

Believer's Voice of

# VICTORY

September 2008

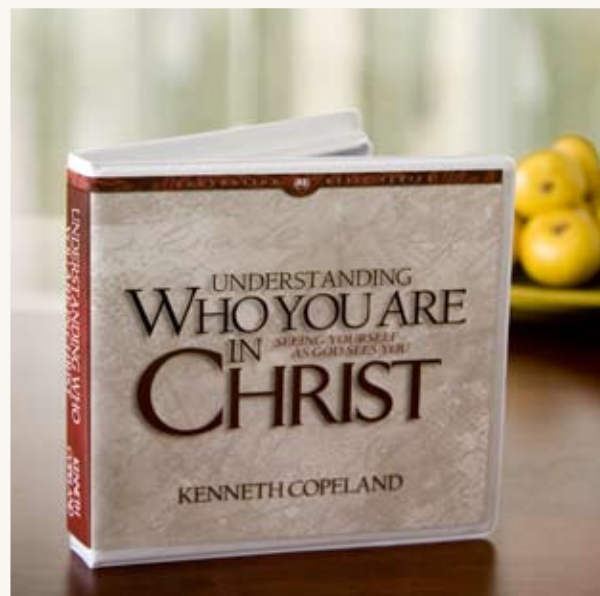
“When I left prison...  
I devoured the *BVOV*  
magazine each month...  
[It] helped keep my  
faith alive.”

**Freedom**  
a gift from God

BY MELANIE  
HENRY

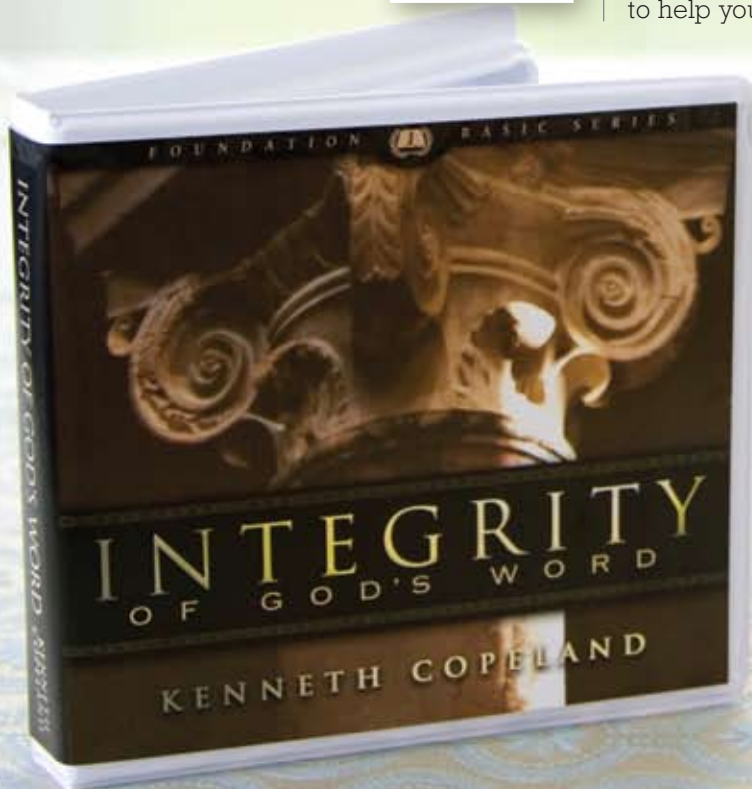


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When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 35 years 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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articles

features



# Celebrating 35 years



Dear Partners and Friends:

It's been more than 40 years since Kenneth and Gloria Copeland first stepped out in faith, boldly committing to answer the call of God on their lives to go around the world preaching the uncompromised Word of God—proclaiming the truth of His Word and His unconditional love for all mankind. And for the past 35 years, the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine has been a major catalyst in helping to fulfill that God-given assignment.

The first issue of *Believer's Voice of Victory* was published in 1973 as a four-page newsletter and distributed to about 3,000 people. Since then, it has played a vital role in helping to bring believers from the milk to the meat of the Word and into full maturity in their walk with God. Today, the publication is a 32-page, full-color magazine distributed free to nearly 570,000 subscribers in 135 different countries on five continents around the world—from Alaska to Australia, from Eastern Europe to Africa, from remote islands in the Pacific to crisscrossing the United States.

Its focus remains the same: to bring to you the news that Jesus is Lord, no matter where you are.

Each month, *Believer's Voice of Victory* delivers Bible-based articles to you on topics such as faith, love, healing, prosperity, redemption, righteousness and the principles of victorious Christian living—all written by such anointed ministers of the gospel as the Copelands, Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis, Creflo A. Dollar, Charles Capps, Billye Brim, Keith Moore, Bill Winston and Keith Butler. Through these teachings, thousands have learned how to exercise their authority and rights as believers and walk in the blessings God has provided for them in everything from marriages and ministries to finances and relationships.

When reports come of lives changed through the ministry of Kenneth and Gloria, *Believer's Voice of Victory* has endeavored to share that good news, and let you know He will do the same for you. We've introduced you to people from all over the world and nearly every walk of life—people who have faced trouble, and dared to take God at His Word and believe Him for victory. They have been real people with real needs who experienced real victories at critical times in their lives—people who learned how to trust God and see Him turn tragedy into triumph, defeat into victory, poverty into prosperity.

Many of them had tragic stories of addiction, divorce, disease, debt and fear that turned into glorious testimonies of deliverance, faith, healing, prosperity, protection and hope through the miraculous intervention of God responding to their faith in His Word.

Their stories have been told in the pages of *Believer's Voice of Victory* to inspire and motivate you to a deeper faith and trust in God and encourage you in your stand of faith in whatever situation you may be facing. Through their experiences, you have seen the greatness of God's love and how real people facing real needs can gain real victories through applying the truths of God's Word.

That is the mission of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine!

Now, we're moving forward to bring you to even higher ground.

In a world so filled with confusion, economic decline and dire predictions of recession, it's good to know that Jesus Christ has never changed. Indeed, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. What He has done for others, He will do for you.

At Kenneth Copeland Ministries, we take God's Word as final authority. And *Believer's Voice of Victory* is committed to keeping that Word at the forefront of your thinking—teaching you how to live victoriously so you are rooted and grounded enough to overcome your own adversities, reach out to others and share those same principles.

As we continue to bring you inspiring teachings, revealing truths and strong testimonies of God's life-changing power, we trust you will allow the Word to energize you to the point of renewal, refreshing and blessing.

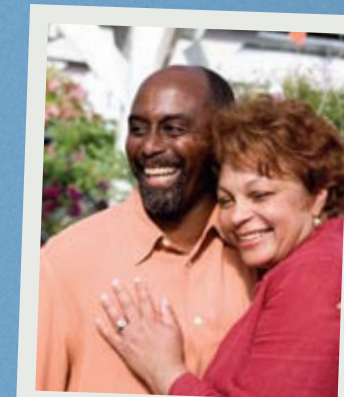
A single word from God has transformed the lives of thousands who dared to hear and believe. And one word from God will do the same for you.

Thank you, Partners and Friends, for your support of *Believer's Voice of Victory* over the last 35 years, and for your faithful prayers and support for Kenneth Copeland Ministries. We look forward to the years ahead as we wait together for His return.

Ronald C. Jordan :: Managing Editor



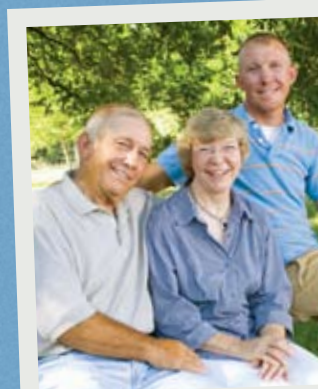
Desmond & Adrie Oomen : May '07



Chris & Debra Weaver : Aug '07



Dieter & Diana Tripke : Nov '03



Loren, Laura & Josh Holl : Oct '05



# Where is YOUR HOPE?

All around the world people are facing challenges with everything—from devastating weather to terrorism and dire predictions of economic calamity. In the United States, the media is filled with reports of an approaching recession. And presidential candidates are offering policy changes, priority shifts and economic adjustments they claim will restore financial well-being and hope. | So let me ask you this: Where is your hope?

BY KENNETH COPELAND

Is it in a politician or in a political party? Is it in a man or a woman and their claims to make man's system of doing things work better? Or would you say, as Israel's King David said, "My soul faints for Your salvation, but *I hope in Your word*" (Psalm 119:81, *New King James Version*)?

Now don't misunderstand me. If you've been around me very long, then you know I believe without exception every believer should be involved in the politics of whatever government they are under. And that begins with the most important involvement of all—

praying according to 1 Timothy 2:1-2: "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

I am believing for the Body of Christ in my own country to pray, listen to God, get involved and take over both parties. But my hope for the United States is not in the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. It is in the Word of God.

There is no recession  
in the kingdom of God.  
His kingdom is based on THE BLESSING.

## Build Your Dreams on God's Word

You see, even in the worst of what the world is going through you can build dreams on real, Bible hope based on the promises of God.

This is totally different from the kind of hope the world talks about. Think about what the world means when it uses the word *hope*. They say things like: "Well, I hope I get that new job." "I sure hope the economy gets better." "Just don't get your hopes up."

Even believers get caught up in that kind of speaking. That's not hope. That's wishing.

The only kind of hope that will bring God's desires for man into earthly reality is the hope we read about in Hebrews 11:1: "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

This kind of hope is based on the reality declared by David in Psalm 119:89-90: "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. Thy faithfulness is unto all generations...."

Real peace and hope begin only when we anchor every thought to the reality of God's unchanging Word. Jesus said: "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:31-33).

Uzziah, who was Judah's king for 52 years, did that. In 2 Chronicles 26:5 we're told that King Uzziah sought God: "...And as long as he sought the Lord, God made him to prosper." Regardless of whether the world was going through "good times" or "bad times," for 52 years the people of Judah prospered. Why? Because Uzziah sought God.

No matter what the world is going through, the assignment of every believer is to anchor his or her hope to God.

In 1991, all the politicians, experts and media in the United States were forecasting and debating what they insisted was impending economic recession. Nearly everyone was fussing and worrying about it, but the Lord instructed me: *Tell My people not to join in on that recession. It doesn't belong to them.*

He was telling His people they were to live according

to the realities of the kingdom of God, not according to a world system that is fear based—always in trouble and full of sorrow.

There is no recession in the kingdom of God. His kingdom is based on THE BLESSING He released when He created this earth and placed Adam in it, providing everything for every living thing He had created. That was His perfect will then, and it is His perfect will now.

Proverbs 10:22 tells us, "THE BLESSING of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

## 'Surely Blessing, I Will Bless Thee'

"Well I know there is no recession in the kingdom of God, Brother Copeland. But what about where we live? How do I live in THE BLESSING when the world is going through turmoil?"

The same way Abraham's son Isaac lived in a time of famine. In a time of region-wide economic distress, God came to Isaac and said: "...Dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and *I will perform the oath* which I swore unto Abraham thy father" (Genesis 26:2-3).

Notice God didn't say, "Your father is gone and you just need to do the best you can, son." No. He said, "I will perform the word that I said to your father." God wanted Isaac to know His word is a sure thing.

The oath He swore to Abraham is recorded in Hebrews 6:13-19:

For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, Surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so, after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise. For men verily swear by the greater: and an oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Wherein God, willing more abundantly to show unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge



to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast....”

The first word I want you to see in this is the word *surely*: “For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, saying, *Surely*....”

Oh! I love it when God says, “Surely.” This does not leave room for wishing or wondering what the will of God is. This is a sure thing. When the devil comes around saying, “Well, it’s liable not to happen this time,” we can shout right back at him:

“Shut up! I’ve got a *surely*!”

The dream-stealers will say, “Well, you never really know the will of God.” But what did we just read? God does not desire for men to be in confusion about His

will. His heart’s desire is to abundantly show us, the heirs of His promise, that neither He nor His promises to us ever change. God’s desire is to end all arguments about what His will is for us.

God is saying to you and to me: “So committed am I to removing every doubt about My intent, I am swearing this with an oath. My desire is for you to have a ‘strong consolation’—strong inner strength—and give you a hope to which you can anchor your soul, both sure and steadfast. My plan is for you to have what I gave Abraham—something so sure that you can patiently endure until you receive what I have promised.”

### Things Begin to Happen

God’s Word is a sure thing.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God said: “So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

And through the prophet Jeremiah, He declared, “...I will hasten [watch over] my word to perform it” (Jeremiah 1:12). Now that should be a quick response every time the devil tries to come and say, “Yeah, but you know this is probably going to take another month to six weeks before anything comes to pass.” God is quick to perform His Word.

In James 1:25 we are told God’s Word is the perfect law of liberty. It works for anyone, anytime, anywhere. It will work the same for anyone who will stand on it and press all the way through to victory. It’s a perfect law.

The Apostle Peter said God’s Word is more sure than even witnessing firsthand Jesus’ miracles, seeing the manifestation of His majesty on the Mount of Transfiguration and hearing the Father say, “This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him” (Matthew 17:5).

“Oh, Brother Copeland, wouldn’t that have been great to be there? Oh, I would just love to have walked on that mountain and have God speak where I could hear His voice.”

Well, yes, I suppose it would have been great. But Peter said we have something better than that: “We have also a *more sure word* of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation” (2 Peter 1:19-20).

You don’t have to wait until God speaks out loud. You don’t have to wait to see or feel something. You

don’t have to wait for some moment of ecstasy when your goose bumps are having goose bumps. You don’t have to wait, period. Why? Because you have a *more sure word*—the Word of God Himself.

You have the Word that is available when things look their darkest—the Word that is of no private interpretation, but available to anyone and everyone who will get it and hang on to it until the light dawns.

What we have been given is not a book about someone. It *is* Someone. The Apostle John said the Word was in the beginning with God and is God. You can’t handle the Word without handling God—Love Himself.

No wonder King David could say, “My hope is not in man, but in Your Word.” That’s why, though we participate in the political process, we don’t put our hope in political parties or politicians. We hope in God. We change politics and politicians through praying the Word.

How do we lay hold of the hope that is set before us? By laying hold of His Word. We lay hold of Love.

### A Man of His Word

Nothing thrills God any more than when you begin to magnify the awesomeness of His Word. That should be no surprise. We’re the same way.

Imagine witnessing someone standing up in a court of law and being asked, “Did So-and-So say that?”

“Yes, he did.”

“Well, what evidence do you have that it will ever come to pass?”

“None.”

“So why are you willing to stake everything you have on it?”

“Because I know that man. He’s a man of his word.”

Hearing someone express that much confidence in another person’s word stirs our spirits. How much more if it was *your* word the witness was talking about. Just as nothing thrills you more than people saying something like that about you, nothing thrills God more than someone taking Him at His Word—someone taking His promise and treating it as a sure thing.

### Anchored to the Word

When a recession hit Canada several years ago, one of my Partners there remembered instruction the Lord had given the Partners in 1991: *Don’t join in!* So she didn’t.

Then the Holy Spirit instructed her to take it a step further and pray that recession would work *for* her and not *against* her. The first thing that happened was instead of being a victim of downsizing in her company

as a result of the recession, she was promoted to a position in human resources.

But what happened next was even more dramatic. One of her tasks included screening résumés for the position of human resource assistant.

“Toss the application in the trash if they didn’t finish grade 12 plus college or university,” she was told. As the economic situation tightened, so did the requirements. “Toss the applications if they haven’t completed college or university with a minimum of two years experience working in the field.”

This woman, who herself had not even finished 11th grade, was throwing out applications of people with college degrees and up to two years experience. But in a move only God could have orchestrated, her boss was promoted and she was given the job of human resources assistant.

“But I didn’t finish grade 11,” she explained.

“I’ve made arrangements for you to finish,” her boss answered. She finished her high-school diploma with a 99 percent grade average! As the world around her was going through recession, she chose to participate in THE BLESSING of provision and promotion in God.

Where is *your* hope?

Is it tied to the ups and downs of a fear-based world system, following leaders who promise quick fixes to make it work? Or is your hope tied to the sure Word of God? Is it tied to THE BLESSING that makes rich and adds no sorrow to it?

If you will begin anchoring your hope to God’s Word, only one thing can happen. You’ll shed those inner images of lack, failure and defeat and begin building a new inner image based on who you are in Christ and what is yours as joint heir with Him.

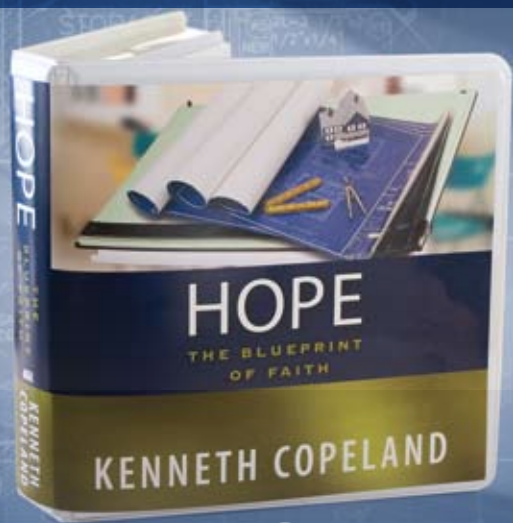
Your constant diet of God’s words of love and plans for success will become a blueprint for faith growing inside until it begins to drive you and take you into the place of completion. Soon you’ll expect things to happen you once never thought possible. Your hope will step out of the wishing realm and give birth to dreams you intensely, earnestly expect to come to pass.

That is why, from cover to cover in His Word, God says to man, “Go ahead. Get your hopes up as high as they can go. Give Me a chance to show you what I can do.”

No demon in hell can stop those Word-based dreams. You’ll be standing in a dream you once thought too big to even imagine, unmoved by symptoms, circumstances, threats or the world’s calamities, declaring:

“My hope is in Your Word.” VICTORY

## Give Your Faith a Rock-Solid Foundation...



with **HOPE**

A builder constructs a house from a blueprint—a detailed image of what is to come. When building your faith, you need a blueprint, too—an image of God’s Word in your heart. That image is *hope*.

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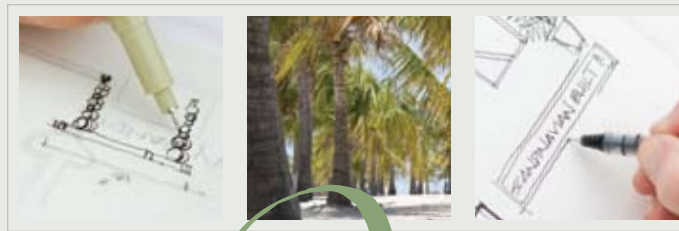
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# Freedom

a gift from God

Anna Billskoog walked across the campus at the University of Miami and squinted against the shimmering sun. Her curly blond hair and blue eyes had been passed down from a long line of Swedish ancestors. Anna stifled a yawn, fighting against the sleep deprivation that had become part of her life. Between her classes, working as a cocktail waitress and partying, she had little time for sleep. *Only one and a half semesters left before graduation*, Anna thought, staggering with exhaustion. *I can do it.*

Anna made a mental list of the papers she needed to write for her classes. But before she started her homework, she'd promised to help her boyfriend, Dan (not his real name), do a little...business. Sliding sunglasses over her tired eyes, Anna drove to the Dadeland Mall where she pulled to a stop behind Dan's car. Clutching her purse, she climbed out of her car and slipped into his. Soon the man they were expecting walked across the parking lot and tipped his baseball cap.

*Was that a signal?*

In the space of a heartbeat, undercover cops rushed them. Anna's blue eyes widened in shock as one of them pressed an automatic weapon to her forehead. Her heart sank as she realized that all the drugs Dan was selling were in her purse...all 5,000 of them. The whole bust was being audio taped to use in court. She closed her eyes as fatigue washed over her.

*I hated my life...and it's finally over.*

Anna was charged with trafficking Ecstasy, and

conspiracy, before she was locked in a holding cell at a Miami jail. Assaulted with the stench of unwashed bodies and an open toilet, Anna swallowed bile. Neon lights blinked against the brick walls and wooden benches where prostitutes and crack addicts wrote on the walls with mustard from their bologna sandwiches.

*This is a nightmare. Surely I'll wake up soon.*

Anna leaned against the brick and closed her eyes against the neon glare. How had she gotten here? She'd been just an innocent child when, at 8 years old, she had emigrated with her family from Gothenburg, Sweden, to Miami, Fla. She still remembered the awe that struck her the first time she walked through the magic doors of Winn-Dixie. At home in Sweden they'd had two choices of cereal: Kellogg's® Corn Flakes™ and Corn Puffs®. She stared up at towering aisles filled with cereals of every color in the rainbow. Eyes wide with delight, Anna knew she was going to like this country.

Learning to speak English had been a challenge at first, but Anna worked hard, determined to fit into her new

They're real people. People just like you who at some time have faced trouble or hardship. Yet, through trusting God they have seen Him turn their tragedies into triumphs, defeats into victories, poverty into prosperity. Each month, we feature their stories in BVOV to encourage and remind you that what God does for others He will also do for you.







Anna with her mother, Karin

*“I don’t know what I would have done without my partnership with KCM. They prayed for me, and I knew we were in this thing together.”*

environment. By the time she reached high school, she had succeeded. In the private school she attended, she was one of 10 girls in a tight-knit group who did everything together. Anna was in the 11th grade when one of the girls asked, “Do you want to try weed?”

The two girls smoked marijuana and giggled the night away. Later, Anna asked her friend if she wanted to try weed again. “Absolutely not!” the girl answered, and from that moment on Anna was ostracized from the group. The rejection devastated her. The following year, because her parents could no longer afford the tuition for private school, Anna was enrolled in a public high school in Miami where she knew no one. She was welcomed into the wrong crowd and soon found herself drinking beer and smoking marijuana.

By 2001, Anna was a senior at the University of Miami, and getting high was an everyday affair. Still, she had been optimistic about her future. Now the bright-eyed young girl from Sweden sat in a holding cell of a Miami jail—realizing she had come to a crossroad, she developed a desire to know God.

### A New Creature

“While I was in jail, I was invited to attend a chapel service,” Anna recalls. “Although none of my family were Christian, I wanted to go, so I slipped into the service and sat in the back. When I surrendered my heart to the Lord, it felt like I’d been wearing a heavy coat all my life and someone lifted it off.

“My parents contacted my uncle who posted my bail, and I went home for two weeks until my arraignment. My parents were bewildered, forgiving and helpful. Because I wasn’t a citizen, I faced two cases: my criminal case and a case by the immigration authorities. Since I had been in possession of the drugs and the bust was on tape, I didn’t have a chance in trial. I was facing the possibility of 30 years behind bars—and I would be deported to Sweden the day I was released. My mother, a registered nurse, prepared me for prison by getting me up to date on immunizations and dental care. On June 6, 2001, I accepted a plea bargain and agreed to testify against Dan in return for a reduced sentence of five years.”

Anna spent every moment of her free time reading the Bible. When she reached the book of Judges and read about Gideon’s fleece, she decided to ask God for one of

her own. “Lord,” she prayed, “will You let me go home after I testify in court? If so, please give me two things by the end of the day.”

At breakfast, Anna imagined she would be given two biscuits instead of one. She was not. She waited with expectation in the rec yard expecting someone would give her something...*anything* as a sign God would release her. Nothing.

The day dragged by, and that evening, Anna sat in her cell with an expectant heart! Her faith had taken root and was not shrinking back.

“Hey, Anna,” her cellmate said holding up two plastic watches, “would you like one?” Anna’s heart hammered a staccato rhythm in her chest and she accepted the gift as though it were made of gold.

*That’s one.*

Socks were a hot commodity in prison, and before lights out, Anna’s cellmate said, “Hey, Anna, do you need some socks?” She handed Anna a pair of socks as Anna choked back tears.

*I’m going home.*

From that moment on, Anna didn’t care what any judge, lawyer or guard told her. She knew God was going to do a miracle on her behalf. She was going home. She attended every chapel service in English, and learned Spanish by attending those services, too.

### Partnership in Prison

“I met a friend who woke me up at 5:30 every morning so we could sneak and watch the television. She introduced me to Kenneth Copeland and Creflo Dollar. All we could see on the screen was snow, but we listened to every word they spoke on their broadcasts. People in prison don’t need a social gospel. We needed to connect with the power of God, and that’s what we learned from those men of God. I became a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries and every time my mother sent me \$10 I tithed part of it to the ministry.

Back home, Anna’s case looked hopeless. Her mother, Karin, had contacted eight different lawyers and their response was the same. “Busted selling drugs to an informant, and she’s already signed a plea agreement? Forget about it!”

Yet every week when Karin visited her daughter, Anna

insisted she was going to be released. “Anna sent me letters describing what she had read in the Bible,” Karin remembers. As months passed and Karin saw the change in Anna, she too gave her heart to the Lord. Standing in her kitchen one day, the Holy Spirit spoke to Karin, *Try one more time.*

The lawyer listened to her story and introduced Karin to a colleague who accepted Anna’s case.

### Faith for a Miracle

Anna had been in prison for a year when she was called to testify at Dan’s trial. “Lord, I don’t ever want to go back to prison,” she prayed. The trial was postponed indefinitely, but Anna was not returned to prison. Instead, she remained in a jail cell where she could see the Miami skyline through a window.

“When I left prison I no longer got to listen to Kenneth and Creflo,” Anna explains, “but I devoured the *BVOV* magazine each month as well as *From Faith to Faith*, *Pursuit of His Presence* and Gloria’s book, *God’s Will Is Prosperity*. They helped keep my faith alive. The tough thing about my case was that because I signed a plea bargain, my sentence couldn’t be changed without going to trial. And I couldn’t win with the evidence they had against me.”

Despite the conditions of the plea bargain, Anna’s mother felt impressed to talk to the state prosecutor.

“Anna is a college student one semester from graduating,” she explained. “She comes from a good family, has never been in trouble before, and never will be again.”

“Have your attorney call me.”

At the long awaited hearing, the judge, prosecutor and Anna’s attorney whispered at the bench while looking at Anna. Moments later, in an unprecedented move, the judge reduced Anna’s charges and then her sentence, to time served. At the INS hearing two weeks later, the case to have her deported was dropped.

October 3, 2005, after two years and four months behind bars, Anna stepped outside the heavy metal doors and into her parents’ loving arms. Overwhelmed by the colors, sights and sounds, Anna jumped up and down shouting, “I’m free! I’m free!”

“I met three other girls in prison who’d been arrested in cases just like mine,” Anna recalls. “The American served her full sentence, and the other two were deported to their countries of origin. I’m the only one who was released early and not deported—all because I had faith in God. I don’t know what I would have done without my partnership with KCM. They prayed for me, and I knew we were in this thing together.”

Anna graduated from the University of Miami and went to work for her father, and is now going to complete an interior design license. A master craftsman, her father builds kitchens which Anna designs.

Anna Billskoog never takes for granted a sunrise, a sunset or the way light glimmers off the water. She works alongside her kind and talented father, learns at the feet of her spiritual father and now has a relationship with her heavenly Father. She treasures the freedom she has in Jesus, and celebrates her inheritance in Him every day. **VICTORY**

## the Freedom of Partnership

Anna Billskoog was barely living day to day, imprisoned in a life destined to be little more than mere existence. But then something happened: partnership. Even behind bars, Anna took hold of the Word and didn’t let go. And as she stood for her freedom, across the miles Partners in prayer at Kenneth Copeland Ministries were standing for it, too...believing for a complete turnaround of circumstances for Anna and other Partners. Soon, it came to pass!

That’s how partnership works. When you join with KCM in prayer and support for God’s vision to come to pass in our ministry, you can count on the fact that we’re joining with you in prayer and support for God’s vision to come to pass in *your* ministry, too. When we come together, our anointings combine, making each of us stronger and more effective than ever.

No matter what you need—whether it’s the strength to get out of imprisoning circumstances or just someone to agree with you in prayer, KCM is here for you today. Why not take your life, your family, your career and your ministry to the next level? Start by discovering the freedom in partnership!

To learn more about partnership, contact KCM today and ask for our free Partner Package with complete information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more. Simply check the circle on the **response form** in the center of this magazine, call **800-600-7395** or visit **kcm.org**.



Anna and Torgny Billskoog





# perilous times

BY KENNETH COPELAND

**Just about everywhere you look** these days you see signs of shortage, disaster and just general despair. Thank God this is not the attitude of the believer who is actively living by faith. We need to be careful not to react to surrounding circumstances, but rather respond to God's Word and draw on our strength from Him.

Did you ever notice when people get filled with fear of lack they begin to hoard? Then they get fussy. They will do things they would never do at any other time. They will wait in long lines for things they probably wouldn't otherwise even buy. My family and I were having dinner at a small neighborhood restaurant a few days ago and the owner and I were discussing some of these things. She said people buying meat at the wholesale house had

become like an angry mob. She didn't want to walk out in their midst with her meat.

These people are not usually like this. They are our neighbors and friends in some cases. They have succumbed to an age-old spirit of hoarding. This is greed in a little different cloak—first fear, then hoarding, then greed, then something regrettable like cutting another man short, etc. This atmosphere fosters such damnable

things as black marketing and lawlessness of all kinds.

What can we do? How should we keep ourselves so that the evil one touches us not? (See 1 John 5:18.)

The first thing we should do is remember that we are not of this world and we are not governed by its lack. Our God meets our needs *according to His riches in glory*. We should keep watch over our attitude toward giving. This is a time to be a giver, instead of falling into a spirit of hoarding—not only for our own well-being, but also for those around us. Your testimony in a fearless, giving attitude may be just the tool the Holy Spirit needs to break the hoarding spirit in your area.

Another thing we must do is protect ourselves from fear. Fear is the first step toward this type of greed. Proverbs 4:23 instructs us to keep, or protect, our hearts with all diligence. A few weeks ago during one of our staff prayer meetings the Holy Spirit spoke and gave us some instructions along these lines. The following is a copy of what He said. **Read it very carefully.**

"Heed these words and hearken to them as words of instruction—words of the gift of the word of wisdom from the Almighty God. From now until the return of Jesus, it will be very dangerous to spend much time watching the television newscasts, reading the newspapers and other methods of reporting events on the earth. I repeat: It will be dangerous to do these things. The reason that it will be dangerous is because so many catastrophes, so many cataclysmic things will happen in the earth during this short period of time that no human mind can comprehend them all. You will not be able to mentally decipher, you will not be able to mentally judge, and you will not be able to mentally reason out in your own mind what is happening all over the earth. There will be too much of it in too short a length of time, and it's too massive and actually too humanly horrible for one person to figure it all. It will be known as the "Heyday of the Bad Newscaster." It will be the finest hour for broadcasting bad news the world has ever known.

"If you dwell on these things, then

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." 2 Timothy 3:1

you will get over in the flesh and it will have its effect on you. My Word says that men's hearts will fail them for fear of things that are coming on the earth. Heed these words carefully. I AM THAT I AM, saith the Lord God of Hosts. When the world has no money, I still have a way. When the world has no health, I still have a way. For I am called THE WAY; and where there is no way, I am the way," saith the Lord.

"You listen to Me. These are not empty, idle words.

You listen to Me. You look to Me. Hearken unto My Voice and you'll stand in the midst of plenty when the world is despondent. People will look at you and say, 'Where are they getting it? How are they receiving it?' And you will answer, 'My God meets all my needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.'

"I give you My Word," saith the Lord, "that when the situation on the earth is such that My people would no longer be able to overcome it, then I will overcome it by the Resurrection. I will remove you from the mouth of the lion. [This is the gift of the word of wisdom.] This is the wisdom of God. Heed it. Listen to it. Turn your back on the world's beggarly elements. Don't get your information from the broadcasting of bad news. Get your information from the good news of the gospel. Regardless of how bad the earth gets, I will shorten the time," saith the Lord, "and it will not consume you. It will not! It will not harm a hair on your head, and you'll not perish, for I am returning for a glorious and a powerful and an upright Body. It will be that way," saith the Lord. "It'll be that way. For it is almost finished now. This which I have given you is for the whole Body of Christ."

Read it over again. Remember He said to listen to Him carefully. Make a decision to respond in faith rather than to react in fear. **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 800-575-4455.





REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

# GoodNewsGazette

But thanks be to God, Who gives us the victory [making us conquerors] through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:57, *The Amplified Bible*)

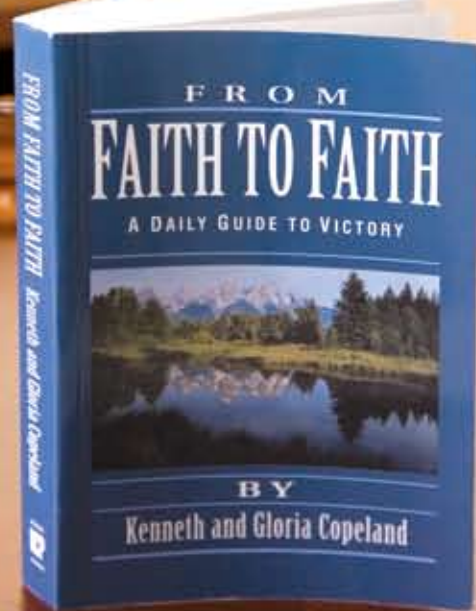
## A Higher Level

I am ever grateful to God that through your ministry I learned and am still learning to walk in God's blessing. For years I walked under the curse of lack, debt, fear, ignorance and sickness, but hallelujah I'm now free!

In 1997, I got hold of Kenneth Copeland's *BVOV* broadcast where he spoke about a man who had been healed and stopped depending on his disability allowance. In 2003, the Lord started dealing with me regarding this testimony. I tried to reason my way out by arguing that "my disability" was more complex and I live in a different part of the world. But God is so merciful; through your tapes, magazines and broadcast He began to show me how I could experience victory!

By 2006, I had developed enough faith to ask that my disability allowance be stopped. God took me to a higher level, beyond my dreams, and opened a door for me to study at a degree level. God made it possible!

M.B. | United Kingdom



## No More Sorrow

I praise the Lord for your ministry and the call on your lives. I am a widow filled with the Word and Jesus. I give all the glory to the Lord because the Kenneth Copeland Ministries Study Bible taught me how to have victory over grief and sorrow. My husband passed away in June 2007, but rather than feel sad, I felt strong in the Lord because of your encouragement. The victory is already mine, just like Mephibosheth. During the time of going back and forth between working and taking care of him, I continued to spend time in the Word on your study plan. At the funeral the same joy, peace, gratefulness and love carried me through. I was able to read your devotional to over 300 people, believers and nonbelievers alike.

I know who I am in Christ and I have the victory and faith to stand on His Word! Jesus is always present, reminding me to put the Word first and live by faith and love.

God has given me so much peace and joy that people at work purposely walk by my desk and just stand there basking in His peace. One manager stated, "I sense something good around your desk and all I want to do is stand here." My blessing to you and your family as you continue to obey the Lord for the ministering of the saints!

Elsa Oilar | Texas

## We Are Changed

I just want to thank you so much for bringing the Word of God alive for me. My husband and I went to your conference in 2005 in Belfast and our lives haven't been the same since! I thank the Lord for the night I turned on the TV to watch the GOD Channel and heard you speak. The next day I went to your Web site and found out you were coming to Belfast! Partnering with you is such a joy and your ministry is a real blessing!

G.P. | Ireland

## Freedom Found in Answered Prayer

I was incarcerated in 2004, and started receiving your magazine while I was in jail. There were some days that I didn't think I would make it. Then mail call would come and a letter or your magazine would be there. I always knew God loved me, but at that point and time I didn't know how He could with everything I had gone through.

The night before I was arrested I had asked God to take me away from the relationship I was in and away from drugs. Well, He answered my prayers. I have been out of jail since May 2005. I've gone back to school and stayed off drugs. I wanted to let you know what a wonderful impact your ministry had not only on me, but to all the other men and women who are incarcerated. I give all praise to God. Thank you.

M.M. | Texas

BVOV 35 YEARS

We get hundreds of letters from our Partners and Friends, who all write to share how God has blessed them. And each month we get to share some of those good reports with you through our own personal newsletter, the *Good News Gazette*.

## Hurts Turned Into Harvest

In March of this year my husband decided to leave work after 21 years of loyal service to his company. He was very hurt and despondent at the time, due to unfulfilled promises that were made to him, and the company employing someone else in a position that was promised to him.

I contacted the KCM South Africa and Creflo A. Dollar South Africa offices for prayer over this situation. All we could do was draw strength from the Word of God. The Holy Spirit made Psalm 103:6 very much alive in my spirit. Well, needless to say, our Father delivered us from the oppressor in a mighty way! More than a year ago we sowed a seed into another ministry and believed God for supernatural debt cancellation on our property, or that we would be able to pay it off in a year. Not only were we able to pay it off, but we were also blessed with a second vehicle!

P.M. | South Africa

## God's Word Eliminates Infection

In 2006, I was attacked with a case of cellulitis that involved my entire left leg with swelling, heat and telltale red streaks of infection. It took over one month and two courses of antibiotics to kill the infection. Exactly one year later I was attacked with the same symptoms and infection. However, by then I was saved and had received the *Healing Package* by Gloria Copeland with the CD and book. I listened to that CD and spoke along with it over and over again for several days and nights—and I was healed! No doctor or antibiotics—just the sweet promise of God's Word. Praise God!

Mary Follman | Seattle, Wash.

## God Prospered Our Hands!

We had been believing God's Word to prosper the work of my husband's hands as a Web graphic artist. At the beginning of the year he received two online jobs and made more income in six weeks than he did all last year! We give God all the praise for this. We know it came from Him and standing in faith on His promise to prosper the work of our hands, so that His covenant would be established here on earth!

Mark and Irene Teig | Independence, Mo.

## Lost, and Found

I wrote to your prayer department asking for help over some missing documents that had been lost by a government department. As you can imagine, I was extremely worried and concerned, but I didn't give in to it. I just knew this was a test, so I concentrated on the prayers that you sent me and spent more time each day in prayer.

Today, my documents arrived back safely into my hands. I know this was just an attack from the devil, but he couldn't touch them because before I sent them I pled the blood of Jesus over them. Thank you so much for your prayers. They opened the door and the Holy Spirit took over. Two days before my documents were returned I was sitting in my living room and the Holy Spirit said to me, *Your documents have been found*. It was so profound that I wrote it down. My life is getting better and better.

M.W. | England

Prayer Is Our Priority. Please Call 800-600-7395.

## THE BLESSING Brings Increase

I continually praise God for KCM. Since we evacuated from Louisiana because of Hurricane Katrina, the Lord told us to stay in Texas. KCM contacted us to find out what we needed and prayed with us, and since then we have seen the Lord's blessing and favor in so many ways. I tell everyone what Partners Helping Partners did to bless us. We are working in Texas, have a brand-new home, new things to fill it with, and the Lord led us to a church that teaches truth, just like KCM.

We are able to give back to the relief fund and pray for KCM and Kenneth and Gloria. We thank God every day for all He did through you in our lives. Brother Kenneth's teachings on the blood covenant, faith and living in THE BLESSING are helping us grow and increase in faith.

Ginny Noote  
Fort Worth, Texas

God Gave Me a Helpmeet  
I want to thank you for your  
agreement prayers for me to be  
married. I was married in December 2007!  
Please continue to pray that  
God will use us for revival in  
our country.

M.E. - Serbia

## Back On the Right Path

Thank you, Gloria, for your ministry. I heard God calling me back a year ago after many years astray and you and Kenneth played a huge part in helping me get back on the right path. This included receiving healing from MS and, most importantly, the salvation of my 5-year-old son last summer. I pray that you and your ministry will continue to grow and be blessed abundantly.

S.M. | United Kingdom





God has blessed KCM to be connected with some of His most anointed ministers. And we're blessed to have some of them share the message God has given to them through articles they contribute to the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine.

# NoMoreToil

BY BILL WINSTON

The revelation of *entering into God's rest* is flowing strongly in the Body of Christ today, and things are happening because of it. | God is saying, *No more toil—rest in the blessing.* | We are seeing people all over the world get hold of God's rest. As they rest, ceasing from their own toil, they hear the Word of the Lord more clearly, take hold of it by faith, and receive His promises in abundance in all areas of life.

“God may have rested on the seventh day of Creation, but His plan continued!”

As their pastor, I'm thrilled to deliver such a powerful revelation to my congregation and to know that through them and their testimonies, the revelation is going beyond the walls of our church. It is going to the nations of the world and people are seeing God establish His kingdom in the earth.

## Back to the Beginning

Every revelation of God's master plan is connected to His original purpose for earth and for His man. Looking back to the beginning, before the foundation of the earth, we can see what He's always had in His heart for mankind. That's when He laid out His entire plan. The plan, from start to finish, was in Him before time began.

When God began time, He did His work in six days. Then, as Genesis 2:2 tells us, “On the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.”

In six days God created heaven and earth, stars and planets. He called every kind of fish out of the sea and all kinds of plants and animals out of the earth. But when He got to Adam, the first man—the first one of you and me—He called us out of Himself. Adam is the exact duplicate of God, made in His image.

God and Adam functioned in this earth not as two but as one. And God blessed Adam and said to him, “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).

With that blessing, God's work was complete! He was finished and He rested.

## The Rest of the Plan

God took a spot on earth He called Eden and created a Garden. His plan was that as Adam lived forever in the blessing God had commanded, The Garden would take over the whole earth. All He asked Adam to do was to plant heaven in the earth...just step out there and flourish in the blessing!

God's blessing was powerful enough to do it! He had already provided everything to make it happen. All Adam had to do was rest in the blessing. The energy to live in the blessing was in God's union with Adam. The supply of all Adam's needs and desires was in that union, but Adam let himself be talked right out of the blessing.

Adam chose to satisfy his needs his way, and suddenly he and Eve were out there “going it alone.” They put themselves in a position to operate in the earth apart from God's plan—apart from the blessing of God. In Genesis 3:17 God declared to Adam, “...the ground is under a curse because of you; in sorrow and toil shall you eat [of the fruits] of it all the days of your life” (*The Amplified Bible*). The word *toil* means “to work; to exert strength with pain or fatigue in body or mind.” What an inheritance Adam left us.

Our ancestors lost a lot with that decision, and next to our eternal life, our rest in God was one of the most important things they gave up. But, God did not give up!

God may have rested on the seventh day of Creation, but His plan continued! Man may have quit on God, but God was determined from before the foundation of the earth that this would be the place where His blessing would rest—the whole earth would be His Garden, and His man would be both the deliverer and recipient of His plan.

For hundreds of years after Adam, God was continually on the lookout for a man who would receive all He had to give him, including rest in the earth. Along the way He often spoke through His prophets about His plan—that His people would one day receive the fullness of the blessing and establish the earth as God's Garden.

Some caught God's vision and connected with Him. God revealed His plan to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and David, and they all lived in the plan for a



People are becoming curious as they watch us receive such great results without toil, seeing what the Lord is doing. They are asking, “How is this happening?”



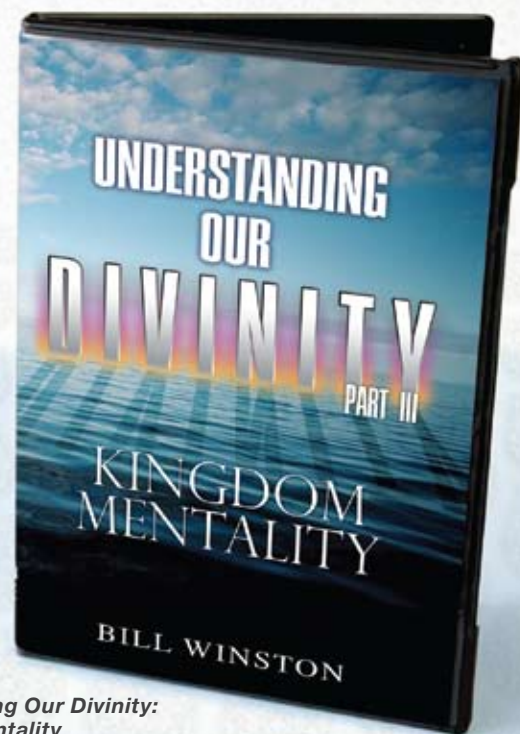
season. Then, either they or their descendents would get off course and God's people would end up back in a wilderness of one form or another.

Generations later, God spoke through the prophet Isaiah about what He had envisioned for the earth and its people. He said, "Look unto Abraham your father, and unto Sarah that bare you: for I called him alone, and blessed him, and increased him. For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody" (Isaiah 51:2-3).

## Think Like God

It's time to take the kingdom of God to the nations and transform society—to shift our focus from the "four walls" of church buildings, push aside feelings of inferiority and think like God. In this powerful series, Bill Winston takes you through Scripture, showing you how to develop a kingdom mind-set—and how that mind-set will bring results to seemingly impossible situations and help you be God's representative to a lost world.

Start thinking like our Father and impacting the world. Start *Understanding Our Divinity!*



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God has always planned to make the whole earth like the Garden of Eden—a place for His man to flourish in His rest. Through the faith of Abraham, a portion of the earth actually was delivered and turned into a garden of the Lord for his descendents. Abraham received that land, called it his own, and fulfilled God's planned relationship between man and earth in his land.

As Abraham's family history unfolded, his descendents abandoned their land and their blessing, and took generations of their family into bondage. But God never gave up. He never stopped talking to His people about His plan to bring them to their place of rest and no more toil.

### The Day Is Here

The prophet Ezekiel spoke on behalf of the Lord to His people, looking forward to the days of His unfolding plan.

Thus saith the Lord God; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the Lord build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the Lord have spoken it, and I will do it (Ezekiel 36:33-36).

Well, here we are—in *that day!* We are in the greatest day of His plan! By the precious blood of His Son, Jesus, God *has* cleansed us of our iniquities. He *has* delivered to the Body of Christ the blessing Jesus regained for us! Glory to God!

And now we are getting in on all that means to us, His people—His children. He is causing us to dwell in our cities and build the wastelands in them. Our desolate lands and desolate people are being replanted and are flourishing again as He intended for the Garden of Eden. And as Ezekiel 33:36 declares, the people around us who don't know Him will see clearly *He is the one doing it all!*

Can you see it? It's just like in the beginning—just like the original Garden. He said it and He is doing it! God said let there be...and there was.

It's all His plan, it's all His Word, and it's all His doing!

### We're at Rest—No More Toil!

As His people get on board with Him, walking in His plan, taking hold of His Word, and allowing Him to do

what He says, we are at rest—no more toil!

"So, does that mean we just sit around and do nothing?" someone may ask.

No, but what the Lord calls us to do, we can do without *toil*...the toil that Adam worked under. We do the good work of God He created us for in Christ Jesus, resting in Him and apart from the kind of *toil* that brings pain to body and mind (see Ephesians 2:10).

We get out there in our communities and in the world, resting in the blessing—declaring His Word and completing His plan to reveal His Garden wherever we are!

Jesus demonstrated time and again the kind of work God intends us to do. Peter had "toiled all night" to catch fish, but when he heard the Word of Jesus, he just threw out the net and took what may have been the biggest haul of his life (Luke 5:1-7). That's how our work for the Lord should be.

More than once, thousands of people sat down to hear Jesus preach and decided to stay for lunch. The disciples began to *toil* (be pained in their minds) about how they would feed the multitudes. Jesus picked up a piece of bread, thanking God for it, and gave some to each of them. He said, "Here, do this, get out there among the people, break the bread and pass it out." No toil, just follow the example. That's how it should be for us.

And we're seeing it happen.

We're getting out there in our communities and in the world, resting in the blessing as we go. We are being planted in the world as visible signs of The Garden, recouping and recovering all that was lost. We see the desolate places and hopeless situations, hear what God has to say about them, and follow the example. No toil. Just completing His plan to reveal His Garden wherever we are!

And here's the best part—people are becoming curious as they watch us receive such great results without toil, seeing what the Lord is doing. They are asking, "How is this happening?"

And isn't that *God's real plan?*

"Be fruitful and multiply," He said. Replenish the earth. He's talking here about people reproducing people.

The time has come for His people to truly *be* His people—for the Church to *be* the Church. People all over the world are waiting to see something in our lives they can't see in their own. God has planted deep inside all people the desire to see the Garden of Eden in their lives. They want rest.

As we progress in the *rest* of God and work without *toil* alongside Him, people will be lined up to get into our churches. The healing in our churches—the prosperity, the joy, the peace, the rest—will draw them.

They will come through the doors of our churches...and even through the doors of our homes, our businesses, our schools...wherever God's people are at rest in Him. They will step through the doors in wonder and amazement to be part of heaven on earth...to be part of God's plan for His man in the earth...the plan that will let *them* rest in Him and receive the life of God with *no more toil!* **VICTORY**

Bill Winston is founder and pastor of Living Word Christian Center, an 18,000-member church located in Forest Park, Ill. He is also the founder and chairman of The Joseph Center® for Business Development. For more information or ministry materials write to Bill Winston Ministries, P.O. Box 947, Oak Park, IL 60303; call 800-711-9327; or visit his Web site at [www.bwm.org](http://www.bwm.org).

## Courage comes from Faith

by Gloria Copeland

"Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest." (Joshua 1:9)

Courage comes from trusting God. It can't be mentally drummed up. It comes from believing what God says, regardless of what the circumstances look like. Courage comes from faith!

Where does discouragement come from? From fear and unbelief. It comes when you listen to the devil's lies about what God is *not* going to do for you.

As the people of God, you and I must shake off discouragement and rise up with courage! We must quit looking at our own abilities, failures and limitations and start looking to God. We must rise up in the Name of Jesus and the power of His Spirit and establish the kingdom of heaven upon earth.

If you've been discouraged lately, stop listening to Satan's lies. Stop receiving evil reports. Whenever someone tells you God is not going to deliver you, you tell them, "He's already delivered me, in the Name of Jesus."

Once you begin to realize who you are and what you've been given by the power of God, you'll quit letting the devil run all over you. God didn't suggest that you be strong and courageous. That is His command!

VICTORY

(This article was reprinted from the devotional book *From Faith to Faith—A Daily Guide to Victory*.)



Spiritual Heritage

# OneNation...

BY KENNETH COPELAND

for the Glory of God

Why did the Pilgrims come to America? What was in the heart of God concerning this place? If you want to know the truth about the founding of our nation, go back to its original documents and the circumstances surrounding their creation. The truth may surprise you.

It has always been God's plan to have a nation where the glory of God could be sown and nurtured, from which His glory could spread throughout the whole earth—where all people could praise the God of heaven and be protected from sin, sickness, demons, fear and all the curse that had come on the earth. This North American continent was the place He chose for the seed to be planted.

God picked a handful of people from different places to come here and plant the seeds of His glory. They were not racists or religionists. They were just believers.

In November 1620, a little ship called the Mayflower came to the shores of this continent. The people aboard had the glory of God and a prayer of faith in their hearts for a place where they could worship God in freedom. On board that vessel, these people entered into a covenant with God to establish the land of His dreams in the Name and in the blood of Jesus.

The Mayflower Compact is America's first great constitutional document. It was signed in Cape Cod Bay before the ship's inhabitants set foot on American soil. Here is some of what it proclaimed:

In the name of God, amen.

We, whose names are underwritten...

Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith...a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia....

This wasn't just any colony. It was, in the words of the Pilgrims themselves, "for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith." In England they had suffered persecution for their religious convictions. That had led them to emigrate to Holland in search of religious freedom. After 12 difficult years there, they made the voyage to the New World to begin a colony *for the glory of God*.

I always come back to this when I hear people predict the doom of the United States like they have been doing for more than 230 years. I want you to know something about this country—it may go through some hard knocks, but it's not going to fail. I can tell you exactly why. It's protected under the Mayflower Covenant—a covenant established in the blood of Jesus between the Pilgrims and God. Because

of it, God has had mercy on this nation in spite of all of us.

Sometime ago, Gloria and I heard a statement made by a prophet of God—a powerful man of prayer from India. He said Jesus came to him in prayer one afternoon, and he asked, "Jesus, when are You going to judge America?" Jesus said, "I'm not. I have a covenant with them that was made on the Mayflower, *and I remember that covenant....*" Thank God, that covenant has saved this nation over and over.

### God Still Has a Dream...

I believe this dream is a major part of what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. saw when he said, "I have a dream." He said he had seen the promised land and glory. I don't think he was just seeing folks sitting together. There's more to it than that. They can pass laws and make us sit together, but they can't make us love each other. But in the spirit there's reconciliation. The blood of Jesus wipes out the differences and divisions. I believe that's what he saw.

As Galatians 3:28 says, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

God never intended for the black man to come here in the belly of a slave ship. And He never planned for the white man to come over here and steal from the red man and kill him. None of that was God's plan.

God's plan was a place where all tribes, all tongues, all races, all colors could freely praise and worship Him together.

God intended for this North American continent to be a place where there would be a nation like the family of God. It was meant to be a place where people honestly love each other. Why? Because of the anointing that abides within. There is an anointing to love (Ephesians 3:14-20).

A Jewish man loved and died for all of us—the black man, the red man, the white man, the yellow man, the brown man. There had to be an anointing to do that, and that anointing is on His Body, the Church, today. It's Christ in you...our hope of glory!

Make no mistake about it, God is still going to have His dream and we're part of it.

The American dream is God's dream—one nation under God, filled with His glory. **VICTORY**

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# Causing Your Nation to Prosper

BY KEITH A. BUTLER

“God wants you to prosper.” | I know, you’re probably thinking, *OK, we hear that all the time. So what else is new?* | Well, I can’t say what I’m about to share is exactly new, because it’s been around at least since God first pronounced His blessings on Abraham. But I can for sure tell you that it’s true.

God wants you to prosper. The Bible says so in 3 John 2: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

The truth is God *does* want you to prosper. But there’s something else He desires. He wants you to go beyond seeking your own prosperity and start causing your nation to prosper. That’s right. It’s God’s ultimate desire that the entire world prosper, and He expects you to be right there in the middle of helping to make it happen.

You see, God may use His Word to deal with us as individuals, but there are times when He makes decisions or judgments that affect entire families or nations.

Let me show you what I’m talking about.

In Proverbs 14:34, the Bible says,

“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.”

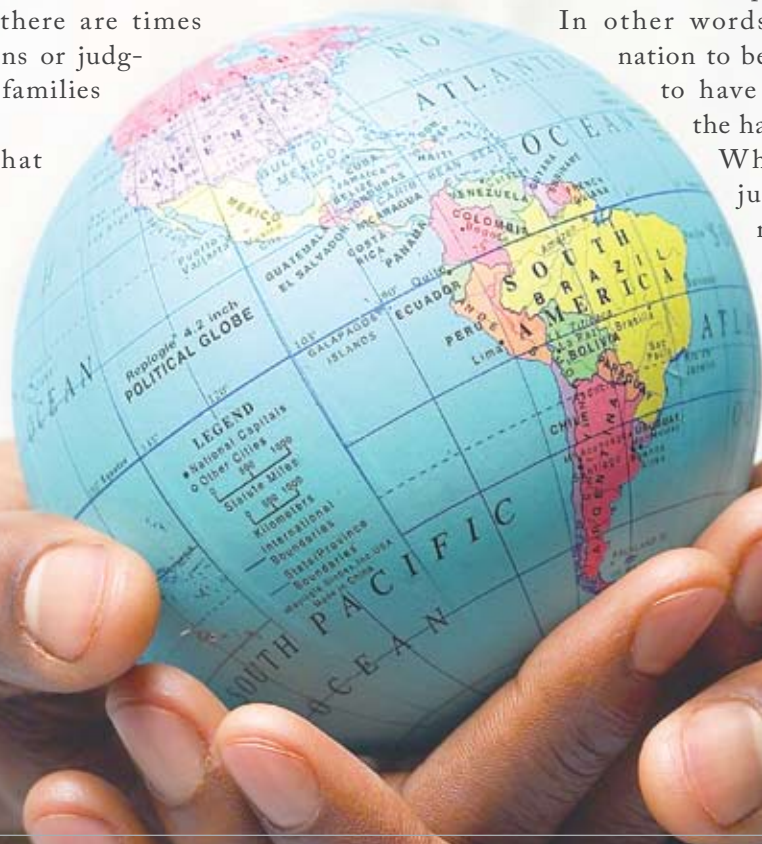
Take a look at those first two words: *righteousness* and *exalteth*.

The word *righteousness*, which literally means “justice,” comes from the word *righteous*, a word that is defined as “characterized by uprightness or morality.” As born-again believers, that describes who each of us has been made in Christ. Like Jesus, we are people of honesty, integrity and morality. We believe in justice.

To *exalt* means to “lift up.”

In other words, in order for our nation to be lifted up, it’s going to have to happen through the hands of the righteous.

Why? Because, as we just read, righteousness exalts or lifts up a nation.



## Who’s in Charge?

Notice what happens when the righteous are in authority or, as we would consider it in today’s society, in charge or control. In Proverbs 29:2, the Bible says: “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

Why do you suppose the Bible says, “the people rejoice”?

It’s because when righteous people are in charge, justice prevails. And when justice prevails, you get honesty. You get fairness, compassion, peace and prosperity. In other words, things are done for the good of all.

Sadly, that’s not the case when it comes to unrighteous, ungodly leaders ruling. The last part of that scripture proves it: “but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

I don’t have to tell you that wickedness is the same as sin. And the Bible clearly states in Romans 6:23 that “the wages of sin is death.”

When wicked people rule, or are in control, the end result is always going to be death. It may not come in the form of physical death, but you can be assured the results are going to be bad. In Old Testament times, for instance, we saw it manifest in such forms as sickness, disease, pestilence, plagues, famine—even death. And while those things happened back then, there is nothing that says they can’t be repeated in some form today.

The thing we have to understand, though, is these things all happened because of wickedness. They happened because the unrighteous were in control. And they happened to entire nations.

Look at what the Bible says in 1 Kings 15:25-26 about King Nadab, a ruler over Israel: “And Nadab the son of Jeroboam began to reign over Israel in the second year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned over Israel two years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of his father, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.”

Did you catch what the scripture said in the last part of verse 26?

Not only did Nadab sin, but the entire nation followed his path and was led away into sin. A little further down in that same scripture, in verses 33 and 34, we see the same thing happening again: “In the third year of Asa king of Judah began Baasha the son of Ahijah to reign over all Israel in Tirzah, twenty and four years. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, and walked in the way of Jeroboam, and in his sin wherewith he made Israel to sin.”

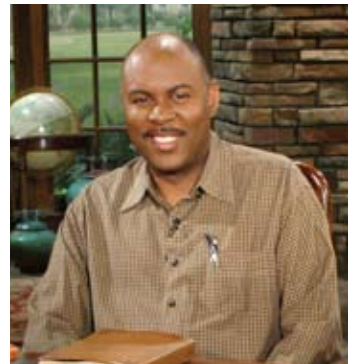
And in Chapter 22, we see wickedness continuing during the reign of Ahaziah, the son of Ahab. In each instance where a king “did evil in the sight of the Lord,” the nation he ruled over suffered. Its people paid the price.

## Preparing to Prosper Your Nation

There are consequences to be paid for sin. But if you are not walking in unrighteousness and are living a life of obedience to God and His Word, you don’t have to worry about those things. You can rest assured that not only will you prosper, but your nation will also prosper.

It is vital that every believer see this. The reason Satan so desperately desires to destroy this country is because it is the lighthouse of the gospel for the entire world. But God is not about to see that happen. He has a job for this country to do, and to help get the job done He has placed you in this nation—a nation that from its very beginning started out with the purpose of bringing all mankind back to Him.

He has brought people from every part of the globe and opened the door to



In order for our nation to be lifted up, it’s going to have to happen through the hands of the righteous.

When righteous people are in charge, justice prevails. And when justice prevails, you get honesty.

You get fairness, compassion, peace and prosperity.



That's the key.  
If we do "that which is right and good,"  
then the Bible says, "it may be well with thee."

the gospel to those who have never heard it preached before. More money is spent in the United States to evangelize its own citizens and to evangelize other countries, than all the other nations of the world combined. And more missionaries come from America than all other parts of the world combined.

In God's grand scheme of things, that can only continue until the whole world knows that Jesus is Lord, and He saves, heals, delivers and sets free.

How will this happen? It will happen through

believers like you and me—people who are committed to stand firm on God's Word, walk in obedience to what He tells us to do, and always do good in His sight.

The Bible says in Deuteronomy 6:17-19, "Ye shall diligently keep the commandments of the Lord your God, and his testimonies, and his statutes, which he hath commanded thee. And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the Lord swore unto thy fathers, to cast out all thine enemies from before thee, as the Lord hath spoken."

Notice what it says in verse 18: "And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord: that it may be well with thee."

That's the key. If we do "that which is right and good," then the Bible says, "it may be well with thee."

Do you understand what the phrase "well with thee" means? It means that things will work out for you, you're going to wind up being blessed coming in and blessed going out; blessed whether you're in the suburb, the city or urban America. It means you'll live in peace and not fear. It means sickness and disease will not come near your dwelling, and that destruction and calamity will pass over you.

"Well with thee" means *you* will prosper. And because *you* prosper, so will *your family* and *your nation*.

Friend, who is in control *does* matter. Whether it's in your home or on the job, in the church or over your city, state or country, the person in charge—the one you have to follow—matters.

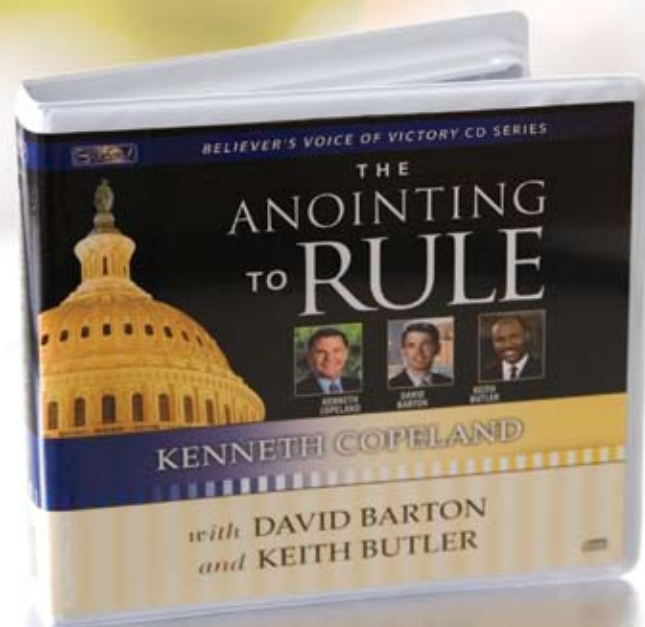
The Bible declares that through God you have been made righteous. You are the seed of Abraham, heirs of God and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. As the righteousness of God, you have authority—not only over your life and destiny, but over that of your nation.

You can cause your nation to prosper! **VICTORY**

Keith A. Butler is founder and pastor of Word of Faith International Christian Center in Southfield, Mich.; and Faith Christian Center in Smyrna, Ga. and Phoenix, Ariz. For information or ministry materials, write to Word of Faith, P.O. Box 3247, Southfield, MI 48037-3247; call 888-909-WORD; or visit their Web site [www.wordoffaith-icc.org](http://www.wordoffaith-icc.org).

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God's dream for man  
part 1

BY GLORIA  
COPELAND

# A Dwelling Place for the LORD

"The Lord thy God in the midst of thee is mighty..." Zephaniah 3:17 | God has a dream for all mankind. His dream is for each of us to experience a life absolutely filled with Him. He desires to live in and through us all—and He has done everything to see that His dream comes to pass in our lives!

We look at things from our own perspective, even the things God has for us. But I have learned if we just dig a little deeper into God's Word, we can begin to see things from His perspective. Our desire for Him will increase, and we will begin to understand more about His desire for us.

As we make the effort to see from His viewpoint,

we will begin to see all God has ever desired is to live in the midst of His people. Beginning with Adam, right on down to you and me, that's been His ultimate dream.

This is nothing new with God. He set His dream into motion in the Garden of Eden. We see that in the first few chapters of Genesis where we read that God



made man in His own image. He walked and talked with His man, Adam. He and Adam fellowshiped without anything separating them. Things were exactly as God planned. Man and God—one-to-one—enjoying life together, loving one another, sharing the goodness that comes from being in unity.

God's will was then and still is that the earth be filled with His image through His children—living a life ruled by love between Himself and them, and among one another. A life totally filled with His goodness. Sounds like heaven, doesn't it? Well, that's exactly what He desires—heaven on earth!

### Counting the Cost

But something happened. With the help of the enemy of God and man, Adam and Eve developed their own perspective. They quit on God and they quit on mankind.

Read Genesis 3 and you'll see that God's dream *seemed to be* smashed to bits by Adam's distorted perspective of God's desire.

I say "seemed to be" because right there in the middle of the story, in Genesis 3:15, we hear God's simple statement that lets us know His dream *will* be fulfilled. He says to the deceiving serpent, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." In other words, *Jesus is going to finish you off and through Him I will see My dream for mankind finished.*

Glory to God! *He* never quits. He knew before He ever breathed the breath of life into Adam that His dream would be abandoned by man. He already had His dream-fulfilling plan set. He already knew the price He would have to pay if He wanted to have a people created in His image filling up His earth. And I think He determined before the first mole-

cule of Adam's body came into being, *I've counted the cost and I am willing to pay the price. I am going to have that people. I will dwell on the earth with My man.*

Jesus was the plan. He was the price God paid to get His dream back—His dream that you and I would be made able to live in this earth in His image, and that He would live in the midst of us!

### Not Just a Visitor

Between Adam and Jesus, God continued to develop His dream. He continued to seek a people who would welcome Him into their midst. Along the way He handpicked some people to walk in relationship with Him, but just like Adam, very few of them walked with Him in all His fullness as their constant Companion.

Like so many people today, most of God's people throughout the ages have been satisfied with only a *visitation* from God. In those visitations He did some wonderful things in their lives. We can easily recall His visitations with Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Then, when He delivered the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt, God stepped it up a notch and set up His *habitation* among them.

The Lord endeavored to get His people to receive Him fully while He was bringing them into their land of promise. In Exodus 29:45 He said, "And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God." He led them from captivity through His mighty miracles. He led them to safety and took care of them by His marvelous provision.

The place He had destined for them was not just a "land," but it was to be a place of total rest. He brought them *out* of the place of cruel bondage and slavery in order to bring them *in* to the place of total freedom and position as God's chosen ones.

And, as they prepared for their journey to the place of rest He had awaiting them, God's goal was to get as close as He could to His people. He worked with Moses and got them ready for the day when He would say, *I am coming to you.*

But, they rejected Him. They complained, murmured and hardened their hearts toward Him. Like Adam, their perspective of God had become distorted because of their disobedience. They had worked themselves into a state of terror of the Lord.

From their perspective, when He said He was coming down to them, they couldn't bear to have Him being in close proximity or speaking directly to them. They begged Moses to talk to God for them.

They said, "We don't want to talk to Him. Moses, you talk to Him and whatever you say, we'll do. We're afraid we're going to die if He gets close to us."

God's specially chosen people rejected His dream to dwell in their midst and commune directly with them, preferring a go-between in Moses.

Even today, many people, inside and outside the family of God, are either so afraid of God or so unfamiliar with Him they can't imagine going one-to-one with Him and letting Him walk and talk with them directly. They look to others to be their go-between. Outside the Church they look to gurus, mediums—anyone they feel can put them "in touch" with their future. Inside the Church, they become dependent on preachers and teachers to do their fellowship with the Lord and to hear from Him.

I'm telling you, God's dream is to be right in the middle of everything about you and your life, guiding you and directing you. Pastors and teachers are responsible to teach you how to get to that place of intimate relationship with your Lord. You don't have to be afraid of doing something wrong. When you let Him in, your life will become everything He has planned for it to be as He leads you. And He has done everything He possibly can to make that kind of relationship with Himself possible.

Even the rejection of the entire nation of Israel didn't stop God. He never gave up on His dream. Despite their resistance to Him, He fulfilled every promise He had ever made to the

children of Israel, leading them, their priests, their judges, their kings. All the time in leading Israel, He was headed right for the fulfillment of His dream and desire for all mankind. He was leading His people—including you and me—to a life filled with Himself...right to Jesus!

Because of Jesus, we can be sure God is always leading us out of our trouble and into Himself, the place of rest and refuge. Our part is to spend time with Him and learn to see every situation from His perspective and to receive His promises.

### Signs Along the Way

We can learn so much about God's perspective—how He looks and thinks about things—by paying attention and giving time to the Word of God. We can *know* God! For hundreds of years, between His deliverance of the children of Israel and the arrival of Jesus, He posted signs and wonders along the way. He gave clear instructions.

Whenever His people would turn their faces toward Him, He would manifest Himself as their God. He would let Himself be seen and felt and perceived in their natural lives. It's as if His message was always, *If you'll let Me be God, I'LL BE GOD!*

Through His prophets, He gave words of hope to let His people know He hadn't changed His mind. He spoke clearly and directly about His plan to dwell in the midst of men and women throughout His earth.

Through the prophet Ezekiel He said to His people, "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them" (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

Through those words, we see that God took His dream up yet another notch. He let His people in on more detail of His dream. Now He was talking about not just a habitation *among* His people, but a habitation *within* His people. Not just a dwelling, but an indwelling.

With every passing day in the life of Israel, God's plan for His dream was getting closer to fulfillment. He was getting closer to paying that ultimate price that would put Him right in the middle of His dream.

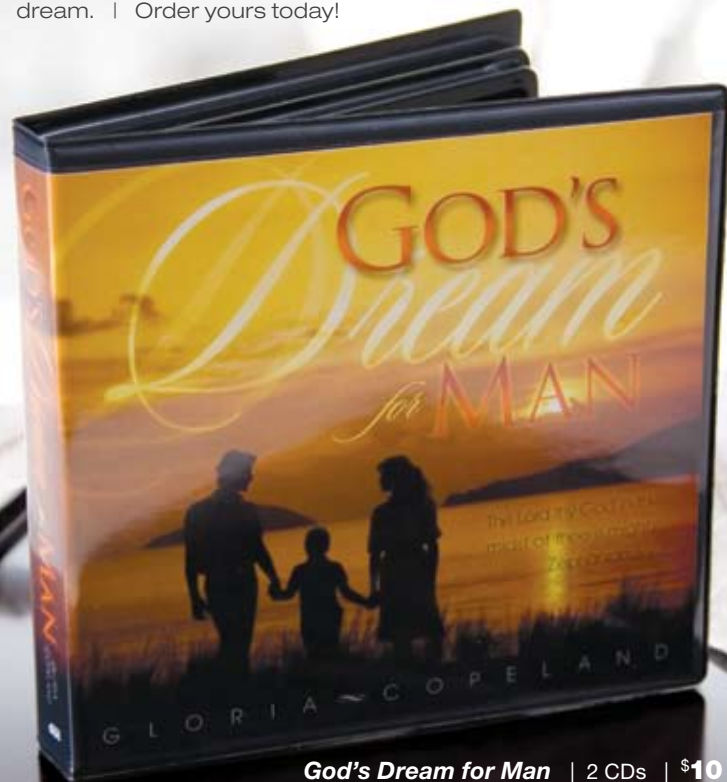
All the signposts and all the words of His prophets pointed directly to Jesus, who would make the way for God to at last dwell in the midst of His people.

### Seeing God's Dream Clearly

Can you see how He has endeavored through the ages to have a people who would receive Him and welcome Him into their midst—a people who would let Him be God and manifest His presence among them?

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He rests, and His rest in us becomes our rest in Him. It's a two-way rest! And, through Jesus once and for all, God's dream was fulfilled! Both His place of rest and ours was established!

**Built Together—the Dwelling Place**  
Ephesians 2:18-22 brings God's perspective into clear view for us!

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: in whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

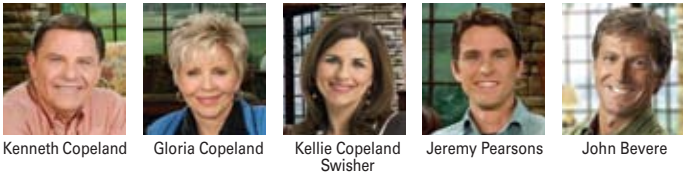
Adam gave God no resting place. And the children of Israel would not let Him rest in their midst. But today, God is rejoicing because He can have a place of rest in His new creature in Christ Jesus—temples of the living God. And every time another person becomes His child, His rest is expanded and His dwelling place is enlarged. God's dream was so big it encompassed not just one man, and not just one nation, but it took in you and me and every person who recognizes the price He paid to get us all in on His dream! Even before time began, our heavenly Father knew in order to be received by mankind totally He would have to give Himself totally! He would have to involve the whole family of heaven to get the dream fulfilled. He would have to give His Son—the fullest expression of His love and the only way His love would be fully

understood. And He would have to give us His Spirit—the only way we could get a new heart that would not be afraid of Him and would be able to receive and return His love. He knew what He would have to do so that our lives

would be completely filled with Him living in and through us. And He was willing to do it all. He did it all for rest, for joy, for a perfect dwelling place. He did it for us! **VICTORY**

Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

September



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DAILY				
1 Mon	2 Tue	3 Wed	4 Thu	5 Fri
<b>Pure Life: Choosing God's Plan</b> This week, <b>Kellie Copeland Swisher</b> challenges believers to live a pure life—not only abstaining from sin, but also stepping into God's perfect plan!				
8	9	10	11	12
<b>Pure Life: Living the Life God Planned for You</b> Living pure—God's way—is not hard. <b>Kellie Copeland Swisher</b> continues her series, showing how THE BLESSING launches you into the "sweet life."				
15	16	17	18	19
<b>Partnering Together to Release THE BLESSING</b> <b>Kenneth</b> and <b>Gloria Copeland</b> discuss the power of partnership—and how together, THE BLESSING is released in our lives to do far more than any of us could do alone.				
22	23	24	25	26
<b>THE BLESSING Makes You Whole</b> This week, <b>Gloria Copeland</b> shows how THE BLESSING brings you healing—spirit, soul and body. And it starts within your heart.				
29	30	1	2	3
<b>Living a Life of Honor Brings God's Reward</b> God wants to reward you! <b>Jeremy Pearsons</b> welcomes <b>John Bevere</b> to discuss the rewards that come to the believer who walks in the honor of God.				

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