

Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

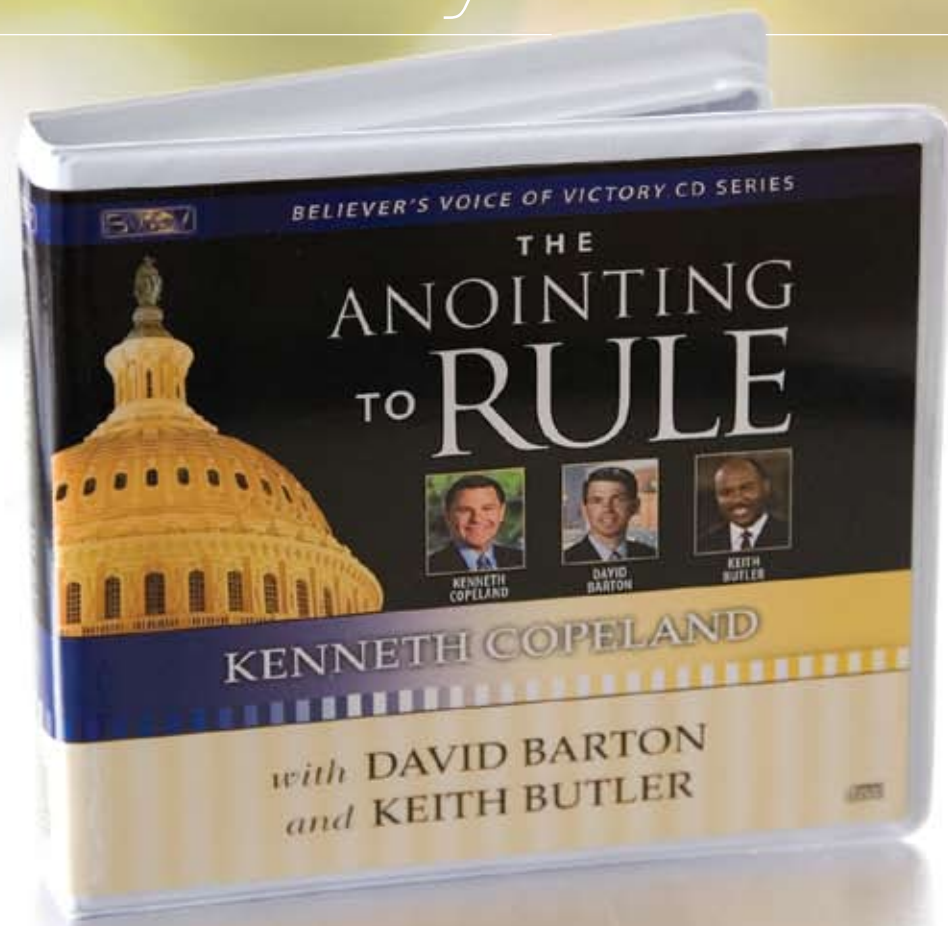
October 2008



Will the
real
GOD
please stand
up?
by Gloria Copeland

“When the righteous
are in authority,
the people rejoice.”
Proverbs 29:2

influence your nation



It's a new day—and the Body of Christ is discovering that their votes not only influence the political process, but cause change—change for the good of their nation! As a believer, it's time to register, time to vote, time to move in the gifts God has given you and take a stand for moral absolutes and true character.

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- Can Christians be called into politics?
- What is the Christian's role in the political process?

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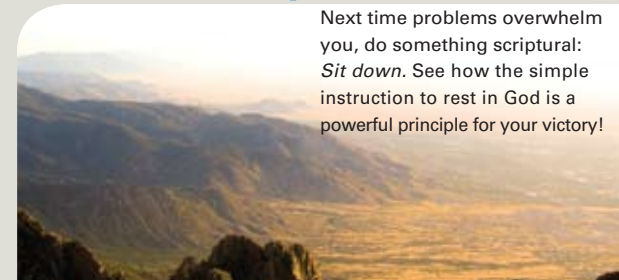
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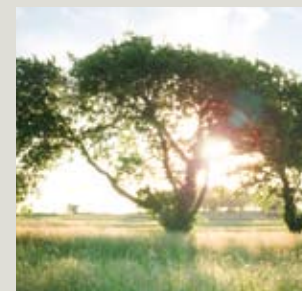
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When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 35 years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

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Come Sit WITH ME

At one time or another, we've all done it. We've paced the floor worrying about some seemingly insurmountable problem. We've tossed and turned all night, wondering what we're going to do. We've run in circles until we're exhausted, trying to find the solution. | If you'll pay attention to what I'm about to tell you, you'll never have to do those things again. | The next time problems arise and trouble threatens to overwhelm you, you can do something different. You can do something scriptural. Something that will actually do some good. You can simply *sit down*.

Amazing as it might seem, that is exactly what God has instructed us, as born-again believers, to do. He has issued us an invitation that will enable us to triumph over every test and trial the devil sends our way. He has said to us: "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Psalm 110:1).

Those words, spoken by the Father to our resurrected Lord, apply to us just as surely as they do to Jesus Himself. They're our God-given instructions just as much as they are His because Jesus isn't sitting alone at God's right hand. We are seated there with Him! It's astounding but it's true: "God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) and hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-6).

The New Testament makes it clear that Jesus has said to those who have received Him as Lord, "Come sit with Me while I sit with My Father on His throne. Come sit here with Me on the throne of grace and rest until your heavenly Father turns every problem, challenge, test and trial you've encountered into a footstool for your feet" (see 1 John 5:4-5; Revelation 3:21; Hebrews 4:16).

For the most part, however, we haven't taken Him up on His offer. We've opted instead to wring our hands and worry. We've wrestled with our enemies ourselves and tried to defeat them on our own.

Why is that?

It's because we haven't learned how to sit down.

We've spent so much time groveling around on God's throne room floor begging for help, or struggling in our own strength to work things out, that the idea of sitting down and trusting God to take care of us seems irresponsible. "I can't just ignore this mess," we say. "Surely, God expects me to do something!"

Yes, He does. He expects us to pay attention to Hebrews 4:9-11, where He said: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

Even in the midst of dire circumstances, God expects us to obey those instructions. He expects us to cease from our own works, stop running in circles and enter the rest of faith. He expects us to get up there right next to Jesus and sit down.

The Word Has Us Covered

How is such a thing possible?

First and foremost, it's possible because God's Word has us covered, and that Word is "quick, and powerful, and

sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do" (Hebrews 4:12-13).

We can sit down because no matter what kind of situation we are facing, no matter how terrible, dangerous and confusing it appears to be, God's Word covers it, sees through it and will reveal the answer to its defeat. The living Word of God will penetrate the darkest difficulties and shed light on the most impossible situations.

We can sit down and relax next to Jesus with the book of His wisdom in our lap, knowing that everything is open and clear to Him. It doesn't matter if there's war on every side. It doesn't matter if everyone is talking doom and gloom, and the economy is belly up. We can sit down and shout, "Hallelujah! The Word has me covered. Everything is going to be all right!"

"But what if my situation requires me to take action?" you may ask. "How can I sit down and rest in faith when I don't know what to do?"

Just follow the instructions in James 1:2-6. Instead of agonizing over the situation,

Count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing. If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

In other words, sit down believing that God's wisdom is on the way.

Stop wearing yourself out racking your brain hour after hour, searching every nook and cranny for the answer thinking, *What should I do? What should I do? Oh! I just don't know.*

You don't know what to do, so stop talking to yourself about it and start talking to God instead. Say, "Lord, what do You want me to do about this problem?" That's a question God will always answer if we ask it in faith. He'll show us what to do in every test and trial—even those we brought on ourselves by our own foolishness.

The devil, of course, will try to convince you otherwise. He'll say, *Yeah, you fouled this thing up and now you'll have to fix it before God will have anything to do with you.* But when

he tries to pawn that junk off on you, just show him the door and command him to go!

Shed the Cares of This World

While you're sitting and waiting for that wisdom to become clear, there will be times when you're tempted to start worrying again. There will be times when the devil tries to push you into fear. When that happens, don't slide off the throne of grace onto the floor and start wailing to God about how bad things are.



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Pray in faith about the situation. Speak the Word and fellowship with the Lord about it in other tongues until you get the answers you need. At times, Gloria and I have encountered problems so serious and urgent that we set aside a few days to focus on them and seek God in prayer. Every time we've done that, we've gotten the wisdom we needed within two or three days.

Don't abandon the rest of God. Keep your heavenly seat and obey the instructions Jesus gave us in John 14: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (verses 1, 27).

"But Brother Copeland, you just don't understand what I'm going through."

That may be true, but I do understand this: Jesus gave us His own peace and He expects us to use it. He told us not to be troubled or afraid. So the best thing we can do is stop arguing with Him and start obeying Him. No matter how riled up our emotions might be, we should get ourselves by the ear and say, "Mouth, you stop contradicting the Word. Heart, you settle down and receive by faith the peace Jesus has given you. Mind, quit meditating on the circumstances and start meditating on the truth of God's Word. I refuse to let myself be troubled. I'm going to be peaceful because Jesus told me to and I'm going to obey Him."

To do that, we'll have to deal with the pride in our lives. We'll have to do what 1 Peter 5:5-8 says and be "clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

Has it ever occurred to you that when we worry about things, we actually put ourselves in opposition to God? We step into a place of pride where we're trying to be our own source and acting like everything depends on us. When we find ourselves in that position, we must change our attitude. We must clothe ourselves with humility.

Clothing yourself is a purposeful thing. It doesn't happen automatically. When you get up in the morning, your clothes don't run out of your closet and jump on you. You have to make a decision about what to wear. Then you have to take action and put those clothes on.

The same is true when it comes to casting your cares on the Lord. You must decide to do it and then act on that decision. You must shed the cares of this world on purpose and give them to Jesus. Then you must leave them in His hands by "bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

Jesus gave us His own peace and He expects us to use it. He told us not to be troubled or afraid.

I won't kid you, that's not always easy. But you'll be able to do it if you'll remember this: When you give your cares to Jesus, He receives them. When you put the situation that's concerned you into His hands and say to Him, "Lord, will You *take care* of this for me?" He says, "Of course I will" (Luke 5:13, *The Living Bible*).

Once when I was rolling the care of a particular problem over on the Lord, He said to me, *Kenneth, I will take care of it. I will be your Caretaker*. Then He expanded on the concept and reminded me that if I have a nice piece of property landscaped with fine gardens and hedges, and I want someone to look after it, I don't hire a kid with a mower who doesn't know anything about gardening. I find someone trained and equipped to handle the job. I go looking for a caretaker who can tend to that property better than I ever could. When I find him, I stop worrying about it and leave the property in his hands.

That's what we do with Jesus. We let Him be our Caretaker because He is well able to do the job!

Sit Down...Saying!

Once you've done that, if the devil continues to hound you with worrisome thoughts, resist him and run those thoughts off by opening your mouth and declaring the Word. Don't struggle with them in silence. Sit down saying! Hold fast your confession of faith. Follow the directions in Psalm 91:2 and "say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust."

Speak the Word of God about the situation and nothing else. Sit down with praise on your lips. Sit down declaring, "I have a Father and He is God. He is my strength and I trust in Him. He is my overflowing power. He is the sustainer of my life. I don't fear when I walk through the dark valley because my God is with me and He's the biggest One in the valley! I don't have a care in the world because He cares for me!"

I give this illustration often, but it bears repeating. If you want to see how powerfully your words affect your thoughts, try this experiment. Start counting from one to 10 in your mind. Somewhere in the middle, open your mouth and say your name.

What happened to your counting?

It stopped, right? That's because your mind had to stop and attend to what your mouth was saying. God designed our thoughts to submit to our words. That means we can rid ourselves of unbelieving thoughts any time we choose by speaking words of faith. We can cast down every worry-ridden imagination; we can bring into captivity every demonic doubt

and replace it with the Word of God just by speaking up! No wonder the book of Hebrews says: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, *let us hold fast our profession [or confession]*. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Sit Down Trusting Your Faithful High Priest

Take a moment and read those verses again. Did you notice they don't say anything about coming *before* the throne of grace? They tell us to come *to* it!

God has invited us not just to stand in front of that throne but to sit down on it right next to Jesus!

"Well, I just don't think I could do that," someone might say. "I might be unworthy to sit there. I might have committed a sin."

If you have, then deal with it. Don't cower around too condemned to take your heavenly seat. Do what 1 John 1:9 tells us to do: Get on your face before God and tell Him the truth. Don't say you have a "problem" or you made a "mistake." Call that sin by its dirty, ugly name and get rid of it. Then believe God to forgive you of that sin and cleanse you of all unrighteousness just like He said He would.

"But what if I still feel guilty about it?"

So what if you do? Act on your faith, not your feelings. Take authority over those lying emotions of guilt and boldly sit down beside Jesus, trusting Him as your "merciful and faithful high priest" (Hebrews 2:17). Dare to believe God meant it when He said He had settled the problem of your sin and blotted it out completely (Isaiah 43:25). "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us" (Psalm 103:12). Throw aside the religious rags of unworthiness and start believing—really believing!—that Jesus' precious blood has washed you clean of sin and robed you in His righteousness. Start rejoicing that: The Word has you covered; God's wisdom belongs to you; Jesus is your Caretaker; He is your merciful and faithful High Priest.

You can sit down saying, "He is my refuge, my fortress, my God in whom I trust."

Why spend another moment pacing the floor or worry a minute more when you can take your heavenly Father up on His gracious invitation? Sit down at His right hand with Jesus and you will soon see your enemies under your feet! **VICTORY**

BY MELANIE HENRY

Redeemed



Skip and Melva Henderson

The seniors at Alexander Hamilton High were counting down to graduation. Classrooms pulsed with a party vibe that threatened to erupt like a Mardi Gras celebration and spill onto the streets of Milwaukee. Some seniors had plans to go to college or join the military. Others looked forward to starting a trade or getting married. They all were excited about the possibilities that stretched before them like a promise. | All, that is, except Melva Monroe.



When the last bell rang, Melva waved at her friends as they joyfully made their way off campus. Then she wandered home alone.

Slipping past her grandmother's bedroom later that evening, Melva glanced through the cracked-open door. As usual, her grandmother was on her knees praying. Melva's heart lurched at the sight, aching with the knowledge that would soon hurt that dear woman. Climbing up rickety stairs to her room, Melva picked up the acceptance letters from several colleges and universities. *A good education is your ticket out of poverty.* Her grandmother had drilled that principle into her since childhood.

Determined to make her grandmother proud, Melva had studied hard and made good grades. Her grandmother had beamed with each acceptance letter, thrilled that Melva would get the chance at a better life—a life her grandmother, Sadie Monroe, had sacrificed to give her.

Blinking back tears, Melva sat in silence and rehearsed Sadie's sad history: the marriage that had ended in divorce when she was in her 30s, leaving her pregnant with her sixth child. The struggle to support herself and her children. The stunning news Sadie received on the heels of her divorce—her 16-year-old daughter, Hattie, was also pregnant with twins. The decision Sadie faced when Hattie, after giving birth to babies Melva and Marvin, told Sadie, "Put them up for adoption."

Eight months pregnant herself, Sadie had paced the hospital corridor praying during the first hours of Melva's life pondering what to do. The decision made, she returned to her daughter's room and told her she would raise the twins. Twenty-six days later, Sadie gave birth to her own child and began nursing all three babies. In time, Hattie left town in hopes of starting a new life.

That was the history of Sadie Monroe's life. Now, Melva had to find a way to explain to Sadie that history had repeated itself through her granddaughter. Melva would not be going to college. At 18, she was pregnant—with twins.

Folding her slender knees up under her chin, she sat at the top of the stairs and sobbed.

'My Son Didn't Have Shoes'

"I had watched my grandmother over the years and knew what keeping my twin brother and me had cost her," Melva remembers. "I wanted to raise my children and be involved in their lives, but I couldn't do it without her help. When I finally told her I was pregnant, she cried, but told me if I would do my best she would help me. Jan. 25, 1981, I gave birth to twins, Quenton Jay and Quianna Rene. Someone gave me a crib and I put both babies in it. In spite of welfare checks, I was so poor that when they got older and started walking I didn't have money to buy clothes and shoes for them."

One day, out of pure desperation, Melva took Quenton to a department store and slipped a pair of shoes on his feet. She was arrested before she got out of the building.

"My son didn't have shoes," she explained to the arresting officer. The store manager decided not to press charges, and Melva was allowed to leave.

Engulfed by a suffocating sense of hopelessness, Melva could see no way out of her poverty. She was a product of generations of it and she seemed destined to continue the cycle. Then one day, Melva put the children down for a nap, flipped on the television and heard Kenneth Copeland teach something that shook her world.

"He said that as believers we are the seed of Abraham. I'd never heard anything like it!"

Eager to learn more, Melva began listening regularly to Kenneth and Gloria Copeland and to other ministries on television. As a child she had memorized Bible verses for treats at church, but she'd never before had such a voracious spiritual appetite. "The more I listened to the Word the hungrier I got for a Bible of my own. I ordered one from Jerry Falwell and began devouring it.

"A woman I knew gave me a plastic bag filled with Kenneth and Gloria's teaching tapes. Every night after the

twins went to bed, I sat at a little table in my grandmother’s house and fed on those tapes. The first change I made was to start tithing off my welfare checks. Over time, I learned about the authority of the believer, that I am an overcomer, and about the seed of Abraham.”

Welfare Is Not My Source

After a year of listening to the tapes, Melva came to the point where she believed without a doubt that God

was her source—not welfare. When her next welfare check arrived, Melva took a bold step of faith. She went to the welfare office and dropped the check down on her social worker’s desk.

Then she said to the woman, “This is the last check I’ll ever receive from you because the Lord has provided for me. I’ll never need your help again.”

Staring at Melva as though in shock, the social worker stumbled over her reply: “In all the years I’ve worked here I’ve never had anyone return a check and boldly say they wouldn’t need them any more.” Pausing for a moment she added, “You’re going to do something great in life.”

Melva walked out of the office feeling better about herself than she’d felt in years. But there was one problem: She had no job, no car and now she was without money. What she did have was a stack of bills to pay.

Using her faith, Melva prayed for a job and soon was hired by the local telephone company. Her grandmother worked nights and kept the twins, now 3 years old, during the day while Melva worked.

“My mother had gotten born again and moved back to Milwaukee where she attended a sound church,” Melva recalls. “She encouraged me to sow 10 percent of everything I made, which I did. I was hired at \$8.10 an hour and within four years I was earning top pay in my field.”

Journey of Faith

In June 1989, Melva met and began dating a young man named Skip Henderson. As Skip witnessed Melva’s close relationship with her two small children, he knew right away he’d found a treasure. *Any woman who’d take such good care of her children would do just as much for her man*, he thought.

Returning Skip’s call one day, Melva was chilled to hear someone shout, “*Big Dummy! Get the phone!*” A schoolteacher used to refer to Skip as “Big Dummy Stupid”—a nickname that had stuck with him through the years. Skip asked Melva out on a date. But instead of going out that Saturday, Melva invited him to her apartment and spent hours showing him in the Bible who *God* said he was and what God called him. Through that experience, Skip soon developed a deep hunger for the Word of God. He also fell in love with Melva.

But marriage was not in Melva’s immediate future. God had other plans for her.

“Back in 1983, I heard Gloria mention Kenneth Hagin and Rhema Bible Training Center when she read a prophecy he had given in 1982,” Melva recalls. “After that, I started listening to Brother Hagin on our local radio station in Milwaukee and continued to feed on the Copelands’ and now Brother Hagin’s teachings until

I paid my first visit to Rhema in February 1990.” While there for the Winter Bible Seminar, a knowing welled up in Melva’s heart that she was supposed to be a student there. “By August 1990, I submitted my resignation, pulled my kids out of school, packed my car and left for Oklahoma.”

Melva arrived in Tulsa without a job, but was soon hired as night auditor for a motel. She found an apartment and enrolled Quenton and Quianna in school. Each morning after sending the kids off to school, Melva drove to Rhema to attend classes. Concerned that exhaustion might cause her to fall asleep in class, Melva wore a rubber band on her wrist which she snapped throughout the day to help her stay awake.

After class, Melva helped the twins with their homework before doing her own. Finally, when they were in bed, she napped until time for work. For two grueling years, she kept that schedule.

Restoration of a Family

“While we lived in Tulsa, Quianna was diagnosed with scoliosis,” Melva recalls. “Nobody told her what to do, but at age 10 she already knew. I watched her take out the healing tapes and listen to them over and over every night just like she’d seen me do for years. Quianna’s spine lined up with the Word of God and she received her healing. I was so grateful that Quenton and Quianna already knew how to live by faith.”

May 12, 1992, Melva graduated from Rhema. The next day she moved back to Milwaukee, where she accepted the position of children’s pastor at her local church.

Not long after her return, Skip left for Tulsa and enrolled at Rhema. When he came back in 1994 after graduation, Skip became youth pastor at the same church where Melva worked.

“During all the years Skip and I dated, we didn’t kiss or hold hands,” Melva says. “Finally, in November 1994, we were married. For the next seven years we continued to work as the children and youth pastors at our church. In 1997, God blessed us with a son, Kyle. And in 2000, I gave birth to a daughter, Kayla.”

God’s Master Plan

In 2003, while visiting a church in Minneapolis, Minn., Skip heard the Lord say, *I want you to start a church*. It wasn’t enough to know God’s plan. Skip wanted to be in God’s timing, so he waited on the Lord. Later that year, during a fast, the Lord confirmed to Melva they were to start a church.

Still, they did *not* rush to start a church. Instead, they waited on God’s specific direction. They continued to serve their home church until in 2005, their pastor said, “God has shown me that you are going to be pastors.” Jan. 14, 2006, Skip and Melva started World Outreach & Bible Training Center in Milwaukee. Today, Quenton and Quianna are 27, Kyle is 10 and Kayla is 8. All the children are involved in the work of the ministry.

“Partnership with KCM has changed our lives,” Melva says. “It has been, and continues to be, our connection to the life and the wisdom of God.”

No one could be happier about the transformation of Melva’s life than her grandmother Sadie Monroe, and her mother, Hattie. It was Sadie’s life of sacrifice, and long hours on her knees in prayer, that sparked the fire of passion in Melva’s heart for the Lord; and Hattie’s desire for the Word of God that propelled Melva to become a student of the Word. Today, all three generations of women in this family—Sadie, Hattie and Melva—are women of the Word, and a fourth generation is already living by faith. **VICTORY**

“Partnership with KCM has changed our lives,” Melva says. “It has been, and continues to be, our connection to the life and the wisdom of God.”

For Melva Henderson, partnership meant breaking free from generations of bondage. It gave her the strength to turn her back on poverty and despair, and launch into the best God had for her and her family. And for thousands of others, partnership is doing the same: restoring relationships, healing bodies and helping to improve finances.

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That’s what partnership does, and that’s why Kenneth Copeland Ministries considers it the cornerstone of our ministry. When you join with KCM to pray and support God’s vision coming 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 in *your* life’s ministry, too. When we come together, our anointings combine, making each of us stronger and more effective than ever!

No matter what you need, we are here for you today—standing with you, agreeing with you. Our desire is for THE BLESSING to come alive in your life as it did for the Hendersons, and for you to live in absolute, undeniable victory. Discover the bondage-breaking power of partnership today!

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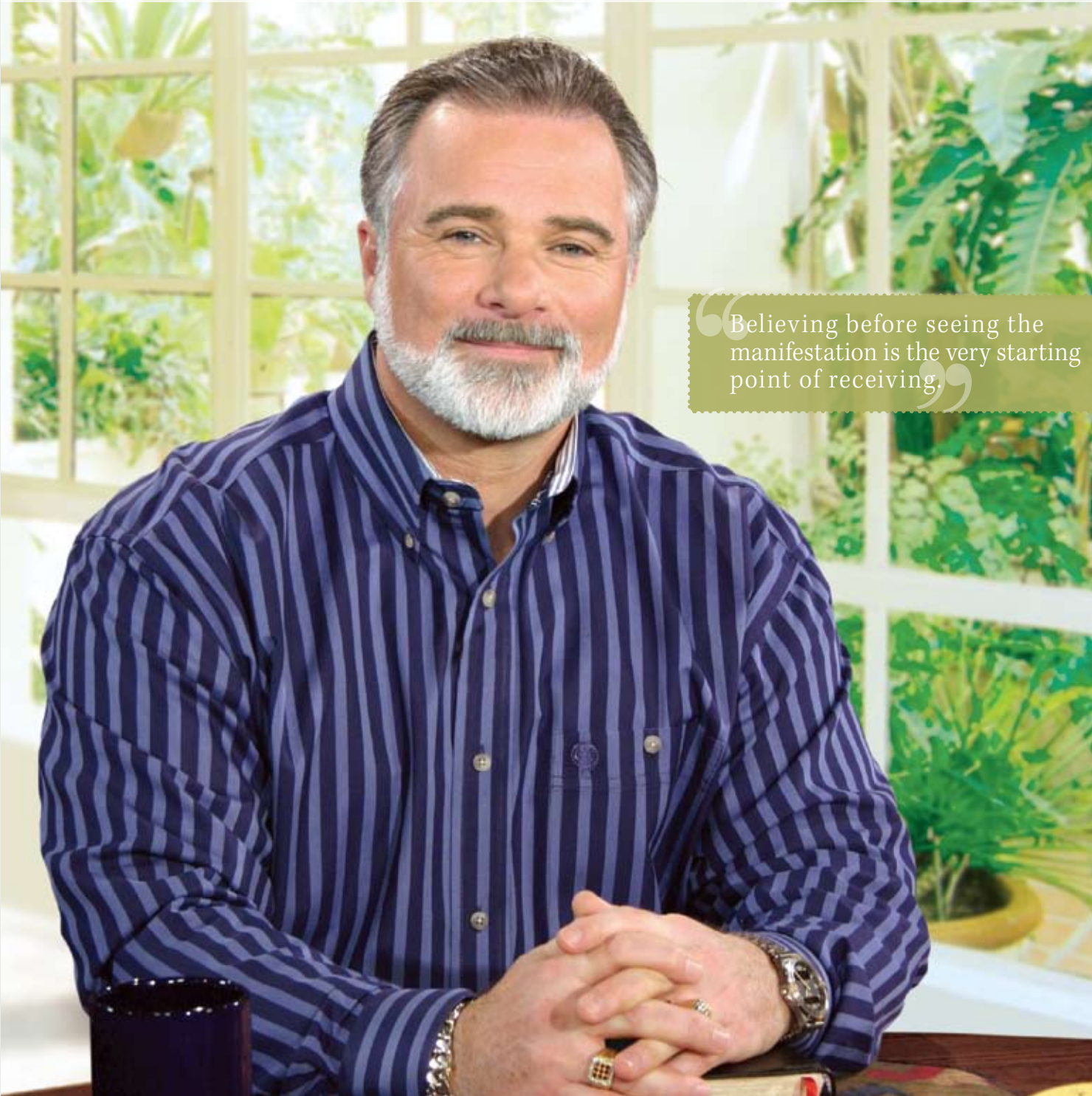
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LAY HOLD OF THE invisible

What are you waiting for? What prayers have you prayed that seem to be unanswered? Are you wondering, *Where is it, Lord? Where is my healing? Why haven't my finances come in? Why don't I see anything happening?* | You may have been waiting so long for answers, you are more than ready to discover how you can receive what you're believing for. What I'm sharing with you is not some new revelation. It's not some secret God has let only a few privileged people in on.



“Believing before seeing the manifestation is the very starting point of receiving.”

The key to your answers is the same today as the day Jesus preached it: “Have faith in God. I say to you, whatever things you ask [whatever you want, whatever you desire, whatever you need] when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (Mark 11:22, 24, *New King James Version*).

Today is your day to receive what you're believing for—it's your day to lay hold of the invisible!

Receiving Is Foundational

Jesus clearly taught that receiving answers to prayer is basic to our Christian thinking. Receiving the results of our faith is fundamental to who God has designed us to be as His children. And if we're not receiving, we're missing the most elementary step.

We are God's people whose lifestyle is supposed to be “We look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For we walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 4:18, 5:7). Natural thinking says, “Seeing is believing.” But supernatural thinking declares, “Believing is seeing.”

Believing comes before seeing if we're to receive all the good things God has in store for us.

Every one of us who has been born again had to first *believe* when we heard that salvation had been provided by God through His only begotten Son, Jesus. When we believed, we received our salvation. Then we began to see things from a different perspective. We began to *see* what we believed we would receive. We began to look at things from the unseen realm of God as they began to come into the seen realm of our very own lives.

We saw God as our Father. We saw Jesus as our Savior and brother. We saw the Holy Spirit at work in us as He began to change our thoughts, speech and actions. We began to see life differently. We began to see the world and our neighbors from the vantage point of what we believe—we believe God is good and He loves the people of this world, and so do we.

So, believing before seeing the manifestation is the very starting point of receiving. It's how we received our salvation and it's how we are to receive everything else God desires for us to have.

We get off to a good start and somewhere along the way we begin to put the cart before the horse. We start off walking by faith and for some reason we get off the path and begin to think we've got to *see* something before we can believe and receive.

Right now we have to get back to the basic fundamental of our faith. Read this out loud: “I look not at the things that are seen, but at the things that are not seen. I walk by faith, and not by sight. I believe I receive!”

What's the Holdup?

Here we are—believers who walk by faith, looking at things that are not seen, asking and believing. So, what's the holdup?

I've found that for most people of faith, the holdup is in the *receiving* part of our walk. For most of us, receiving seems to be easy in some areas. But there are other areas where it seems to be a struggle.

Look again at Mark 11:22-24

where Jesus taught that when you pray and believe you receive, you shall have whatever things you desire.

And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

What *things* can we pray for? By God's Word we know everything is ours because He loves us, saves us, delivers us and provides for us. Romans 8:32 says God gave us *all things* when He gave us Jesus! Everything we could ever desire, He has for us. Our desires are waiting for us to receive them because He's not holding anything back.

How do we pray? Jesus taught His disciples about effective prayer in Luke 11. Right after teaching them what we know as the Lord's Prayer, the very next example He gave is about the importunate friend. Starting in verse 5, Jesus says that because of the man's importunity his friend got up and gave him the bread he needed for unexpected visitors. *Importunity* means “shamelessness, immodesty, without bashfulness, boldness, impudence.”

That's the way we should approach our Father when we pray. Why? Because we go to Him based on what He has promised. I have never known any child who was shy or sheepish when calling on Daddy to make good on a promise, have you? When it's time to collect, a child will walk right up with no fear and say, “Daddy, let's go—you promised!” They do it fearlessly

“Receiving the results of our faith is fundamental to who God has designed us to be as His children. And if we're not receiving, we're missing the most elementary step.”

because they are totally convinced their daddy loves them and will keep his word.

We're no different. We must believe every promise from our heavenly Father is ours, that His sole motivation for everything He is and does, is His mercy and goodness. And we must know beyond any doubt that He loves us unconditionally. We can believe it because we see it is true in Jesus' life. These basics are what Jesus believed about our heavenly Father—what He taught and what He lived.

That brings us to what I believe is the holdup for most people—*receiving*. The Greek word for *receive* in Jesus' teaching is a word that means "take, or lay hold of." With that in mind, we can read Mark 11:24 this way: Believe you *take* it.

Here's an example: God gave the children of Israel the Promised Land—He *gave* it to them, but He told them to *possess* or *take* the land. Because of their unbelief, they didn't go in and take the land. What was their unbelief based on?

It was based on the report of a handful of their own people—spies who said, "We've been there. We've seen things over there. We're not able to take the land. We can't do it."

They were right in what they said. What they didn't understand was that they already had the land. God had promised and He would have enabled them to take it—it was already theirs!

There's where the problem was for them and where it often is for us. God's promises are not based on what "we" can do! Our part is to believe, stretch out our hand of faith and possess. All His promises are based on what He has already done!

Everything Comes From the Invisible

Faith believes it possesses before it sees.

Every promise of God exists in the unseen, invisible realm. The unseen is more real than the seen because it includes everything God has ever had in His heart to speak into existence.

We're asking the wrong question when we ask, "When is God going to do it?" He has already done it, provided it, taken care of it—whatever "it" is!

The right question is, "When am I going to believe I receive?"

Remember, we're not sight-walking people but faith-walking people. We don't have to see or feel or taste or touch or hear before we believe and receive.

Faith receives when it prays. We either rest in our faith, knowing we have received until it becomes visible, or we become frustrated and begin to struggle with our faith.

One day when I was driving my car, I was aggravated because something I'd been believing for hadn't happened. I was thinking, *What's the holdup on this? What is it?*

And the Lord spoke to my heart, *Faith is not frustrated.* I thought, *Well, faith is not frustrated, but I'm frustrated.*

There I was, wondering and wavering and waiting. Why? Because I had slipped back into *I'm going to believe it's happened when I hear about it, or when I see it.*

It's a slippery bank because we've depended on our senses for so long.

Walking by faith and not by sight requires the renewal of our minds, transformation of our thinking, and retraining of our whole way of believing and receiving. And that is *not* our job. God has given us the Holy Spirit to do that work for us.

As we focus on the Father's promises—His Word written in the Bible and in our hearts—the Holy Spirit builds and increases our faith. His work in us enables us to believe and receive. Just like we believed we received our salvation before we saw anything in us change, we believe we receive everything else in our life of faith.

Take It!

Every promise of God, every provision for your life, every answer to every problem is in the invisible realm. You and I are not waiting for things to come to us—things are waiting to be taken hold of! Faith brings everything into the visible realm—believing whatever you desire is already yours and taking it.

What have you prayed and asked the Lord for? Well, take it right now. Is it a health issue? Say this, "By the stripes of Jesus, I was healed. I take my healing now!"

Have you prayed boldly and asked the Lord for financial freedom? It's there in the invisible realm waiting for you to take it.

Do what Jesus said to do in Mark 11:24: Whatever things you desire or want or need, when you pray, believe you take and possess them and you shall have them.

Take hold of what God has promised—lay hold of the invisible. Take it today! **VICTORY**

Keith Moore is founder and president of Moore Life Ministries and Faith Life Church in Branson, Mo. For more information or ministry materials write to Moore Life Ministries, P.O. Box 1010, Branson, MO 65615; call 417-334-9233; or visit www.moorelife.org.



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Brisbane Victory Campaign

May 28-30 Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre | Brisbane, Australia

West Coast Believers' Convention

June 29-July 4 Long Beach Convention Center | 300 E. Ocean Blvd. | Long Beach, CA 90802

Southwest Believers' Convention

August 3-8 Fort Worth Convention Center | 1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign

November 12-14

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

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October 23-27
Prayer Mountain Conference

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November 13-15
Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign

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



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

Be thankful and say so to Him, bless and affectionately praise His name! (Psalm 100:4, *The Amplified Bible*)

New Job and Great Favor

Thank you for your prayers and letters of encouragement, especially your *BVOV* magazine. After being out of work for almost four months, I'm writing to testify that God has blessed me with another job that pays at a better rate and is exposing me to more things. On this new job I have come into contact with lots of people who have shown me favor and all I can say is, "Thank You, Jesus!"

I'm grateful to KCM for sending me the minibook *How to Discipline Your Flesh* awhile back. It's been an encouragement and I've noticed that since reading that book I've become more disciplined in the area of my thoughts and the flesh. The devil hasn't given up, but God's grace has been sufficient and I am not giving up either.

O.O. | United Kingdom

Experiencing Abundant Life

I was in prison from 2003 to 2005. You sent me a Bible and a lot of your teaching materials free of charge. I love anything Kellie has to write or say and I tape your programs daily. I now own a home, have a great relationship with my family, and I'm in church whenever the doors are open. I spend my days listening to KCM and EMIC CDs, Charles Capps, Jesse Duplantis, Creflo Dollar and anyone I see on the *BVOV* broadcast.

Your ministry led me to life abundant and I see miracles daily. Praise God! Because of you I pray in the Holy Spirit, tithe, resist the devil and he flees, and I plead the blood of Jesus over everything. You are always in my prayers. I'll be clapping on the front row when Jesus gives you your crowns and says, "Well done, good and faithful servants!" Thank you!

Deanna Robbins | Kinston, Ala.

College Fee Paid Off

I asked for prayer concerning my fee for college. I needed \$16,000 to pay it off. I had no other way I knew of than a foundation in Oslo. I spoke with a woman at KCM and she prayed the Word of God. A few days later I was thanking God and I received the \$16,000 cash! Our God lives and I'm out of debt for life.

C.M. | Switzerland

Healed During Healing School

I was watching the *Healing School* broadcast in April and a pastor was talking about receiving healing for his constant coughing when he preached. I had that same problem for five years and I'd been praying and fasting to be healed. While he was talking I started saying, "I am also healed from this cough and mucus that keep me from preaching and singing." God healed me in that moment! I preached Sunday morning for the first time in five years without coughing once. Praise God I am healed!

A.T. | Pennsylvania

Jesus Always Makes a Way

I've been Partners with Kenneth Copeland Ministries for years now. I "got connected" through the L'VIV-based office in Ukraine. My family and I live in Kiev, Ukraine. We have been through real trouble several times, but every time KCM helped us through with this wonderful gift of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. *BVOV* helped us stand for our daughter's healing when doctors gave her no chances. Praise God, she survived and is absolutely fine now!

L.V. | Ukraine

Hope Renewed

I read a young man's testimony on the Internet in January 2006 and it gave me hope. Through his testimony I heard for the first time about KCM and that was the beginning of my faith journey. Through your teachings based on the Word of God, my faith grows. I have *Healing School* from Ms. Gloria, as well as some other teachings. Thank you so much for the DVD and book *God's Creative Power for Healing* by Charles Capps that you sent to me. When I received this book and DVD, I was very blessed and encouraged much more.

D.E. | Netherlands

KCM Is a Blessing

Thank you, KCM staff, for calling the Atlanta area regarding the tornado several months ago. As soon as I heard about it on the news I started talking to it and directing the angels to disperse it. It went about 10 miles south of where I live. It is a comfort to know we are protected and that other Partners are standing with us in times of need.

God bless KCM. You are a blessing in every way to my life!

Theo Wilkie | Georgia

God's Plan Revealed

This is just a note to let Gloria know how much I enjoyed her new book, *God's Master Plan for Your Life*. I think it is your all-time best. I was so glad when I found out my library had it, because I am still working on my spiritual walk and my prosperity. I have read many of your books and I enjoy and have been enriched by them all. Please know how much I appreciate and thank God for your teachings.

I also wanted to say thanks for the *Becoming a Woman of God* CDs. I enjoyed the diversity in the messages and the women are great. I will pass it on to my daughter. Thanks again!

Beth Campbell | Curtice, Ohio

Salvation Comes Through Prayer

Let's praise God for answering our prayers. I asked you to pray for my family to be saved. Since I came out of prison my mother and four brothers are saved!

L.M. | South Africa

There Is Power in the Blood

We were traveling one night and it was very dark. I noticed a car in front of me that was stopped and sitting crossways in the road. He had hit a deer, so I swerved to avoid hitting him and when I did there was a huge truck. I quickly swerved left and we began to roll over in our van. The windows had to be broken in order for my husband and me to get out. My husband only had two scratches from the accident. Later on I realized that when we left our house that night, I prayed and pled the blood of Jesus over us. Praise God for the testimony of His faithfulness, goodness and protection. His Word is true!

S.H. | Canada

I Am Grateful for Your Ministry

Kenneth Copeland Ministries has been a tremendous blessing to me countless times. I have received phone calls responding to my prayer requests from ministry staff and prayer partners willing to pray with me personally over the phone—which meant so much to me. Every month I receive your *BVOV* magazine, which I devour. It is my favorite magazine of all time! Even with my busy schedule, I usually read it cover to cover when it first arrives. I especially love the testimonies!

Many times I receive a word of encouragement that I especially need at that moment. I love learning about faith and the Word.

P.M. | Florida

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

THE BLESSING is Working!

I received a letter from KCM and Brother Kenneth explained how THE BLESSING of the Lord, it maketh rich. And when he mentioned that Partners and Friends all over the world are seeing THE BLESSING manifesting—that went off in my spirit!

The Lord instructed me to write down how THE BLESSING has been manifesting in my life and here are some of the ways, mostly in the material realm and healing: a new, good-paying job, debt free, high-dollar flight simulator equipment, kitchen appliances, furniture, washer and dryer, freezer, clothes, abundant food, new buck knives, money at different times, a new place to live and a healed back and feet. These are just some of the manifestations of THE BLESSING that I stood on the Word and believed God for; all of it debt free. God is so good!

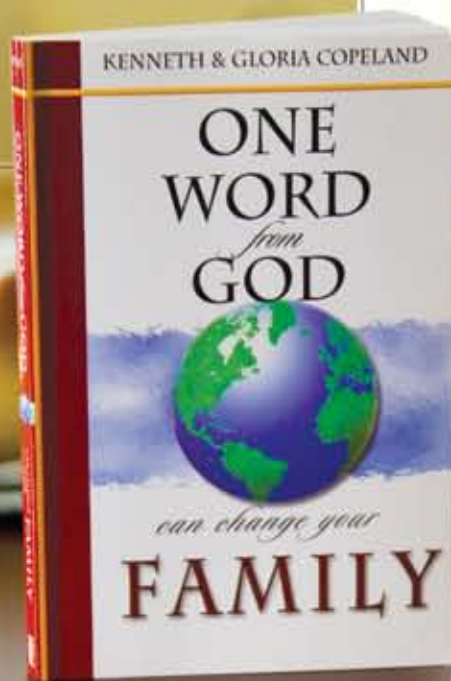
S.M. | Nevada

ministry in Pakistan
I would like to thank God and Kenneth Copeland ministries for all the help your teams have given us. God is really working in Pakistan through KCM, the *BVOV* magazines and the *BVOV* broadcast. God bless you and all the KCM family with lots of blessings.
S.J. - Pakistan

A New Beginning

I want to thank the whole KCM team for praying for my request and giving me the strength. Because of your prayers, my Australian visa has come through and I am going to start a new life. I praise and thank God for making it possible for me to travel. Jesus is Lord!

N.K. | United Arab Emirates



Will the real God please stand up?



Ever since the Garden of Eden,

the devil has been devising schemes to separate people from God. And the one scheme that seems to have worked the best for him is causing them to doubt God's goodness. He has been using it ever since it succeeded with Adam and Eve. | I'm sure you know the story. God provided a perfect place for Adam and Eve to live. He gave them everything they needed to live perfectly blessed and prosperous lives. There was only one restriction. The Lord told them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, warning them that if they did, they would immediately die.

Do you remember what Satan told Eve when he tempted her to violate that one command? He said, "You shall not surely die, for God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing... good and evil" (Genesis 3:4-5, *The Amplified Bible*). In other words, the devil said, "Listen, Eve, God lied to you. He's not trying to protect you from harm. He's trying to deprive you of something wonderful. He has pulled the wool over your eyes. He's not as good as you think He is."

Eve fell for it, then Adam. By their sin the whole human race was sentenced to spiritual death. And the devil has been causing people to doubt the goodness of God ever since.

Religions—even those based on Christianity—have portrayed God in ways that are totally contrary to the truths revealed in the Bible. Religious art, for example, often pictures everyone sad. It shows the Virgin Mary sad, Baby Jesus sad, all the apostles and angels sad.

Religious traditions taught by long-faced, angry preachers have represented God as mad at the whole human race and looking furiously for someone to punish. The impression they give people is that God is in a bad mood, and you had better be very careful around Him because you don't want to irritate Him any further. Along those same lines, someone even wrote a song that the radio stations played some years ago. The chorus threatened, "God's gonna get you for that!"

If you have been made wary of God by those kinds of religious traditions, it's important for you to know the Bible does not teach any of those things. It does not reveal a God who is out to "get us" nor do us harm in any way. (Let's face it, we've all given God plenty of reason to "get" us. If He had wanted to get us, we would have already been "gotten" by now!)

The fact is, the Bible does not portray God being in a bad mood. On the contrary, Psalm 145:8-9 says, "The Lord 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." The word *gracious* means "disposed to show favors." So

that verse is telling us God is always in a favorable mood. You never catch Him having a bad day. It's a good thing too, because He is so powerful that if He had just one bad day, we would all be wiped out. God is love every day. His mercy endures forever!

Of course, it is not just Christian religious tradition that has depicted God as angry and vindictive. Heathen religions depict their gods that way too. The difference is, that is an accurate picture of their gods, because they are not gods at all—they are demonic spirits. People who worshipped demon gods throughout history often believed they had to hurt themselves or someone they loved, in some way, in order to appease their god's anger. Heathen worship in Old Testament times required people to sacrifice their own children, burning them in fire on the altars of false gods. It was a terrible thing.

Other pagan gods were not so harsh, yet it seemed they all needed something—offerings of fruit or gifts of some kind—to make them happy. But our God is not like that! We don't have to do penance or make sacrifices to appease Him. He Himself has already provided the sacrifice for sin in the person of His Son.

The moment we receive Jesus as Savior and Lord, we find that God is already happy with us. We don't have to bring Him plates of fruit to make Him happy. He's already happy!

What He's doing now is looking for opportunities to do us good and show us favor. You know how people who have hobbies like fishing or golf are always looking for opportunities to do those things? You might say God's favorite pastime is doing good for someone.

Ecclesiastes 3:12-13 says, "For a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God." God wants to give good gifts to people. It's what He loves and enjoys. He is Jehovah the Good.

Often when I think of how good-natured God is, I'm reminded of my grandfather. All

"The Lord is

gracious and full of
compassion, slow to
anger and abounding in
mercy and lovingkindness.

The Lord is good
to all, and His
tender mercies are
over all His works."

Psalm 145:8-9,
The Amplified Bible

of his grandchildren called him “Pop.” Pop was a truly good, kindhearted man, and he loved to do good things for everyone, especially his grandchildren. We quickly figured out that he would say yes to almost anything we asked him to do. I never remember him saying no.

Even before I had my driver’s license, he let me drive his pickup around the Arkansas countryside. I remember times he even let me take it to the movies in a nearby town.

If my grandmother had not been there to stop him, I think Pop would have given us anything we wanted. Although it has been many years since he passed over, every time our family gets together we talk about Pop. It makes us happy just to remember how good he was to us.

Being in the presence of someone who likes to do good for you makes you happy, doesn’t it? Sure it does! That’s one reason the Bible says in the presence of God is fullness of joy (Psalm 16:11).

God in a Single Word

If you want to see most clearly what God is really like, all you have to do is study love because the Bible says, “God is love” (1 John 4:8). Many people equate God more with power than anything else. Though the Scripture clearly teaches that God has great power, I am not aware of a verse that says He is power, but it does say He *is* love.

These days the world’s idea of love has been so cheapened and twisted that for us to understand the kind of love God personifies, we must again go to the Bible. First Corinthians 13 provides us with the description we need. It says:

Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love...does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails (verses 4-8, *AMP*).

As you apply these verses to the character of God, initially you might be confused by the thought that God is not jealous or conceited, that He does not insist on His own rights or His own way. “Doesn’t the Bible say that God is a jealous God?” you might ask. “Doesn’t it say that He expects us to worship

Him and do things His way by obeying His commands?”

Yes, it does. But notice here it says love does not do those things out of self-seeking. In other words, God isn’t jealous over us for His own sake but for ours. He knows that if we worship other gods or disobey Him in other ways, we’ll fall into trouble and get hurt. He knows the devil is out there waiting to do us harm and He wants to protect us. Everything God tells us to do is for our own good and protection. We’re His children and He wants us to obey Him because He wants to see us blessed.

That should be easy for us to understand. We’re the same way with our own children. For example, we don’t tell them to stay out of the street just to prove we are boss. We don’t make rules for them just to restrict them and make our own lives easier. We are trying to help them stay safe so they can live long on the earth and things will go well with them (Ephesians 6:1-4).

If a child is rebellious and won’t keep the rules of the road, you won’t be able to give him a fast car because you know he could hurt himself with it. If he won’t stay sober, you won’t be able to let him have a car at all. You want that child to abide by the wisdom you give him, not because you’re seeking your own good, but because you’re seeking his good. You want him to obey you because that obedience will open the door for you to bless him.

According to Psalm 103:13 (*New American Standard Bible*), God is this way toward us: “Just as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.” He wants us as His born-again children to do well in life. He is not trying to keep us under His thumb by making us worship and obey Him. He is endeavoring to get us in the place where He can safely give us every good and perfect gift.

God Won’t Leave You Out

If you have been living a disobedient and rebellious life, right now you might be thinking, *Well, that’s it for me. I’ve been doing things God didn’t want me to do for years. I’ve disobeyed about every commandment I know. I guess I can’t expect to receive anything from God.*

Yes, you can! And if you will look back at that passage in 1 Corinthians 13 again, you will see why. It says love is “not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong].” God is always forgiving. The blood of Jesus washes away every sin, and no mercy is held back when you turn to God in Jesus’ Name to repent of the wrong done.

“But I’ve failed so many times,” you might say. “God has had to put up with more trouble from me than you can imagine. I’m sure He’s given up on me by now.”

No, He has not. I know He has not, because “love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to

believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. Love never fails.” You and I might look at our lives and think there’s no hope left for us. We might think we will never amount to anything. But God’s hopes are fadeless where we are concerned. He sees what we can be in Him. Learn to lean heavily on 1 John 1:9: “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

You might have walked so far away from God for so long that you think He has forgotten you. But He hasn’t.

How do I know? Because Psalm 115:12 says, “The Lord hath been mindful of us....”

He thinks about you. Isn’t that a blessing? God knows right where you are at all times. You don’t have to work to try to get His attention. He already has you on His mind. He is mindful of His covenant with you. He remembers those things He has promised you, and He knows exactly what

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it will take to fulfill those promises. He has already thought that through. Psalm 139:17-18 says God's thoughts toward us are plentiful and precious. "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand."

Granted, there are times when we ignore God or disobey Him, and because of that we are unable to receive the help we need from Him. At those times, it may look like He has forsaken us. But that's our fault, not His. He did not forsake us. We forsook Him! He did not leave us. We left Him.

Even then, however, if we'll turn back to God, we'll find Him right where we left Him—waiting and longing to do us good (Psalm 145:14-18).

There may be times when you have fallen into disobedience and feel so unworthy you are tempted to think you'll be left out of God's blessings. But don't believe that.

Remember, the Scripture says if you call on Him, He will raise you back up into fellowship with Him. It says He is good to *all*. *All* means "every person in existence anywhere." It guarantees that you will not be left out unless you want to be. God will not leave you out. His promises are given to everyone. If you will reach out to Him in Jesus' Name, you will receive from Him.

You Won't Be Disappointed

I love the phrase in that passage that says, "Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing" (verse 16). God is so good, He always has an open hand to us. He is never tightfisted. We may have wandered far away from God, but if we just call upon Him in truth, we find He is near. We find He is right there ready to give us whatever we need.

One of the most beautiful examples of this truth I have ever seen took place in the life of a young girl who attended Healing School some years ago. A car accident had left her paralyzed on one side of her body, and she wanted to turn to God for help. The problem was, she had been living in disobedience to Him. Right before Healing School started, she had even stolen some tapes from one of our tables!

Of course, she was feeling terrible about

herself. Her heart was condemning her, and she didn't think God would do anything for someone as awful as she was. But during Healing School, I read James 5:15: "The prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

Thank God, that precious girl simply took God at His Word that day. She received His forgiveness, and God healed her then and there. She walked to the front of the meeting and gave her testimony of stealing, repenting and being healed!

If you have been disobedient to God, you can do the same thing today. You can repent and say: "Lord, I *know* I've sinned. I've done things I *knew* You didn't want me to do. I've been walking away from You instead of toward You. But I'm turning around today. I ask You to forgive me and cleanse me of all unrighteousness. By faith, I receive that cleansing through the blood of Jesus and right-standing with You in His Name. I set my heart to obey You for the rest of my life. With Your help I will do what You want me to do."

Before now you might have been afraid to make that commitment to God. You might have drawn back from the idea of doing whatever He asked you to do. But now you can make that promise boldly, knowing that whatever He tells you to do will always be for your good.

I can tell you not only from the Bible but from experience (my own and others'), you will never regret choosing to obey the Lord. I have never in my life met someone who steadfastly trusted and obeyed Him who regretted it. Quite the opposite is true. Every child of God who has known and trusted His goodness has been eternally glad he did.

The moment you are tempted to draw back in fear from something God tells you to do, remember this: God is a good God. He will *only* lead you in paths that will ultimately bring you blessing and increase.

True, those paths are not easy. But you can rest assured, they will always take you to good places. In the end, you will find that the difficulties along the road were nothing compared to the reward.

VICTORY

(This article was adapted from Gloria Copeland's book Blessed Beyond Measure.)

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.

Putting God in a BOX

"There was an old woman who lived in a shoe. She had so many children, she didn't know what to do."
—Nursery Rhyme

She's certainly not old! And of course she doesn't live in a shoe. But Marion Zirkle Wright, president of Living Water Teaching International (LWT), has accepted the charge of caring for many children. And with God's help, she knows exactly what to do. And part of it even involves shoes—shoeboxes that is.

While many today are being advised to "think outside the box," Pastors Clarence and Marion Wright, and their LWT family, have chosen to ignore that cliché and are sharing the gospel by thinking *inside* the box.

Each December, through its Christmas outreach called Operation Shoebox, LWT blesses thousands of children with shoeboxes filled with items like combs, toothbrushes, crayons, pencils, socks, hair items and a gift, according to the age and gender of the child. They take Operation Shoebox to orphanages, institutions, handicapped children, slow learners, low-income families, homes for abused women and children, and homeless children.

"This outreach is a way to introduce the children to Jesus," says Marion, who also directs the Marion Zirkle Children's Foundation, a division of Living Water Teaching International. "The children do not receive their gift or shoebox *until* we minister to them and give them an opportunity to receive the Lord. I believe if you can reach the heart of a child, you can change a nation," Marion explained.

Since 1979, Living Water Teaching has taken the Word of God to the six countries of Central America, as well as Mexico, Paraguay, South America, Cuba, Belize and recently Brazil. The ministry has graduated more than 28,000 students from its Bible school, and has seen more than 700,000 people born again.

Last year, because of the support it received from Kenneth Copeland Ministries and other partner ministries, the foundation was able to provide items to more than 18,000 children. Operation Shoebox saw 2,093 raise their hands to receive Jesus as their Savior.

"Operation Shoebox 2007 was an exciting and successful outreach because of our partners' generous giving and love for the children of Guatemala," Marion said. "I wish you could have been here to see the smiles on their little faces

or hear the shouts of, 'Look what I got,' or 'Oh, how pretty,' and see the little girls hug their dolls and the boys play with their cars and yo-yos. I can only try to give you a vivid picture of how exciting this time is for us as we stand and watch and sometimes play with the children."

The Marion Zirkle Children's Foundation began in November 1996. The 36-year war in Guatemala had just ended and Marion and her late husband, Jim, saw 300,000 children orphaned or abandoned and 200,000 of them living on the streets. Through the support of its partners, MZCF has fed and clothed thousands of children and treated thousands more in their medical clinics. The ministry also operates an orphanage on its 22-acre campus in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala, and for one year supplemented the education of 350 children in Nicaragua, building them a classroom, and buying 10 ceiling fans.

"The support we have received from KCM over the years has meant a great deal to us," says Marion. "I really like what Brother Copeland teaches about our partners getting credit for what their contributions enable us to do for the kingdom."

VICTORY

To learn more about Living Water Teaching and Operation Shoebox go to www.livingwaterteaching.org.





SEPARATION OF

Church and State



THE MISLEADING METAPHOR

In 1947, the Supreme Court declared, "The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable. We could not approve the slightest breach." Actually, the "separation of church and state" phrase which they invoked is not found in any of our official government documents. It was taken from letters between President Thomas Jefferson and the Baptist Association of Danbury, Conn.

On Oct. 7, 1801, the Danbury Baptists wrote the new president a letter in which they expressed concern over the First Amendment and its guarantee of the "free exercise" of religion. This suggested to them that the right of religious expression was government-given (thus alienable) rather than God-given (hence inalienable), and therefore the government might someday attempt to regulate religious expression. They strenuously objected to this possibility unless someone's religious practice caused him to "work ill to his neighbor."

President Jefferson shared their concern. Here are a few of the numerous declarations he made about the constitutional inability of the federal government to regulate, restrict or interfere with religious expression.

BY DAVID BARTON

[N]o power over the freedom of religion...
[is] delegated to the United States by
the Constitution.

—Kentucky Resolution, 1798

In matters of religion, I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the Constitution independent of the powers of the general [federal] government.

—Second Inaugural Address, 1805

I consider the government of the United States as interdicted [prohibited] by the Constitution from intermeddling with religious institutions...or exercises.

—Letter to Samuel Millar, 1808

Having witnessed the tendency of government to encroach upon the free exercise of religion, President Jefferson had written to Noah Webster in 1790, stating he had no intention of allowing the government to limit, restrict, regulate or interfere with public religious practices. He believed, along with the other founders, that the First Amendment had been enacted only to prevent the federal establishment of a national denomination. In his reply to the Danbury Baptists on Jan. 1, 1802, he assured them that the free exercise of religion would never be interfered with by the federal government.

Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between man and his God; that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship; that the legislative powers of government reach actions only and not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church and State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

The president's reference to "natural rights" reaffirmed his belief that religious liberties were inalienable rights. "Natural rights" included "that which the Books of the Law and the Gospel do contain"—that is, what God Himself had guaranteed to man in the Scriptures.

When the president assured the Baptists that by following their "natural rights" they would violate *no* social duty, he was affirming to them that the free exercise of religion was their inalienable, God-given right and therefore was protected from federal regulation or interference.

Doubting whether America could survive if we ever lost knowledge of the source of our inalienable rights, he asked: "Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure if we have lost the only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath?"

The Meaning of Separation

President Jefferson believed that God, not government, was the author and source of our rights and that government was to be prevented from interfering with those rights. The "wall" of the Danbury letter was *not* to limit religious activities in public. It was to limit the power of the government to prohibit or interfere with those expressions.

Earlier courts long understood President Jefferson's intent. When his Danbury letter was invoked by the Supreme Court in 1878, unlike today's courts which publish only his eight-word separation phrase, that earlier court published a large segment of his letter and concluded:

Coming as this does from an acknowledged leader of the advocates of the measure, it [President Jefferson's letter] may be accepted almost as an authoritative declaration of the scope and effect of the Amendment thus secured. *Congress* was deprived of all legislative power over mere [religious] opinion, but was left free to reach actions which were in violation of social duties or subversive of good order.

The court then summarized President



President Jefferson believed that God, not government, was the author and source of our rights and that government was to be prevented from interference with those rights.

Jefferson’s intent for “separation of church and state”: “[T]he rightful purposes of civil government are for its officers to interfere when principles break out into overt acts against peace and good order. In th[is]...is found the true distinction between what properly belongs to the church and what to the State.”

That court identified actions that the government *did* have legitimate reason to intrude upon. Those activities included human sacrifice, polygamy, infanticide, promotion of immorality, etc. Such acts, even in the name of religion, would be stopped by the government since they were “subversive of good order” and “overt acts against peace.”

However the government was *never* to interfere

with *traditional* religious practices—public prayer, use of the Scriptures, public acknowledgements of God, etc.—outlined in “the Books of the Law and the Gospel.”

Original Intent

If President Jefferson’s letter is to be used today, let its context be clearly given. Earlier courts viewed his Danbury letter for what it was: a *personal, private* letter to a specific group. There is probably no other instance in America’s history where the words of an individual in a private letter—words clearly divorced from their context—have become the sole authorization for a national policy. A proper analysis of President Jefferson’s views must include his numerous other statements on the First Amendment—not just that of the Danbury letter.

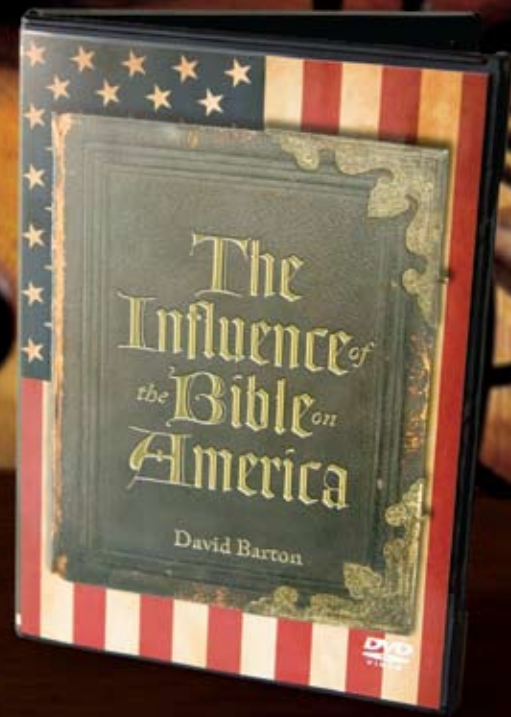
For example, in addition to statements previously noted, he also declared that the “power to prescribe any religious exercise...*must rest with the States.*” Federal courts ignore this declaration and choose rather to misuse his separation phrase to strike down scores of state laws which encourage or facilitate public religious expressions. Such rulings are a direct violation of the words of the very one from whom the courts claim to derive their policy.

They should consider the intent of the Founding Fathers who framed the First Amendment. Their months of discussions and debates are recorded in the *Congressional Record*, and the phrase “separation of church and state” never occurred. It seems logical that if this had been the intent of the First Amendment, at least one of those 90 would have mentioned it. None did.

“Separation of church and state” has been described as a “misleading metaphor” by Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist since the current meaning is almost exactly the opposite of what was originally intended.

As Christians we need to pray for our country and for those in authority to come to the knowledge of the truth. Join us in spreading the message of the founders’ original intent for the First Amendment. **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.



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God's dream for man
part 2

REVEALING Christ in You

Since the beginning of time on earth, God has endeavored to bring mankind to a place where we can understand Him and receive Him. | That is His dream. And He has prepared you and me to be part of His fulfilled dream—right here, right now! | Each and every one of us is in our place to receive and to display God’s glory to our generation. We are here to be the place where God can reveal Himself in us, rest upon us and express Himself through Christ in us, His family. He reveals Himself to anyone who seeks Him. When He does, we are changed.

REVELATION SUFFERS REJECTION | The Apostle Paul described this process of change this way, “But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18). When we look to Him, change is inevitable!

BY GLORIA COPELAND

However, a problem often arises when we step up to a new level of understanding and receiving more of what God has for us. Many people who are not yet on that level often reject whatever aspect of Himself God is revealing at any given time.

When Ken and I began to seek God with our whole hearts, we began to discover aspects of His character that were new to us...and new to most of His Church at that time. We discovered His ways of doing things that we had never been aware of. The Bible became a treasury for us of all the good things God has prepared for His people. All we wanted to do was let everyone know what He was revealing to us.

And I can tell you, we were excited! But when we began to tell people about the good things God has prepared for us, most in the Church didn't share our excitement. They just didn't "get it," and most didn't even *want* to "get it."

In fact, as has been the case with mankind since the day of Adam, when God wants to get closer and become more intimate with His people, the initial reaction is one of rejection. He wants to be closer to them, but they just keep moving away. He moves in to reveal Himself just a little more and He experiences rejection. All He desires to do is *be God!*

But, praise God, Bible history shows us and Church history proves it out...in every generation, God has a people who are just eager enough to receive His new revelation. Second Chronicles 16:9 tells us God is always on the lookout for people who will get onboard with Him. "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."

You see, God is going to do what He desires to do.

We can be part of it or we can let it pass us by. Ken and I saw the wave of God rising high, so when He directed us to jump in, we launched out into His way of life!

Often, it's the younger generation to whom God reveals Himself in fresh ways. That was us back then in 1967. We were younger, and we were in the flow. As we moved on, we could only preach what God was showing us day after day, week after week and year after year. And, those whose hearts were in tune with God's message got onboard and have been enjoying this great ride of blessing as Ken and I have for over 41 years.

Even today it's the same for us. Every day we turn our hearts toward Him and we keep our ears tuned in to what He's saying to His Church and to us individually.

We don't ever want to be part of the crowd that rejects God's revealing of Himself.

Someone to Receive

The major part of Ken's commission from God, and my own, has been to grow people up in Him—to teach them how to connect with God and discover just how good and how full of mercy He is. God

GOD is going to do what He desires to do. We can be part of it or we can let it pass us by

has been faithful to continue to reveal Himself to hundreds of thousands of people who look for Him and want to learn from Him.

"Learn from Me...and you will find rest for your souls," Jesus said in Matthew 11:29 (*New American Standard*). God's desire is that we would know Him and what He is apt to do and not do. His aim is that we can face every situation in life and be able to know for sure that He is our source and place of rest and refuge. Jesus demonstrated this every day of His life—that God blesses humanity.

God's dream is that we have a surefire way we can be thoroughly prepared to face any situation life throws at us. That surefire path into His goodness is learning from Him and allowing Him to reveal all about Himself to us by His Word and by the Holy Spirit. Because the Spirit of Christ Jesus lives within us, as we stay in His Word and continually seek Him, we can know we will always fully receive everything He has to give.

He Rests and We Rest

The awesome blessing of receiving from Him is we become His dwelling place...His place of rest. We become the place from which He receives glory in this earth. And He glorifies Himself for the sake of the people with whom He connects us throughout our lives. He is always reaching out in love to people. He is always faithful to glorify Himself through us.

Ephesians 2:22 tells us that in Jesus Christ we are "being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit" (*NAS*). Since Jesus is the central part of God's dream to be fulfilled in the earth, Jesus made the way for God to dwell and rest in His man.

The day Jesus was baptized by John, the day the Spirit of God rested upon Him and filled Him (John 1:32), was the day God began to demonstrate to His people what His heart's desire has always been. From that day forward, Jesus declared He didn't do His own works, but He did what His Father told Him to do. He didn't speak His own words, but only the words His Father spoke. The Spirit of God rested on and in Him and He just went around obeying and pleasing God.

God rested in Jesus, and Jesus rested in His Father. The Spirit of God in any man or woman of God makes that kind of rest possible. It's a two-way rest...and it's our rest!

Power Revealed in Rest

The most amazing thing about the rest of God, in which Jesus lived, moved and had His very being, was the power of God that came out of it! Everything Jesus spoke was with power and authority. His every action was a demonstration of power. Except for a few who thought they knew Him too well, every person Jesus encountered was changed by God's power at rest in His Man. Whoever came to Jesus expecting, they received—healing, deliverance, acceptance, love, life! And when they received, they knew God was present with this man, Jesus.

Jesus was the first man to receive the Spirit of God in fullness. He was the first man through whom God revealed Himself completely, withholding nothing of Himself. He was the first man through whom God demonstrated His power totally.

But Jesus wasn't the last man to be God's place of rest!

By the Spirit of God, Jesus had spent three years preparing those whom God had called to follow Him day in and day out. He prepared them to live in God's rest, showing them how to enjoy life as God intended. And He got them ready to allow God to manifest, deliver them and provide their needs through Him. He was their living example of a man living, giving and resting by the power of the Spirit. A sinless man, nevertheless a man with a flesh and bone body as you and I have.

On the day of Pentecost, after Jesus arose to take His place at the right hand of His Father in heaven, He poured out His Spirit on a small group of His disciples in Jerusalem. They expected the same Spirit through whom Jesus had walked and talked to be given to them. His disciples had been waiting there, expecting the Spirit to come because Jesus had said He would: "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

They believed what He said and were waiting to receive His promise—that's faith at work!

They got exactly what Jesus said they would. The Holy Spirit came to them, and He found a place of rest in them. They were filled to overflowing with the Spirit, glorifying God in languages they had never learned. Peter got up and preached the good news about Jesus, and thousands were added to their numbers that very day!

Live Out God's Dream for Your Life

God has a dream He has cherished in His heart since the beginning of time: He wants to be actively involved in all that His people say and do. In *God's Dream for Man*, a powerful teaching by Gloria Copeland, you'll discover how to let God's desires become living realities in your life—so you can start living in His dream. | Order yours today!



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KCM's outreach goes far beyond the powerful voices the Lord has entrusted to us such as the *BVOV* broadcast, international meetings and this magazine. Our outreach extends to *other* ministries—trusted, effective ministries—all around the globe. This is because the first 10 percent of all gross income received by KCM from donations and sales is placed into a special, earmarked fund we call *Twice-Sown Seed*. In other words, when we receive a gift from you, we sow a portion of it *again* into *another* ministry—so that every penny you give is twice sown—it's twice as effective and will yield twice the eternal reward.

Together with the Lord, we are meeting needs and changing the world through the miracle-working, eternal equation of *Twice-Sown Seed*. Here are just a few examples:

- ▶ Your seed supports KCM and its worldwide ministry operations.
- ▶ Your seed reaches behind prison walls with Mike Barber Ministries.
- ▶ Your seed shares love with “at risk” young women through Mercy Ministries homes for girls.
- ▶ Your seed flies medical missionary teams to those in pain via Air Transport for Christ.
- ▶ Your seed comforts people during disasters, shouts out at evangelistic outreaches, teaches children about the Lord and much, much more.

The list goes on and on, but the bottom line is this: When you give to KCM, your gift is immediately and globally multiplied with the greatest of stewardship. So when we say *thank you for your faithfulness*, we're not just speaking for ourselves. We're also speaking on behalf of many other ministries around the world. Through *Twice-Sown Seed*, when Partners and Friends like you give to KCM, you're literally changing the face of the earth! **VICTORY**

twice-sown seed

God, by His Spirit, rested upon the new believers as well. And in one day, this blessing of Himself increased from 120 believers to 3,000!

That day in Jerusalem was just the beginning of God's dream for mankind being fulfilled. That day God rested on all the people and endured them with power. That day the Church was born—the life of the only begotten Son of God had multiplied into the many sons God had desired since Adam.

That day Peter had preached “how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth... who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him” (Acts 10:38). He was saying, Jesus is good because God is good! And that day, the goodness of God went out beyond the walls of Jerusalem as the newly anointed Church headed into their world.

The same Holy Spirit of God went about doing good through them. Wherever they went, people continued to be healed just like they had when Jesus walked the earth. People continued to see God in action and gave honor to those who introduced them to His goodness. God had rested upon them all and continued to reveal Himself through them.

He found a resting place in the early Church, and He's found a resting place in the Church today. Wherever people welcome Him and just let Him be God, He settles in by the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, resting and revealing Himself in all His power and goodness.

Resting in Revelation

That desire to be a resting place for God and a vessel to show His goodness is what Ken and I see in people all around the world. Our greatest joy is in knowing that what God has given us to preach and teach will make a connection, because they are so ready and willing to receive more of God and to grow in Him.

I heard a man say one time, “God doesn't send revival...He comes Himself.”

When people hunger for and desire Him with all their hearts, God shows up! A good “revival meeting,” or any meeting where people come to be taught the things of God, should stir the hunger and desire in people's hearts for Him. God is always ready to reveal Himself. He is also always eager “to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him” (2 Chronicles 16:9). What thrills me about this scripture is the word *perfect*. It is the Hebrew word *shalem* and means “peaceful, safe, whole, full, finished, complete, perfect.” I'd say that's a heart “at rest”!

God gets great pleasure in showing up and showing off for the person whose heart is resting in Him and in whose heart He has a place of rest. He is always ready to display all His goodness to man—that's all He's ever desired since Adam's day in the Garden of Eden.

So, here we are today! Jesus opened the way for God to be our God in all His glory and goodness. He opened the way in both directions... for God to dwell and rest in us and for us to find rest in Him. And it's possible only because of the Spirit of Jesus Christ dwelling in us that this two-way rest and relationship works out in our day-to-day lives.

Never forget that God has prepared you to be His resting place. Even with your unique personality, your background, your strengths and your

weaknesses, He has chosen you. Maybe you have spent most of your life never thinking He had anything for you to do, but you have always been His special project. He knows right where you are and exactly what you need. He knows your dreams and He is working to see them fulfilled. So, just keep your heart turned toward Him in

faith, rest in Him and know He is resting in you!

God has His man back. He has you back! And His dream is being fulfilled every day and in every way. Jesus Christ is living, moving and having His being in His Church by the Holy Spirit, and God the Father is receiving all the glory! Hallelujah! **VICTORY**

Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

October



Kenneth Copeland



Jeremy Pearsons



John Bevere



David Barton

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DAILY				
29 Mon	30 Tue	1 Wed	2 Thu	3 Fri
<i>A Life of Honor Brings God's Reward</i> God wants to reward you! Jeremy Pearsons welcomes John Bevere to discuss the rewards for the believer who walks in the honor of God.				
6	7	8	9	10
<i>THE BLESSING of the Lord Maketh Rich</i> This week, Kenneth Copeland discusses the believer's prosperity and how it comes from the Lord's blessing—not the world. <i>(Encore broadcast)</i>				
13	14	15	16	17
<i>THE BLESSING Without Measure</i> Can you ever have enough of THE BLESSING? No! Kenneth Copeland shares how God's provision is more than enough...so you can work for a <i>giving!</i> <i>(Encore broadcast)</i>				
20	21	22	23	24
<i>A National Event</i> Kenneth Copeland welcomes David Barton to the broadcast to discuss the influential role of believers in the government of their nations.				
27	28	29	30	31
<i>Every Vote Counts</i> Kenneth Copeland and David Barton continue to discuss the importance of Christians' involvement in government and voting as God directs.				

SUNDAY
5
Kenneth Copeland <i>Abraham's Blessing Is the Eden Blessing</i> God's dream is for all nations to be blessed. Learn what your part is in bringing this blessing to pass.
12
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