

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF

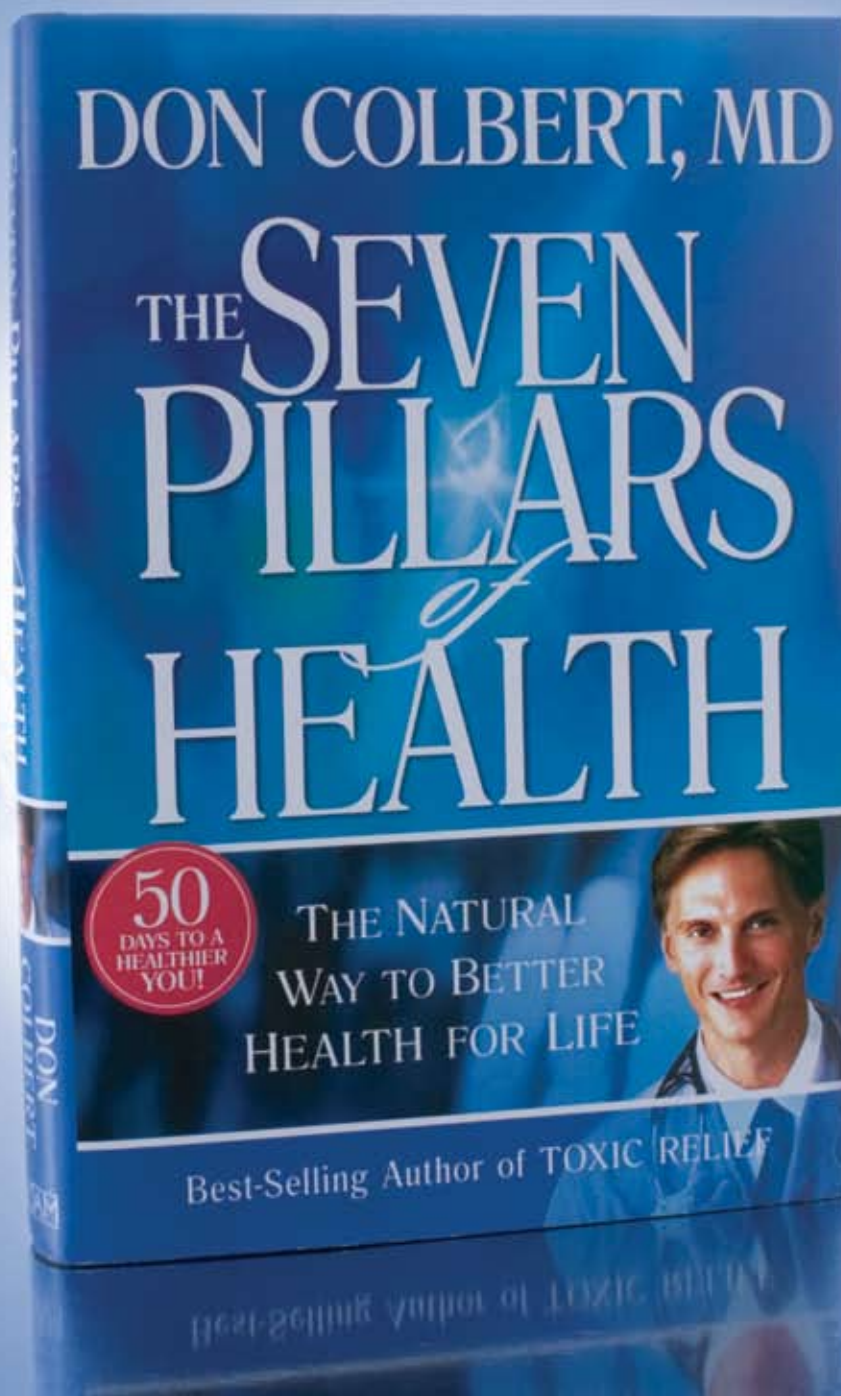
VICTORY

February 2007

Taking Back the

GARDEN of GOD

DISCOVER THE NATURAL WAY TO BETTER HEALTH



"These are not the seven 'fads' of health or the seven 'theories' of health, but the seven *pillars* of health. Backed up by medical research and my actual experiences with real problems and real people...these seven pillars have contributed health and freedom to thousands of people. It won't take more work on your part: You will simply exchange old habits for new ones."

—Dr. Don Colbert

After more than 20 years as a board-certified family physician, Dr. Don Colbert has come to know firsthand that good health is not the result of trendy "breakthroughs." Instead, good health is based on synergy—multiple components working together to make you feel great.

In *The Seven Pillars of Health*, Colbert explains how changing just a few simple habits in the areas of water consumption, sleep and rest, living food, exercise, detoxification and coping with stress, can lead to dramatic recoveries and a lifetime of wellness.

Discover a non-condemning, life-giving approach to optimal well-being when you discover *The Seven Pillars of Health*—the natural way to better health!



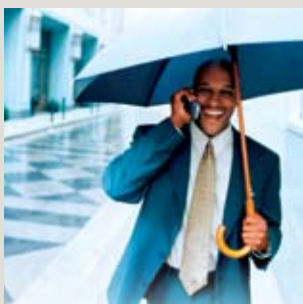
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4 TAKING BACK THE GARDEN OF GOD

BY KENNETH COPELAND

We were not created to live in bondage to poverty and lack. Rise up by faith in the Name of Jesus and take back the Garden of God.



18 THE POWER TO PROSPER

BY KENNETH COPELAND

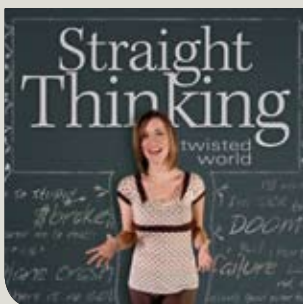
A little sickness here...a pinch in the finances there...that's how the devil tries to bully you out of your blessings. Don't let him do it! Stand firm in the faith and kick a little sand in *his* face for a change.



22 WHEN HOME IS HALF A WORLD AWAY

BY MELANIE HEMRY

When Todd and Bonnie Hagemann learned that 3-year-old Denis had not been released for adoption from a Russian orphanage, they adopted his 18-month-old brother, Misha, instead. But Bonnie held fast in faith that Denis would also be adopted by a Christian family.



28 STRAIGHT THINKING IN A TWISTED WORLD

BY GLORIA COPELAND

We live in a crazy, mixed-up world. But you can live in victory in spite of what's happening around you.

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

10 GO YE? NOT ME!

BY JESSE DUPLANTIS

You don't have to be a preacher to be a proclaimer of His Word. God is looking for conduits—people He can use to proclaim His thoughts, feelings and purposes to the world.

14 THE HIGH PRICE OF DISOBEDIENCE

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Taking Back the

GARDEN of GOD

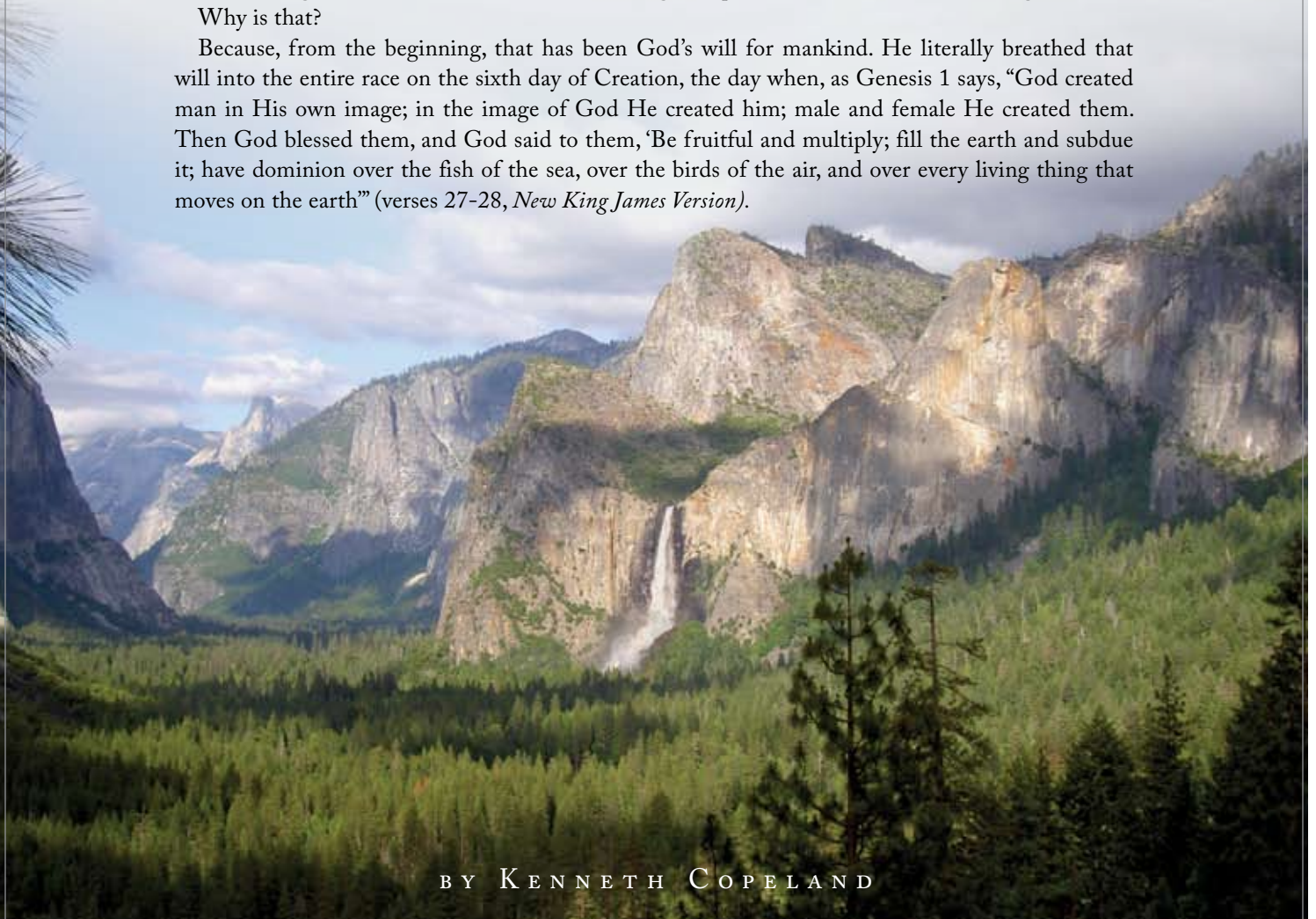
THERE IS SOMETHING WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF MAN THAT REBELS AGAINST OPPRESSION. THERE IS A KNOWING, WOVEN INTO THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR BEING, THAT WE WERE NOT CREATED TO LIVE IN BONDAGE TO POVERTY AND LACK. WE WERE NOT DESIGNED TO SUBMIT TO SICKNESS AND DISEASE. WE WERE NOT MEANT TO BE THE SLAVES OF ANY EARTHLY PERSON OR ANY NATURAL THING. | WE WERE MEANT TO BE KINGS.

At times that consciousness may be all but crushed by the merciless blows of the devil. It may be numbed into deception by the false teachings of religion. But despite it all, there still burns within each one of us a longing to somehow escape the domination of natural circumstances and rise again to a place of dominion. We have the sense, etched indelibly in our spirit, that we were originally created to reign in a Garden of Eden...and nothing can quench our desire to live there again.

Why is that?

Because, from the beginning, that has been God's will for mankind. He literally breathed that will into the entire race on the sixth day of Creation, the day when, as Genesis 1 says, "God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (verses 27-28, *New King James Version*).

BY KENNETH COPELAND



The blessing that was on Abraham to multiply,
be blessed and be a blessing to all the families of the earth is
the same blessing God originally gave Adam.

The *New Living Translation* puts it this way: “God blessed them and told them, ‘Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it. Be masters over the fish and birds and all the animals.’”

Be masters.

Those were the first words God ever said to man. And with those words came the divine power to back them up—a power that was delivered to Adam through what the Bible calls *The Blessing*.

GOD NEVER GAVE UP

At first glance, you might wonder why Adam even needed such a blessing. After all, he lived in the Garden of Eden—a perfect place where everything he could possibly need was already provided, a place pre-designed to reflect God’s best and highest will.

But, as wonderful as that Garden was, it did not encompass the entire earth. Its scope was limited. According to the boundaries given in the Bible, it occupied only a few hundred square miles in the vicinity of modern-day Iraq.

Adam’s assignment was to change that. His job was to finish what God had started by using his God-given authority and the power of The Blessing to multiply and expand the Garden of Eden until the whole earth was filled up with it. He was given the awesome responsibility and anointing to reproduce the conditions of Eden wherever he went.

That wasn’t just God’s plan for Adam. It was His plan for all mankind...and His plan has never changed.

Most believers today, however, don’t realize that. They assume that when Adam and Eve blew off The Blessing by joining themselves to Satan and turning it into a curse, God called the whole plan off. They think He canceled Adam’s original assignment and withdrew the power He’d given to fulfill it. They believe God gave up on the Garden of Eden after the Fall of Man, so they’ve given up on it too.

“Well, this old earth is cursed,” they say, “so I guess as long as I live on it, I’ll suffer the effects of that curse too.”

Years ago when I first got born again, I thought the same thing. As a result, everywhere I went the curse followed me. It kept me poor, sick and defeated in every area of life. I tried desperately to get away from it. I’d think, *Maybe it will help if I move over here.... Maybe things will get better if I get a different job.* But no matter

where I went that cursed environment went with me.

Don’t misunderstand. I knew I was saved and that I was going to heaven when I died—and I was extremely grateful for that. I’d even received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, but my life did not bear the slightest resemblance to the Garden of Eden. Gloria and I were \$24,000 in debt (that’s like \$150,000 in debt these days). We had an old car that was an absolute embarrassment, and very little income. Since we were practically void of revelation, nothing we did succeeded.

Right in the middle of that, however, I went to Oral Roberts University and, because I worked for Brother Roberts, I was thrust into his tent meetings. There I witnessed astounding miracles. I watched in amazement as he used his faith again and again, like a mechanic uses a tool, to set people free from the oppression of sickness. I heard him preach “seed faith” and God is a good God.

About that same time, my mother introduced us to the teachings of Brother Kenneth Hagin and I found out I didn’t have to live under the curse anymore. I could live in the blessing of Abraham because, according to Galatians 3:13-14: “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (*New King James Version*).

Honestly, back then I hardly knew what that meant. But I was smart enough to study the life of Abraham, and I found out he was an extremely successful man. God’s blessing followed him around much like the curse had followed me. Everything he did prospered!

I DIDN’T UNDERSTAND IT—BUT IT WORKED!

Just that little bit of revelation revolutionized my whole perspective on life. I began to see Gloria and myself not as just poor folks trying to get by from one day to the next, but as extremely wealthy—spiritually, mentally, physically and financially.

Gloria and I (since we’d learned some things about how to operate by faith) even began to talk that way. When money ran short, instead of saying, “We can’t afford that...” we’d say, “We’re blessed, glory to God! The blessing of Abraham is ours through Jesus and all our needs are met according to His riches in glory.”

When we first began to say those things, our circumstances weren't any different than they ever were. We still didn't have any money. We were still loaded down with debt. But inside we saw ourselves differently, and before long the revelation we had on the *inside* began to change what was on the *outside*.

Eleven months later, we were totally out of debt... and we've never been in debt again. What's more, God's blessing began to expand in our lives and change the atmosphere around us. Life just kept getting better and better.

Even so, I didn't fully understand what I'd tapped into for a long time. I knew "the blessing of Abraham" had come on me because of what Jesus did through His death and resurrection. But I didn't totally realize what the blessing of Abraham was.

Some years ago, however, the revelation of it exploded within me and I've never been the same.

I was sitting on my back porch one night preparing to preach when it happened. I'd finished studying and I just began to worship and praise God, singing an old song I learned about 40 years ago that says, "Oh, the blessing of Abraham is mine. For sickness, I have health, for poverty wealth, and the blessing of Abraham is mine."

Right in the middle of that, the word of the Lord came to me so powerfully it almost jerked me up off the chair. He said, *I want My Garden back!*

"Uh...what did You say?" I asked.

He said, *I came to earth. I defeated Satan. I broke his power. That Garden belongs to Me again and I want it back! I want My property back!*

That's when it hit me: *The blessing that was on Abraham*

to multiply, be blessed and be a blessing to all the families of the earth is the same blessing God originally gave Adam. God never gave up on His original plan. He just transferred it from Adam to Abraham, and then passed it on through Abraham to Jesus...and through Jesus to us. That blessing is nothing less than the divine empowerment to re-create the conditions of the Garden of Eden wherever we go!

FAITH IS THE CATALYST

As a whole, the Body of Christ hasn't fully realized it yet, but the fact is, the moment we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He lifted us out of the curse. Even though outwardly we are still on this sin-scourged planet, inwardly we've been set right in the middle of the Garden of Eden. Spiritually we've been seated with Christ in heavenly places. Our life is hidden with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3) and we've been blessed "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3).

That means if you're born again, the Garden of Eden is inside you right now, and Jesus is saying to you much the same thing God said to Adam. He is

Take back the Garden—today!



From the beginning of time, God placed a blessing on His people—an empowerment that made prosperity a regular part of their lives. And today, God's will is *still* for His people to walk in the "Garden of Eden" everywhere they go!

In this powerful series by Kenneth Copeland, you'll discover that God wants you to be rich in every way—to be blessed, not cursed. You'll also learn what it takes to *live* in that blessing every day, and *stay there*.

Leave the barren land of your old life behind. Take back the Garden and start *Living in The Blessing* today!

Living in The Blessing

6-message series on 8 CDs | Reg. \$39 **NOW! \$20** #B070202

6-message series on 2 DVDs | Reg. \$24.95 **NOW! \$20** #B070203

See response form for ordering information.

If you're born again, the Garden of Eden is inside you right now.

**TAKE THAT BLESSING AND RELEASE IT BY FAITH SO IT CAN MANIFEST AND
re-create THE CONDITIONS OF THE GARDEN OF *Eden* IN YOUR LIFE.**

saying, *I bless you. Now take that blessing and release it by faith so it can manifest and re-create the conditions of the Garden of Eden in your life.*

Read that last sentence again. Notice it doesn't say The Blessing will operate automatically in your life just because you're saved. The Blessing has never operated automatically. It must always be received and released by faith. Faith works like a catalyst to activate The Blessing and put its power to work in your life.

If you've ever worked with a chemically activated adhesive, you understand just how vital a catalyst can be. That kind of adhesive doesn't work like glue. You can apply it in abundance but, by itself, it won't stick to anything. You can put it between two pieces of wood, squeeze them together for a month, and they still won't adhere to one another.

But when you add the catalyst, a chemical reaction takes place. The reaction will cause the adhesive to harden so completely that you'd demolish the wood before you could get the two pieces apart.

The Blessing is much like that adhesive. It has in itself all the divine power and know-how, all the supernatural properties, to enable God's people to multiply, be fruitful and have dominion over the earth. It carries all the anointings necessary to make us masters over every devilish thing that would try to enslave us. It carries with it all the ability we need to begin transforming our households into a veritable Garden of Eden.

But it won't start to work until we mix it with faith.

Faith has always been the catalyst for The Blessing. That was true in the life of Abraham. It was true in the life of Jesus. And it is true for us. Romans 4 leaves no question about that. It says: "For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed..." (verses 13, 16).

In other words, God in His mercy said to mankind, *I know you messed up. I know Adam blew it and lost The Blessing, but I want you to have it anyway. It's My will. So if you'll just believe what I say, I'll bring it to pass in your life. I don't care what the devil says about it. You can have it by grace through faith and not by works.*

Abraham was the first person to take God up on that offer. That's why the Bible calls him the father of faith. When God promised to give him The Blessing that was originally on Adam, Abraham totally believed it and acted on it by faith. That's the reason it operated in his life, changing circumstances, changing people, changing the countryside, making him rich and taking care of him wherever he went.

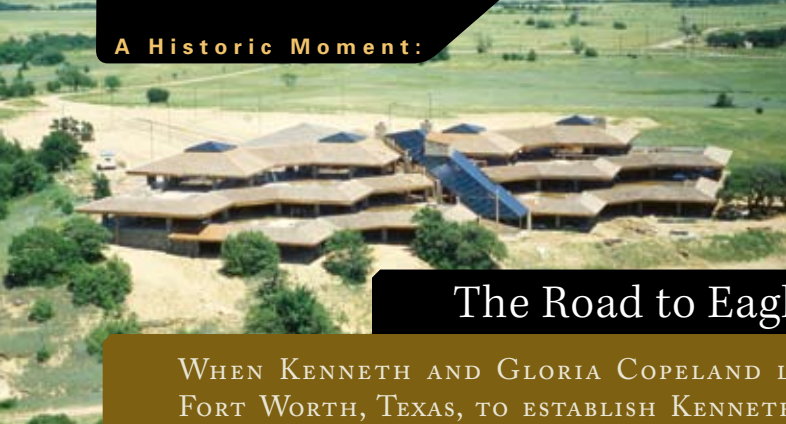
Abraham believed in The Blessing so completely that when God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, he was willing to do it because he fully expected The Blessing of God to raise Isaac from the dead.

Thousands of years later, Jesus did essentially the same thing. Operating as the "Seed" of Abraham and the heir of his blessing, Jesus walked in that blessing by faith, and exercised dominion in the earth like Adam was originally commissioned to do. Jesus, the One the Bible calls the last Adam, expanded the reach of the perfect will of God as it was first demonstrated in the Garden of Eden by conquering sickness, poverty and demonic oppression. Then He went to the cross, accepted the sin of all mankind into Himself, died and went to hell to pay the penalty for it—all the while believing The Blessing of God would raise Him up again.

Now it's our turn. Because we're in Christ, The Blessing belongs to us as surely as it does to Jesus. In fact, we're responsible for it because we are His Body in the earth.

There is coming a day when Jesus will return and reign for a thousand years and bring this planet, in its entirety, back under The Blessing of God. What a time that will be! The Millennial Reign of The Blessing. We all look forward to that. But until that time, you and I, as believers have the awesome privilege and responsibility of manifesting that blessing in our own lives and households. We have the opportunity of taking it to others by telling them the good news and demonstrating the power of The Blessing for all to see.

I can still hear the voice of the Lord in my spirit, ringing loud and clear, *I want My Garden back!* It's time we, His people, His Body in the earth answer His call. The Blessing is ours. Let's believe it, confess it and release the power of it. Let's rise up by faith in the Name of Jesus and take back the Garden of God. **VICTORY**



1986

The Road to Eagle Mountain Lake

WHEN KENNETH AND GLORIA COPELAND LEFT TULSA, OKLA., IN 1968 AND MOVED TO FORT WORTH, TEXAS, TO ESTABLISH KENNETH COPELAND EVANGELISTIC ASSOCIATION, THE HEADQUARTERS FOR THEIR MINISTRY WAS TWO SMALL ROOMS INSIDE THE INSURANCE OFFICE OF KENNETH'S DAD, A.W. COPELAND. THEY SHARED A SECRETARY WITH "A.W."

A year later, the staff increased by two, and the association moved out of the insurance office and into its own space on Berry Street in Fort Worth. Another increase in staff—this time from four to seven—necessitated yet another move in 1971, and still another in 1972 when the KCEA staff grew to 12.

Though they were baby steps in fulfilling the call God had placed on their lives, Kenneth and Gloria knew these were significant steps. It was obvious they were on the right path.

When the association took up residence in 1975 in an office at Lake Arlington—its fifth move in seven years—it still maintained a 12-member staff. But by 1980 that had all changed.

When the association, which by then had become Kenneth Copeland Ministries, began preparing to construct a brand-new headquarters building on a sprawling 1,216-acre site on Eagle Mountain Lake north of Fort Worth, the staff had increased to nearly 100.

Kenneth Copeland Ministries had purchased property the year before, in 1979. The site was a former U.S. military base that had been used to train troops during World War II.

Miracle After Miracle

During construction of the new KCM headquarters building, many miracles were manifest—not the least of which was building the facility totally debt free, without a single bank loan.

The complex is built on a solid shelf of granite that, it seems, had been placed there by the Lord for just that purpose.

When the site was tested, an engineer commented: "We drilled into the hardest formation we have ever encountered in the history of our company. It broke our machinery and we had to replace our drill bits.... It is more than coincidence that you chose this particular location to build on when you have hundreds of other areas from which to choose. It is the perfect site to support your headquarters building."

A perfect foundation for a ministry built on the unshakeable foundation of God's Word!

When it was time to dig the elevator shaft, there was another miracle. Construction workers needed to blast a hole 30 feet deep in the center of the building. As they began digging just deep enough to plant the dynamite, they ended up digging the entire 30 feet before they hit another solid shelf of granite. No blasting was necessary.

And not only was the hole already there, but it had sheer, smooth walls—exactly what was needed to house the elevator shaft.

The miracles kept coming.

A water well that had been dormant for some 35 years was being considered as a supplementary water source. But first, the rusty piping in the well had to be replaced. The old pipes were pulled out with a large magnet connected to a crane. As more than 100 feet of old pipes were pulled out and laid on the ground, they immediately turned to rusty powder. If the pipes had turned to dust in the well, there would have been no way to pump the rust out. The well would have been ruined.

The next miracle involved the sewage treatment plant.

Plans called for a new sewer system, but God had a better plan—refurbish the system that was already there even though it had been dormant like the old well.

After the old system was cleared of trees and debris, it still worked. It needed a little work and updating to meet current specifications like rewinding two of the five diesel-powered electric backup units and replacing belts and paddles, but it was a fraction of the cost of a whole new system.

Throughout the years, again and again, God continued to send people, supplies and miracles to see the construction of KCM's worldwide ministry headquarters through to completion.

Kenneth Copeland Ministries moved into the new headquarters building in 1986. Since that time, the Lord has used this former training station for military personnel to train His spiritual army. Today nearly 500 people work at the Eagle Mountain Lake property. **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



Don't just wonder what God has in store for you. Find out in this *Year of the Open Door!*

Be a voice of victory...Bring a friend!

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.
Milwaukee, WI 53203

September 16-21 Days of Refreshing

Eagle Mountain International Church
Kenneth Copeland Ministries Headquarters
14355 Morris-Dido Road | Newark, TX 76071
(not a mailing address) | 800-600-7395

Unable to attend?
Then join us via live video
or audio broadcast at
getimmersed.org!

October 24-29 Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks

Billye Brim Ministries
P.O. Box 40 | Branson, MO 65615
417-336-4877 | www.billyebrim.org

November 8-10 Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign

Hylton Memorial Chapel
14640 Potomac Mills Road | Woodbridge, VA 22192

Admission is FREE. Meetings are subject to change without notice. For updated information, please log on to **getimmersed.org** or call the KCM office nearest you. Partners and Friends within **Canada** call **877-480-3388**.

GO YE? NOT ME!



THE WORLD HAS SEEN JESUS AS A RELIGIOUS FIGURE, BUT WE NEED TO **SHOW JESUS** AS A PERSONAL SAVIOR.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD A WEEK START OUT REALLY WELL? I MEAN, EVERYTHING IS GOING GREAT. YOU'RE HAPPY. THE WIFE'S HAPPY. THE KIDS ARE DOING ALL RIGHT. EVEN THE DOG LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A SMILE ON HIS FACE. IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE IS OPTIMISTIC AND GOING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Then, somewhere around the middle of the week something changes in the house. Suddenly, joy is thrown out the window. The wife is snapping. The kids are going crazy. The boss is getting on your case for no reason at all. Even the dog turns on you and starts tearing up the furniture, just for fun. Have you ever had a week similar to that?

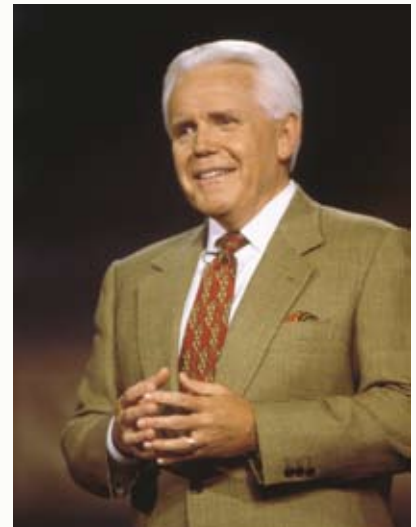
Jesus had a bad week that we're still talking about today. At the beginning of the week, He was riding into town on a donkey. People were praising Him and waving palm branches in front of Him in complete adoration of His life and ministry. By the end of the week, everything changed! Those same people were screaming for His death. By Friday, Jesus had been criticized, ridiculed and beaten. His beard had been pulled out in chunks. They nailed Him to a cross and humiliated Him as He hung there in pain.

Now, Jesus had the power to come off that cross. He had the power to call legions of angels to the scene to whip everyone! But, He didn't. Jesus hung there on the cross by choice. Even as they railed insults at Him, He didn't hold it against them. He prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." Buddy, now that's real love!

What began with great praise ended with great persecution, but it was all for a purpose. Jesus knew that He was paying the price for sin—and He knew it wouldn't be easy. He wasn't just carrying the sins of one person or even 10. He was carrying the sins of the whole world. Think about that.

Did it hurt? You better believe it. Did He like it? No, would you? But, He did it anyway because He knew the end result was worth it—Jesus knew that *you* were worth it.

That's pure love and mercy in action, but it wasn't over just yet. Jesus may have died on the cross for the sins of the world, but on the third day, He rose again! Then, He came back to give His disciples a command that we are still fulfilling today: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.



Preaching is simply
*proclaiming the
good news of
Jesus Christ and
anyone who is
saved can
do that.*

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16).

You Can Be a Proclaimer

The Great Commission. Not everyone is excited about it. When I first heard God calling me to “*go ye...*,” the first thing I thought was, “*Not me!*” I’d gotten saved and thought that was good enough. I read that verse and thought it was only talking about pulpit ministry and I didn’t want that!

I was satisfied being saved, paying my tithes, and donating my time to my church. So, I thought the “*go ye*” scripture wasn’t for me, but I was wrong. Do you know what “preaching” really is? It isn’t about whooping and hollering. It’s not about being an eloquent speaker. It’s not about having some big spiritual revelation that no one’s ever heard. Preaching is simply *proclaiming* the good news of Jesus Christ and anyone who is saved can do that.

The good news is summed up in this scripture: “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved” (John 3:16-17).

That is not a “beginners” scripture; it’s the core of all Scripture. Without this, you can’t have a good concept of healing, joy, peace or prosperity. This scripture shows you the love of God in a way that will blow your mind, if you let it sink in. If you don’t know God loves you and has your best interests at heart, how can you believe Him for anything?

If you think that what I do from the pulpit is the only real “preaching” there is, you are mistaken. You don’t need to be an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor or teacher—but you definitely need to be a proclaimer! Because the only Jesus some people may ever see is the Jesus in you, or the Jesus in me.

You Can Share His Love

People need Jesus. If you don’t think so, you just haven’t been looking around. This world is tough and it’s getting tougher every day. It’s been that way since sin entered the earth and broke the connection between God and mankind. The closer we get to the return of Jesus, the tougher it will be for those who are not living for God. So, we should be stepping up our efforts to reach the lost and it’s going to take all of us working together to reach the world for Christ.

The world has seen Jesus as a religious figure, but we need to show Jesus as a *personal* Savior. Jesus is approachable. He is the only real answer for the human condition.

What has He done for you? Share that with others.

Remember, people don’t need a Jesus who is far away. They need a Jesus they can talk to—and that’s the kind of Jesus you and I serve. I like to say, “I call Him Jesus and He calls me Jesse!” We’re on a first-name basis and it’s great! I believe Jesus wants to have that kind of easy-flowing relationship with everyone, whether they live next door or clear across the planet.

When you share Jesus, it’s an act of love—you are tapping into the same love that caused Jesus to endure the cross. Think about it! The only reason you can love is because He first loved you. Now, you don’t have to go to the cross because Jesus has already paid that price, but you do have to tell others about what He’s done. That’s part of being a Christian and it’s only right to honor the Lord by sharing His message with others.

Jesus came for those who are sin-sick. He didn’t try to clean fish before He caught them. As believers, we should see people who are confused, lost, and living in sin as Jesus saw them—like sheep without a shepherd. They’re out there wandering, trying to live on their own and make their own way. Our job isn’t to condemn them, but to show them how to get saved and be led by the Good Shepherd. People need Jesus, they really do.

I’m One of the “Some”

When I got saved, I changed dramatically. I *knew* what God had done for me. He turned my life around and there was nothing unsettled in my heart about His ability to do miracles. He’d already saved me and delivered me, and that was a miracle in itself. I was bad and I knew, that if God could change me, He could do anything! So, I had no problem witnessing to people. I did it all the time. I considered it part of being a Christian to tell others about Jesus. After all, the Bible tells us in 2 Timothy 4:5 that everyone is called to do “the work of an evangelist.”

But, the Bible also says that only “some” are called to actually *be* evangelists. You may be one of the some. If you are, you know that there’s a vast difference in being in this type of ministry. There is a special anointing on each one of the offices in God’s fivefold ministry. Ephesians 4:11-12 says, “And he gave *some*, apostles; and *some*, prophets; and *some*, evangelists; and *some*, pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”

I didn’t want to be a part of the “some” group. When God called me to *be* an evangelist, I was very hesitant—not because I was unsettled about what I believed, but because I didn’t like how I talked. I was aware of my grammatical shortcomings. I’m Cajun and I know how I sound. So, when God called me I said, “Listen, You’ve made a mistake.

I ain't going to tell nobody. I'll just keep it to myself. You can just change Your mind."

He said, *I didn't make a mistake.*

"Lord, I don't know how to preach," I said.

I know you don't know how to preach, He said. *That's why I'm calling you.*

"But God, I can't do that!"

Do you know why I'm calling you, Jesse? If you made a mistake, you wouldn't know you made a mistake because you don't know what you're doing. That's what He told me!

"But, I don't know how to preach!" I said again.

That's good! He said.

You see, there is no use in arguing with God. You can't win! Obviously, He wanted me to just trust Him, to just

do what He said when He said it. So, I eventually agreed and I went into the ministry. God opened up the doors for me in a miraculous way and in six weeks, I was booked for a year—and I've been booked solidly ever since. I knew that God was leading this thing, but I still felt uncomfortable preaching.

So, in the beginning of my ministry, I mainly sang and played the piano. I'd speak for just a few minutes. It was my way of hiding behind the music, where I felt strong. But, that wasn't what God wanted. God wanted me to preach the gospel. He wanted me to stretch and do what He called me to do.

You Can Be a Conduit!

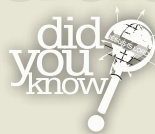
You see, all God is looking for are conduits—people He can use to proclaim His thoughts, feelings and purposes to the world. He's not looking for a certain "type" of person to do His work; He's looking for all types. We serve a multifaceted God who created a world that is filled with different types of people. You have something that God needs. I have something God needs. Together, we *can* reach this world for Jesus!

God can use you, even in an area you feel insecure about. Just look what He's done through me! Back in 1976, I started out in ministry not wanting to speak, but the minute I decided to just do it, God took over! He's been running me all over this world

KCM Canada



In 1967, when the Lord called Kenneth and Gloria Copeland to preach His uncompromised Word and bring believers from the milk to the meat of the Word, He commissioned them to take that message to the nations.



Challenging and equipping an entire generation of believers to take God at His Word was an assignment of worldwide proportion. And the Copelands did not take the call on their lives lightly.

Nine years later, after becoming well-established at its headquarters in Fort Worth, Kenneth Copeland Ministries took a major, first step toward worldwide ministry by opening its first international office in Canada in 1976. The plan for international operations was a unique one for KCM. Instead of establishing post office boxes to serve as clearing-houses for incoming mail, the Canada office was staffed by local believers—a ministry team who could understand and respond to needs within their own country.

In the 31 years since first opening its doors, and because of the faithfulness of its almost 20,000 Partners and Friends, reaching over 30 million people in Canada has been a large and successful faith project for KCM Canada.

The *Believer's Voice of Victory* television broadcast, which is carried nationally across Canada, reaches a potential 21.3 million viewers each Sunday and about 30 million viewers daily. And the *BVOV* magazine is mailed to more than 18,000 homes each month.

In July 2005, the ministry moved into its new, debt-free ministry center in Langley, British Columbia. And on May 13, 2006, Kenneth and Gloria were in Canada to dedicate the new 18,000-square-foot center housing a large warehouse, office space, and extensive product display area for Partners and Friends to come and purchase KCM product.

In September 2006, KCM Canada hosted its *West Coast Prayer Conference* with Pastors George and Terri Pearsons. The event started with a Pastors' Breakfast, where 90 pastors from in and around British Columbia joined together to fellowship and hear a word from God. They did not leave disappointed! Pastor George delivered a prophetic word concerning Canada. Speaking from Romans 13:11-12, Pastor George spoke of the coming spiritual "awakening," prophesying that it would flow like a wave from the West Coast to the East and back again. He proclaimed that the spiritual resurgence would be sustained, not just come and go.... And that the glory of God would be manifest in churches all over the country!

There are exciting times ahead for Canada. KCM Canada is determined and destined to be an important factor in seeing this revival come to pass!

Since opening in 1976, KCM Canada has never taken a step backward. Every step has been a move forward in all the Lord has planned through partnership with people across the nation. KCM Canada continues in its efforts to be more than just a ministry facility to its Partners and Friends, striving in every way to be their personal point of contact—doing all it can to bring them from the milk to the meat of the Word. **VICTORY**

If you would like to read the prophecy (Prophecy—A Great Awakening in Canada) delivered by Pastor George Pearsons, please visit www.kcmcanada.ca, click on downloads and it's located under "Books/Other."

ever since, proclaiming His gospel as an evangelist. All I do is preach, preach and preach—and everywhere I go, God reaches into the lives of people. I see people getting saved, healed and changed every day and that’s something only God can do.

Today, you might be looking at yourself and thinking, *What can I do for God?* You can do a lot! You could lead someone to Christ today who may become the next Kenneth Copeland. You could lay hands on someone today and see the power of God heal their body. You could support the work of the gospel and send the gospel through the television waves to a place you’ll never go.

You don’t have to be a preacher to be a proclaimer of His Word. You may be in business, and God can use you in every transaction you make. You may be in the arts, and

God can use you to show His amazing creativity. You may be a homemaker, and God can use you to raise your kids in the admonition of the Lord and impact a future generation. Whatever you do, God can use you.

People need to see Jesus in your life. They need to hear you proclaim Him as Lord. So, don’t say “Not me!” the next time that God asks you to “go ye....” Decide today that, whatever God asks, you will do. Decide today to open your mouth, share your story, and be bold in proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ! **VICTORY**

Jesse Duplantis is the president and founder of Jesse Duplantis Ministries, with international headquarters in Louisiana and additional offices in the UK and Australia. He is a best-selling author and hosts a weekly television program. For ministry materials and information, write to Jesse Duplantis Ministries, P.O. Box 20149, New Orleans, LA 70141-0149, call 985-764-2000 or visit www.jdm.org.



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



Keith Moore



Dr. Don Colbert

FEBRUARY BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY BROADCAST CALENDAR



Tune in to the **BVOV** broadcast Monday through Friday and on Sunday each week at **www.kcm.org**.

DAILY

Jan 29 Mon	30 Tue	31 Wed	1 Thu	2 Fri
<p><i>Your Foundation of Health</i></p> <p>These 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>				
4	5	6	7	8
<p><i>Health Matters</i></p> <p>Kenneth Copeland and special guest Dr. Don Colbert wrap up this series, discussing the pillars of health and sharing God’s desire for your perfect well-being.</p>				
11	12	13	14	15
<p><i>Growing Up Spiritually</i></p> <p>Join Keith Moore for the first of two weeks as he discusses how to develop your spirit and become spiritually mature.</p>				
18	19	20	21	22
<p><i>The Fully Developed Man</i></p> <p>Keith Moore shares more on spiritual maturity with powerful examples from the Word. Listen as the Spirit of God is calling you to be like Jesus.</p>				
25	26	27	28	1
<p><i>The Anointing Is The Partnership Connection</i></p> <p>Kenneth and Gloria Copeland dig into the Word to discuss God’s plan of partnership, and how the anointing creates The Partnership Connection!</p>				
2				

SUNDAY

4	<p>Gloria Copeland</p> <p><i>Staying Encircled in the Armor of God</i></p> <p>Discover Psalm 91 and the powerful promise of protection God has for the believer.</p>
11	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>Responsibility of a Righteous Vote</i></p> <p>Your vote counts! Find out what an awesome responsibility God has given you each election day and beyond.</p>
18	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>Partnering in the Anointing</i></p> <p>When we join together, nothing can stop us! Learn how partnership fuses our anointings together to reach the world.</p>
25	<p>Kenneth Copeland</p> <p><i>We Release The Blessing by Walking in Love</i></p> <p>Discover how walking in love empowers you, releasing success in every area of your life.</p>

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The High Price of

DISOBEDIENCE

“GOD HAS GREAT AND MIGHTY THINGS PLANNED FOR YOUR LIFE.” | “GOD HAS LAID OUT HIS PURPOSE FOR YOU SINCE BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.” | WE HAVE HEARD STATEMENTS LIKE THESE SINCE THE DAY WE WERE BORN AGAIN, AND THEY ARE TRUE. GOD’S WORD BACKS THEM UP. HOW WONDERFUL IT IS TO KNOW GOD HAS A PLAN FOR EACH OF US, A GOOD PLAN TO GIVE US A GOOD FUTURE (JEREMIAH 29:11).

He *will* fulfill His plans for you and me. But how disappointing it would be to miss any of the details along the way.

Missing a Step

The plans He has for us work out step by step—obeying Him in the little things that lead us right up to the big things. Now, we may miss a step from time to time. We may disobey something He tells us, then look back later and say, “If only I had....”

Sometimes the result of missing a step or disobeying may seem insignificant. But I am convinced there is no insignificant disobedience. We must approach every moment in tune with His voice and obedient to His Word.

We sometimes go through life not paying attention. And then there are times when we miss those wonderful steps in His plan because we are out and out disobedient. When we do that, we are missing some of the precious moments of God’s glorious plan for us—moments we cannot afford to miss.

This side of heaven we will not know how different our lives might have been if we had obeyed. If we knew, we would see that the price of disobedience is much higher than we thought.

The Bible contains several accounts of people who disobeyed God and paid a dear price. Probably one of the most important stories is that of Moses—the lawgiver. He preached “Obey the Lord!” day after day, year after year to the children of Israel. Then we read in Numbers 20, the day came when they needed water. Moses disobeyed the direction God gave him for providing water, and paid a high price for that disobedience. God kept him from leading the children of Israel into the Land of Promise. Something he had been looking forward to for 40 years vanished in that one misstep.

More Than Rules

If we had God’s total plan for our lives laid out before us, we would see that *any* disobedience costs

AS THE BODY OF CHRIST, OUR LIVES ARE NOT TO BE *guesswork*.

If we could see God's total plan for our lives laid out before us, we would see that *any* disobedience costs more than we can afford.

more than we can afford. Disobedience takes us off track, sometimes causing us to wander around and around when we really didn't have to. Sometimes when we disobey, we miss a glorious part of His plan that could only occur at a particular place or time in our lives.

God has given us His written Word and placed His Spirit within us to provide moment-by-moment direction for our lives. And when we "wake up" and realize diligent obedience to our heavenly Father is "the way to go," life becomes a blessed adventure. Even mundane, daily activity becomes a magnificent journey when we live guided by His Spirit and His Word.

As the Body of Christ, our lives are not to be guesswork. God has a purpose for each of us individually, and for the Body as a whole. All we have to do is obey. It couldn't be any clearer than He spoke it to the children of Israel in Deuteronomy 30:11-14:

This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you to understand or perform. It is not up in heaven, so distant that you must ask, 'Who will go to heaven and bring it down so we can hear and obey it?' It is not beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, 'Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear and obey it?' The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it (*New Living Translation*).

And Paul reminds us in Romans 10:8 that faith is rooted in obedience: "The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach."

That's where faith is—in your mouth and in your heart. Faith is hearing God and obeying Him—it's as simple as that. The only way any of you will be obedient is to put your faith in God. Obedience doesn't work because you think God's Word is a set of rules. Obedience works because you know in your heart and confess with your mouth that God's Word is your very life. Then you do it!

Getting There—Step by Step

We obey whether it's easy or hard, whether we like what we hear or not. I was sure I would never like to preach. I had no desire to preach. I didn't think I could do it. And, I couldn't have done it in my own strength. But, God gave me the job anyway! And He has been faithful to see me through the assignment.

His plan and purpose for your life is not dependent upon what you can or cannot do. It depends on your doing what He tells you to do when He tells you to do it. He anoints and enables you to do whatever He directs you to do.

Every day of my life is like a treasure hunt! Why? Because I am totally committed to being obedient to God's voice to me—through the Bible and His Spirit. I stay close to Him. I listen! I hear! I can hardly wait to know what His next step is for me. Whether He says, *Go to Tokyo*, or *Go to the grocery store*, every step is significant in fulfilling His purpose for my life.

Your future is tucked away in your heart because God put it there. He gives you insight, and every day He desires to reveal direction to you. Arriving in your future according to the plan of God is totally dependent on hearing and obeying Him, moment by moment, step by step, every day.

When we think of obedience in these terms, it is clear to see that the price for any step of disobedience is more than any of us can afford. And the rewards of obedience—well, every step to His glorious plan for our lives depends on it.

VICTORY

Salvation Prayer

If you do not know
Jesus
as your
Savior & 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.

GoodNewsGazette



Blessed With a New Home—Strife Free

I requested prayer a couple of months ago. My husband and I were shopping for a house and we were experiencing much strife in our home. At the time, I didn't even realize the strife was telling us something. Well, you sent me a tape on *The Power of Praise* and a small book, *How to Conquer Strife*. I cried when I received them, because I knew God was talking to me. I thanked God for your ministry and for directing our path to the right house. We walked away from one house that we almost purchased, but we had so much strife surrounding this decision. God then led us to a second house that is His blessing and everything has gone right since.

Thank you for praying for us. I thank God for this spiritual connection with your ministry. Praise God for peace in our home and new house.

D.M. | Connecticut



Pray without ceasing. IN EVERY THING GIVE THANKS: FOR THIS IS THE WILL OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS CONCERNING YOU (1 THESSALONIANS 5:17-18).

Covenant in the Blood

I must write and tell you how much your book *Protecting Your Family in Dangerous Times* blessed me. Yes, we are living in dangerous times, but God's Word and our faith in the blood of Jesus give us the victory every time.

My husband and I had a trip planned to England for several months. Two days before our flight was scheduled to leave, terrorist attacks were discovered in London. I thank God because He revealed this. He will take whatever measure is needed to protect me and get me safely to my destination. We have a covenant signed in the blood of Jesus. Someone said, "I don't know if I would go with all that going on." I said, "I'm going." Someone else said, "You can't stop the evil in the world." I said, "A thousand may fall at my side, ten thousand at my right hand but it will not come near me." Someone else said, "I hope you don't have any trouble." I said, "I won't, not on my plane."

I prayed for a smooth, uneventful trip with clear, blue skies. The security was increased at every checkpoint. I praise God for the extra protection. We boarded our flight in Atlanta and waited an hour and 15 minutes before it was announced, "Due to maintenance problems the aircraft has been grounded." We boarded another aircraft and were on our way to England. Praise God for His protection. Praise God He honors His Word. My angels were stationed all over the planes I was on. The Spirit of the Lord was there. I had no doubt, not even a hint that I would not get to my destination. God has never let me down and never will. He is so good.

Sharon Lampkin | Mississippi



my angels
were stationed
all over the
planes

Still Cancer Free!

In September 1987, I was diagnosed with an abdominal cancerous mass which required major surgery. One of my girlfriends gave me your series, *Healing School*. I listened to your tapes around the clock and quoted the living Word. The doctor performed the surgery and found no mass or cancerous cells in my body. I attributed my healing to believing the Word of God you spoke. Because Jesus healed me, I changed my eating habits and today, I am still healed. On this anniversary, I celebrate the faithfulness of God's Word and His faithfulness to me.

A.L. | Georgia

Raised Up by God's Healing Power

In 2004 I became very ill and was hospitalized. I wrote to your ministry and requested prayer. Thank you so much for praying for me. God gave me a miracle. I was diagnosed with colon cancer, a bleeding ulcer and hypertension that was beyond the doctor's control. I was given a 50/50 chance of survival. Because of my diagnosis, I began to set my affairs in order. But the Lord spoke to me saying, *I am going to raise you up.*



During my illness, I constantly read the healing scriptures Gloria had listed in one of her books and I listened to her healing tapes. After two and a half hours of surgery, the doctors reported the surgery was a success and I was out of danger. After several days in the hospital, I was discharged without the need of aftercare that the doctors expected me to have. God gave me a miracle. Praise God for His faithfulness.

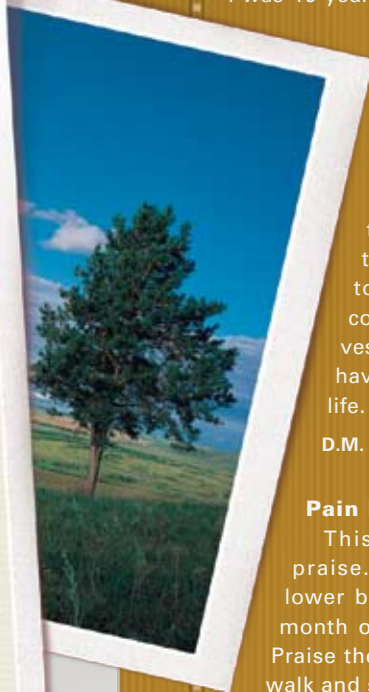
Bertha | New York

Thank You for Saving my Life

I want to thank KCM very much. You are the only ministry that replied to me when I reached out for prayer, instead of taking my own life. My son died recently and KCM was and still is the only ministry that contacted me and sent a tape and booklet. I know now why the Lord has blessed you all so richly. When I reached out for prayer when my son died, kcmorg saved my life. Now I will remain Partners with you as long as the Lord wills. May God bless your whole family. You truly do live what you preach.

Brenda Gomez | Rockwall, Texas

P.S. I use the tapes and booklet daily to keep Satan from telling me to kill myself.



Deliverance for My Family

It is time for the glory and I receive it, in Jesus' Name. God is writing our family's testimony and I thank Him for your lives and ministry.

In the beginning of this year, God gave me a seed for the deliverance of my family: my father, mother, brothers, sisters and myself. I was the only one born again. I sowed the seed into KCM. In the month of April, my mother and five brothers and sisters gave their lives to Jesus and got baptized, glory be to Jesus! My father and one brother were left. My brother loves the Lord, but is not yet baptized. One week ago this month, God put in my heart to prepare a seed for "the destruction of the power that operates in my father's life." I believe that God has a plan. I also pray Acts 16:31 for him. My heart is full of joy. I am grateful for all you do, day and night for the ministry, the lost, the Partners...my prayer for you is that you stand firm until you see the Lord and receive your deserved reward, in Jesus' Name.

A.E.M. | Netherlands

Created in Christ Jesus

I had a disruptive upbringing which sent me on the path of drugs, jail, porn and violence. In 1996, I was 16 years old and out of my mind on drugs. I had major issues with rejection, low self-esteem and everything else you can name. One day my mind had enough and became very distressed. I was full of fear, nervousness and total confusion.

I became a Christian in 2003 through the information you sent in the Salvation Package. I would like to thank you for the dedication and commitment you have made to being a vessel for the Lord's mighty power. You have made a very positive impact in my life.

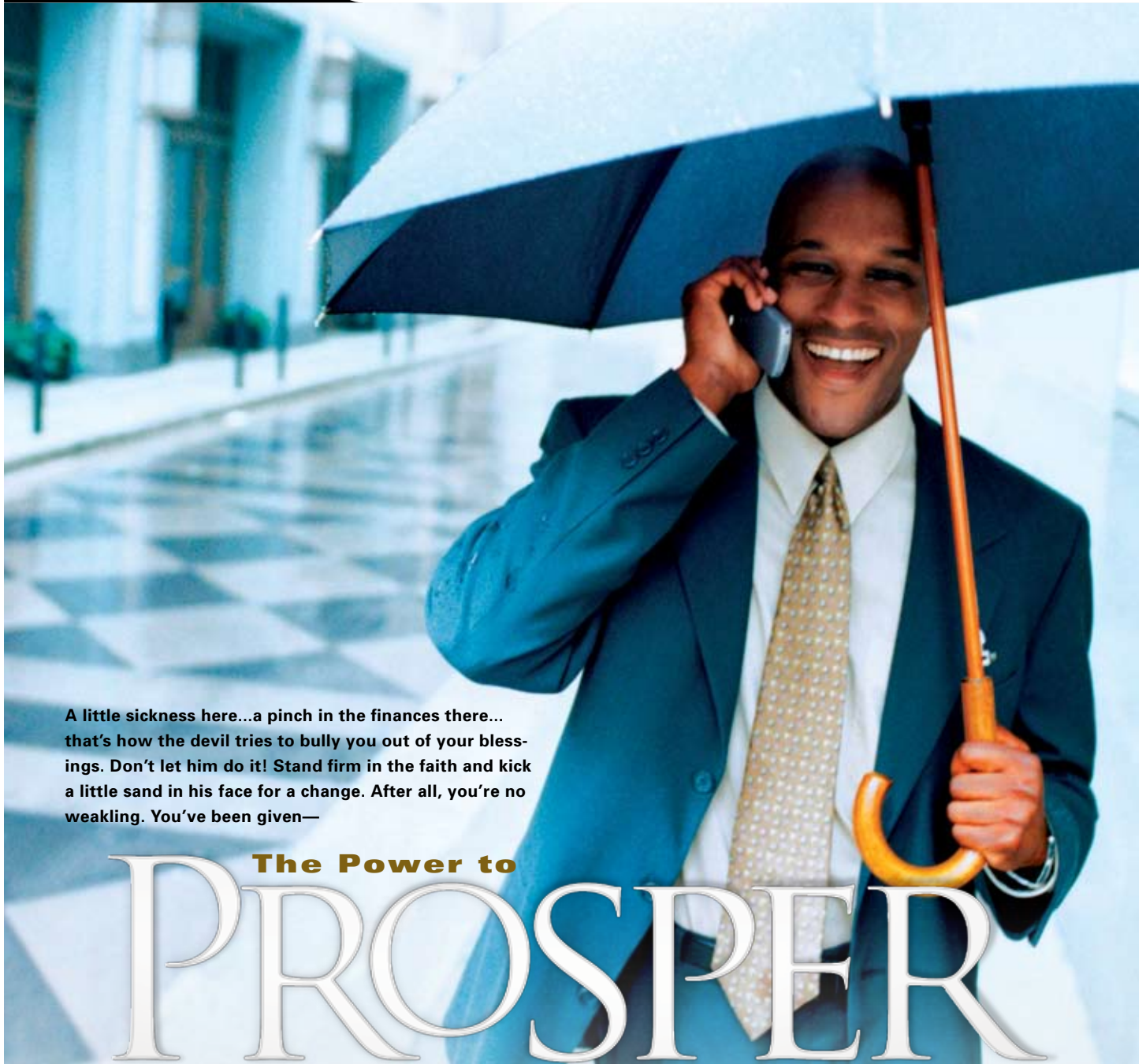
D.M. | United Kingdom

Pain Free and Praising God

This is the first time I am reporting praise. I was in terrible pain because of lower back pain and sciatica. I wrote you a month or two ago to pray for my condition. Praise the Lord, He has healed me! Now I can walk and sit for hours.

Yesterday, I had my M.A. English exam. During the three hours, I felt the Holy Spirit very near me, protecting me from any pain. I walked in and out of the college gates without any pain. Thank you for your free magazine that inspires and changes millions of hearts across the world.

S.A. | Pakistan



A little sickness here...a pinch in the finances there... that's how the devil tries to bully you out of your blessings. Don't let him do it! Stand firm in the faith and kick a little sand in his face for a change. After all, you're no weakling. You've been given—

The Power to PROSPER

"You were blessed." | "You are blessed." | "You will be blessed." | Do you recognize what these sentences represent? They are the past, present and future tenses of the verb *to bless*. | Don't worry, I'm not going to give you a grammar lesson. I'm going to give you a lesson in living! You see, if you're going to enjoy the full and prosperous life God has made available to you, you're going to have to realize that His blessings cover the past, present and future! The following story from Luke 13 perfectly illustrates this point.

And [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art

loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought

If you are in covenant with God, you are destined to succeed!

to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? (verses 10-16)

First of all, notice that Jesus called this little lady a daughter of Abraham. By using this terminology, He was pointing out that she had a very special relationship with Almighty God. She had a covenant relationship with Him, a bond, a pact; and because of this, she could be set free from her infirmity.

I'd like you to also notice that Jesus didn't tell her that maybe someday she might be loosed from her infirmity. No, He said, "You *are* loosed," present tense. Jesus knew that she was a covenant woman. In His mind, her healing was already provided.

God is always operating in the present tense. He never forgets what He has provided for His children. His covenant is ever close to His heart.

In order to receive from God, you must realize that His Word is His bond, and regardless of how much time passes, the depth of His commitment never wanes. It remains fresh in the mind of God regardless of whether His people remember it or not.

That is why Jesus could tell that little woman, "Thou art loosed from thine infirmity." Because God was still mindful of His Word to Abraham. And the day He spoke to Abraham, 700 years before she was born, that little lady was in Abraham's loins. If the promises were made for *anyone*, they were made for *her*!

In fact, the covenant was made for everyone in that synagogue. They just didn't know it. They were so mindful of their traditions they didn't even know what the Master was talking about. They became angry with Him for healing on the Sabbath!

As a Christian, you have a covenant with Almighty God. It is just as binding as the one Abraham had, only it is a better covenant with better promises (Hebrews 8:6). To get an understanding of your covenant provisions, let's look at Galatians 3:

Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. 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 (verses 6-14).

Notice how many times the word *blessed* is used in this passage of scripture. Unfortunately, this word is too often heard as merely a religious term, and very few people understand the real meaning of it. But God is very exact in His usage of this word; He doesn't take it lightly.

The phrase *to bless* is used mainly in a covenant relationship. You begin to understand its meaning when you study the covenant that God has entered into with us. When He joined Himself



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Jesus didn't tell her that maybe someday she might be loosed from her infirmity. No, He said, "You are loosed," present tense.

irrevocably to us, we had nothing to give Him. We were totally spiritually bankrupt with nothing to offer Him while He, on the other hand, is Almighty God, all-powerful and the possessor of heaven and earth. He took our spiritual bankruptcy and exchanged it for His life and nature. He took our sinfulness and exchanged it for His righteousness. He took our sicknesses and carried our diseases and gave us divine healing. Hallelujah!

And you'll notice that in verses 13 and 14, He took the curse for us so that we might be blessed with faithful Abraham through Jesus Christ. What does that mean? The best way I know to describe the term *to bless* is "to empower one to prosper." *To prosper* means "to excel in something that is desirable as well as good."

To be spiritually blessed would be to be empowered to

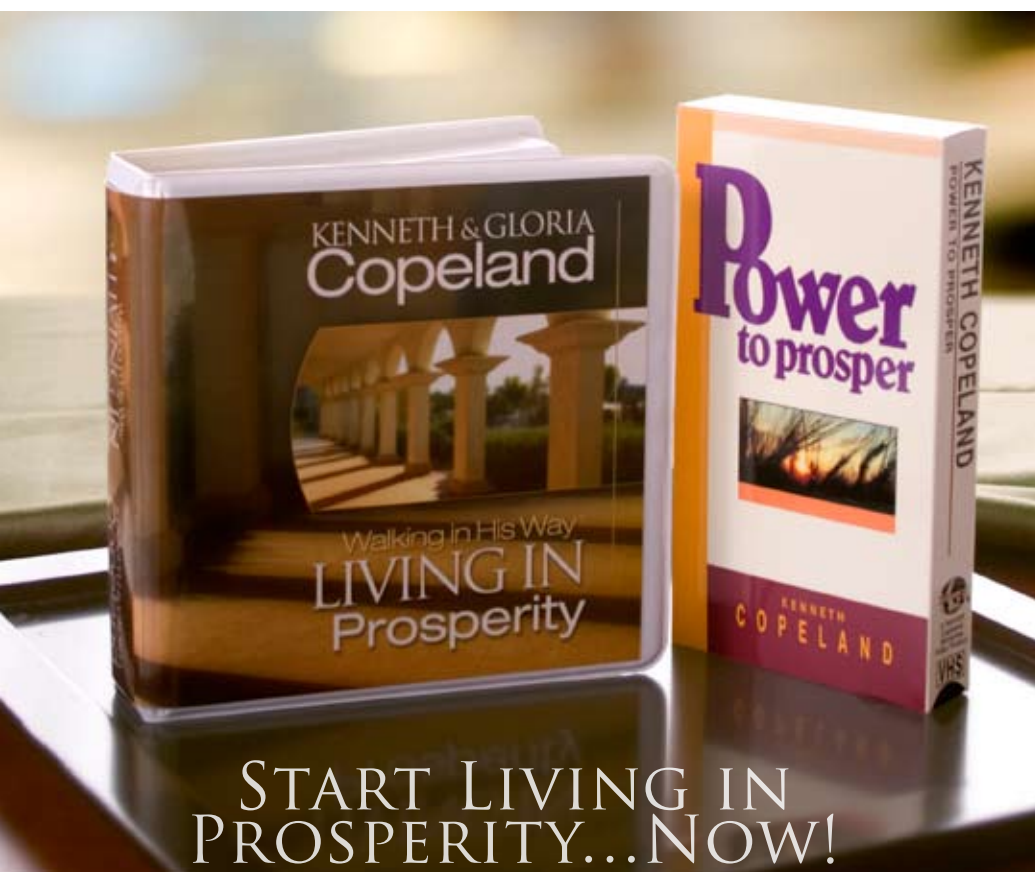
prosper spiritually. To prosper spiritually would first of all mean being born again. You could not excel spiritually if you still had the sin nature. But on the other hand, once you are born again, you can excel to the point of being baptized in the Holy Ghost, hearing the voice of the Lord, exhibiting the nature and character of God in your daily life, and operating in the gifts of the Spirit. To be spiritually blessed according to the Bible means to be empowered to excel in that which is desirable to the Holy Spirit. If you are spiritually blessed, there is no limit to how much you can prosper in the spirit realm.

To be blessed physically means to be empowered to prosper in your physical body, to be healthy and vibrant and able to accomplish the will of God for your life. It is not God's will for the devil to hinder you and keep you bound by sickness and disease.

To be blessed mentally means to be empowered to prosper in your mind. It includes being emotionally sound. It also means being able to understand the Word and spiritual things. It means having your mind renewed with God's Word.

Now, what do you think it means to be *cursed*? That is also a covenant term, and its true meaning is to "empower to fail."

Let's read Galatians 3:13-14 again in this new light. Using our definitions, let's see how the meaning of these verses expands our understanding of our covenant with God. "Christ hath redeemed us from being empowered to fail, by being empowered to fail *for* us: for it is written, Empowered to fail is every one who hangs on a tree: That the empowerment to prosper from Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (You can go to Deuteronomy 28:1-13 and find out exactly what the blessings of Abraham are. Rather than reading them the way they are written in the *King James Version*, read them with the Bible definition of the word *bless*.)



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With this in mind, consider the following statement God made to Abraham. "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 12:3). Again, using our definitions, let's read it this way, "I will empower those to prosper who empower you to prosper. And I will empower those to fail who try to cause you to fail."

In other words, "Anyone who has your best interest at heart, I will empower to prosper. And anyone who does not have your best interest at heart, I will cause their efforts to fail." If you are in covenant with God, you are destined to succeed! Anyone who comes against your success is coming against your covenant. God will stop their efforts to hurt you, not because He doesn't love them, not because He prefers you, but because He is bound by His Word. God loves everyone equally and desires everyone to be blessed.

So what will keep *you* in a state of always being empowered by God to prosper? Seek to empower those around you to prosper in every area of their lives—spiritually, mentally, physically, financially and socially. If you bless others, God will bless you!

Galatians 3:29 promises that the blessings of Abraham are yours in Christ. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." Notice again that this is in the present tense. If you are in Christ, you are Abraham's seed and an heir according to the promise made to Abraham.

Just like the little lady in Luke, you *are* loosed from your infirmity. You *are* empowered to prosper in every area of your life—right now! Don't put it off to the future—someday in the sweet by-and-by—or think that it passed away with the first disciples. You *are* empowered to prosper today!

VICTORY

...if two of you shall agree...

MATTHEW 18:19

"The prayer of agreement is one of the most powerful tools God has given us. It is a prayer that Jesus Himself guaranteed would bring results every time"

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When Home Is Half a WORLD AWAY

BONNIE HAGEMANN STARED AT THE BOY IN THE PHOTO. HIS BROWN EYES, WHILE SPARKLING WITH LAUGHTER, HELD A YEARNING THAT MADE HER ACHE TO HOLD HIM. CHESTNUT HAIR PEEKED OUT FROM UNDER THE BALL CAP SPORTING THE LETTERS OSU. BONNIE SIGHED AT THE IRONY. OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY WAS AN EASY DRIVE FROM HER HOME. YET THIS CHILD, DENIS, WAS FAR BEYOND HER REACH—HALF A WORLD AWAY IN A RUSSIAN ORPHANAGE.

Adopting Denis would be no easy task. Bonnie knew that. But she and her husband, Todd, were up to the challenge. They'd already fought a battle of faith over their first child, a battle they'd won four years earlier when Bonnie had miraculously given birth to their daughter, Erin. When they asked the Lord for a second child, He instructed them to adopt. Twice they'd been offered babies through domestic adoptions. Twice God had said, *No*. Instead, He clearly told them they had a son in an orphanage in Russia.

That's when they heard about Denis. The orphanage workers described him as a little leader with a wonderful personality. He'd been best friends with a girl who'd been adopted by a couple in Oklahoma. They were the ones who had given Todd and Bonnie the picture. "Denis needs a home," they had urged.

BY MELANIE HEMRY

GOD IS WILLING

In November 2003, Todd steadied his wife as she walked up the steps to the Ministry of Education. The long flight to Moscow, followed by a car trip to the Ural Mountains, had left her exhausted. Yet her heart beat faster as each step drew her closer to Denis.

Bonnie caught her breath when the woman handed her a picture of the child they were to adopt. *It wasn't Denis.* This child was only 18 months old, undernourished and had no hair.

"What about Denis?" Bonnie asked through an interpreter.

"His mother has not released him for adoption. This is Misha, Denis' younger brother."

The despair that washed over Todd and Bonnie was obvious to the Minister of Education. "I know you will love this child," she said, pointing to the picture of Misha. "It is impossible that you would not love this child."

The woman was right. It was impossible not to love Misha. Ten days later the papers were signed and the decree finalized. Misha was their son. The officials asked Todd and Bonnie for Misha's new name. "Joel," they replied. The name meant, "God is willing."

A DESTINY FOR DENIS

The Hagemann's home on 10 acres of Kansas countryside was the perfect place for Joel to put down roots and thrive. He quickly learned English, bonded with his sister and fell in love with his dog. Their home was filled with love and laughter. The only cloud on the horizon of their happiness was the thought of Denis languishing in a Russian orphanage.

"I knew I'd never be satisfied until Denis was out of that orphanage," Bonnie recalls. "As a long-term Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries, I'd learned the power of faith-filled prayer. We'd used our faith to believe God for our first child, and that miracle occurred after Keith Moore prayed for us. We'd used our faith again when we adopted Joel."

"Now I realized that I had to take a stand for Denis. I released my faith and asked God for a Christian family from the U.S. to adopt him—a family who would allow the boys to be raised knowing they were brothers. I kept Denis' picture on my computer, but most importantly I kept him in my heart, and made a firm commitment to pray for him every day. As months passed, I made regular calls to the orphanage begging them to complete the legal work that would allow Denis to be adopted."

A year later, Bonnie learned that Denis was available for adoption and there was a prospective family. "Please give the family all our contact information and tell them we adopted Denis' brother," she asked.

Soon afterward, Bonnie got an email from Denis'

prospective mother...and gasped when she saw the name. *Kristi Overton Johnson!*

An international competitor in water sports, Kristi had captured the U.S. Open and World Cup titles before bringing home the gold in the Pan American games. Retired from competition, Kristi has held the world record in women's slalom for 14 years.

Avid water skiers themselves, the Hagemanns had long been familiar with Kristi's accomplishments. They even received the Overton magazine. Bonnie learned that Kristi and her husband, Tim Johnson, both devout Christians, headed up a nonprofit ministry called In His Wakes. They traveled throughout the nation ministering to kids from children's homes, shelters and abusive situations by taking them out of their environment for a day and teaching them to water ski, swim and ride powerboats. At day's end, the children attended a ceremony recognizing them as champions. Best of all, Kristi and Tim wrapped the whole package around the good news, making an eternal difference in each child's life.

Bonnie shook her head in amazement. As the Johnson's son, Denis would be blessed beyond measure!

"WE BELIEVE THIS IS YOUR CHILD"

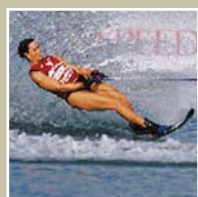
Kristi's journey toward adoption had actually begun in January 2004, almost a year before she emailed Bonnie. That was when she began to sense that something—or more accurately, *someone*—was missing from her life.

Some nights she puzzled over it as she tucked her son, Ty, into bed and kissed him goodnight. As full as her life was, those quiet times when they prayed together and he looked up at her with love shining from his eyes were the best part of Kristi's day. Those were the times when she truly realized how richly God had blessed her. She had a wonderful marriage, a son who made her heart sing, a fabulous career that had taken her all over the world, and now a ministry that let her give back to hurting children.



Top (L to R) Ty, Kristi, Ivy, Tim and Dalton Johnson
Bottom: Joel Hagemann and Dalton Johnson

I released my faith and asked God for a Christian family from the U.S. to adopt him—a family who would allow the boys to be raised knowing they were brothers.



Retired from competition, Kristi has held the world record in women's slalom for 14 years.



Top row (L to R) Kristi and Tim Johnson, Todd and Bonnie Hagemann; (center) Ty Johnson and Erin Hagemann; (bottom) Ivy and Dalton Johnson, Joel Hagemann.

She should be satisfied, really. But she ached for more children. She had been at an international competition in Russia when she got the urge to adopt a Russian child. Kristi had asked for the paperwork from an international adoption agency. She was stunned when Tim announced, "Let's get two!"

Summer 2004, Kristi got a call from the agency. "Mrs. Johnson, we want to know where you are in the process of adoption, because we have a child for you. It's a little boy named Denis. We've gone through all our families and just keep coming back to you. We believe this is your child."

"I'll get the paperwork to you right away," Kristi said. "But we also want to adopt a little girl."

"I'm sorry, but there are no girls available right now."

Six months later, in December 2004, the Johnsons flew to Moscow. When they arrived, the sun glistened off the ice that hung from tree branches, turning Russia into a winter wonderland. Kristi clenched Tim's hand as they bounced over ice-covered highways during the long drive from Moscow to the orphanage. Heart hammering in her chest, she walked up the steps to the orphanage. Inside, Kristi got her first glimpse of Denis.

He was the oldest child in the area. Clearly bored, he sat on the floor and poked a baby. Orphanage workers introduced Tim and Kristi to Denis. He ducked his head and refused to look at them. He seemed unsure of what to do. They had a language barrier and Kristi felt the watchful eyes of the staff waiting to see how he reacted to them.

Kristi had always had a way with children.

But nothing she tried with Denis worked.

After a while, Tim and Kristi stepped outside while the orphanage personnel treated Denis to an apple and explained to him in Russian why the Johnsons had come. Ten minutes later, Tim and Kristi were brought back into the room. When Denis saw them he threw himself into their arms, chattering in Russian as someone translated.

"Mama! Papa! What took you so long? When can we go home? Can we go today?"

That night the Russian adoption workers searched the system for a little girl. The next morning, Tim and Kristi saw a picture of 2-year-old Veronika. Because the orphanages were full, she lived in a hospital three hours away. Tim and Kristi tore themselves away from Denis and made the trip to meet Veronika. She looked sickly and malnourished. Bright brown eyes shone from a tiny body covered in lice and feces. She didn't know her name. She didn't speak. She was like an animal that hadn't been socialized.

"We'll take her," Tim and Kristi announced.

"Russian adoption laws don't let you select a child and just take him," Kristi recalls. "In most cases it requires two trips to Russia. We were set to return for the final adoption in one month. Leaving those two children was the hardest thing I'd ever done in my life."

"Take me with you!" Denis begged as they left the orphanage.

After they returned home, Russia shut down all international adoptions.

That's when a heartbroken Kristi contacted Bonnie and Todd Hagemann asking for prayer. In turn, the Hagemanns contacted friends, family members, ministries—anyone willing to help pray two small children out of Russia.

Meanwhile, Tim and Kristi clung to the memories of their visit with Denis and Veronika, and their promise from God that they would one day be united as a family. They were relieved to learn Veronika had been transferred to the orphanage where Denis resided and the orphanage staff was working hard to socialize her.

"We couldn't imagine life without those two children," Kristi remembers. "But with each passing day the odds of our getting them out of Russia seemed slimmer. The only

PARTNERSHIP CHANGES LIVES

thing we knew to do was step up our prayers, because it would take an act of God.”

April 27, 2005, God intervened. After five months of waiting, international adoption was reinstated in Russia.

TOGETHER AGAIN

Within a few short weeks, Tim and Kristi were hurrying up the steps to the orphanage. Inside, they saw the latest reports were true. Denis and Veronika loved one another. Denis was the first person Veronika ever bonded with. When the adoption was finalized, the officials asked for the children’s new names. Denis, age 4½, became Dalton. Veronika, age 2½, became Ivy.

The second day they were home in Florida, both Dalton and Ivy were up on water skis. Ty, their big brother, helped them.

“Both children acclimated quickly,” Kristi says, “although Ivy still didn’t even speak Russian. As difficult as those five months of waiting were, our transition from orphanage to home was probably a great deal easier because of all the work the orphanage staff did with Ivy. Today both of them speak English fluently and are happy, well-adjusted children.”

In July 2006, the Hagemanns and the Johnsons decided the time had come to reunite brothers Dalton and Joel. They chose St. Louis as the meeting place. Tim, Kristi, Ty, Dalton and Ivy arrived a few days early and waited with bated breath for the reunion.

Although the brothers hadn’t seen each other in two years, Dalton remembered his younger brother Joel, and Joel knew Dalton from all the stories he had heard from Todd and Bonnie.

“The boys bonded immediately,” Bonnie remembers. “They were inseparable. Even our birth children, Erin and Ty, quickly became best friends. Everyone loved Ivy, and Todd and I had grown close to Tim and Kristi during the months we were praying for Dalton and Ivy to get out of Russia. We had a wonderful reunion, which was just the first of many. Between visits the boys stay in contact by telephone.”

Today, Tim and Kristi Johnson have started the process of adopting Ivy’s younger brother...and because of the prayer and faith of two believing families, another little boy half a world away is about to find a home. **VICTORY**

(We first reported on the Hagemanns, and their adoption of 18-month-old Joel, in the September 2005 issue of Believer’s Voice of Victory.)



Every month in the *Believer’s Voice of Victory* magazine, you read about people’s lives that have changed because of your partnership commitment with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

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WILLING^{to}GO

WHENEVER AND WHEREVER GOD CALLS



Since the early 1980s, when they formed Yielded Vessels Ministries, Rufus and Dee Whynot have been fulfilling the mandate from God, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel.” Today, they’re still going strong, touching the world with the love of God and raising up Spirit-filled leaders to expand the work in Eastern Europe.



In 2005 alone, Yielded Vessels ministered to more than 14,000 people and led nearly 300 to salvation. Over the years, Rufus and Dee have personally led more than 42,500 in the prayer of salvation.

“Their commitment has been long-term and totally dedicated in an environment that is not always easy,” says Martin Hawkins, director of KCM Europe. “Their love for those they deal with is very evident.”

In the Beginning | Rufus worked at the headquarters office of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas, from July 1982 until September 1984. During

those years he founded Yielded Vessels and told the Lord, “Here am I, send me!”

God took him up on that offer.

Thanksgiving Day 1984, KCM helped Rufus and his family fulfill the call by moving them from Fort Worth to Living Water Teaching, Guatemala, where Rufus went to work for the ministry as their chief pilot. Two months later, Rufus became director of Living Water’s traveling Bible School and after eight months, the director of Living Water Teaching in Guatemala. He served in that capacity until 1987.

Reach the World | While Rufus and his family were happy serving God in Guatemala, the call to move on elsewhere with God’s love was overwhelming. As the Lord directed, the Whynots moved to Berlin in 1988 to do mission work, and founded a church there the following year. During that season, Rufus taught seminars to Christians,

mainly African students, in several Eastern European nations—leading hundreds of students to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit over a four-year period.

In January 1990, Rufus took his first trip to Romania. It would be the first of 14 trips he would make there over the next five years. In 1995, Rufus and Dee moved to north-western Romania's Cluj-Napoca—the capital of the district of Transylvania. Since then, they have begun churches in three different communities; established home churches in two other cities; taught literacy and Christian principles in two different prisons; and established a registered children's home with seven children.

Seeing Good Results | The Whynots have achieved much and give thanks to God for all He has done, fully acknowledging the support that KCM has given them.

Initially supported by KCM in the U.S., from 2000 KCM Europe expressed their desire to take on this responsibility, as the Whynots were now “in their parish.”

KCM's monthly support is only possible because of the gifts and prayers of KCM Europe's Partners and Friends. And that monthly support has made a big difference in a number of ways, including helping to pay the salaries of their workers, covering other ministry expenses, and taking care of the seven children in the orphanage.

In addition to KCM's regular support, in the past two years KCM Europe has sent special gifts to enable Yielded Vessels to rebuild an automobile desperately needed by the children's home, as well as sponsor a summer camp for young children.

During the first night of camp, all 46 children rededicated their lives to Jesus, and 20 of them received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Two Sundays later, one of the girls who had received Jesus brought her parents to church and they gave their lives to the Lord.

These children came from various backgrounds—Romanian, Hungarian, even Gypsies.

“Though the Gypsies, Romanians and Hungarians do not usually mix at all well in this nation, they played, learned and worked together throughout the four days,” says Rufus. “The adults learned something about unity from the children that week.”

Reaching Out to the Forgotten | Romania has a very high percentage of Gypsy citizens. In fact, in the camps on the edge of Cluj and the village of Floresti, there are about 2,000 Gypsies and Yielded Vessels is reaching out to all of them.

Over the past four years they built 28 houses.

“Many groups have come and given ‘stuff,’ but the ‘stuff’ is not what people need,” Rufus says. “They need a personal relationship with the Risen Savior. It takes time to prove to an outcast society that you represent ‘Someone’ who really does care for them. It's not the houses that are so important; but that the door is open for us to share the reality of Jesus in the camp.”

The Vision Goes On | Rufus and Dee Whynot continue the work in Eastern Europe, teaching the Word, preaching the good news, and praying for the lost.

“We are readying ourselves for the coming spiritual and natural harvest,” Dee says. “We are prayerfully making preparations for the influx of new, born-again children, teens and adults in the five different areas in which we minister. We are seeking God for a fresh, effective means of evangelism and fresh anointing. As always, our ultimate goal is the making of disciples. Our long-term goal is to increase the numbers of those called to the fivefold ministry who are equipped to go farther afield, so that more of Romania will be saturated with the gospel and a multitude saved and disciplined.”

As KCM Partners, you share in every soul that is saved, every person who is healed, every person who is touched by Yielded Vessels Ministries.

“We may not know you, the Partners and Friends of KCM, in the flesh, but we do know you in the spirit,” Dee adds, “and we so appreciate your faithfulness.” **VICTORY**



Romania has a very high percentage of Gypsy citizens. In fact, in the camps on the edge of Cluj and the village of Floresti, there are about 2,000 Gypsies and Yielded Vessels is reaching out to all of them.

A young girl is water baptized in Reghin, Romania.



I don't know anybody who's doing *everything* right.

I mean, we can always grow up more. We can always do more of the right things.

We can always do the right things we're doing, better. | So, today, I want to stir you up and encourage you to get rid of any little foxes that may be spoiling your vines. I want us both to walk in more victory down here on this earth. And that means living life according to what God says and not according to what the world says. | This world is a crazy mixed-up place that is headed for hell on a fast ship! But we don't have to get onboard. | The Lord has something good in mind for us. He has days of heaven on earth planned. His will for us is supernatural prosperity and blessing, *and* knowing how to handle it.

Straight Thinking

in a
twisted
world

I am so stupid
\$broke
that scared me to death
“*!@*%%”
Plane crash
there is no GOD

I'll never win
I feel SICK terror
DOOM terror
i quit i hurt so bad
failure Lack
not enough
nothing good ever happens
CURSING

We all pretty much love to prosper and hear about prosperity, don't we? I enjoy prosperity myself. I like it because I remember when I didn't have any! This is much better. But, let me tell you, we cannot just pick out the prosperity scriptures from the Bible and leave out all the other things God tells us to do. Prosperity comes to the *obedient*. We can only have days of heaven on the earth by doing what God says is right.

Without God and His wisdom, prosperity helps people sin.

To live a long, victorious life, we must find out about God's way of doing things, and get in line with that. Romans 12:2 tells us to "be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God."

Our deliverance from problems is found in the wisdom of God. Spending time in God's Word makes all its promises possible. That's because faith comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17). So, instead of thinking and living like the world, we must renew our minds to what God says in His Word.

IT'S NOT A FARAWAY SECRET

If we don't get the *Word* in, we will get the *world* in! And the world doesn't know bad from good. They think doing things such as drinking, drugs and living in immorality are good.

We want to *do* what God says is good. And Deuteronomy 30 tells us it's not actually that hard:

...Obey the voice of the Lord your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes.... *For this commandment which I command you this day is not too difficult for you*, nor is it far off. It is not [a secret laid up] in heaven, that you should say, Who shall go up for us to heaven and bring it to us, that we may hear and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, Who shall go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear and do it? But the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your mind and in your heart, so that you can do it (verses 10-14, *The Amplified Bible*).

God doesn't give us anything so complicated that we can't do it. Anyone who goes after His Word can understand what He is saying. It's not a faraway secret. It's an open-book test!

This is the key to our life of victory: "The word is very near you, in your mouth and in your mind and in your heart, so that you can do it." We must keep the Bible in front of our eyes and ears to get our thinking and believing straightened out. Get the Word in...and do it! Simple.

The whole key to prospering in this life is obeying God. The kingdom of heaven is manifest in the earth through obedience. The more we go after the things of God, the more we will straighten out our thinking—and the more we straighten out our thinking, the more we will prosper in our lives.

Third John 2 says this: "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in every way and [that your body] may keep well, even as [I know] your soul keeps well and prospers" (*The Amplified Bible*).

The wisdom of God—the way God does things—is what makes us free. It makes our souls keep well. It makes our bodies whole. It makes us prosper. When God tells us to walk in love and avoid strife, that's wisdom. Everything God tells us to do is for our good. According to Proverbs 3, God's wisdom brings a long, good life.

When God told the children of Israel what to eat, how to wash, and other instructions for living right, He did not just sit down one day and make up random rules. But rather He gave them guidelines that would do them *good*. It took the rest of the world a long time to catch up and understand that God knew what He was talking about. Just think, for years doctors would operate on patients without washing their hands!

God knows best. He gave Israel instructions for cleanliness and sanitation that the world didn't know about for thousands of years. The more we renew our minds to His Word and walk in what He says is right, the freer and better life becomes; and we experience more days of heaven right here on earth!

Years ago Ken and I made the decision to do what we saw in the Word. It brought us out of everything bad, and it's why we are so blessed today. Like one man in Matthew 7, we know that to live in disobedience would be foolish!



If we don't get the Word in, we will get the world in!

And the world doesn't know bad from good. They think doing things such as drinking, drugs and living in immorality are good.

God doesn't give us anything so complicated that we can't do it. Anyone who goes after His Word can understand what He is saying.

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it (verses 24-27).

The disobedient, foolish man's house was blown away. The wise man's house stood because he had a foundation of doing things God's way. *He found the key to living in the blessing: Choose to walk in line with God's Word.*

"I'M SUPPOSED TO GET THE EASY TEST"

People choose how good their lives will be by choosing how much of God's Word they will do. You grow up spiritually when you start doing what He shows you is right.

When you *don't* do what God shows you, then trouble is always the result.

God told Israel (and us) what would bring blessing and what would bring the curse. Then He revealed how to live in victory:

See, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil. *[If you obey the commandments of the Lord your God which] I command you today, to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments and His statutes and His ordinances, then you shall live and multiply, and the Lord your God will bless you...* (Deuteronomy 30:15-16, *The Amplified Bible*).

Or, He said, we can choose the opposite: "But if your [mind and] heart turn away and you will not hear, but are drawn away to worship other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that *you shall surely perish...*" (verses 17-18).

God gives us a choice and tells us: "...I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; *therefore choose life*, that you and your descendants may live" (verse 19).

It can't get any easier than that. It's a test we can all pass.

I'm reminded of a story one of my brothers told me about an incident that occurred while he was attending a small college in Arkansas. He said there was one boy from a certain small town who was very concerned about passing the entrance exam. He just didn't think he was smart enough to get into college. Well, the boy's big brother encouraged him and told him not to worry about it because the college always gave an easier test to people who were from this small town. So, the day came



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for him to take the exam. He sat down, opened his test and began working through it. It was much harder than he had anticipated. Before long, he raised his hand. The teacher called on him.

“Ma’am? There’s been a mistake here,” he said. “I’m from this small town in Arkansas, and I’m supposed to get the easy test.”

Well, I want you to know, God gives us all the same test—and it’s the *easy* test!

The answer is simple: *Choose* life.

If you choose life, you choose God and His ways. You choose blessing.

But when you choose the world’s ways—living and talking like the world, you choose death and curses. When you go with the flow of the world, the curse is free to run you down! Or as Psalm 109:17-18 puts it: “Yes, he loved cursing, and it came [back] upon him; he delighted not in blessing, and it was far from him. He clothed himself also with cursing as with his garment, and it seeped into his inward [life] like water, and like oil into his bones” (*The Amplified Bible*).

Now, you may be thinking, *Gloria, my life’s in pitiful shape! I’ve been going with the flow of the world and things aren’t good right now.*

Well, you can get out from under the curse today! The first step in straightening out your life is *be born again*. That’s how you get the blessing of God flowing into your life. According to Galatians 3:13-14, “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...”

When you choose Jesus, you are choosing life. He bore the curse for you so you could be free. Now it’s up to you to obey God and *walk* free.

The truth (God’s Word) will make you free when you do what it says.

Before you are born again, you don’t have what it takes to live godly in this present world. But 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, “If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature....”

And, Colossians 3:1-2 tells you: “If then you have been raised with Christ [to a new life...], aim at and seek the [rich, eternal treasures] that are above.... And set your minds and keep them set on what is above (the higher things), not on the things that are on the earth....” (*The Amplified Bible*).

Don’t look at trash. Don’t watch the bad, and the sad on television. *Set your mind on higher things, not the things of the world.*

GET UNTWISTED!

Worldly people have their own way of thinking and

doing things. But God commands believers to live *separate* from the world.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?...or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God.... *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you* (2 Corinthians 6:14-17).

The word *separate* means “to set apart; to disunite; to divide; to sever; to disconnect; to see differences between; to distinguish; to single out or set apart from others for a special purpose; to become disconnected; to part company; go in a different direction; cease to be associated; to become distinct or disengage as cream separates from milk.”

Christians are to be a holy people (see 1 Peter 2:9). *Holy* means “belonging to or coming from God, hallowed, consecrated or set apart for sacred use.” Holy people don’t hang out in bars or other dark places where sin abounds. Or as the Apostle Paul told the Israelites, don’t keep company with wickedness: “...if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner...put away from among yourselves that *wicked* person” (1 Corinthians 5:11-13).

Dennis Burke teaches that the word *wicked* comes from the same root word as wick and wicker. It means “twisted.” We’re not to be like wicked, twisted people. We are to walk as children of light and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. (See Ephesians 5:3-11.)

Now, we certainly should care about all people, and that includes people who are living a worldly lifestyle. We are to witness to them, but we must not fellowship in the dark with them. Our lives should shine as bright lights in this dark world.

“But they’re my friends,” you may say.

Well, tell them about the love of God, start praying for them and living right before them so they’ll know the difference between light and darkness. You can’t win anybody by sinning with them. Colossians 3:5 says you are to, “kill (deadened, deprive of power)...all that is earthly in you that is employed in sin” (*The Amplified Bible*).

You will continue to think and behave like the world until you change your thinking to agree with God.

Change your mind and you will change your life.

And it’s the Word that will straighten out worldly, twisted thinking! **VICTORY**



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