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made an eternal difference for one family as they faced a breathtaking brush with death...and life-changing victory.



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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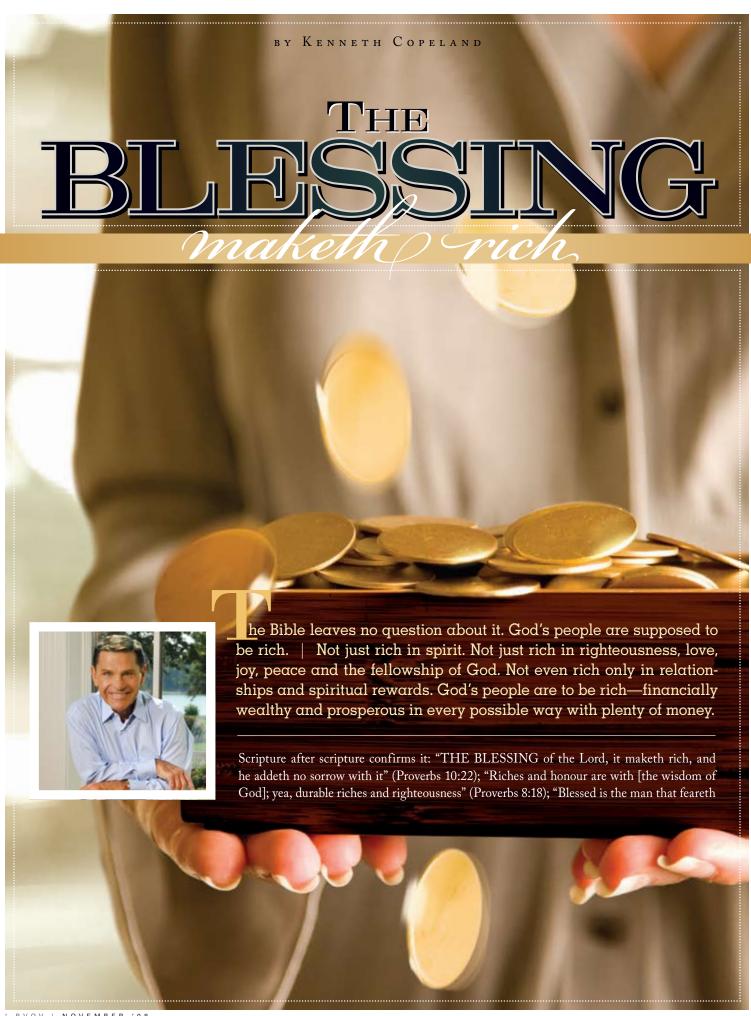
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the Lord, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. Wealth and riches shall be in his house: and his righteousness endureth forever" (Psalm 112:1, 3); "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich" (2 Corinthians 8:9).

Some people insist those verses can't possibly apply to everyone. "What about Christians who live in third-world countries?" they ask. "What about those who don't have the training or opportunities to earn even a minimal income. How are they ever supposed to get rich?"

Look again at the first scripture I quoted and you'll see the answer to those questions: THE BLESSING of the Lord, it maketh rich.

Notice, that verse doesn't say a good job maketh rich. It doesn't say a strong economy maketh rich. It doesn't say expensive degrees from exclusive universities and a résumé full of worldly credentials maketh rich. The Bible says THE BLESSING does it.

To understand how that can be true, you have to realize what THE BLESSING of the Lord actually is and the kind of power it contains. We get a glimpse of that power in Genesis 1 when, after He created mankind in His image and gave them dominion, "God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion..." (verse 28).

When God spoke that BLESSING, He endued mankind with enough of His own creative glory and power to sustain, uphold and prosper all creation forever. He released all the divine resources man would ever need to expand the Garden of Eden until it filled the whole earth. Through THE BLESSING, God equipped mankind so completely that on the seventh day of Creation, He didn't even show up for work.

Instead, "he rested" (Genesis 2:2).

God rested not because He was tired but because He was finished. He'd done all He needed to do. He didn't have to stay on the job, blessing His new family's every endeavor. He could just sit back, enjoy their fellowship, watch them exercise their dominion, and let THE BLESSING do what it was designed to do.

God didn't get to rest for long, of course, because Adam messed up the plan. He bowed his knee to the devil and turned THE BLESSING into the curse. When he did, God got up and went back to work on the plan of redemption. He took on the task of getting THE BLESSING back on all mankind, which is where it has always belonged.

Two Different Economies

All His children BLESSED. That was God's will from the beginning and His will never changes. So after the Flood, when mankind got a fresh start through the family of Noah, we find God once again releasing THE BLESSING upon them by saying the same thing He said in the Garden of Eden, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth" (Genesis 9:1).

At that time, Noah's sons—Shem, Ham and Japheth—represented all the races and nations that would ever inhabit this planet. All of us are descendents of those three men. So, for a moment anyway, all mankind was once again BLESSED.

The situation, however, didn't last long. Ham and Japheth soon followed in Adam's footsteps and departed from God's way of doing things. Instead of obeying Him and trusting THE BLESSING to prosper them, they invented their own system of commerce. They came up with the fend-for-yourself, dog-eat-dog, lie-cheat-and-steal economy we see in the world today.

In that system, people attempt to meet their own needs without God. They try to satisfy spiritual needs with material things (that's what materialism is) and call it prosperity. They believe that to be blessed they must be rich, so they spend their lives struggling to make money. According to Psalm 73:12, "these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches."

Notice, that verse says "they increase in riches." Instead of trusting God to do it, in Ham and Japheth's system of worldly economics, people devise ways to increase themselves.

Noah's eldest son, Shem, however, stayed with THE BLESSING. He stuck with God's economy

No_.matter what our economic situation,

level of education or employment opportunities, THE BLESSING has come upon us all. And it is THE BLESSING that makes rich and adds no sorrow with it!

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and, according to Jewish history, became the king (or lord mayor) of Jerusalem, the man the Bible calls Melchizedek. In Genesis 14:18, we find him serving as priest of the Most High God, ministering the covenant elements to the patriarch Abraham, and transferring THE BLESSING to him.

The reason for the transfer was simple. God was still working to get THE BLESSING back on all mankind and He had declared that through Abraham, the man of faith, "all families of the earth" would again be blessed (Genesis 12:3).

Good News for the Poor

"But Brother Copeland," you might say, "what does that have to do with all Christians being rich?"

Read Galatians 3:13-14 and you'll see. It says: "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

no family, no established business connections, nothing to depend on but THE BLESSING itself, until he was "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold" (Genesis 13:2).

It worked the same way in the life of his son, Isaac. After God appeared to him and released THE BLESSING, Isaac harvested a bumper crop right in the middle of a famine and then "continued prospering until he became very prosperous" (Genesis 26:13, *New King James Version*). Despite natural disasters and the opposition of wicked men, Isaac eventually got so wealthy the king asked him to leave the country. "Go away from us," he said, "for you are much mightier than we" (verse 16, *NKJV*).

Isaac's son, Jacob, had the same experience. He left home as a young man with nothing but a stick and the clothes on his back. He worked 14 years for a man who cheated him financially at every turn. Yet he continued to increase until he became "exceedingly prosperous" (Genesis 30:43, *NKJV*).

Everything You Need to Know

If that's not enough to convince you THE BLESSING

Instead of working "for a living," you work on assignment for God. You do whatever He tells you to do.

Do you realize what those verses are saying? They're telling us that because of what Jesus did on the cross, the same BLESSING that was on Adam and Noah and Melchizedek and Abraham has come upon every Christian in every nation! No matter what our economic situation, level of education or employment opportunities, THE BLESSING has come upon us all. And it is THE BLESSING that makes rich and adds no sorrow with it!

Because of THE BLESSING, we're no longer bound to the worldly system of commerce that Ham and Japheth originated. We don't have to come up with ways to generate our own financial increase anymore. We've been born again into a new kingdom and a new economy. We've received the promise of the Holy Spirit and been made a partaker of the very nature and abilities of God. We don't have to sweat out a living like men who are suffering under the curse, we can spend our lives loving, believing and serving God, and let THE BLESSING increase us.

THE BLESSING can get the job done in any economy. It can prosper us anytime, anywhere. If we'll cooperate with it by walking in faith and love, it won't matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, it will bring us true, New Testament prosperity. It will "make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

If you doubt it, read what THE BLESSING did for Abraham. It prospered him in a foreign land where he had

maketh rich, look at Jacob's son, Joseph. He was the only one of Jacob's boys who received THE BLESSING by faith and walked in it just like his father did. He was the only one who believed it could triumph over any situation and fulfill his God-given dreams.

It made his brothers so mad they plotted to kill him. In fact, they went so far as to throw him into a pit to leave him there to die. But *something* made them change their minds. *Something* sent a caravan of traders their way at just the right time, and when they saw it they said, "Hey! Instead of killing the kid, let's sell him and make some money. That's a better idea!"

Where do you think they got that better idea? THE BLESSING was operating in the life of Joseph. THE BLESSING was working on his behalf.

As a result, Joseph wound up as a slave in the house of an Egyptian named Potiphar who saw right away that THE BLESSING of the Lord was on him. Because whatever Joseph did prospered, Potiphar put him in charge of his entire estate.

Suddenly Joseph was doing things he'd never done before. He was running this man's business. He was doing the accounting, buying and selling livestock, and managing everything in sight. He hadn't been trained to do any of those things. But THE BLESSING taught him how to do them so well Potiphar didn't even supervise his work. As far as he was concerned, the fact that Joseph was

making him wealthy was all he needed to know.

When Potiphar's wife fouled up the deal by making a pass at Joseph, he refused to cooperate with her because he was determined not to violate his dreams, dishonor God and mess up THE BLESSING. He rejected her advances, so she lied about him and landed him in prison.

In prison, Joseph once again faced challenges he hadn't been trained to handle. He'd never been in prison before and he'd certainly never run one. But because THE BLESSING was on him, the Holy Spirit trained him and gave him insights. THE BLESSING did its job and showed Joseph how to create the conditions of the Garden of Eden even behind prison walls.

Before long, the keeper of the prison turned the whole place over to Joseph, "and whatever he did, the Lord made it prosper" (Genesis 39:23, *NKJV*).

Enter the Rest

A few years later, when Pharaoh had a dream, THE BLESSING reminded his cupbearer (a former

> prison inmate) that Joseph had a gift for interpreting dreams.

You know the rest of the story: Joseph told Pharaoh what he needed to know, gave him a plan for the future and became the most powerful man in the nation next to Pharaoh himself. Joseph wound up with the world's greatest storehouse of wealth under his command.

And it all happened because of THE BLESSING.

Now that same BLESSING has come upon you! It's come upon me! It has come upon every person in the world who has made Jesus Christ the Lord of their lives!

That's why we can say without apology that every Christian is supposed to be rich—because every Christian is BLESSED and THE BLESSING, it maketh rich! Can you see how different that is from the world's way of thinking? The world says we're blessed because we're rich. But God says we're rich because we're BLESSED!

What's more, we receive those riches not by seeking after them like the world does, but by following the example God set for us on the seventh day of Creation. We enter "the rest" of faith and let THE BLESSING go to work!

Hebrews 4 says it this way: "For we which have believed do enter into rest.... 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" (verses 3, 9-11).

As believers, it's not our job to labor and toil trying

to get ahead financially. God never intended us to spend our time and efforts gathering up riches for ourselves. He intended us to labor in the Word and develop our faith to the point where we can enter His rest and let THE BLESSING increase us.

"Does that mean I don't have to work?"

Certainly you have to work. But instead of working "for a living," you work on assignment for God. You do whatever He tells you to do. If He sends you down to the corner hamburger stand to flip burgers, don't stand around whining about it. Don't say, "I just don't understand why God sent me here. They just pay me minimum wage and the place is a mess."

Wake up and realize that's why God sent you there! You're to bring THE BLESSING on that place. The people there need a manifestation of His love and glory. It doesn't matter what they pay you, if you'll obey God and fulfill your assignment, THE BLESSING will see to it that you prosper. If you stay there long enough, you'll end up owning the place. So stop complaining and start thanking God that He trusts you enough to send you there.

This isn't just theory to me. I've seen it work. When I first started learning about the power of THE BLESSING, Gloria and I were so broke we couldn't pay attention. I had only one suit and, because I was losing weight, it had been altered so many times the tailor finally told me he couldn't alter it anymore. When I asked him why, he said, "Mr. Copeland, if I take that suit up one more time, you're going to have one big pocket in the back!"

I just laughed because I knew the situation was temporary. I knew THE BLESSING of Abraham had come on me through Christ Jesus, and I knew what THE BLESSING did for everyone who ever received it—from Abraham to Isaac to Jacob to Joseph and right on down the line: It made them all rich. I had sense enough to realize if I'd just live by faith and walk in love, THE BLESSING would do the same thing for me.

Sure enough, it has. It has been increasing me for more than 40 years now and it's not finished yet. It's still on the job. It's still making me wealthy in every conceivable way while I enjoy the rest of faith and have the time of my life serving God!

My testimony shouldn't be unusual. That's the way God desires every believer to live. So put your faith in THE BLESSING and let it go to work for you. Stand up right now and shout, "I'm BLESSED! I'm blessed coming in and I'm blessed going out. THE BLESSING of the Lord makes me rich! I'm not blessed because I'm rich, I'm rich because I'm blessed!" VICTORY

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The Place

Amazing things are happening before our very eyes! Important things that fulfill biblical prophecy in regard to the Jews, the nations, and the Church, which let us know Jesus is coming soon! | That's why it is important to pay close attention to how the nations are interacting with Israel. Almost every day, somewhere in the world, events are taking place that are crucial to God's plan. As we keep our eyes and ears open to what's going on around us, we see that it is time for the Church to fulfill her vital role in it all.

of God's Glory and Nower

God's revealed plan for Israel is that in the last days He will gather the Jews back home, establishing them in their Promised Land. God's revealed plan for the Church is that she be a Glorious Church (Ephesians 5:27). Satan sees that his time is short, and he is working with great wrath against both plans (Revelation 12:12).

Now is the time for the Church to move into what God has planned for her in these days. His plan is for the Church to be the place of His glory. The glory of God is the presence of God manifest. The Church is to be filled with the power of His presence and to manifest that glorious power to the world. The world will have the opportunity to see Christ manifest through His Body. The Rapture will be the catching away of the Glorious Church.

Under Attack

I recently had a very detailed dream about the war the devil has waged against the Church. The Lord brought to my remembrance attacks that had been made against the Body of Christ in diverse areas of the world—attacks on the underground church, attacks on youth organizations, attacks on families, attacks on ministries of all kinds. The attacks, which came from every source imaginable, were aimed at stealing, killing and destroying everything in their paths.

My dream started out being one about the power of "tongues" going all over the world, and the Lord connected it to the part about the attacks. When I awoke, the Holy Spirit spoke immediately and authoritatively to me:

The weapons of your warfare are not carnal but they are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. He that

speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not unto men but unto God; for no man understands him, howbeit in the spirit he speaks mysteries. (See 2 Corinthians 10:4: 1 Corinthians 14:2.)

The dream ended with the Lord speaking to me: The attack is against your power. If Satan

is afraid of your power, your power is the way out. Jesus said, "You shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you."

What was the initial evidence of the *power* that the Holy Spirit brought to the Church on the day of Pentecost? They spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4).

As I lay there, continuing to process this dream in my heart, I realized, *If the attack is against our power then we are to increase the use of our power.* I knew immediately that I was to increase my praying in tongues.

I meditated on that dream for days and presented it to people I depend on for spiritual discernment for them to judge. They all told me it seemed to them it was of God.

The Power of the Tongue Changes Things

In these last days, people ask, "How do we pray about Israel? How do we pray for the world? How do we pray for our nation? How do we pray about this and that situation?" The best way is to pray in tongues.

The Lord recently expanded my understanding of the power of the tongue—the power of words. I dug deeper into the Hebrew language about *words*. I knew that the Hebrew word *devar* was most often translated as *word*. And I knew that it can also be translated as *thing*, or *matter*. But

I saw more light when I discovered its root is a verb meaning to arrange.

God created man a unique being—a speaking spirit. God gave man the unique gift of intelligent speech, and that intelligent speech contains the power both to create and to arrange things. We arrange things when we speak. We arrange our lives, and we arrange the atmosphere around us—at home, our place of work, everywhere.

Neurologists have proven that the speech center in the brain drives and controls all the other systems in the body. In other words: *Your body's systems respond to what you say*.

In Genesis 11:6-9, the Bible states that at the tower of Babel all men had a common language. Through unity of language they could accomplish whatever they purposed to do. God said, "Now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do." They were planning to build a tower to reach heaven, but He confused their language and put a stop to their power to bring this "thing" into reality.

From the tower of Babel until the day of Pentecost, mankind could not speak in a unified language. But when the Lord sent the Holy Spirit into the lives of believers in Jerusalem, and they were all filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance—once again men could speak in unity.

The Holy Spirit gave them words that spoke "the wonderful works of God" (Acts 2:11). That day God showed up and His presence in the power of those words changed the lives of 3,000 people. The Church was born into the earth! From that day on, the power of praying in tongues has changed things for people. As the young Church came together in unity, and spoke in agreement by the power of the Spirit, God showed up. People were saved, healed and delivered from every kind of oppression and attack of the enemy.

Nothing will be impossible for the Church when we speak in tongues because we are speaking the mysteries of God. Satan doesn't like it, and may orchestrate attacks against us, but he can't succeed if he tries to attack our unified speaking—our power.

The Place of Power and the Glory of God

In my dream I had seen the power of the Word—the power of praying in tongues—going around the world, and with it was the glory of God. Since He gave me the dream, the Lord has made something very clear to me: It is time for the glory of the Lord to be manifest in the Church of the Living God. Not next year; not some other time. Now!

And it's happening in many places around the world—in places where Christians who are hungry for the presence and glory of God are gathering in unity, like on the day of Pentecost.

In Europe, for instance, there is a group of Christians

who, for one year, gathered and prayed for the glory of God to manifest—walking in love and unity and believing God. They knew their unity would be important to how they prayed. I was in a meeting with them when the glory of God appeared like a mist, and healings and miracles happened. Some I saw, some I heard about—all miracles!

And similar reports are coming from around the world.

People are hungry for God! They are praying in tongues, gathering in unity and expecting His glory to show up in their midst. The attacks of the enemy are being put down and his works are being destroyed. People's lives are being changed by the presence of His glory!

The world is waiting for God to show up in their circumstances.

The main message the Lord has given me to preach has been "The Glorious Church." And I have preached hundreds of times and even written books about God's desire to reveal His glory in and through the Church. I continue to study and preach *the glory* and rejoice every time I see Him show up.

In these days, God has instructed me to teach the revelation of His glory from Paul's epistle to the Ephesians—a letter about our unity in Christ. It's a clear picture of what God's Glorious Church looks like.

The Glorious Church

Today, God's plan and purpose for the Church is as crucial as it has ever been in its history. Since the day the Church was born into the earth, we have always been the people who have held the mighty weapons of spiritual warfare described in Ephesians.

The hour is come for the Glorious Church to come forth and take her place, and that will happen when we are in unity and speaking the same things by the power of the Spirit.

The Church is the place where God reveals Himself! The Church is the place God has built to unveil Himself to the world. It is the place where God lives in Christ. It is the place where God appears and changes lives. The Church is the place God created where He shows Himself and makes Himself known. The Church is the place of miracles!

Now is the time and we are the people. We are the Church—the place God created to make visible His glory and His power! VICTORY

Billye Brim is president and founder of Billye Brim Ministries and Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks. For information or ministry materials write to Billye Brim Ministries, P.O. Box 40, Branson, MO 65615; call 417-336-4877; or visit her Web site at www.billyebrim.org.



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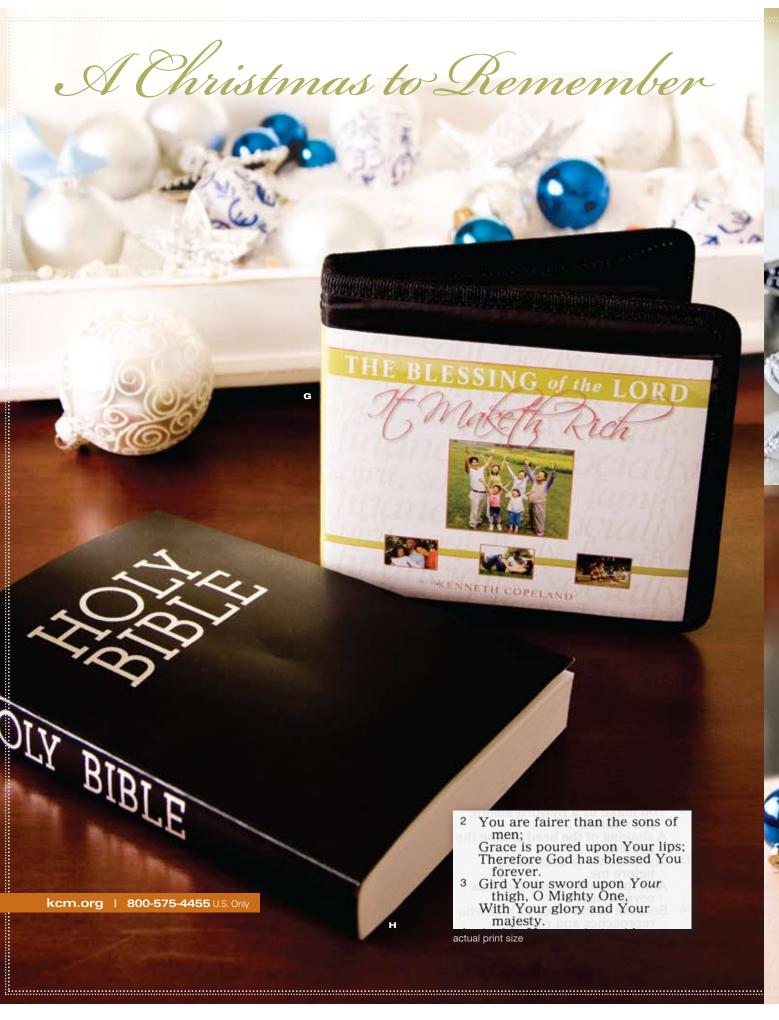






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Good News Gazette

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

God Provides Supernaturally

I am a disabled vet who fought the Veterans Affairs to get disability for over 15 years. I kept asking God to help me over and over again. As a result I had bouts of decreased faith that God would help me and my family. One day I was flipping channels and saw Kenneth doing one of his "at the table" broadcasts. He said, "Someone out there needs God's help and ain't getting it. Well, you big dummy, that's because you keep saving 'Oh God, help me, oh God, help me.' Well, don't you think that continuously asking God for the same thing over and over is showing a lack of faith on your part? Ask God for something once and thank Him for it in advance. And don't mention it again! Just believe that as sure as the sun will come up, He has it taken care of."

So, I asked God to help me and thanked Him for it in advance and it worked! God did in one year what I couldn't do in 15 years. Now my wife and kids are taken care of financially. Thank you so much!

B.L. | Texas

Fear Had to Flee

I am a KCM Partner and love, love, love this ministry! Thank God for Gloria's healing teachings and much of Ken's, too. I had a "suspicious" mammogram and ultrasound, so my doctor needed to perform a needle biopsy on the mass. I had already learned to stand on God's Word for healing and had that little booklet of Gloria's with healing scriptures. But fear came crashing down on me with such force that I had to get hold of myself and remind myself of the promises of God. Then I called the ministry for prayer and agreement. With all of that, I beat down those fears and by the time the results came back I was justified, healed and redeemed! God's promises really do work and He will do what He says, we just have to say it too!

Increase in Every Area

Christine Dovle | Weston, Fla.

I have to let someone know how thankful I am for Kenneth and Gloria's teachings in my life the past 30 years. The person that I am in God today, the level of faith I have and the prosperity God has provided my family is a result of listening and growing in

KCM Canada | Langley, BC

the Word of God and listening to the Copelands' daily messages on radio, television, tapes, videos, CDs and the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcasts.

Through their ministry and applying the practical messages of faith, the Lord healed my mind and I went from having learning disabilities to three degrees (from age 44 to 54), with a Ph.D. in education. I increased from \$24,000 a year as a secretary to \$150,000 a year as an executive at a corporate college (by age 58). My husband and I survived attacks from Satan on our marriage and we are celebrating our 39th anniversary this year, enjoying the best years of our life together. My children and grandchildren have prospered under THE BLESSING. I am now practicing Gloria's teaching on praying in the spirit every day and breakthrough is happening in my job and ministry.

Dr. Wendy Flint | California

THE BLESSING Maketh Rich!

I want to praise God and thank the prayer partners at KCM Canada—they have prayed and agreed with me for total healing and I am walking in health.

Also, my company has given me a signing bonus to remain with them for another 10 years and I am so excited to give back to God 10 percent to the Church and sow seed to KCM. I will be debt free!

I phoned in about my relationship with my mother-in-law. I was holding resentment toward her and I knew it. I called because the Holy Spirit was telling me to forgive her, but my flesh was fighting it big-time. I spoke to a prayer minister and prayed for my heart to be open, to forgive and walk in love. In the next half hour I talked to my mother-in-law on the phone and we fully reconciled. God bless you all!

D.B. | Canada

No Recession in the Kingdom of Heaven

I just wanted to praise the Lord and thank all of you at KCM for sending me the mail announcement that said, "There is no recession in the kingdom of heaven" and quoted Ephesians 6:8. Prior to receiving this, it had already been in my spirit months in advance to help anyone who was asking for help to pay for their gas or anyone asking for money. I was claiming Psalm 41 as I did these things, but I had no idea about Ephesians 6:8. I had actually never really read that verse in the King James translation as featured in your mailing, which specifically says, "Whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord." When I saw that scripture I immediately felt a sense of victory because I knew it was God speaking directly to me. He was letting me know He had seen my generosity, and I can and will expect God to redirect it upon me in the form of multiplied blessings and favor. It feels good to know I was in the will of God, and the card you sent was total confirmation. Thank you so much for sharing that scripture with me.

Daniel de Gracia II Waipahu, Hawaii

The Lord Came Through

I stood in agreement with your prayer partners that my husband would find a good job after being without income for three months. Praise Jesus, he did! And it's better than any job he's ever had in his life and he's making more money.

The Lord came through like I knew and believed He would. Our lives are much different today thanks to your prayers and the wonderful grace of our Lord and King, Jesus Christ.

S.G. | Montana

Peaceful Resolution Through Prayer

On Oct. 3, 2007, I contacted KCM for prayer. I had encountered an employment dispute where I was suspended from duty and my commercial promotion had been withdrawn.

I am happy to report that prayer changes things.

Thank you for your beautiful prayer, words of encouragement and inspiration that watered and cherished my soul.

I am truly grateful for your sincere prayer and I'm happy to report that my appeal was upheld and my final written warning has been deleted from my work records. I also had my commercial promotion reinstated. Praise is to God to whom I give all the glory!

C.H. | England

Prayer Produces Results, No Surgery Needed

My 2-month-old grandson was going to have minor surgery to correct a tear duct defect in his left eye. My son was telling me about the surgery and as I listened I thought of Gloria Copeland and the healing tapes I had bought. As I put my grandson to sleep I prayed over him in the way I had learned from KCM. Praise be to God because the next day he was healed and it has not come back. Thank You, God, and thank you, Gloria, for sharing with me what the Lord has revealed to you.

B.S. Florida

Convention Changes Lives

I was able to attend one day of this year's West Coast Believers' Convention. It was one of my greatest dreams to see Kenneth Copeland in person, along with all the others who were there that day. I remember seeing him on TV when I was a kid. I wasn't saved, but just seeing his face sowed seed in my life—Creflo Dollar as well. The presence of God was so strong, I started crying as soon as I got there. I was really there, seeing those who have taught me so much, and who have always been there for me even though they never knew me. Just being there was a tremendous blessing. Thank you for everything. I will attend more meetings in the future. God bless you always.

L.B. | California

God 15 Good

I called in for prayer because
I was going for a job interview
and I was very worried about
it—this would be my third
interview. The prayer minister
prayed for me and said, "God
did not give you a spirit of
fear but of love, power and
a sound mind." He made me
repeat it three times. I walked
into the interview believing God
was in control and was offered
the job a few days later.

LP. - Canada

Comfort in Time of Need

I want to thank you so much for standing with my family when my husband was away in Iraq. He is home and safe by the grace of God. Thank you for the scriptures and the booklets you sent to me, too. On the day I wrote my request, I was overwhelmed with fear that I knew was from the enemy. Thank you for bearing me up in my time of weakness.

S.A. | United Kingdom



First things First

DURING MY YEARS OF WALKING WITH THE LORD,

He has taught me many wonderful things. He has taught me about faith and right-eousness, healing and prosperity. He has taught me so many vital truths from His Word for which I am very grateful. And He's teaching me more every day. | Yet, if you were to ask me to name the most important principle of Christian living that I've learned, I could answer you without hesitation.

It is the secret of maintaining a living connection with God. Staying in daily communion with Him is, without question, the No. 1 priority of the Christian life. It is the key that opens every door to this life and the next.

If we don't really know God, it doesn't matter how much information we have about Him. We can be full of faith knowledge. We can understand how it comes, what it does and how to release it. We can study about love until we have memorized every love scripture in the Bible. We can know the steps to healing and prosperity backward and forward. But, we won't have the momentum to put those things into action unless we spend time with God and maintain a living connection with Him.

When all is said and done, it's not what we know that counts; it's what we actually do. And without vital, continual union with God, we won't be spiritually strong enough to do what we know to do! As Philippians 2:12-13 says:

Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show] in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ). [Not in your own strength] for it is God Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight (The Amplified Bible).

It's amazing how many Christians don't realize that. They rush around trying to do things in their own strength. They run from one good thing to the next, trying to serve the Lord. But because they don't maintain a living connection with God, they end up tired, frustrated and defeated.

They are like Martha on the day Jesus ministered in her home. Instead of sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to Him teach the Word as her sister, Mary, was doing, Luke 10:40-42 says:

But Martha [overly occupied and too busy] was distracted with much serving; and she came up to Him and said, Lord, is it nothing to You that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me [to lend a hand and do her part along with me]! But the Lord replied to her by saying, Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things; there is need of only one.... Mary has chosen the good portion [that which is to her advantage], which shall not be taken away from her (AMP).

An Awesome Privilege

As you can see from Mary's example, there is nothing complicated about establishing a living connection with Jesus. Even the newest believer can do it. Abiding with God is simply fellowshiping with Him. It's staying in touch with Him. It's talking to Him and listening to Him. It's setting aside the distractions and demands of life and taking the time to commune with Him in His Word and in prayer.

Some people say, "Well, I'd like to do that, but my schedule just won't permit it."

Actually, I don't believe they would say that if they realized what an awesome privilege it is to fellowship with



Almighty God. If they had a genuine revelation of the fact that the Creator of the entire universe has made Himself available to personally meet with them every day, they would change their schedules. They would find some way to make time for Him.

Think about what an amazing opportunity it is to personally commune with God. Adam and Eve had that opportunity in the Garden of Eden. God would come and walk with them in the cool of the day. But then they sinned and lost their ability to have that kind of contact with God. They died spiritually, so they were unable to respond to Him as they once had done.

When God came calling for them, instead of standing righteous and unashamed in His pres-

ence, they ran and hid because they were full of shame and condemnation.

What a loss! What a tragedy that was! Because of their sin, for 4,000 years afterward, mankind was locked out of the presence of God. Even the Israelites— God's special people—were unable to fellowship freely with Him. When they needed divine help or healing, they had to go to the priest. And though the priest had the anointing of God on him, even he couldn't go boldly into God's presence whenever he wanted. Only the high priest could go behind the thick veil of the temple into the holy of holies where the presence of God dwelt. And he could only go there once a year with great precaution and always with the blood of an animal to atone for his sin as well as for the sins of the people.

But, hallelujah, when Jesus went to the cross for us all that changed! He paid the price for our sins. He shed His own blood not just to atone for sin, but to remit it. His sacrifice of Himself for us restores man's lost fellowship with God when we choose Him as our Lord and Savior.

Now, as born-again believers, we "have full freedom and confidence to enter into the [Holy of] Holies [by the power and virtue] in the blood of Jesus" (Hebrews 10:19, AMP). God is accessible to us once again. He has made us new creations and put His own Spirit inside us so that we ourselves can be temples of the living God. He has given us His

righteousness so that instead of hiding from the presence of God, we can "come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).

My, what a privileged people we are! We can commune with Him any time of the day or night.

God has flung open to us the door of fellowship. He has said, "I'm here for you. Just draw near to Me and I'll draw near to you. I'll give you the wisdom you need. I'll strengthen you and equip you and help you in every area of your life."

Yet how many Christians are daily taking advantage of this wonderful privilege? Too few. They're too busy with the affairs of life to take the time for Him.

Salvation Prayer

If you do not know

as your Savior & Lord

simply pray the following

prayer in faith, and Jesus will

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

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

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us

and let us know of your deci-

sion. 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.

my life. Amen.

tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

be your Lord!

"Well, Gloria," you might say, "considering how much we have to do these days, that's understandable."

Is it? Think about it from another perspective for a moment, and I think you'll change your mind.

Suppose you wake up one mornawhile when I come home tonight."

But when you return from the Little League game, you are so tired. You think, I just need to watch a little television to relax. Then you fall asleep in front of the television, while Jesus continues to sit and wait for you at your kitchen table. Finally, the day has slipped completely away, and you have missed your oppor-

would never do such a thing. If Jesus physically came to your house, you'd stop everything just to be with Him. Yet, when you understand how real

ing, walk into your kitchen and Jesus is sitting at the table. "Well, Jesus!" you would say with surprise. "I'm thrilled You came by. I've really been wanting to see You. I have some serious problems and I need Your help. I wish I had time to talk to You about them right now, but I have to run. I'm having lunch downtown and I have to take care of some business. Maybe we'll have time to talk

When you arrive home, your son has a Little League game, so you rush out the door saying, "I'm sorry, Jesus. I have to go to the game right now. We'll spend a few minutes together before I go to bed tonight, OK?"

tunity to be with Him.

Of course, you probably think you

the spirit realm is, when you fully realize that His precious Holy Spirit is right there inside you, waiting for you day after day, you'll see that it's just as foolish to neglect your daily fellowship with Him in the Word and in prayer as it would be to leave Jesus sitting alone at your kitchen table.

It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will give you a deeper

revelation of that truth and He will strengthen you in your commitment to put first things first and make a living connection with Jesus every day.

I know from experience, it will forever change your life.

(This article was excerpted from Gloria Copeland's book To Know Him.)

What if one morning you found Jesus sitting at your breakfast table? Everything would instantly change. You would try more than anything else to...Get To Know Him!

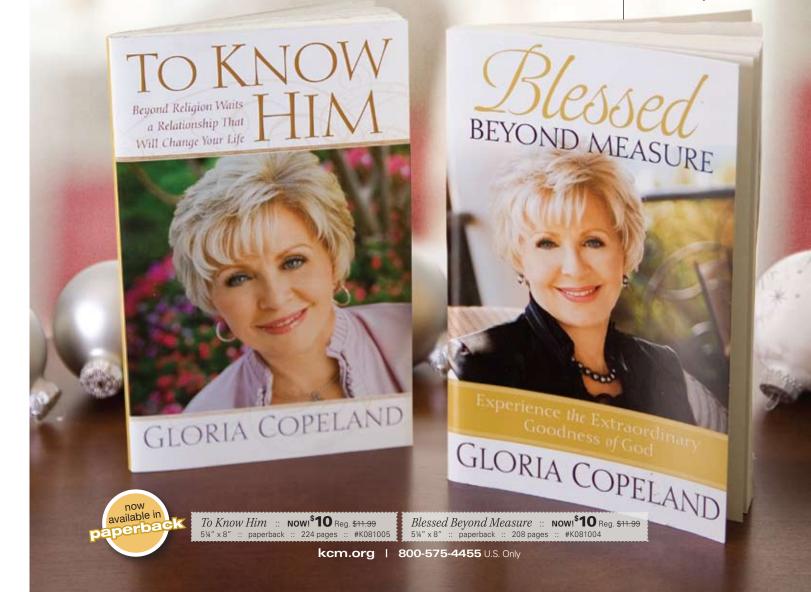
The good news is: Jesus is at your breakfast table. Each and every day, He longs for time with you. He desires a relationship with you—to answer your questions, to give you direction, and for you to enjoy the peace and refreshing that comes from spending time with Him.

Religion creates numbing routine, but a relationship with Jesus ignites the power to overcome sin and to prosper in every area of life. In To Know Him-a warm, personal and inspiring study by Gloria Copeland-you'll discover

- Recognize God's voice when He speaks to you
- Talk to Him comfortably, without fear or anxiety
- Share your heart with Him openly and honestly
- Find answers to specific questions
- · And much more!

Don't wait another moment. If you like the excerpt you just read, get ready... because the book delves even deeper into the Word to help you get To Know Him like never before. Order now!

Understanding, believing and receiving God's goodness is the very foundation of our faith. Now, experience the goodness of God like never before as you learn about all God has provided for you-from salvation and healing to deliverance and peace. Discover how you have been Blessed Beyond Measure!





America's Heritage of Thanksgiving

Here in the United States, we are blessed to have Thanksgiving as a national observance to thank God and honor Him for all He has given us. In reality, as Christians we have something to celebrate in Jesus Christ every day of the year.

The foundation of all our thanksgiving to God is the new covenant. In that covenant is protection, strength and the power of God as a Father to His children. It's His desire that we remember everything that covenant means to us.

God established many feasts of thanksgiving in the Old Covenant. He told the people to shout and dance, rejoice and praise Him. And that's what they did—they celebrated their covenant with God, thanking Him for blessing them. Deuteronomy 8:18 says, "But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth...."

In the New Testament, Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Now that's something for us to shout about! When was the last time you praised God and thanked Jesus for the abundant life He's provided for us?

It's well worth the effort. Thanksgiving and praise to God will bring deliverance and freedom.

Give Thanks and Honor

The part of Thanksgiving most believers have missed is the element of honor. Malachi 1:6 says, "A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is mine honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts...."

To honor someone, you have to delegate authority to that person. We fear, reverence or highly honor God by living life as He directs. *To honor* also means "to value, to esteem, to prize highly." When you honor someone, you respect them for who they are, what they are and what they have done.

First Samuel 2:30 declares, "For them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." In biblical language, if you fail to honor something or someone, you despise them.

Does God deserve to be honored? He created the heavens and the earth. He's Almighty God, Master of all things. He sent His only Son, Jesus, who gave Himself to keep us from going to hell.

God deserves honor.

Giving thanks and honoring God is powerful. When you honor Him. He will honor you and take up your part.

Squanto: 'Sent of God'

The Thanksgiving Day celebration as we know it actually began with an American Indian named Tisquantum or "Squanto" and Potlatch, an Indian covenant ceremony that involved feasting and the giving of precious gifts to one another in honor and covenant.

Squanto was from the Patuxet tribe, who lived at the place

which later became known as Plymouth. In 1605, he was captured by an explorer and taken to England where he learned to speak English. Several years later, Captain John Smith brought him back to New England. Not long after returning, he was kidnapped with a number of other Indians who were taken to Spain to be sold as slaves. Local friars rescued them, taught them to read and write, and introduced them to Christianity. Squanto eventually traveled to England and in 1619 was able to return to his home.

When Squanto reached his village, he discovered his entire tribe had been killed by a plague. Being the only survivor, he went to live with a neighboring tribe, the Wampanoag.

I've heard it said, and I believe, Squanto was a strong Christian and a Bible scholar who started a great revival among the Indians and taught them the New Testament. He also eventually taught the settlers who would soon live at the place where his village once stood.

In November 1620, after enduring more than two months of difficult conditions on the Mayflower and being blown off course, the Pilgrims landed at Cape Cod. They had planned to settle north of the Virginia Colony, but instead found themselves in a desolate wilderness. Small shelters were hurriedly constructed, but they were unprepared for the harsh, New England winter and scarcity of food. Before spring, nearly half died from disease and starvation.

Squanto taught the Pilgrims how to grow corn, trap game and find fish. He also helped negotiate a peace treaty between the Pilgrims and surrounding Indian tribes. According to William Bradford, author of the book *Of Plymouth Plantation*, "Squanto...was a special instrument sent of God for their good beyond their expectation."

The harvest brought enough food for the winter, and Gov. Bradford called for a day of thanksgiving. Chief Massasoit of the Wampanoag and 90 of his men came and stayed for three days of feasting and entertainment.

Although thanksgiving services had been held before in America, this was the first Thanksgiving festival with both the settlers and Indians participating in the event. They came together over Potlatch and gave thanks for the harvest.

The Nation Gives Thanks

President George Washington declared America's first national Thanksgiving in 1789. It was not until 1863 that President Abraham Lincoln set aside the last Thursday of November as an annual national day of thanksgiving.

In 1941, Congress established the fourth Thursday of November as a permanent, national Thanksgiving holiday.

This Thanksgiving, spend time thanking and praising God for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the new covenant. Give Him honor and praise for all the blessings He has given us. VICTORY



Mark your calendar today for your moment of breakthrough...at the 2009 KCM Meetings

The Word of His Power Conference

February 8-15 Words of Life Fellowship Church | 20051 N.E. 16th Ave. | North Miami Beach, FL 33179

Branson Victory Campaigr

March 5-7 Faith Life Church | 3701 W. Highway 76 | Branson, MO 65616

Sydney Victory Campaign
May 21-23 Sydney Entertainment Centre | Sydney, Australia

Brisbane Victory Campaign

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

Word of Faith Conference

June 19 Word of Faith International Christian Center | 20000 W. Nine Mile Road | Southfield, MI 48075

West Coast Believers' Convention

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

Southwest Believers' Convention

 $August \ 3-8 \ {\scriptsize Fort Worth \ Convention \ Center} \ | \ 1201 \ {\scriptsize Houston \ St.} \ | \ {\scriptsize Fort \ Worth, \ TX} \ 76102$

Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign

November 12-14

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

For a complete listing, visit www.kcm.org. Admission is FREE!



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And be sure to join us for these remaining 2008 meetings!

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Hilton Convention Center

200 E. Main St. | Branson, MO 65616

November 13-15
Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign
Hylton Memorial Chapel

14640 Potomac Mills Road | Woodbridge, VA 22192

ct to change without notice. For updated information,

Staking a Output The staking a sta

The whistle on the Mississippi Queen blew a warning as the massive steamboat sailed out of its dock in New Orleans. Pamela Post felt the familiar sway of the boat as her three sons, Aaron, Paul and Matthew, leaned over the rail and watched the churning water. At the first note of the calliope with its 44 gold-plated pipes, passengers gathered around the deck to listen and Pamela's sons mingled among them.

Theirs was a life Huck Finn would have envied. Although they lived in Apple Valley, Calif., Pamela home-schooled the boys and they often traveled with her aboard the Mississippi Queen where she sang in a stage show. Pamela's husband, David, a jazz drummer and band leader, who at 17 had played a concert with Benny Goodman, performed on the Mississippi Queen, and other steamboats as well.

Pamela left her boys to their adventures as she rehearsed for the next show. Hours later, she stood center stage as the curtain rose to a packed house. With David in the band and the boys backstage, Pamela let the music well up from the depths of her being. In the last act, wearing a stunning white gown, she played the part of Evita singing, "Don't Cry for Me Argentina." The curtain fell to thunderous applause.

Backstage, Paul waited in her dressing room.

"Mom," he said, "I've figured out what I want to do with my life." Pamela turned and looked at her son. "I want to defend this country. As soon as I'm old enough I'm joining the Special Forces."

A chill rippled up Pamela's neck as she listened to her son's plans. What she heard was not every mother's dream. The possibility of losing Paul in war was never something she'd imagined. Pamela clamped a lid on the fear and forced herself to smile.

She was, after all, an actress.

As Pamela watched her son's green eyes snap with enthusiasm as he talked, one thing was as clear to her as his eyes: If Paul might one day go to war, now was the time to send her faith to boot camp.



Building Up Your Most Holy Faith

"Paul was 23 when he joined the Army," Pamela recalls. "When I asked if he was sure about his decision he said, 'Mom, my steps are ordered by the Lord.' What could I say to that? Still, I knew I needed to build my faith for protection."

Pamela had first learned how vital such faith can be years before when, at the insistence of her mother, she began watching *Believer's Voice of Victory*. "I was in my 20s at the time," she explains. "I came home from performing in a show and my mother sat me in front of the television and said, 'You've got to hear this.' That was my first introduction to Kenneth Copeland. Although he never asked for money, as I continued listening to the broadcasts I began to send in offerings. It seemed as though each time I sent my offerings to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, doors of opportunity would swing open for me—so I became a Partner.

"With Paul's decision to join the military, I bought Gloria's books and tapes on Psalm 91 and divine protection. I immersed myself in the teachings and memorized the 91st Psalm. At first it seemed as though my concerns were unfounded. Paul got through basic training and did well. He aced all his tests and was respected by his peers. He enjoyed military life and thrived."

Meanwhile, Pamela and David were thriving too. After years of performing on the Mississippi Queen, they parted ways with the steamboat and settled down in their home in California. Enjoying their relationship with the Lord, each other and their children, they were looking forward to the next season of their lives and seeking God's direction about what they should do.

In 2005, the sun peaked over the horizon, its feathery tips of light teasing Pamela awake. Rising from a deep sleep to greet the morning, Pamela heard three words: *Stake your claim*.

Putting breakfast on the table, she poured a cup of coffee and looked at David. "I woke this morning with three words in my spirit: *Stake your claim*. Wouldn't it be great to have a steakhouse named Steak Your Claim?"

"That's catchy," David agreed. "Let's pray over it."

The couple prayed, asking God to confirm the word to them. Later the same day, Pamela turned on the television to watch the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast and gasped when Gloria announced, "You've got to stake your claim for your life!"

The message seemed clear and simple. They were staking their claim by faith for Paul's protection. They were staking their claim for prosperity. They were staking their claim for a harvest of souls. Now they just might stake their claim on a restaurant.

Sure enough, in time they signed a lease on a property and Steak Your Claim became a reality.

Leap of Faith

As Pamela and David trained themselves in the intricacies of the restaurant business, across the country in Fort Bragg, N.C., 24-year-old Paul was training to become a paratrooper—and he loved it. He'd already made three jumps out of a C-130 and landed without mishap.

One summer morning in 2007, David and Pamela rose early to prepare for the drive to Anaheim for the West Coast Believers' Convention. They hadn't missed a convention in almost 15 years, and had arranged their busy schedules so they could attend. Pamela's mind was on the speaker lineup and thoughts of the meeting when the Holy Spirit apprehended her and she froze in her tracks.

Pray for Paul.

Those three simple words kicked her heart into overdrive. Pamela dropped to her knees beside the bed and prayed in the Holy Spirit. She had no idea what had happened, but something was wrong.

Dead wrong.

In Fort Bragg, a heat wave left every living thing—human, animal and plant—limp, as temperatures soared. Perspiration dotted Paul's face as he donned his parachute and walked across the sweltering tarmac to the aircraft. Inside, the men felt like lobsters on a slow boil as the plane lumbered down the runway for takeoff. Airborne, the aircraft made a lazy circle and climbed to an altitude of 1250 feet. On signal, the first paratrooper jumped, his parachute blossoming against the blue sky. With each timed jump, the sky filled with parachutes making their lazy descent to earth.

Back home in Apple Valley, Pamela didn't know what was wrong but she sensed danger. As she prayed, the words poured out of her heart in English. "I am in covenant with You, Lord! I pray the protective power of Jesus' blood over Paul wherever he is right now! I pray a hedge of protection around him!"

High above the earth, Paul's pulse skipped with excitement as he stood in the door of the aircraft waiting for his signal to jump. Even at that altitude it was hot and humid and he felt sticky in his uniform. The signal came. Paul stepped out of the plane into nothing, dropping in a free fall...hurtling toward earth.

Then, the unthinkable happened. Somehow, Paul's parachute lines became tangled with another paratrooper's. Snared in a web of their own equipment, their combined weight hurled them faster toward the earth. Paul tried to think. If he were standing still it might take hours to untangle the mess. Looking down at the earth flying toward him, he knew one thing with certainty.

He was out of time.

Neither man could deploy his parachute. Over the drone of the airplane Paul heard someone scream, "Climb down

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the rope! Climb down the rope!"

"Jesus, help me!" Paul shouted into the wind as he started climbing down the rope toward his teammate. His rucksack was tan-

gled around one foot, pulling him down like an anchor at sea.

Across the continent, Pamela was still sensing an urgent prompting to pray for her son.

The words of Psalm 91 rose from Pamela's heart in a rush of divine love. "He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.

"Surely He shall deliver you from the snare of the fowler!" Pamela prayed with fervor. "A thousand may fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you! No evil shall befall you, nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; for He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you in all your ways. In their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone.

"Because he has set his love upon Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me, and I will answer him. I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation."

Pamela finished her prayer and realized that the burden had lifted.

"What was that about?" David asked, concern creasing his forehead.

"I don't know," Pamela admitted. "The Lord had me pray protection over Paul. I think I'll call his cell phone."

"Honey," Pamela said when she reached Paul's voice mail, "I don't know what you're doing but I wanted you to know I've been praying for you. The Lord had me pray a hedge of protection over you as well as the 91st Psalm. Talk to you soon."

Paul looked down as he and his fellow paratrooper continued to fall. He saw rocks, trees and dry, cracked earth rushing toward them.

Reaching the other man, together they got half of one parachute to deploy. A gust of wind caught the parachute silk and slowed their descent. Still...in seconds they would hit the ground. Lifted on another gust of wind, they slowed further. Seconds later, Paul felt the hard earth jar against

Somehow, he had landed on his feet.

makes the difference

When you face a brush with death, it's good to know someone is standing with you—someone who believes in the power of the into partnership and receiving the Word daily made a world of difference when they needed it. And for thousands of others, partnership provides the vital faith-connection bodies and increasing finances

That's why Kenneth Copeland Ministries believes in partnership. you can count on the fact that it's a two-way street. We're doing the same for you, believing for God's vision, protection, healing and victory in every area of your life and ministry. When we come together each of us stronger and more

No matter what you need, we desire THE BLESSING to come alive in your life as it did for the Posts-for you to live in absolute undeniable victory. Discover the difference partnership makes in

To learn more about partnership, free Partner Package with complete check the circle on the response form in the center of this magazine, call 800-600-7395 or visit kcm.org

An hour later, a shaky Paul was on the phone and recounting the incident with his parents.

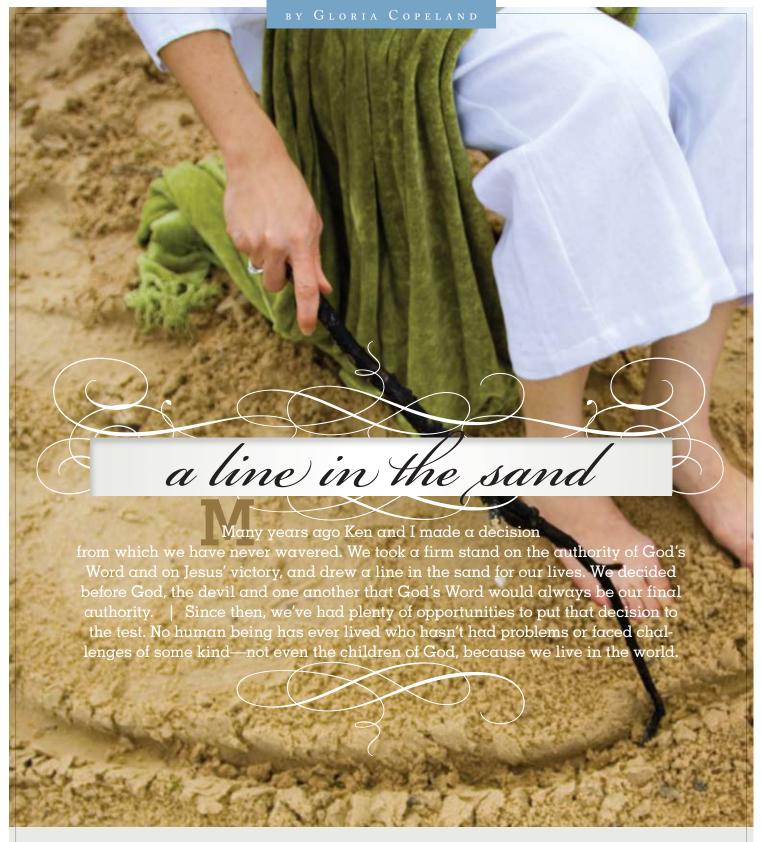
"The startling thing was that Paul's brush with death occurred at the exact time the Lord had me praying for him," Pamela explains. "It was such a testament to the goodness of God. It made me grateful for what I had learned through the Copelands' ministry and that I had taken the time to study Gloria's books and tapes on the subject of divine protection."

Thankful as she is for what she's received through her connection with KCM, for Pamela, partnership with the ministry is not just about receiving a blessing; it's about sharing that blessing with others. "To me, partnership means souls," she says. "In my mind, I've always thought of every dollar I give as a soul. So when I give \$500, I equate that with 500 souls. It's such an amazing thing that I may never stand in a pulpit, but my offerings are being used to win a harvest of souls around the world. That means so much to me it makes me weep."

Today, Paul is 26 and continues his Special Forces training. The potential dangers of his career are obvious. But those dangers don't scare David and Pamela Post one bit. They have staked their claim on God's Word, and are living by faith in His promises of protection, prosperity and abundant life.

They witnessed the power of those promises one unforgettable summer day when Paul floated in safety from heaven to earth on the prayers of his mother and the words of Psalm 91. They saw for themselves that the declaration their son had made with such boldness when he began his military career was absolutely true.

His steps are ordered by the Lord. VICTORY



Jesus said, "In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted]! For I have overcome the world. [I have deprived it of power to harm you and have conquered it for you]" (John 16:33, The Amplified Bible).

He stated a fact of the world's bad news and followed right up with the truth of His good news!

Ken and I realized, with every problem we have a choice: Lie down and let the facts of that problem trample over us, or take our stand by faith, believe the truth of Jesus' Word and receive His overcoming victory. We decided no matter

We're here for you!

Long before Kenneth and Gloria Copeland began speaking the phrase "One Word From God Can Change Your Life Forever" into the lives of the thousands they minister to each day, Kenneth had seen his own life completely revolutionized by "one word" he heard in a teaching by Kenneth E. Hagin titled, "You Can Have What You Say."

In his quest for faith, Kenneth knew he needed to know more of what Brother Hagin preached, but he didn't have the money to pay for it.

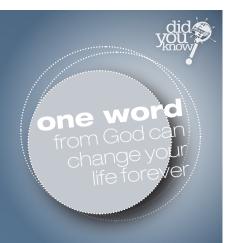
"What I needed next was every tape by Brother Hagin that I could get my hands on," Kenneth recalled, looking back on that time in the late 1960s. "I drove my old car over to Brother Hagin's headquarters. His son-in-law, Buddy Harrison was his general manager. I'd never met him, but I introduced



myself and told him I'd been called to preach."

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

Recognizing the hunger of this young preacher for the Word of God, Harrison did something



unexpected. He refused to accept Kenneth's car as collateral, but graciously gave him copies of all Brother Hagin's teaching tapes.

Soon after, Kenneth locked himself away for a solid week to study his newfound treasure—determined to hear from God.

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

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

what the tribulation, trial, distress or frustration, we would not cross the line back into enemy territory, and we would not let Satan take over ours.

We drew the line and took our stand on Jesus' side. It was the best decision we ever made!

Making the Decision

How did we make a once-and-for-all-time decision like that?

When we began to learn and understand everything God had provided for us through His Son, Jesus, we believed it and received it for our very own. In making that decision, we were blessed that we didn't have very much religious "tradition" to clear out of our thinking. So, seeking God and His kingdom, digging into His Word to discover His way of doing things, was all good news to us!

We began to take God's Word as our daily sustenance. We fed on it like our lives depended on it—and they did! We never stopped! Now, after more than 40 years, we're still doing it. We just can't get enough of Him and His Word.

When we discovered God's Word works just like He says, it opened up a whole new life for us. As we walked through each new door of His way of living, we renewed our decision. We were *not* going back. We were going to stay on the Lord's side, live our lives by faith according to His Word and enjoy the benefits He provided us in Christ.

We set out to develop the spirit of faith in our lives—that same spirit of faith in which Abraham operated. We began to see God's Word as His book of promises. We discovered that He is a promise-keeping, glorious heavenly Father.

We went after the same spirit of faith the New Testament believers had and took hold of as their own. We began to apply it in every area of our lives. Ever since then, we have run our personal lives, our home, our relationships, our ministry—everything—according to the authority of His Word!

The decision to stay the line with the Word of God has made all the difference in our lives. And because our heavenly Father

Faith speaks according to what it believes.

The only thing that limits the spirit of faith working out God's will and ways in us is our lack of knowledge of His Word.

commissioned us to help His people develop their own spirit of faith, we have had the great joy of seeing thousands upon thousands step out and draw their own line—letting the devil and the world know who they are and where they stand!

Standing Firm on the Line

How Jesus said to respond to trials, tribulation, distress and frustration was something the Apostle Paul knew about firsthand. After he was converted, his life became an ongoing series of difficulties, but he wasn't moved off his faith. His faith held firm through it all, just as our faith will do for us.

Speaking from his own experiences, he wrote a letter to the believers at Corinth encouraging them to stay the line of faith, regardless of what trouble came their way. Paul wrote:

We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal (2 Corinthians 4:8-10, 13, 16-18).

Look at verse 13 again: We all have the same spirit of faith. The same faith Paul had, we all have, which means we can all operate in that same faith.

Faith believes, then faith speaks according to what it believes. The only thing that limits the spirit of faith working out God's will and ways in us is our lack of knowledge of His Word or failure to implement His Word

in our lives. We have to know what He says before we can act on it. We have to act on His Word before it is effective in our lives.

When we spend time in God's Word it feeds our spirit—our inner man—the real us. Verse 16 talks about our *inward man*. True life comes from the inner man. It's the part of us that is connected to God, the place where He speaks to us. He is continually talking, teaching us, comforting us and admonishing us. When we spend time in His Word, He reveals truth and gives us direction. We must learn to be guided by the inward man rather than the outward man and our physical senses. We develop the spirit of faith, and our inward man is renewed day by day, as Paul says.

In turn, our soul is transformed and begins to express the faith of our inward man. Our intellect, emotions and behavior begin to line up with the Word we have deposited in our inner man.

Ultimately our outward man changes. As our faithfilled spirit expresses itself through our renewed soul, our physical body becomes the vehicle that presents the life of Jesus everywhere it goes and in everything it does.

The same Word that was Jesus becomes you and me! What we learn from the Word develops our faith. The Word *becomes* what we believe, what we speak, what we do and what we receive. It becomes our very life.

We become so confident in the Word that we lay our lives on the line for it. Not only are we being changed by it, but our circumstances are being changed as we settle our hearts on God's Word as final authority in every circumstance of our lives.

When Trouble Comes

Remember, God's Word doesn't say we'll never have problems or trouble. As a matter of fact, from Genesis to Revelation the Bible seems like a history of nothing but trouble. But, it's also the history of God bringing people out of trouble—the history of people receiving God's promises by faith.

For every trouble, problem or circumstance anyone has ever faced, God has a promise to cover it. His Word is final authority over them all. The victory comes when we have developed our faith. When we know what His Word says about our authority and His

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victory, we can make our stand of faith with confidence.

This is important, because when a crisis comes, you don't always have time to get out your CDs on the spirit of faith and find out what to do. Whatever is in your inner man will come out. You need to be ready and prepared all the time with strong, unyielding faith in God's Word.

So don't wait until the storm is on top of you, or the fire is bearing down on your house, to start building your faith. Start today—spend time in the Word and in prayer every day. Find out what the Bible says. Get a Bible dictionary and a concordance and dig in. Find books, CDs and videos that teach the Word and develop your faith. Learn the truth. Sit under seasoned, spirit-filled teachers and let them help you.

This is how you learn to maintain a spirit of faith—by continually putting the Word in your heart and speaking it out your mouth, day by day, and obeying what it says one step at a time until your life is a picture of obedience.

The authority Jesus gave the Church works by the spirit of faith. He made it clear to His disciples: "Have faith in God. For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:22-24, New King James Version).

If we don't activate our faith by believing and speaking the Word, we don't exercise the authority we have. If we haven't developed our faith in God and His Word, we won't have the means to overcome circumstances, and we will find ourselves at the mercy of the world. But as we do develop our faith, we will discover we don't have to stay helpless, because we have been redeemed!

God Put Himself on the Line for You

Understand that when God asks us to draw the line of faith, He's not asking anything He didn't do Himself. God created man to operate the same way He does—by faith. Jesus operated by faith and He clearly taught His disciples to do the same. God put Himself on the line when He gave us the same power and authority on earth He gave Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).

Before the foundation of the earth and the creation of everything in it, God had a means in place to

bring all the "unseen" things into the "seen" realm. He simply spoke, and the unseen became the seen. As Romans 4:17 says, God "calleth those things which be not as though they were."

Nothing happened until God spoke. He said, "Let there be light," and light was. He brought light from the unseen realm into the seen by His words.

Everything man would ever need, God delivered by speaking into the seen realm what He had already prepared in the unseen realm inside Himself.

Jesus operates the same way.

His faith changed things in people's lives. For their troubles and problems, He gave them solutions and victory. He declared that everything He said and everything He did was only what He had heard and seen His Father say and do. His faith brought what people needed into the seen realm of their lives.

The people couldn't hear that their healing was just a word away, but Jesus heard it and spoke it into being. They couldn't see that their meal was in a few loaves and a few fish, but Jesus saw it and He blessed it, broke it and fed thousands. They didn't know their deliverance from the kingdom of darkness was in the person of Jesus, but He knew it and spent the last years of His life on earth spreading the good news.

He spoke, and those who received Him received.

Faith comes by hearing. Faith knows what the Father has promised in His Word, and that He will keep His promise. Faith prays according to the promise. Faith speaks. Faith believes and receives!

Read what Jesus said again, "Have faith in God. Whoever says...and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:22-24, *NKJV*).

Jesus walked this line of faith every day He lived among the people.

By faith is how He reached into the unseen realm and brought the changes His Father had prepared into the lives of the people. It was the way He met His own needs and those of His disciples—whether it was food, drink, tax money or deliverance from a mob.

By faith is the way Jesus gave His life—on the promise of His Father that the world would be saved. It was the plan God had for Jesus' entire way of life. Empowered by the Spirit of God and operating according to His Father's Word, Jesus held the line

until His time on earth was complete. And He still holds it today.

Now our part is to step up, take our stand and know that this life of faith is the life God designed for us. The world may throw some problems our way, but there's nothing Jesus hasn't already overcome. That's what He said. That's what we say. This is where we draw the line!

And once we've stepped across, there is no turning back from our life of victory in Him. Victory

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November







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