Consider not" the body of another.

Lilian B. Yeomans, a teacher of divine healing who had previously been a medical doctor when God raised her up off her deathbed, once wrote: "Consider not—blessed words—an unflinching refuge from the fiery darts. Heavenly atmosphere where no germ or disease can survive for the

NOT JUST EDUCATION



More than community and education, KCBC is a place of revelation and impartation.

My family first heard about KCBC at a Believers' Convention. At that time, I was enrolled in flight school to become a commercial airline pilot. As my parents shared with me about KCBC, I made the decision to attend with one clear purpose—to discover my God-given calling.

“After graduating, I returned to my home church in Michigan to serve as one of the youth leaders. In addition, I founded and am expanding Leading The Culture, a ministry that creates videos centered on the Word of God to reach and encourage the next generation. I remain deeply grateful for the role KCBC played in helping me discern my calling and strengthen my foundation in the Word.”



Gabriel Alexander II
KCBC Graduate

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fraction of a second. Consider not. Do not accord to the physical symptoms a passing thought. Refuse to take them into your calculations. If you consider your own body, paying attention to the symptoms, that is why they persist. As long as you consider them, they will persist.”

What To Consider?

If we are not to consider our body, what are we to consider? Consider the Word! Fill your thoughts, mouth and heart with what God says. Answer every thought that’s in opposition to the Word. Answer troubling thoughts, pain and sickness with the Word. Walking in real victory means learning to “consider not” our body or what the enemy suggests and threatens us with.

If we believe we’re not healed because symptoms come, then we’re believing our body more than we’re believing God’s Word. Don’t believe anything more than you believe what God says! It’s not our job “to *not* feel the test,” but it is our job to not change what we believe because of what we may feel or see. We are not to believe anything more than we believe the Word.

Yes, we may feel the test, but that feeling doesn’t mean our faith isn’t working or that the Word isn’t working. As Sister Yeomans stated, “Consider not—blessed words—an unyielding refuge from the fiery darts. Heavenly atmosphere where no germ or disease can survive for the fraction of a second.”

When fiery darts come against the mind, we are authorized to not consider them, to not be moved by them, and therefore, to be completely untroubled, living days of heaven on earth. 📖

Nancy Dufresne is president of Dufresne Ministries and World Harvest Bible Training Center in Murrieta, Calif. A respected author and teacher, she travels nationwide and abroad, ministering in churches and conducting miracle crusades. For more information or ministry materials, visit dufresneministries.org

WORD SEARCH

You can’t keep wrong thoughts from coming to you but, like Abraham, you can refuse to entertain them. Keep your attention off the wrong thing and keep it on what God said. Now, take a moment to relax and find the words from this verse in the puzzle below.

**And
being
not
weak
in**

**faith
he
considered
not
his**

**own
body
now
dead**

Circle the hidden words, crossing them off the list as you find them. Words can go horizontally, vertically, diagonally or backward.

A	D	M	J	U	G	I	O	D	O	Q	V	B
L	S	G	Y	B	N	T	I	O	N	Z	R	S
E	M	N	I	Q	W	E	R	R	K	U	E	P
L	K	J	U	G	F	D	S	A	A	D	C	V
B	N	M	W	O	C	R	F	H	E	A	O	S
W	E	R	A	Z	H	H	C	R	W	V	Y	H
T	T	K	Q	W	E	T	A	Y	U	I	O	P
A	S	F	W	G	H	J	I	N	Z	X	C	V
B	N	A	A	C	O	W	N	W	G	O	D	O
Q	Y	I	L	T	T	Y	R	N	P	E	O	S
Z	R	T	O	M	L	G	H	H	T	R	T	Y
U	O	H	E	A	B	H	G	F	D	E	A	D
X	C	V	B	N	C	O	R	X	R	S	V	Y
Y	N	I	K	L	Q	A	D	T	E	C	R	F
U	Y	H	L	I	F	E	E	Y	C	H	V	U
I	A	N	D	S	T	F	S	H	J	K	C	K
E	C	V	B	O	M	V	D	I	J	O	G	I
E	D	R	N	S	B	L	I	G	N	B	N	B
I	I	O	D	O	S	E	T	S	G	R	W	I
R	T	Y	V	O	P	F	I	J	D	F	P	D
S	A	C	S	C	G	D	N	M	W	S	X	R
R	V	Y	H	I	E	K	L	B	N	Z	E	D
C	O	I	Z	R	H	N	C	T	E	W	E	G
Y	Y	W	E	O	P	G	S	D	R	I	I	J
K	L	D	X	P	V	B	N	C	O	A	N	M
J	U	G	I	O	D	O	Q	V	B	L	S	G
Y	B	N	T	I	O	N	Z	R	S	E	M	T
G	W	W	E	R	R	Y	U	E	P	L	K	J
U	O	F	D	S	A	N	D	C	V	B	N	M
W	N	C	R	F	V	Y	A	O	S	W	H	R
A	Z	H	H	C	R	F	V	Y	H	T	I	K
Q	W	E	T	A	Y	U	I	O	P	A	S	D
W	G	H	J	Y	N	I	K	L	Q	A	E	T

Answer key on page 30.

Testimonies of Real-Life VICTORY

Comfort and Hope

Recently, I read the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine with the article concerning John Copeland, and also the article from Terri Savelle Foy. These articles touched my heart and gave me comfort and great HOPE!

I have been a Partner with the Copelands for years and I hold them in high esteem and honor. To hear that they have been through many of the struggles with their children that I have with mine brings me comfort, and seeing the result in the lives of their children now is an injection of hope and joy to me.

John, thank you for sharing your story. I have a son who is currently battling addiction and each time he falls, he gets back up. I believe you are touching the pulse of the Lord as it relates to helping and ministering to those who have addictions/substance abuse, etc. Thank you for not vilifying them, but instead showing great compassion. Your story gives me great hope for my son.

E.C. | Texas



Prayers Work

I called the prayer line recently for my sister to have a successful surgery. Soon after, I spoke with my sister and the surgery went amazingly. There were no issues or complications and my sister is doing well!

K.J. | Alabama

A Life for Jesus!

I started watching KCM in the mid '90s. I was in sad shape as an alcoholic, and almost died from alcohol poisoning. One day, I cried out to the Lord and He directed me to KCM. Since then I have learned faith and how it works, and how to live for Jesus. I am now 25 years sober!

I also learned how to be debt free through KCM and am now debt free as well.

Thank you so much for your faithfulness to your calling! G.C. | Indiana

Multiplied Abundance

At the beginning of 2025, I wrote a list of everything I was praying for. Throughout the year, I tithed to KCM and stood on the Word, believing God would honor my faith. As the year went on, I kept thanking Him for the answers I could not yet see, and He was faithful. Now I am tithing on the increase. Those prayers were not only answered—they were doubled! God gave me twice what I had been believing for, hallelujah! R.D. | Ontario

Bless the Lord

It was a Saturday about 3 p.m. in 1980, when I entered my barracks room and turned on the television. A familiar song started the program so it grabbed my attention: "Bless the Lord, O My Soul," then on came a preacher named Kenneth Copeland. He started to speak and within five minutes my heart just exploded in joy, as the things he was talking about concurred with what I had been reading in the Bible. For the next few weeks I made it a point to watch *BVOV* every week. One morning I started to watch and, to my dismay, a woman was behind the podium. My first thought was that I want to hear Kenneth, but the Spirit of the Lord suddenly spoke to me as directly as He ever has. He said, *At any time, you make the decision to listen to this woman, you shall be blessed.* Of course, you know the woman was Gloria Copeland. I have lived under that blessing for 45 years.

D.C. | New York

Do You Know Jesus?

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.

Prayer is Our Priority.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision.

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READ THROUGH THE BIBLE MAY

										1 1 Sam. 15-16 1 Cor. 6		2 1 Sam. 17-18 1 Cor. 7	
										3 1 Sam. 19-20 1 Cor. 8		4 1 Sam. 21-22 1 Cor. 9	
										5 1 Sam. 23-24 1 Cor. 10		6 1 Sam. 25-26 1 Cor. 11	
										7 1 Sam. 27-29 1 Cor. 12-13		8 1 Sam. 30-31 1 Cor. 14	
										9 2 Sam. 1-2 1 Cor. 15			
										10 2 Sam. 3-4 1 Cor. 16		11 2 Sam. 5-6 2 Cor. 1	
										12 2 Sam. 7-8 2 Cor. 2		13 2 Sam. 9-10 2 Cor. 3	
										14 2 Sam. 11-13 2 Cor. 4-5		15 2 Sam. 14-15 2 Cor. 6	
										16 2 Sam. 16-17 2 Cor. 7			
										17 2 Sam. 18-19 2 Cor. 8		18 2 Sam. 20-21 2 Cor. 9	
										19 2 Sam. 22-23 2 Cor. 10		20 2 Sam. 24; 1 Kings 1 2 Cor. 11	
										21 1 Kings 2-4 2 Cor. 12-13		22 1 Kings 5-6 Gal. 1	
										23 1 Kings 7-8 Gal. 2			
										24 1 Kings 9-10 Gal. 3		25 1 Kings 11-12 Gal. 4	
										26 1 Kings 13-14 Gal. 5		27 1 Kings 15-16 Gal. 6	
										28 1 Kings 17-19; Eph. 1-2		29 1 Kings 20-21 Eph. 3	
										30 1 Kings 22; 2 Kings 1 Eph. 4			
										31 2 Kings 2-3 Eph. 5			



Abiding Power

The resurrection of Jesus was the greatest demonstration ever of the power of God. Not only was He raised up spirit, soul and body, but all of humanity was raised up with Him.

His resurrection was so powerful that all anyone has to do to experience this regenerating power is to accept Jesus and His resurrection as their own. Instantly their spirits will be raised from death to life, just like His was, with the promise that their bodies will one day be raised also—just like His. Wow! What a God!

For this level of *power* to be released from God, there had to be an equal level of faith from a man. Jesus was that Man. But how could

He release faith for His own Resurrection? There are incidents throughout His ministry, such as the raising of Jairus' daughter and the widow of Nain's son, that allowed Him the opportunity to exercise such faith. But it was at Lazarus' tomb where Jesus came to such a fullness of faith that He not only believed for resurrection, but could boldly declare, "I *am* the resurrection" (John 11:25).

How did He arrive at that kind of revelation about Himself? And what is its significance to

us? What lessons can we apply to our own walk with the Lord?

Lesson 1: Take hold of the situation by faith and declare the end result that will glorify God.

Let's look into John 11 and watch Jesus skillfully take the force of faith and master the spirit of death.

Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. (It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby. Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus. When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was (verses 1-6).

Notice in verse 4 that Jesus said, "This sickness is not unto death." That sure was news to the devil! Clearly his plan was certain death for Lazarus, which would cause doubt and division among Jesus' friends and followers. But when Jesus spoke those faith words, He stopped the devices of the devil cold. He said, "This sickness is...for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby." So He not only stopped the natural course of sickness in Lazarus, He redirected it to a different outcome with a different purpose.

Lesson 2: Get understanding of God's purpose from Scripture and by the Spirit. Then, follow love until that purpose is fulfilled.

Verse 3 describes Mary and Martha's image of Jesus' love for Lazarus. They said, "he whom thou lovest." Lost to us in English are the different meanings of *love* revealed by the Greek words *phileo* and *agape*. *Phileo*, the Greek word for *love* used in this verse, means "to be fond of or have affection for—finding

“No plan of God can be fulfilled without love.”

something appealing or meaningful about the person loved.”

But verse 5 reports that Jesus had *agape* for Lazarus. This is love on a totally different level. It is on God's level because God is Love. *God is agape!* This love is purpose driven, not attraction driven. God has a purpose for mankind—to be His family. So when Adam's sin separated him from God, God focused on the purpose for which He created man. And out of His *agape* love, He sent Jesus.

If God had been operating in *phileo* love when Adam could no longer fellowship with Him, He would have abandoned Adam and all his offspring. But *agape* never loses sight of purpose, and the highest purpose is to glorify God. God could only be glorified if His family was.

Jesus knew how to glorify God. He knew that He must be resurrected from the dead in order for all men to be raised. And Jesus understood that demonstrating His faith to raise Lazarus was necessary to the whole plan. Love for God and His purpose, as well as God's love and purpose for Lazarus, were driving forces in every action that followed. No plan of God can be fulfilled without love.

Lesson 3: Seek to know Jesus and the power of His love. Seek to be rooted in knowing who you are in Him.

Verse 6 has perplexed people for generations. Why did Jesus intentionally stay where He was and let Lazarus die? Before we come to

the same hasty conclusion most everyone in Bethany came to, we'd better take a closer look.

"[Jesus] abode." *Abide* means "to remain in a given place, state, relation or expectancy." If we look back to Chapter 10, we'll see why this particular place was important.

The confrontation between Jesus and the Jewish leaders in John 10:24-39 is one of the most contentious recorded. They challenged whether or not He was the Messiah. When Jesus declared, "I and my Father are one," they became so enraged that they took up stones to kill Him. His response to their hatred and violence diffused their anger so that rather than stone Him, they decided to arrest Him. But it

"being"—being the Son of the Most High. And lastly, He remained in *expectancy*. At the end of that abiding time, which included the two days after hearing of Lazarus' death, He was so rooted, so certain and full of who He was in God, no one could move Him. Martha couldn't. The mourners couldn't. The same Jews who had tried to kill Him just days before couldn't. Lazarus' dead, decaying body couldn't. It was impossible to shake Him. He knew His Father and knew His place in Him.

Lesson 4: Begin to abide in your time alone with God and His Word. Then go from that prayer place, depending upon who you are in

"Go from that prayer place, depending upon who you are in Him, not who you are in yourself."

wasn't yet time for that, so He slipped away. (No doubt that was miraculous protection.)

That encounter must have been exhausting as well as deeply disturbing. The leaders who should have recognized and welcomed Jesus were challenging Him with the same ferocity Satan had on the Temple Mount. And what was that challenge? Are You *really* the Son of God? Are You *really* who You believe You are? It's interesting to note that Scripture makes a point of telling us what Jesus did next. He went back across the Jordan River where John had baptized. Why there? Look at Luke 3:21-22. "It came to pass, that Jesus also being baptized, and praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Ghost descended...."

You see, Jesus returned to the very place God had openly and miraculously confirmed to Him and everyone around that Jesus was indeed His Son. Jesus remained in that *place* where He had prayed and heard. He remained in that *relation* remembering, meditating on and enjoying His Sonship. He was purposely abiding in a state of

Him, not who you are in yourself.

Faith brought Lazarus out of his tomb. And that same faith brought Jesus out of His, along with you and me. We were raised up with Him and seated with Him in the Spirit. We are the righteousness of God, more than conquerors, and we can do all things through Him (2 Corinthians 5:21; Romans 8:37; Philippians 4:13). But we must do as He did and take time to abide. Abide in Him in your prayer place until who you are cannot be shaken from you. Then face whatever challenges await you and watch what the Greater One will do in and through you. 🙏



Terri Copeland Pearsons, the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, is president of Kenneth Copeland Bible College. Along with her husband, George Pearsons, she is also senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church at KCM.

Speak the End Result

I've preached for years that believers are to speak directly to the situations they want to change in their lives. And some people have asked me a very good question. They've asked, "Well, what do you say?"



"And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm."

Mark 4:39

The answer is simple. You speak the desired end result. Nothing more. "Peace, be still." That's all Jesus had to say to end a violent storm. "No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever." That's all He said to eliminate the fig tree (Mark 11:14, 20-21).

We need to imitate His example and quit talking so much. If that had been us talking to the fig tree, we wouldn't have just said, "No man eat fruit of thee...." We'd have said, "Fig tree, in the Name of Jesus, I curse you. I send you to hell in the Name of Jesus. Fig tree, you die. I'm telling you, devil, come out of that fig tree...." And on and on we'd go.

Jesus didn't say we are heard because of much talk. We are heard because of Faith in the Name of Jesus.

There's no telling what we would have said to that fig tree before we got through.

But not Jesus. He just spoke the end result and never looked back.


What enabled Him to operate with such simple certainty? He was confident in the authority His words carried. He knew without question that the power of Almighty God backed Him and caused His every word to come to pass.

When you operate in Faith, you can be just as confident. God is backing your Faith just as surely as He backed Jesus' Faith. So speak to your situation with authority. Speak confidently. And speak the end result. 🌿

by Gloria Copeland



Draw Near to God



“The Creator and Ruler of the entire universe has made Himself available to meet personally with you every day. You can commune with Him anytime of the day or night.”

Have you ever wished you had a strong, caring friend to help you—one who would join his or her strength with yours, making up the difference where you are weak? Well, I have good news. *God is that Friend*. He has the strength you need, and He is looking for an opportunity to be a vital part of your daily life.

The Bible says, “The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him” (2 Chronicles 16:9). The word translated *perfect* there doesn’t mean without a flaw. It simply means “faithful, loyal, dedicated and devoted.”

So eager is God to find that person to whom He can show Himself strong that He will pass over a million people to find that one who is loyal to Him. He scans the earth looking for a person who will put Him first and let Him be God in their life.

For 4,000 years mankind was locked out of the presence of God by sin. But when Jesus went to the cross, all that changed. Jesus’ sacrifice restored man’s lost fellowship with God. Now, as born-again believers, we “have full freedom and confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies [by the power and virtue] in the blood of



Jesus” (Hebrews 10:19, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*). In effect, God has thrown open to us the door of fellowship.

Think of what that means. The Creator and Ruler of the entire universe has made Himself available to meet personally with you every day. You can commune with Him anytime of the day or night.

“I’m here for you,” He is saying. “Just draw near to Me and I’ll draw near to you. I’ll give you the wisdom you need. I’ll strengthen and equip you and help you in every area of your life.”

Although He has the solution for every problem, He won’t chase you down to get your attention so He can give you those solutions. No, He will wait for you to do your part. What is your part? To draw near to Him. If you’ll do that, He’ll draw near to you in return. He gave us His Word on it (James 4:8).

The moment you turn to Him, He’ll be there for you. But don’t wait until hard times come to turn to Him. Develop a lifestyle of living contact.

Making living contact with God is simply fellowshiping with Him. It’s talking to Him and listening to Him. It’s setting aside the distractions and demands of life and taking time to commune with Him in His Word and in prayer. It’s having fellowship with the Lord daily when things are going well so that when trouble comes, you’ll be spiritually strong enough to overcome.

Jesus said in the world we will have tribulation (John 16:33). It doesn’t matter who we are or how rich or well-educated, or even how much faith we have. In this life we will face some tests

and trials. The difference is that when a Bible-believing, Spirit-filled child of God faces trouble, he doesn't face it alone.

God says, "I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him" (Psalm 91:15). That's important. In time of trouble, *who* is with you makes a big difference. If your only help is your own natural strength and resources, you might come out of that trouble all right...and you might not. But if God is with you, you can be sure you'll come through just fine.

Jesus, our Champion and Savior, said, "I have overcome the world." When we stay in vital union with Him, we can have victory in the time of trouble.

Abide In the Vine

So, what does it mean to have a living connection with God? Jesus brought the reality and importance of our relationship with Him into clear focus when He said, "Abide in me.... I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:4-5).

When Jesus said, "Abide in me," He wasn't saying, "Live in fellowship with Me one day and the world the next." He wasn't talking about a sporadic or temporary arrangement. The word *abide* refers to the place where you "remain and dwell continually." Jesus was instructing us to make that place of dependency and communion with Him our permanent home because that's where we bear fruit.

Maintaining a living connection with God supplies the power that enables us to lay hold of all the wonderful things He has provided for us through Jesus Christ. We may know all the right scriptures, but if we fail to stay in union with God, we won't be spiritually strong enough to do what we know to do!

It's amazing how many Christians don't realize that. They rush around trying to do things in their own strength. But because they don't maintain a living connection with God, they end up tired, frustrated and defeated.

The Bible plainly shows that we are not to rely

on our own abilities. Ephesians 6:10 encourages us to "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might." And Philippians 4:13 says, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

One of the best pictures of what this will do for us is what we see when wood strips are laminated together for strength. Just as the beams in a house are made stronger by laminating several layers of wood together, your ultimate strength comes from living in vital contact with God—abiding in the Vine. No longer are you dependent on *your* strength alone. You are laminated to Almighty God!

Keep the Union

First Corinthians 6:17 says, "The person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him," (*AMPC*). The word *united* used there (*or joined* in the *King James Version*) means "laminated." It refers to something glued so tightly together that it becomes like one substance.

As we begin to spend time with the Lord, we begin to think like He thinks. We begin to act like He acts. We begin to hear from heaven moment by moment so that we can walk out the perfect will of God for our lives every day.

Once we understand the divine power that comes to us as we abide in Jesus, it is easy to see that if we want to live a victorious life, we must first and foremost maintain our union and communion with Him. That is without question our most important responsibility.

If we'll maintain that union, He'll take care of everything else.

Unfortunately, many Christians do just the opposite. They become so busy maintaining the other things in their lives that they don't have time to spend with God. They spend their lives maintaining their houses and their lawns, their cars and their jobs. They even find time to maintain their hair and their fingernails. Yet they neglect the one thing that is vital to their life and well-being. They neglect their union with God.

Often they don't even realize it. They think that because they love the Lord and believe His Word, their union with Him is intact. But that's not necessarily so.

“IF YOU *think* LIKE
THE WORLD THINKS,
YOU’LL RECEIVE THE SAME
results THE WORLD DOES.
INSTEAD OF ENJOYING THE
HEALING POWER OF GOD,
YOU’LL SUFFER WITH THE
SICKNESSES OF THE WORLD.”

To be in union means to be joined together with something or someone. It’s the act or instance of joining two or more things into one. Romans 7:4 likens our union with God to marriage. It says we’ve been married to Him.

Our goal is to become so in tune with Him that when He tells us to do something, we hear Him and obey. We should aim to be so closely joined to Him that the desires of our heart, the thoughts of our mind, the words of our mouth and our every action become a reflection of the One with whom we are united.

That is God’s desire too. If He is to carry out His will in the earth, He must have people who will join themselves with Him in that way.

Perfect Union = Perfect Peace

How do you keep your mind stayed on God? By giving Him your attention. By putting His Word first place every day and focusing on it until it is the biggest thing in your life. *The Living Bible* says it this way: “Since you became alive again, so to speak, when Christ arose from the dead, now set your sights on the rich treasures and joys of heaven where he sits beside God in the place of

honor and power. Let heaven fill your thoughts” (Colossians 3:1-2).

Isaiah 26:3 says, “Thou [God] wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee....” If you keep your mind on the world and stay in union with it, you won’t have any peace. That’s because the world doesn’t have any peace. If you give the majority of your time and attention to worldly matters and secular entertainment, you will be carnally minded, and the Bible says, “To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6).

In other words, if you think like the world thinks, you’ll receive the same results the world does. And instead of enjoying the healing power of God, you’ll suffer with the sicknesses of the world. Instead of laying hold of heavenly prosperity, the depression, recession and poverty of the world will lay hold of you! You won’t be full of good news, you’ll be full of bad news.

“Well, Gloria,” you say, “we can’t stick our heads in the sand. We have to face the facts.” I’m not suggesting we stick our heads in the sand. I’m suggesting we keep them in the Word! I am also suggesting that sometimes the news doesn’t give us the facts.



Word search (pg. 19) answer key

Several years ago, for example, the media announced that the United States' economy was in a recession. For about a year and a half, they talked about the recession. It influenced everything that happened because the media constantly broadcast it.

Sometime later, a statistical report came out that revealed the recession had actually lasted only a few months. Why, then, had the news media kept on reporting about it? Because they didn't know it had ended. They were in the dark so they kept screaming, "Recession! Recession!" even though the recession had been over for more than a year.

Thank heaven that recession never got off the ground with us. When news of it first came out, the Lord spoke to Ken and said, *Write your Partners and tell them not to join the recession.* So we obeyed God and didn't get in on that recession. We just let it pass us by.

That may sound strange to you, but as citizens of heaven, you and I can do that kind of thing. If we stay in union with God, we don't have to be dependent on this world's economy. We can be connected to heaven's economy, and there's no recession, depression or inflation there. In God's economy, there's no shortage or lack of any kind. He is our shepherd; we shall not want (Psalm 23:1)!

You're Connected!

It doesn't matter how bad things become out there in the world. You aren't in the world without a Savior! You are "connected to Christ, the Head to which all of us who are his body are joined" (Colossians 2:19, *TLB*). When someone has friends in high places, we sometimes say, "He's connected." Well, if you're maintaining living contact with God, you're connected! You're connected with the highest ruler and authority in existence. You have a connection with the power above every other power, and you need to maintain an awareness of that connection.

If you'll do that, then the faith and power of God will rise up within you to deal with whatever comes your way. Even if it's danger

of the worst kind, you'll be ready.

One of our Partners proved that fact in her own life a few years ago. She was traveling on a bus in a major city she was visiting, and some men aboard that bus began to rob people—going from one person to the next taking money, jewelry and other valuables. Because this lady had been maintaining her union with the Lord, she was strong on the inside and had His power flowing through her. When the thieves came to her, instead of cowering in fear and handing over her possessions, she looked those men straight in the eye and said, "In the Name of Jesus, you take your hands off me!"

When she spoke, those faith words scared those men so badly, they not only left her alone—they ran off that bus!

You may be a 100-pound woman or a 250-pound man. Your physical stature is irrelevant. When you're connected to Jesus, you're unbeatable. If you'll maintain a living connection with Him, whatever you do, wherever you go, the power of God will be just one breath away.

Let's face it, we're living in a time when you may need that power at any moment because there is danger all around us. When that danger strikes, we may not have time to go find our Bible and look up a scripture about protection. We need to have the Word in our heart—dwelling in us so richly that it comes up from within us before we even have time to think.

In times of crisis, your mind usually goes blank, and whatever is in your heart comes out. If you've been fellowshiping with the world, fear will come out. But if you've been fellowshiping with God, faith will be your first response.

You need the ability to stay strong and steady, both in your everyday life and when challenges arise. The good news is: When you are joined or laminated to God, that living connection will make all the difference. Instead of depending on yourself, you can truly say, "I can do all things through *Christ* which strengtheneth me!" 🙏

Walking in the spirit is not as mysterious and unobtainable as it may seem to be. In this series, Gloria shares about life in the Spirit, and provides the practical guidance you need to step from the natural into supernatural living.

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Growing Super Patience

Commander Kellie's Corner

Superkids, I'd like to honor the person who best illustrates the fruit of the spirit in my life. My mom, Gloria Copeland, has always responded with a consistent flow of the fruit of Jesus, better known as the fruit of the spirit. Now that I'm a mom, I understand how important that is. I appreciate every time she has chosen love, joy, peace, kindness, virtue, faith, gentleness and strength instead of frustration or fear. Those qualities are what I remember most about growing up with her.

I'm sure my brother and I pushed her to the limit of HER patience, but she always seemed able to express the Lord's patience toward us. Here's the good news: **We can never reach the limit of the fruit of the spirit.** Some of you may feel like your mom (or someone else) has a "special ability," but the real difference is the same as a flower seed versus a full flowering plant. Moms NEED a lot of patience, so they plant those seeds every time they choose to let God's love flow.

Imagine Jesus as the Seed infused into your heart, and the different flowers as the fruit of His love. Galatians 5:22-23, *The Passion Translation* says: "The fruit produced by the Holy Spirit within you is divine love in all its varied expressions: joy that overflows, peace that subdues, patience that endures...." and as the Holy Spirit produces God's love in YOU, it shows up as joy, peace and patience that endures. This patience is strong, steady and powered by Jesus, whether you're a mom or a kid!

As a kid, patience isn't just "waiting without whining." That's natural patience. Super patience that comes from Jesus isn't forced or faked. It grows from the seed

of His life in you.

Picture this: A farmer plants a seed and watches for the harvest. He doesn't dig it up to check on it. He trusts the rain and the life inside the seed.

James 5:7-8 says: "Dear brothers and sisters, be patient as you wait.... Consider the farmers who patiently wait for the rains.... They eagerly look for the valuable harvest to ripen" (*New Living Translation*).

That's what the Holy Spirit is doing, growing patience in your heart. When you keep your eyes on Jesus and listen to Him, His words are seeds. You're not trying to be "good at waiting." You're infused with Jesus, and His patience grows like fruit on a tree.

Remember this, Superkid: **Jesus is the Seed the Father planted in YOU.** He is watching for the valuable harvest in your life. Because of Jesus, you can be as patient as He is.

I saw this in my mom, and I learned to harvest it in my own life.

James points to the prophets as examples of patience, and I've looked at my mom that way. Now is a great time to watch "fruity" people—and

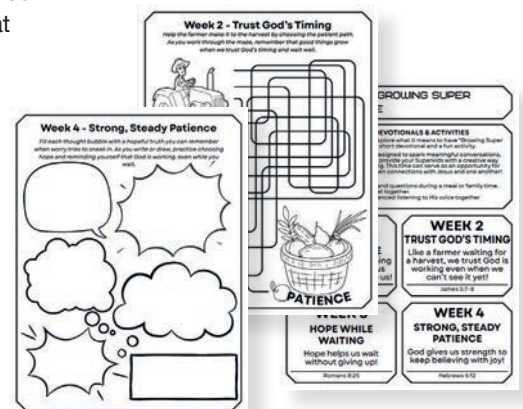
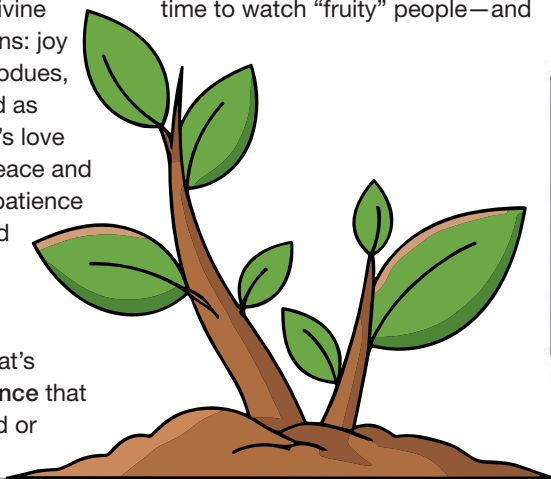


"Imagine Jesus as the Seed infused into your heart, and the different flowers as the fruit of His love."

become one as we learn each fruit together.

Also remember this: Moms aren't the only ones who need patience. **We all need it** to follow Jesus into the things He has for us. Patience isn't needed because nothing is happening. Patience is needed because **EVERYTHING** is happening! While my mom was growing her patience, God was growing *me*. And right now, He's working things out in your family, even before anyone can see how awesome you're going to turn out.

Commander Kellie



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May 26



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