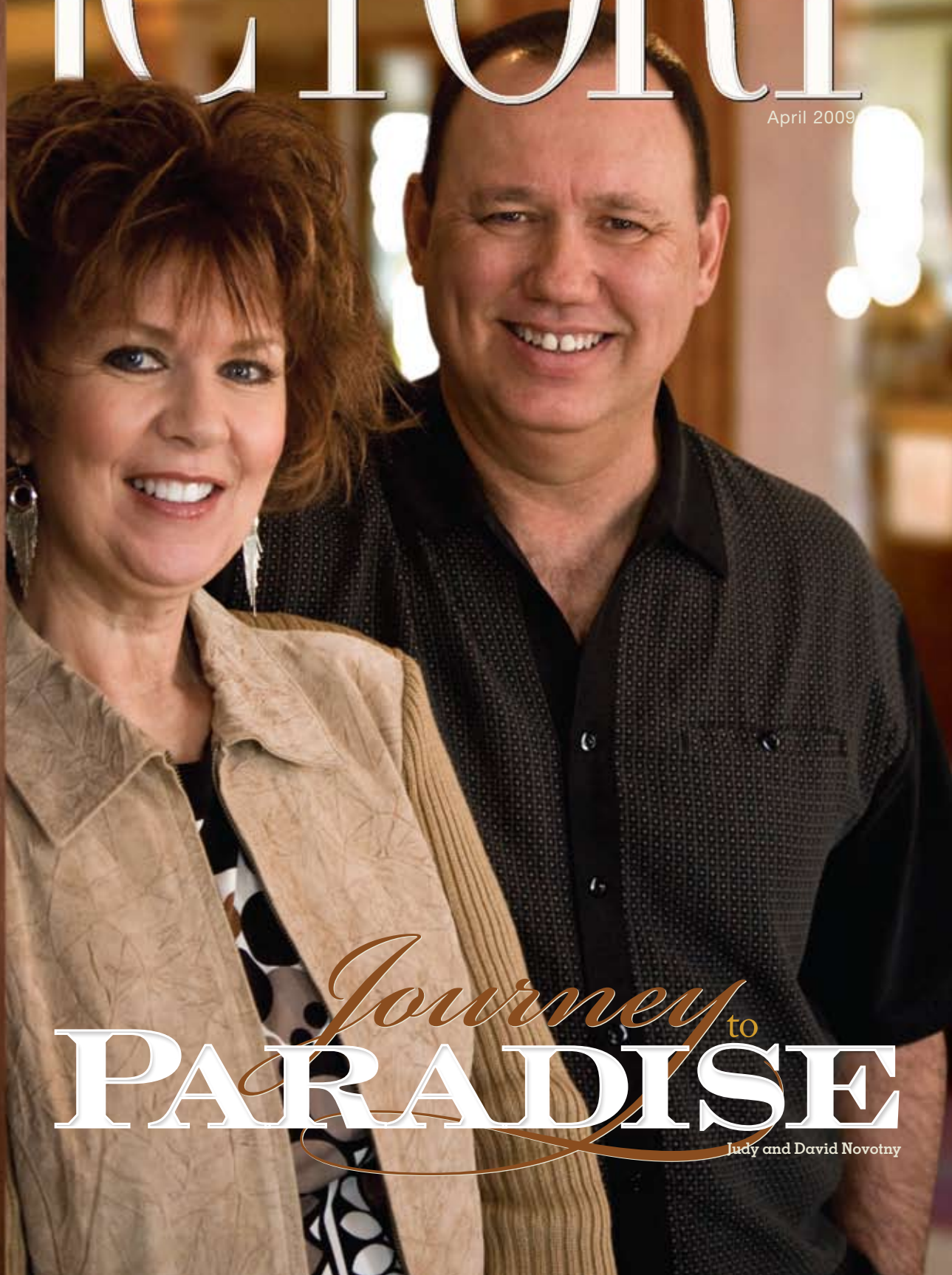


Believer's Voice of



VICTORY

April 2009

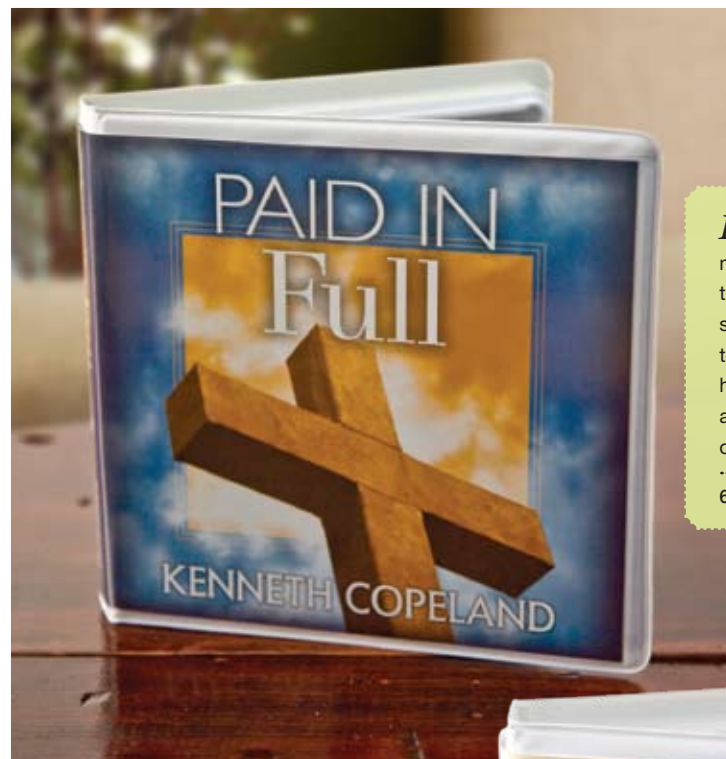


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When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 36 years 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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Fear causes people to do stupid things. >> That’s an important fact to remember right now, especially when it comes to finances. With every so-called expert crying doom and gloom, using words like *recession* and *depression*, people are doing the dumbest things you can imagine. >> They’re selling stocks in a panic at just the wrong time. They traded perfectly good cars for motor scooters, not because they enjoy riding motor scooters but because they’re scared of the cost of gasoline. Then gas prices fell and so did the value of the scooters.

Even some born-again, Bible-believing Christians are letting fear convince them to stop tithing and cut back on their giving to save money. I say this in the love of God, with great tenderness and a desire for every brother and sister in Christ to prosper: Holding back the tithe and getting selfish with your money in a time of economic trouble is like jumping ship in the middle of a hurricane in an effort to escape the storm. It is not a smart thing to do.

“But Brother Copeland, I can’t afford to be a giver right now. I have a mortgage that’s more than I can afford and I just got laid off from my job. My financial situation is hopeless.” No, it’s not.

If you’re a born-again child of God, you are never without hope. No matter how bad things look in the natural, you have hope in every situation because THE BLESSING of Abraham has come upon you through Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:14).

I realize you may not look or feel very blessed right now, but that doesn’t change the Word of God. His promise to provide for and prosper you still stands, and He desires you to be so certain of it, He “confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast” (Hebrews 6:17-19).

**Nobody Can Curse
What God Has BLESSED**

Notice those verses tell us that hope is something we as believers already have. It’s not something we’re trying to get. Hope was sown in our hearts (along with faith and love) by the incorruptible seed of the Word of God when we made Jesus the Lord of our lives. Our job is to *lay hold upon the hope* we’ve been given. And since the source of that hope is the promise of God, we do it by going to the Bible and finding the promises that cover our situation.

“What if I don’t know where in the Word the situation is covered?”

Ask God to show you. Say, “Lord, this is my situation and I need to know what You’ve said about it in the Word.” Then turn off the TV, shut your ears to all the mess the news media is spouting, and start digging in your Bible. Study Deuteronomy 28. Find out what belongs to you through THE BLESSING and from what Jesus has delivered you by redeeming you from the curse.

Spend some time meditating on the story about the king of Moab who tried to talk the prophet Balaam into prophesying doom and destruction over the Israelites (Numbers

22). That king was scared stiff of THE BLESSING on Israel. He was so sure they were going to take over everything in sight he promised Balaam money, power and promotion, if he’d just curse them.

But Balaam said, “King, I can’t do it. It doesn’t matter what you promise me. God has already BLESSED those people and nobody can curse what God has BLESSED.”

If that was true of God’s Old Covenant people, how much more is it true of born-again, New Covenant believers! Because we are in Christ Jesus, we are the most BLESSED group of folks who have ever walked the face of this earth; and as long as we live by faith in that BLESSING, we cannot be cursed—financially, physically or in any other way.

Stop Worrying About Going Under

“I know that’s what the Bible says, but I’m still afraid I’m going to go under in this economy.”

Well, that’s simple to fix. Just stop being afraid. Anchor your soul in the hope of God’s Word and *fear not*. If you’d like to see how important it is to do that, get out your concordance and count how many times and in how many situations God commands His people not to fear.

Why is He so emphatic about it?

Because just as faith connects us to THE BLESSING, fear connects us to the curse. As I said before, fear causes people to do stupid things.

The Lord pointed that out to me some time ago when I was reading in Acts 27 about the time the Apostle Paul was on a ship that got caught in a hurricane. That story gives us a great spiritual picture of what’s happening today in the financial realm. It shows us how to lay hold of Bible hope when all natural hope is gone, and how to get through even the worst storms in peace and safety.

The story begins with Paul warning the ship’s commander and crew about the danger that lay ahead of them. He had perceived in his spirit that if they went the way they were planning to go there would be trouble. He hoped to help them avoid that trouble, so he said: “Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be



Holding back the tithe and getting selfish with your money in a time of economic trouble is like **jumping ship in the middle of a hurricane in an effort to escape the storm.**

Just as faith connects us to **THE BLESSING**, fear connects us to **the curse**. As I said before, fear causes people to do stupid things.

with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives. Nevertheless the centurion believed the master and the owner of the ship, more than those things which were spoken by Paul” (verses 10-11).

One of the things that thrills me about what Paul said there is that it proves God didn’t stir up that storm. He didn’t decide in His great wisdom to slap those sailors around in a hurricane for a while to teach them something. If that had been the case, Paul wouldn’t have warned them to steer clear of it.

Despite Paul’s warning, however, the shipmen followed their original plan and sailed right into the middle of the storm. Of course, back then there was no radar to help them get through it. There was no satellite to tell them which direction it was moving. So they sailed around in circles for two weeks. “And when neither sun nor stars in many days appeared, and no small tempest lay on us, all hope that we should be saved was then taken away” (verse 20).

In the natural, the situation was hopeless. There was no way out; no way they would ever survive that storm. But in their darkest hour, Paul stood up and declared to them the Word of the Lord:

Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss. And now I exhort you to be of good cheer: for there shall be no loss of any man’s life among you, but of the ship. For there stood by me this night the angel of God, whose I am, and whom I serve, saying, Fear not, Paul; thou must be brought before Caesar: and, lo, God hath given thee all them that sail with thee. Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me (verses 21-25).

Paul was attempting to get those sailors to transfer their hope from the ship over onto God’s promise, just like the Holy Spirit is trying to get believers today to transfer their hope from the stock market and their 401(k) over onto their covenant with God. But those men didn’t understand that.

They were probably thinking, *This preacher has lost his mind! We’re throwing stuff overboard just to stay afloat. This is the worst storm we’ve ever seen. And he’s saying “Cheer up. Fear not. God says we’re all going to be just fine.” That’s crazy talk!*

A Pinheaded Plan

To make things worse, the storm didn’t get any better after Paul’s sermon. It hammered on for days. Then, on the 14th night, they drew near to land; and with the waves still thrashing the hull of the ship threatening to break it in pieces, they checked the depth of the water “and found it twenty fathoms: and when they had gone a little further, they sounded again, and found it fifteen fathoms. Then fearing lest we should have fallen upon rocks, they cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day” (verses 28-29).

When you’re without hope in the middle of a hurricane, *wishing* won’t cut it.

“And as the shipmen were about to flee out of the ship, when they had let down the boat into the sea, under colour as though they would have cast anchors out of the foreship, Paul said to the centurion and to the soldiers, Except these abide

in the ship, ye cannot be saved” (verses 30-31).

Remember, these were seasoned sailors. They should have known better than to jump ship in a storm like that. Common sense should have told them if they couldn’t make it through those waves in an ocean-going vessel, they sure couldn’t survive in a flimsy, little skiff. But those pinheads, bless their hearts, were going to try it. They were going to jump overboard!

See what foolish things fear causes people to do?

We can’t be too hard on those sailors, though. They didn’t know anything about THE BLESSING. They weren’t believers. They didn’t realize THE BLESSING on Paul was big enough to cover them and keep them all safe, if they’d just trust him and do what he said. Paul, however, understood it quite well, and he convinced them to stay in the boat and follow God’s instructions. As a result, every single one of them made it through alive.

Prosper in a Time of Famine

It doesn’t take a rocket scientist to see how that story applies to us today. It reminds us that when storms of life hit, we’d better not jump ship. We’d better stick with the Word of God.

If we get into fear, decide God’s ways won’t work and run to the world for help, we’ll make poor decisions. Fear will cause us to devalue our own property. Fear will drive you into selling stock you bought at \$35 a share for 35 cents.

Don’t you dare do that!

“But Brother Copeland, that’s what the stock is worth right now.”

Who says so? Wall Street? You should have figured out by now that the people running Wall Street have no idea what anything is worth. Only God Almighty knows the value of your property so don’t sell it until He says so. Listen to Him and He’ll prosper you when everyone else is going broke.

If you doubt it, read about Isaac. He was heading for Egypt because a famine had hit Canaan when God spoke to him and said, “Don’t leave. Stay right where you are and I’ll perform the oath I swore to your father Abraham. I’ll BLESS you right here in this famine-stricken nation.”

Isaac believed it, sowed seed and reaped a hundredfold in the same year—right in the middle of the worst possible conditions.

It’s in times of financial crisis that the Church should rise up and do what Isaac did. We should let God show us where to plant seed and reap a harvest. We should believe Him not just for our own needs to be met, but for the

money to come through us to meet the needs of others.

We should be saying, “Lord, I’d like to help my next door neighbor. He’s losing his house. Give me some extra money so I can make a payment for him.”

You better brace yourself when you say things like that because God will answer those prayers quicker than He’ll help you pay off your own house. Why? Because He knows the seed you sow through your giving is worth more than the money. It will bring you a hundredfold return.

That’s what Jesus meant when He said, “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). Giving is the action of faith that perpetuates THE BLESSING.

All on Board!

“Yeah, but Brother Copeland, I have to conserve my money. They’re saying we might be headed for a depression.”

What if we are? God’s BLESSING ship is plenty big enough to get us all through it in style if we’ll just stay on board.

My momma and daddy proved that years ago. When they got married in 1927, just before the Great Depression hit, they put tithing in their marriage vows. They vowed before God to tithe everything He put into their hands. They didn’t know nearly as much about the Word as we do now, but they knew enough to believe that if they’d put God first in their finances and do what the Bible said, He’d take care of them through thick and thin.

He did, too. My dad never went a 24-hour day without a job all the way through that Depression. People all around him were working for almost nothing. They’d work in exchange for one meal. But my dad got good-paying jobs.


He always had gasoline for his car and we always had food on the table. Why? Because he was a tither and a sower of seed. He believed God and stayed with the program.

That’s what all of us should be doing right now. We should be laying hold on the hope that is set before us. We should be declaring right in the face of the worst financial storm we’ve ever seen, “THE BLESSING of the Lord makes me rich and He adds no sorrow with it!” (See Proverbs 10:22.)

Instead of worrying about the financial situation around us, let’s believe God to be the answer to it. In these troubled times, this gospel ship Jesus has provided for us is the only safe place to be, so let’s keep giving and sharing the good news with those who are floundering. Let’s keep calling out, “*All on board!*” **VICTORY**

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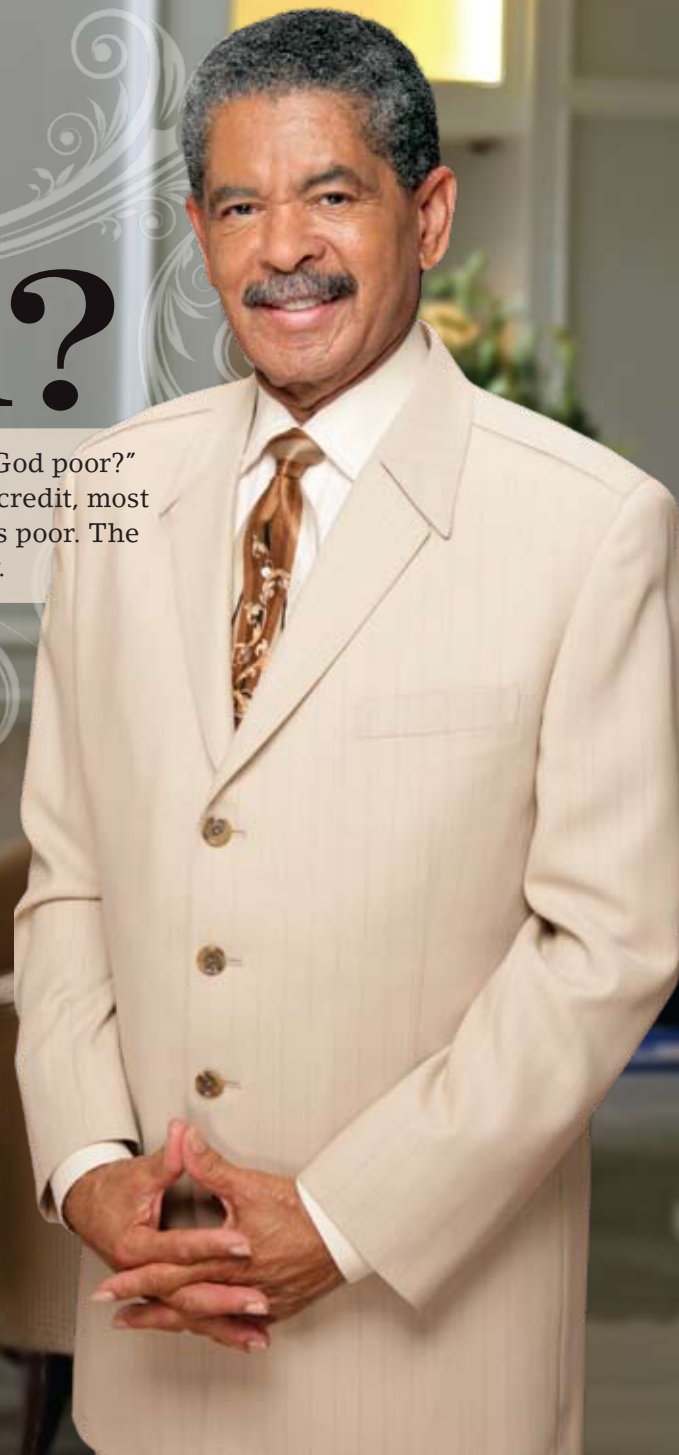
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IS GOD POOR?

It seems like a silly question to ask, “Is God poor?” It ranks right up there with, “Is God weak?” To their credit, most Christians would rightly reject the notion that God is poor. The problem is most of them can’t tell you why.



Let’s begin with the obvious: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Genesis 1:1). That means God created all the wealth that is in the earth, way back “in the beginning.” He created all the gold, all the silver, all the diamonds—all the things that have constituted material wealth through the ages. As far as I’m aware, humans have yet to come close to digging up all the earth’s gold, silver, copper, or finding all the diamonds, emeralds, rubies, and so on. Is it safe to say that

even today, for all practical purposes, physical wealth is unlimited, insofar as we cannot see the end of it?

If God created all this wealth, is it bad? What did He say when He finished His work on the sixth day? Genesis 1:31 says, “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.” Remember, this was before Adam’s sin, so at that point, all was as God had made it, sin-free, corruption-free and perfect (without blemish). It would not be incorrect to rephrase it this way,

If God created all this wealth, is it bad? What did He say when He finished His work on the sixth day?

then: “In the beginning God created gold, silver and diamonds, and said, ‘It is very good.’” All I want you to see is that God created wealth in the original sin-free world and didn’t have the slightest problem with it. Wealth, therefore—or the material manifestations of wealth that men throughout the ages have come to agree on—was not evil when it was created. It was very good.

Let’s look at this passage in Genesis a little deeper:

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was formless and empty, and darkness covered the deep waters. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters. Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. And God saw that the light was good (Genesis 1:1-4).

It’s safe to assume then that whatever God does is good and around Him can be nothing that is not good. James 1:17 reaffirms that: “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” So if it’s good, it must be from God. Since James uses the phrase “*every* good gift,” we automatically know if something is bad (in which case it wouldn’t be much of a gift anyway), it surely isn’t from God.

If we move down in the first chapter of Genesis, we come to the part where God made man:

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. 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. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day (Genesis 1:26-31).

Notice that not only was all this very good, it belonged to *man*. God gave it all to Adam. All of the earthly wealth was transferred into Adam’s hands. You could say, without question, he was the richest man on earth. If God wanted Adam to have this, then it must be acceptable for men today to have wealth.

God told David: “Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, and I will testify against thee: I am God, even thy God. I will not reprove thee for thy sacrifices or thy burnt offerings, to have been continually before me. I will take no bullock out of thy house, nor he goats out of thy folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills” (Psalm 50:7-10).

So God owns the cattle on a thousand hills. All wealth began as God’s wealth, and then it was all given to Adam as executor for all mankind.

God’s House

Keep in mind the earth was made for man, not for God. God already had a place to live. What does God’s “house” look like? We know Jesus said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you” (John 14:2). In Revelation 21:2, we get a glimpse



It’s safe to assume then that whatever God does is good and that around Him can be nothing that is not good.

of what exists in heaven. John said, “Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God....” What exactly is the New Jerusalem? Well, John tells us in Revelation 21:3, “And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people....” Among other things, the New Jerusalem is the “tabernacle of God...with men.” Put another way, this is the church, or the physical location, where God and man will physically meet on a regular basis.

I have to constantly reiterate this point: The earth was made for *man* by God, not *for* God. He obviously can come here anytime He chooses, but earth is *not* His

home. That is because the earth—even the future, re-created earth—is a physical place, while God is a Spirit. Jesus said in John 4:24, “God is [a] Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” If you look at the same verse in *The Amplified Bible*, it says, “God is a Spirit (a spiritual Being).” God is not physical and/or material. While He can make Himself physical or material, He exists in His normal form as a Spirit.

This is important for our analysis because New Jerusalem cannot be for God to live in—it is a meeting place for man and God. If New Jerusalem is not made for God—if it’s not “God’s house”—then we can assume that whatever He has, or whatever He lives in, is richer, wealthier, and nicer by several orders of magnitude than New Jerusalem. New Jerusalem is, essentially, a single room in His lavish mansion. So what is New Jerusalem like? John tells us that, too. He wrote:

And he [the angel] carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal; and had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: on the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of jasper: and the city was pure gold, like unto clear glass. And the

foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; the fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chrysoprasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst. And the twelve gates were twelve pearls: every several gate was of one pearl: and the street of the city was pure gold, as it were transparent glass (Revelation 21:10-21).

This passage is astounding, and we might not get the whole impact because of the Old English biblical language retained even in the *New King James Version*. A furlong is 660 feet, so if you adjust the terminology to miles, you see the above passage describes a city that is 1500 miles on each side, and 1500 miles high. The thickness of the wall, 144 cubits—a cubit is about one and one-half feet—is 72 yards. Each wall had 12 layers or “foundations” 125 miles high, consisting of these 12 jewels. I’m no jeweler. I don’t have one of those little glasses you put on to assess the quality of a gem. However, clearly one and one-half miles *each* just of topaz, beryl, jasper, and sapphire would constitute wealth beyond which the richest American or the Sultan of Brunei could even imagine.

We see in verse 18 the city was of pure gold. Remember, this is a city 1500 miles *square* of pure gold. Then we see there are 12 gates, and since John does not comment otherwise on it, we must assume that each gate is as tall as the wall it is attached to. Each one of these 12 gates consists of a single giant pearl. (I’d like to see the oysters these pearls came from!) Imagine a pearl 1500 feet tall!

So if we cannot see heaven—if we cannot see where God lives—we can get just a taste of it in what the Lord revealed to John about the New Jerusalem. It’s a city of such astounding, fantastic wealth that it boggles the mind of man. God is not poor.

Consider something else. Imagine the richest person you can think of (and the most recent list of worldwide billionaires puts Bill Gates of Microsoft at the top, with \$56 billion in personal wealth). Whether the billionaire in question is a Christian or not, the wealth he has acquired originated with God.

Does God Work?

Now I want to ask you a slightly different question: “When did God stop working?”

Most of you will say, “That’s easy. On the seventh day, because that’s when God rested.” And I’d guess

most of you probably think God hasn’t done a thing since that day, but you’d be wrong.

John 5:16-17 records this episode in Jesus’ life: “For this reason [that Jesus had just healed a man on the Sabbath] the Jews began to persecute (annoy, torment) Jesus and sought to kill Him, because He was doing these things on the Sabbath. But Jesus answered them, My Father has worked [even] until now, [He has never ceased working; He is still working] and I, too, must be at [divine] work.”

So much for God taking an eternal vacation! Some of you thought He was on a cruise line, just enjoying the blue water off Bermuda! No, our heavenly Father has been working since resting on the seventh day. Look at Isaiah 28:21: “For the Lord will rise up as at Mount Perazim, he will be angry as in the Valley of Gibeon, that he may do his work, his awesome work, and bring to pass his act, his unusual act.” This was not the “work of salvation” per se, but a reference to God routing the Philistines through David. Ephesians 1:19-20 says, “And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places....”

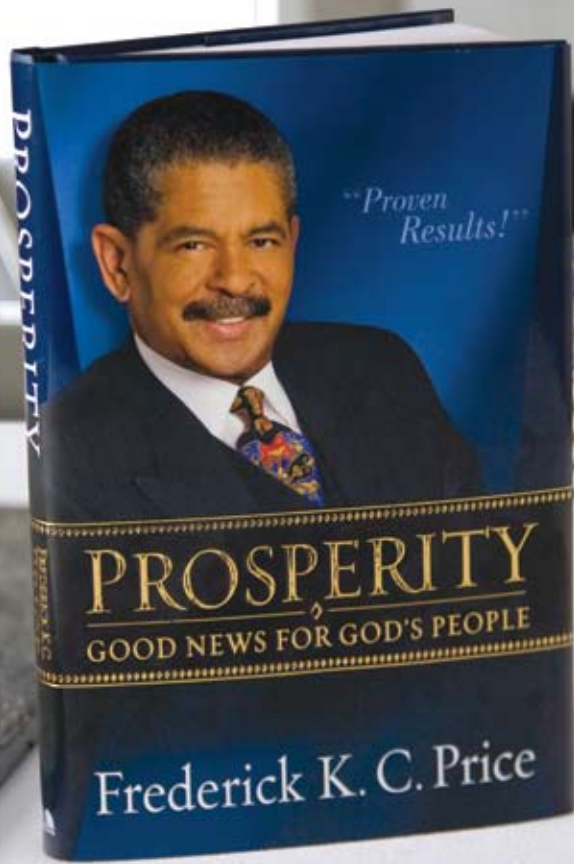
Throughout history, God has been working *with man* in completing the fullness of salvation. First, He had to find a man who would keep a covenant, and He worked with Abraham. Then He had to find a king who would be obedient, and He worked with David. Then He had to find a woman who would bear the Son, and He worked with Mary.

Now, in the new covenant, He works with us! Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:9, “For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.” You are a “fellow worker” with the Lord of the universe! For 6,000 years, at least, God has been working through His faith, calling those things which be not as though they are! (See Romans 4:17.)

God is not poor. He has created all wealth—and not just what we today call wealth, like money, stock portfolios, diamonds—but even the intangible forms of wealth such as intellect, talent and energy. **VICTORY**

(This article was adapted from the new book by Frederick K.C. Price, titled *Prosperity: Good News for God’s People*. Dr. Price is founder of the 22,000-member Crenshaw Christian Center in Los Angeles, Calif., and Crenshaw Christian Center East in Manhattan, N.Y. For more information, visit faithdome.org.)

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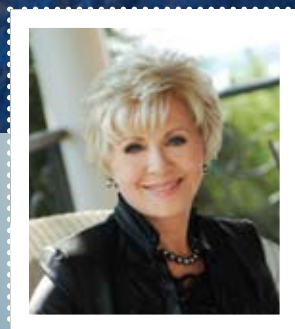
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Winners *never Quit*

At the end of your rope? Hang in there!

BY GLORIA COPELAND



Crises. We all face them at one time or another. In fact, you may be facing one today. Maybe the bank is about to foreclose on your house...or divorce papers have been served...maybe your health is failing...or your children are in trouble. You've done everything humanly possible to correct the situation. But human effort isn't enough. You need divine help.

The pressure mounts. You struggle constantly to keep from being overwhelmed by it. The scriptures that once rang triumphantly in your ears begin to grow faint. Suddenly the world, the flesh and the devil all seem to be putting the squeeze on you at once.

What can you do?

The natural thing to do is to just give up—to quit. But don't do that. Your victory may be just around the corner!

The toughest time to keep the faith is during a crisis when it looks like faith just isn't working. When the devil is throwing his best punch is when you're most tempted to throw in the towel. Don't do it! Instead, get a firm grip on God's Word, dig in your heels and hang on!

Satan knows that the Word is your key to victory. So he'll do everything he can to pressure you into forsaking

it. He'll make your circumstances appear to be more and more hopeless. He'll whisper constant lies of discouragement. He'll work hard to convince you that the promises of God have finally failed you. He knows that if you stick with the Word, you will know the truth and the truth will make you free (John 8:31-32).

God's Word is your link to victory. Whatever you need from the Lord, whether it be healing, prosperity, salvation for your family, or victory over the flesh and the devil, God has provided it for you through His great and precious promises. There will be times of crisis when it looks as though the Word won't be enough to pull you through, but God's Word will never fail you. It will pull you through even the worst situation—if you stand steadfastly in your faith.

So, instead of letting circumstances drive you away from God's Word, "Put on God's complete armor, that

you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and, having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place]. Stand therefore [hold your ground]" (Ephesians 6:13-14, *The Amplified Bible*). Don't let the devil back you down. Hold your ground.

Victory comes to every person who stubbornly believes the Word of God—*no matter what happens!* When the devil tries to scare you into running from the Word, steadfastly resist him. The Bible says if you resist the devil, he will have to flee from you (James 4:7). So hang on to the Word, and before long Satan will be the one running!

Faith and Patience

Sometimes it takes time for our prayers to be answered. That's why it takes more than faith to move the mountains in our lives. It takes patience as well. Hebrews 6:12 says we inherit the promises through faith and patience. Patience is the spiritual force that undergirds our faith so we remain steadfast while God is working out our circumstances. It's the supernatural force that makes us strong enough to persevere until the answer comes.

Contrary to religious tradition, patience is not a passive attitude that lies down and takes whatever comes. Patience is a mighty spiritual force that enables us to hold our ground in the midst of the crisis. Patience and faith working together are the power twins that produce miracles. Hebrews 10:35-36 admonishes, "Do not, therefore, fling away your fearless confidence, for it carries a great and glorious compensation of reward. For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised" (*The Amplified Bible*). Faith and patience will enable you to perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away and enjoy to the fullest measure the miracle God has promised you!

When the pressure is on and you are tempted to give in, you might think you don't have enough faith to do the job. But greater faith is not what you need, you just need to put the force of patience to work.

How do you set the force of patience in motion? The best way is to decide from the onset that no matter what happens, you are determined to win. Make a quality decision as soon as you pray in line with the Word that nothing—absolutely nothing—will be able to pry you loose from that Word. If you don't do that, you'll end up letting go of the Word when the pressure comes.

Next, be ready to recognize the tactics of the devil. Satan has no power to defeat you except to discredit the Word of God. He still uses the same bag of tricks he used to tempt Eve in the Garden of Eden. He led her to doubt God's Word. He asked, "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). In other words, "Are you sure that's what He said?" He does the same thing to you. He tries to discredit the promise of God by asking you, "Are you *sure* God wants you to be well?" "Are you *sure* God wants to deliver you?" "Are you *sure* God cares enough to save your loved ones?"

Refuse to Waver

If you don't recognize this tactic, you'll begin to wonder whether it really is God's will. And if you don't believe it is God's will, then you'll let go of your faith and give in to Satan and to circumstances. But you don't have to wonder what God's will is—His Word is His will. If you have prayed according to the Word, you have prayed directly in line with God's will. Don't wonder about it anymore.

Wondering is wavering. James 1:6-7 says the one who wavers shouldn't expect to receive *anything* from the Lord. The Word is your connection to receiving a miracle.

Satan is limited.

You are not! Victory comes to every person who stubbornly believes the Word of God—*no matter what happens!*

The devil is setting a trap for you. Don't fall into it. Hang on to the Word. When the pressure comes, refuse to waver.

The promise you need to cling to in the heat of battle is Colossians 2:15: "[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross]" (*The Amplified Bible*). Through His death on the cross, Jesus disarmed the devil and all of his cohorts. He left them powerless. The Bible says the devil goes about as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour (1 Peter 5:8), but he has been disarmed. He is a toothless lion whose roar is loud, but all bluff. Jesus called him a liar and the father of lies. So, to defeat you, he has to depend on discrediting God's Word.

Satan is a master of deception. He can make your situation look dark and hopeless. He wants to make you think there is no way out. But if you are a born-again believer, 1 Corinthians 10:13 promises there is *always* a way out: "There hath no temptation [this word also refers to a test or trial] taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted [tested or tried] above that ye are able; but will with the temptation [test or trial] also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it."

Trust God

Religious tradition has taught that this verse says, "God will let you suffer in your trial until you reach

your breaking point. Then when He is sure you can take no more, He will provide you an answer you can tolerate." But the truth is God has not left us to the mercy of the adversary. The devil has no mercy. He'll "fight dirty" just to win. But Satan can only fight with weapons that are common to man, or with natural weapons. God, however, gives you weapons that "are not carnal [or natural], but mighty through [Him] to the pulling down of strong holds" (2 Corinthians 10:4).

Arms limitation is not God's foreign policy. For every weapon the devil uses to destroy you, God produces a greater one with which to counterattack. For every stronghold of deception, there will always be greater spiritual armor placed at your disposal. Satan is limited. *You* are not! God will provide whatever you need to win. When Satan makes things look so bad you are tempted to slip into fear and despondency, remember that faith and patience working together will bring you victory. When fear pierces your mind like a fiery dart, cast it down in the Name of Jesus. Remember Satan has been disarmed and he is just trying to intimidate you into giving up. When despondency covers you like a shroud, resist it in the Name of Jesus.

Put this powerful pair to work in your life: faith—to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked, and patience—to keep you steadfast when Satan challenges God's Word. Together they'll empower you to endure Satan's pressure without surrendering to it. They'll give you the stamina to stick in there until the battle's won!

VICTORY

No Shades of Gray

BY KENNETH COPELAND

Oftentimes people associate forgiveness only with those major resentments they've been carrying against someone. But true forgiveness is also for all those "little" hurts and offenses that cause you to go out of your way to avoid someone. It's those memories that cause you to treat someone with less warmth and love because they have injured you in some way.

I'm talking about any attitude you have that falls short of the full light and love of God, Himself.

Some people don't want to give up those kinds of things. They'll say, "I love God. Glory! Hallelujah! My fellowship with Him is fine. I'm just having a tough time fellowshiping with Sister So-and-So. But after what she did to me, I just can't help it."

According to the Bible, people who say things like that are lying. They're trying to walk in darkness and light at the same time, and 1 John tells us it can't be done. Notice in the above verse, he didn't stutter. He didn't say, "Well, bless your heart. Unforgiveness is a sin, but I know how hard these things can be sometimes."

No, he said bluntly: "If you walk in darkness and say you have partnership with God, you're lying about it."

The sad thing is, many Christians who are walking in unforgiveness don't know they're in darkness. They think that because they read their Bible and say "Amen" at church, they're in fellowship with God. But 1 John 2:11 says, "He that hateth his brother is in darkness, and

walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes." A man who does not forgive is hating his brother.

"I don't hate him," you may say. "I just don't like him very much!"

How far outside of love do you have to go before it can be called hate? As far as God is concerned, just one step outside of love is hate. To Him there are no shades of gray. In His eyes, anything less than love is sin.

So make the decision today to forgive... every little hurt.

(This article was reprinted from the devotional book by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, *Pursuit of His Presence*.)

spiritual heritage

Feed My Lambs

Children are precious to God. From the very beginning, God has directed His people to teach their children His Word. Deuteronomy 11:18-20 tells us: "Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul.... And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates."

Our responsibility, however, doesn't end with our own children. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14, *New King James Version*). Jesus desires that all children have an opportunity to hear the good news of the gospel.

In 18th-century England, one man got ahold of this truth and as a result the first Sunday schools were formed to bring the message of God's love to children who had never heard it. It was life changing to them.

Many poor children worked long hours, six days a week in factories, so they were unable to go to school. Their only day off was Sunday, which they spent roaming the streets, often causing trouble.

Robert Raikes, owner of the Gloucester Journal, discovered that these children usually ended up in prison. He had visited the prisons and was appalled at the dreadful conditions. He realized something had to be done to stop the cycle of poor children turning to a life of crime because they had no direction and no hope.

In response to Jesus' command to "Feed my lambs" (John 21:15), Robert Raikes and others started the first Sunday schools where working-class children learned to read and learned the Scripture. As many young lives were transformed, the crime rate dropped.

Mr. Raikes publicized the success of the schools in his journal and gained public support. The idea of having Sunday schools took hold and soon became a movement, with Robert Raikes publishing and distributing many of the books and Bibles that were used.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN AMERICA

There is some dispute concerning the exact location of the *first* Sunday school in America. Sunday training for children had taken place at Plymouth and Roxbury, Mass., in the 1600s and later in Hanover County, Va., and other locations.

On a trip to England, Rev. William White, the first bishop of Pennsylvania, visited Robert Raikes' schools and became a promoter of the concept of the Sunday school. In 1791, he, along with Dr. Benjamin Rush, a noted physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence, and others from various denominations, came together to start the First Day Society in Philadelphia. This organization provided free religious training to more than 2,000 students by the turn of the century. From these early beginnings, the American Sunday School Union was eventually established.

Sunday school classes in America were patterned after the English schools. They took poor children off the streets on Sundays and provided moral and religious training that

would help them grow up to become responsible, productive citizens. Most important of all, the children who attended Sunday school heard the plan of salvation.

There is no price too big, no effort too great, no job too hard for God to reach our children.

—Kenneth Copeland

Some of the founders of the Sunday school movement were prominent citizens such as Benjamin Rush, but others who were not so well-known or affluent also impacted many young lives for Christ. Catherine Ferguson was just such a person. A former slave, Catherine was devastated at 8 years old when her mother was sold and separated from her. She never saw her mother again. This experience left "Katy" with a lifelong passion to help orphans and children in need. Years later she disclosed that before her mother was taken away, "She laid her hand on my head and gave me to God."

And God honored her mother's prayer. Katy's mistress took her to church and she was saved as a teenager. Eventually friends helped purchase her freedom.

Katy married and had two children who both died as infants. She was devastated, but instead of allowing her loss to stop the plan of God for her life, Katy seemed more determined than ever to minister to needy children. Many children experienced the love and compassion of God because of Katy Ferguson.

Even though she never learned to read, Katy started the first Sunday school class for children in New York City in her home in 1793. Soon a local pastor heard of her work and offered assistance, allowing the class to meet in his church where it thrived.

For more than 40 years, Katy continued to teach children and hold prayer meetings in her home. Over her lifetime, she also took in 48 poor children, both black and white, cared for them with her own limited resources, and helped relocate them to better homes. Katy was compassionate and caring and reached out unselfishly to minister to children. Her life was an example of God's love.

Through the years, ministry to children has taken many different forms. From Katy Ferguson's early Sunday school, to Commander Kellie's Superkids and Willie George's Camp Dry Gulch, Jesus is always reaching out and saying, "Let the little children come to Me...."

Each of us can play a part in reaching children with the gospel. Whether the Lord leads you to teach Sunday school, participate in prayer for children, invite a child to church, or in many other ways, you too can answer Jesus' call to "Feed my lambs." VICTORY



REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

“I have loved you, [just] as the Father has loved Me; abide in My love....”

(John 15:9, *The Amplified Bible*)

Perfect Timing

In May, my husband had a kidney stone that was diagnosed by his doctor. The doctor gave him some pills for the pain and told him to go home and wait to pass the stone—it was quite large. The very next day, just out of the blue, a woman from KCM Canada called and asked if we had any prayer needs. I gave the phone to my husband and he told her

Thank you, KCM Canada, for your perfect timing in calling us!

about the kidney stone. She prayed with him and asked God to break the stone up so he

could pass it more easily. The next day he passed the kidney stone and it was in small pieces, so it was passed just about pain free. Praise God and thank you, KCM Canada, for your perfect timing in calling us! D.O. :: Canada

God Is Faithful to His Word

In August 2007, an ultrasound I had done showed some kind of complex mass/cyst on my left kidney. The report was not 100 percent sure and suggested further tests. I called KCM for prayer with one of your ministers. A follow-up CAT scan done in October showed no mass, only a cyst on my right kidney.

I ordered Gloria's Healing Package and repeatedly read and confessed the healing scriptures every day. I also kept playing Gloria's CD of healing scriptures at night when I was in bed. Before the next test I prayed with my sister the prayer of agreement—this time believing for the cyst to be totally gone.

The follow-up test in February showed no cyst and no mass of any kind on my kidneys. God is really good and I praise and thank Him for His faithfulness to His promises.

M.P. :: Canada

We'll Never Be the Same

Thank you for your prayers! The Lord has done marvelous things. A door has opened that was not open before. I know it was your prayers, together with the Holy Spirit, that made me think a different way and find a door that opened. A breakthrough has occurred in our finances and I know we are on our way to debt freedom. May God return to you a hundredfold for what you have done for me and my wife. We are so glad we got to know Brother Kenneth and Sister Gloria and the wonderful ministry they have. Our lives have never been the same and we're so grateful to Father God for this divine connection.

R.H. :: Netherlands

Messages Bring Ministry

Thank you so much for the telephone messages that come to the Partners, either when a storm comes near the area or to remind us of meetings. Last year, Kenneth Copeland called my home via a prerecorded message. I accidentally hit the erase button. I was disheartened. So a few months ago when I received a message left by a KCM staff [member] about a storm, and the “no weapon formed against me” verse was quoted, I kept the message, and also a message from Kenneth Copeland about a nearby meeting.

I'm standing on the Word in my life. And when I'm in a battle, sometimes I play both of those messages from KCM many times a day. I love hearing Ken's voice coming into my house. It's different than watching on television. I'm making it personal. Kenneth and Gloria are my spiritual leaders. I cherish them.

M.W. :: North Carolina

The Anointing Works

I recently called the prayer line because of severe pain on the right side of my stomach. I had suffered for several days. I was healed while praying and listening to what is playing before someone answers the phone call. The anointing coming through that phone line was amazing. Praise be to God!

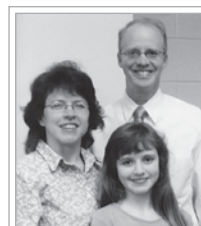
My husband and I have been Partners for so long. I couldn't begin to tell you how much you have taught us. We love you and thank God for you. May THE BLESSING continue to work in and for you!

Karen Steinhauser :: Richmond, Ky.

Healed and Declaring the Word

Thank you for your faithfulness to preach the gospel.

My husband has been in ministry since 1988 when he started as a youth pastor. In 1997, our daughter, Angela, was born. We



were so happy that we were blessed to be parents and looking forward to her arrival. When she was born, she started turning blue. The doctors thought it was her lungs, but it wasn't. She

was rushed to another hospital and for an hour fought for every breath. Angela was flown to a third hospital to have heart surgery. While there, we met someone from Eagle Mountain International Church whose mother had been in a car wreck. They were claiming Psalm 118:17, so we claimed that for Angela as well. They ministered to us, and my husband prayed that during the surgery the doctors would feel a presence other than their own and that everything would go well. After the surgery the nurse came out to report that everything went well. We had church right there in the waiting area.

Since 1997 to today your ministry has been reaching us and many others and we want to say thank you. Our daughter shared the gospel with one of the girls in her class at school and she accepted Jesus as Savior. Praise the Lord! She is living out her verse in Psalm 118:17...and declaring “the works of the Lord”! Thank you for your faithfulness to the gospel, Kenneth and Gloria! You are an inspiration to us in the ministry.

Christine Barker :: North Carolina

Set Free and Blessed

I wanted to die because my life was a living hell. I was drinking and doing drugs every moment I could. I was in a drug house and I went into a room waiting for some more drinks, drugs and yes, a woman. I turned the TV on and saw you with Gloria. I don't remember what you said, just what I saw: a man and woman who loved each other because they love God. I said right then, *I love God, not this hell*. I got up, went to church and gave my life to God. I am now blessed to be several months free of drinking and doing drugs. Thank you.

J.R. :: California

Psalm 91 Provides Powerful Protection

The day before Hurricane Ike struck Houston, I went to my apartment door to look out and I heard the voice of the Lord tell me to quote Psalm 91. He didn't tell me to quote it during the storm, but I knew that's what He meant. The storm blew in and the winds were so strong. We took shelter in the bathroom, which had no windows, and prayed in the spirit and quoted Psalm 91 over and over. The storm tore a hole in the roof causing the ceiling and insulation in the living room to fall onto my furniture, and the ceiling collapsed in the dining room. But no one was hurt during the storm. Praise God! I know Satan was determined to destroy, but I know it was because we put our trust in the Lord Jesus that we were safe.

God is an awesome God. I've found that I can trust Him to take care of me and all that belongs to me.

Linda Crews :: Texas

A Word in Due Season

I attended your meeting in China. You told us when our grandson was born, “Don't worry, it will be OK.” We were still in China a few weeks later when our grandson was born. They said there were problems: underdeveloped lungs and he needed a blood transfusion. He was transferred to another hospital and my daughter only got to see him for a moment.

I called the hospital and reminded her of the word you released to us at the meeting. Within a few days everything turned around and he is healthy now. My daughter and son-in-law took hold of the word and were not shaken or moved.

R.K. :: China

God Provides Lifesaving Protection

I am writing to let Kellie know how thankful I am she listened to God about writing the book *Protecting Your Family in Dangerous Times*. Kellie said to plead the blood of Jesus over your family every day, so I wrote the promises down on paper, so I could read them every morning before I take my children to school.

On a dark and foggy morning my two sons and I got in the van to go to school. It was very hard for me to see which lane the traffic was in. I stopped at the stop sign and looked across the road to see if I could cross. I saw a truck coming down the road, but I did not know which lane it was in. I thought because there was only one truck that it was in the slow lane, so I pulled across the road. And I heard this voice inside me say, *Stay in the median*. Before I could stop completely the truck flew past us. It was in the fast lane: the same lane I would have been in. As I sat there in shock I thanked the Lord for sending His angels to protect us, and for His blood.

Andrea Scarberry :: Wittenburg, Ky.

THE BLESSING Through Partnership

Being a Partner with your ministry is the most graceful blessing to me today. Your workbooks have proven to be effective study guides to me. I am so very glad I made Jesus Christ my Savior and Lord of my life.

I have been incarcerated for the past 19 months. And I have learned God has a plan for me here. I asked Him for wisdom, prosperity and courage and have received them all, along with tools from the minibook *Freedom From Fear*. This truly is the year of THE BLESSING. Grace is everywhere like the oxygen we breathe. I am so glad I can be a part of this amazing partnership we possess. Thank you so much.

N.A. :: Canada

I thanked the Lord for sending His angels to protect us.

call
800
600
7395
prayer is
our priority

the abundance of Resurrection Faith



I've always loved this time of year.

As we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus we can sense the new life, new hope and new joy that permeate every fiber of creation. Springtime should get us all thinking of ways we can move forward in newness of life and allow God to re-create His call upon our lives. ¶ What “new thing” is the Lord doing in you? What fresh start is at your fingertips?



I remember looking forward to this time of year and trying to decide which celebration was my favorite—Christmas or Resurrection Sunday. I discovered on my scale of favorite holy days they are tied, just as they are

inextricably tied to the meaning of Christianity. Without Jesus’ willingness to come to earth as a little baby, we wouldn’t have resurrection, and without resurrection power, Christmas is meaningless.

As I was growing up, sunrise services were always a highlight—except having to get up at 5 a.m. Other than that it was a special time with my parents, who are ministers. Sometimes they would preach, and other times there would be music celebrations and

re-enactments of the Resurrection story, which is told so well in the Gospels of Luke and John.

One year, I was speaking at a sunrise service in Dayton, Ohio. It was a particularly cold and rainy morning, and the local press was covering the event as it was a yearly community service that drew people from all over the city. I loved the headline that appeared in the next morning’s local newspaper. Under a photo of me preaching, surrounded by a team of praise singers, were the words: “Weather dampened...but not spirits!”

Isn’t that the way life is after coming face to face with the resurrection power of Jesus? No matter what we face, because of Jesus our spirits will soar with victory, enthusiasm and bounce-back ability.

God majors in doing the impossible! He *is* the God of the impossible! That’s what the Resurrection is all about.

Let’s step back for a moment, and take a look at Jesus from an outsider’s perspective: He is a religious figure who was arrested, defeated, dead and buried. Yet three days later, He was resurrected with such power and authority He has become the most influential figure in history—recognized by multiplied millions as the one and only Son of God, the Messiah, “The Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.”

After the resurrection and before His ascension, Jesus appeared to more than 300 people in 13 different locations. He was, and is, very much alive. And the same power that led Him out of that tomb is available to you and me, this very moment. I like how one minister described that tomb, which still exists today. He said: “That empty grave in Israel is the only place where thousands of people each year line up to see... what isn’t there.” Amen!

So, how do we put this resurrection faith to work in our lives today?

First, let’s find out what faith is. Here is a definition I learned from my father-in-law, Kenneth Copeland. He says: “Faith is a spiritual power born in the human spirit at the new birth, activated through the mouth and followed by corresponding action. It is the spiritual substance of all things, and is fed by the Word when that Word is received and acted upon as quickly as you would the word from a doctor, lawyer or your best friend.”

As we understand this biblical principle we can begin to apply it in our daily lives—particularly our commitment to Christ, our daily walk and witnessing to others.

Being Fully Committed

Every believer must have a personal commitment to Jesus as Savior and Lord. That is why Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” He was really asking, “Who am I in *your* life?” No one can make this commitment for you. It is absolutely personal. The love and grace of God beckon us to make such a profession of faith. When we do, the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds and nurtures this personal relationship with us.

A profession of faith is not so much a statement about Jesus as it is a description of our relationship with Him. The Apostle Paul didn’t say, “I know *what* I have believed,” he said, “I know *whom* I have believed” (2 Timothy 1:12).

Jesus said we must make a daily commitment if we wish to follow Him. That means in each moment of each day we can choose God’s way. We can decide to be His representative at home, at school or at work—anywhere we are. We become Jesus to the people at the supermarket, carwash or movie theater. Have you made a daily commitment to Jesus? If not, why not do so right now.

Have you ever noticed you tend to talk most about those things you are proud of? If your relationship with Jesus is important and significant, you are bound to talk about it and share Him with others. Bill Bright, founder of Campus Crusade for Christ, taught that every Christian should have a three-minute testimony that answers three questions: What was my life like before I met Jesus? How did I come to know Him personally? What difference did Jesus make in my life? Start thinking today about your

Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves—He has released us from the bondage of death, hell and the grave.

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.

Podcasting

All around the world, people are watching *Believer's Voice of Victory*—but not in the way you may think. Some watch it during their subway ride. Others watch in their work cafeteria. Still others enjoy it while sitting in the park. If you have an iPod or other portable MP3 player, you can enjoy the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast, as well as our Believers' Conventions and Victory Campaigns, at your convenience—completely **FREE**—through *podcasting*.

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own testimony and put it together in simple terms you can share with others.

Jesus has done for us what we could never do for ourselves—He has released us from the bondage of death, hell and the grave. But knowing that is not enough. For it to do us any good we must receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, walk with Him daily and share His love with others. When we do, we are employing the abundance of resurrection faith.

A minister friend once told me a story I will never forget. He has a vacation home in Maine and likes to spend as much time there as possible. One evening in late summer, he and his wife were standing at the kitchen window admiring the beautiful golden sunset encompassing the water by their home. "I've got to get out in that," he said to his wife as he ran from the house, got into his boat and went speeding off to enter that golden sunset. Sadly, the harder he chased the glow of the sunset in the water, the farther ahead of him it seemed. The faster the boat went, the farther away the sunset got. Back at the house, still standing and looking out the window, my friend's wife had a much different picture. She saw her husband enveloped by the beautiful golden light on the lake. *How wonderful that he can enjoy this experience on the water*, she thought.

My friend didn't realize that all the while he was striving to get *to* the golden beauty, he was already surrounded by it.

That can easily happen in our busy world. We can strive so hard to get somewhere, do something or reach a certain level that we don't realize we are exactly where God desires us to be, if we would only look to God as our source and supply and trust Him for our future.

Rather than say, "I'll believe it when I see it," say, "I believe it, and therefore I will see it." This is resurrection faith.

Realize you have all you need within you right now to accomplish the call of God on your life. Begin moving in this kind of power-faith today and watch God do in and through you what others thought was impossible. **VICTORY**

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher is a pastor and senior manager at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. Along with his wife Kellie Copeland Swisher, Dr. Swisher travels extensively, speaking in churches and at conventions across the country and around the world.



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Mountain-Moving Faith



"Faith enough to move mountains!"
That phrase has almost become a

cliché. Unfortunately, it's a cliché we usually apply to everyone except ourselves. > Most Christians point to someone they think is a "super saint" and say, "Oh, he's got lots of faith." But when the time comes for them to put their own faith to work, they decline. "Me? No...no...not me," they argue. "I'm just an ordinary Christian. God didn't give *me* mountain-moving faith." **by Kenneth Copeland**

If you've ever caught yourself thinking that way, I have good news for you. God *has* given you faith, not some kind of sickly, second-rate faith, but the kind of faith that moves mountains!

Look at Mark 11:22-26. There Jesus gives us a very simple, straightforward instruction. "Have faith in God," He says. Think about that for a moment. Would Jesus ever command you to do something you didn't have the power to do? Certainly not! Obviously, it's well within your power to have faith in God. Now, read on.

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

Notice Jesus didn't say a select group of very special people could say to this mountain, "Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea." No! He said, "Whosoever!" Mountain-moving faith isn't just for the minister or for someone with a special kind of calling. It's for every believer. You have the same potential to operate in that kind of faith. He doesn't want you to buckle under the beggarly elements of this world. He wants you to act on His Word and release the power He's placed within you to bring victory into every circumstance of life.

Once you know you have all the faith you need already within you, you've taken the first step toward victory. The next step is discovering how to release faith and get it out there against the mountain where it belongs!

There is more to operating in faith than just having someone lay hands on you and saying, "I believe I receive." It takes effort and commitment to the Word of God. You must establish in your heart that the Word of God is true. Set it up as your standard. If there's any part of you that's holding out, doubting the Word, your faith will be hindered. So you need to get your whole self—spirit, soul and body—in agreement with the Word.

You see, you are a spirit. You have a soul (which consists

of your mind, will and emotions) and you live in a body. Each area has an effect on your faith.

At the new birth, your spirit received the faith of God and the nature of God. So that part of you will be the easiest to deal with. You don't even have to be concerned about your spirit believing the Word. It is born of God; and as you feed it spiritual food (the Word of God), it produces faith. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

Getting your soul in line with the Word is more of a challenge. It's been well trained in the earthly, sense-oriented domain. But it may operate awkwardly in the things of the spirit. Use the Word of God to train your mind, will and emotions to work in harmony with your spirit.

Meditate in the Word—look at it, write it, hear it and speak it! As you do, you'll begin to develop an inner image of it, an image that will anchor your soul to the things of God instead of the things of the world. God gave you an imagination so you could paint an image of the Word on the canvas of your mind. That mental picture forms the good treasure of your heart. And out of that good treasure, you will bring good things to pass.

The last area to get involved in the operation of faith is your body. (Note: Your body will want to be first, but you must get your spirit and soul in their proper places before you let your body in on things.)

James 2:17 says, "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead...." *Works* in this scripture means "corresponding action." If your spirit and soul believe the Word but you do not act accordingly, your faith will not be able to finish its work.

Your body will do whatever it is trained to do. So train it to follow the Word of God. If you're believing for healing in your body, do something you couldn't do before! Act on what you believe. Act like the Word is true!

"Faith enough to move mountains?" Yes! That phrase applies to you. So get into the Word of God and let it get into you. Get your spirit, soul and body working in harmony. Then let faith tear into those mountains that have been stopping you. The landscape of your life will never be the same! **VICTORY**



Journey to PARADISE

Judy Novotny paused before the travel agency window and stared at the poster featuring a trip to Hawaii. She felt her heart surge with longing as she gazed at the picture of white beaches and palm trees rustling in a breeze she could almost feel. Hawaii—a trip to paradise—had been her dream for years. Back in 1978 when she and David married, they’d planned to honeymoon there. When that didn’t work out, they’d decided to celebrate their 10th wedding anniversary there. Instead, they ended up throwing a Hawaiian-themed party and vowing to go another year. Three times they’d planned a journey to paradise and three times they’d had to postpone it.

BY MELANIE HENRY

Judy took a deep breath and moved on. She had every reason to believe that dreams often got sidelined by the grim realities of life. As though reading her thoughts, the Holy Spirit nudged her with the most ridiculous thought. *I want you to go visit your dad.*

Say what? Judy stopped, frozen in place.

I want you to go visit your dad. Honor thy father and mother is the first commandment with promise.

Judy shuddered. She could *not* imagine spending time with the old man. The truth was she’d rather do just about anything else. The memories washed over her with such force that she was a child again living in a long line of rent houses, always watching the clock with a knot in her stomach. Her father, a union sheet metal worker, finished his shift at 3:30 in the afternoon. If he was home within an hour they might expect a semipeaceful evening. On those days when he didn’t show up for supper, everyone from Judy’s mother, Barbara, to the youngest of the four children knew he was at the bar getting drunk.

After feeding the children, Judy’s mother always tried to keep his dinner warm. At bedtime, Judy brushed her teeth with tremors of dread. Lying in bed, she listened for the sound of his tires scrunching against the gravel. She heard the back door fling open and the familiar roar, “Barbara!”

Oh, please don’t fight! Please don’t fight!

She heard dishes shatter against the wall where he threw them. Moments later, she found herself huddled together in her bedroom with her brother and sisters, trembling in fear as the fighting between her parents continued—listening to their mother’s screams as she was beaten by their father.

“Exactly what am I supposed to honor him for?” she asked.

You could start by honoring him for putting food on the table.

One Sunday afternoon not long afterward, still gritting her teeth, Judy drove to her parents’ house and found her father puttering in the garage.

“Hi, Dad.”

His blue eyes pierced her before he spoke. Lacing his words with profanity he asked, “What are *you* doing here?”

Judy wanted to turn and walk away. She could not have a relationship with the man. She would not have a relationship with him. She despised him.

If I walk away, I’ll never return, Judy reasoned.

“I stayed for about five minutes, but it seemed an eternity.”

In Need of a Savior

“I attended 12 different schools while I was growing up,” Judy explains. “Dad would come home and announce ‘I found another place and we’re moving.’ You didn’t ask why, you just packed. I think, somehow, he was running from something. Most of the time he would find these farmhouses way out in the country and that is where we lived most of the time.”

Though she didn’t see it often, Judy admits there was a good side to her father. When he was sober he was a very pleasant person—a great employee and a good provider.

“But that’s not the side of him I knew.”

“When I was about 12, he snapped and pulled a knife. We all escaped out the back door and into a cornfield, where we stayed for most of the night waiting for him to pass out.”

Another time one of her dad’s alcoholic explosions resulted in Judy’s mom piling the children into the family car and speeding down the gravel road backward as her husband pursued them. Sometimes they would seek shelter with their grandparents.

“I’m the one who always stood up to him. I hated him. I baited him. My child’s heart had been filled with years of hatred, bitterness and resentment. When I finally grew up and got away, I married David—neither of us was born again. Then I started a special-events business where I created and organized theme parties and events for corporations. Through the business, I met a very successful woman. I admired her home, and her Mercedes convertible. When she invited me to go with her on a trip to Minneapolis, I agreed.

“During the five-hour drive, she talked nonstop about Jesus. I was so miserable I would have walked home if I could have, rather than be cooped up with her inside that car again. Sure enough, she talked about Jesus all the way home. Later, I flipped on the television and happened to see Billy Graham. When he gave the altar call I heard these words: *If you don’t accept Jesus after what you’ve heard, you’ll remember this night throughout all eternity.*

“I fell on my knees and accepted Jesus as my Savior.”

The Power of Persistence

It was after she was born again and established in a local church that the Lord first began dealing with Judy about establishing a relationship with her father. She started visiting him every Sunday. No warm feelings sprang up within her and there was no sudden bonding.

Through sheer obedience, Judy forced herself to interact with him each week. The experience was excruciating and felt like sandpaper sawing away at all her emotional pain. The crusty old man was still the one who had strong-armed her mother in a chokehold and kept them all in bondage to his alcoholic rages.

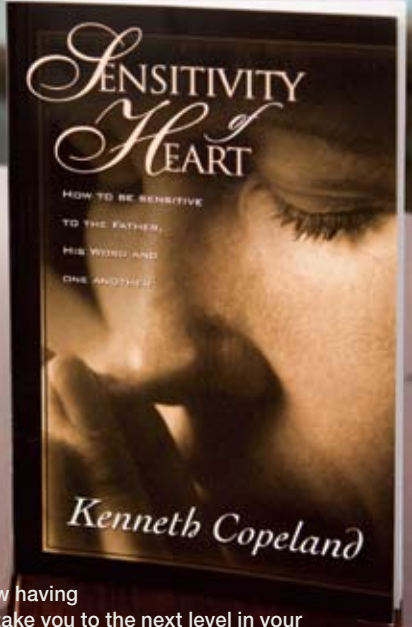
Still reeling from the memories, she showed up week after week, month after month and year after year. On one visit, she saw a spark in her father’s blue eyes and glimpsed the man her mother had fallen in love with. At 5 feet 11 inches, and lean, he’d had black hair and dancing blue eyes. Given up at birth, he’d been adopted into a loving family. His adoptive parents had a daughter who suffered from polio and lived in a

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wheelchair. One day her dress caught fire as she was trying to light a fire in an old wood cooking stove.

Judy’s father, who was 6 years old at the time, had tried to save her, but could not. She died and he lived with gnawing guilt and pain that ate at his insides like a cancer. While Judy didn’t condone his behavior, as an adult she came to understand why he used alcohol to anesthetize the pain.

A few years into their visits, Judy’s father invited her to attend a company golf weekend. “I told him I would go, but I didn’t want him to drink or get drunk,” Judy said.

Instead of getting angry, he looked at the ground and responded, “I know, I’ll try.”

That weekend they made memories that no longer gave her nightmares. In time, they were able to discuss the effects of his alcoholism. Judy explained as gently as possible what it was like to grow up as children of the town drunk—how people shunned them and refused to sit by them on the bus.

Judy heard words she never expected to hear. “I’m so sorry,” her father said. “I honestly thought it was only my own life I was destroying.”

On one visit, Judy shared with him her dream of visiting Hawaii. “We’ll go on our 25th wedding anniversary,” she assured him.

“I’d like to contribute to that,” he said. His words and the sentiment left Judy teary-eyed and tender.

No More Condemnation

“I visited Dad for six-and-a-half years,” Judy remembers. “During that time I got to know him. Somehow the Lord broke through our defenses and for the first time in my life I heard my father say he loved me. He told me he was proud of me.

“During all those years, I prayed for his salvation and witnessed to him. In 2002, he was diagnosed with cancer of the liver and lungs. Toward the end, my brother and I took turns sitting with him at night,” Judy said.

On one occasion, Judy was talking with her brother when he confided that their dad had prayed with Judy’s pastor and given his heart to the Lord.

“Why didn’t you tell me?” Judy demanded.

“He told me not to tell you because if you knew you would lay hands on him and get him healed.”

One night, while sitting by his bed, the Lord instructed Judy to read Psalm 23 to her father and personalize it. “Allen, although you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you will fear no evil, because I am with you. Allen, my rod and my staff will comfort you. Allen, I will prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemies; I will anoint your head with oil. Allen, I will see to it that your cup runs over and Allen, only goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life; and you Allen, will dwell with Me forever.”

“I prayed with my dad and told him I loved him very much,” Judy said. “About 45 minutes later Dad had left with Jesus.”

In her spirit, Judy heard a still quiet voice:
Judy, all of your father’s life he heard condemnation. When you read that Psalm, for the first time, he heard pure love. Nothing could stop him from running into My arms.

Miracle After Miracle

Judy’s father wasn’t the only one who ran into Jesus’ arms. Although Judy’s husband, David, had received Jesus as his Savior in 2000, there was no outward evidence until Judy’s dad got sick—then David started going to church with her, and hasn’t missed a Sunday since.

“I watched Judy spend time with her father all those years,” David recalls. “It was an amazing thing to see God restore their relationship.”

Judy’s father left her a small inheritance and she knew he would want her to use it for her long-awaited trip to Hawaii. She put the money in the bank and began planning her trip. But the Lord intervened and instructed her to use the money to pay off some business debts instead.

No trip to Hawaii, Judy sighed. It was one more dose of reality.

Although they gave up their plans for a trip to paradise, Judy and David fulfilled another dream. In August 2003, they went to the Great Lakes Believers’ Convention in Green Bay, Wis.

“The entire meeting was supernatural,” David remembers. “Before we left, the Lord gave me a dream about a woman with long blond hair and I knew she would be significant in our lives. The first day of the meeting there were two empty seats next to us and a woman with long blond hair claimed them for herself and her son. We were chatting before service and she mentioned she had inherited a time share from her mother and had been to Hawaii four times.”

Judy returned from the book table, irked by the conversation. *I’ve been waiting 25 years to go to Hawaii and she’s regaling us with stories from her four trips!* In addition, the woman had given David a ring. What on earth would prompt a stranger to do such a thing? Even as the question flashed through her mind, the Lord dropped the answer into her heart.

Remember the story of the prodigal son? When he came home, the father killed the fatted calf and put a ring on his finger. My son has come home.

Judy looked at the ring on her husband’s finger and blinked back tears. “Oh...” she said.

An Open Heaven

Each day the woman sat beside them. On one occasion Judy gave her some tips on marketing. Afterward the woman said, “You know, God just told me you’re going to go to Hawaii.”

“I know,” Judy said, eyes gleaming. *Someday.*

During the meeting, the Lord spoke to David and Judy, *I want you to be Partners with this ministry.*

“Becoming Partners was one of the best things we did,” David explains. “In addition to everything else partnership offers, this ministry has given us a clear word from God.”

That night, after the last session, David and Judy went back to the hotel and God told them to repent of all their sins, which included living together before they were married. Following their repentance, it seemed as though the windows of heaven opened over them.

Now I can give you a honeymoon.

Then, David received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in other tongues. In a few short days their lives had changed forever.

The next day at the meeting, the woman said, “Judy, you’re going to Hawaii!”

“I know,” Judy said.

“No, you don’t know. I’m giving you my time share to stay in so you can go.” Judy burst into tears.

With frequent-flier miles to cover their airfare, in November 2004 David and Judy flew to Hawaii. “Everything about the trip was amazing,” Judy says, her eyes sparkling with excitement. “The Lord caused us to have such favor that we were given upgrades.

For instance, our four-and-a-half-hour catamaran trip with dinner and a sunset cruise was upgraded to a five-hour sunrise cruise with breakfast, lunch and snorkeling.”

David and Judy Novotny sat on a rock and watched the sun set over the ocean. The salt breeze blew their hair like a whisper from God. Finally, they were in paradise. Judy thought about her father, his ocean-blue eyes and lean frame. Theirs had been a miraculous journey from hatred and bitterness to love and forgiveness. Along the way, he had journeyed to Paradise as well. The amazing thing was that they had each reached their destination with no excess baggage. Judy was free of the past. She lifted her face to God, confident of a victorious future. **VICTORY**

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Judy and David Novotny sat on the beach in Hawaii, taking in all the beauty and reflecting on the journey that had brought them to their “paradise.” It had taken them a bit longer to reach their dream honeymoon destination than they had anticipated, but they *did* get there!

The Novotnys’ life journey had taken them to places that were rough to maneuver at times. But ultimately, God brought them through the places of salvation, love and forgiveness they value today as some of their greatest trips—running them right into the arms of Jesus!

God started them on their way to their dream honeymoon from Milwaukee, Wis., at the Great Lakes Believers’ Convention, where they also began their journey as Partners with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. The Novotnys’ story is one of hundreds we hear from our Partners who receive a direct word from the Lord that sets them on the path to their miracles. What a great place to start!

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Acting on God's Plan You

We are living in a time when millions of dollars are being spent every year on all kinds of resources by people who are looking for an answer to a most commonly asked question: *What do I really want in life?* >> It is an age-old question not unique to this generation. Since the day Adam stepped out of God's perfect plan for mankind, people of every generation have been seeking the purpose for their lives. >> When we are born again—receiving God as our Father, Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our teacher—we become aware that God *does* have a plan for our lives. His plan is twofold, giving purpose to the Body of Christ as a whole and to each of us individually. The question we each must come to terms with as we live out our days is: *Do I want to walk out the plan God has for me?*

Don't go off and try to work His plan in your own way or by your own strength. Your faith, plus patience, will work perfectly together to fulfill God's plan for you!

When Ken and I realized God's purpose for us in His Church, we asked ourselves that question. We determined our very lives depended upon knowing and walking out His plan. And we knew He had called us to get His Word to the world! The answer then was, and continues to be, a resounding *Yes!* From the day we made the decision to walk out His plan for us, our priority every day of our lives has been to do our part to act on His plan for us.

Consistent Steps of Action

Now, we didn't just sit down and try to contrive what we needed to do to walk out God's plan. No, we began to devour His Word so we could get to know Him. We immersed ourselves in His Word and submitted ourselves to the teaching of anointed preachers of the Word. And as we invested time in the Word, we discovered how our walk would unfold.

We discovered the Word of God *is* the plan for our lives! His written Word and His word spoken in our hearts are our daily guide to walking out the plan, step by step, by faith.

So, here we are years later still devouring the Word and still walking out the plan. Even within the last few months, the Lord has shown me something new about what Ken and I have done all these years that has kept His plan active in our lives. He's shown me how we did it! And once again, I discovered our steps of action have been what *He* put into place in our lives as we got to know Him.

I see now we have been doing three important steps that every believer can and should do consistently if they have asked themselves the question: *Do I want to walk out the plan of God for my life?* and have answered *Yes!*

Whether you have been walking with the Lord 41 days or 41 years, these three steps will make all the difference in your walking in His plan by faith or stumbling around trying to find your own way. They will determine whether you receive the promises of God for His children, or continually struggle through life.

The three faith actions the Lord showed me are: *implement*, *engage* and *press*.

Implementing Faith

Many people love the Word and believe it. Yet they are not seeing the results they know are possible. They see other people receiving, but for themselves they are still waiting.

Implement is an active verb meaning "to carry into effect, to fulfill or to accomplish." It also means "to give practical effort to a thing." As a noun, an *implement* is "something used or needed for an activity; an instrument or a tool."

God spoke His Word into this earth in the beginning to bring things into being. Throughout the Bible His words brought faith to whomever He spoke. They gave direction, explanation or inspiration. I don't see in the Bible that God

ever spoke a word to anyone except to bring change into his life! Whatever His purpose was for any word He spoke, He was speaking *to get something done* in the life of the hearer!

Jesus' words were the same.

"Cast your net..." "Be made whole..." "Seek first the kingdom of God..."

Hebrews 11 tells us "faith is the substance...and evidence" of God's promises. We continue to read in that chapter, "by faith" people acted on God's Word and received all He promised.

Faith is what brings God's plan into our lives. Our faith is the implement of God's Word that brings His plan to pass in our lives. God intends us to use our faith like a tool. If we had a hole to dig, we would pick up a shovel, aim it where we want to dig, put our foot on it, get our back into it and sooner or later we would have a hole!

God's plan for us is the same. In every area of our lives the Word of God is clear on how to receive what we need to carry out His plan. Our faith for living comes as we get the Word into our ears, our eyes and our hearts, and out our mouths. Faith brings fulfillment and accomplishment of God's Word into our lives.

God's Word contains everything we need to live the life He has planned for us—salvation, deliverance, healing, prosperity—everything! Faith, used like a tool, digs it out and brings it into our lives. By implementing our faith we can receive all His Word promises!

Engaging the Battle

When we have implemented our faith and gone straight ahead into God's plan, we *will* receive what we need to walk out the plan. You may be thinking, *Gloria, I've done that. But I'm still waiting to receive it.*

I know what you mean. God's plan for each of us usually involves waiting for the details to get in order. Sometimes we implement our faith in God's Word and find ourselves in a battle waiting to receive. I can tell you one thing for sure, God is not holding anything back from us. We just have to engage our faith for however long it takes!

The plan may involve the participation of other people. Distractions may come. Life may throw things your way that take your attention off the task of receiving. But your faith is well able to keep you moving forward, and God's Word will win!

How do you engage faith? The same way you implement faith. Keep your ears, eyes, heart and words on God's Word for the plan.

For instance, you may know God's plan for you personally is that you will be preaching the gospel in Guatemala, but it has been 10 years since He revealed His plan to you. What do you do? You stay engaged in the plan. Continue to put your faith to

work. Continue using those scriptures about preaching the gospel, making disciples of all nations, having beautiful feet because you bring good news, and so many others. Get on them and stay on them. As you pray, continue to listen for God’s Word to you personally about your preparation to accomplish the plan. Ask the Lord to show you the next step, and do what He tells you.

That’s engaging! Do everything you can do to obey. This same action applies for anything you are waiting to receive according to God’s Word, including healing, deliverance and financial provision. Just be patient. Don’t go off and try to work His plan in your own way or by your own strength. Your faith, plus patience, will work perfectly together to fulfill God’s plan for you! Never give up. Stay engaged! Keep believing. Keep speaking the Word. Keep moving forward. Remember, God is faithful to do what He promised (Hebrews 10:23).

Pressing in to God’s Plan

Finally, God has shown me that Ken and I have continued to follow His direction through the words of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:14: “I *press* toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Like everyone who says, “Yes, I want to walk out God’s plan for my life,” we have had our share of obstacles. The enemy would like all of us to throw in the towel and give up the plan. But neither you nor I can afford to do that. Too much is at stake in our lives and in the lives we touch every day.

Pressing through to receive God’s plan for your life means you focus on one thing—His Word! Believe and receive what He says, and confess it with your mouth. Obey it. Romans 10:17 says it all: “Faith comes by hearing...the Word!” And I’m going to say, faith continues to come, continues to be activated, continues to produce God’s plan by hearing the Word. By faith press to receive what the Word says we can and should receive!

Ken and I have had so much victory through God’s Word in our lives we know there is no better way to live than to live out His plan, continually acting on and pressing through by faith. I don’t see that we’ll ever get so comfortable we kick back and quit acting on the Word. We continue to engage: to pray and obey!

No Time for Retirement

You could retire from work. But who would want to retire from walking in the kingdom of God? Not us! I see us pressing

to new levels of prosperity, new levels of increase in spirit, soul and body, and long and strong lives, even as we advance in years. We know this is God’s plan for us!

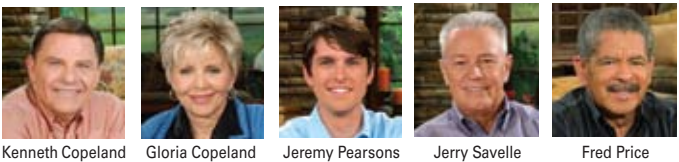
We have not settled for a natural life on this earth. We continue to implement our faith to stay on His plan for our supernatural life. We remain engaged in the battle to receive His promised plan by faith. And we consistently press toward the fulfillment of all He has called us to do.

Our greatest joy is knowing the door is open for God to give countless thousands direction for their lives. We thank Him every day that He has given us the opportunity to direct people to His Word where they can find His plan for themselves! We have discovered this *is* the main thing we have desired in our lives together!

This is exactly what we expected when we said, “*Yes, we want to walk out Your plan for us!*” **VICTORY**

Believer’s Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

April



Looking for the *Believer’s Voice of Victory* broadcast?

The *BVOV* broadcast, featuring great Word teaching from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, is on all over the world! To find station listings and times in your area, log on to **kcm.org/media/tv**. And if we’re not on locally in your area, we’re available on most U.S. cable and satellite providers through Daystar, TBN, WGN and others. Check our listings for details!



Tune in to the *BVOV* broadcast Monday through Friday and on Sunday each week at **bvov.tv**.

DAILY

30 Mon 31 Tue 1 Wed 2 Thu 3 Fri

The Good News About Prosperity
Kenneth Copeland and **Fred Price** reveal the truth about prosperity...and your part in receiving it for every area of your life.

SUNDAY

5

Kenneth Copeland
Jesus Bore It All for You
You were the focus when Jesus took your sin, sickness and lack on the cross...now find out how to live in THE BLESSING He has for you.

6 7 8 9 10

The Power of the Tithe and Giving
Kenneth Copeland and **Fred Price** continue their discussion—learn how tithing and giving can make or break your prosperity.

12

Kenneth Copeland
Just Because He Loves You
God is faithful and true to bless us beyond measure! Why? Because of His never ending love.

13 14 15 16 17

Implement, Engage, Press! Part 1
This week **Gloria Copeland** shows you how to act on God’s plan for your life...through implementing, engaging and pressing in to the Word!

19

Gloria Copeland
Obedience Brings Manifestation
To walk in THE BLESSING, you must walk in obedience...and then you’ll have victory right on your heels!

20 21 22 23 24

Implement, Engage, Press! Part 2
Gloria Copeland continues this week, revealing how receiving from God relies on our interaction with His living Word.

26

Kenneth Copeland
Love Increases Situational Awareness
Discover how love will keep you aware of everything happening around you...and keep you on target with your calling.

27 28 29 30 1

The Word That Changes Lives
Jeremy Pearsons welcomes **Jerry Savelle** for a special week of teaching that will strengthen your faith and renew your thinking!

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