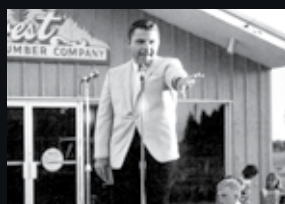
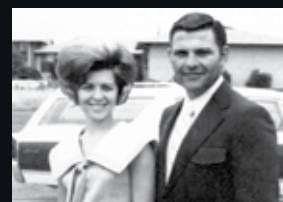


BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY

January 2007



40 YEARS
KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES

Celebrating a

40-YEAR JOURNEY OF FAITH

Dear Partners and Friends,

Forty years ago, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland embarked on the journey of a lifetime—to fulfill a mandate from God to preach the uncompromised Word from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around.

In the years since that journey began in March 1967, they have been steadfast and unmovable in doing just that—endeavoring always to never compromise on what they believed concerning the Word of God, nor to shrink back from faith. They have stood the tests of time and life as they have traveled the world, daring to believe God and follow Him by faith—reaching out with the message of victory for everyone who will anchor their lives on the integrity of a covenant-keeping God. As a result, millions of lives have been touched by their life-changing message that Jesus is Lord!

Beginning this month, and continuing throughout this year, *Believer's Voice of Victory* will commemorate this legacy of untiring commitment to the kingdom of God.

We will step back in time and retrace some of the events that marked the beginning of Kenneth Copeland Ministries—events such as the day in 1967 when Kenneth answered the call to *preach the gospel to the nations* as he stood alone in the dried-up Arkansas River bed; the first Believers' Convention in Anaheim, Calif., in 1979; and Gloria's directive from God that same year to *start teaching on healing in every meeting*. Reviewing these and other milestones, we will examine the fiber that has woven and held KCM together.

We will also revisit *classic* teachings, life-changing messages carrying that “one word from God” that changed thousands of lives forever—pillar revelations that took one believer after another from the milk of the Word to the meat.

And we will take a look at some historical “turning points” like celebrating the World Communion Service via satellite in 1982; launching the *Believer's Voice of Victory* radio and TV broadcasts; introducing *Commander Kellie and the Superkids_{SM}*; and declaring an all-out war on fear in the fall of 2001.

Some of you have been with us from the very beginning. Others have chosen to partner with us along the way. But each of you share an equal part in the legacy God has established through the faithfulness of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland over the past 40 years.

This is their journey, but it is yours as well. We hope you enjoy reading it. And remember...Jesus Is Lord!

Ronald C. Jordan | Managing Editor





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BY KENNETH COPELAND

Jesus paid the price for you to inherit *The Blessing*. Learn its history and what you have to do to receive it.



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In response to Kenneth Copeland's "radical" teaching that changed his life forever, Orval Brooks became one of KCM's first Partners. He later purchased the first radio airtime for Brother Copeland, and helped put KCM meetings on television.

When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 34 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

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EDEN

The Garden of

IN YOU

IF YOU SPEND MUCH TIME AT ALL AROUND A GROUP OF BELIEVERS, THERE'S ONE WORD YOU'RE SURE TO HEAR. IT'S A GOOD WORD. A BIBLE WORD. A WORD WE TOSS BACK AND FORTH IN CONVERSATION WITH EASE AND FREQUENCY. | BUT THERE'S ONE PROBLEM WITH IT. SCRIPTURALLY SPEAKING, WE DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS.

WE HAVE VERY LITTLE IDEA OF THE REAL POWER AND HISTORY BEHIND IT.

The word I'm talking about is blessing.

Most of us think that word simply refers to something good that God gives us—a gift He bestows. But the blessing of God actually extends far beyond that. It includes not only His gifts, but the creative power behind them. It speaks not only of what we have been given but of who we are and what God has anointed us to do.

If you are a born-again child of God, The Blessing

encompasses your identity, your capacity and your call.

Such a statement might sound to some like an exaggeration, and it would be if I were using the word blessing like we usually do—to mean an isolated outbreak of God's goodness in some area of life. But I'm not talking about a blessing like that. I'm talking about *The Blessing*—and that is a far greater thing.

A Dramatic Moment in Divine History

To understand the true scope of The Blessing, we must trace its origin back through the Bible to the first chapter of Genesis. There, in what I believe was one of the most dramatic moments in divine history, *The Blessing* made its first appearance.

In the six days leading up to it, God had spoken the earth into being. He had said, “Light be!”...and light was. At His command, the sun, moon, stars and sea had all been set in place. Plant, animal and marine life had all been brought forth by God’s Word. Everything had been made ready for His crowning creation: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

Personally, I believe at that moment a hush fell over the universe as all the angels and heavenly host waited in anticipation to see this God-like being who was about to be created. Their attention was riveted upon this being called man who was to be given authority over the earth. What would this creature be like? What kind of power would he possess? What work would God give him to do?

All those questions were answered in an instant with what happened next.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth (verses 27-28).

The First Words Adam Ever Heard

With those words, God imparted to Adam and Eve—and to all mankind—*The Blessing*. He told them who they were: the lords of the earth created by God in His image as rulers and royalty. He told them what they were supposed to do: replenish (or fill up) the earth, subdue it and bring it into line with the perfect will of God. He also gave them the power to carry out that assignment.

To *bless* actually means “to empower.” So the first words Adam ever heard, the first sound that ever struck his eardrums was the sound of God’s voice empowering him with the divine, creative ability to reign over the earth and make it a perfect reflection of God’s best and highest will.

How did Adam know what God’s perfect will for the earth was?

All he had to do was look around him. He was living in the Garden of Eden—a place created and ordered by God Himself. That Garden was a perfect demonstration of God’s plan for this planet. It was a prototype of what He wanted the whole thing to be.

Adam’s job was to exercise his God-given authority and expand that Garden until it encompassed the entire earth. That’s what *The Blessing* was for! It provided Adam with the power to carry on the work God began in creation. It equipped him with the divine resources he needed to follow God’s example and, by speaking anointed, faith-filled words, transform the uncultivated parts of this planet into a veritable Garden of Eden.

In other words, *The Blessing* empowered Adam to be a blessing wherever he went. The Garden of Eden was literally inside Adam.

The God Who Never Quits

Of course, we all know that Adam and Eve messed things up. Instead of operating in *The Blessing* they’d been given and becoming a blessing to the whole earth, they disconnected from God through disobedience. They bowed their knee to the devil and gave him access to their God-given authority. When they did, the whole deal was twisted.

The Blessing was turned into a curse. Instead of prospering under their oversight, the earth resisted them and became their enemy. Instead of speaking to it and reigning over it as kings, Adam and Eve worked it like slaves, sweating and laboring just to eke out a living. Talk about a long fall! Adam had once had enough power to subdue the entire earth and bless it; after sin entered the picture, he could hardly make a living in his own garden.

Even so, God didn’t give up on His original plan. He never does. There’s no variableness or shadow of change in Him. Once He sets out to do something, He stays with it until it’s done.

So it’s no surprise that just a few chapters later, in Genesis 12, we find Him reestablishing *The Blessing* that Adam threw away. We find Him offering it again to a man who was willing to obey Him and enter into a covenant relationship with Him. We find Him saying to a man named Abram:

Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed (Genesis 12:1-3).

From Generation to Generation

There's no question about it. That wasn't just any blessing God was offering to Abram. It was *The Blessing*—the same one Adam was given, the same divine ability and creative anointing that caused goodness and prosperity to spring forth everywhere Adam went. Once again, as He did in Genesis 1, God was offering to a man the power to bless the whole earth.

Abram responded differently to that blessing than Adam did. He didn't blow it off. He received it with respect and began to operate in it by faith. He even taught it to his children and passed the blessing along to them.

What was the result? Eden-like conditions began to blossom in Abram's life. Just as God showed up in the Garden to fellowship with Adam and Eve, God began to visit Abram and talk with him. Their relationship was so strong and close that God referred to Abraham (Abram's God-given name) as His friend.

Abraham's physical body began to reflect the conditions of the Garden as well. The Blessing so renewed and regenerated him that he and his once-barren wife, Sarah, were able to have a son when she was 90 and he was 100 years old.

The great material abundance that marked the Garden of Eden began to manifest in Abraham's life too. He became very rich in cattle, silver and gold. Everywhere he went, he prospered financially.

Because of The Blessing, Abraham and the members of his household learned how to do things they couldn't do before. Without any formal military training, for example, Abraham's servants became expert warriors. They fought so effectively that when a coalition of foreign armies attacked, Abraham whipped the whole bunch with just 318 of his servants. Then he freed all the captives and walked away with all the spoil.

Those are the kinds of results The Blessing produced again and again in Abraham's life. They didn't stop with him, either. They continued in the lives of his descendants because God had specifically said, "I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee" (Genesis 17:7).

Because of that promise, The Blessing can be traced down through generations in the pages of the Bible. We can see it in the life of Abraham's grandson Jacob as he prospered and increased against all odds. Even when people intentionally cheated him in business, Jacob just kept getting richer. His household eventually grew so big the region he lived in couldn't contain it.

Jacob's son Joseph experienced the same kind of success in the face of even greater obstacles. When his brothers sold him into slavery, for example, The Blessing empowered him to become the overseer of his owner's entire estate. Later, when a loose woman's lies landed him in prison, The Blessing promoted him until he was in charge of the whole place. Finally, when the prison couldn't hold him anymore, The Blessing brought him to the palace where he ended up as Pharaoh's right-hand man and prime minister over the entire land of Egypt.



The Blessing—Power to Prosper

Blessing is defined as "the power to prosper." And true Bible prosperity is abundant supply in every area of your life—spirit, soul and body. | In this timely teaching, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and Creflo A. Dollar explore a new level of revelation as they track God's recorded history of *The Blessing*—from Adam to Abraham to Jesus—and right on up to you. | Now is the time to get ready, because *The Blessing* has come full circle. You are on the threshold of the life of total fullness God intends for His creation. Discover today how to step into the power of *The Blessing*.

The Blessing—The Power, the Purpose and the Manifestation

6-CD series | Reg. \$39 **NOW! \$20** #B070101

2-DVD set | Reg. \$24.95 **NOW! \$20** #B070103

See response form for
ordering information.

Who Is Abraham's Seed?

After Joseph died, the revelation of The Blessing began to dim and Abraham's descendants slipped into 400 years of Egyptian slavery. But God—who never quits—raised up a man named Moses, breathed fresh life into that revelation and taught an entire nation of Israelites to walk once again in The Blessing of Abraham.

That Blessing was what split the Red Sea for them. It was what guided them and kept them for 40 years in the wilderness. It was The Blessing that demolished the walls of Jericho and launched the Israelites into the Promised Land. It was The Blessing that gave Samson the strength to single-handedly slay a thousand Philistines, and gave David the guts and grace to kill Goliath. It was The Blessing on Daniel that kept the lions' mouths shut when he was in their den.

All those people enjoyed the benefits of The Blessing because of what God said to Abraham. They all experienced some of its effects because He had promised to give The Blessing not only to Abraham himself but to his *seed*.

"That's all great, Brother Copeland," you might say, "but I'm not Jewish. So what does it have to do with me?"

If you're a believer, it has everything to do with you

He spoke to it and calmed it down. That was *The Blessing* in action.

It's Our Inheritance

But Jesus didn't stop there. After demonstrating the power of The Blessing in His own life, He went to the cross and paid the price for the sin of all mankind. He defeated the curse, rose again and took The Blessing back so that you and I could inherit it. As Galatians 3 says:

Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.... And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise (verses 13-14, 29).

Do you realize what that passage is saying? It's telling us that through Jesus, you and I have become heirs—not just of *a* blessing, not just of *some* blessings, or even many

If you are a born-again child of God, The *Blessing* encompasses your identity, your capacity and your call.

because the New Testament says that when God gave The Blessing to Abraham and his seed, "He [God] saith not, and to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ" (Galatians 3:16).

In other words, when God spoke to Abraham and his Seed, He was speaking directly to Jesus. He was giving to Jesus (through Abraham) The Blessing that was originally bestowed on Adam.

That's why Jesus is called "the last Adam" (1 Corinthians 15:45). He was the true inheritor of that Blessing. His whole earthly ministry was a demonstration of it. Everywhere He went, He brought blessing. That's why, when sick people came to Him, He healed them. He was carrying out the mission Adam had been given. He was releasing the power of The Blessing within Him to expand God's kingdom and reproduce God's perfect will as it was first manifest in the Garden of Eden.

There wasn't any sickness in the Garden of Eden, so healing is part of The Blessing and Jesus healed at every opportunity. There wasn't any poverty or hunger in the Garden, so prosperity is part of The Blessing. Therefore He multiplied loaves and fish to feed the hungry crowds who came to hear Him. There was no harmful weather in the Garden, so when a storm threatened destruction,

blessings. We've inherited *The Blessing*! We've been given the power of God to create, to make available, and to overcome anything necessary to bring into manifestation the conditions in the Garden of Eden not only in our own lives but in the lives of others.

That's our inheritance! We are heirs to everything God did in that Garden. Our job now is to help expand it and do our part to fill the earth with its blessing. That was God's will for the first Adam and today His will is back in place through Jesus, the last Adam.

Some people say we need to get our minds off The Blessing and back on Jesus. But the truth is, you can't separate Jesus from The Blessing. It's what He came to restore. It's what He walked in and made available to others when He ministered on the earth...and it's what He has called us, as His disciples, to walk in and make available to others in His Name.

Today, I believe the angels are once again waiting with anticipation, watching this new-creation race of reborn men who have been given authority over the earth in the Name of Jesus. They're waiting to respond to our command as we go into all the world, doing the works of Jesus, and telling everyone who will listen that He has paid the price for us all to inherit *The Blessing*. **VICTORY**



— ∞ — 2006 KCM Meetings — ∞ —

Changing Lives Worldwide

BEGINNING WITH THE BRANSON VICTORY CAMPAIGN IN MARCH AND ENDING WITH THE WASHINGTON, D.C. VICTORY CAMPAIGN IN NOVEMBER, BELIEVERS ATTENDING THE 2006 MEETINGS WERE IMMERSSED IN FRESH REVELATION AND FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLES—EQUIPPING THEM TO BRING THE GARDEN OF EDEN TO THE DARK AND DEVASTATED CORNERS OF A WORLD IN THE “BEGINNING OF SORROWS” (MATTHEW 24).

In meetings from the East Coast to the West Coast and from the Southwest to the northern Midwest, Brother Copeland reminded believers in the Year of the Glory that they are the harvesting generation. Believers must abound in the harvest on seeds of righteousness—not just for their needs, but for the needs of those affected by a world caught in the disasters of sin’s harvest.

That is the way they will walk in the fullness of 2 Corinthians 9:8-11:

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever. Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and

increase the fruits of your righteousness;) being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

That message which Paul preached to believers in Corinth, as he was taking up an offering for believers in Macedonia hit by financial catastrophe, is the message for our day, Brother Copeland said.

“The people who sowed in that offering were part of the thanksgiving to God.... The praise that was going up to heaven had their names on it. What do you think happened down there in southern Louisiana when people started showing up with food and water and clothes and...medicines and all kinds of things? People started praising God who had never praised God in their lives.”

Throughout the 2006 meetings, believers were taught how to let love flush all fear from their lives, to stay in

**The light we
take to a world in
darkness covers us
on all sides like a
protective shield,
Gloria said.**



It is so important that we be *inundated* with the Word of God in these days so that we walk free.

love by receiving and giving forgiveness, and to continually sow the seed God has provided so it can be multiplied back to them to sow again.

The light we take to a world in darkness covers us on all sides like a protective shield, Gloria said in her ministry and Healing School sessions. It is the armor of light—a protective bubble that goes with us wherever we go.

“Times are not going to get any better,” she said. “[According to Matthew 24,] the darkness in the world will increase from now until Jesus comes. But then we’re not in the world. We’re in God. We’re in Him. And that makes all the difference in the world what happens to you. And so that is why we are feeding on these things.

“You are doing the right thing coming to meetings like this. I’m telling you, it is so important that we be inundated with the Word of God in these days so that we walk free. We can walk clean in a dirty world. We can walk free in a time of bondage in the world. We can do it with the Word of God continually going in our ears, in our eyes, into our hearts and out our mouths.”

WALK IN THE BLESSING | Jerry Savelle challenged believers to rise up to a higher level of excellence, telling us, “The greatest spiritual law I ever learned was to plant words that release The Blessing according to the pattern of Genesis 1.”

And Jesse Duplantis taught on practical ways to stay in the love walk and the importance of taking ownership of what God has given us. “Some people say the Lord owns it all. But He doesn’t. Psalm 115:16 says the heavens belong to the Lord but the earth hath He given to the children of men. If we don’t know what we own, someone will steal it.”

Creflo A. Dollar went beyond blessing to manifestation and becoming “billboards for the glory.” “In Genesis 39 we see it was obvious The Blessing was on Joseph,” he said. “It is time for people to know the Lord is with us. There needs to be a distinction between those who have blessing on them and those who only know how to talk a good talk.”

Preaching at the Thursday afternoon session of the West Coast Believers’ Convention, Keith Moore exhorted believers to let go of any place or condition that is holding them back from the fullness of The Blessing manifesting in their lives. “There is a place where The Blessing comes on you,” he said. “God’s will is room for you—for the anointing, for the blessings—to flourish. A plant has to have room for its roots. Sometimes you have to be transplanted so The Blessing can do its thing in you.”

“God is using believers to make this earth like heaven, but to participate in it we must start thinking and operating God’s way,” Bill Winston said at the Great Lakes Believers’ Convention. “Second Timothy 3:1 tells us in the last days perilous times will come.... But if we know how to operate God’s system, in days of trouble we will have abundance.”

Another exciting aspect of the 2006 meetings was that George and Terri Copeland Pearsons, who pastor Eagle Mountain International Church on the grounds of KCM in Fort Worth, traveled abroad to minister in Northern Ireland, Wales, England, Australia and Canada. Commissioned to the nations by Brother Copeland in 2004, the Pearsons ministered in a series of ministers’ meetings, prayer schools, Partner meetings and a prayer conference. There was a powerful impartation of the Spirit of prayer in Canada during the West Coast Prayer Conference—the first conference of its kind ever held by KCM in Canada. And



Keith Moore exhorted believers to let go of any place or condition that is holding them back from the fullness of The Blessing manifesting in their lives.





The tactical emergency response was born under the leadership of Partner Glen Hyde.

dynamic ministry also took place as Pastors George and Terri spoke at the annual Australian ICFM National Convention.

Ministry at the 2006 meetings was not just for adults. Each of the week-

long Believers' Conventions featured Superkid Academy with Commanders Dana and Linda Johnson and special appearances by Commander Kellie. And youth meetings returned to the 2006 Southwest Believers' Convention under the leadership of Jeremy Pearsons, Kenneth Copeland's grandson and youth pastor at Eagle Mountain International Church. A highlight of the week was the announcement that youth meetings would be featured at all Believers' Conventions in 2007.

The 2006 meetings were also times of announcing major advances in the outreaches of Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

ANGEL FLIGHT 44

In March, KCM took official delivery of its new Citation X aircraft. And at the SWBC in August, Brother Copeland announced the formation of a new ministry—Angel Flight 44—as an outgrowth of the needs that surfaced in the wake of Hurricane Katrina which struck the Gulf Coast in September 2005. The tactical emergency response was born under the leadership of Partner Glen Hyde. He volunteered his personal DC-3 aircraft and flew into disaster areas with 20 loads totaling more than a quarter million pounds of medical supplies, food, water and hygiene products provided by KCM Partners.

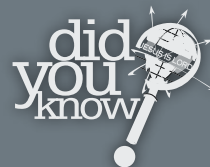
"A whole arm of ministry has been brought into existence and is being brought up to speed just as fast as we can believe God for the money, so when disaster hits, all we have to do is open the hangar door and get in the sky," Brother Copeland said. "All the water, the food, the clothes—everything necessary—is on hand and ready to load. Thank God it's coming to pass, and it's coming to pass quickly. It's called Angel Flight 44."

As the 2006 meetings season came to an end, preparations began for the 2007 meetings. Faith was rising to a new level of readiness and expectation that this generation of believers truly will be distributors of heaven's resources to those in need, and will bring the Garden of Eden everywhere they go.

Get ready for 2007, "The Year of the Open Door."

VICTORY

The phrase "One Word From God Can Change Your Life Forever" is not one Kenneth and Gloria Copeland have, or will ever, take lightly.



In fact, long before the Copelands began speaking those words into the lives of the hundreds of thousands they minister to each day through Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Kenneth had seen his own life completely revolutionized when he heard "one Word" in a teaching by Kenneth E. Hagin titled, "You Can Have What You Say."

In his quest for faith, Kenneth knew he needed to know more of what



Brother Hagin preached, but he didn't have the money to pay for it.

"What I needed next was every tape by Brother Hagin that I could get my hands on," Kenneth recalled, looking back on that time in the late 1960s. "I drove my old car over to Brother Hagin's headquarters. His son-in-law, Buddy Harrison, was his general manager. I'd never met him, but I introduced myself and told him I'd been called to preach."

"I need Brother Hagin's tapes,"

Kenneth told Harrison. "Here is the title to my car. I'll send you every offering I get until I pay for them."

Recognizing the hunger of this young preacher for the Word of God, Harrison did something unexpected. He refused the offer to accept Kenneth's car as collateral, but graciously gave him copies of all Brother Hagin's tapes.

Almost immediately Kenneth locked himself away for a solid week to study his newfound treasure—determined to hear from God.

"I knew my heart needed to be filled to overflowing with the Word," he remembers. "I took my Bible and my tape player to the garage and made myself available to God. I stayed out there for seven days. The first day, I listened to tapes for 13 hours. The second day, I was out there for close to 15 hours. From then on I averaged 18 hours a day."

What followed was the beginning of a transformation in Kenneth's life—a transformation that would be the catalyst for change in the lives of hundreds of thousands of souls for the kingdom. Only eternity will reveal the abundance of that harvest, which began with a single gift, and "one Word from God." VICTORY



The devil will not be able to close the door on what you're called to do in 2007—The Year of the Open Door!

I believe one of the most important things God has called us to do is to meet together. Back in 1968, God told me, *I want you to conduct meetings where people can totally immerse in the Word of God.* He showed me exactly how to conduct them and that there were believers out there—believers like you—who had a strong hunger to lock in to His Word.

Today, as you join in the corporate anointing at these meetings, *the intense exposure to the Word of God will renew your mind so you will become prosperous-minded, healed and well.*

—Kenneth Copeland



March 8-10 Branson Victory Campaign

Faith Life Church | 3220 Falls Parkway
Branson, MO 65616



May 11-12 Women's Conference

International Evangelical Church | Rome, Italy

July 9-14 West Coast Believers' Convention

Anaheim Convention Center
800 W. Katella Ave. | Anaheim, CA 92802

August 6-11 Southwest Believers' Convention

Fort Worth Convention Center
1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

August 20-25 Great Lakes Believers' Convention

U.S. Cellular Arena | 400 W. Kilbourn Ave.
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AS FOR ME



GENESIS 17 CONTAINS **THREE LITTLE WORDS** THAT HAVE THE POTENTIAL OF CHANGING YOUR DESTINY.

FOR FAR TOO LONG MANY OF US HAVE SETTLED FOR LESS THAN GOD'S BEST IN OUR LIVES. THE PRIMARY REASON, I BELIEVE, IS SIMPLY BECAUSE PURSUING GOD'S BEST REQUIRES A SERIOUS COMMITMENT ON OUR PART. IT REQUIRES DILIGENCE AND UNWAVERING DETERMINATION.

The Spirit of God spoke to me, *To have My best, you must be willing to give Me your best.* For many of God's people, that's just not the direction they want to go. They're not willing to give Him their best, yet they want His best.

Having God's best certainly looks good, particularly if you know somebody who is experiencing it. You desire to live like them. But giving your best is just not a commitment many of God's people are willing to make. So you have to ask yourself this question: "How desperate am I for God's best?"

I became desperate for God's best about 37 years ago.



When we make the decision that we are not going to settle for less than God's best anymore, we had better brace ourselves because the fight is on.

Average Joe

I was just your "average Joe." I was a paint and body man working on wrecked cars. I wore uniforms from the moment I got up until the time I went to bed. Over the years, I worked for several automobile dealerships. I finally opened my own shop—with Jerry's Paint & Body Shop sewn right on the uniform.

That's who I was and that's the way I lived. I went to work every day, trying my best to make a living, trying to make ends meet, living from paycheck to paycheck, hanging on to my marriage by a thread. I didn't have any hope that anything would ever change for me. I figured that's just the way I'd live the rest of my life.

But in 1969 my life began to change. I got hold of the Word of God through the ministry of Kenneth Copeland. He brought the Word of God into my life like I'd never heard it before. I began to realize that no matter what work a person is called to do, no one has to be an "average Joe."

I began to see that I—that anybody—*can* have God's best. From the start I realized I would have to *commit* to God and to have His best began with my decision. I got desperate for God's best, and for change in my life. I decided I didn't have to be "average" anymore.

Take the Limits Off God!

Now, that doesn't mean everything God promised in His Word suddenly began to

manifest in my life the day I made that decision. When we make the decision that we are not going to settle for less than God's best anymore, we had better brace ourselves because the fight is on. And the biggest fight is the one that takes place between our ears—in our mind. Some days will look as if God's best will never come to pass. We will be tempted to "throw in the towel," give up and say, "God is not coming through for me."

But don't give in. Don't limit God. Psalm 78:41 tells us it is possible for an unlimited God to be limited by His people. "Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel." *The Amplified Bible* says they did it "time and again." Can you imagine that God, in whom nothing is impossible, could be limited by His own people? In times past I have limited Him, but today I've taken my limits completely off God.

Making the decision to not limit God is the first step.

Three Little Words

Genesis 17 contains three little words that have the potential of changing your destiny—bringing all God's best to you. "And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, *As for me*, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations" (verses 1-4).

With those three little words "as for me," God is saying, *I've already made My decision*. All He was asking from Abraham was a decision on his part. Actually, all He wanted was for Abraham to say, "As for me, me too!"

All of life is made up of choices. I made a decision on Feb. 11, 1969, at 3 in the morning, "As for me, I will serve the Lord for the rest of my life. As for me, Jesus Christ is Lord."

After hearing what He says you can have, after understanding what He says belongs to you, and after discovering in His Word the kind of life He has prepared for you, you should jump up and shout out loud, "As for me!" You will never have God's best until you are willing to make this unwavering decision.

Declare It!

Do you remember Joshua's declaration before the Lord? God had asked the Israelites to make a choice. In Joshua 24, He said, "If you're going to serve Me, then I want your whole heart, your whole mind, your whole strength, I want everything about you. I am a jealous God." He brought Joshua and the children of Israel to the place where they

1967 THE FOUNDING OF A MINISTRY

IN 1967, AT A TIME WHEN KENNETH AND GLORIA COPELAND ACKNOWLEDGE THEY "DIDN'T EVEN HAVE THE MEANS TO GET OUT OF TOWN," THEY SUBMITTED TO THE LORD'S DIRECTION TO PREACH HIS UNCOMPROMISED WORD AROUND THE WORLD.

The Copelands' journey of faith in ministry began in March 1967, when Kenneth stood in the dried-up bed of the Arkansas River and received God's commission to ministry.

"He told me exactly what He was calling me to do," Kenneth recalls. "He was calling me to preach the gospel to the nations. He said...nations would be won in a day—some of them even by this ministry."

Kenneth began his preparation to preach to the "nations" during the summer of that year...but not in a pulpit or behind a podium. He took his first steps toward answering God's call in the little house he and Gloria rented in Tulsa, Okla. He picked up his Bible and walked from the bedroom to the living room. That was all he knew to do. It was as far as he knew to go. He had no money and no meetings scheduled. God had given him specific instructions never to ask anyone for money or a place to preach.

In the natural it seemed highly unlikely that he would ever have an international ministry. But Kenneth had made the decision to

step out of the natural way of thinking and reasoning, and into the supernatural wisdom of God.

Sitting down with his Bible in that little living room, Kenneth announced to God, "Lord, I'm on call." Not long after that, the calls started coming. They have been coming ever since.

Everywhere they go—from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around—Kenneth and Gloria continue to preach the uncompromised Word of God to the nations, bringing people from milk to the meat of the Word.

Today, 40 years later, Kenneth Copeland Ministries has offices and staff in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, Africa and Ukraine. Their teaching is translated into at least 22 languages in books, audio and video media, magazines, television and radio broadcasts.

Kenneth and Gloria's message is one of victory for everyone who will build their lives on the integrity of our covenant-keeping God, always holding fast to their confession that *Jesus is Lord!* **VICTORY**

had to make the decision, and Joshua was the first to stand up and declare, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

Receiving God’s best in all areas of this life requires a firm decision, a resolution that you’re not willing to back off. Remember God said to Abraham, “As for me, behold my covenant is with thee.” God is saying, *I’ve already made My decision, now what’s yours?* Our response should be, “As for me, I set myself in agreement with You.”

God gives everyone the right to choose for himself. For God’s best to come to pass in your life you must make the decision. The time has come for you to declare, “As for me, I’m going to have God’s best.”

It’s Up to Me

When you truly understand the principle that it all begins with a decision, then you’ll realize that having God’s best is your determined outcome. It’s really not up to God. He’s already said, “As for Me....”

God made a commitment to us that He will honor His Word. He will be faithful to His Word. He has already made His promise. He’s already made His commitment. Now, if it is to be, then it is up to me—and it’s up to you.

It’s going to require that you be willing to give Him your best. Psalm 84:11 tells us, “For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.” God gave me this scripture as the foundation for pursuing His best. If no good thing is being withheld, that says to me I’m walking in God’s best. But notice the requirement: “from them that walk uprightly.” To me, walking uprightly represents me giving God *my* best. God says, “I’ll give you My best. I’ll see to it that no good thing will be withheld from you. Now all I’m asking from you: Be willing to give Me *your* best.” And my best is endeavoring to *walk uprightly*.

God has given me a working definition for *walking uprightly*: “excelling.” No good thing will He withhold from them who will endeavor to *excel*. And to *excel* is simply to “go beyond all previous efforts.” Now, everyone and anyone can make the decision to go beyond all previous efforts.

The key is taking baby steps. Let each step be a step beyond all previous efforts. All the Lord has in store for your life will not be accomplished in a day, a week, a month or even a year. However, if you’ll be consistent, then it will come to pass.

You know your life. You know where you stand right now. You know whether you’re disciplined or not. You know where you’ve backed off, and you know better than anyone else where you’re taking shortcuts in your walk with God. All God is saying is: “If you will demonstrate to Me that you’re willing to take steps—even the smallest steps—beyond all your previous efforts, then I will reward you.” That’s what walking uprightly is all about—going beyond all previous effort—*excelling*.

Living Proof

Kenneth and Gloria Copeland consistently endeavor to excel. Do you suppose that might have something to do with why they walk in God’s best? I think it has everything to do with it. Over 40 years ago they made a choice: “As for me.” And then they started demonstrating to God that they were going to go beyond all previous efforts. Year in and year out God has blessed them, and He will do it for anyone who will say, “As for me, me too.”

The Holy Spirit has given me seven factors that I see as keys to excellence. Determine that you will put these keys to work in your life today:

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on TV

new

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- Walk in love.
- Line up your words with God's Word.
- Maintain an attitude of gratitude for all that God has done for you.
- Honor God continually by giving back to Him.

Now, those are the seven basic things the Lord instructed me to tell His people about how to pursue His best. Use them as a checklist and ask yourself, *Am I excelling in these?* If you are, you are showing Him that you are endeavoring to walk uprightly. And His promise is: "No good thing will I withhold from you" and that simply translates, "You have God's best."

As for me, I have made the decision to receive God's best. How about you? **VICTORY**

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.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a **free Salvation Package** we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Simply write and ask for offer #50801, check the circle on the response form in the center of this magazine or call 604-888-6301.



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



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JANUARY

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY
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<p><i>Grace to Give and Receive</i></p> <p>Join Kenneth Copeland and Leroy Thompson as they lead you in understanding a new dimension of God's Anointing in your finances—grace for giving <i>and</i> for receiving.</p>				
8	9	10	11	12
<p><i>The Door Is Open!</i></p> <p>Kenneth Copeland and Leroy Thompson continue to lead you through the doors of understanding God's plan for you and your money. Don't miss it!</p>				
15	16	17	18	19
<p><i>Entering Into God's Rest</i></p> <p>Spend time with Kellie Copeland as she teaches on what it means to rest in God's plan for your life.</p>				
22	23	24	25	26
<p><i>Resting in God's Plan</i></p> <p>Kellie Copeland returns with more insight on how resting is in the plan of God for you.</p>				
29	30	31	1	2
<p><i>Your Foundation of Health</i></p> <p>Over the next two weeks, Dr. Don Colbert and Kenneth Copeland will unfold in detail the steps you can take to assure a lifetime of good health.</p>				

SUNDAY

7	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>Take The Blessing by Faith</i></p> <p>Tune in and learn what it takes to start living in <i>The Blessing</i> now, whether you feel blessed or not!</p>
14	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>Release The Blessing</i></p> <p>Find out how <i>The Blessing</i> contains the power to change not just your <i>life</i>, but your world!</p>
21	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>How the Covenant Restored The Blessing</i></p> <p>God always intended for us to live a blessed life—contrary to popular opinion. Find out the lengths God went to in order to restore <i>The Blessing</i> after Adam and Eve fell.</p>
28	<p>Gloria Copeland</p> <p><i>The Benefits of Walking in the Light</i></p> <p>Don't miss a step in God's master plan for you, as you learn how to always walk in God's glorious light.</p>

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GoodNewsGazette

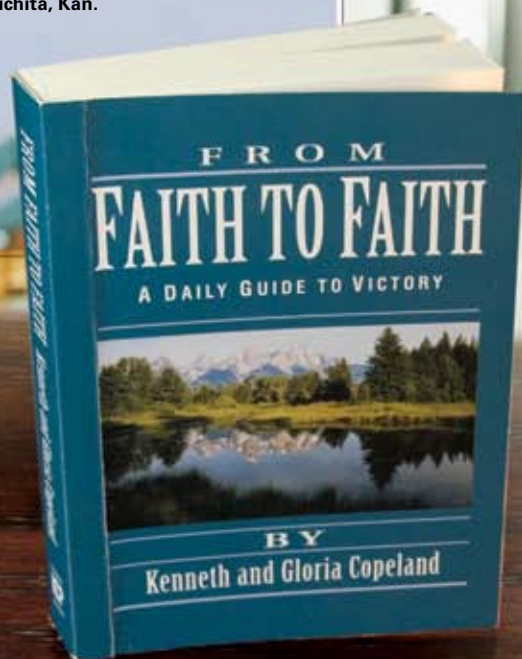
A Prisoner Set Free

I would like to thank you. I praise the Lord for your ministry, and for being a Partner with this ministry. Last week I called your 800 number, because I remembered you have a prison ministry. Unfortunately, our grandson is in jail.

A wonderful man helped to walk me through the process of just what that facility would allow him to receive. He is born again and now developing a relationship with our Lord and Savior. I wanted him to receive some of your material—in particular, *From Faith to Faith*. I found out you have a package for inmates.

I know our grandson has made some foolish choices that helped to land him in jail, but he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior when he was 15 years old, and was baptized. Now, God has his full attention. He said he reads his Bible every day, but has some trouble with understanding. Well, in the early '80s I turned on the TV and heard this country-talkin' preacher teaching the Word of God—it was Brother Kenneth Copeland. And the Word just opened up for me! God is so good! I thank God for you and Gloria. May God continue to richly bless you.

M.C. | Wichita, Kan.



...Pray one for another, THAT YE MAY BE HEALED. THE EFFECTUAL FERVENT PRAYER OF A RIGHTEOUS MAN AVAILETH MUCH (JAMES 5:16).

Saved and Delivered

Today, I received your monthly letter. You spoke about "Jesus Is Alive!" and we are alive and live because of Him.

How well do I know this? About a year ago I was living on the streets, selling my body to men for money to buy crack cocaine. My life was out of control and the devil had all of it. Needless to say, I was going down a dead-end street of death. Every day I tried to overdose on crack cocaine. My heart actually stopped a couple of times. But, wow! I'm still here! I used to cry out loud to God, "I'm sorry. Please let me die." But the harder I tried, the more He let me know He loved me!

My world was literally falling down around me, and I know today that without my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I wouldn't be here. Now my world is a much brighter and happier place to be. Today, I live in a beautiful three-bedroom home. I now have my 8-year-old son and I'm married to the most wonderful man on the planet. Life is great! And every day I thank Jesus for giving me a second chance, blessing me with this very special life I have and for forgiving me.

Thank you, Ken, for all you do in God's Name!

S.R. | Georgia

A New Man in Christ

Thank you for praying for my husband to be delivered from pornography. He has truly repented and is a totally different person. Whom the Son sets free is free indeed. Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom.

He reads his Bible two to three times a day, is really kind to me, talks about the Lord and is so grateful. You can see such a difference in his eyes and his whole countenance. He said he feels like he has been let out of jail. He truly knows the bondage of sin and never wants to return there—and won't in Jesus' Name. I am doing much, much better, too. The power of the devil is broken and will not return. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for all the materials you sent us and for all the prayers. We love and respect you both, and your ministry. Jesus is Lord over our marriage, family and ministry.

C.D. | Virginia

*I thank
Jesus
for giving me a
second
chance*

Partnership Produces Results

We sold our car to a cash buyer for a good price after our first Partner gift. We had tried to sell it on and off for three years. We are blessed and even more highly favored due to our partnership with KCM.

R.C. | Oregon

Blessed Coming In and Going Out

Our hotel gets your magazine every month. Thank you so much. We faithfully put them in every room, and you should hear all the responses we get from this. Thank you.

There are many people who take them home, or they stop by the office and want to know where we get them from. This tells me that in the middle of all Satan is trying to do, just a little gesture is all it takes to get people to take a look at what God has to say. Thank you again for being faithful, and for putting out such a wonderful magazine. God bless you all.

S.W. Branson, Mo.

The Power of Partnership

Thank you so much for your prayers and all you have sent to me, such as the magazines, tapes, books and your monthly letters. I have been really blessed by the Word of God you have shared with me.

Many others have also been blessed when I share the truth you share with me. God has even promoted me in my job. When I became a Partner with you, I was a base-level teacher. Then, I was promoted to senior teacher. I was then promoted again to head teacher.

I speak the same blessings to overflow and overtake you, so that more and more people will know and believe the great God we serve. Thank you for sharing the love of God with me. I love you, too, in Christ Jesus.

R.M. | Papua New Guinea

Daughter Healed by the Power of God

I want to share with you a wonderful testimony about the healing of my daughter. She was 13 years old when she began to take drugs. I understood that if there is no love and honor between the parents in the family, the children can't be happy and healthy. They will seek love somewhere else. My daughter preferred to find it in drugs. I was completely helpless to solve this problem.

But in the depth of my heart God told me the salvation of my daughter is in the Word of God. I understood I should pray with faith to get the devil out of my daughter's way. For a long time I prayed with faith. Sometimes it was really difficult, but from your books and broadcasts, I knew that devil didn't want to give up. I continued to pray and saw the salvation of the Lord. I was amazed. Now my daughter is healed by the Lord Jesus, thanks to your prayers. Thank you for one more healed and saved soul.

M.B. | Germany

Safe Wouldn't Open, Robbery Foiled

I was at work one morning when I opened the door and these three men came inside the shop with me. They demanded money.

I shouted the Name of Jesus, pointing at them. One of them took out his gun at that moment, and said I must not waste their time telling them about Jesus. I told them that they will see Him today. They pushed me into the office and took the key for the safe. They tried, but the safe would not open. At that moment, I was praying quietly in tongues.

They started begging me to open it for them, then left without even swearing at me. After they left, I praised the Lord Jesus.

I saw the power in the Name of Jesus. Thank you for teaching me to walk in the power of the Name.

Z.Z. | South Africa

Our POSITION OF AUTHORITY as Believers

BY KENNETH COPELAND

As new creations we have been put in a position of power and authority—a position delegated to us by God through Jesus Christ. Along with that authority come certain responsibilities. Let's examine God's Word concerning that position and the authority we have in Him.

When you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, Colossians 1:13 says you were delivered from the power of darkness. The word *power* is literally translated "authority." You have been delivered from the power, or authority, of darkness and placed into God's kingdom. Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore..." (Matthew 28:18-19). That power was given to you as part of your inheritance in Christ Jesus. You have entered into this position of authority because you are in Him.

The Word says that righteousness has come upon all men (Romans 5:18). You may ask, "Then why don't all become righteous?" Because in order to receive it, you have to act on righteousness from the point of authority.

Nov. 2, 1962, I used my authority as a human being and made a choice. I made the decision to receive Jesus as Lord of my life. At that moment, the righteousness that had been upon me came inside me. I was *made* the righteousness of God in Christ. Second Corinthians 5:21 says, "He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

JESUS SECURED OUR POWER AND AUTHORITY

Jesus succeeded in securing *all power* by going to the cross, dying a horrible death, suffering the penalty for sin and defeating Satan in the pit of hell. He came to earth as a man for one reason: to recapture the authority Satan had stolen through

Adam's disobedience in the Garden. Jesus was called the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45). After securing that power and authority, He freely gave it over into the hands of those who would believe on Him—you and me.

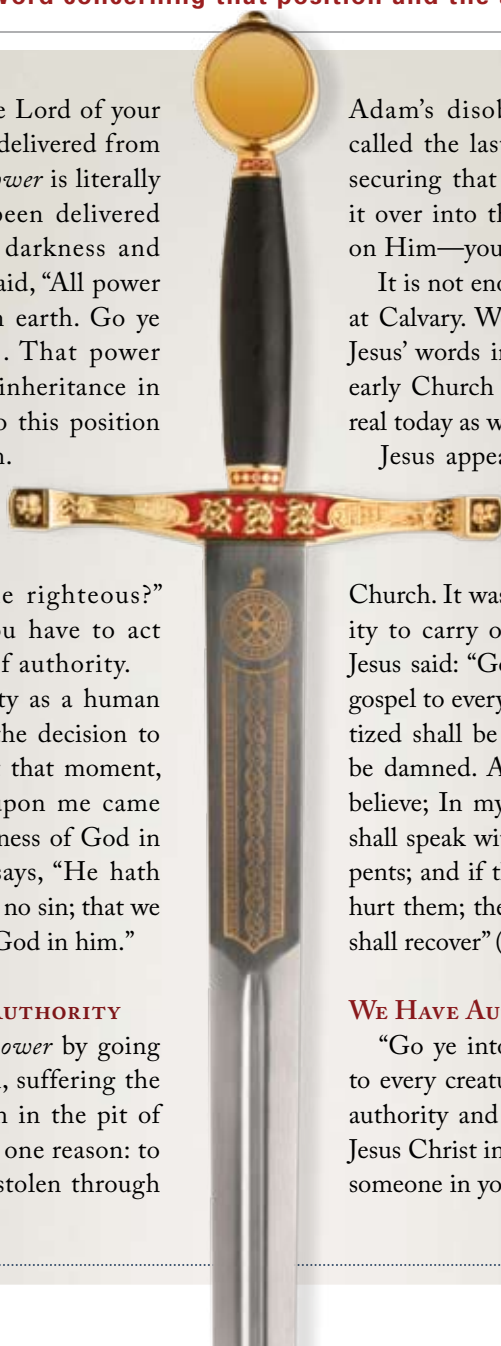
It is not enough for us to simply accept Jesus' work at Calvary. We are held responsible for much more. Jesus' words in Mark 16 were not intended for the early Church alone. His words are just as vital and real today as when they were first spoken.

Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection from the dead. His words to them form the basic foundation for the work of the New Testament

Church. It was at that time He delegated the authority to carry out that work. Beginning in verse 15, Jesus said: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:15-18).

WE HAVE AUTHORITY TO PREACH THE GOSPEL

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Every born-again believer has the authority and responsibility to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in this earth. If you can't go, you can send someone in your place.



You have the power and the authority to take
the Word of God, the Name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit and
run Satan out of your affairs.

“And these signs shall follow them that believe....” Notice who is to do all these things: *them that believe*. The signs will follow the believers who act in faith and boldly speak in Jesus’ Name. *They* shall cast out devils; *they* shall speak with new tongues; *they* shall lay hands on the sick. Believers are the ones with the power and authority to do these things.

Verse 20 says, “They went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” God will confirm His Word, but first it has to be spoken forth. That is where you and I come in. God does not preach; He has given us the authority to do the preaching. God will not lay hands on the sick. He will bring the healing, but you and I as believers must lay hands on the sick by faith, believing God will perform His Word.

WE HAVE AUTHORITY TO STAND AGAINST SATAN

One of the most vital areas of the believer’s authority is his power to successfully stand against Satan. Ephesians 4:27 says, “Neither give place to the devil.” In Ephesians 6, the Apostle Paul describes the armor that we as believers are to wear in combat against Satan. He explains each piece of that armor. It is the armor of God. But not once does he say that God will put the armor on you or that God will fight the devil for you. *You* is the understood subject of these verses. He says, “[*You*] be strong in the Lord.... [*You*] put on the whole armour of God, that [*you*] may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [*You*] take the whole armour of God, that [*you*] may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, [*you*] stand.” God has given you the power and the authority to stand against Satan and his destructive works. He has provided the armor, but it is your responsibility as a believer to put on that armor and stand against the devil. James 4:7 says, “[*You*] resist the devil, and he will flee from *you*.” The armor and the weapons are at your disposal. God is there with you to back His Word; but all that is worthless unless you take your position of authority and assume the responsibility to use what He has provided. *You have the power and the authority to take the Word of God, the Name of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit and run Satan out of your affairs.* Don’t pray and ask God to fight Satan for you. You are the one in authority. Take your responsibility

and speak directly to Satan yourself and stand your ground firmly. He will flee!

WE ARE SEATED WITH HIM IN HIGH AUTHORITY

In Ephesians 1, Paul prayed a prayer for the body of believers in Ephesus. One part of that prayer was that they know “the exceeding greatness of his power to [those] who believe” (Ephesians 1:19). That *exceeding great power* is the same power that God used to raise Jesus from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavens. Ephesians 1:21 tells us that Jesus is seated “far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named.”

The work God did in Jesus was supreme. He raised Jesus from the dead and set Him *far above* all other authority—not only in this world, but also in the heavenly world. Then verses 22-23 say that God has put *all* things under His feet and made Him head over the Church which is His body. Where are the feet? They are in the body. As believers, we are part of His body and we are seated with Him in that highly exalted place of authority. Praise God! Look at Ephesians 2: “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Even when we were dead in sins, [God] hath quickened us together with Christ, and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (verses 1, 5-6).

We are seated together with Him. Where? *Far above* all principality and power and might and dominion. As a believer, you have accepted the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary. Therefore, you are part of His body and are seated with Him in that heavenly place, equipped with the same power, the same authority that He has.

The great power that God worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead is the same creative power of God that worked in you to make you alive when you were dead in your trespasses and sins. The moment you made Jesus Christ the Lord of your life, that same power was exercised on your dead, unregenerate spirit, causing it to be reborn in the likeness of God Himself. Any man who is in Christ Jesus is a new creation: old things have

He came to
earth as a man
for one reason:
to recapture
the authority
that Satan
had stolen
through Adam’s
disobedience
in the Garden.

As believers, we are part of His body and we are seated with Him in that highly exalted place of authority.

passed away, all things are new, and all things are of God (2 Corinthians 5:17-18).

WE HAVE THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD TO EXERCISE OUR AUTHORITY

And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? 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. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? (Mark 4:35-40).

Jesus spoke the words, "Let us pass over unto the other side," and there was enough power and authority in those words to accomplish the job. One thing I want you to notice is that Jesus did not take command of the ship to see that His words were carried out. He walked to the back of the boat and went to sleep. Jesus delegated the authority to His disciples and they accepted it. But when the storm came, they were filled with fear that the boat would sink. Jesus had to carry out the responsibility of authority, which He had delegated to them, by rebuking the wind and the sea.

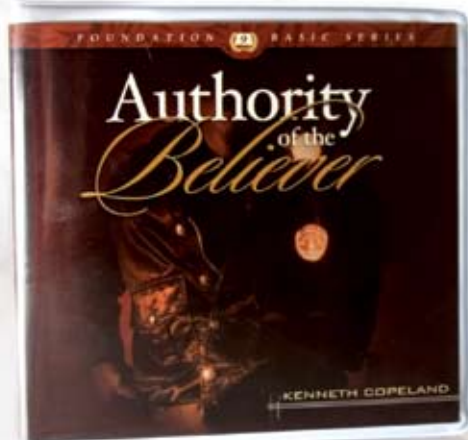
Do you see the parallel here? You are the captain of your ship. You have control over your own life—your spirit, your soul and your body. Jesus has delegated power, or authority,

over Satan to you as a believer. You are to give him no place in your life. You are born of the Spirit of God. You are filled with the Spirit of God. You have been given the Word of God. Those three elements are enough for you to carry out your spiritual authority here in the earth. You don't need any more power. You have all the power necessary. You simply have to exercise your authority. Jesus has already done everything necessary to secure the authority and power over sin, sickness, demons and fear. You have to employ the faith action to receive that authority and join forces with Him in this earth. You are the one to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

WE HAVE AUTHORITY TO ACT AS NEW CREATIONS

Hebrews 2:14 says, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same." Jesus partook of flesh and blood, so that you could partake of spirit and life. For you to partake of that spirit and life, you must take the responsibility of standing in the place of authority as the new creation in Christ Jesus that you are. You are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God (1 Peter 1:23). It was the Word of Almighty God that was injected into your spirit man to bring about the new birth in your life. When the Church was first beginning, Acts 12:24 described it as the Word growing and multiplying. The Word is in you, but you are the one who must be willing to allow it to work in you.

Ephesians 4:21-24 says, "If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God



DISCOVER YOUR AUTHORITY

When Jesus ascended to heaven, all power in heaven and earth was given to Him. Then He gave that same authority to us. As new creations we have been put in a position of power and authority—a position delegated to us by God through Jesus Christ.

In this series, Kenneth Copeland will show you how to stand against the devil in any situation and never back down. Discover the authority God has given you through Jesus Christ and the responsibilities that come with that power.

Order this CD series now and receive the in-depth, companion study guide by Kenneth Copeland FREE!

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is created in righteousness and true holiness.”

You are the one in authority. It is your responsibility to put off the old man—the unregenerate man that you were before you accepted Jesus. The Holy Spirit does the actual work in you, but you must make the decision to allow Him to do it. God has never forced His will on any person. *You* put off the old man. *You* use the Word of God to renew your mind. *You* put on the new man, which is created in righteousness and true holiness.

WE CAN MINISTER AND WALK FROM A POINT OF AUTHORITY

God’s power is in His Word. He is “upholding all things by the word of his power” (Hebrews 1:3). You need to learn to minister and walk from a point of authority. In His earthly ministry, Jesus said such things as “Be thou made whole.” “Take up your bed and walk.” Then Peter said to a lame man, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk” (Acts 3:6). He too ministered and spoke from a point of authority.

It’s time for you as a believer to begin to act that way. You have obtained an inheritance, and in that inheritance you have been given all authority. The God of the universe lives inside you! He lives and walks in you. Become God-inside-minded and you will begin to walk in this point of authority.

Keep right on building yourself up in your inheritance. You live in a world that is full of evil influences. Satan would like you to forget the reality of being born again and never realize your place of authority in Christ Jesus, because if you do, that power you walk in makes you absolutely dangerous to him. He has no defense against you when you walk in the power of God’s Word.

When you see in the Word that you are in Christ Jesus, that you are in Him, then confess it with all your heart. Then you will be strong, standing in a point of authority and operating in your inheritance in Him. As you do this, the power of God will always be available to work in your behalf. Praise God! **VICTORY**

The Founders on

by David Barton

Public Religious Expression



Whereas, the people of these United States, from their earliest history to the present time, have been led by the hand of a kind Providence and are indebted for the countless blessings...and dependent for continued prosperity...upon Almighty God; and whereas the great vital and conservative element in our system is the belief of our people in the pure doctrines and divine truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, *it eminently becomes the representatives of a people so highly favored to acknowledge in the most public manner their reverence for God:* therefore, resolved, that the daily sessions of this body be opened with prayer and that the ministers of the Gospel in this city are hereby requested to attend and alternately perform this solemn duty.

—House Judiciary Committee, 1854

By their own words and actions, America’s founders have answered the critics of public religious expression.

Government support of chaplains and religious activities is a matter of record. Even Thomas Jefferson, sometimes labeled irreligious, violated “civil religion” standards. Jefferson appropriated federal funds to pay for Christian missionaries to the Indians. He also signed acts setting aside government lands for the sole use of religious groups.

When Washington, D.C. became the national capital in 1800, Congress voted for the Capitol building to also serve as a church. President Jefferson attended and provided

paid government musicians. He also began Christian services at the Treasury building and the War Office. In his words: “No nation has ever existed or been governed without religion. Nor can be.”

John Jay, the original chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, wrote: “[It is] the duty of all wise, free, and virtuous governments to countenance and encourage virtue and religion.”

Public days of prayer, fasting and thanksgiving were also proclaimed.

The historical evidence is clear: Those who oppose public religious expression lack any broad historical basis for their arguments. Such opposition certainly cannot be justified in the name of the founding fathers.

VICTORY

David Barton is the founder and president of WallBuilders, a pro-family organization which seeks to educate grass-roots society to rebuild America’s constitutional, moral and religious foundations. For more information go to www.wallbuilders.com, call 817-441-6044 or write to WallBuilders, P.O. Box 397, Aledo, TX 76008-0397.



BY MELANIE HENRY

Qualified to

ORVAL BROOKS SHUFFLED THROUGH THE MAIL THAT ARRIVED IN THE MORNING POST, THEN TOSSED MOST OF IT ONTO THE MOUNTING STACK OF UNPAID BILLS. HE SANK INTO THE CHAIR AND LEANED HIS ELBOWS ON THE DESK. HEAD IN HANDS, HE SAT WAITING FOR SOME KIND OF INSPIRATION. THERE HAD TO BE A WAY OUT OF THE SINK-HOLE HIS ELECTRICAL BUSINESS SEEMED TO HAVE FALLEN INTO. NO MATTER HOW HARD HE WORKED OR HOW VALIANTLY HE STRUGGLED, HE COULDN'T SEEM TO GET AHEAD.

Unconcerned that he had just lost \$20,000, the Holy Spirit said, *I want you to put Kenneth Copeland on the radio in the Los Angeles market. Pay upfront for the first three months.*

Dream

God, are You there? I could use some help here.

He sighed. Who knew the mind of God? His earliest memories had been of playing under the pew in a Pentecostal church. Yet even after years of being a Christian, he had no idea how to live a victorious life.

"I'm a failure," he muttered, staring at a chipped spot on the desk. There, he'd admitted it. He'd been so sure that he could run his own business, but there was no need to keep beating his head against a financial wall.

There was only one thing left to do.

He'd fold up his hopes, pack away his dreams and cut his losses. He locked the door behind him and stepped out into the warm California sun. A balmy breeze ruffled his hair as he opened the door of his truck and drove away.

Leave the big dreams to people who qualify for them, Orval mused. I just need a job.

From Defeat to Victory | "I closed down my business and went to work for another company," Orval remembers. "A few years later, in 1971, I attended the first Full Gospel Businessmen's retreat. One of the speakers was a young guy named Kenneth Copeland. He taught something that shook my world.

"He opened the Bible to 1 John 4:4 and read 'greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.' He showed us scripturally that because Jesus had already overcome the world we could live in victory 24 hours a day, seven days a week. He even went so far as to say that a man could know the will of God for his life.

"I'd been in church my whole life and had never heard anything that radical. Just about everyone I knew got saved Sunday morning, backslid during the week and then headed back to the altar the following week. We didn't have enough victory to make it from Sunday to Sunday!"

Inspired by what he heard, Orval bought Kenneth Copeland's tapes and immersed himself in the Word.

"I stopped listening to the radio in my truck," he recalls. "I listened to those tapes day in and day out instead. My wife Mary Lou saw such a change in me, she wanted to know what had happened. I told her I'd been changed by Brother Copeland's teaching. When we heard that he would be speaking in July at a Full Gospel Businessmen's meeting in San Francisco, she wanted to go!"

During that meeting, Kenneth Copeland called Orval out of the audience and told him, "Stay in the Word just like you've done for the past three months and by the end of the year you'll be able to stand and say, 'I'm in the will of God!'"

Knowing the Will of God | From July to November 1971, Orval continued to saturate himself with the Word. Then, in November, an electrical contractor who had worked with Orval in the past was doing a big job for a major hotel chain. He had subcontracted the fire alarm installation to another company, but the work didn't get done.

"What are you doing these days, Orval?" the contractor asked.

"I'm working for other people."



Orval and his new wife, Maureen, were on the same spiritual page. He discovered that Maureen had attended almost as many of Kenneth Copeland's meetings as he had.

"When you're in partnership with a ministry of such high integrity, their blessings become your blessings. My personal life, my business and my finances were transformed by the Word of God they taught, and by the benefits of partnership."

“We need you.”

“Sorry,” Orval said, “I didn’t make enough money to stay in business.”

“How much money do you need to get back into business for yourself?”

Orval named an amount, and the man cut him a check.

Orval blinked. Somehow, he’d just seen his business miraculously resurrected. At that moment, Orval Brooks had an epiphany.

I’m in the will of God! I’m called to be a businessman and help finance the end-time harvest! I never have to be a roller-coaster Christian again! This is exactly what Kenneth Copeland prophesied would happen!

In 1972, Orval attended a meeting in Long Beach, Calif., where he sat among other hungry young Christians. A young Jerry Savelle was running the sound system. The meetings ran morning and evening for three weeks. During that time, Orval heard the Holy Spirit speak to him.

You need to get this man a sound system.

Orval invited Brother Copeland to lunch and discussed what he wanted in a sound system. Orval brought the new sound system to the next Full Gospel Businessmen’s retreat where Brother Copeland prayed and dedicated it to the Lord.

A Step of Faith | Later that year, Orval and Mary Lou flew to Texas to attend one of Brother Copeland’s meetings. Back home, he was listening to tapes from that meeting as he drove to collect a \$20,000 fee for a job he’d done.

When he reached the business, it was locked. A sign on the door explained that the IRS had closed it down. Unconcerned that he had just lost \$20,000, the Holy Spirit said, *I want you to put Kenneth Copeland on the radio in the Los Angeles market. Pay upfront for the first three months.*

“Yes, Lord,” Orval replied. As he turned his truck to drive home, the Lord commanded, *Do it now!*

Orval drove to radio station KFSG, which had been built by Aimee Semple McPherson, the Pentecostal evangelist who founded the Foursquare denomination and Angelus Temple.

“A friend of mine is anticipating going on the radio,” Orval explained. “What time do you have available for a 15-minute segment?”

“We have a 15-minute opening just before Kenneth Hagin.”

“I’ll take it,” Orval said, pulling out his checkbook.

At the Lord’s direction, Orval then called Brother Copeland and told him, “This is what God told me to do. When you’re ready to go on the radio just let me know.”

Within a few months, Kenneth Copeland Ministries was on 13 stations, including KFSG. A year later, the *Believer’s Voice of Victory* broadcast was being heard on 700 stations.

Spreading the Word | “I tried to be involved with all of Brother Copeland’s meetings held in this part of the country,” Orval recalls. “In 1974, the Lord told me to videotape Kenneth’s meeting the next time he came to California.

“He was scheduled to preach at Fred Price’s church, Crenshaw Christian Center, in Los Angeles. Brother Price had just bought the property and probably had about 200 people rattling around in that big building.

“I wasn’t flush with money, and wondered where I was going to get the truck I needed to accomplish what God told me to do. I’d noticed a church that owned a big truck, so I called and asked what they would charge me to use it for a week. I was told that if I could get it running I could use it for free. We pulled it into my shop and got it running.”

A good friend of Orval’s, an engineer at the then 1-year-old Trinity Broadcasting Network, wanted to know what Orval intended to do with the videotapes.

“The Lord just told me to videotape the meeting,” Orval explained. “That’s what I’m going to do.”

“I’d like to link up to your equipment and show it live on TBN,” the friend told him. “We’ll come out and put up a microwave dish, and run it up to one of our transmitters.”

Orval parked the truck behind Crenshaw Christian Center and videotaped the meetings, which were aired live on TBN. Paul Crouch, owner of TBN, was so impressed he asked to meet Kenneth Copeland, Orval recalled. Orval drove Brother Copeland to meet with Crouch, and soon after a relationship between the two men and their ministries was launched.

A Divine Connection | “I attended KCM’s first convention in Anaheim,” Orval remembers, “and I was one of their very first Partners. I discovered that when you get in meetings where the Holy Spirit is moving, you get all kinds of witty ideas.



The anointing for prosperity was so thick that Sunday afternoon the Lord directed me to grab a yellow pad and pencil. God revealed a whole new product to me that had never been invented.

CHANGING LIVES

FOR 40 YEARS AND COUNTING

"I remember attending the first prosperity meeting that Brother Copeland taught in Wilmington, Calif. The anointing for prosperity was so thick that Sunday afternoon the Lord directed me to grab a yellow pad and pencil. God revealed a whole new product to me that had never been invented. The only problem was, I didn't know what to do with it. That evening, I told Brother Copeland and he said, 'Let's set ourselves in agreement about this, Orval.'"

By 1977, Orval's new product, the Life Safety High-Rise Fire Alarm System, was on the market. Orval's company manufactured the system, and at times had 50-60 installation jobs going at once. Today, the system is required for any building over eight stories.

That wasn't the only witty invention the Lord gave Orval. During the '80s he developed and sold nine more new products.

"The Lord has greatly blessed my partnership with KCM," Orval explains. "When you're in partnership with a ministry of such high integrity, their blessings become your blessings. My personal life, my business and my finances were transformed by the Word of God they taught, and by the benefits of partnership."

"In 28 years I've only missed one West Coast Believers' Convention, and that was a mistake. My wife and I had booked a cruise in advance, making sure we would be home in time for the convention. What we didn't know was that KCM moved the convention up by three weeks that year. I hated missing it, and made sure it never happened again."

Continuing to Stand | Although every life has its ups and downs, Orval learned he could live victoriously through it all. The Lord imparted great grace and comfort when Mary Lou went home to be with Him. Thirteen years ago, he remarried.

Orval and his new wife, Maureen, were on the same spiritual page. He discovered that Maureen had attended almost as many of Kenneth Copeland's meetings as he had. In fact, for years while Orval sat on the first floor, Maureen had been in the balcony at the same meetings.

"It's been 13 years and we haven't had our first fight!" Orval says, beaming. "We might disagree, but we live by faith."

Today, Orval Brooks is 74 years old. Has he retired?

"I can't retire," he says. "Someone's got to finance the last great revival, and I want to do my part!"

This year has been one of the busiest of Orval's life. He is currently in the process of working on seven hotels.

During the last 35 years, Orval Brooks has continued to immerse himself in the Word of God. He has listened to Kenneth Copeland's sermons so often he could probably preach them himself.

What message is his favorite?

"That would have to be the very first message I ever heard Brother Copeland preach in 1971. He taught me that I never had to live defeated again."

There's no doubt about it, Orval Brooks has learned that lesson and taken his place among those who are qualified to dream. **VICTORY**



W Whether you've been a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries for 40 years, or 40 days, your life has been changed by our partnership. You, in turn, are changing the lives of people you may never meet this side of heaven—and you are getting heavenly credit for touching those lives just as if you had done it yourself.

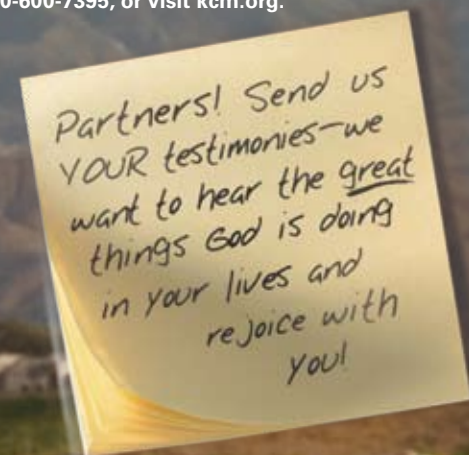
Partnership is God's way for all of us to do more together than any of us could do alone.

As we combine our spiritual and physical resources with God's power to change lives, there's nothing we can't do and no life that can't be changed!

If you're not a Partner with us, pray about making *The Partnership Connection* with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. When you become a Partner, you'll receive our Partner Package that contains information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more. Or, if you'd simply like more information, just let us know.

IT'S TIME TO GET CONNECTED!

To become a Partner or to learn more about partnership: check the circle on the response form in the center of this magazine, call 800-600-7395, or visit kcm.org.



EVEN AS A 5-YEAR-OLD YOUNGSTER, THERE WAS A STIRRING IN HERB SCHNEIDER'S HEART FOR MINISTRY. AND THOUGH IT WOULD BE ANOTHER 16 YEARS BEFORE HERB WOULD ACCEPT JESUS AS HIS SAVIOR, GOD WAS ALREADY PREPARING HIM FOR A GREAT WORK. | "GOD'S GIVEN ME A WONDERFUL WIFE WHO HAS THE SAME VISION I HAVE," SAYS HERB TODAY AS HE RETRACES THE EARLY DAYS OF MICRONESIAN LIFE MINISTRIES. THROUGH THEIR MINISTRY, HERB AND HIS WIFE, JAN, HAVE HELPED BRING HOPE TO THE PEOPLE OF MICRONESIA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE PACIFIC ISLANDS FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS. "WE HAVE THE LOVE OF GOD FOR THE ISLAND PEOPLE AND THANK GOD FOR HIS ASSIGNMENT IN OUR LIVES."

ISLAND HOPPING

Bringing Jesus to the Island People



A major part of their outreach, Schneider says, has been due to the help of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. In the late 1990s, following a series of meetings KCM conducted in the Marshall Islands, a partnership was formed between the two ministries.

"We're so thankful for Kenneth Copeland Ministries being involved with us," Herb said. "I can't tell you how much of a blessing he is to us and to this ministry. Kenneth has taken hold of the vision for the islands. We thank God for what he has done, what his staff is doing, and for the KCM Partners who are making this possible."

As founders of Micronesian Life Ministries, Herb and Jan Schneider are happy doing what God has called them to do. The islands are plentiful, and so is the harvest. But as Jesus said, the laborers are few.

There are 22 Pacific Island nations, which cover 21 million square miles of ocean—an area seven times larger than the continental U.S. The three major island groups of Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia have a combined population of more than 8 million people.

"If we looked at the magnitude of this assignment, we'd be overwhelmed, and wouldn't even take the first step," Herb said. "We just look into our spirit, where there is no limit, and then follow the leading of the Holy Spirit. Some islands we can reach by air, and others by boat, but we will continue to do whatever is necessary to reach even one person for Jesus."

Micronesian Life Ministries was birthed in 1985, as an outgrowth of the Schneiders' hospital ministry to Micronesian patients going to Hawaii for medical treatment.

"It was great," Herb recalls. "A lot of people got saved, and everyone got healed." Because of their faithfulness in the hospital ministry, God opened the

door for them to move to the Marshall Islands, and to minister there for the next 13 years.

For the past three years, Herb and Jan have returned to Micronesia where they have reached 7600 people on nine islands through extensive crusades. More than 365 people have been saved, 4200 healed and received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and all have grown stronger in the Word.

TIME FOR THE GLORY

It is time for the islands to be filled with the glory of God. Last September the Schneiders flew out from their Big Island, Hawaii, headquarters for six weeks of crusades throughout the Marshall Islands, Guam, Palau, Saipan and Pohnpei. God has given them favor with the island people, and He is opening many doors of opportunity because the islands are so ripe for harvest.

God has been raising up evangelistic teams to go out to the islands with them. Four Rhema graduates from Kona Christian Church, Hawaii, joined them in Pohnpei this year for some powerfully anointed ministry. Micronesian Life Ministries is fulfilling God's assignment by going out into the islands and doing the works of Jesus.

Herb and Jan first discovered Kenneth Copeland Ministries 17 years ago when they found a *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine in a box of giveaway books at a library in Kwajalein, Marshall Islands. They liked what they read, their prayers were answered and they became Partners with KCM.

They met Kenneth Copeland in 1997, when he brought Jerry Savelle and Jesse Duplantis with him to Ebeye, Marshall Islands, to hold an interdenominational campaign. "They started something wonderful when they came," Herb said. "We hit obstacles about every other day when we were planning that meeting—primarily people obstacles—trying to stop it. But when God is for you, who can be against you? We knew what God wanted to do. What a victorious time we all had, as several thousand lives were changed during that meeting."

Several years later, Kenneth Copeland and Jerry Savelle came to Kosrae, an island in Micronesia, for a meeting where many more lives were touched.

PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

As Partners with KCM, Micronesian Life Ministries receives support through the Fort Worth office. "If we need materials to send out, all we have to do is pick up the phone and ask. Kenneth has the heart to reach everyone on the planet. The Word of God is going forth, and we cannot

thank Kenneth Copeland Ministries enough for what they're doing."

Micronesian Life Ministries also reaches thousands of Pacific Islanders each year through their distribution of free tapes, videos, Bibles and books, and the equipment to play them. Much of this material is provided by KCM. Some of these items end up on outer islands where there are no stores, roads, cars or electricity, so these shipments also include batteries. For many of these people, this is their only source of spiritual food.

Because of limited air service to these remote islands, the Schneiders are believing God for an airplane. Herb is an accomplished pilot and knows exactly what type of airplane they need. When the plane comes in, they expect to spend most of their time bringing ministry teams to spread God's anointed Word throughout the Pacific Islands.

At the 2006 Southwest Believers' Convention in Fort Worth, Texas, the Lord spoke to Herb and Jan through Brother Copeland concerning their airplane:

The Word of the Lord just came to me concerning your airplane that you've been believing God for. *It is at the door. It's right at the door.* That's the word I heard from the Lord, so just begin to shout, get your Jeppesen charts up to date.

He and his family minister throughout the islands of the Pacific. And I might add I've heard that three different times during this convention, but this time the Lord instructed me to say it to you and to release it by faith in the Name of Jesus.

"We consider Kenneth and Gloria Copeland our spiritual parents. We have learned so much from their teachings, and we thank God for this divine connection," Herb said. "My wife and I can't have more respect for anyone than we do for Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and their ministry. We honor them every way we possibly can."

Herb says, "We give God all the glory for what He is doing, for without Him, we can do nothing." **VICTORY**



Because of limited air service to these remote islands, the Schneiders are believing God for an airplane. Herb is an accomplished pilot and knows exactly what type of airplane they need.



As founders of Micronesian Life Ministries, Herb and Jan Schneider are happy doing what God has called them to do. The islands are plentiful, and so is the harvest.



Our Covenant of

There is a place in Christ Jesus where we abide in the secret place of God's protection. The world knows nothing about this secret place, nor can they live there.... It is a place revealed by the Holy Spirit. It is for the obedient. Our life is hid with Christ in God.

That's a word the Lord gave me several years ago and I'm so thankful we can abide in that secret place of God's protection. We can go to a place most people know nothing about! | I'm sure I don't need to tell you we are living in dangerous days. Televisions blare the news of wars, terrorist attacks, record-breaking disasters and drug-related crime. There is more violence now than there has ever been in my lifetime, and it continues to escalate. It's a sobering day.

Protection

BY GLORIA COPELAND

But believers have nothing to fear!

When we look at things in the natural realm, it may seem like a scary time to live. But in the supernatural realm, it's the most powerful time to live. We have a place of protection in God that will keep us completely safe, regardless of what is happening in the world around us.

It's *Him* we must depend upon. And to have confidence—to have faith—in His ability to keep us, we must know what His Word says about our safety and protection well enough to act on it.

I believe these are the last days and Jesus could come at anytime. Until then, we can abide “under the shadow of the Almighty” (Psalm 91:1). Instead of caving in to fear, we can stand confidently on the Word and walk boldly in our covenant of protection.

End-Time Instructions

In Matthew 24, Jesus told His disciples what to expect just before the end. The signs He spoke of—wars, famine, earthquakes, unbridled sin—are echoed in today's headlines. When the disciples asked Jesus what would signal His return and the end of the world, He said:

“Don't let anyone mislead you. For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will lead many astray. And wars will break out near and far, *but don't panic*. Yes, these things must come, but the end won't follow immediately. The nations and kingdoms will proclaim war against each other, and there will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this will be only the beginning of the horrors to come.... Sin will be rampant everywhere, and the love of many will grow cold. But those who endure to the end will be saved. And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then, finally, the end will come” (verses 4-14, *New Living Translation*).

Don't panic because of these things, Jesus said! And don't join people who are flocking toward sin either. Second Timothy 3:13 says that “Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse.” That accurately describes this generation. The closer we get to the catching away of the Church, the worse it becomes in the natural realm.

Thank God, He warned us about these things. And Thank God He assured us, “The Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world.” That's being done now on a scale never before seen! God desires for “All men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth” (1 Timothy 2:4). It is never His

will for anyone to be left outside His blessing and protection. That's why He sent Jesus.

Galatians 3:13-14 says, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ.”

To walk in the blessing and protection of God, we first must *choose* Jesus as Savior. But He won't force us to make that decision. The Lord won't force us to get under His protective shadow either. We *choose* the blessing over the curse. The first step to the blessing is to receive Jesus as Lord over our lives. This decision translates you out of darkness into light—from one kingdom into another. “[The Father] has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and the dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love” (Colossians 1:13, *The Amplified Bible*).

Now, I want to take a moment and say this: If you haven't yet given your heart to Jesus, you can make that decision right now. Say, “Jesus, I make You Lord of my life. Take my life and do something with it. Teach me how to live and how to be free.”

Once you make Jesus your Savior and Lord, you are redeemed from the curse (Galatians 3:13). You've been made free from every evil thing. Jesus bore it for you. When you receive *salvation* you receive “deliverance, preservation, material and temporal deliverance from danger and apprehension, pardon, protection, liberty, health, restoration, soundness and wholeness.” Protection belongs to you if you are born again. *In Christ Jesus, you have a covenant of divine protection with God*. But it's not automatic. Any covenant has two sides, so, *you* have a part to play.

Our Secret Refuge

God's Word reveals your part and His part. Psalm 91:1-2 begins with your part: “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High *shall abide* under the shadow of the Almighty. *I will say of the Lord*, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.”

Verses 3-4 reveal God's part: “Surely he shall deliver thee. He shall cover thee....”

God will protect you when you make Jesus Lord of your life, follow Him, walk in the light you have, *and take Him as your refuge*. You receive the Lord as your refuge the same way you receive Jesus as Savior, and that is, you release your faith for Him to protect you and say it. Speak words in agreement with God's Word. If you abide under the shadow of the Almighty and speak words of faith, it gives Him place in your life. It positions you for His protection.

It's true no one knows what could happen next in

this world. But believers don't need to be afraid. In Christ Jesus, we can abide "in the secret place of the Most High...Whose power no foe can withstand" (Psalm 91:1, *The Amplified Bible*). We must *get in* and *stay in* that place *through faith*.

We can't expect God to move heaven and earth to protect us if we're full of fear. If we're full of fear, we're not full of faith—and we've stepped out of our place of refuge. According to the Bible, the thing we fear will come upon us (Job 3:25).

Over and over the Bible commands us to "Fear not!" It is the opposite of faith. Fear opens the door to the devil. But faith shuts the door to the devil and everything bad that's under the curse. Wickedness and danger are in the earth, but they don't have to affect us. Believers have a safe place in God, *but we must lay hold of, and believe for it*.

If you are living in fear—get delivered! Refuse to let fear dominate your thoughts, your heart or your mouth. Rebuke fear in the Name of Jesus. Read and meditate the scriptures that promise God's protection continually until

there is no fear. God has given you the power to overcome fear by His Word.

Go After the Word, Not the World

Continue a steady diet of God's promises of protection. Joshua 1:8 says to think about God's Word day and night. That's the way you renew your mind (Romans 12:2). God's promises will become more real to you. Then you will be able to stand in faith on God's promises of protection for your life. You'll be able to speak the Word boldly and fear will have no place—you'll have absolute confidence in the fact that God is taking care of you.

That's important because the devil's mission is to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10). Every day he is working hard to get a foothold in our lives. Every day we have to work to keep him out. The Bible word for this is RESIST. "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Our protection depends on our choices, too. Believers must *choose* not to think or act like the crazy, mixed-up world.

You can't say, "I didn't know what the Word said about that, so I'm not responsible." Not true. You're responsible to find out what the Bible says about you, your future and what you are to do.

It's up to each of us to spend time in the Word every day. If you think you're too busy, then you probably are. Consider watching less television. Get up earlier or stay up later. Do whatever it takes to keep your faith strong. These are dangerous days. But not for you and me if we live *every* day with the Word of God—and we choose to abide there.

Attach Yourself to God

Here's something else you need to know: You can't just believe God for protection, then disregard what He tells you about other things in your life. If you're not obeying Him, you're not abiding in Him. When you abide, you *keep* yourself in the Word of God, you *keep* yourself

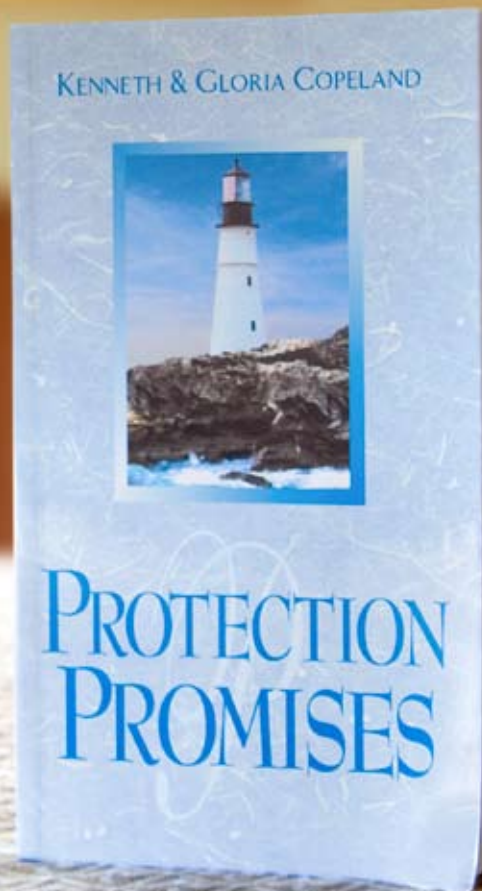
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WE CAN STAND CONFIDENTLY ON THE WORD AND
walk boldly in our covenant of protection.

obedient, and you *keep* your words in line with God's words. Obeying is abiding—dwelling under the shadow of Almighty God. That's what keeps you safe.

That's how you'll be able to hear the Lord in a dangerous situation. If you're accustomed to hearing and obeying Him, you'll be able to hear His direction clearly. But if you are not in the habit of listening, you probably wouldn't hear Him, and even if you did—you probably wouldn't do what He said.

The truth is, if you don't hear God in the little things, you won't hear Him in the big things. So be listening and be quick to change. If you get an uneasy, scratchy feeling in your spirit letting you know something is not right, yield to that. Listening to God and following Him is part of your protection.

Listening to God in the written Word and obeying it is a *major* part of protection.

The Word will always be correcting us. I don't know anyone so perfect that they're not corrected when they spend time in the Word. So, when we read the Word, we must make a decision to obey what we read. For instance, when we read 1 Corinthians 13 and are reminded to walk in love, we must make an effort to do just that!

Cultivating a lifestyle of listening and obeying God is the *major* part of our protection.

God is always trying to get people to come to a place of safety. In the Bible we read how He has always wanted to bless and protect His people. He instructed the children of Israel to live in such a way that He could do that. But often, they chose to go a different direction.

We hear His heart in scriptures like Matthew 23:37: "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God's messengers! *How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn't let me.*"

That is God saying, "I wanted to do you good and protect you, but you wouldn't let Me." The result of their disobedience is told in verse 38: "And now look, your house is left to you, empty and desolate" (*New Living Translation*).

In Deuteronomy 28, God was explicit about what brings blessing. He was also explicit about what happens to those who don't do what He says. The Bible tells us what happened when the children of Israel didn't keep His Word. When they didn't follow Him, they were out from under His protection—out from

under His wings—and they were *exposed to the curse*.

The same thing is true today: The disobedient and the ignorant aren't under God's protection. But when you attach yourself to God—when you abide in Him—you're in the safest place on earth.

Get on the things of God and stay there. Don't let any thing, any situation, any condition talk you out of it. Cling to Him, attach yourself to Him, "for He is your life and the length of your days," as Deuteronomy 30 says:

I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live and may love the Lord your God, obey His voice, and cling to Him. For He is your life and the length of your days, that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to give to your fathers... (verses 19-20, *The Amplified Bible*).

Who chooses how we live? We do. We make that choice when we decide if we are going to obey the Lord.

If things aren't going well in your life, it's not God's fault. There could be something you just don't know. And that's called ignorance. The answer for that condition is to find out the will of God from His Word and obey it.

Or maybe you know what you should do, but you aren't doing it. That was true of the children of Israel and the result was never good. They knew what to do, but they decided not to obey God. That's called disobedience.

Either way, you have a choice. Will you live according to the will of God and do what He says? Or will you live like the world?

Your protection depends on the choices you make.

So open up your heart and say, "Lord, if I'm missing it somewhere, please correct me. Teach me. Show me what I need to know." You may not enjoy finding out that you've been missing it, but you will enjoy the results. I am so grateful every time God corrects me.

God is always trying to get protection to you and me. He's trying to help us stay in a safe place, so we can get our job done before Jesus comes.

So stand on your covenant of protection. Be quick to hear and quick to repent. Your obedience will keep you in that secret place mentioned in Psalm 91...safe under God's wing! **VICTORY**



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