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August 2008

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HUMAN RACE

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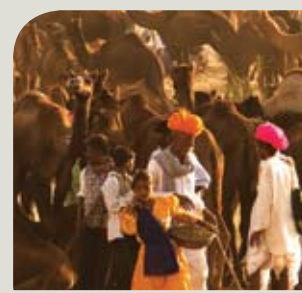
When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 35 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

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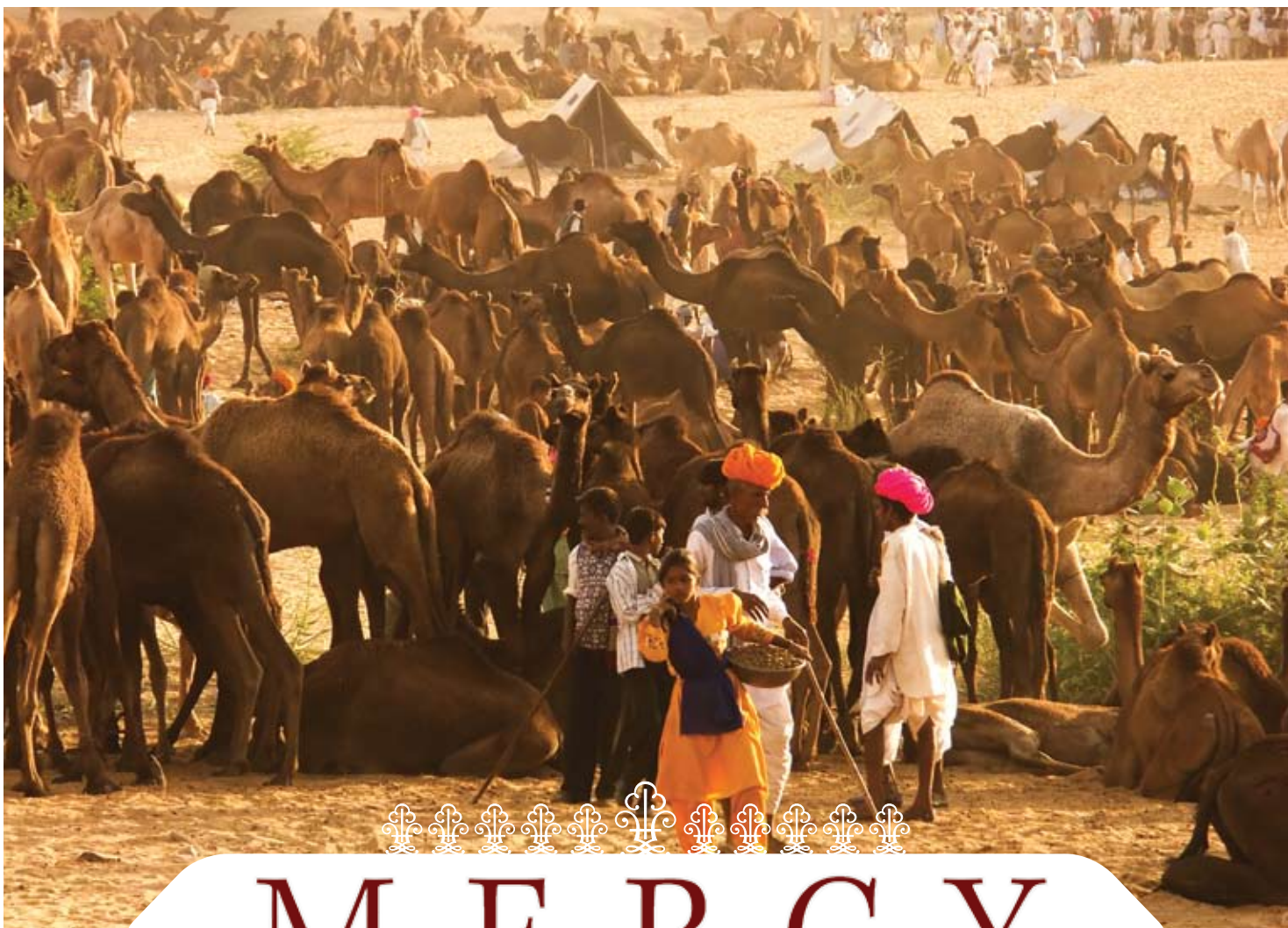
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MERCY

THE DIVINE RESCUE OF THE HUMAN RACE

SINCE THE GARDEN OF EDEN, GOD HAS HAD TO DEAL WITH MAN AT ARM'S LENGTH BECAUSE OF THE GLORY THAT SURROUNDS HIM. THAT GLORY WOULD ACTUALLY DESTROY MAN IF GOD APPEARED TO HIM IN THE FULL MANIFESTATION OF HIS POWER.

That's why God told Moses no man could look into His face and live. And even in revealing just a glimpse of Himself to Moses, God had to take extra precautions.

"I will put you in the shadow and cleft of a rock," He told Moses. "I will hold My hand over your face as I allow My goodness to pass before you."

Out of His mercy, God protected Moses from the intense power that radiated from His face, knowing that even the shadow of His presence would have destroyed him.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

This distance between man and Himself was not in God's original plan. In fact, God had created Adam and clothed him with His glory, such that Adam never knew he was naked.

Before Adam sinned, all he knew was the fire of God's glory around his body. After he sinned, however, Adam lost that glory and could no longer fellowship with God up close as he had before. If he had, the glory of God which consumes all sin would have consumed him as well.

God wanted to restore our relationship with Him so He could walk and talk with us like He did with Adam. After all, His desire is to have fellowship with man. So God sent Jesus to earth to pay the price for man's sin. Through Jesus, the glory of God came wrapped in human flesh so that once again man and his Creator could have contact.

Jesus was born of a virgin. The Holy Spirit hovered over Mary and there was conceived in her a holy thing. Jesus was born not from a natural man, but God caused life to come into Mary's womb. God's life flowed into Jesus' human body.

The glory of God did not consume Jesus as it would have a sinful man. Instead it became a flowing stream of anointing that radiated from the person of Jesus. We see a vivid illustration of this in the account of the Mount of Transfiguration where the clothes and face of Jesus literally shone with the glory of God.

Today, we are no longer restricted from the presence of God's glory. The New Covenant tells us very plainly that the God who shined out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory which shines in the face of Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 4:6).

God put His glory in us, and He did it because His mercy endures forever. His mercy was greater than all the sin in the whole world.

When Jesus said, "Let this cup pass from Me," the Father could have done so. God could have said, "I will not bring all the sin of fallen humanity on the One righteous being who has walked the earth since the Garden of Eden."

But God's mercy and enduring compassion were greater than what was about to happen to His Son.

Mercy overcame.

Jesus followed the example of His Father. He was always moved and led by compassion. He never acted on His own motives and ideas. Compassion and mercy dictated to His mind even when His body was suffering. It welled up within Him and produced joy, and it was for this joy that Jesus endured the shame of the cross.

CRAWLING INTO GOD'S LAP

While on this earth, Jesus experienced the same compassion that causes a mother or a father to overcome the fear of personal harm for the sake of their child.

A father will take on all the forces of hell and wade into odds far greater than himself when his family is threatened. His mercy and compassion are far greater than any danger he sees with his eyes and hears with his ears.

I will never forget the time when my daughter Kellie came and sat down on my lap. She was only 3 years old. I was looking at something else and she took her two index fingers, placed one on each of my cheeks and turned my face around to her face, which was right up in mine.

As Kellie pulled me closer she said, "Daddy, I love you." Had I owned the moon, I would have given it to her.

God responds to His children when they express their love for Him, just as naturally as a parent will respond to his child who says, "I love you."

The Word says we get the similarity of our parenthood from God. Our role as parents is a model of the relationship we have with our heavenly Father.

We will never get anywhere shaking our fists in God's face. But when we get before Him and say, "I love You. You are the King of my life. I will go anywhere You tell me to go, and I will do anything You tell me to do," God will respond to us compassionately.

When we take our place as His children, He will always take His place as our Father. God Almighty is the biggest love pushover in the whole world. He is fully aware of our every sin. He sent Jesus to the cross rather than to condemn us, and He hasn't changed. He is still looking for opportunities to show His mercy.

In 2 Chronicles 20, Jehoshaphat appointed singers to go out in front of the army as they prepared to march into battle.

We're told the words they sang were, "Praise the Lord; for his mercy endureth for ever."

But what they were really saying to the enemy was, "God loves us and you'd better keep your hands off us!"

And God moved on the enemy army before they got to the Israelites.

In 2 Chronicles 5:13-14, we find an account of how God responded when the children of Israel began to shout about His mercy:

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the Lord; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of music, and praised the Lord, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the Lord; so that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the Lord had filled the house of God.

Declaring God's mercy and praising Him brought a tremendous manifestation of the glory of God—the priests could not even stand on their feet to minister.

A REASON FOR WORSHIP

Mercy is the reason we worship God. It motivates us to walk holy before Him. It gives us confidence that we can come before Him without fear. We can rest in knowing

the mercy of God is greater and stronger than anything else. It has unlimited power and endurance.

Throughout Psalm 136, the psalmist declares the great and mighty acts of God as being a demonstration of His mercy. In each of the 26 verses, the psalmist uses the phrase “for his mercy endureth for ever.”

Looking at this psalm, you can see that each work of God is covered by His mercy and His mercy is great, putting into operation wonders, wisdom and His creative

power. And not only does it last forever—it is also holy.

Love is the source of mercy and compassion and is the basis of holiness. Every time we remember how holy God is, we are to give thanks and praise because “His mercy endureth forever.”

Psalm 30:4-5 illustrates that for us: “Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness. For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.”

Understand that although God’s holiness sets up a standard against sin, it is not intended to prevent us from having a good time. Mercy is the motivating factor behind the standard of holiness. God wants us to experience His joy by living and walking after His example. In His mercy, God tries to keep us from sin which has the power to kill us. We are to rejoice in the protective mercy He has for us and worship Him because His holiness is an expression of His love.

We are instructed in 1 Chronicles 16:29 to “worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.”

As you begin to analyze God’s merciful nature, you will begin to understand the way He thinks. New insights into the Word of God are gained where you have not had understanding before.

I let myself be robbed of the first five years of my ministry because I did not understand God’s mercy. Don’t let that happen to you. Do not allow condemnation to keep you from acting on the mercy of God.

Instead, follow what the Word says concerning mercy. Keep in mind that in comparison to His wrath, God’s mercy is far greater. Psalm 30:5 assures us that God’s anger “endureth but a moment.”

God has always loved you. He loved you when you were a sinner and did not know Him. He loves the person who has violated every commandment there is. God’s love is constant and He never changes. There’s nothing you can do to make Him love you any more or any less. He loves you with all that He is—and He is love.

Take comfort in the fact your Father is “gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy. The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works” (Psalm 145:8-9). Certainly, you may do things that cause Him to have no pleasure in you. We all do. But He still loves us.

So be confident in your Father’s love today. Know that you can never change how much He loves you—because everything God does concerning you is based on His mercy. **VICTORY**

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Adapted from Kenneth Copeland’s book, Mercy—The Divine Rescue of the Human Race.

Republic vs. Democracy

As a nation, Americans have grown accustomed to hearing that we are a democracy. But did you know that such was never the intent of our founding fathers? Our founders had an opportunity to establish a democracy in America and chose not to. In fact, the founders made it clear that we were not, and were never to become, a democracy. **The form of government entrusted to us by our founders was a republic, not a democracy.**

Many Americans today seem to be unable to define the difference between the two, but there is a difference—a big difference. That difference rests in the source of authority.

A pure democracy operates by the direct majority vote of the people. When an issue is to be decided, the entire population votes on it and the majority wins and rules.

A republic differs in that the general population elects representatives who then pass laws to govern the nation. A democracy is the rule by majority feeling (what the founders described as a “mobocracy”). A republic is rule by law.

If the source of law for a democracy is the popular feeling of the people, then what is the source of law for the American republic? According to Founder Noah Webster: “[O]ur citizens should early understand that the genuine source of correct republican principles is the Bible, particularly the New Testament, or the Christian religion.”

The transcendent values of biblical natural law were the foundation of the American republic. Consider the stability this provides: In our republic, murder will always be a crime, for it is always a crime according to the Word of God. However, in a democracy, if a majority of the people decide that murder is no longer a crime, murder will no longer be a crime.

America’s immutable principles of right and wrong were not based on the rapidly fluctuating feelings and emotions of the people but rather on what Montesquieu identified as the “principles that do not change.”

Benjamin Rush similarly observed: “[W]here there is no law, there is no liberty; and nothing deserves the name of law but that which is certain and universal in its operation upon all the members of the community.”

In the American republic, the “principles which did not change” and which were “certain and universal in their operation upon all the members of the community” were the principles

of biblical natural law. In fact, so firmly were these principles secured in the American republic that early law books taught that government was free to set its own policy only if God had not ruled in an area. The founders understood that biblical values formed the basis of the republic and that the republic would be destroyed if the people’s knowledge of those values should ever be lost.

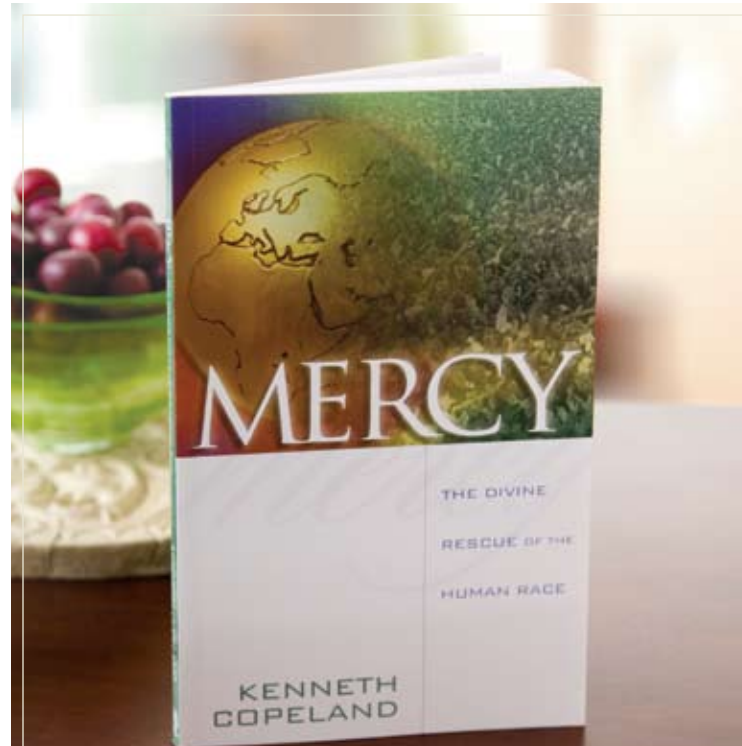
A republic is the highest form of government devised by man, but it also requires the greatest amount of human care and maintenance. If neglected, it can deteriorate into a variety of lesser forms, including a democracy (a government conducted by popular feeling); anarchy (a system in which each person determines his own rules and standards); oligarchy (a government run by a small council or a group of elite individuals); or dictatorship (a government run by a single individual). As John Adams explained:

[D]emocracy will soon degenerate into an anarchy; such an anarchy that every man will do what is right in his own eyes and no man’s life or property or reputation or liberty will be secure, and every one of these will soon mould itself into a system of subordination of all the moral virtues and intellectual abilities, all the powers of wealth, beauty, wit, and science, to the wanton pleasures, the capricious will, and the execrable [abominable] cruelty of one or a very few.

Understanding the foundation of the American republic is a vital key toward protecting it. **VICTORY**



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



You’ve Been Rescued!

When you were caught in Satan’s grip, there was only *one* force strong enough to free you: *God’s mercy*. Though few truly understand it, it’s the key to receiving God’s best in your life, and it’s the compelling power behind God’s redemption of mankind. In his book, *Mercy—The Divine Rescue of the Human Race*, Kenneth Copeland shares how to:

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- Be governed by mercy and compassion instead of legalism, rules and fear
- Focus on the spiritual realm instead of the natural realm

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God can turn it around



The summer sun stood still, staring down on the streets of Washington, D.C., with a white-hot glare, steaming the city in sultry heat. Lenora Fuller flipped the air conditioner in her car to full power, pointing the vents toward her face as the traffic crawled to a halt. She sighed, drumming her fingers on the steering wheel, grateful her workday was over.

She may as well admit it: Changing jobs had been a mistake. After earning both undergraduate and graduate degrees from George Washington University, Lenora had worked almost 20 years as a U.S. public policy analyst, examining the administration of defense and

international affairs programs. She had lived in Germany and worked and traveled in numerous European and African countries, among them England, France, Scotland, Italy, Switzerland, Holland, Ethiopia, Kenya, Niger, Ivory Coast and Sudan. Recent changes in senior leadership,

Lenora realized she wasn't just fighting for a house. The house represented the only family she'd ever known.

however, had persuaded Lenora to take a different job—one she had hoped would offer a more welcoming work environment.

With each passing day, it became more apparent: Her hopes had been disappointed. The job hadn't worked out the way she'd imagined. She and the new agency were not a good mix.

With the sizzling afternoon commute behind her, Lenora unlocked the front door of her mother's 1920s Dutch colonial home, stepped into the cool, refreshing silence and drank in the sight and smell of home. Changing into comfortable clothes, she looked out to the tree-lined street—and faced her second big mistake—the house across the street which now, regrettably, belonged to her.

The house bore the same red brick as her mother's home, but was larger—two stories plus an attic. Lenora's father had passed away seven years before, leaving her mother to live alone. So, after working overseas, Lenora returned home to join her mom. Wanting a place of her own near her mother, she purchased the house in March 1999. She wanted it so much she had reasoned away the drastic repairs the house needed. *They were nothing a good contractor and \$40,000 couldn't fix*, she thought.

But the contractor she'd hired proved not to be a good one. After he blew through all her money, the insurance company cancelled her policy on the house due to shoddy work. She hired a second contractor to rip out what the first one had done, but during the process the house was broken into twice and robbed. Repair costs escalated, and with no insurance, she was forced to replace thousands of dollars of stolen materials, and continued to pay for repairs out of her own pocket. Two years after buying the house, she was still struggling to complete the repairs.

Lenora took the mail from the mailbox and turned away from the house. She had more urgent matters to think about today. Across town, her mother was lying, pale and still, in the hospital.

When Lenora stepped through the double doors of the intensive care unit, the nurse greeted her and then shook her head. "There's no change," she said. "She's still in a coma."

Lenora slipped into her mother's room and picked up her weathered hand. "Momma, I'm here!" she said, caressing her cheek. Settling into a chair beside the bed, Lenora sorted through the mail and found a letter from the Internal Revenue Service. They claimed she owed thousands in back taxes on the losses she'd claimed from the first contractor. Closing her eyes, she whispered, "What else can go wrong?"

Trouble on Every Side

"August 17, 2001, three weeks after my 50th birthday, my mother died," Lenora recalls. Still reeling from her mother's passing, Lenora realized with a sinking heart that she did not want to live in the house she now owned. "Although it was bigger and had new repairs, I wanted to live in my mother's house. My parents bought that house in 1955, and had made many sacrifices to raise the three of us kids there. I had no happy memories associated with the house across the street, but my parents' home was steeped in them."

Lenora decided she would rent out her own house and settle into the home where she'd grown up, content to live out the rest of her days there. She assumed that would be a simple solution to her problem.

She turned out to be wrong.

"Mom had taken out a reverse mortgage, and as I handled her estate, I contacted the mortgage company in California to make arrangements to buy back the note, but the company wanted to sell it. They ignored my letters. Despite the reverse mortgage, the house had a great deal of equity and I believe the mortgage company wanted it. To my shock, instead of working with me, they threatened to initiate foreclosure proceedings."

Lenora hired a mortgage broker to get financing and a lawyer to stop foreclosure proceedings, but dealing with the mortgage company proved difficult; so did dealing with her renter across the street. Although Lenora had hired a property management company and the renter's credentials seemed



Lenora and Louis McCall

"God had literally turned every problem in my life around. I'd always loved and served the Lord, but through partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries, I learned the power of standing on God's Word and refusing to give up."

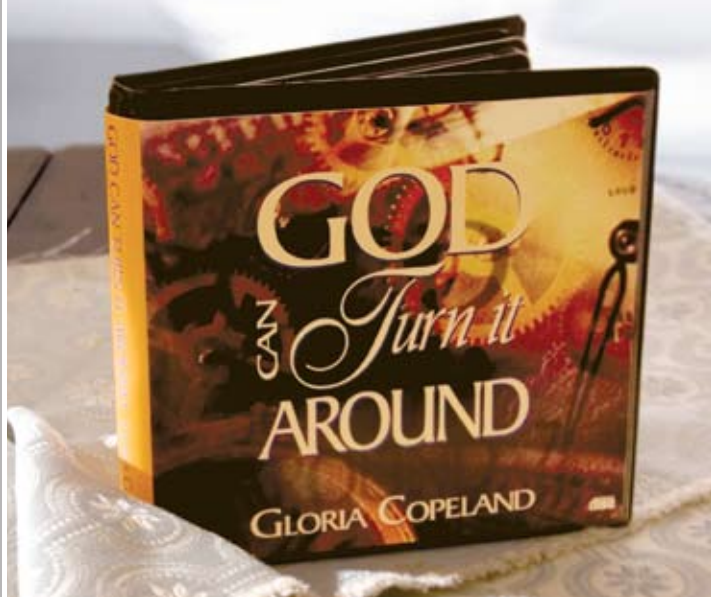
excellent, his check bounced and a new nightmare began. The man littered the house with trash, through neglect caused the basement to flood *and* didn't pay the rent. Lenora hired an attorney to evict him, but in a city where renters have strong rights, she knew it would be a long battle.

The summer of 2002, one year after her mother's death, Lenora knelt at the altar of the Catholic Church she attended and lifted up a heartfelt prayer for help. In response, the voice of the Holy Spirit swept through her heart like a gentle breeze. *Hold on, hold on*, He said.

Meditation on God's Word

Lenora felt a lot like Job. Without warning, trouble had erupted in every area of her life. Her new job was miserable. The problems with her house and renter seemed unending. And nothing she or her attorney did to get her mother's house out of preforeclosure worked. But, she had taken a step to remedy one problem in her life by changing jobs in February 2002.

YES, God Can Turn It Around



It doesn't matter whether it's cancer, divorce, financial problems or depression—God *can* turn it around. He only requires that you have a spirit of faith! In this series, Gloria Copeland will inspire you as you learn:

- How your words can change the world around you
- How to view your situation through God's eyes
- And more
- How to stay in living contact with the Lord

No matter what you face, *God Can Turn It Around!*

"When my mother was alive, she had watched Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Creflo Dollar and Joyce Meyer every morning while I dressed for work," Lenora remembers. "I missed her and the sound of the television in the morning so I started watching those programs. One day, Gloria Copeland taught a message called 'God Will Turn It Around.' She explained that no matter what you go through, God will turn it around if you do what He says in Joshua 1:8, 'This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it' (*New King James Version*). A charismatic Catholic since the 1970s, I had always prayed and read my Bible daily, but I realized then I needed to spend more time in the Word.

"Gloria also taught that we have the right to stand on the promises of God and refuse to let go. One of those promises is found in 2 Corinthians 9:8 (*NKJV*), 'And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.'

"I realized those two verses were the keys to God turning my situation around. I bought Gloria's video, and every afternoon after work I watched it. Some days I watched it twice. I'd spend the rest of the evening meditating on the Word of God, and on my knees in prayer."

When the issues with her mother's house had not been settled by fall 2002, Lenora hired a second attorney. At her new job she kept quiet, and each evening went home to pray for a miracle, believing God would turn her situation around.

Finally, her attorney called with good news. He had negotiated a settlement with the mortgage company. The house would not be foreclosed. Limp with relief, Lenora praised God, giving Him all the glory.

And Having Done All—Stand

Several weeks later, Lenora poured fresh food and water into the dog bowls, then turned to answer the phone. "I thought this thing with Mother's house was all worked out," Lenora's brother said.

"Yes, it is," she assured him.

"I got a letter today saying they are foreclosing the house December 2 at 9:40 a.m."

"*What?* That's only a week away!"

"Look, I know you want to stay in that house, but why don't you just come live with me. I've got plenty of room."

"This house is not going into foreclosure," Lenora said. Her brother sighed as he hung up. Before long, her sister phoned.

"Lenora, come live with us! We'd love to have you."

"Thanks," Lenora said, "but the house is not going to be foreclosed." And that's what she told everyone who contacted her about buying the house before the foreclosure sale.

Fighting for Family

God will *turn this around*, Lenora thought. *But how?* she wondered. Four days before the foreclosure, Lenora stood in the kitchen where her mother had prepared hundreds of meals. She ran her hand over the table where the family had eaten, laughed and talked. Her parents had been devout Christians who raised their children in church and taught them to read the Bible. Saturday mornings each child was expected to quote a scripture before breakfast. The memories were rich and sweet.

Family. Lenora realized she wasn't just fighting for a house. The house represented the only family she'd ever known. As a child she'd sat in her bedroom and dreamed of the man she would marry. He was kind, a Christian, educated, well traveled and spoke five languages. But he'd never materialized outside of her imagination. While she'd had academic success and success in her career, Lenora had never married and did not have a family of her own—except the one that for so many years graced this table, the one whose lives were woven into the fabric of this house.

She opened her Bible and meditated on the promises, but the phone yanked her back to the moment. It was the lawyer who'd probated her mother's estate calling to ask how everything was going.

"*What?*" she said when Lenora explained the situation with her mother's house. "We'll see about that!"

Four days later, the attorney and her broker drove to Bethesda, Md., and with only minutes to spare, stopped the foreclosure. Then she called Lenora with the news.

"I ran through the house *shouting* praises to God," Lenora admits. Two weeks later, she bought her mother's house. After settlement, she started receiving checks from fees that had been collected by the company planning the foreclosure. And, if that weren't enough, after a two-year legal battle her renter was evicted and she sold her house.

"Finally, I was working in a job I loved, rooted in my parents' home and the house across the street belonged to someone else. God had literally turned every problem in my life around. I'd always loved and served the Lord, but through partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries, I learned the power of standing on God's Word and refusing to give up."

A few years later, at the age of 54, Lenora married Louis McCall, a man she met at her new workplace, who works in her field. He has a doctorate, has lived

and worked in many countries including Australia, Italy, Brunei, India, Sierra Leone and Zambia, and has traveled to many more. Louis and Lenora possess similar backgrounds and share many of the same interests and values. Both had worked in some of the same countries, but never at the same time. They both love music and have performed. But perhaps most importantly, Louis loves the Lord. He has worked with prison ministries as well as evangelical missions throughout the U.S., India and Africa. He speaks five languages and tells Lenora he loves her in every one of them. They wed in Nassau, Bahamas in 2006 and honeymooned in Italy.

"Whatever you're going through today," Lenora Fuller-McCall says, a contented smile on her face, "trust God, and He *will* turn it around." **VICTORY**

partners here for each other

Lenora McCall was in a dire situation. Facing the loss of a loved one, financial ruin and more, she reached out in faith. As she took hold of the uncompromised Word, God turned her world 180 degrees...and now life is better than ever.

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At Kenneth Copeland Ministries, we believe partnership is about being here for *you*. We know you want to be part of a ministry that reaches not only the four corners of the world, but also into your own home. That's why we join faith with our Partners, praying each and every day for your healing, restored relationships and financial blessings. And we know our Partners are here for us, too—praying and supporting the work God is doing through KCM. Together, we're doing far more than either of us could ever do alone!

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“Spiritual truths must be spiritually discerned. You can’t intellectualize a spiritual truth.”

spend time at the THRONE

People often say to me, “Brother Jesse, you have such a unique relationship with God. Why is that?” :: I think they are expecting a big philosophical answer, but that’s not what I give them. I simply tell them what I’m telling you: “I spend time with God. I spend time at the throne.” :: I love being with God. When we’re alone I ask Him, “What are Your aspirations, Lord? What do You want to do today, God?” I just talk to Him. I ask Him how He is feeling.

You see, I know God so well and I fellowship with Him so much during my throne time, I can sense when He isn’t feeling right. For example, the other day I went into my study to do my Bible study and talk to the Lord a little bit, and God just wasn’t Himself. So I said, “Lord, is something wrong?”

He said, *Yeah...you know Me, Jesse.*

I asked, “What’s the matter, Lord?”

He said, *My people have disobeyed Me today.*

I could sense He was hurt the same way I can tell when my wife, Cathy, is feeling hurt, because I know God. I have spent many hours with Him. I’ve heard Him laugh. I’ve heard Him talk. He has shared secrets with me.

Now, that may shock some of you and make the theologians downright mad, but that same kind of close relationship is available to anyone who will invest in throne time.

You don’t have those kinds of experiences while sitting in a pew at church because you’re too busy learning about God. That’s school time. Church is where you learn about God so you can do His will, His commandments and His statutes on earth. Throne time is not church time. Often, people mistakenly think just because they went to church or attended a special meeting, they have spent quality time with God. No, they spent time with a *teacher* of God—not one-on-one time with God Himself. Of course, you may feel God’s presence in a church service, and I hope you do. You may run and holler and shout in church, but that still doesn’t qualify as throne time.

When you first met your best friend, you started learning all about him or her. As time passed, you began to know them better. The same is true in your relationship with God. As you get closer to Him, you begin to know Him in a whole new way.

GOD WANTS TO FELLOWSHIP WITH YOU

Living out the will of God on earth requires throne time, otherwise known as fellowshiping with the Father. First John 1:3 says: “That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.” John, the beloved disciple, fellowshiped with Jesus. He rode donkeys with Him. He ate dinner with Him. He even slept in the same house as Jesus. You would think John truly knew the Lord. But, there are so many dimensions of the Lord that we will never know them all.

Notice the expression of his writing when he is on the Isle of Patmos. John writes in Revelation 1:10-11,

“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last....”

John says, “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,” because he had never seen or heard Jesus like that before. He says he saw Him high and lifted up and His train filled the temple. John was fellowshiping with Jesus on that Lord’s day. It wasn’t school time; it was John and Jesus time.

When I am in the Spirit, it’s fellowshiping time for Jesse and Jesus. I say, “Hello, Jesus,” and He says, *Hello, Jesse.* Once you’ve experienced some throne time, you’ll long for it.

Throne time is not designed for you to have a prayer meeting. When I have throne time, I don’t ask God to answer this prayer request and meet that prayer need. I just go into the throne room to talk to God. He likes that, and He reveals answers to questions I have in my heart and mind. You get great revelations during throne time—not church time. Church time is where you are educated in the things of God to complete the mission of God. Throne time, on the other hand, is just you hanging out with God, talking about whatever the two of you decide to discuss.

REFUSE TO BE CONFUSED

When you visit the throne on a regular basis, clarity of mind will come. Many people become confused when God gives them understanding, because spiritual truths must be spiritually discerned. In other words, you can’t intellectualize a spiritual truth. As you spend more time at the throne and refuse to be confused, decisions will be made before you have the chance to debate them with God. You’ll know what to do and you’ll just do it without reasoning or doubting.

This happened to us not long ago. I asked Cathy to shop for a piece of land and find a nice building while I was away. She found a great piece of property with a million dollar building on it. When she showed it to me I said, “Cathy, that’s a million dollar building!”

She said, “Yeah, I know, but we can get it for \$250,000.”

I laughed and said, “You couldn’t even buy the bottom floor of that building for \$250,000.”

Then I heard the Lord tell me to be still because Cathy was on a mission. You see, Cathy had heard from God. So when she talked to the owners of that building, they were anxious to sell, and actually agreed to \$250,000. She told me the news and said, “Now go into your study and pray about it because you’re the one who has to release the money.”

So, I did. I prayed, “God...” and He interrupted

and said, *Jesse, you can pay \$250,000 but I'm going to pay \$240,000.*

I came out of my study and gave Cathy the news. She said, "That's the craziest thing I've ever heard. Go back in there and pray again."

I said, "Woman, that's what the Lord said."

"What does it mean?" she asked.

"I don't know what it means," I answered. "Just cut the deal."

We finalized the deal with our lawyer and there was only one thing left to do—tell the tenants that we wouldn't be renewing their leases. So, we bought the building for \$250,000 but as it turned out, the tenants owed us \$10,000 on the lease so after they paid us what they owed, it was exactly as God had said—we could

pay \$250,000 but He was paying \$240,000.

THRONE TIME EQUALS UNWAVERING FAITH

When I originally heard God say, *You can pay \$250,000 but I'm paying \$240,000*, it didn't make sense, but I had no doubt that I heard God because I've spent enough time at the throne that I know His voice. I also have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), which is a clear-thinking mind. You can experience that same kind of clear thinking if you'll visit the throne more often. When you visit the throne, you won't come back with conflicting ways to deal with life. So many Christians have conflicting ways of dealing with life. Why? Because they haven't spent enough time at the throne. Romans 12:2 says, "Be not conformed...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." When I've spent time at the throne, even if God tells me to do something that seems impossible, I will do it because I don't have conflicting thoughts. The more time you spend at the throne, the less time you spend doubting.

That's why I didn't doubt God had said, *I'm paying \$240,000* for that piece of property with the beautiful building on it. I had faith that I heard Him correctly, and I had faith that He would do what He said. That kind of confidence only comes when you spend time at the throne.

Living out the will of God includes a life of unwavering faith. When you spend time at the throne, you won't make debates, you'll make decisions. Your faith never wavers. You'll finally get beyond the realm of belief and into the realm of knowing. Once you're in the realm of knowing, you'll have ability and power.

During one of my throne sessions with God, I asked Him, "Why do You give Yourself so many names?"

He said, *I'm very big.*

I wanted more, so I asked, "Can You explain that further?"

He said, *I have many facets that the human brain cannot understand and the way I get to them is through words. That way, My children can get a concept of Me because most of them never visit Me; they just visit My house.*

Take time to visit God at the throne today. Spend agenda-free time with Him so you can begin living out the will of God on earth. He's waiting. **VICTORY**

Jesse Duplantis is the president and founder of Jesse Duplantis Ministries, with international headquarters in Louisiana and additional offices in the U.K. 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 2608, Hammond, LA 70404-2608; call 985-764-2000; or visit www.jdm.org.

Any session with Jesse Duplantis will have you doubled over with laughter. But this Cajun preacher also has a mighty grasp on the Word—especially when it comes to insights on truly living life and the power of love. In this special package, you'll receive some of his best (and funniest) life and love teachings including:



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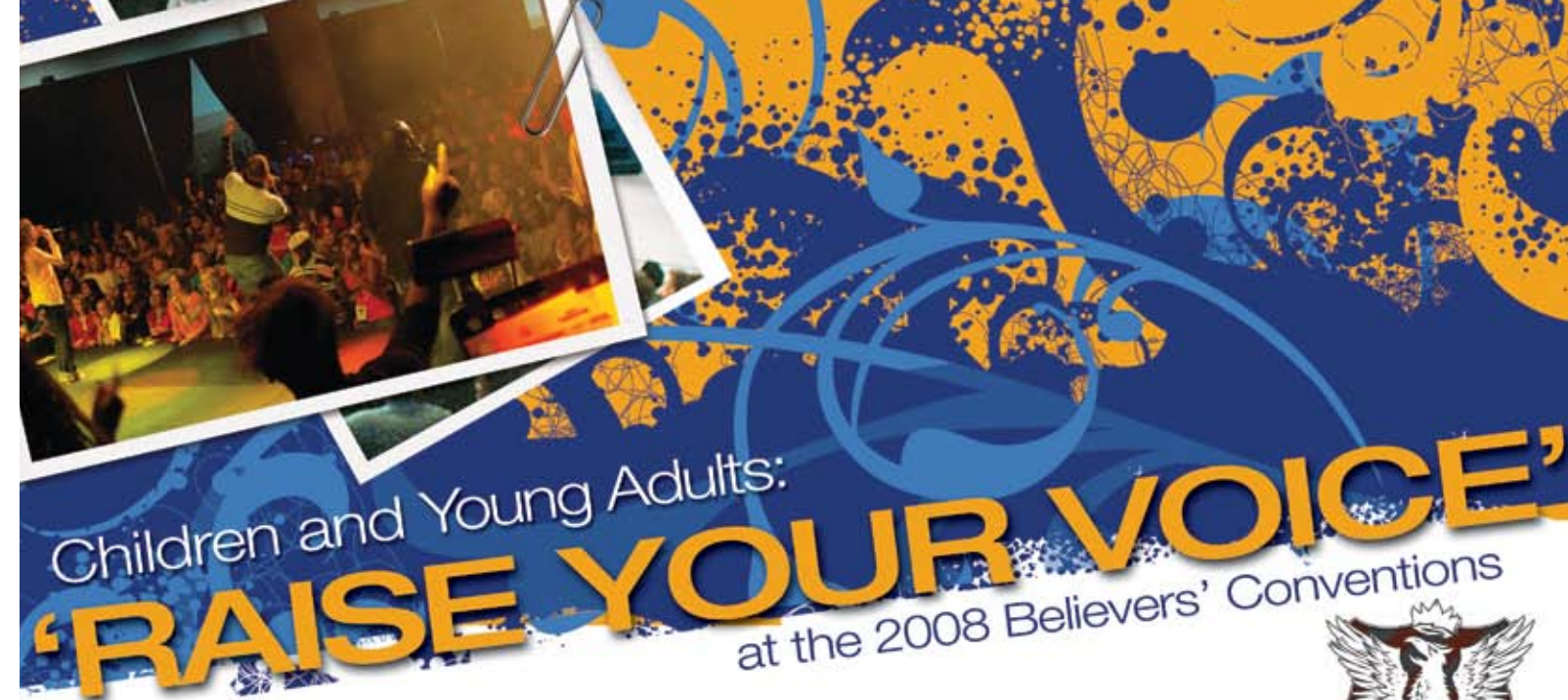
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While parents enjoy the upcoming Southwest and Great Lakes Believers' Conventions, KCM has special services prepared just for young people—services filled with the same uncompromised Word of victory you love!

Superkid Academy

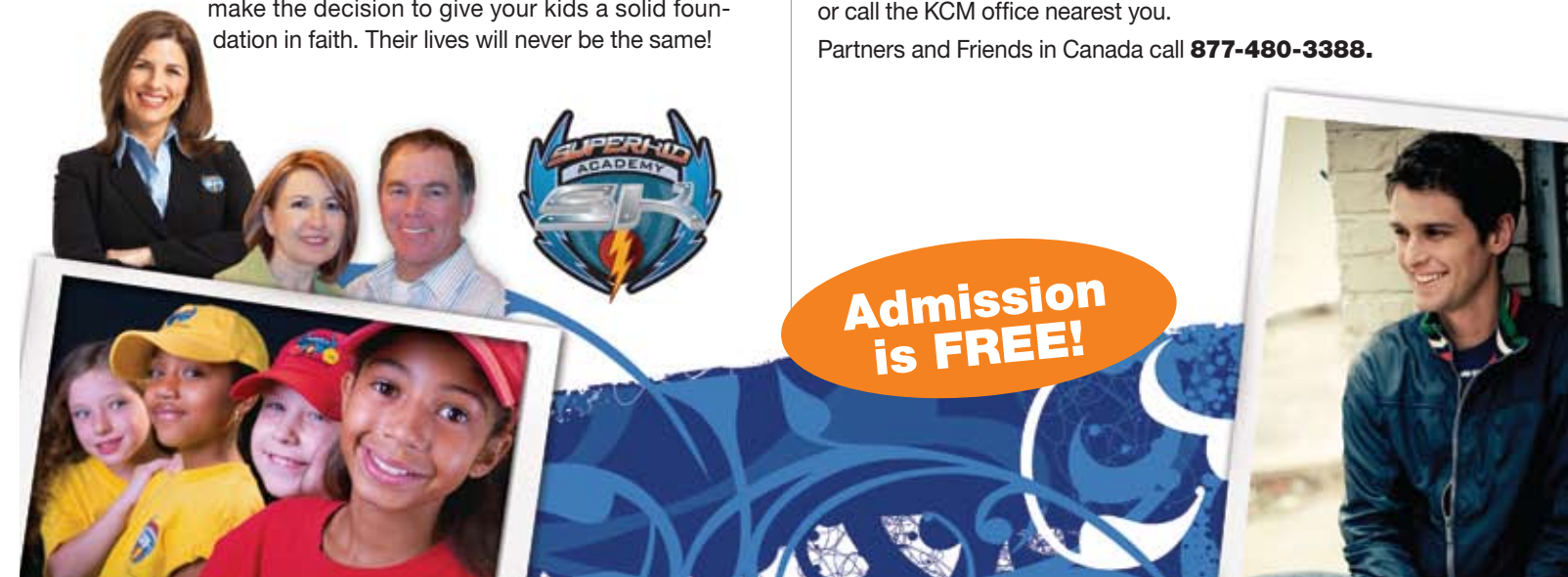
at the Southwest Believers' Convention and the Great Lakes Believers' Convention

For ages 6-12

God is no respecter of persons. He's ready to work through people of all ages...and now, like never before, children are raising their voices and changing the world.

At Superkid Academy, kids will join **Commanders Dana and Linda Johnson** and **"Commander Kellie" Copeland** for a time of energetic singing, funny skits, action-filled games and prizes galore. It's like attending a full week of Superkid Camp for FREE!

Plus, each and every service is anchored around solid teaching that will challenge kids to seek the Lord with their whole hearts. While you're getting fed in the main services, make the decision to give your kids a solid foundation in faith. Their lives will never be the same!



Admission is FREE!

14forty

at the Southwest Believers' Convention ONLY

For junior high and high school

God is looking for young people who will seek Him and *raise their voices* for His glory. Now, teenagers can experience a life-changing event that will mark their lives forever. **Jeremy Pearsons** hosts a lineup of powerful speakers and contemporary worship.

FREE, FUN, FABULOUS giveaways, **UNFORGETTABLE** worship with students from around the world!

Make a commitment to invite the young people you love to this year's 14forty where they'll discover how to raise their voices above the competing influences surrounding them!

Southwest Believers' Convention | August 4-9 | Fort Worth, Texas

Great Lakes Believers' Convention | August 18-23 | Milwaukee, Wis.

For more details, see pages 22-23, visit **events.kcm.org** or call the KCM office nearest you.

Partners and Friends in Canada call **877-480-3388**.



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

Blessings are upon the head of the [uncompromisingly] righteous (the upright, in right standing with God).... (Proverbs 10:6, *The Amplified Bible*)

Healed of Down Syndrome

Here is a testimony about my 16-year-old granddaughter. When she was born, she was diagnosed with Down syndrome. My son and daughter-in-law were only young Christians at the time. Elders from the church laid hands on her and prayed.

My son and daughter-in-law took my granddaughter to a KCM meeting in Bournemouth when she was a few months old. My son took her down for prayer and Gloria laid hands on her. The next day my daughter-in-law called us over to look at the baby. Her skin, which had previously been so rough, like eczema, was absolutely soft like velvet and has been ever since.

Healing Scriptures was constantly playing in her bedroom while she slept. Today, she is still in a mainstream school and speaking French and German. She had a work placement in a retirement home, which she and the residents both enjoyed. I can honestly say God has been glorified in my granddaughter's life. Thank you and the KCM prayer staff for your faithfulness to your Partners.

B.B. | United Kingdom



Abundant, Timely Blessing

I called the prayer line requesting a prayer of agreement. My husband and I needed \$600 before April 1 to pay the second half of our house taxes. The young man prayed with me and asked if I could see the money coming. I said, "Yes, I do." Looking in the natural to what I knew would be coming in, it probably wouldn't happen. We get oil royalties on the 20th of every month and the last couple of months it had never been over \$300. Nevertheless, I put the care over on the Lord.

Later that evening my husband came in and showed me the direct-deposit stub sent by the oil company—it was over \$800. Praise the Lord! We were able to take care of taxes and some other things. I just want to say *thank you* for the support that Kenneth Copeland Ministries has for all of us.

Delores Hollenbeck | Broken Arrow, Okla.

Power of Protection

Some months back we experienced strong winds and rain in Colombo. As I was praying, the winds became so strong that two huge branches fell off the jack tree, inches away from the room where our helper was sleeping. Nothing happened to her or her room. It was nothing but a miracle. All glory to our Lord God.

I.P. | Sri Lanka

New Home Is Fullness of THE BLESSING

Thank you for praying for me. I lost my home, which was completely paid for, during Hurricane Rita. I thought, *What am I going to do? I'm 74 years old, widowed and on a small income.*

I had no insurance, but after providing me with a travel trailer to live in, FEMA gave me the full amount allowed by law for my home and shortly after, I received a letter telling me I had been approved for a very low interest house loan.

My daughters helped me get house plans and soon my new house was being built. I had believed God for a nice place to live all my life, but with taking care of family and educating kids, I never could seem to get one.

In two weeks, I will be moving into the most gorgeous, 3100-square-foot brick home with porches all around, an attached three-car carport and allowance of \$25,000 to replace my personal belongings. When I would pray about a house, I always used Kellie and John's method when they were kids and prayed for a boat—I said, "Lord, I want the perfect house for me." He gave me much more than I could ever ask or think!

J.H. | Texas

Healed and Attending Church Again

I am sowing this seed as a thank-you offering to God and how He has worked in my life, and how He has used your ministry to help me.

Because of illness I hadn't been able to go to church for about seven years, but I was advised to take a step of faith and go to church. I have done so now for the past several weeks. Praise God! It was such a blessing to hear Kenneth Copeland say at the end of a teaching, "Go to church on Sunday." And I thought, *Yes, I'll be doing that!* Thank you so much for your prayers, faith and the resources you sent me.

C.G. | Scotland

The Blessing of Tithing

Ten years ago, in the midst of a divorce, I found myself in dire financial straits. This lasted for three years before I was forced into bankruptcy and foreclosure. It was during this time that I learned from Kenneth Copeland Ministries about tithing and offerings.

I began to tithe and sow into different ministries and haven't stopped. In fact, each year as my income increases, I increase my tithe and offerings. I am now at the point where I'm sowing about 15 percent of my income. In March of this year I was able to purchase my own home! It took seven years, but it is the year of fullness for me. Thank you, Kenneth and Gloria. May your ministry be forever blessed.

Georgiana Brown | North Carolina



Prayer Leads to Degree

In 2005, I started a postgraduate course. Before I started I sowed a seed and asked for prayer from KCM Europe for God's provision to pay the fees for the course. In early 2006, I had to leave the course because of financial difficulties.

I increased the time I spent listening to *BVOV* faith messages. God miraculously provided so I was able to pay the outstanding fees and continue my studies in September 2006. I faced many challenges and sometimes doubted I would be able to complete my studies. Sometimes fear gripped me and I relied a lot on Kellie Copeland's teaching on entering into God's rest. This gave me peace and courage, and I passed all my exams and assessments.

In the last semester of the program I was informed I would have to pay 10 times the amount I had expected to pay if I wanted to exit the program with a master's degree instead of a postgraduate diploma. I prayed, claiming a cancellation of the fee assessment and began making confessions that I would pay no more than I had expected. On the last Saturday before the submission of my thesis, I decided to go online and pay the amount they had quoted me, but before I could do so I received an invoice through the mail and it was for more than three times *less* than the amount I had originally expected to pay. I have since graduated and not paid any more in fees. To God be the glory, His faithfulness endures forever.

E.N.M. | United Kingdom

The Voice of Love

Words cannot truly express my appreciation for you. I just received a partnership CD entitled *Covenant Promises*. Recently I had been battling a cough and hoarseness. I have also battled torments of the devil about my health due to a promiscuous lifestyle in my past.

As I sat listening to the CD, the love I felt from Brother Copeland overflowed into my heart and gave me such peace! The Lord truly has blessed me by putting you in my life. The Lord came to me when you recited Isaiah 54—your voice was His voice. He loves me, shelters me, gives me promises *and* forgets my past. Thank you!

Gina Blanchard | Louisiana



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Citizenship Granted
I am very grateful to you
all for standing with me
in prayer since last year. I
have received my European
citizenship, my business is
springing up so fast, and
I have a lot of business
connections and favor.
Thank you.

F.A. Germany

Faith for Home Honored!

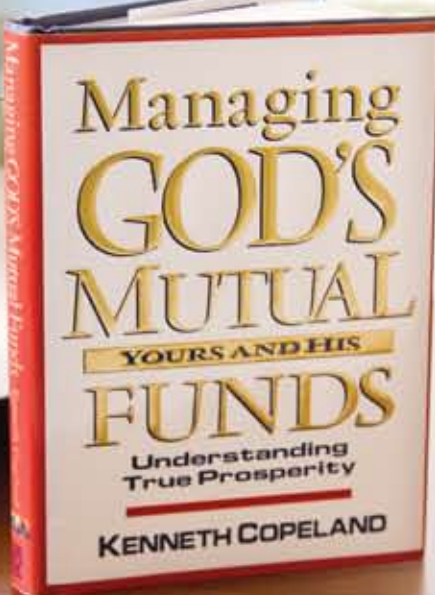
I have been a Partner with KCM for a few years and I've seen God's faithfulness in so many ways. A few years ago I wanted to buy my own home, but my friends told me that I wouldn't be able to afford and maintain a home on a teacher's salary and as a single parent. But I kept believing God and reading His Word—using as my teaching tools *Pursuit of His Presence* and *From Faith to Faith*.

One month, I was really feeling sad about not owning a home and having to live with my parents when I received my copy of *BVOV*. As I read through the magazine there was an ad on one of the pages that asked, "Believing God for a Home?" in big, white letters. I thought, *God, Gloria's talking to me!* The ad shared that Gloria had a pamphlet of scriptures on believing God for a home. I sent for and received the pamphlet and read it every day. Whenever I would hear of other scriptures that applied to my situation, I'd write them on the back of the pamphlet. I built up an arsenal of faith!

Last summer I was watching the news about the mortgage crisis; even people with excellent credit were being denied mortgages. As I watched, God spoke to me and said, *Now, look for your house.* I told the Lord what I wanted and He blessed me with exactly what I needed and wanted. I have since closed on a three-bedroom, two-bath condominium.

Gloria, your obedience caused my family to walk in God's fullness and favor. My pamphlet is tattered, but filled with God's exceeding great and precious promises. The process was so smooth even the real estate broker said, "You are blessed. I've never seen a deal go as smoothly as this!" Thank God and thank you!

Brenda Thomas | New York



BY KENNETH COPELAND

THE Last Word

Have you ever been caught in a spiritual stalemate? Trapped in a problem that seemed impossible to solve? You pray, fast and shout the Name of Jesus a hundred times—but it doesn't get you anywhere at all.

Let me tell you from experience, when that happens, it's time to ask yourself a crucial question. It's one you should have asked before you got into the situation—and it's the only question that will get you out. "What does the Word of God have to say about this?"

Jesus called Himself the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last (Revelation 1:11). His Word carries absolute and final authority in every area and on every topic.

I don't know why Christian people allow themselves to slip into a habit of praying about things without paying any attention to what the Bible has to say about them, but they do. I've seen corporate executives get into business

situations, for example, that the Bible says distinctly not to get into and pray and pray for God to bless them. Then they just can't understand how that deal got so fouled up when they spent so much time praying over it.

The problem is, the whole foundation of the thing was wrong. They didn't get that deal grounded on the Word of God in the beginning. They built it on something else.

Many times even our prayers themselves go crosswise to the Word. Have you ever heard anyone say, "Oh God, be with us tonight in this meeting"? Why should anyone be praying that? Didn't Jesus say He'd never leave us nor forsake us? Didn't He say that wherever two or

People allow themselves to slip into a habit of praying about things without paying any attention to what the Bible has to say about them.

three were gathered together in His Name, He was right there in the middle of them?

I asked the Lord one time, "What do You do with all that unbelief that comes up to You through prayers like that?"

What unbelief? He answered.

It took me a minute, but I finally grasped what He was trying to tell me. "You don't even hear it, do You?" I asked Him.

He said, *No, I don't even hear it.*

If we want to pray powerful prayers—prayers that are heard in heaven and shake the earth—we must start with the Word of God. I'm going to say it again. If we'd learn to start our prayers, our fasting and everything else on the Word, we'd begin seeing results!

Let me make a suggestion that'll change your life: Start whatever you're doing on the Word of God instead of messing it up and having to go back and put it on the Word. Make God's Word the Alpha word for you. Begin everything with it.

"I'd like to do that, Brother Copeland, but my schedule just doesn't permit me to spend that kind of time in the Word."

Then how do you plan to succeed in what you're doing? If you don't have time to pray over it the first time around, how are you ever going to have time to pray over it when it has become a big mess?

There's a word in the Bible you see all the time. You can find it in Colossians. It's the word "continue." It smacks of discipline. Continue in the faith. Continue in the Word. Continue in prayer. Be constant in season and out. That's Bible talk.

There's a revelation of God that comes from consistency that the inconsistent person will never see, and that revelation will bring you the kind of success you've always dreamed of.

Let me illustrate what I mean. Say, for example, there are two men, both building a house. You ask one what he's doing and he says, "I'm building a house." You ask the other and he says, "I'm serving God."

Now when the guy who's just building a house gets in trouble (and he'll get into trouble with almost every house he builds), he'll run to God.

But the other guy who's serving God by building this house won't have to go through that trouble. That's because he talks to God about everything as he goes along. He hardly even hammers a nail without talking it over with God. If it's necessary, God may wake that brother up in the middle of the night and say, *Listen, you have that foundation started wrong. You need to go back and change it.*

Now why wouldn't God do that same thing for the first guy? He loves them both, so why would He help only one?

Because the other guy wouldn't wake up in the night. He couldn't hear God's voice. He wasn't in the habit of listening.

If you're not walking in the Word consistently, you won't hear God. The reason is simple. Have you ever called someone on the telephone and they didn't recognize your voice? Why didn't they? They hadn't heard it enough. If you don't "continue," as the Bible says, in your communications with God, that's what will happen when He tries to speak to you. You won't recognize His voice.

So start bringing Him in at the beginning. Make His Word the Alpha word, the place you begin. There are thousands of promises in the Bible and they all belong to you. Find out what they say. Don't just sit there and tell me you don't know which promise covers your situation. Get in there and find out, just like the rest of us! There was a time in everyone's life when they didn't know what was in the Book. Dig in and get started!

You won't ever discover the real power in prayer until you begin to base your praying on the Word. When I started doing that, taking the Word personally and acting on it, my experience of it changed. It began to talk to me. It began to be the answer to my prayer.

Suddenly I understood what God meant when He said His Word wouldn't return to Him void (Isaiah 55:11). I'd wondered about that for years. I didn't know if God's Word was supposed to bounce off the earth and back up to heaven or what. But I began to see that when I started putting His Word in my prayers and sending it back to Him in faith, things started changing in my life. My prayers started accomplishing something.

One of the first prayers I did that with was in Ephesians 1. I started praying the prayer Paul prayed. I figured there couldn't be any unbelief in that or else it wouldn't be in Scripture. So I'd pray it over myself, putting my name right in the middle of it.

I'd say, "Father, I pray that You, the God of our Lord Jesus Christ...may give unto me, Kenneth, the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him; that the eyes of my understanding may be enlightened so that I may know what is the hope of His calling, and the glorious riches of His inheritance in us, the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward me."

When I started praying like that, my life turned inside out. I'd go around saying, "Glory to God, He's opening the eyes of my understanding and filling my heart with light!" Sometimes I'd even say it out loud in front of other Christians and they'd wag their heads and say to me, "How dare you say such a thing?"

Well, I just dared anyway. In fact, I found out this is what the whole Bible is about. God tells us something, then we take that Word and link up with Him. That

hooks us together in His strength and power.

Colossians 3:17 says, “Do all in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Every word and every deed, do it in Jesus’ Name. Well, how are you going to do anything in the Name of Jesus without knowing what Jesus said about it? You can’t speak in the name of the law or anyone else without knowing what you’re representing. If you speak in their name, you’re speaking according to their word, so you’d better know what they said!

When I speak in Jesus’ Name about my health, for example, I go by what He’s said about it. He said He bore all my sins in His own body on the tree (1 Peter 2:24). He said by His stripes I was healed. That’s not even a promise. It’s a fact.

Once I discovered that, I made it part of my vocabulary. If someone asks me, “How are you?” I answer according to what Jesus said. I don’t answer based on the feelings of my

body. That’s changeable. His Word never changes.

If you tell me, “Boy, you sure don’t look healed,” I just smile. If you’re moved by how I look, I’m just glad you’re not the one I’m praying to. I never talk to God about how I look. He’s not moved by that. I just talk to Him about His Word. That’s what Colossians means when it says, “Continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel.”

One thing you need to know: The devil hates the Word of God and he’ll do everything he knows to get you off of it. Remember Jesus said in Mark 4 that the sower sows the Word *and Satan comes immediately to steal the Word which was sown*. When the Word is gone, what happens to your faith? It’s neutralized. It’s still there, but without the Word, it has no ground to stand on.

As a businessman, if you go into a deal without knowing clearly what your contract says, how are you going to prevent any violations of it? You can’t. If you don’t know your covenant with God, Satan is going to rip you off and there’s nothing you can do to stop him. It’s that simple. You can try to “stand in faith,” but you won’t be able to because the only ground faith has to stand on is the Word of God.

As a young Christian, I found out that the one with the faith is the one with the power. I made up my mind to be a man of power, so I set out to get faith.

I went to church Sunday after Sunday, trying to find out where I could get it. But no one told me. They told me how important it was and what great things would happen if you had it, but I never could figure out where I was supposed to go to get it.

Finally I started getting into the Word of God. I came across scriptures like Romans 10—revolutionized my whole life! “The word is nigh thee,” it said, “even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That 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.... So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

How does faith come? By hearing the Word of God. Anyone who’s believed that Jesus is the Son of God and confessed Him with their mouth as their Lord has had the faith of God imparted into their spirit. It’s in there. You don’t have to pray for it. It’s there, and when you put the Word of God in there, that faith will come forth.

Jesus always talked about faith as if it were alive. He called it a seed. When His disciples asked Him how to get more of it, He said, plant it and it will grow. You don’t make the seed big and then plant it. You plant the seed and it grows big.

How do you plant it? You start with the Word. Remember what Jesus said, “The sower soweth the *word*.” When you’re ready to grow some faith, you plant the Word in your heart. You study it. You meditate on it. You settle it in your heart. It becomes your Alpha word, the word you’re beginning on. Faith rises up on the inside of you because faith comes by hearing the Word of God.

What do you do then? You act on the Word. That’s how faith is released. You speak to the mountain. Tell the problem what the Word says about it. You tell it, in Jesus’ Name, that it’s going to have to move.

Did you know that what you say is very, very important? Jesus’ half brother James said if you control your tongue, you control your whole body. He said the tongue is like kindling to a fire. Everything that happens in your life begins with it. So you can imagine what kind of power is generated in your life when you choose to speak God’s Word and His Spirit is behind what you say.

Jesus spoke to the wind and to the sea. He spoke to the fig tree; and every time He spoke, whatever He said happened. Do you know why? He tells you in John 12:49. There He says: I don’t speak My own words. I say what My Father tells Me to say.

Jesus spoke God’s words. When we learn to speak what God says instead of what everyone else is saying, we’re going to see the same results Jesus saw. We’re not just going to see them every once in a while either, we’re going to see them consistently.

Start going to Jesus for the first word in every situation. Take time. I don’t care how long it takes you to search it out and find what His promises are that cover that situation. You don’t have anything more important to do than that. It’s your Alpha word. It’s where your victory begins.

Once you’ve found those promises and

settled yourself on them, however, beware. The devil will undoubtedly use fear to convince you to turn loose of them. But you don’t have to do it.

When you get to the point of fear, take out the Word of God again, the Word of love, and cast the fear out. The Bible tells us that mature love casts out fear. So you just keep walking in love. Don’t start whining and wringing your hands, and don’t pay any attention to what others are saying about you. Just speak the Word and keep acting in love, and fear will leave you.

You see, there’s only one way the devil can steal your victory, and that’s to get you to believe him instead of God. When you’re believing the Word of God, it generates a tangible force. The Bible calls it faith and the devil has no power against it. But if he can get you to start believing him, he can throw that force into reverse and it will generate fear.

Just like faith will heal you, fear will kill you. That’s why the Bible commands us to “fear not.” It doesn’t even say, “Please.” Fear is an enemy to God and His people.

If you’re not starting and ending everything you do with the Word of God, you’ll have nothing to stand on when fear comes calling. It will take you down every time. But if you’ll get yourself in agreement with the Word of God, it won’t matter how circumstances look, fear won’t be able to get a foothold.

When it comes rolling in saying you’re not going to get anything from God, you can just laugh out loud and say, “Don’t tell me I’m not going to get it because I’ve already got it. It’s settled. I have the Alpha word from Jesus, and His Word is going to be the last word!”

If you’re stuck in a spiritual stalemate right now, go to the Word and get yourself out. Settle your healing. Settle your deliverance. Settle your bills being paid. Settle what you’re called to do. Settle it on the Word of God and don’t let anything move you off of it. Seal it with your words. Enforce it with your actions.

Listen, they’ve already accused us of being fanatics. Why don’t we get in the Word and become guilty? Let’s go out and commit some faith! **VICTORY**

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New England

Pastors and Ministers Conference | September 9-10

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KEEPING YOUR FOCUS

THERE WILL NEVER BE A TIME IN YOUR LIFE WHEN SATAN WILL HAVE COMPASSION ON YOU. He'll never think, *Man, I've really put her through a lot. I'm going to back off a little.* He has one motive—and that's to kill, steal and destroy your life (John 10:10). ∴ I have to remind myself of that all the time. Sometimes I wish I could rely on my mom and dad's faith to get me through trouble, but I've had to learn that others can't fight my battles for me. I've had to learn this battle exists because of three simple truths. ∴ First, God has a custom-designed assignment for your life. He has a custom-designed assignment to fit your individual strengths, interests and personality.

When my dad turned the operations of Jerry Savelle Ministries International over to me, I thought he had missed God. I was two seconds away from telling him that I didn't want the position because I was filled with so much shame and guilt from the way I had once lived my life. I thought, *I don't deserve this.*

But that morning I went for a walk and saw a vision of myself standing at the foot of the Cross. The Lord showed me that Jesus' blood had washed all my sins away. Then, in that vision, He handed me a clipboard and said, *This is an assignment for your life.* He also handed me some keys and said, *And these are the keys to the kingdom of heaven to fulfill that assignment.*

I believe you have a clipboard that is custom-designed for your life, too. It's an assignment God has handpicked for you and *only* you to fulfill during your time on earth.

Second, Satan has a custom-designed assignment for your life, designed to appeal to your greatest weaknesses and vulnerabilities. It's not haphazard. It's well-thought-out. There's a method to his madness and he has a twisted assignment for your life that he wants you to fulfill. This means war.

Finally, you *need* a custom-designed *plan* to keep you focused on God's assignment. If you fail to have a plan for your life, then you're just planning to fail. God has given you an assignment—a *charge* to do something. Like the CEO of a company, God has delegated this assignment to you and He's expecting you to fulfill it during your time on earth (Psalm 39:4). Satan knows your time is limited, and he is doing everything in his power to distract you and get you to lose focus.

F-O-C-U-S

Mike Murdock says, "The only reason men fail is broken focus." That's why Satan creates distractions for us—to get us to lose our focus. To help you keep yours, God has given me an acronym based on the word *focus*: F-O-C-U-S.

Fix Your Fence

The "F" in F-O-C-U-S stands for "Fix your fence."

I recently read a story about a family who raised miniature horses. Their house was right next to a small, wildlife park. One day they were walking on their property and noticed there was a weak spot in their fence. Some of the slats were down and some of the nails were missing. But they thought, *Oh, it's no big deal.*

They had planned to fix the fence when they had extra money, but the money never came. Then one day the wife looked out her kitchen window and a lion from the wildlife park was devouring her favorite miniature horse! He had come right through the weak spot in the fence.

Isn't that just how the devil works? He finds a weak spot

in your life, an area that you keep putting off, an area where you think, *Nothing that bad has happened yet. I'll deal with it later. I don't really know how to fix that anyway.* Then one day you look up and he's devouring everything precious to you. He's devouring your marriage, your family, your finances, your health, your career. He latches onto a weakness and uses it as an open door.

"Fix your fence" means you must identify your weaknesses and deal with them. It means not playing with what tempts you—at the risk of opening a door the devil will barge through.

Obituary

We need to look *away* from what distracts us—but we also have to look *to* a vision. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." That's serious. If you don't have a vision, you will die.

"O" stands for "obituary."

One year in high school, as my friends and I were celebrating homecoming week—decorating and cruising the town—we suddenly received word that one of the guys we went to school with fell out of a truck and died. It was horrible—I had just seen him moments before, yelling, screaming and laughing with all of us.

The next day, homecoming day, the school had no life whatsoever. Everyone had their heads down. We wore our uniforms and ribbons, but there was no school spirit. No one knew what to say.

When English class began, our teacher asked us to pull out a piece of paper and put our full name at the top.

So I wrote, "Terri Lynn Savelle."

She said, "Now I want you to write your birth date."

I did.

"Now, I want you to write last night's date right under that," she instructed. Then, "Now, I want you to write your own obituary."

At first, we thought it was kind of creepy. But she said, "Think about it. If your life had ended last night, what would you want people to say about you? How would they describe your personality? Your character? What do you want to be known for? What do you want to accomplish in your life? What kind of contributions do you want to make?" She said, "Don't write what people would say *right now*. I want you to write what you want people to say when your life is over."

At the end of class, when we handed our papers in, she said, "Class, I want you to know that you have not just written your obituary. You have just written your *dreams*." And she added, "Now, go live them."

You need to write your own obituary—your God-given dreams. It will become your life's mission statement, the way

you want to be remembered. It will be a guideline to live by. Then when temptation comes, all you have to do is get out your piece of paper and ask, “Does this line up with what I want to fulfill during my time period on earth?”

Sit down at your computer or with your journal and write your obituary—your God-given dreams, your life’s mission statement—today.

Chop It Into Daily Visions

How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time. How do you go after a big dream? One day at a time. “C” is for chopping it up into daily visions.

Any way you look at it, your future is hidden in your daily routine. Success is not one big event that happens in your life. It’s a result of daily disciplines that lead you into God’s perfect will. You see that with my dad, Brother Kenneth Copeland and other strong men and women of faith. It wasn’t one big event that caused them to be where they are today. The Copelands still listen to the Word, still speak the Word, still guard their mouths, still guard their hearts, still do all those things that got them where they are. Daily habits are what lead us into God’s plan.

I am convinced you have to have daily doses of the Word of God in order to stay focused on your assignment. I’ve had enough experience to know that you can’t just fulfill God’s assignment on your own. You have to have a plan, and part of that plan is hearing the Word every single day until it becomes a part of your life—like brushing your teeth. You wouldn’t skip a day brushing your teeth. You shouldn’t skip time with the Word either.

There have been so many times that I’ve put on the Word for even just 10 minutes in the morning before my jog or while driving to get my daily burrito—and during that 10 minutes I received exactly what I needed for that day. It’s amazing what 10 minutes of the Word can do for your focus.

We have to do things like this *on purpose* to stay focused. Start a habit of hearing the Word every day. Put a CD player on your bathroom vanity along with a big note that says, “PUSH PLAY.” It will keep you focused. Soon, you’ll begin to think differently, act differently and see things differently. Things that used to tempt you will now be easily seen as traps—because God’s Word brings light and overcomes darkness every time.

Do What God’s Telling YoU to Do

“U” need to do what God’s telling you to do. You might read an article like this and get excited and think, *I’m going to do that! I’m going to write my mission statement. I’m going to start listening to the Word every day. I’m going to make an investment in my life.* But once you start, it’s easy to compare

yourself to others—others who aren’t doing anything—and get lax like them. It’s easy to relax, to compromise.

Do what God is telling *you* to do, because at the end of day the only person you’re going to answer to the Lord for is you. When you stand before God, you’re only going to give an account for *your* life.

It’s time to rise above the status quo. Average people never make the history books. We have to be willing to do more than others if we want God’s best. There’s an old saying: “Average is as close to the bottom as it is the top.” Don’t settle for being an average Christian, pastor, businessperson, spouse, parent or anything else.

Start at the Top Again

Lastly, “S” stands for “Start at the top again.” In other words, all the things you know to do, you have to *keep on* doing. Joyce Meyer once asked a man who had been in ministry more than 40 years, “If you could tell me one thing that would help me stay focused in my life and ministry, to not give in to temptation, what would it be?”

He thought for a minute, then said, “Whatever you did to get to where you’re at—don’t stop doing it.” Once you get where you want to go, ask yourself what got you there. Hearing the Word. Speaking the Word. Having daily disciplines in your life that you never stop. *That’s* what will make all the difference. *That’s* what you must never stop doing. Start at the top and do it again.

Keeping Your Focus

We all know people who never seem to advance. Years go by and nothing changes in their lives. They’re doing the same thing, dealing with the same situations, still in relationships they shouldn’t be in, still battling the same addictions. That’s not God’s best for our lives.

God has an assignment that *only you* can fulfill. He’s given you an allotted time on earth to do what only you can do, but you have to stay focused. God wants you to fight your own battles and win.

Fix your fences. Write your “obituary” and keep that mission statement in front of you. Listen to the Word daily. Don’t compare yourself to others. Keep doing what makes you successful. Then you will accomplish your God-given assignment. **VICTORY**

Terri Savelle Foy, daughter of Jerry and Carolyn Savelle, is the senior vice president of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founder of Terri Savelle Foy Ministries. For information or ministry materials write to Terri Savelle Foy Ministries, P.O. Box 1299, Crowley, TX 76036; or visit her Web site at www.terri.com.

BY GLORIA COPELAND

Becoming a person of Substance

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” | Hebrews 11:1

What comes to mind when you read the word *substance* in that scripture? | To one it refers to little more than material possessions, while to another it means good health. To others, it might be strength of character. And to yet another it might be intelligence.

The Bible describes *substance* as all these things and more. And while God is not opposed to any of them, they do not define a *person of substance*.

We know from Hebrews 10 that the believers of the early Church endured much hardship that compromised their substance. Today, as believers, we can also endure

these same hardships. No matter what circumstances test our substance—our wealth, health, character or mental ability—we can know by God’s Word that we “have in heaven a better and an enduring substance” (verse 34). The key to receiving our heavenly substance is to “cast not away therefore your confidence [fearless faith], which hath

great recompence of reward” (verse 35).

A person of substance stands firm in his faith to reach into the treasures of heaven and bring heavenly substance into earthly reality, and will not quit until it is done.

The Old Testament tells us of men and women who received the substance they expected from God. Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Rahab, David, Daniel, the prophets and many others have become heroes to us because they received what they expected...what God had promised them!

Then the Gospels report Jesus’ response to the persistent faith of the people He met and how His faith joined with theirs and supplied what they needed in their lives: salvation, healing and deliverance from all the works of the devil.

And, praise God, the force of faith didn’t end when Jesus left this earth!

Since the Day of Pentecost, beginning with the Acts of the Apostles right up until today, faith has been the force that brings the substance we need into the lives of believers everywhere. God’s promises, both in His written Word and through the voice of His Spirit within the heart of each believer, are ours to receive!

Faith delivers God’s goods—the substance of His promises—to His people.

Hebrews 11:1 clearly tells us, “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” Faith is *substance*. It is *evidence*. Faith brings the good plan of God from the heavenly realm right into the earthly realm of our lives. Now that’s what I call being a person of substance!

Faith Pleases God

Enoch was a person of substance. He had connections—heavenly connections—connections that come from knowing what pleases God. Think about what faith did for him. Hebrews 11:5-6 tells us, “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, *‘and was not found, because God had taken him;’* for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith *it is* impossible to please *Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that *He* is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him” (*New King James Version*).

“Enoch walked with God,” Genesis 5:22 tells us. Based on Hebrews 11:5-6, Enoch’s walk with God was a diligent walk. He went after God.

When I move on to heaven, that’s what I want people to say about me.

“Gloria walked with God.”

That says it all. The priority of all our efforts and energy...the focus of all our desires in this life...our choice of life-style should be to walk with God. Enoch’s “walk with God” resulted in him pleasing God. So will ours!

Faith believes God and makes us go after Him with everything that’s within us to receive everything *He* has for us.

God is pleased when we believe *He is* and He will do what He says. He is pleased when we let Him be God! When

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we do that, we have victory every time. When we simply do as He says, we will have success. Hearing God and obeying what He says gives us the advantage. Not by hearing alone, but by acting on what He says.

That’s what happened with Ken and me over 40 years ago. We got hold of God’s Word. We began to hear and understand that He is everything, and went after Him with our whole hearts. We were not satisfied until we received the substance of everything He promised.

The key to your and my life being good is walking with God, believing what He says, and receiving it. The man or woman who hears, obeys and trusts God has substance the evil conditions of the world just can’t shake.

God Always Has a Faith Person

Despite living in the most evil days earth had ever known, Noah chose to make faith his substance, and the walk of trust and righteousness with God his lifestyle. Everyone in the earth except Noah had gone the evil way. Genesis 6:8 tells us, “Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.”

Just like today, when people choose to go the way of unrighteousness, their lives are inundated with destruction. But, God wants to save people! When God began to talk to Noah about His plan, Noah believed Him. God gave him specific directions about how earth’s life would be saved. Noah preached righteousness to the people and gave them every opportunity to be saved, but they chose to ridicule and stay on the ground.

Hebrews 11:7 describes it this way: “By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house...and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.”

Noah took no thought of the circumstances, his skills, his age or his lack of understanding. He didn’t know what an ark was. He didn’t know what rain was. He didn’t know how he could get paired-up animals into the Ark. All he had to work with was faith. He simply listened to God’s instructions and followed them.

When the day of the Flood came, Noah received the reward God had promised, and he and his entire household were saved. And when it was over, God established His covenant of blessing with Noah and his family. He rewarded Noah with every living thing on earth (Genesis 9).

If Noah had not responded to God by faith, all would have been lost. You and I are part of Noah’s reward. The same faith Noah used is part of us today. It’s the same seed of faith that caused us to believe in Jesus and be saved. It’s the same seed of faith that made us heirs of righteousness.

Do you realize that each of us is God’s person of faith for our world? Wherever He has placed us, He’s put us there to preserve righteousness. He’s put us there to demonstrate to the world that God *is*—and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We just can’t refuse God’s plan.

Believe me, whatever God is telling you to do, *you can do it!* You can be God’s person of faith. You can receive His substance in your life.

Something to Work With

Noah had the right stuff to make it through the worst times. But so do you, if you’ll receive it. You may be thinking, *But Gloria, I’ve heard God and I’ve obeyed Him. I haven’t received yet.* Paul told us to be followers of them who “through faith and patience inherit the promises” (Hebrews 6:12).

Remember, Noah had the patience required to receive what God promised. He preached for years without a convert. He built the Ark without a cloud in the sky.

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We’re here for you—and we look forward to meeting you!

VICTORY

We, too, have the patience it takes to receive. When we were born again, according to Galatians 5:22, patience became part of our nature.

Patience is the power that keeps us fixed on the promise while faith is at work. Patience does not yield to circumstances and doesn’t give in to trial. Whether your faith is waiting for healing, deliverance or a financial breakthrough, patience holds you steady while God is working.

So, what has God spoken to you? What substance are you earnestly expecting to receive from Him? What is it that’s coming to you from the unseen realm into the seen realm? Wait on it! Don’t put a time limit on it, and don’t give up. If He said it, it’s on the way!

Being a person of substance is not a matter of ability, but of a choice each of us has to make. Hebrews 10:35 speaks bluntly to us, “Do not cast away your confidence” (*NKJV*). That’s fearless faith. Don’t let it go. You’ve got everything *you* need for faith to work. When you get God’s Word on what you need, and you believe that Word, take it and stand fast on it. Keep the image the Word gives you in the forefront of your thinking. Meditate on it. Keep speaking the Word out of *your* mouth! Keep your hope high—earnestly expect what’s coming. Let patience take over to keep you steady.

From the Unseen to the Seen

Despite what natural thinking tries to tell us—what we see, hear, taste and feel with our natural senses—we must have confidence that what we cannot see with the natural eye has much more substance! Look at Hebrews 11:3: “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible” (*NKJV*). This scripture *does not* say that things which are seen were made from nothing.

Everything in this world came from the Word of God... the very atmosphere we live in and the substance of every physical thing we enjoy on earth. Every material thing you enjoy in your life today was made by God’s Word through faith. We can only understand the things of God and receive what He has for us by faith.

What are you believing for today? Do you need a change in your health or finances? Do you need a relationship mended? Maybe you need wisdom in some situation. God’s Word has the answer and faith will bring it into your life. Find that Word that applies to your need, believe it and stay on it.

You may pray, “Oh, Jesus, I need to be healed. I’d sure like to be healed. I hope You’ll heal me.” There’s no substance to that kind of prayer. But when you pray, speaking the Word of God you believe about healing (*by His*

stripes I was healed), you can base your hope, your earnest expectation, on that Word. Then you let your faith in on it, and the Word becomes substance and you receive what you believe.

Jesus said that when we pray, we should believe we receive and we shall have what we desire (Mark 11:24). Can you see it right then? No, because it’s still in the unseen realm. But trust what Jesus said—you have it—it’s on the way to the seen realm!

Faith is *not* believing for something out of nothing. Faith reaches into the realm of the spirit and believes it receives the answer it needs based on the Word of God.

What a great process God put into place to bring the things of His Word, things in the realm of the spirit, into our hearts and then into this world. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed...”

Jesus Fulfilled God’s Plan

Every word of God gave substance to His desire and plan for His earth and for His man in the beginning. He spoke His words and every word became substance.

And nothing has changed as far as how He gets His plan for earth and for man into the earth today. Though God’s first man, Adam, blew it right from the start, God did not give up His hope and His plan.

Through His second man, Jesus, God’s hope became substance. Jesus did what He saw His Father do and He said what He heard His Father say. Jesus came to redeem this earth and mankind. Everything He did, He did by faith in His Father’s word. And His faith brought substance to His Father’s hope and plan for man.

You may ask, “What, exactly, was God’s ultimate plan for man—what is His ultimate plan for me?” Well, it’s simply that you live and walk by faith.

God’s plan is that we receive the substance we need and desires in life, by faith in His Word. His plan is that when we find ourselves in circumstances that need change, we use our faith, looking to Him and His Word for help. His plan is that we fulfill the blessing He spoke over Adam: “Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).

Jesus spent His whole time on earth demonstrating by the power of the Holy Spirit how God’s plan for man was to be worked out in the flesh. He showed us what faith is and how it produces substance out of hope.

And when Jesus completed His years of demonstration, He took up His cross and finished the work. He

didn’t do it for Himself. He did it for us.

When Jesus ascended to heaven and took His place at the right hand of our Father, He sent the same Holy Spirit, who enabled Him, to enable us to live and walk in faith just like He did.

Faith is God’s ultimate plan to bring the substance of His Word out of the unseen realm into the seen realm in every area of our lives. It’s His plan for you and for me—His people of faith...His people of substance. **VICTORY**

Believer’s Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

August



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		<i>Becoming Kingdom-of-God Minded</i> During this powerful week with Kenneth Copeland and Bill Winston , learn how to put yourself in 100 percent agreement with the kingdom for every aspect of your life.				
		4	5	6	7	8
		<i>Believers Stand United</i> Kenneth Copeland welcomes presidential historian Doug Wead this week to talk about why we must stand together as believers, united for our nation’s successful future. Encore Broadcast!				
		11	12	13	14	15
		<i>Understanding the Intent of the Word of God</i> This week, Kenneth Copeland and Charles Capps talk about how to release the power of God in your life. It starts with understanding the intent of His Word. Encore Broadcast!				
		18	19	20	21	22
		<i>Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ</i> Jeremy Pearsons begins a foundational series sharing how you can only have faith <i>for</i> something <i>after</i> you have faith <i>in</i> Jesus.				
		25	26	27	28	29
		<i>Because We Believe</i> Jeremy Pearsons concludes his powerful series on faith by proving you can’t separate speaking and believing.				
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