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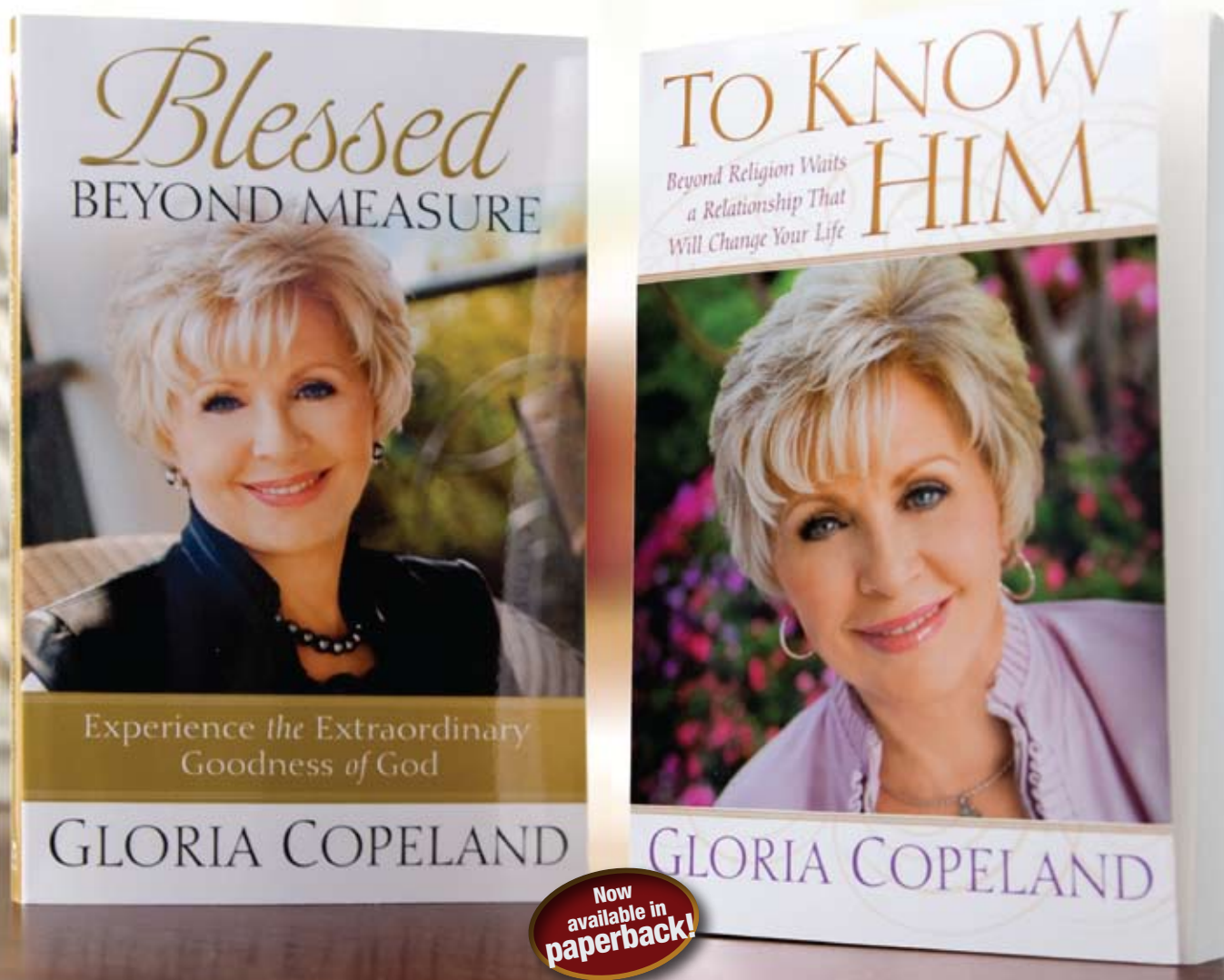
January 2009



for
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Unexpected

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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 36 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

—Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

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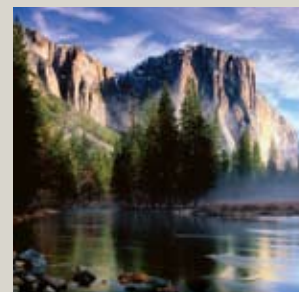
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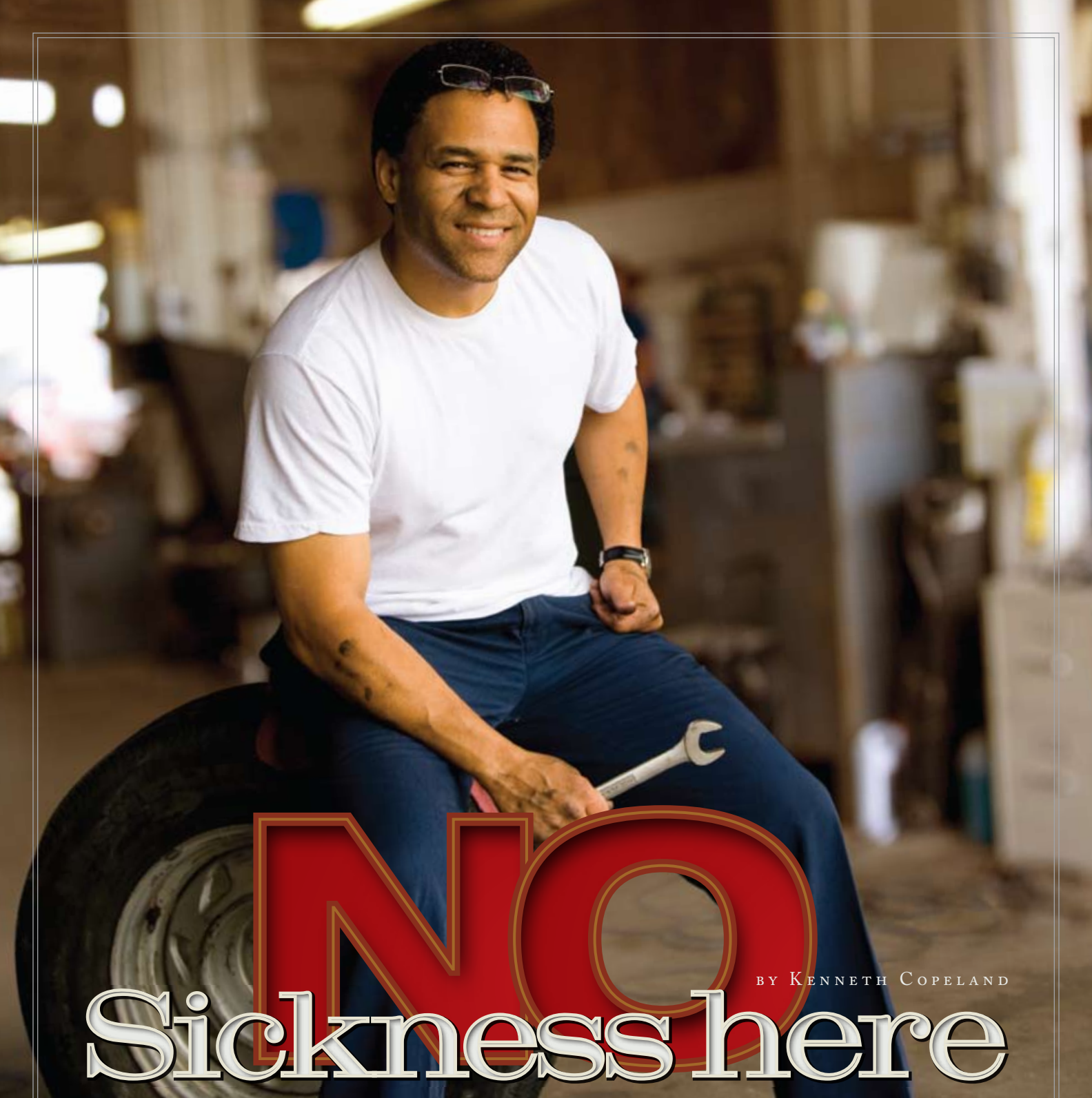
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“It’s flu season.” | Every year about this time, that’s what we’re told. We hear it in ads touting pills to ease the symptoms; in the news as reporters cite statistics to prove great numbers are coming down with it; and at work how this person or that person is out with the flu. | “I know just how they feel,” someone will say, “I get the flu every season.” | And much of the time, most of those within earshot will nod and agree because they don’t know any better.

They don’t have any idea they open the door to sickness with their own words. They don’t realize the Bible says, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit [of it]” (Proverbs 18:21). If they did, when the subject of the flu came up they’d change their conversation. They’d say,

“I believe I’ll pass up the flu this year. In fact, I’m never going to take it again.”

Such a statement would sound like a denial of reality to most folks. But I’m here to tell you, I started making that confession more than 40 years ago and I haven’t had the

The first step in overcoming the curse of sickness is to realize healing and health are included in THE BLESSING.



flu since. I’ve stayed free of it not by living in denial, but by living in faith. Oh, we’ve had opportunities, including the symptoms. But we stood firmly on God’s Word and passed those opportunities by.

There’s a big difference between faith and denial. Denial ignores natural facts and chooses to believe something else even though there is no foundation for it.

Faith, on the other hand, has good reason for what it believes. Faith doesn’t ignore the facts; it overrides them with a higher reality—*truth!*

In natural terms, imagine, for example, you were in a country where the water was impure. If you were to drink that water and just hope by some fluke of nature you would escape the digestive repercussions, you would be in denial. You would have no basis for believing you’d be protected.

If, however, you had a proven purification system to make the water safe, you could drink it with confidence. You wouldn’t have to deny the dangers of it. You could simply put your trust in the power of the purification system to overcome those dangers. You could say with boldness, “I will not get sick from this water.”

Faith in God’s Word works the same way. It doesn’t deny the dangers of this fallen world. It doesn’t ignore the existence of natural realities. True, Bible-based faith overcomes those realities with the truth of the Word.

That’s why we, as believers, can say things like, “I’m not going to take the flu,” without being in denial. It’s not just wishful thinking. We have a firm foundation for our confidence. We are putting our trust in the Word of God which declares every form of sickness, lack and oppression is part of the curse. We don’t have to ignore the reality of that curse, we can simply believe the more powerful reality presented in Galatians 3:13-14: “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse...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.”

The last two words of that verse tell us *faith* is what delivers us from the deadly conditions of this sin-cursed world. It enables us to receive God’s promise, and connects us to THE BLESSING.

No Sickness in Eden

“But Brother Copeland,” you might say, “a lot of people have faith in Jesus and still seem to be connected to the

curse. They’re like the guy you mentioned earlier who always gets the flu. Why is that?”

It’s because most Christians don’t realize that in addition to believing in Jesus, they must also put faith in THE BLESSING He came to restore. Many sweet, sincere Christians don’t even know what that BLESSING actually is. They don’t realize it is the same BLESSING God gave Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It’s THE BLESSING that empowered them to “be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion...” (Genesis 1:28). It’s THE BLESSING designed by God to create the conditions of Eden throughout the whole earth.

Faith in that BLESSING is vital. It’s what enables us to stop accepting the curse as a fact of life. It helps us ask questions like: Was there any sickness in the Garden of Eden? Did God create a flu season there?—and answer them with a resounding *No!*

THE BLESSING settles the fact once and for all that sickness is not part of God’s perfect will for His children. That’s why God included healing in the plan of redemption. That’s why Jesus “was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).

Faith begins where the will of God is known! So the first step in overcoming the curse of sickness is to realize healing and health are included in THE BLESSING, which is God’s perfect will for every believer!

That vital revelation puts us on the road to divine health. To stay on the road we must take another step. We must decide to agree with God’s Word—even when we’re confronted with natural evidence to the contrary. We must decide that when natural circumstances and demonic forces challenge us (and they always will), we will “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Timothy 6:12) by fixing our minds on the Word. We will wage spiritual war against every doubtful, unbelieving thought.

When we do, we become like the BLESSED man in Psalm 112:7 whose “heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.” Our faith becomes as solid and immovable as concrete. Instead of floundering on the sinking sand of this natural realm, we settle down on the unshakable foundation of God’s Word. That is the foundation upon which faith thrives!

You may be thinking: *What if I take that stand of faith and I’m still hit with chills and fever or the symptoms of some other sickness?*

Refuse to let those symptoms move you. Cast down every doubt they bring to your mind, and stick with the Word.

“What if my nose keeps running and the doubts keep coming?”

Then declare the Word over your nose and every other part of your body and keep casting down those doubts. Don’t deny sickness is a fact. Deny its right to be in your body!

“How Long Should I Do That?”

As long as it takes.

Stay with it and remember there is nothing more important you can do with your time than fight the good fight of faith. There is nothing more productive you can do with your thoughts than take them captive to the Word of God. The battleground of the mind is where life’s most precious victories are won or lost.

I know from experience. I took my first stand against

sickness on that battleground many years ago. At the time, Gloria and I had learned some things about healing, and I’d realized that to stay well I had to change my way of thinking. I couldn’t give in and lie down when symptoms of sickness came on me. I couldn’t just put on my pajamas, declare I was sick and go to bed. I’d have to take a stand on the Word of God.

So the next time the flu bug started biting that’s what I did. I gathered the family together and announced we were all going to take a spiritual flu shot.

Our son, John, who is now in his 40s, was just a little boy back then and he wasn’t too excited about that. He stared at me wide-eyed, assuming the shot would somehow involve a needle. When I pulled out my Bible and began to read healing scriptures, he was relieved. After we read the Word together, we took our stand on it, prayed and put the flu behind us once and for all.

We haven’t had it since. Like I said, we’ve had opportunities, but we’ve passed them by.

One of those opportunities came when flu symptoms hit me full force right in the middle of some meetings I was preaching. I’d worn myself out by working day and night without a break, so almost before I knew it, I was feeling sick in a big way.

Because I’d already appropriated healing by faith, I didn’t have to pray about what to do. I just began to act on what I already knew. I began to say, “I believe I receive my healing. Jesus bore my sicknesses; He carried my diseases; and by His stripes I am healed.”

From a natural perspective, the first few times I said those words, nothing happened. I still felt sick. But that didn’t upset me. I realized the reality of the Word is more powerful than my feelings, so I just kept declaring that Word—again...and again...and again.

Since “faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17), every time I spoke the Word about my healing, I heard it and faith came. For a while, that faith wasn’t strong enough to overturn the symptoms. I’d been preaching and pouring out so much that the life force within me had been depleted, so my spirit was like a bucket that was only half-full. As I continued to confess my healing, however, that bucket started to fill up.

In the process, I had this thought: *I wonder how many times I can say this before my faith overflows and the symptoms flee?*

Determined to learn the answer to my question, I kept declaring “by His stripes I am healed” until I had said it 829 times. Each time, the tide of my faith rose a little more. The 830th time, I hit the overflow! The tangible power of God hit me and shot from the back of my heels to the top of my head. His healing power flooded me, swept away every symptom of the flu, and in an instant I was perfectly all right. And I went on with the meeting the next morning with a renewed force of faith.

Over the years, I’ve often thought about what would have happened if I hadn’t stuck with it. What if I’d given up after the first five minutes of that faith fight?

I would not have received the manifestation of my healing. I would have wound up with the flu—not because it was God’s will for me to be sick, or because the flu is an unavoidable fact of life, but because my faith bucket was only half-full!

Keep Your Bucket Overflowing

A half-full faith bucket won’t get the job done. That’s why we, as believers, must be determined to stay in the overflow; and we can’t do that by thinking and speaking like the world. We can’t override the lower reality of this natural realm with the higher reality of redemption if we walk around expecting to catch the latest virus, or saying certain sicknesses “just run in our family.”

Those kinds of thoughts generate fear. *Fear tolerated is faith contaminated; and contaminated faith doesn’t work.* So if we want to live in consistent victory, we must rid ourselves of that kind of thinking and think like God does.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it” (Isaiah 55:8-9, 11).

Aren’t you glad God has given us His Word to reveal His thoughts to us? Aren’t you grateful He tells us in the Bible we are healed by Jesus’ stripes, and good health, not disease, *now runs in our family*—because as born-again believers we are part of the family of God?

God’s thoughts are amazing! They have the power to renew our minds and change our lives. But for them to do so, we must activate them by using the key Jesus gave us in Matthew 6:31 where He teaches that we “take” thoughts by “saying” them. To keep our faith buckets full and overflowing we must:

Decide.

Think.

Then say.

We must put that process to work in our lives and stay with it until believing and speaking God’s Word becomes automatic. We must get our hearts so full of the Word and let it become so much a part of us that when challenges confront us, the Word flows out of our mouths without any conscious effort.

If you’re not certain you can ever confess the Word with such ease, let me assure you, you can. Just keep spending time in it. Keep meditating it and confessing it until it’s in you in abundance, then out of the abundance of your heart your mouth *will* speak (Matthew 12:34). Your faith will overflow and the power of God will be released to override the curse and bring forth THE BLESSING of healing (or whatever else you may need).

That’s the Bible way and it always works. Gloria and I have proved it countless times. We started deciding, thinking and saying God’s Word 41 years ago. When we were broke, sick and defeated, we exchanged our defeated way of thinking for God’s victorious way of thinking and it changed us forever. It has not only healed us and kept us in divine health, it has brought THE BLESSING into manifestation in every area of our lives.

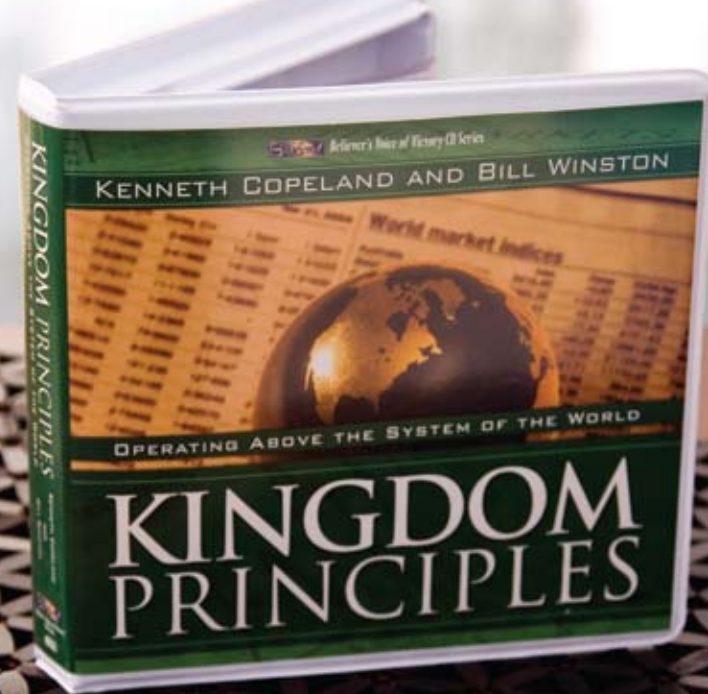
It will do the same for you. So don’t waste another minute. If you haven’t already done it, activate that faith process in your life right now. Make the decision to think God’s thoughts and then take those thoughts by saying them. Start declaring, “I believe I am BLESSED. I don’t take the flu or any other illness because that’s part of the curse and I’ve been redeemed from the curse. Flu season is over for me forever, because by the stripes of Jesus I was healed!”

If you’ll stick with that confession, if you’ll believe it and cast down every thought to the contrary, you’re sure to be a conversation-stopper this time of year. When everyone else starts chattering about the sicknesses they expect, you’ll be the one who says, “I believe I’ll stay well this season. I won’t take any sickness at all.”

Of course, some will accuse you of being in denial. There’s no way around that. But if you’ll keep your faith bucket overflowing, even the skeptics will start to notice how healthy and full of joy you are. THE BLESSING at work in your life will become a visible reality that’s hard for anyone to deny. You are not a vict-im—you are a vict-or. **VICTORY**

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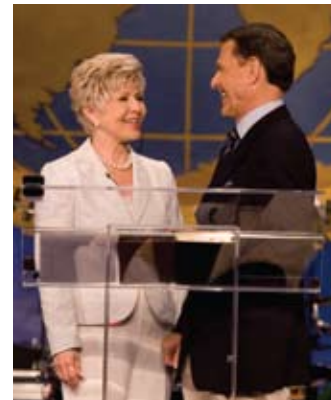
Operate *above* the World’s System



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AS ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TREMORS INCREASINGLY SHOOK A FAILED WORLD SYSTEM, BELIEVERS AT KCM VICTORY CAMPAIGNS AND BELIEVERS' CONVENTIONS IN 2008 WERE LEARNING HOW TO THINK AND LIVE BY A DIFFERENT SYSTEM—THE EDEN SYSTEM.

Pointing out that the world system is in trouble because it is fear based and focused on lack, Kenneth Copeland reminded believers they were meant to live in the abundance of God's BLESSING system which, according to Proverbs 10:22, "maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

God's system was the provision demonstrated in the abundance of Eden and in THE BLESSING He breathed into man, to bring Love's dominion and Eden's BLESSING to the whole earth.

Only by living Eden's way—through the victory over the curse Jesus won on the cross—can the Body of Christ reach out to untold numbers of people suffering under the world's lack and oppression, Brother Copeland explained.

TO THE STREETS AND THE NATIONS

During the meetings, the joy of living and thinking Eden's way spilled out into the hallways and streets. At one point young men and women did not want to leave a 14forty young-adult worship and praise service. After the adult service of the Friday night Southwest Believers' Convention had ended, the Fort Worth Convention Center was filled with young people praising, worshiping and shouting, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!"

Before and during the meetings in Long Beach, Calif.; Fort Worth; and Milwaukee, Wis., more than 6,000 people prayed to receive salvation as church outreach teams led by EMIC Pastor

of Evangelism, Riley Stevenson, took the message of THE BLESSING to the streets.

One pastor, looking for a better way of reaching the lost, drove 18 hours to attend the soul-winning training in Long Beach. After leading 38 people to the Lord in one day, he commented, "This works! The Word of God speaks to a person's spirit man and he gets saved! I am taking this back to Utah, and we are going to reach [people] for Jesus Christ!"

Not only was THE BLESSING being taken to the streets, but also to the nations as believers from more than 90 nations registered at the meetings and over the Internet. In 2008, the Copelands ministered in Bournemouth, United Kingdom; Basel, Switzerland; and Lagos, Nigeria.



"THE BLESSING is where you are called to be. The more we are in His plan, the freer the blessings will flow to us."

BLESSING WITHOUT MEASURE

Throughout the 2008 meetings, believers were trained how to think, receive and act on the word the Lord had given Brother Copeland: *2008 will be the year of the fullness of THE BLESSING—BLESSING without measure.*

"How much of THE BLESSING is available?" he asked believers at the Great Lakes Believers' Convention. "Look at Malachi 3:10: 'Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open

you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it!*'"

Everything that was made available to man in abundance in the Garden before Adam sinned is available to every believer today in Christ, Brother Copeland said.

"Was there any death in the Garden of Eden? Any sickness? Any poverty in the garden?" he asked believers in Long Beach. "No. Then the new birth...healing...prosperity...they're all part of THE BLESSING."

A word to the Body of Christ given at the 2008 Branson (Mo.) Victory Campaign called believers to rise up to their position of rest seated with God. Brother Copeland challenged believers to cease from fear-driven toiling and start carrying out their assignments in the reality that in Christ they were set free from the curse that resulted from Adam's fall.

WORKING FROM THE POSITION OF REST

THE BLESSING of Abraham is the Eden Blessing, Brother Copeland told believers at meetings in Bournemouth and Basel, quoting Galatians 3:9, 13-14: "They which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us...that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

At the Nigeria Ministers' Conference in Lagos, he illustrated the difference in living Eden's way and living the world's way: "Those living by the world's system constantly confess, 'I've got to make a living.' *I've got to make my way in this world.* 'I make money,' and so on. Those in the Eden system declare according to Proverbs 10:22, *'The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.'*"

This does not mean believers will work less, he told those attending the West Coast Believers' Convention: "Jesus didn't relieve you from working. He relieved you from working for a living. Now, you're working for a purpose...on assignment."

The Garden of Eden before the Fall should have been the worst condition man ever experienced, Brother Copeland declared at the Southwest Believers' Convention. God intended for man, operating by THE BLESSING, to make the Garden bigger and better and to take it to the whole earth.

Now in Christ, that assignment and ability has been restored to man.

"Where God sends you is where He wants THE BLESSING," Brother Copeland said.

JOY COMES TO THOSE WHO PRESS IN

Gloria Copeland challenged believers to find the path to real joy by pressing in to God's way of living, engaging in the battle of faith.

"We have been called to be a blessing...but we are not going to walk in THE BLESSING unless we obey God—that is the condition," she told believers in Branson. Reading from 1 Peter 3:9-10, she said the first step of obedience is to walk in love: "Never return evil for evil or insult for insult (scolding, tongue-lashing, berating), but on the contrary blessing [praying for their welfare, happiness, and protection, and truly pitying and loving them].... For let him who wants to enjoy life and see good days [good—whether apparent or not] keep his tongue free from evil and his lips from guile (treachery, deceit)" (*The Amplified Bible*).

Noting that God has promised to work out His plan for believers who will press in to it—a plan He put in place before we were born (Psalm 138:8, 139), she told believers in Long Beach, "That plan is your happiness. THE BLESSING is where you are called to be. Change your thoughts and habits to what God says is blessed and right. The more we are in His plan, the freer the blessings will flow to us."

Though we received that plan the instant we were born again, we have a part to play in seeing it manifest in our everyday lives, Gloria taught in Fort Worth. "You've got to actually get in there and do what the Bible says. Many times people hear the Word and agree with it, but they don't press in enough with their faith [implementing their faith and staying engaged until they receive what God has promised]."

In Milwaukee, she emphasized that the believer cannot engage in the battle of faith without right words. "The first place you look if you're not getting action is *What am I saying?* Give yourself the saying test. Mark 11:23 says, '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....' Whatever I say consistently comes to pass."

MAXIMUM RESULTS IN A MINIMUM WORLD

Giving one definition of *the fullness of THE BLESSING* as "achieving maximum results," Jerry Savelle told believers at the WCBC: "To get maximum results—God's results—you must do things God's way."

Psalm 1:2-3 describes the blessed man as the man whose "delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper [maximum results]."

Remember that God promised Isaac He would empower him to prosper even in famine, Jerry reminded believers at the GLBC. "There is no better way for Christians to shine than to excel in hard times."

Throughout the 2008 meetings, Jesse Duplantis ministered

on the four words that can change anyone’s life: *Have faith in God.*

You must have faith in God to accept the promise Jesus made when He said: “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do” (John 14:12-13).

“I live according to the economic system before the Fall. That is THE BLESSING,” Jesse said. “I have been redeemed from the curse mentality.”

The way we stay in faith, is to act on what we were told to do, Creflo Dollar said in his series of messages on staying in the place of THE BLESSING. “Habakkuk 2:4 says, ‘The [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith *and in his faithfulness*’ (AMP). Every enemy attack is on staying faithful.... Faithfulness is doing what you were last told to do. If you are not doing it consistently with discipline, you won’t see the end of your faith—the manifestation, the results.”

At the WCBC, Keith Moore ministered from Romans 4:12 on the steps of faith, “A step is not a flying leap. It is a step. It may not look like much, but it is how you got [to this meeting].

“In the end the only thing that will matter is did you do what He put you here to do. You are a one-of-a-kind part of God’s creation, put here to do what He put you here to do.... It takes steps of faith to stay in God’s plan. He is a faith God, and He expects you to walk by faith.”

Then, at the GLBC, Keith exhorted believers to choose words of strength instead of weakness: “God did not say *try to be* strong. He said *be* strong. He would not have said it if you could not do it.... There are always reasons to believe it can’t happen for you, here, now. Now is the best time. The darker it is, the more God shows up!”

Also in Milwaukee, Bill Winston challenged believers: “We need a strategic, kingdom download of a new way of thinking.

“Provision-mindedness keeps us from fully developing the vision and calling of God—we go out of the Garden to get provision,” he said. “You were never designed to bear the burden of your own provision. God provided. All man had to do was gather it. The world is a system of getting provision apart from God.”

MADE WHOLE IN THE BLESSING

At each Victory Campaign and Believers’ Convention during the year, numbers of believers attending Healing School testified to receiving healing. Many of those healings occurred as words of knowledge were given or teaching and exhortation went forth.

At the WCBC Healing School, Brother Copeland gave

a word that there was a concentrated move of God in the ears of those in attendance, as well as those listening over the Internet—everything from inner-ear damage, to infection, to damage from being exposed to loud noise.

One woman from California, who was having trouble hearing the messages because of ear problems, reported that the instant the word was given she began to hear clearly. A woman from Washington received healing from ringing in her ears which she’d had since falling three years earlier.

In Fort Worth, Brother Copeland, who had a word concerning healing of spines and backs, placed his hand on Gloria’s back and declared healing in that area on other peoples’ bodies. Instantly a believer from Virginia, who had come believing for healing from an automobile accident, began to feel heat where she was injured. She was delivered from all pain and had restored flexibility where she had had a spinal fusion.

At the same moment, an Oklahoma woman suffering from seven bulging discs in her neck and lower back, also felt heat in her back. All pain vanished and she could once again bend over.

Numerous others testified of receiving healing after the Word was declared during the week’s sessions and at Healing School.

And at Great Lakes, in what Gloria called “one of the most miraculous healing lines we have ever had,” healing testimonies abounded in the bodies of those who obeyed instruction from the Lord through Gloria and Brother Copeland to release those they held in unforgiveness.

“Faith works by love,” Gloria said in preparing the congregation to receive healing. Love is our commandment. “Many people are sick because they are in unforgiveness. Forgive if you have aught against any. If someone did you wrong, pardon them.... If you want your prayers answered, forgive other people their offenses and trespasses.”

“The same anointing that forgives, heals,” Brother Copeland shared. “When you release that anointing toward them, that same anointing is released in your body. You can’t release it one way and not release it another...the forgiving flow is the healing flow.”

While believers were continuing to celebrate changed lives as they activated the Eden way of thinking and doing, expectation continued to build for the 2009 meetings season. With a schedule that includes spring meetings in Brisbane and Sydney, Australia, believers looked forward to further training and impartation—to carry out on behalf of the world, THE BLESSING promise given to Israel in Isaiah 51:3: “For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody.” VICTORY



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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 Campaign
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

Fort Worth Convention Center | 1201 Houston St. | Fort Worth, TX 76102

Prayer Mountain Conference
October 26-November 2

Hilton Convention Center | 200 E. Main St. | Branson, MO 65616

Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign
November 12-14

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



Finding the truth in God's Word that applies to exercise and good food empowers your faith, and transforms the way you think.



Empower Your Faith to impact Your Fitness

BY MARTY
COPELAND

It's January, the beginning of another new year, and almost every supermarket magazine is featuring articles that share: "Ten ways to drop 10 pounds and achieve your new year's weight-loss resolutions." Well, if you've been there, done that and had to buy a bigger T-shirt this year, that's OK, because the power to attain successful weight loss and higher fitness is not in the secular magazines—the power is in the Word of God.

If you truly want to transform your body in 2009, you'll first have to transform your spirit through the Word of God. Do you want to go *from faith to fit* this year? Great! Then here are eight keys to unlock the mysteries of God's wisdom concerning supernatural weight loss and higher fitness, and these principles are guaranteed to bring victory.



“Choose life instead of overeating and a sedentary lifestyle. Choose life, and God will help you.”

Key 1: Gain knowledge. If we want to have success in anything in life, we must seek knowledge about that situation. And the most important knowledge is found in the Word of God. To gain victory in the areas of weight loss and healthy eating, I had to find out what God said about those things, and here's what I discovered: First, God showed me that healthy eating has always been His plan, according to Genesis 1:29. "And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat."

That's our recipe for healthy eating, right there in God's Word—fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and after the Flood, protein—things God created for us. Of course, that doesn't mean we're immediately going to crave a piece of fruit over a chocolate candy bar. That's why we have to train our senses to enjoy healthy food. Research shows if you eat healthy foods for an extended period of time, you can actually train your senses to enjoy healthy foods. I had to do this early in my understanding of this revelation.

One night as I filled my dinner plate with small portions, the Lord revealed to me that I wasn't eating less for the right reasons. I was eating a smaller dinner so I could have a low-fat fruit bar as my 8 p.m. treat, which I looked forward to all

day. After further inspection of that so-called healthy treat, I discovered it was almost pure sugar. That's why I craved it every night, because I had trained my senses and body to desire that nightly pick-me-up.

So, the Lord challenged me to fast that snack, sow it to the spirit and eat a piece of fruit instead, which I did for 30 days straight. At the end of that month I was proud of myself for sticking to it, so I thought I'd reward myself and have one of those low-fat treats (pretty smart, huh?). I opened the wrapper and bit into the fruit bar, and I could hardly believe it. It didn't taste good at all! It wasn't anything like I'd remembered. In fact, it tasted like chemicals. Do you know why?

Because I had trained my sense of taste to prefer healthy, unprocessed food. You can do the same!

The same principle applies to exercise. We can train our bodies to crave the high that exercise produces. Deuteronomy 30:19 says, "I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life...." Begin to choose life instead of sitting on the couch and eating a bag of chips. Choose life instead of overeating and a sedentary lifestyle. Choose life, and God will help you.

Key 2: Consistently hear God's Word. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that God's Word is alive and active. The Bible also tells us the Word of God *is* God. To know God, we have to know His Word. You see, everything comes through knowing Him. God wants you to have victory in every area of your life, but you have to get it through Him. Philippians 3:10, *The Amplified Bible*, says: "[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him...and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection...." When

we get to know God, we get to know His power. If you need supernatural power in your eating and exercise habits, you need to get to know God.

Key 3: Allow the Word of God to take root in your heart. I encourage you to read the parable of the sower found in Mark 4 and meditate on it. Basically, we want to allow God’s truth to take root in our hearts and not allow the cares of the world to steal His Word from us. Satan is after the Word because he knows your victory is dependent upon the Word in your heart.

We have to spend time in the Word of God to stay in faith and fight this good fight of faith. You have to feed your faith to be able to stand firm in the knowledge of Christ Jesus and resist temptation because there is a lot of temptation out there where healthy eating is concerned. When there is a fast-food restaurant on almost every corner, and they are all calling your name, you want to make sure you have fed your faith so you can speak the Word and resist that “Happy Meal” (which won’t make you happy in the long run) and drive on by.

Key 4: Keep your mind renewed to God’s Word. Romans 12:2, *AMP*, says: “Do not be conformed to this world (this age)...but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind....” If you want to change your eating habits and change your exercise habits, you have to learn to change the way you think about healthy eating and physical exercise. Finding the truth in God’s Word that applies to exercise and good food empowers your faith, and transforms the way you think, which will ultimately transform your life—spirit, soul and body.

Key 5: Put your faith into action. James 2:17 tells us faith without works is dead. You know, I used to get letters from people who were struggling to lose weight and they’d write, “I have been praying for three hours every day and I’m still seeing no victory in the area of weight loss. I just don’t understand....” Of course, I had compassion for these people because I had been there, but eventually I would get frustrated and say, “You need to get off your knees and get on your treadmill and walk while you pray because faith without works is dead.”

We have to put action to our faith. If you believe there is life in exercise, then you’d better put action to your faith and go exercise. If you believe there is life in healthy eating, then use your faith and eat right. I know you’re going to make mistakes—we all make mistakes—but this is about deciding the Word of God is true and having the faith to walk it out. Here’s the good news: As you act in faith, you create habits. It may be hard to make yourself exercise the first few

weeks, but eventually exercise will become a regular part of your life. Ask God to help you be faithful in this area. That’s what I do, and it works.

Key 6: Stay in love. Faith works by love, which tells us we have to walk in love in order for our faith to effectively work. That means we need to forgive ourselves when we mess up, and we need to forgive others when they offend us. Allow love (God) to flow through you and watch your faith grow and activate!

We also need to stay in love because perfect love casts out all fear—that’s what God’s Word says. We no longer have to fear defeat, another setback or failed diet because we don’t have fear; we have love and faith on the inside of us, and we are more than conquerors every time.

Key 7: Don’t give up. James 1:2-3 says, “My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.” So, let patience have its perfect work. Listen, I know some of you are about to give up in this weight-loss battle. I’ve been there, and I can empathize. I wanted to give up many times but God wouldn’t let me and I’m not going to let you, either. Don’t give up! Keep feeding your faith and confessing God’s Word. Keep believing and trusting God and you’ll see the changes in your body you desire. The power of God’s Word will work in you.

Key 8: Rest in faith knowing God’s Word is powerful and working in your life. There is a rest available to the children of God. We need to tap into that rest because when we’re resting, we’re not worried or anxious. We have to trust God and know He watches over His Word to perform it in our lives. If we’re sowing to the spirit and we’re releasing our faith in our eating and exercise, we’ll see victory.

I want to remind you that when you were born again, faithfulness, endurance and self-control were put into your life. They are in you already, so let God develop the fruit of the spirit in your life, and you’ll live a life of victory and finally attain that strong, healthy body you’ve desired for so long.

This isn’t just another new year; this is your year of victory! You are on your way to freedom from the bondage of weight because Satan has been defeated, God is good, and you are equipped to win this good fight of faith. Follow these eight keys and let God have His perfect work in your life. Happy new year, and happy new you! **VICTORY**

Certified by the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research in Dallas, Texas, Marty Copeland is a personal trainer, nutritional counselor, author and minister of the gospel.

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

“All things work together for good to them that love God....”

(Romans 8:28)

Free From Asthma

Praise the Lord! Sister Gloria's Healing School has been a blessing to me. On Sept. 5, 2008, I woke up with short and labored breathing. It was the symptoms of asthma I have had since I was a little girl. I got up and gave myself a treatment. Then the Lord told me to go online and watch Healing School at the Great Lakes Believers' Convention.

As Gloria began teaching, my chest began to loosen up and my back stopped hurting. By the time service was over I was breathing normally and my back was fine—the symptoms of asthma were gone! I am healed and free from asthma. I thank God for the

I thank God for the teachings of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. They have truly been a blessing in my life.

teachings of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. They have truly been a blessing in my life.

Tanya Brooks | Clinton, Miss.



Testimony of Protection

Our young son was involved in an accident on the way to a friend's birthday party. They were all meeting at a bus station not far from our house, and he wanted to go by himself. Before he went I prayed Psalm 91 and claimed the blood of Jesus over the kids. On his way he had to cross a road and, as he was taught, went to the pedestrian crossing. While crossing the street a car came. The driver didn't notice him and didn't stop the car in due time.

The car hit him and he fell down. In the next moment a lot of excited people stood around the car. Normally when our kids are in trouble we pray with them. But there were no believers around him. Our son stood up and calmed the people around him—he knew Jesus was with him. A few minutes later he noticed a strong pain in his arm and leg. He commanded the pain to leave his body in Jesus' Name and all the pain left immediately.

So they had a great birthday party. When he came home there was only a little blue spot on his knee and some black oil on the leg of his shorts. He said to me, “Mommy, when is our next healing service? I want to give a testimony.” Thank you for praying for us, our ministry and our church.

P.K.R. | Switzerland

THE BLESSING in Abundance

Recently we received Kenneth Copeland's message on THE BLESSING. We acquired a house with no money down after one month of confessing THE BLESSING. The house was less than four years old with equity already in it. Later, a friend received some money and paid in full over \$11,000 of our credit card debt. We live in the land of blessing.

E.S. | Georgia

Blessed Beyond Measure

I have been working at my current job for over a year and have never received a bonus. Then, I started giving to your ministry. In just one month I have received \$500 in bonuses so far! I know some of this can be attributed to new ideas that have been given to me at critical times while working. I have also experienced faith in my giving like never before and I have sensed the joy of the Lord bubbling up out of my spirit prior to my giving.

Thank you for being great soil to sow into. I know this is a God thing and your simple obedience to the call has made all the difference.

C.P. | Texas

Hearing Restored

I recently wrote to you about my situation and received some materials about healing. I have listened, read and prayed continually. I went to my audiologist and she reported that I have regained over half of my hearing. Praise the Lord!

S.R. | Arkansas

I'll Never Be the Same

Thank you for all your ministry has sown and invested into the Body of Christ and into me personally. I attended the Bournemouth Victory Campaign with my family and we have all been forever, irrevocably transformed by the power of the uncompromised Word of God. Hallelujah!

My hunger for the Word and the presence of God has increased and I have learned to shut the devil down when he comes at me with worry and fear. I bless you and I love you.

N.O. | United Kingdom

God's Provision—Right on Time

I called the prayer line two days before my tuition was due. I'd been praying and believing God for the money, but was getting discouraged. I wanted someone to stand in agreement with me. The minister praying with me said my tuition money would come from an unusual source. Two days later I went online to look at my bill and was shocked to see it was already paid by a grant! I normally would not receive grants due to my educational background, so I was blessed by this. It wasn't a mistake and I praise the Lord for His provision. He truly bestows on us out of the riches of His glory.

J.M.P. | Texas

The Lord Honors

Prayer for Salvation

After two years of praying for my husband to come to the Lord, it finally happened at the Great Lakes Believers' Convention. During one of Jesse Duplantis' services, the Lord told me my husband would be saved. Well, praise God, my husband walked up for Jesse to pray the salvation prayer with him. God is an awesome God!

Lisa Quinn Meadows | South Dakota

Released and Rejoicing

My husband was incarcerated for over 14 years. The Lord released him last year and our life as a married couple has finally begun. We have been married almost five years and he has been testifying to so many people since he has been home. I see our spirits coming together stronger and stronger every day.

I was concerned that with his felony record he would have a problem finding a job, but our neighbor gave him a job and offered to take him to and from work. Then we found out the next week the company was going a different route. That was all right because he was offered a different job only three miles from where I work. Not only can we ride together, but we are also saving on gas! The position he has was through a temporary service and was only supposed to last three days, but I'm happy to report he was hired!

To add to our happiness, my husband was given the opportunity to become involved in his son's life. His son is now 14—my husband went to prison in January and his son was born in June the same year—so he was never able to be a father to him. I am so happy our heavenly Father has blessed us! My husband has maintained his spirit, and belief in God, in love and in our marriage. He is looking forward to ministering to individuals who are still incarcerated and give them the much-needed hope they desire.

I know my husband has been involved in your ministry for many years now and it has been your letters, magazines and prayers that saw him through the last 14 years. Thank you so much. We love you! God is awesome and He is real!

Katherine Moore | Elkhart, Ind.

No More Heavy Heart

I want to thank the ministry for their faithfulness to God and all their Partners and Friends. I am a Catholic woman who started watching your program three years ago. Since that time I have been delivered from a very heavy heart and I'm walking in freedom today because of the Word of God taught through this ministry. God bless you all!
R.V. | Canada

Our Baby Is Healed and Blessed

In April 2008 I gave birth to a healthy baby girl. I had no complications throughout my pregnancy, during labor or delivery. On the day I was discharged from the hospital, the pediatric cardiologist diagnosed my daughter with severe pulmonary stenosis of the left ventricular artery. She was rushed to a medical center in Charleston, S.C., where she had to undergo arterial balloon surgery. I called for prayer and my husband and I stood on the uncompromising Word of God, despite the contrary reports we continued to receive.

The prayer warrior at KCM prayed a powerful and effective prayer based on the Word of God and she declared our daughter would live and not die, and return home to our family immediately. Our baby had no complications from the surgery, and was home within days. After being examined five months later, by the same cardiologist who had previously diagnosed her, he stated she had no heart murmur. He witnessed what we already knew. I'm glad to report that Amariah Janai, whose name means “God hears,” is healed because she is blessed! God's Word is final authority for the believer! Thank you, KCM prayer warriors. You are vessels of honor used by God. We love you!

K.W. | South Carolina

God Is Good

I called to request prayer for favor for my husband because he wanted to become a policeman. Within three weeks he had an interview and he is now going to be a policeman. God is good!

A.Z. | Canada

Our baby had no complications from the surgery, and was home within days.

Positioned for supernatural Living

There are many promises in the Word of God that deal with wealth and prosperity. And God doesn't intend for you, as a believer, to wait until you reach the "sweet by-and-by" before you can enjoy them. He wants you to live in wealth and prosperity while you're here on this earth. | But if you're going to walk in the fullness of what God has promised where natural wealth is concerned, there are some things you first need to know concerning your spiritual wealth. You're going to have to understand what your position is as a member of the Body of Christ and the authority that position carries. And you are going to have to understand the kinship relationship you have with God.

You don't have to wear your beggar's clothes anymore. You've been prepared for something special.



Not only is God your Lord, but He is your Father. And as your Father, the Bible says, He has blessed you with *all* spiritual blessings. We find that in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."

Paul wrote these words to the church he had established at Ephesus. The people there were strong in the Word, but it was the unbelievers who had all the natural wealth. Paul saw that the church needed a better understanding of their position in Christ, and their rights and privileges, so they could obtain natural wealth. When you understand your inheritance as a child of God, you won't have any problems believing God for the natural.

You'll see that you've had a total change of status. You don't have to wear your beggar's clothes anymore. You've been prepared for something special. You've been dressed and equipped for supernatural living.

Establish an Intimate Relationship

Look at that verse again. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Notice it refers to God as Father. That means God is *your* Father. And how does a father treat his children? Jesus said, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11).

That's a father's heart. He wants nothing more than to give good things to his children. He wants that because of the intimate relationship the two of them share.

Seeing God as your Father brings you into the place of spiritual wealth, where there is an inheritance waiting for you. Once you reach that place, it's no sweat getting those things you desire in the natural. Healing, long life, peace, houses, cars, land—they're all yours to have because they have already been given to you in heavenly places.

Philippians 2:5-6 says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God." Well, the Bible says we are "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ" (Romans 8:17). That means we are equal with Jesus in all that He has inherited from God the Father. If you are in the form of God, you should be thinking like God.

You can speak things out from a godly or spiritual standpoint and see them happen because your words carry power. If you are operating in faith and the knowledge and understanding of your inheritance in Christ Jesus, this earthly system has to obey you.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

As believers, we have kinship with the Father. But the Body of Christ hasn't acted much like it. We are supposed to be reigning now—on this earth! But that can only happen when we have spiritual knowledge of our position and the authority we possess—and act on it!

God has blessed us with *all* spiritual blessings, or privileges. Everything has been freely given to us, including wealth, health, peace and joy. Some people just don't want to walk in the blessings. They would rather use their own limited resources and go their own way rather than depend on the God who declares Himself their Father.

Don't be like that, because you can easily find yourself in the position of a beggar—going to God and pleading your case rather than asking, as His child, and receiving.

I get a picture of that whenever I think about that story of the blind man who stopped Jesus on the way to Jericho. He wasn't a believer, but the situation was the same. "And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging" (Luke 18:35).

That's how I see Christians who don't know their rights and privileges. They're just like



God shouldn't have to come and hit you over the head and say, "I have blessed you." He has told you over and over in His Word you are blessed with all spiritual blessings.

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.

beggars. “Oh, God, please heal me.” “Oh, God, please pay my bills.” “Oh, God, my sister is going to hell if she doesn’t straighten up. Please save her.”

Don’t Beg for What’s Already Yours

You don’t have to beg God for what He has already provided for you. He’s your Father! You have a covenant with Him that is sealed by the blood of Jesus. Healing is your right under that covenant. You shouldn’t be poor and struggling to pay your bills. Not when prosperity is promised to you in the covenant.

But let me add that living under the covenant is part of that intimate relationship you share with God. If you have faith in your relationship with Him, then you will have faith in the covenant. The Bible says, “The just shall live by faith.”

Another way of saying that is: “He who has entered into the covenant shall live by faith.”

I want to repeat something I said earlier: God is not going to let you have natural wealth until you understand your spiritual wealth. You are not someone trying to be blessed or trying to get healed. You are already blessed. Healing already belongs to you! Prosperity belongs to you! You don’t have to pay for anything. You already have cash for it—it’s called faith.

Your problem is that you don’t know how to take hold of it.

Faith in your covenant with God the Father will make a demand on what rightfully belongs to you. You are already dressed for spiritual wealth and supernatural living, because you are a child of God. Can you see that?

Don’t go to the Father like you’re trying to make Him do something. Just give Him enough passwords—through the Word—so He can legally enter into your life and bring the blessings. That’s why He gave us His Word. It’s a map around Satan’s power to control us.

You need to stop right here and say this: “I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, now. I have a right to be blessed in every area of my life. And from this day forward, I will not accept anything less. I have it now! I claim it now! It’s paid for. My name is on it. Now! In Jesus’ Name.”

Supernatural and Natural Wealth—It’s Yours!

In Ephesians 1:4 we read, “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love.” That verse says God has chosen us. In another scripture, Jesus says: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you” (John 15:16).

Do you see that? That’s talking about your natural wealth. Whatever you ask the Father in the Name of Jesus, He will give it to you. You probably thought that promise was there just for preachers. No, it’s part of the spiritual blessings that come with your covenant with the Father.

Jesus said, “If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:7). Now, listen, just because they’re called “spiritual blessings in heavenly places” does not mean they are in the heavenlies. No, they’re not out there in the sweet by-and-by. That’s where the transformer is located. The blessings are manifest right here in the earth!

Look at that verse in 1 Peter again. “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood...” (1 Peter 2:9). Did you get that? He said you are a “royal priesthood.” You are royalty.

That’s kingship! That’s why Paul said in Romans 12:2, “Be not conformed to this world.” Don’t take the shape of this world. Have a transformation “by the renewing of your mind” with the Word of God. You have to get this settled in your mind that you are a child of God, and you have rights and privileges.

You cannot go by your feelings—you have to go by your faith and the revelation you have from the Word. Say what God says about your situation. Even if the physical evidence changes for the worse, keep saying what God says. Confessing what God says about a situation will cause it to manifest. I’m not talking about parroting words that have no substance behind them. I’m talking about speaking words that are backed by God’s Word.

If you’ve ever been fishing, you can understand what I’m talking about. You’ve got your line out in the water, and that little stopper, that float, is just sitting there waiting to go under. That’s a sign you’ve got a fish on the line, you know?

Well, that’s not always the case. Some of those fish are pretty sharp. And just because that little float goes under doesn’t mean the fish has taken the bait. No, that fish is just checking you out. You think he’s hooked, and he’s just checking you out.

That’s the way the devil operates. You’ve got your faith out on the line and all of a sudden the physical evidence changes for the worse and you take your eyes off God and start looking at the circumstances. Wham! The devil’s got you hooked.

Well, don’t take the bait! Don’t fall for that trick! Flip the devil out of the water and tell him, “No, I’m not falling for that. I’m not taking that bait. I’m standing on God’s Word because I know who I am. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. I am royalty. I am blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places, and those blessings are for me now!”

Listen, you have a Father who rules, reigns, regulates and calls all the shots. Don’t let anyone talk you out of your rights and privileges as His son or daughter. If He is your Lord, and He is Lord over everything, then that means you reign with Him.

You are dressed and equipped for supernatural living, because you have been adopted into the royal family. Realize who you are, and take what rightfully belongs to you. God shouldn’t have to come and hit you over the head and say, “I have blessed you.” He has told you over and over in His Word you are blessed with all spiritual blessings.

Take what is rightfully yours. **VICTORY**

Leroy Thompson Sr. is pastor and founder of Word of Life Christian Center in Darrow, La. For more information or ministry materials, write to Word of Life Christian Center, P.O. Box 7, 40066 Hwy 22, Darrow, LA 70725; or call 225-473-8874.

GOD ^{is} Healing OUR LAND by Kenneth Copeland

Faith-filled words—they change things. They’ll move mountains into the sea. They’ll turn sickness into health. They’ll turn a sinner into a saint.

Faith-filled words will also take a sin-ridden nation and turn it into God’s own country.

If we, as believers, would back up the prayers we’ve been praying for this nation with words of faith—instead of words of doubt and discouragement—we’d soon begin to see spiritual resurrection.

God promised us that if we, His people, would humble ourselves and pray, seek His face and turn from our wicked ways, He would heal our land. Let me tell you, there are prayer warriors all over this country (I hope you’re one of them) who are doing what that promise requires.

But, even so, you don’t hear many people saying, “This is great! God is healing the land.” You don’t hear people speaking out by faith the promise of God. Instead, you hear them saying, “Oh my, oh my, did you hear what those terrorists are doing?” or some other destructive thing they’ve seen on television.

Listen, we need to stop preaching what the terrorists are doing and start telling what God is doing! God said He is healing this land.

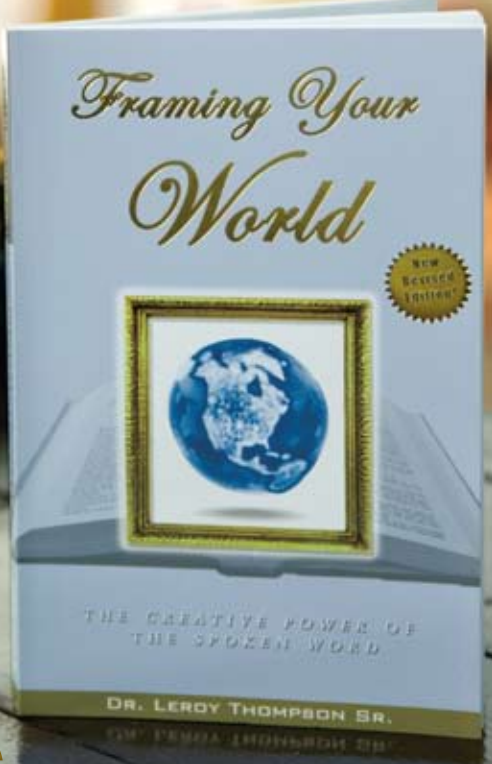
We must start speaking about this country by faith instead of going around spouting bad news all the time. Of course, that will sound odd to most people. Some of them may even think we’ve slipped a few cogs. But that’s nothing new.

Let me tell you something: One handful of believers listening to, trusting in and speaking out the good news of God is more powerful than all the devils on earth. One handful of believers is more powerful than a whole army of unbelieving doomsayers. Their unbelief will not make the faith of God of no effect!

That’s why over the last 41 years, Gloria and I have learned to turn a deaf ear to the bad news and just start praising and thanking God for His deliverance. Every word of praise we speak releases faith in our hearts.

Get determined right now—take a firm stand with Gloria and me that things are changing in this country. Settle it in your heart as you pray. Speak it out. Call it forth. God is healing the land! **VICTORY**

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PREPARING for the *Unexpected*

BY MELANIE HENRY

Bonnie Stephenson hummed as she brewed a pot of coffee and started breakfast before getting ready for church. She loved Sundays, and making her husband, Mike, a special breakfast before they worshipped together. From the day she had accepted Jesus as her Savior, at age 39, she'd known her life would never be the same. She relished every moment of her walk with the Lord.

Life in Houston was good for Bonnie and Mike. They had raised two children and now enjoyed the antics of their grandchildren. They'd reached middle age and their golden years stretched ahead with the comfort of predictability. Sighing with contentment, Bonnie poured herself a cup of coffee. Before she could take her first sip, the voice of the Holy Spirit interrupted:

Bonnie, there's something I want to tell both you and Mike.

Stunned by the unexpected words, she set her coffee cup down and called Mike into the room. Together, they prayed a simple prayer. "Lord, we believe there's something You want to tell us, and we're ready to hear Your will...."

No sooner had they finished the prayer than Bonnie heard the Lord say, *You'll fly above the rooftops like eagles and carry the gospel to the four corners of the earth. Believe Me for an airplane.*

Bonnie's eyes flew open, wide as saucers of milk. Mike looked shellshocked.

"Did you hear something from the Lord?" Mike asked.

"Yes..." Bonnie answered.

"What did you hear?"

"You go first."

It took him a minute to make his mouth form the words. "We're supposed to believe God for an airplane!"

A chill rippled up Bonnie's spine. "I know."

A Leap of Faith

"We didn't have enough money to *look* at an airplane much less *buy* one," Bonnie admits. "But we prayed, releasing our faith for a plane. That afternoon we got on the Internet and discovered there was a small airport nearby. As an act of faith, we drove there and met the man who owned the airport, explaining that we wanted to learn about airplanes.

"He enrolled us in ground-school classes which started the next day. Following those classes, Mike went on to get his pilot's license. As long as we'd been married, I'd never known that Mike's secret dream had been to fly a plane."

Although Mike enjoyed learning to fly, the cost of an airplane remained far beyond the boundaries of the Stephensons' budget. "Buying an airplane seemed impossible!" says Bonnie. "Mike has a Ph.D. in organic chemistry, and when our children were younger I worked as a schoolteacher. We enjoyed a comfortable lifestyle but we weren't rich."

Taking the First Step

Faith, however, can change everything—even finances.

Bonnie and Mike had learned that, not long after Bonnie was born again, when a friend had told her about a preacher named Kenneth Copeland whose television broadcast aired

in Houston at 5:30 in the morning. The first morning Bonnie watched the broadcast, she had been both intrigued and mystified by the message she heard, and began to watch regularly. Not long after that, Mike and Bonnie decided to partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

In the years since then, Bonnie and Mike were baptized in the Holy Spirit and had learned to hear and obey His voice. They worked at learning to live by faith, but they were just beginning to grasp that God wanted to bless His people with wealth. Believing for a better car was still a challenge for them. How would they develop faith for an airplane?

One day Bonnie went shopping with a friend. As she ran her hand over the soft leather seats of the woman's Mercedes-Benz Bonnie thought, *Lord, do You think I could ever believe You for a Mercedes?*

As though reading her thoughts, Bonnie's friend said, "Bonnie, do you know what your trouble is? You don't have a problem believing for other people, but you don't really think God wants to bless *you*."

"Her words echoed in my heart and I knew they were true," Bonnie recalls. "I knew those feelings were holding back God's blessings and I had to repent. Afterward, I did something to really stretch my faith—I prayed and asked God for a Mercedes.

"Not long after that, my daughter called and said, 'Mom, I think I found your Mercedes. It's parked in front of someone's house and has a 'For Sale' sign on it.' The car was 10 years old, but beautiful, and I bought it."

Finding Faith for Kazakhstan

Meanwhile, a job opening came up in Mike's company for someone with his training to work in Kazakhstan. The rotation would require 28 days there and 28 days at home. Mike and Bonnie prayed about it until they were both sure God wanted Mike to take the position.

Awhile later, Mike came home from work and announced, "Bonnie, we must have missed God. They gave that job in Kazakhstan to someone else."

"I don't think we should give up," Bonnie replied. "I believe God wants you in that position."

Later, a second position opened in Kazakhstan, but the company offered it to someone else. Mike and Bonnie had



In God's perfect timing, a position in Kazakhstan was created especially for Mike. With the new position came a 60-percent increase in pay.



plenty of opportunity to waver when a third position in Kazakhstan also went to someone else.

“It was harder for Mike than it was for me,” Bonnie remembers. “While I was at home in my prayer closet, Mike was at work continually confronted with the circumstances. The strange thing was they needed his expertise in Kazakhstan so much they were flying him in and out of the country in two-week stints to help.”

When the third position went to someone else, the man in charge in Kazakhstan told Mike, “We need you here, so I’m going to call your boss. If he’ll release you to come, I’m going to create a position for you.”

In God’s perfect timing, a position in Kazakhstan was created especially for Mike. With the new position came a 60-percent increase in pay. Suddenly, buying an airplane had become a possibility.

A Dream Come True

In October 2000, 19 months after God told them to believe for an airplane, Mike and Bonnie bought a new Cessna 172. Recalling the trips they made to Branson, Mo., during that time for the annual Prayer Mountain in the Ozarks meetings, Bonnie grins. “The first time I took my mother and sister with me, I drove them in my new Mercedes,” she says. “The second time we flew up in our Cessna.”

Mike quickly learned another reason God wanted him to have an airplane.

Every other month when he was home from Kazakhstan, Mike volunteered with Angel Flight, a ministry of pilots who, at their own expense, fly sick patients around the country for medical care. One patient in particular who touched Mike’s heart was a little girl with a cleft palate. She always requested Mike to be the pilot during her flights from Hot Springs, Ark., to Galveston, Texas, where she underwent numerous surgeries.

After three years with Angel Flight, Mike traded up for more air power. He sold the Cessna 172 and bought a Cessna 182 with a turbo engine.

The Dove House

While Mike fulfilled his dream of flying, Bonnie was nurturing a dream in her heart, too. For years, she had felt the Lord wanted her to own a bed and breakfast. In July 2001, while driving through her hometown of Arcadia, La., Bonnie noticed one of her favorite houses was for sale. A turn-of-the-century, cottage-style house, it oozed with charm.

Three months later when she was back in Arcadia, Bonnie called the realtor and asked to see the house. It needed extensive repairs, including new wiring and plumbing. But as she stood in one of the bedrooms, Bonnie heard the voice of the Lord: *This is your bed and breakfast. I will restore all the people who come here.*

“I talked it over with Mike and we put a contract on the house,” Bonnie recalls. “We had planned to borrow \$250,000 to buy and restore it, but we got a shock when Mike was told his company was retiring him! On paper we had no income, so we didn’t get the loan. Worse, someone else bought the house.”

Standing Firm

After Mike retired, he and Bonnie realized they didn’t have peace that his job in Kazakhstan was complete. Instead of accepting the verdict, they settled around the kitchen table and took Communion, renewing their covenant vows with God. “Lord, we don’t feel a

release from Kazakhstan,” they prayed. “So we’re standing for the job until the mission is completed.”

Start your own company and go back to finish the work.

With those instructions from the Lord, Mike founded M.T. Stephenson and Associates. After missing only one month of work, he flew back to Kazakhstan—to the same job, working from the same desk.

Bonnie continued to stand in faith on the word the Lord had given her as well, refusing to be moved by contrary events.

“I realized that since God had told me the house in Arcadia was to be a bed and breakfast, I couldn’t let my faith waver even though someone else owned it,” she says. “So I named each room and bought antique lace and old china. I planned every detail of the business and bought what I would need, certain that someday it would be mine.”

A year went by...then two years...then three. It was hard to stay in faith when another woman had settled in and made the house hers, but Bonnie stood. A fourth year passed, and then a fifth.

God’s Plan Revealed

“After five years, I was going to Arcadia for a visit when I saw the same vision three times. Each time, I saw myself ringing the doorbell to that house. I decided to act on the vision and called the woman who owned the house to introduce myself. She invited me over and soon I stood on the front porch and rang the doorbell. The owner was a lovely woman who had restored the house to its former glory. She’d done almost everything I’d listed in my prospectus, including replacing the wiring.

“As we walked downstairs she said, ‘And now I’m ready to sell it.’ She went on to say that her husband had suffered a lingering sickness for 10 years and somehow as she restored the house she had been restored herself.”

This time Bonnie and Mike didn’t bother with a lender—they paid cash for the house. After adding a bathroom to each bedroom, Bonnie opened The Dove House Bed and Breakfast. In early September 2008, evacuees who had fled their homes in the wake of Hurricane Gustav filled The Dove House.

Bonnie made fresh coffee and cooked for a houseful of people. She listened to their stories and encouraged them. She knew something they might not understand. They had been drawn to The Dove House by an unseen hand. There, with the sweet aroma of fresh coffee, quiche and French toast, inside a 106-year-old house, God was restoring them.

“Our lives are so full and rich,” Bonnie says, “and I know we wouldn’t be living our dreams if we hadn’t become Partners with KCM. All the anointings from their ministry have been passed on to us. We reap all their rewards, even the prophet’s reward!”

Today, while Mike and Bonnie Stephenson own a home in central Texas, Mike often does business in Houston and Bonnie runs the bed and breakfast in Louisiana. It wouldn’t work at all if they didn’t own a plane. But, of course, the Lord knew that from the beginning. That’s why, on a predictable Sunday morning eight years ago, He prepared them for the unexpected and said, *There’s something I want to tell you....*

The Stephensons will be forever glad they listened and responded in faith. **VICTORY**

Partnership Prepares You!

Mike and Bonnie Stephenson both had big dreams!

Although God fulfilled their dreams by means they never expected, they know their partnership with Kenneth Copeland Ministries prepared them to cooperate with God when He spoke to them.

Mike and Bonnie have learned how to reap the rewards God had prepared for them! They have received their dreams by faith. They both know being partners with a ministry that would dare to believe God with them is key to anyone who has dreams yet to be fulfilled. Is that you?

Kenneth Copeland Ministries is here to join you in faith as you step out to live the dreams God has prepared for you. We would love to hear God has spoken to you to partner with us!



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gospeltrain

It's **amazing to realize** Jesus left the glory of heaven to come down to earth to reach man with God's love. The Bible tells us He preached to the people everywhere—on hillsides, in houses, even on boats. Jesus demonstrated that the life of every person is important—no matter what the cost to reach him or her.

And not only that, He expects us to be of the same mindset. "Go ye into *all* the world," He commands, "and preach the gospel to *every* creature" (Mark 16:15).

From America's beginnings, Christian missionaries have taken that commission literally. Using every means available, they have carried the good news of the gospel to the common man. Early preachers and missionaries traveled on foot, on horseback and by wagon to reach people in wild and remote places.

By the 1890s, the railroad connected the country as never before. This resource provided a great opportunity to reach more people with the gospel. The railroads agreed to allow Sunday services to be held onboard. It was just a glimpse of things to come.

Churches on Wheels

Migrant workers, who were literally building America, had been more or less forgotten by mainstream religion. By night they huddled together in tents or makeshift shacks. By day they poured out their lives to lay the tracks and build the factories that were making America a new world of promise. But God never lost sight of these people—and He loved them enough to make sure they would hear His good news.

Innovative missionaries had railroad cars converted to chapels on wheels. This novelty was a great drawing card for the curious. Music from phonographs and records donated by Thomas Edison added to the appeal. Not every community could build a church, but thanks to the rail cars, the church could come to them.

As the rails and workers moved forward, so did saloons, gambling houses and everything that came with them. A dark, godless atmosphere often prevailed in desolate areas not yet reached by the gospel and "civilization." As chapel cars rolled into towns, many lives were rescued from the immorality and lawlessness that had earned the "Wild West" its name.

Colored light streamed through stained-glass windows as waves of organ music invited the empty and hurting to come and partake of God's love. Chapel cars became a welcome sanctuary both to the lost and also to believers starved for Christian fellowship on the lonely frontier.

Of course, there was opposition, at times punctuated by vandalism and even arson. But determined missionaries who dared endure the hardships saw their efforts rewarded. As scores of souls came to the Lord, permanent churches and communities were birthed along the frontier and a new stability was born.

America's Chapel-Car Era Begins

The idea of using railroad cars as chapels was not new, but it

was new to America. Over time it has become unclear who first promoted the concept here.

When Episcopal Bishop William D. Walker of North Dakota visited Russia, he saw chapel cars in operation. In 1890, he had a Pullman car converted and it became known as "The Cathedral Car" or "Church of the Advent." This chapel car is reported to have traveled more than 70,000 miles over a decade.

A chapel car was outfitted like a church, with seats or pews, an altar, an organ, a pulpit and sometimes even a baptistery. It was adjoined by a small living quarters for the missionary.

Others who caught the vision of using railroad cars as chapels were Baptist Sunday school superintendent G.H. Herrick and the Rev. Boston W. Smith of Minnesota. Following the success of a Sunday school held in a borrowed, sidetracked rail car, the Baptist Publication Society funded the construction of "Evangel," the first Baptist chapel car. Dedicated in 1891, it was Smith's dream. He and others found favor with the railroad, which transported their chapel cars free of charge for a number of years.

The Baptist Publication Society provided Bibles and Christian literature in 17 languages. Attendees were grateful these publications were distributed at no cost. Equally amazing was the "come as you are" invitation of another Baptist chapel-car missionary. To the unwashed, working people, this demonstrated how much God really did care about them.

As the Baptists and Episcopalians continued building chapel cars, they were soon joined by a third denomination. In 1905, Father Francis Clement Kelley helped found the Catholic Extension Society. Their first chapel car, dubbed "St. Anthony," was put into service in 1907.

America's chapel cars were funded by the contributions of ordinary people as well as wealthy benefactors such as Cornelius Vanderbilt, John D. Rockefeller and others. Eventually the Episcopalians had three cars, the Catholics three and the Baptists seven.

A Changing World

Chapel cars continued to carry ministers up and down America's rails until new regulations during two world wars were instituted that affected rail travel. Transport of troops and supplies became a priority. The advent of the automobile also made churches more accessible and chapel cars less necessary.

The era of America's chapel cars eventually came to an end, but they had forever changed the nation's spiritual landscape.

Jesus taught us that every person is worth reaching. It's up to each of us to do our part and see that His command to "go ye" and reach "every creature" is carried out—by whatever means possible. **VICTORY**

HIS STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT in your weakness

BY GLORIA COPELAND

As we've already seen, taking just one step of faith—as the Israelites did when they stepped into the Jordan River on their way to the Promised Land—can connect you to God's Master Plan. That first step is vital and exciting. But if you want to stay connected with God's plan, that first step must be followed by a second...and a third...and a fourth...it must lead to a walk of faith that continues every day through big things and small. Whether you realize it or not, you are constantly connecting or disconnecting from **God's Master Plan.**

As I've ministered to believers over the years, encouraging them to find and follow God's plan for their lives, I've noticed many people start out strong. When they first hear God's Word and begin to grasp His will for their lives, they start taking bold steps of faith. Often, God confirms His Word to them by moving supernaturally in their lives right away. He'll roll back a sea of impossibility like He did for

the Israelites, or miraculously provide for an urgent need—or open a door like He did for Ken on his first day at ORU (Oral Roberts University). Encouraged by the evidence of God's faithfulness, those believers take more steps of faith and, for a while, all goes well.

Then the unexpected happens. Maybe some things go wrong and they become angry or frustrated. Maybe they

experience a delay and something they’ve believed God for takes longer to come to pass than expected. Maybe God asks them to do something they feel totally unable to do, or maybe they just don’t *want* to do it.

At times like that, it’s tempting to draw back and disconnect from God’s plan. But the Bible directs us not to do that. In Hebrews, a letter originally written to believers who had encountered unexpected difficulties, it says:

Do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: “For yet a little while, and He who is coming will come and will not tarry. Now the just shall live by faith; but if anyone draws back, My soul has no pleasure

in him.” But we are not of those who draw back to perdition, but of those who believe to the saving of the soul (Hebrews 10:35-39, *New King James Version*).

According to those verses, God isn’t pleased when we draw back from His plan. It grieves His heart because He wants us to fulfill our destiny. What’s more, we ourselves suffer loss. The moment we disconnect from God’s Master Plan, things begin deteriorating in our lives—both inwardly and outwardly.

That’s why Hebrews 10:39 connects drawing back with *perdition*. The word translated *perdition* comes from a Greek root word which speaks of “ruin” or “waste.” Drawing back from God’s plan causes us to waste precious hours, days, months or even years we could be spending accomplishing God’s will on the earth. That’s tragic because we don’t have forever to finish

our earthly assignment. Jesus is coming back for us soon and we have work to do before He comes. Besides, our time on earth is limited. As someone said, “This may not be the last generation before Jesus comes, but for sure it’s my last generation!” We have a limited time to fulfill His plan.

Certainly, if we live according to God’s plan we’ll be the most satisfied people on earth. We’ll be the most blessed, productive, successful people around. But we don’t connect with God’s plan for that reason alone. Our motive is to obey and honor God because other people’s lives and eternal destinies depend on it and because the kingdom of God itself will suffer loss if we don’t fulfill His Master Plan.

People need to be saved, healed and delivered. As Jesus’ disciples, we must reveal Him to the world in every conceivable way, through every area of our lives. That’s our mission as Christians, and it’s an urgent one because there are people who will never see Jesus at all if they don’t see Him through us.

It is of utmost importance for every child of God to get connected and *stay* connected to the Master Plan. We simply cannot afford to disconnect. We must become aware of the dangers and deceptions the devil uses to draw us off course, and determine to conquer them at any cost.

Wanted: The Most Unlikely Candidates

As I’ve already mentioned, the major reason many draw back from the plan of God is that it repeatedly requires them to do what seems impossible. God’s Master Plan continually challenges us to do what:

- We don’t have the natural ability to do
- We don’t have the time to do
- We don’t have the money to do
- We don’t know how to do
- We don’t want to do

In the years Ken and I have been walking with God, most of the major assignments God has directed us to do initially seemed impossible. But God makes the impossible possible. He doesn’t only call the naturally gifted orator to preach His Word. He doesn’t necessarily select the most spiritual to do His work. And I know He doesn’t just call the richest people to build His kingdom.

Again and again, when I’ve spoken to ministers, I’ve asked for a show of hands to indicate whether any had ever had money in the bank to accomplish what God told them to do when He first spoke to them about it. I don’t think I’ve ever seen a hand go up. Why, Ken and I had nothing but debt when we heard His call.

Many people with no money are called to do expensive things for God’s kingdom. Naturally shy, quiet people like me may be chosen to stand up in front of thousands of people and preach. God has to take what He can get when He has a job to do in the earth. Sometimes, He calls the most unlikely candidates. But not to worry—He plans to do the work *through* them. He looks for a willing vessel, not a perfect one. You don’t need natural ability to accomplish God’s work. He just requires grace, faith and obedience.

It shouldn’t really shock us when we find we’re not naturally equipped to do something God is asking us to do. From God’s perspective, He can use anyone who is willing to answer His call and walk it out step by step in faith—totally dependent on Him. We might as well stop being fearful each time we face the impossible and start getting used to it! God has not given His children a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).

God called the Israelites to do the impossible again and again. After they put their feet in the Jordan River and watched God roll back the water, they walked across on

Kenneth Copeland Ministries’ mission is to preach the uncompromised Word

from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around, using every available voice. This includes offering the written Word in a variety of languages so people everywhere can hear God’s victorious plan for their lives...without a translator.

Through partnership, our worldwide offices are working hard to make the books Kenneth and Gloria Copeland write available in diverse languages.

Our Australian office prints books in Chinese for hungry Christians in China’s underground church. To date, titles include: *Freedom From Fear, From Faith to Faith, God’s Will for You, Now Are We in Christ Jesus, Welcome to the Family and Your Promise of Protection*.

KCM Canada is excited about the powerful release of *Le Triomphe de la Foi*—the French version of *From Faith to Faith* which KCM Africa translated, printed and distributed to the offices in Canada and Europe. Additionally, KCM Africa has the following titles available in Afrikaans: *Die Krag van Geregtigheid (The Force of Righteousness), Welkom in die Familie (Welcome to the Family), Noudat One in Christus Jesus Is (Now Are We in Christ Jesus), Liefde: Die Sleutel tot Jou Sukses (Love: The Secret to Your Success)* and *Hoe Om die Bybel te Bestudeer (How to Study the Bible)*.

KCM Europe has more than 70 German-language books available, including *Die Geheimnisvolle Gegenwart*—the first KCM children’s product in another language (Superkid Novel #1—*The Mysterious Presence*). They also have several books available in French including *L’Amour: Le Secret de Votre Succès (Love: The Secret to Your Success)*, in Italian including *Liberi Dalla Paura (Freedom From Fear)* and one in Dutch: *Uit Geloof tot Geloof (From Faith to Faith)*. And they stock many Spanish titles including *Usted es Sanado (You Are Healed)*.

KCM Ukraine is on the cutting edge of translating our books into Russian. In fact, they’ve sent out more than half a million Russian-language books to churches and individuals. And the number continues to grow!

But that’s not all—our U.S. headquarters not only prints books in English, but also in Spanish, and we’re constantly seeking new ways to make more of our materials available in a variety of languages.

There’s no question about it: Kenneth Copeland Ministries is an active ministry, reaching all four corners of the globe with the message of hope...the message of faith...the message that one word from God can change your life... forever! **VICTORY**



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It is of utmost importance for every child of God to get connected and stay connected to the Master Plan.

We simply cannot afford to disconnect.

dry ground to the Promised Land. But they didn’t get to relax and take a vacation. They had to continue on assignment after assignment, including conquering Jericho—something they were naturally unable and totally unequipped to do.

Jericho was completely protected by impenetrable walls. The Israelites had no way to get in. Had they been looking at their own ability, they would have thrown up their hands and said, “Forget this! It can’t be done. There’s just no way.” As a result, they wouldn’t have enjoyed the victory God wanted to give them.

Sadly, that’s exactly what happens to far too many believers today. They let their own natural thinking rob them of the fullness of God’s blessing. They forget that 1 John 4:4 (*NKJV*) says, “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.” They forget the Greater One within them “is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20, *NKJV*). Instead of focusing on the supernatural abilities of God, they fix their eyes on their own inabilities, disconnecting themselves from God’s Master Plan.

When the Israelites went into the Promised Land, they didn’t make that mistake. They dared to believe that God was mighty and able to do for them, and through them, all that needed to be done. They encouraged themselves in Him and prepared to accomplish the impossible. How did they do it?

First, they remembered their covenant with God.

Second, they waited on Him until they received His instructions.

Third, they kept marching forward by faith.

Doing those three simple things kept the Israelites connected to God’s Master Plan. It turned them into the most victorious nation of overcomers the earth had ever seen. And since they are our examples, we would do well to study and follow in the footsteps of their success.

First, Remember Your Covenant

Joshua 5 tells us the first thing the Israelites did after crossing the Jordan River and preparing to conquer the Promised Land was to circumcise all the men who, because of their wilderness birth, had not been circumcised. To new covenant believers, that might seem like just a religious ritual. But to the Jews of that day, it had a deep, spiritual meaning.

Circumcision was first instituted when God made covenant with Abraham. (See Genesis 17:10-11.) It was the sign of the Jews’ covenant with God. It qualified them to receive all His promised blessings and benefits, and gave them confidence that He, in all His omnipotence, would back them in every battle

and empower them to take the Promised Land.

The uncircumcised condition of the wilderness-born Israelites indicated their heritage of Egyptian slavery, and 40 years of wandering had dimmed the memory of their divine covenant and left them feeling weak and defeated. But Joshua 5:9 says when they were circumcised on the west bank of the Jordan River, God said “This day have I rolled away the reproach of Egypt...” (*The Amplified Bible*). By re-establishing the sign of their covenant, God severed them from the slavery mentality they’d developed during their years of bondage and reminded them that they were truly the chosen people of God. They were covenant people!

To understand what all that has to do with us as New Testament believers, consider this: The Old Testament rite of circumcision is a symbol of the New Testament reality of the new birth. The new birth does for us spiritually what circumcision did for the Israelites naturally. It puts us in blood covenant relationship with God and gives us access to the wealth of His divine resources. It makes us part of a chosen race of people who belong to God.

Our faith in Jesus sets us apart from what we used to be and makes us new creatures in Christ—the Messiah, the Anointed One. It *spiritually* circumcises us. We are reborn in our spirits as children of the Most High God. How exciting is that? We become children of the *truly* royal family—the first family! The New Testament itself verifies this. Speaking to us, as believers, it says:

In Him [Jesus] you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the hand-writing of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:11-15, *NKJV*).

Once you’re born again, you’re no longer just a weak, ordinary human being. You’re a new creation in Christ Jesus with His life, His nature and His ability. Next time you feel

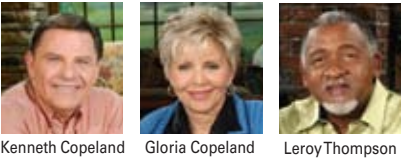
weak and inadequate to do what God is calling you to do, remind yourself that He is in you. Remind yourself that through the new birth, your old, inadequate, sinful self has been done away with and you’ve become a covenant child of Almighty God. “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4, *NKJV*).

Remember that Jesus Christ Himself, who defeated every power of hell and conquered every impossibility, is living in you. Open your mouth and declare, “Greater is He who is in me than he who is in the world!” and shake the reproach of Egypt off *you*. **VICTORY**

(This article is an excerpt from Gloria Copeland’s *New York Times Best-Seller*, *God’s Master Plan for Your Life*.)

Believer’s Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

January



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4	5	6	7	8
Kenneth Copeland Take a Step Higher Discover how God wants to bless us so we can bless others.				
11	12	13	14	15
Gloria Copeland Becoming Good Ground for the Word See how receiving the Word and letting it take root in your life will prepare you to receive all God has for you.				
18	19	20	21	22
Kenneth Copeland Love Is a Commitment Make a commitment to love, and spend time in the Word every day. See it change not only <i>your</i> life, but the lives of those around you.				
25	26	27	28	29
Kenneth Copeland Grounded in the Love of God Know and truly <i>believe</i> the love God has for you—and see what life is like without limitations!				
31	1	2	3	4
Anointed Hands Are Full Hands Kenneth Copeland and Leroy Thompson continue their discussion on walking in God’s favor, and how it empowers you to share His love by blessing others.				
11	12	13	14	15
You Are a Masterpiece With a Master Plan God is guiding you every day. Gloria Copeland shares what happens when you connect with His Master Plan for your life and seek Him first. (Encore broadcast)				
21	22	23	24	25
Staying on Course With God’s Plan and Purpose Gloria Copeland continues her series, sharing how everything changed for Kenneth and her when they put God first and gave themselves completely to Him. (Encore broadcast)				

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