



Believer's Voice of

VICTORY



Christmas



Dear Partners and Friends,

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights" (James 1:17).

Our heavenly Father's nature is to give from His great heart of love.

When He gave the world the perfect gift of the Lord Jesus, in Him we received everything we would ever need to live out His plan for our lives. And His plan for each of us is glorious!

This Christmas, we celebrate Jesus' birth along with you and your family. Throughout the coming year our celebration will go on as every day we enjoy all God has given us in Jesus.

In 2010, we have partnered with Jesus, our Source, in everything. And as we head into 2011 we will continue in our partnership with Him. Our faith in God will grow as we gladly believe and receive from His heart and hand. We will have all His bountiful BLESSING. We will give Him thanks for it all...and we will walk in forgiveness toward everyone. What a great year 2011 is destined to be as we live out God's great plan!

We know you will enjoy this special issue of *Believer's Voice of Victory*. The stories and articles from our family are sure to bless you. As you read each one we pray you will receive a word from the Lord especially for you.

As our growing family gets together this Christmas, we will have you on our hearts and keep you in our prayers. And, as always, we will set aside special time to thank the Lord for you—our worldwide family. You are truly one of the most precious gifts our heavenly Father has given us and we love you!

Merry Christmas!

Kenneth & Gloria

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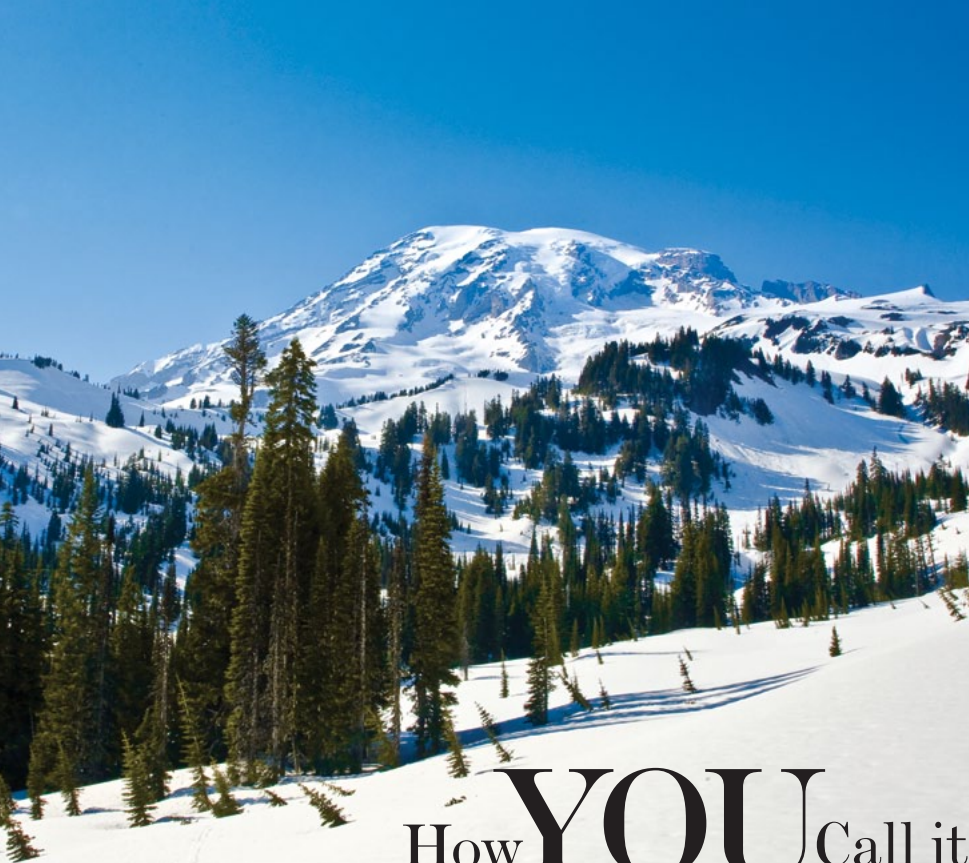
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Join Kenneth and Gloria Copeland as part of
your daily time in the Word.

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How **YOU** Call it,
is How it **WILL** **BE**

BY KENNETH COPELAND



Have you ever found yourself snared by some particularly persistent problem—stuck with some stubborn spot of trouble you just can't seem to fix? You've done everything you know to do. You've focused on it, thought about it and scratched your head over it, but you still can't figure out what's behind it.

You don't know why it is like it is. It just *is*. So you call up your friends and talk about it. You describe the problem to one person and then another. Again and again, you say things like, "Man, this is bad and nothing I do seems to help."



Maybe you even know better than to talk that way. But you've gotten so caught up in the negative flow of the circumstances and the world around you, you just open your mouth and let it rip. You release a torrent of unbelieving, ungodly confessions that actually perpetuate the lousy condition you're so desperate to change.

I know you've done it because we all have at one time or another.

"Well, I can't help it," some might say, "that's just the way I am. I tell it like it is. I call things the way I see them. God understands that about me."

Oh yes, He understands it all right. He also understands that as long as we keep *telling it like it is*, it's going to stay that way; as long as we keep *calling things like they are*, those things are never going to change.

Like it or not, this is a word-created, word-controlled universe. God established it that way from the very beginning. He made everything by calling "things *which be not* as though they were" (Romans 4:17). He set this whole system in motion by speaking into the darkness and saying, "Light be!" and light was (Genesis 1:3).

The whole Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, makes it clear that we live under a word-activated system. It's always been that way and it always will be. We can't change that fact. We can, however, choose the words under which we live. We can change our environment by what we say.

Jesus explained it this way in Matthew 12:34-37: "...out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

Paddling Upstream

Those verses leave no doubt: What comes out of our hearts through the words of our mouths determines what comes to pass in our lives. It's the absolute truth. Yet even those of us who know it sometimes let the revelation slip away from us. We let ourselves be robbed of it by the Babylonian world system around us.

People in that system can't understand what

Jesus said about words. It sounds crazy to them. They've been brainwashed by the devil to think that things can only be changed with natural thought and natural energy. Because the gospel is hidden to them, they're trapped in a worldly mindset that seems right, "but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).

As born-again children of God, however, you and I aren't stuck with the world's way of thinking and acting. We can operate God's way. Instead of trying to change things with natural thought and energy, we have the right and the ability to change them the way He does—with supernatural thinking and supernatural energy. We can release His power in our own lives and in the world around us with the words of our mouths.

To do that, however, we must be diligent to study The Word and renew our minds with it. It's easy to think like God thinks when we're at church and everyone is flowing together in faith. It's easy in that environment to declare The Word over the trouble spots in our lives.

But when you go back out into the world and you're surrounded by unbelievers, it's another thing altogether. Sticking with God's way of thinking and speaking when the low-level logic of the world is slapping you in the face all the time is tough. To do it, you have to go against the constant, negative current of the natural environment around you.

Jerry Savelle used to compare it to paddling upstream.

It's been years since I've heard him preach about it, but I've never forgotten what he said. He'd talk about how the whole world is in a negative flow. It's going the wrong way. If you just relax, you wind up drifting downstream with everyone else and end up sick, broke and dead. So you have to build yourself a spiritual canoe out of God's Word. You have to grab your faith oars, get yourself turned around and start rowing the other way.

I can still see Brother Jerry in my mind's eye, preaching up a storm and paddling that invisible canoe. He'd talk about how exciting it is, at first, to be moving in a new direction, speaking words of faith and getting your life headed God's way. For a while, everything is going fine—you're seeing results and shouting the victory.

Then the yammering of the world starts to influence you. You get tired of paddling. You lay down your oars, put your feet up and say, "This faith stuff

Like it or not, this is a word-created, word-controlled universe. God established it that way from the very beginning.

is too hard. I'm sick of calling things that be not as though they were. I'm going back to telling it like it is."

Before long, your canoe is floating downstream again. You're going in the same negative direction everyone else is. All of a sudden, you realize what's happening. You say, "No, bless God, I'm not going that way!" Grabbing your faith oars, you get your boat turned around, and start paddling again. Speaking The Word. Saying what God says about the situation. Declaring THE BLESSING instead of complaining about the curse.

It's been 25 years since I've heard Jerry preach that message and I'm still talking about it! That's what happens when you renew your mind. It gets you talking. It fills your heart so full of The Word it overflows through your mouth—and that's when life really gets good.

Activating the Power of *Be*

"But, Brother Copeland, I just don't feel like my words have that much authority."

It doesn't matter how you feel about it. It matters what the Bible says and the Bible is crystal clear. It says Jesus has been given all authority both in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18), and because you are in Him, that authority is yours. It says you've been "made alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised up together, and made to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus... far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come" (Ephesians 2:5-6, 1:21, *New King James Version*).

Just like Adam in the Garden of Eden, God has given you, through your relationship with Jesus, His very own authority with which to rule this earth. He has given you the right to use His Word to create and change things just like He does.

That's not all He's given you, either. He has also given you the spiritual power to enforce that Word. Think of a policeman and you'll see why that's so important. A policeman has authority to stand in the middle of the street and stop traffic simply by holding up his hand. He has the right to do it. But he doesn't necessarily have the power to enforce his command. If an 18-wheeler disregards his authority and doesn't stop, the policeman better get out of the way because he doesn't have the power to oppose an 18-wheel truck (or a 4,000-pound car, for that matter).

Take that same policeman, however, and put him in an armed, armored, M1 Abrams military tank and he has more than authority. He has the power to back it up. He has power that no semi driver in his right mind would even think of challenging.

Essentially, that's what God did for Adam in the Garden when He gave him THE BLESSING. He endued Adam with the power to enforce the authority he'd been given. By saying to him, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion..." (Genesis 1:28), God put Adam in the power mode. He spoke into him the same creative power that brought forth the universe. He gave him the ability to release the power of the Holy Spirit through the spoken word.

Of course, Adam forfeited that ability when he sinned. But through Jesus, God has restored it. He's given us back our authority by making us joint heirs with Christ; and He's given us back the power of THE BLESSING through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

God has said to us through Jesus, the last Adam, the same thing He said to the first Adam: *Be* in My image and after My likeness! *Be* BLESSED! *Be* fruitful, multiply, have dominion and replenish the earth!

My, what power there is in that little word *be*!

I did a study on it a few years ago and found it all through the Bible. It's in Genesis where God says, "Light *be*!" (that's the accurate Hebrew translation), and "Firmament *be*!" and "Man *be*!" It crops up throughout both Old Testament and New in the simple word *amen*.

Amen means "so be it." That's why we say it at the end of our prayers. It makes sense, doesn't it? In prayer, we declare what we want according to The Word and will of God and then we finish up by saying, "Prayer *be*!" or "It *be*!" For the most part, we haven't realized what we're doing because we've turned *amen* into a religious tradition. But that's not how it started out.

It started with Jesus. He's the One who taught us to express our faith by praying and speaking the powerful little word *be*. Consider what He said in Mark 11:22-23: "Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, *Be* thou removed, and *be* thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith."

Yes, It's That Simple!

Jesus understood the creative power of the word *be*! It's the power behind all creation. It's what releases the light in the midst of darkness.

That's why Jesus spoke like He did. That's why He said to the leper who came for healing, "*Be* thou clean" (Mark 1:41). It's why He said to the centurion who came seeking healing for his servant, "As thou hast believed, so *be* it done unto thee" (Matthew 8:13). It's why He calmed the storm by saying, "Peace, *be* still" (Mark 4:39).

When Jesus said, "Be...", He was releasing Holy Ghost power (the power of THE BLESSING) to create whatever needed to be created and to change whatever needed to be changed. And He told us to do the same thing! He asked, "Is there a mountain in your life that needs to be moved? Then tell it to be moved! Do you need to be rid of some ungodly situation? Then say to it, 'Be gone!'"

"Now, Brother Copeland, I think you're overstating things a little. It's not quite that simple."

Really? Think back for a moment about how you got saved. You simply believed in your heart and confessed with your mouth the lordship of Jesus, isn't that right?

There you were, trapped in darkness, a sinner under Satan's power with no ability of your own to free yourself. You were a victim of the most horrific, spiritual scam artist who ever lived. The devil himself had robbed you of your right to heaven, your authority on earth, and you had no power to get those things back.

Talk about a desperate situation! Talk about a stubborn spot of trouble you don't know how to fix! That's the worst predicament any human being will ever find himself in.

How did you get out of it?

You said, "Jesus, be my Savior. Jesus, be my Lord," and in the blink of an eye, you were translated from the dominion of darkness to the kingdom of light. You stopped being a child of the devil and became a child of Almighty God. You inherited every blessing in heavenly places. Your eternal destiny was changed because you spoke by faith, not what you had, but what you wanted.

That's not an oversimplification. That's what actually happened.

When it did, whether you realize it or not, God restored THE BLESSING of Eden to you and gave you the same commission He first gave Adam—to take the power of THE BLESSING and put it to work in the world. To exercise dominion and subdue what needs to be subdued, and to be fruitful, multiply and replenish the earth.

Do you know what the word *replenish* means? It means "to perpetually renew and supply." That's our job as Christians—to perpetually bring renewal and supply everywhere we go. When things get out of hand and situations on earth start to go wild (like they are right now in the nation's economy) we're not supposed to jump into the flow of negativity with everyone else and start talking about how bad things are. We're supposed to change them!

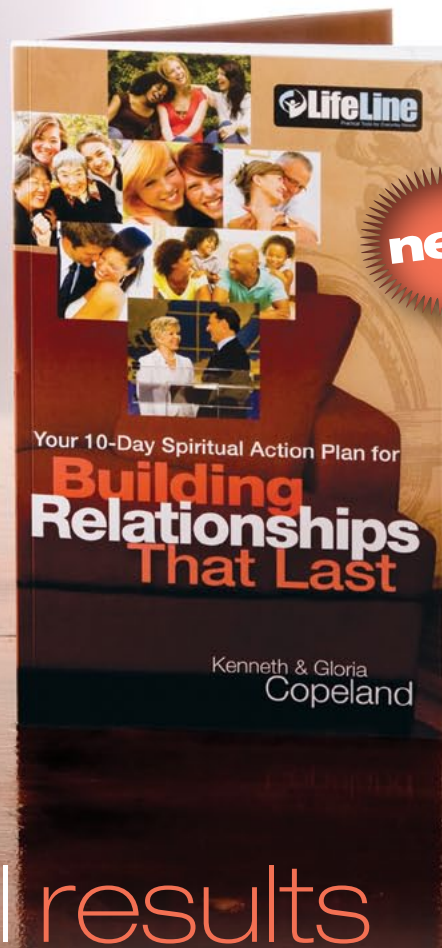
We're divinely commissioned to stop telling it like it is and start telling it like The Word of God said it should be. We have both the authority and the power to speak to this present darkness and say, "Light be!" **VICTORY**

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BY PASTOR
GEORGE PEARSONS



A CALL TO Fellowship



It was a sound that came right out of heaven. | I could hear it loud and clear from deep within my spirit. | It resembled “a call to arms” or “a call to action.” Only in this case, it was the Father sounding “A Call to Fellowship.” | Some time ago, I had become very busy with life. The day-to-day stuff was taking over. But, one morning, I woke up with an intense longing for a deeper intimacy with my heavenly Father. I missed Him.



Even as pastors, we can become so occupied with ministry that the sweetness of our relationship with the Father begins to wane. Fortunately, I know exactly what to do when that happens. I simply shut down the busyness around me and turn my heart toward Him in prayer. I reach out to Him as a child reaches out to his father. Every time I do that, my heavenly Father reaches back.

God is so good to us!

The last time this happened, I opened my Bible to 1 Corinthians 1:9. “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.” It was at that moment that I heard the alarm go off in heaven. It was like the siren that sounds in our neighborhood during a weather emergency or test. Everyone for miles around can hear it.

God was calling me to a new level of fellowship.

Koinonia is the Greek word for *fellowship*. It means, “close companionship, sweet communion and intimate relationship.” It is knowing someone in a most personal way. In this “Call to Fellowship,” God is beckoning us to have a deeper and more personal relationship with Him than ever before.

Fellowship Lost

This relationship has not always been available.

Adam and Eve enjoyed sweet communion with the Father. They would walk and talk with Him in the cool of the day. When Adam fell, Satan became his overlord and ruler. God, the Father, was out. Satan, the spiritual outlaw, was in. Fellowship with the Father was broken. Adam was on his own. I am so thankful that God’s love for His family ran so deep that He immediately engaged His plan of redemption. That secret plan was designed to reinstate the fellowship that was lost in the Garden. He needed a second Adam to pass the test the first Adam had failed. He sent His only Son to the earth to pay the ultimate price for this separation. The sacrifice of Jesus opened the door once again for the Father to fellowship with His family. Jesus was made unto us righteousness, giving us the ability to be in the Father’s presence without a sense of guilt, shame or condemnation. We are now free to fellowship with our Father.

That is what Christmas is all about.

God sent Jesus to earth to usher mankind back into fellowship with the Father. Jesus was born to re-establish the relationship that was lost in the Garden. Through Jesus’ sacrifice, we have been

given access back into the heart of God. What an awesome price for our relationship!

Paul's Determined Purpose

The Apostle Paul deeply appreciated the extreme value of his relationship with the Father. He encountered a wake-up call like none other. As a result, he gave his life to Jesus on the road to Damascus. He submitted to the call of God. More importantly, he experienced a new relationship with a loving heavenly Father that he thought was not even possible. This relationship was so important to Paul that it became his lifelong quest. In Philippians 3:10 (*The Amplified Bible*), Paul said, "[For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly.]"

Paul pursued a deep, intimate relationship with Jesus. He wanted to know Him more and more. He even told Timothy, "I know whom I have believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). Notice that he didn't say, "I know what I believed." Paul wrote to the churches about the deep, "new creation" revelations. Those revelations came from times of deep fellowship with the Father.

Paul's determined purpose was to know God. We must also realize, however, that God's determined purpose was to know Paul! God was pursuing Paul, and in the same way He is pursuing a relationship with us.

God Is at Your Front Door

It is almost hard to accept the fact that God is actively pursuing a relationship with us. He wants to commune with us. He desires *koinonia* with us—"close companionship, sweet communion and intimate relationship." Don't look now, but God is at your front door. "Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me" (Revelation 3:20). He desires to sup with us. The word *sup* means "spiritual communion." He wants

to reveal His purposes and plans and directions and...well, everything!

You are that important in His life.

Think about your place with God in light of these three statements. First, God created the universe for the earth. Then, He created the earth for man. Finally, we were created to have fellowship with Him. It is that simple! He loves us so much that He has gone to great lengths to make sure we have everything it takes for us to know Him. Just look at Jeremiah 24:7: "I will give them an heart to know me." Amazing!

We must consider there are two sides to every relationship. God is calling us to fellowship. He longs to draw close to us. The question is whether or not we will draw close to Him.

Will You Answer the Call?

James 4:8 (*New Living Translation*-96) tells us to "draw close to God, and God will draw close to you." The more you hunger and thirst for Him, the deeper your relationship will become.

You can know Jesus with such intensity that every other desire on earth pales in the light of that relationship. David's burning desire for that relationship was fully expressed in Psalm 42:1-2 (*AMP*). "As the hart pants and longs for the water brooks, so I pant and long for You, O God. My inner self thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?"

Jesus was born in a manger so that we could fellowship with the Father. This Christmas, let's all make a fresh dedication to seek Him, spend time with Him and cultivate a deeper relationship.

Our heavenly Father has sent out "A Call to Fellowship."

Will you answer that call?

I know you will! **VICTORY**

George Pearsons is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For information or ministry materials write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001.



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and merry
Christmas!



Creating a Heavenly Atmosphere of Love

BY TERRI COPELAND PEARSONS



Ahh, Christmas! The eye-popping sights and fabulous smells! Most everyone is looking for the right combination that will create the perfect atmosphere. | As Christians, we should realize that an atmosphere of love cannot be created with natural things. Only God, the Source of love, can produce love. | Let's look to the first Christmas for some simple do's and don'ts that will always produce a heavenly atmosphere.

First is Zacharias. The angel Gabriel appeared to him to announce that he would have his long-desired son, who would prepare the way for the coming of the Lord. It was great news, but Zacharias looked to his natural, hopeless circumstances and argued, "My wife and I are both too old!"

It doesn't take much to fill the air with despair, even

in the presence of an angel bringing good news. Gabriel immediately shut off the source of such despair by shutting Zacharias' mouth. Look at what Luke 1:18-20 says:

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years. And the angel answering said unto him,



I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to show thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

No matter what our circumstances, we can keep them in line with heaven by not giving voice to despair. Thankfully Zacharias makes a great comeback later! (See verses 67-79.)

When Zacharias' wife, Elizabeth, became pregnant she was full of gratitude. "How kind the Lord is!" she exclaimed (Luke 1:25, *New Living Translation*-96). That began a stream of praise that didn't end until Jesus was presented in the Temple!

She was overcome by God's kindness. Kindness should always be a Christmas earmark; there are certainly lots of opportunities to show some. Kindness really brings the Christmas spirit on the scene because it brings Him on the scene.

When Impossible Becomes Possible

Elizabeth's cousin, Mary, also had an encounter with Gabriel. He announced that she had found great favor with the Lord and would give birth to the Son of the Most High. Look at what transpired in Luke 1:28-33, *NLT*-96:

Gabriel appeared to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!" Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. "Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!"

Again, circumstances screamed "impossible!" But Mary responded

faith brings praise, praise brings joy

in faith, saying, "I am the Lord's servant. May everything you have said about me come true" (Luke 1:38, *NLT*-96). She was such a woman of faith, determined to trust the Lord. What joy that produced in her soul!

Later, when Elizabeth heard Mary's voice the unborn baby, John, leaped in his mother's womb. She began to prophesy and Mary erupted in praise. You can feel her deep passion and joy as she describes the goodness of God and the depth of His great mercy and faithfulness (see Luke 1:39-55).

Real joy doesn't come from natural things, but from faith in Jesus. In other words, yelling at the kids because they are being difficult, while you are busy "trying to make a Christmas memory," may wind up creating a memory you'd like to forget.

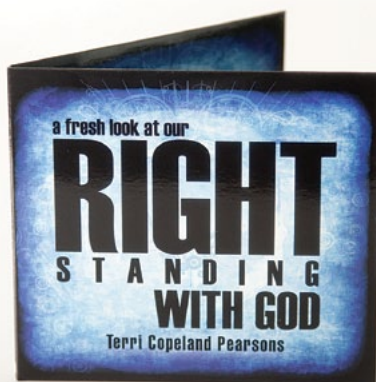
Take notice of the good things the Lord has done and tell others, especially family, what you see. It makes great conversation while you are trimming the tree or baking cookies...and it takes the edge off when you see the mess your little blessing has created.

So what have we learned from these saints of old?

We've discovered we can shut down the atmospheric effects of negative circumstances simply by shutting our mouths! If you want an atmosphere of peace, talk only about the provision of God. Whether you need money, time or ability, praise Him because He promised to supply *all* your need, according to His riches in glory, by Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19).

We've seen that faith brings praise, praise brings joy and everyone knows that Christmas is all about joy! Release your faith in joyful praise! Faith, hope and love are the right ingredients for the perfect Christmas atmosphere! **VICTORY**

Terri Copeland Pearsons is the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland. She and her husband, George, pastor Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For information or ministry materials write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001 or visit www.terricopelandpearsons.com.



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Fall in Love with Christmas... again!



I love Christmas! Do you remember waking up early Christmas morning as a little child—excitement bubbling in your heart? Remember how you loved singing Christmas songs at the top of your lungs and searching for just the right presents for those you loved?

Christmas evokes strong memories in most of us. But sadly, some people's love of the Christmas season can turn into a love/stress relationship. They love how it's a special time to focus on family, friends, the gift of Jesus and all He means to us. But there's another side to this season that takes people's eyes off of Christ. It starts with full calendars, financial challenges, time needed for shopping, parties, gift buying, mounds of tempting sweets and all...that...potential stress!

I believe God wants us to *love* Christmas again. He wants us to awaken each day with our hearts pounding—not from stress, but from anticipation of who He's going to bless through us. He wants this to be a time of celebrating Jesus—that He came and made a way for us to enjoy all of God's many blessings.

We must make a quality decision to stay in faith and stay in peace. Isaiah 54:10 says the Lord is our peace. Jesus is our wholeness—nothing missing, nothing broken. His Anointing is always at work in our lives as long as we keep our faith activated in Him. He came to heal the brokenhearted, open blind eyes, remove burdens and destroy yokes. Whatever is weighing us down, keeping us captive or putting pressure on us is a potential threat to our peace and ability to walk in the blessing of God.

So, how do we stay focused on THE BLESSING and not the dressing?

Here are a few simple steps for those who, like me, really enjoy the season but sense the potential for stress quickly approaching.

Pray About Everything

Philippians 4:6, *The Amplified Bible*, says, "Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."

Be anxious for *nothing*. Instead, stand firm in your faith, determined to face the holidays in perfect peace. Make your wants known to God by simply praying and trusting in His provision.

Run With a Vision

"Write the vision and engrave it so plainly upon tablets that everyone who passes may [be able to] read [it easily and quickly] as he hastens by. For the vision is yet for an appointed time and it hastens to the end [fulfillment]; it will not deceive or disappoint. Though it tarry, wait [earnestly] for it, because it will surely come; it will not be behindhand on its appointed day" (Habakkuk 2:2-3, *AMP*).

Each year, our lives seem to get busier and busier. There are those who enjoy the holiday rush and last-minute shopping experience, but I'm not one of them! Procrastination

can lead to mental stress. So, unless you enjoy crowded parking lots and standing in line, or you've already done your shopping, it's time to get organized! Make a list of everything you need to do and set a deadline to get it done.

Then, list everyone you want to bless, believing God will show you what to give each person. Don't take on the stress of not knowing what to get—just ask someone who knows your recipient well. Usually a five-minute conversation can relieve a great deal of stress! And, of course, nothing is easier than shopping online.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking that something has to cost a lot to be a blessing. If money is tight, you can still be creative. Get something small and include a handwritten note saying how much you love the person, appreciate their friendship, or how valuable they are to the Body of Christ. You could impact someone's life forever by simply asking God to give you a special word or scripture that would minister to their heart.

And there's no substitute for giving of yourself: Consider a free night of babysitting, a car wash or a dinner. And always thank God for His abundance and His blessing multiplying in your life.

Be Thankful

"And let the peace (soul harmony which comes) from Christ rule (act as umpire continually) in your hearts.... And be thankful (appreciative), [giving praise to God always]" (Colossians 3:15, *AMP*).

Life is a wonderful thing! Thank God for the little things, and the big things. Thank Him that you are still growing and that you are promised a hope and a future. Thank Him for answering your prayers, and for His Word. Thank Him that you have a roof over your head and a smile on your face!

As a very young child, around Christmastime my mom would take us to a neighborhood that was less well-off than ours. We would pull up in our car loaded with toys, and give them to the children who had very little or nothing. I will never forget the joy on their faces as they received their gifts. They were so grateful. It touched my heart in a way I had never before experienced. It was such a joy to give to someone who was not expecting it. I could see it on their sweet little faces and on their parents' faces. Many were crying because of this unexpected blessing. It meant so much to them...and to me.

We should take the time to teach our children the goodness of God and to appreciate what He has given us, by allowing them to see the blessing of Christmas in action. We not only show our children our own love, we also allow them to experience the joy of giving to those

who don't expect it and can't return it. After all, that is what God did for us.

Love Christmas Again

This Christmas season, stay focused on the love of God. No matter what challenges, financial needs, or pressures you may be facing, don't give place to fear, pressure or stress.

Pray, be diligent and rest in the assurance that God knows your every need. Organize and run with a vision to bless others. Reach out with God's love, letting thankfulness arise not only in their hearts, but in the hearts of your own family. What better gift could you give to God than remembering and enjoying the blessing of His Son?

Get rid of the stress and fall in *love* with Christmas—and Jesus—again! **VICTORY**

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

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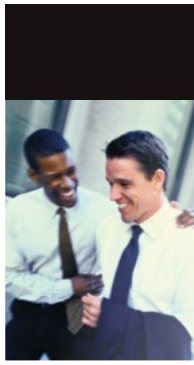


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BY JOHN
COPELAND



the Business of Forgiveness

“DON’T DO
BUSINESS
WITH CHURCH
PEOPLE.”

AS BELIEVERS, THAT’S A PIECE OF ADVICE WE’VE HEARD ALL TOO OFTEN...AND ALL TOO OFTEN THERE’S GOOD REASON FOR IT. LIKE MANY OTHERS, I’VE BEEN BURNED A NUMBER OF TIMES—SOMETIMES AT THE HANDS OF PROFESSING CHRISTIANS. BUT THERE’S ONE THING I’VE LEARNED OVER THE YEARS—NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, WE CAN’T STOP TRUSTING. IT’S A PART OF FAITH.



Sure, when you’ve been wronged, the last thing you want to do is trust *anyone*—especially if you were wronged by a brother or sister in the Lord.

The fact is, people make mistakes and most often they are not intentional. They didn’t mean to hurt you or take advantage of you; they just didn’t do all the things a prudent person should do.

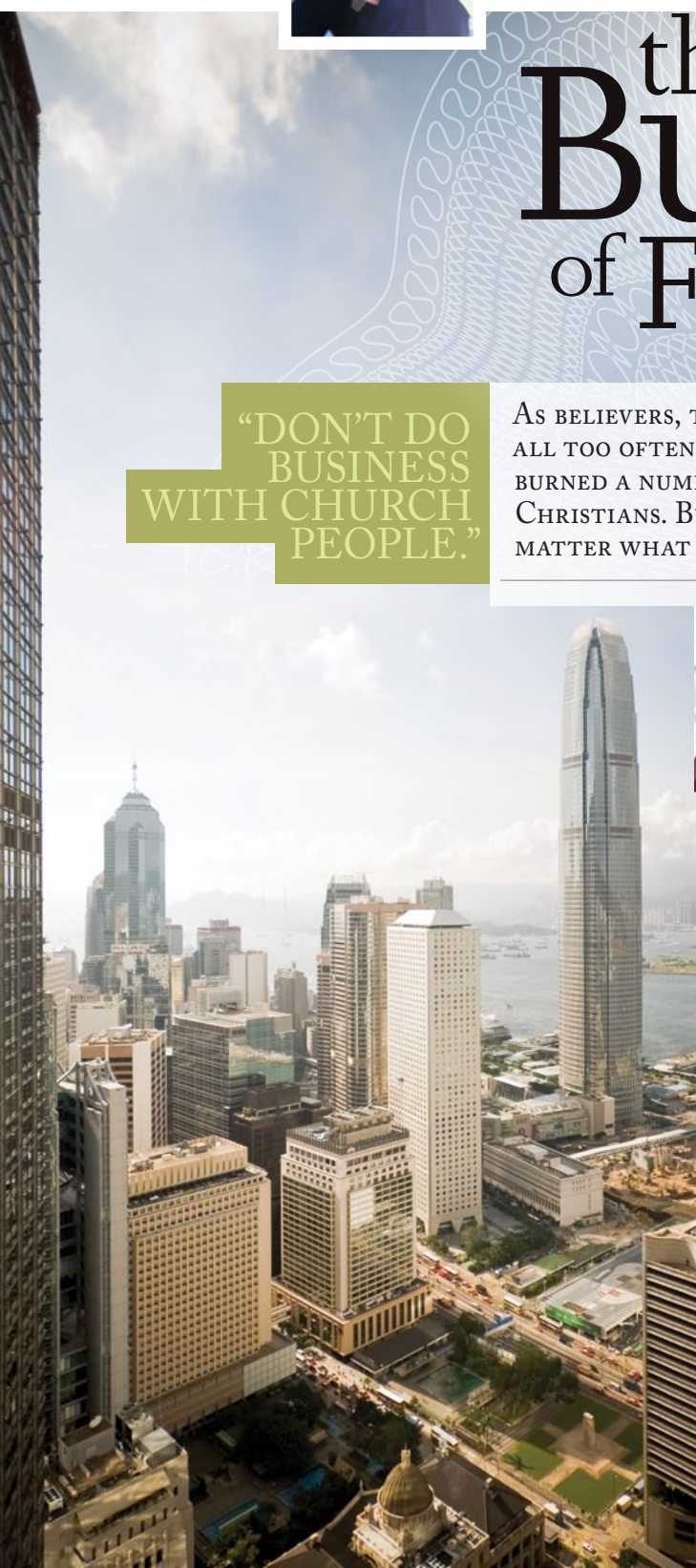
Other times, stuff just happens. No one sees it coming, there is no way to avoid it and there really is no one to blame, even though we really would like to blame someone! I suppose we could blame ourselves for not hearing the Holy Spirit better...but that would be true just about anytime something goes wrong.

Of course, on rare occasions, someone might purposefully try to take advantage of you, committing intentional fraud. Yes, there are people who prey on Christians. It’s sad that this sort of behavior has hurt a lot of good people.

Given all that can go haywire, how should we approach our business relationships?

Standing as a Body

When deals go wrong, our knee-jerk reaction is to stop trusting others and pull back from doing anything



with people in the Church. But think about this: Isn't that exactly what Satan wants us to do? He doesn't want the Body of Christ to come together and dominate this world with our finances. Yet I believe we are supposed to do exactly that. After all, the wealth of the sinner *is* laid up for the just (Proverbs 13:22). We have to keep moving forward with the plan of God, and to do that the Church needs finances. That means we have to trust people if we are going to accomplish anything—no matter how many times we've been burned in the past. We can't change the world on our own; we are supposed to do it together—as one body.

My face has to trust that my feet are not going to trip and break my nose. Still, sometimes, I trip. Hopefully my hands are there to catch me. But if not, at least I can still breathe through my mouth! We're in this together and we have to continue to work with others, but that doesn't mean operating blindly or haphazardly. We can't just bury our heads in the sand.

The key is this: Learn to be watchful and do your due diligence. Write detailed contracts with fellow believers, just as you would with anyone else. Monitor how your venture is going, verify that it's proceeding correctly and hold each other accountable. In short, be "wise as serpents, and harmless as doves" (Matthew 10:16). And most importantly, listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit... not outside pressure, even if it's from a fellow believer.

That's the way I do business deals now, no matter how much I trust the people involved.

Judgment Belongs to God

I'd like to tell you that if you do those things, you'll never have a problem. But let's be realistic. People make mistakes. So what happens when you get burned? Do you sue? Do you forgive? Do you go after that person with a baseball bat? How about all three?

Each case is different, but there are two constants I know for sure: 1) Never use a baseball bat, and 2) Forgive. We *must* forgive. If we don't, THE BLESSING of God cannot work on our behalf. His plan for our lives is put on hold until we get our hearts right. I'm not suggesting this is easy. It takes faith to forgive, but we *must* forgive over and over. As Jesus said, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven" (Matthew 18:22, *New King James Version*).

Remember who is usually behind this sort of behavior. Ephesians 6:12 says, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Satan is the enemy,

not the person we did business with.

Dad has taught me that if we take matters into our own hands, instead of letting God be our Defender and Advocate, we limit what He can do. Whether someone mistreats us, or slanders us, it's best to let God be our defender. When people come against Dad with vicious lies, or take advantage of him and he has every right to fight back or defend himself or the ministry, he chooses to keep quiet. He rolls the care of it on the Lord, forgives his enemies and trusts that God is in control. He also believes God will restore anything he has lost. There have been many times I have seen him just sow the issue as seed, move on and never give it another thought.

Deuteronomy 28:7 states, "The Lord shall *cause* thine enemies that rise up against thee to be smitten before thy face: they shall come out against thee one way, and flee before thee seven ways." Note that it says the Lord shall *cause* our enemies to be defeated; it doesn't say *we* shall defeat them. *God* does it, which means we don't have to.

Judgment belongs to the Lord (Hebrews 10:30). Although sometimes it doesn't come as soon as we'd like, it is going to come. We just need to make sure that when it does, we're standing on the right side of it! We do that by walking in love and forgiveness. Then THE BLESSING of the Lord can work in our lives and whatever was stolen can be restored.

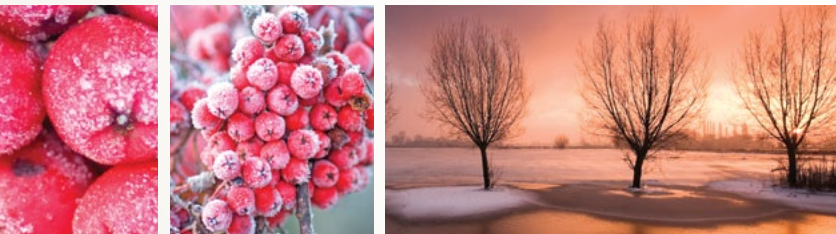
Free to Be Free

No matter what you're facing this Christmas season—whether it's a close family member who has wronged you, or a fellow Christian who has taken advantage of you in a business deal—now is the time to take the stand of forgiveness and learn to trust again. Allow God's love to replace any bitterness or anger Satan may want you to feel.

I know it's not easy, but God will sustain you and help you as you move on with life and continue in your relationship with Him. He will see that you always walk in His love and His peace.

Make forgiveness your first order of business and His blessings will be free to flow in your life. You'll be free to be free! **VICTORY**

John Copeland is CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and the son of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. He lives in Argyle, Texas, with his wife, Marty, and their three children.



BY DR. STEPHEN LOWELL SWISHER

the real Santa CLAUS



CHRISTIANS CONTINUE TO DEBATE whether to teach their children about Santa Claus. But the story behind the real Santa Claus should leave no doubt as to the wisdom of teaching our children about him. It's a revealing story that I believe should be shared. | The roots of "Santa Claus" are found in the Middle East—in Turkey. Ancient Christian writings indicate that Nicholas of Myra, the person we know as Santa, actually was a man of short stature, about 5 feet tall and slight—no "bowl full of jelly" for his belly.

He was a cardinal in the early Church, and although he was not rotund like "our" Santa Claus, he did wear flowing red robes and sport a full, white beard. But what made Nicholas a model for the Christmas icon of goodwill and cheer was not his appearance. It was his compassion and seemingly limitless generosity that inspired a legend known around the world.

Nicholas' parents were committed to their faith—in deeds, not just words. They gave to missionary work and helped feed the poor. They also took Nicholas to church and enrolled him in theology and history classes where he learned to fully embrace the two greatest commandments in the Bible: to love God with all your heart (Matthew 22:37) and to love your neighbor as yourself (verse 39). These verses had a profound impact on Nicholas. But the act that truly distinguished him began

with the failure of a family friend's business. The man and his three daughters had lost everything. In desperation, the man negotiated with local brothel owners to sell his oldest daughter into slavery to provide for the younger two.

When Nicholas learned of this, he sprang into action. The night before the girl was to be sold, Nicholas went to their home, waited for the lights to go out and tossed a bag of gold through an open window, vanishing before he could be seen. This random act of kindness was not to be a one-time act of charity.

The money lasted the family a year. When it ran out Nicholas returned with another bag of gold, but this time the father caught him. Wiping away tears the man asked Nicholas, "Why did you give us these gifts?"

"Because you needed them."

"But why didn't you let us know who you were?"

"Because it's good to give when only God knows about it."

That answer would become the foundation for the legend still celebrated today.

In his mid teens, Nicholas faced tragedy when both his parents died, probably from the plague. The uncle he had been named after was a priest, and took charge of caring for him. As the two prayed for understanding, Nicholas sensed an urgency to live out the lessons his parents had taught him. He felt the best way to honor them was to take his inheritance, cash it into gold coins and give it to the poorest families in the region. Satisfied that his act paid tribute to his parents, as well as his Lord Jesus, he then committed himself to study. Nicholas entered the priesthood before he was 20. The once wealthy young man now endured the trials of a young priest in a culture of corruption.

Under emperors Diocletian and Maximian, Christians were hunted and persecuted for 10 long years. Those who would not abandon their faith were often tortured or executed. As a church leader, Nicholas was jailed often. During those times, he would share the gospel with fellow prisoners and even prison guards.

Taking inspiration from the letters of the Apostle Paul, Nicholas encouraged those outside the walls to pray, support the work of faith and look to the Lord for strength. Soon after his release from prison, he was elected Bishop of Myra. He oversaw a period of rebuilding: feeding the poor, locating shelters for the homeless and finding families for those orphaned during the persecution.

Because of his gentleness, compassion and love, and the fact that he always carried a bag filled with candy and gifts whenever he ventured out in public, scores of children followed him around. Due to Nicholas' status with local citizens, Roman officials often sought his advice in matters of state. The influence he gained allowed him to work for the underprivileged and powerless, and in so doing he rose to the

position of cardinal.

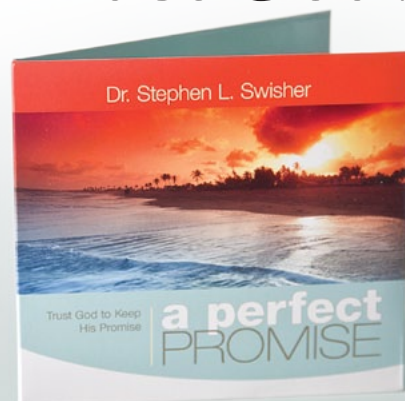
Yet what ultimately made him a legend was his love of children. As he grew older, he used more and more of his funds to purchase gifts for children. Giving toys or candy to little ones, Nicholas told stories of Jesus and the gift He had given through His death on the cross and subsequent resurrection. Then Nicholas would add, "Jesus loves little children, and He loves you." Through these gifts, many began to understand the full measure of their salvation. Nicholas' acts of service were so great that when he died, others picked up where he left off. Over time, the legend of Nicholas of Myra grew, and hundreds of churches were named after him.

St. Nicholas inspired the tradition of Santa Claus by his commitment to help others and leave the world a better place than he found it. He would be pleased to see the joy on the faces of children all around the globe at Christmastime, that his lessons of giving are still being taught and that children are made to feel especially loved on the day celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.

Let's tell his story and make it our own, so the true meaning of Christmas—love, peace, faith, joy, giving—is expressed as we honor the Prince of all of those things—the Lord Jesus Christ. **VICTORY**

Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher holds bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees from New Mexico State University and United Theological Seminary. He served as senior pastor for more than 15 years in churches ranging in size from 100 to over 6,000 members. In 2004, he was named one of the 10 Outstanding Young Americans by the U.S. Jaycees. He is married to Kellie Copeland Swisher and they have four children with the fifth expected in January 2011.

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Jesus didn't come to earth to show His divinity, but to show God's partnership with humanity.



the Perfect Gift

BY KELLIE
COPELAND
SWISHER



Christmas. It's my favorite time of the year. It's a common sentiment, but true for me as well as for millions of others around the world. A time of year that brings people together—worshiping, laughing, cooking and spending time together. | For our family, it is a time to slow down and enjoy each other and the many blessings the Lord has poured out on us. Of course there are the more “busy” things of the Christmas season that must be done. Things like cleaning and decorating, traveling and shopping.

Shopping at Christmas. Now that brings to mind a whole different idea of “togetherness.” And as I was considering this, I began to think about the importance we place on the material things we buy for each other at Christmas. We begin months in advance, thinking, researching, searching for the perfect gifts for our loved ones.

My thoughts went back to a timeless classic Christmas tale. *The Gift of the Magi* is the story of a poor, young couple who were so eager to please each other that they sold their most beloved possessions to buy a gift for each other—she, her beautiful hair to buy him a watch fob; and he, his pocket watch to buy a comb for her lovely hair.

Their selfless sacrifice reminds me of what Jesus did for you and me.

Set Aside His Position in Heaven

That first Christmas in Bethlehem was the Father's gift of love to a sin-filled world. We all know John 3:16, *New Living Translation*, “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” God gave...but I want to focus here on what Jesus gave.

Philippians 2:6-8, *NLT*, says, “Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.”

Jesus gave up His place in heaven as the Son of God—equal

to God, and all the divine privileges—to come as a servant.

Why would He do this? One reason is that He was first servant to the Father. The Bible is full of proof that He did nothing on His own, but only that which pleased the Father. Jesus said in John 5:30, *The Amplified Bible*, for example, “I am able to do nothing from Myself [independently, of My own accord—but only as I am taught by God and as I get His orders]. Even as I hear, I judge [I decide as I am bidden to decide. As the voice comes to Me, so I give a decision], and My judgment is right (just, righteous), because I do not seek or consult My own will [I have no desire to do what is pleasing to Myself, My own aim, My own purpose] but only the will and pleasure of the Father Who sent Me.”

It was in this place of servanthood that Jesus offered Himself as the sacrifice for the world, and it was here that He humbled Himself to become a servant to the entire human race. Beginning with His disciples, Jesus laid down His life daily, watching over and protecting them, saving their lives and expounding the Word to them. He was subjected to the same temptations as we are, so He is able to help and to serve us when we are being tested by circumstances (Hebrews 2:14-18).

Can you imagine the shock on their faces when Jesus took off His robe, garbed Himself as a servant and washed His disciples' feet? It made Peter uncomfortable for sure. “The Son of God should not wash my feet,” he cried! But He did. And it was a picture of what He did for us on the Cross.

So Here We Are...

Like Peter, we've let Him wash us clean. Now what? How

does it change our lives? Or our Christmas? Jesus gave Peter the answer in John 13:12-15, *NLT*: “After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, ‘Do you understand what I was doing? You call me “Teacher” and “Lord,” and you are right, because that’s what I am. And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you.”

Many want to see the good things Jesus bought and paid for manifest in their lives. They want to be important in the kingdom of God, to live like God’s children and walk in the benefits of their covenant.

Jesus set aside His position in heaven to become a slave so you and I, who were once slaves to sin, could have a position in heaven! He told His disciples how to be leaders in His kingdom. It’s not about how much money you have or what a great business mind you possess. To be the greatest you must become a servant—just as Jesus did. First John 4:17 declares, “As he is, so are we in this world.”

Second Corinthians 6:1-2, *NLT*, tells us, “As God’s partners, we beg you not to accept this marvelous gift of God’s kindness and then ignore it. For God says, ‘At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you.’ Indeed, the ‘right time’ is now. Today is the day of salvation.” Jesus didn’t come to earth to show His divinity, but to show God’s partnership with humanity.

As His people, you and I are called to be His representatives to the world. We can take up our position in the kingdom of heaven “as God’s partners”—His representatives—to bless, to heal, to love people into the kingdom of God. What better gift can we give our families than to be their servants—to love and bless them and let them see Jesus in our every word and action? What better gift can we give to our heavenly Father than to be His accurate representative in the earth—revealing Him as a loving, giving and kind Savior?

In this day and age, we need to show people His love. Jesus says love is the key.

Just as Jesus became a servant, just as He has and still encourages and comforts us, we should do the same for others. Our attitude toward one another should be the same as His is toward all mankind.

I can do that. I can do it for my family, my church, my nation and the world.

Merry Christmas, Jesus. I will do this for You! **VICTORY**

Kellie Copeland Swisher is an executive at Kenneth Copeland Ministries where she supervises several departments alongside her husband, Dr. Stephen Lowell Swisher. Through their ministry, Kellie and Steve fulfill the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ. Doctor and Mrs. Swisher have four children, a son-in-law and a baby due in January. They reside in Fort Worth, Texas.



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LifeMoreAbundant

BY JEREMY PEARSONS

Christmas is here again and what a marvelous time of year! It's a time to celebrate Jesus and the abundant life He has given us. Even during this season of frantic shopping, full calendars and harsh weather, God's overwhelming desire is for us to live the abundant life. Jesus said in John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Full of Life | *Abundance.* It means "exceeding... beyond measure...excessive."

These words make some Christians uncomfortable, but that doesn't change the fact that Jesus said it. If He said it, we should want it.

To truly experience Bible abundance we may need to change the mental image this word tends to create. It's not a destination we're hoping to "get to" someday. It's what Jesus has given us here and now.

Abundant life is not merely what we have—it's what we *give*. It's being so full of the life of God that it excessively overflows out of our lives into the lives of others. It's us as the Body of Christ, being carriers of THE BLESSING of God. "Abundant life" is you living so healed that when those around you are sick, you are overflowing with God's life and have enough to give to them. Abundance is seeing a need and reaching out to meet it.

Hearing His Voice | Learning to live an abundant life happens when we put John 10:10 in context.

Go back to the beginning of John 10 and you'll see Jesus is sharing about a shepherd and his sheep. Within the passage, He emphasizes this point: He's the shepherd and "the sheep follow him: for they know his voice" (verse 4).

Here's what I want you to catch: After talking about hearing His voice, Jesus states that He came to give us abundant life. In other words, abundant life is inseparably connected to hearing His voice.

His voice is always leading us and guiding us to abundance...and away from the thief who's stealing, killing and destroying.



Learning the Hard Way | Once when I was a youth pastor, I was teaching a series on hearing the voice of God, but I was feeling the pressure of not knowing where to start.

A few hours before service, my wife, Sarah, was leaving the house for worship rehearsal. As I stood in the garage, watching her pull out, I heard a voice on the inside say, *Don't let Sarah drive tonight.*

Real small. Real quiet. *Don't let Sarah drive tonight.*

As I stood there, I contemplated everything I would have to do if I didn't let Sarah drive. I'd have to go in, get changed, take her to church, drive back home...and I'd have no time to finish preparing my message on "Hearing the Voice of God."

So I let her go.

Ten minutes later, the phone rang. It was Sarah. There had been an accident. A guy in a pickup was pulling another pickup with a yellow strap—knots tied to each vehicle. He made a bad decision and turned right in front of Sarah, and she shot straight through the yellow strap between the two trucks.

As I sped out to help, those words rang in my ears: *Don't let Sarah drive tonight.*

Praise God, when I arrived, I found that everyone was all right. The damage was minimal. But had it not been for God's mercy on me, a few seconds could have made a huge difference.

Why was there any damage at all? Because I unplugged from the voice. And when I did, I opened my family up to the thief who wants nothing more than to steal, kill and destroy.

What would have happened had I listened to the still, small voice? *Nothing.* And I'd have probably wondered, *Why in the world didn't I just let her drive herself?* But I'd rather be wondering that than be in a hospital somewhere—because *that's* not abundant life.

Abundant life comes when we stay plugged in to His voice.

Healing to the body and rest to the soul



Strength & Beauty in the presence of The Healer

is the newest release from Sarah Hart Pearsons. This peaceful compilation will bring strength to your body and rest to your soul. Original songs including "I See Jesus," "Sweet Holy Spirit," "Faithful" and more will draw your attention to Jesus, our Healer—and to His finished work of redemption.

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

“And so faith, hope, love abide...but the greatest of these is love.” (1 Corinthians 13:13, *The Amplified Bible*)

God's Perfect Timing!

Your ministry is absolutely amazing. God's blessing can surely be seen and felt through everything you do.

For five years my family and I believed for a car. I have had to walk home in all kinds of weather, and many times I had to walk to work and back home in the dark. Through many teachings my faith kept building and we believed.

A few months ago, one of your prayer ministers prayed with me about purchasing a car. Everything went through perfectly, praise God. We knew when it was God's time it would be perfect, and it is.

M.A. :: Texas

It's Not Luck...It's Jesus

I want to thank you and all the Partners at KCM who stood in faith with me for my finances. I have had my breakthrough and our awesome God didn't just bless me a hundredfold, but a thousandfold! Also, one of my medical bills that was almost \$1,000 was supernaturally paid and I even received a small refund.

Since partnering with KCM, I have been blessed. Family and friends have said I'm having an extraordinary stroke of luck and I say no, I have Jesus.

I've only been born again for two years. I was born and raised in a religion that didn't teach being born again or THE BLESSING. We were taught that to even think of asking God for financial help was the sin of greed.

The *Believer's Voice of Victory* and the Copeland family have taught me so much about what our Lord really wants for us. I have never felt so free! May you continue to be blessed and to spread the word of THE BLESSING. My life has changed so much it would take a book to tell you all about it. Jesus Is Lord!

S.L. :: Alabama

SK Curriculum—Right on Time

I have just taken over leading our children's ministry at church and I just wanted to say thank you so incredibly much for your Superkid Curriculum.

It has honestly been a dream of mine to have our own "Superkid Academy" at church and use curriculum by Kellie Copeland for years! When I took over leading the ministry toward the end of last year, I was literally talking to my mum about how I really hoped Kellie brought out a curriculum. Then, only a few weeks later the magazine came in the mail advertising it. I was so excited and couldn't believe the incredible timing of it all.

God has seen the desires of our hearts and it has been an absolute blessing. Over the past several weeks I have seen the most amazing growth and transformation in the children. I have seen them start speaking the Word, praying for the sick in Superkids and walking around quoting the "Superkid Creed." This has been something I have been praying for *years* and to see it coming to pass is just absolutely awesome. I am so excited of the harvest of kids we will see (and are seeing) being raised up as Superkids!

K.L. :: Australia

Prayer Offers Strong Support

I have been a Partner with your ministry for one year and have been blessed by the Lord. My depression is less, I am on less mental health medication and my blood pressure is lower. The prayers from you, your ministry and the rest of the Partners are some of the most amazing things that have helped in my life. The monthly magazines are a lot of help, too.

M.P. :: Michigan



Rash Disappears!

One night I suddenly woke up and my body was covered with a red rash. It was everywhere: on my hands, stomach, chest and legs. I was scared, but didn't want to wake my mother. I knew she would call the ambulance and they would take me to the hospital.

I turned on your tape with the testimony about your granddaughter Lyndsey's healing—we had taped it in 1996 from your broadcast.

I listened to your tapes and then remembered that our pastor told us that Psalms are our spiritual weapon. I switched on Psalms and decided to go to bed and not worry. I slept well and in the morning, it was a miracle. My skin was clear without any spot! I shared with my mother the good news.

E.G. :: Ukraine

God Gives a Fresh Start

My husband and I are both believers. We lived in a very old house under the threat of collapse. Six or seven years ago I started praying about a new apartment and asked you to support me in prayer. It seemed we had no chance to receive a new dwelling place.

But in the spirit I saw the apartment and believed God had it and it belonged to us. Then our president issued a decree on eviction from the houses under the threat of collapse and we were given a new and wonderful apartment. We began this year in a new place.

We don't stop giving thanks to God who cares about His children and we thank you for your support.

A.S. :: Russia

Marriage Restored

Thank you so much for such a loving and giving ministry. I have not been a Partner long, but you have been there for me through the difficult moments. I use your prayer line, read the magazine and listen to podcasts.

I started contacting you when my husband and I went through some very difficult times in our marriage. It came to a point that he wanted to leave me and my daughter. Along with you I stayed strong and stood on the scriptures and prayed for my husband. It has been over a year now and thank God we are still happily married. It took a lot of work and prayer, but we are still together. My husband is a changed man. He reads his Bible, prays and listens to Christian programs with me.

Thank God for His blessings and for your ministry providing us with the encouragement we need.

T.C. :: England

Prayer Causes Pain to Stop

Recently, when Gloria prayed on the broadcast for everyone who felt pain, I could finally raise my arm, wave it and hug myself. Before that I had not been able to dress myself without pain. I took a

lot of injections and medicine, went for treatment, and used magnets, but had allergic reactions to all that. But I received my healing from Jesus.

A.G. :: Russia

Protected During Flood

Just before Christmas last year we were experiencing severe flooding in our area. A minister from your prayer department tried to call our house to see if we were OK, then sent us a letter. We are happy to report that we suffered no damage or loss during this time. Our awesome God protected us from any harm and we enjoyed a very peaceful Christmas season. It was a wonderful testimony to my friends and other family members that your ministry was so quick to inquire about our welfare. I am privileged to be a Partner with so many caring people.

M.M. :: Ireland

**Prayer Is
Our Priority.**

Call **800-600-7395** for prayer
24 hours a day, seven days a week.

A Life Spared!

The Lord is good and so faithful. One of my sons was shot in February. The bullet missed major organs, but his lung, liver and kidney were affected. Despite that, he is alive and well. We called the ministry prayer line and prayed for protection and salvation.

My son is saved not only physically, but spiritually! God has done so much for him. Thank you so much for your prayers and support.

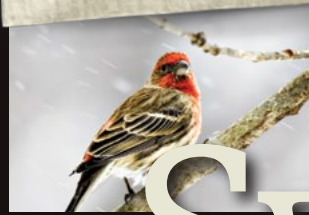
E.F. :: Tennessee

New Job Brings Increase

I attended the meeting in Atlanta with Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons. I was unemployed at that time and had been since September. I just accepted a job with the largest insurance carrier in Georgia. How our God works!

I stood on many scriptures and this position pays more than my last one—with a potential of an additional \$10,000-\$20,000 annually through sales. Thank you for your prayers.

F.A.F. :: Georgia



the Sweetness of GOD

BY MELANIE HEMRY

The stringent scent of antiseptic mixed with the musty decay of disease assailed 12-year-old Keith Moore as he stepped into the hospital corridor. Nurses in soft-soled shoes rushed to the gurney where Keith's younger brother lay near death. Riding his motorbike down a country road in rural Mississippi, he'd hit a truck. The boy's head collided with the bumper, and he suffered a

broken neck, fractured skull and numerous other injuries so severe the doctors gave him no hope. They worked instead on less serious cases—those who could be saved.

Keith watched the drama unfold and felt his family being shattered into as many pieces as his little brother's motorbike. Both Keith's parents had been raised in strong Pentecostal families, and as wonderful as his family was, none of them was serving the Lord.

Most of what Keith knew about God he had learned from his grandmother Lena Pearl Moore. One of his earliest memories had been as a toddler, being held in her arms while she fed him ripe, juicy pears from the tree behind her house. Keith could still taste the sweetness of those pears as the juice ran down his chin. Eyes sparkling, his grandmother had said, "God is sweeter than those pears."

Somehow, Mamaw Moore always brought things around to God. She even found a way to link Him to their huge Hereford bull named Tom. A pet, Tom was a gentle giant. One lazy Mississippi day, as katydids sang a chorus in the heat, Keith's grandmother lifted him high and let him pet Tom's gigantic curly white face. As his fingers stroked the warm fur, his grandmother said, "God's bigger than Tom."

Bigger than Tom? How could anything be bigger than Tom?

Now, sitting on a hard plastic chair in the hospital waiting room, Keith's mouth felt as dry as a handful of dust in a drought. His heart beat hard against his chest like a chicken flapping its wings.

Questions raced through his mind. Was God big enough to save his little brother? If so, was He sweet enough to do it?

A Miraculous Touch

"A woman we'd never met showed up at the hospital and told us God was going to heal my brother," Keith recalls. "We prayed with her and believed as best we could. By the next day he was healed. I pushed him in a wheelchair down the hall while we both laughed and cut up. The doctors discharged him, and after we got home my grandmother did something so out of character it took us all by surprise. She summoned us to her house.

"When we arrived, my grandmother wiped tears out of her eyes and said, 'I told God that if He would save our baby, you'd all serve Him.' Pausing, she pierced us with a look and in her soft voice asked, 'Did I lie?'

"My dad hung his head and said, 'No, ma'am.' The next Sunday we were all in church. When my father walked down the aisle during the altar call I thought, *If he needs to go, I need to go.* I followed him to the altar and gave my heart to Jesus."

Although all the Moores enjoyed musical talent, Keith's greatest passion was martial arts. His dad, also a martial arts fan, had started his son in classes at age 10. Throughout his teen years, Keith excelled in the discipline and studied under the best instructors in the area. After graduating from high school, Keith married his girlfriend, Phyllis. Determined to become the best at martial arts, the two made plans to move to Japan where Keith could study under the most elite martial arts instructors in the world.

Nice plan, but it wasn't what God had in mind.

Phyllis went to work for a physician who, upon learning she was a Christian, offered to loan her his collection of teaching tapes by Kenneth Copeland, Kenneth Hagin, Jerry Savelle and Charles Capps. In 1978 rural Mississippi, Keith and Phyllis didn't know anyone with a collection of sermons and thought the idea strange. When the doctor continued to insist they borrow the tapes, they finally agreed to listen to Brother Copeland's tapes.

The Power of The Word

"I'll never forget sitting on a black, genuine-imitation leather (plastic) couch in our little mobile home with red shag carpet, listening to tapes by Kenneth Copeland," Keith remembers. "I'd never heard that I'd been redeemed from the curse of the law. I had no idea that I was the righteousness of God in Christ. I knew next to nothing about faith, and those tapes stirred something in us."

Soon, Phyllis and Keith had listened to the entire collection of tapes by Kenneth Copeland. "Take these tapes by Kenneth Hagin," the doctor urged. "You'll like them."

"No, I don't know anything about Brother Hagin. I'll just stay with Brother Copeland," Keith said.

"Well, Keith, Kenneth Copeland says that he got some things from Brother Hagin. In fact, he highly recommends him."

"In that case, I'll listen to him."

For the next two and a half years, Keith and Phyllis fed on the word of faith from both Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth Hagin. They had no idea God was making their spirits strong for the call ahead.

Not only could we not ask for better friends, Kenneth and Gloria have been two of the strongest influences in our lives.

Fighting a Different Fight

"In 1979, the Copelands came to Jackson, Miss.," Keith explains. "We had \$10 to our name, but we made an effort to go to their meeting. We sowed \$5 as a seed of faith and spent the other \$5 on a teaching by Gloria Copeland on how to believe God for a house. That was our beginning."

"When I sensed the call of God on my life, I told the Lord I would be a witness for Him in martial arts, but that didn't fly. I had to put my dream on the altar to follow God's plan for my life. I prayed and told the Lord that since I was willing to travel anywhere in the world to study under the best instructors in martial arts, I wanted to do the same thing in ministry. I had no idea where it might be, but I wanted Him to send me anywhere in the world where I could study under the best teachers. Within six months I was in Tulsa, Okla., and literally sitting at the feet of Brother Kenneth E. Hagin."

"We made our first trip to Tulsa to attend the Campmeeting in 1981. It was an eye-opening experience to see 10,000 people worshipping God and praying in tongues. We didn't know there were 10,000 people in the world who prayed in tongues. We took a bus tour of Rhema Bible Training Center and felt the presence of God. Phyllis said, 'Have you ever known you were supposed to do something you really didn't want to do?' We both knew we were supposed to pack up, leave home and go to Rhema."

Back home, Keith's grandmother summoned him and Phyllis. "I had a dream," she said, weeping. "I saw a big truck loading all your things. I know you're moving away, aren't you?"

Keith and Phyllis hadn't told a soul, but God had confided in her. "Yes, ma'am."

"I'll miss you, but you're going to serve the Lord so I can be happy for you. Am I right?"

Separated Unto God

It took every ounce of faith Keith and Phyllis could muster to move to Tulsa and go to Rhema. They had to believe God for every tank of gas, every bag of groceries, every pair of socks, a place to live and money for tuition—even work. When the doctor Phyllis had worked for in Mississippi went to a medical meeting, the man sitting next to him sighed and said, "I need an assistant."

"Where do you live?"

"Tulsa."

"I know just the person."

Phyllis was hired at several times her previous salary.

"In 1982, Brother Hagin built the Prayer and Healing Center," Keith recalls. "Each time he spoke about it I

thought it would be wonderful to be part of it. I volunteered to do whatever was needed. Following graduation, we'd planned to go home, but the Lord led us to stay. For the next several years I worked full time as a volunteer at the Prayer and Healing School. I set up and broke down meeting rooms, filled out registration cards, answered questions, showed Brother Hagin's healing videos and spoke or sang as the Lord directed. I earned no salary, but lived by faith.

"The Lord led me to pray that He would put me in situations and associations where I would grow the quickest and become the most solid," Keith recalls. "When I was offered a job teaching at Rhema, I wasn't sure what would happen if I received a salary! But the Lord directed me to take the position."

"I was given great liberty as an instructor. I wrote the curriculum and taught four new classes in one year while still teaching in Prayer and Healing School. I was scrambling to teach three classes each morning, noon prayer school, afternoon healing school and more classes in the evening. Sometimes I taught 23 to 26 times in a single week. It got so intense that I got off my chair onto my knees one day and said, 'This may be too much.'"

"The Lord said, *You asked for it, and this is how you do it.*"

Knowing God's Timing

In 1985, an international minister called Keith out in a meeting with a prophetic word. The Lord said he wasn't just called to the helps ministry, but that he would have his own ministry.

It's one thing to know the will of God; it's another thing to understand God's timing. "I stayed at Rhema another 13 years before I resigned and launched my own ministry," Keith said.

Not long after that, Keith was attending a meeting out of state when the Lord corrected him.

"He said that just because He'd called me to my own ministry didn't mean He'd released me from Brother Hagin. Phyllis and I went to Brother Hagin and asked him if we could continue helping him. From then on, we put his meetings first and worked ours around his schedule."

"During those early years at Rhema, we saw Kenneth and Gloria and knew them well enough to say hello. We consider them our spiritual elders in the faith and held them in the highest esteem."

"As we began developing our own ministry, Kenneth and Gloria brought us into their meetings. They invited us onto their broadcast time and time again. Every time we've stood in faith for something big, without

telling them, they've pulled alongside us to help. For years now, they've offered their faith, support, encouragement and financial seed.

"God used Kenneth and Gloria to get His vision to us. He used them to help us start a television ministry and to help us in aviation. In 1996, when God told me to learn to fly, Kenneth would often take me to his aircraft and say, 'Sit in the driver's seat and make airplane noises!' Not only could we not ask for better friends, Kenneth and Gloria have been two of the strongest influences in our lives."

A New Call and Separation

In 2001, Keith and Phyllis vacationed in Branson, Mo., and felt impressed to go back there and pray. During that prayer journey, Keith sensed God calling him to start a church in Branson. Although he'd never considered himself a pastor, the Lord said, *Don't try and figure it out. Just do it.* While he continued to pray, Keith asked Phyllis to look for a property that would hold a few hundred people. The Lord directed her to an empty 2500-seat theater.

"What are we going to do with all this?" Keith asked when he saw the rambling building with 26 bathrooms on one side. They didn't have the money to buy the building. And the owners weren't interested in selling it to them either...until God dealt with them. Soon Keith and Phyllis had bought the building and were alone in Branson, with their small staff busy in Tulsa.

Their good friends, Jeff and Patsy Perry, insisted they hold their first service on Resurrection Sunday, which was only four weeks away. Jeff and Patsy sent teams of people from their church's Disaster Relief Group to help. The first week 150 people arrived to scrape, paint and build a platform. The second week another 100 arrived. Within three and a half weeks, the building was ready for church.

"We held our first Sunday service at Faith Life Church in Branson, Mo., on Resurrection Sunday 2002," Keith recalls. "The evening before, Kenneth and Gloria were in a meeting on the other side of the country. But when we opened the doors of our church, they were standing right there beside us."

In 2007, Faith Life Church bought the former Remington Theatre right on the strip in Branson. God has blessed the church with every kind of spiritual and natural blessing, even as Keith and Phyllis continue to travel to share the truth which still sets the captives free. Keith has even been invited to speak at several of the Copelands' meetings over the past few years.

It's been 32 years since Keith and Phyllis Moore spent countless evenings listening to the Word of God taught by Kenneth Copeland. And even longer since Keith's little brother was healed by the miraculous power of God. For more than three decades now, the Moores have been privileged to not only sit under the teaching of some of the greatest men and women of God, but to declare the uncompromising Word of God to the world themselves.

Yet two of the most important lessons Keith Moore ever learned came through the simple wisdom of his grandmother, Lena Pearl Moore. God really is bigger than Tom. And He is far sweeter than Mamaw's pears. After a miraculous journey that has taken him from the back roads of Mississippi all around the globe, Keith Moore will be the first to tell you that every day with Jesus is sweeter than the day before. Oh, taste and see that God is good! **VICTORY**

Contact us and ask for our FREE "New Partner" package with complete information about partnership, complimentary gifts and more.



We're Right by Your Side!

God has always had exactly the right people beside Keith and Phyllis Moore throughout their journey in life and ministry. From the beginning days of their faith adventure, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland have been right there with them—first by way of teaching tapes and today through partnership in ministry! For both families, their exchanges of love, faith and prayer support have been key to the effectiveness of their ministries in changing lives everywhere the Lord takes them!

KCM is here to be right by your side, too, to exchange love, faith and prayer...the foundation of partnership in ministry. Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to become a Partner with Kenneth Copeland Ministries. We all need someone by our side in our life journey!



Inside your Partner package:

- ▶ Brother Copeland's personal letter of welcome
- ▶ Benefits of partnership brochure
- ▶ Covenant Partner Card—good for a 10-percent discount at KCM-meeting book tables
- ▶ Ministry report DVD
- ▶ Scripture promises CD
- ▶ *The Anointing in Partnership* CD



I believe Christians typically think about the will of God for their lives in terms of the big things: Where should I go to school? Where shall I work? Whom will I marry? Their attitude toward the little things of everyday life is more like “que sera, sera,”—whatever will be, will be.

But the truth is, God has designed His perfect will for our day-to-day living in the small things just as He has in the big things of life. In fact, I have discovered that when we stay in a place to hear God and obey Him in the little things of life, we set ourselves up to know His will about the big things.

Living

every day in GOD's *perfect will*



God has a plan and purpose for us, both in the big things and the little things. He has things for each of us to do, places for us to go and people for us to meet. And through every action and connection, our lives become fruitful and productive. We make a difference in our world, and His will is fulfilled!

The little things of our lives come together and lead us to the big things that God has in His mind for us. It's His plan and He will work it out for us when we simply put ourselves in position to hear Him, act on what we hear and receive the results He has designed for each of us.

Our Christian lives become an amazing adventure in faith as we dare to simply step out and walk according to what God says to us both in His Word and in our hearts by His Holy Spirit!

A Good Place to Start

I have discovered a great place in the Bible from which each of us can make a fresh start in walking in His will for our lives every day!

We all know the Scripture is full of guidance for our walk as Christians. From Genesis to Revelation you will find direction for living in both the big and the little things of life.

And in these uncertain times, we can be certain of one thing—God desires above all else that you and I know His purpose for our lives and that we live out to the fullest the blessed life He has prepared for us.

Romans 12 gives us essential keys to living every day according to God's perfect will. When we follow the guidelines set out in this part of Paul's letter to the Romans, we will put ourselves in perfect position to hear from God and know what to do—to take each step on purpose and to see it through by the power of the Holy Spirit.

As we take hold of these keys, the Church as a whole will be set to live out the days ahead in victory and be all that God intends us to be—the Body of Christ in the earth today...speaking what He speaks, doing what He does, changing the world wherever we set our feet—all to the glory of God our Father!

Dedicate Your Body

So, let's take a look at Romans 12. I am using *The Amplified Bible* as our reference because I love how it expands our understanding and gives such a clear picture of Scripture.

Romans 12:1—"I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship."

Dedicate our bodies! What does that mean? It's really pretty simple... we purpose in our hearts to do what God tells us to do. When we make that decision in our inner man (our spirit), our outer man (our body) will follow. We find in the Word what He says, and we simply say yes.

When we received Jesus as our Savior, and the Holy Spirit as our guide and teacher, things began to change in our lives. We became alive in God. According to 2 Corinthians 5:17, we became new creations in Christ Jesus. Old things passed away and all things in our lives became new. We were born all over again, and we became free to live habitually in our new lives.

So, we dedicate our bodies to express the new life we have received. We purpose to say what we hear our Father saying and to do what we see Him doing. As we consistently build our spirits on the Word of God, in obedience to Him, we live every day just like Jesus lived—loving and serving people.

In dedicating our bodies we become living sacrifices. God has enabled us to be living examples, proof of Himself in the earth. Just as He displayed Himself in the everyday life of Jesus, He desires to do the same through you and me!



Salvation Prayer

If you do not know
Jesus

as your Savior and 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, call 800-600-7395, or click on the button below.

We are living proof that Christ Jesus, the sacrifice God gave for the salvation of the whole world, is alive in the earth today and He is living big through you and me! Glory to God!

Renew Your Mind

Romans 12:2—“Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].”

The bridge between our bodies (our physical being) and our spirits (our inner being) is this wonderful part of our being called our soul. Our soul is made up of our mind, our will and our emotions. In Romans 12:2, Paul is talking about our mind—the part of us that makes decisions, understands, reasons, and draws conclusions or judgments. The mind is the part of our soul that has the capacity to discern spiritual truths.

Our mind receives input and directs our body. And input comes to us every waking minute of every day from the world or from our inner man.

Paul is giving clear direction to the Body of Christ to not allow ourselves to be conformed or pressed into the mold of the world by its external influences. We are to be transformed or changed into our new form and transfigured by renewing our minds with God’s Word revealed to us by His Spirit.

Because we are new creatures we don’t have to stay on our old life path. We walked on that road long enough, allowing our minds to be molded by whatever the world threw our way. We don’t have to continue to get our input from the world around us.

We now have the ability within us to change our way of thinking—to develop new attitudes, to totally transform our minds through the Spirit and the Word. Every time we sit down with the Word we should expect the Spirit to personally communicate with us and teach us whatever we need to be transformed (John 14:26). The Word and the Spirit will change our mind and push out the world’s influence if we open ourselves to the change. If we spend time with the Holy Spirit in the Word every day we will be changed and our bodies will rejoice to become that living sacrifice!

As we are changed day by day, God’s perfect will becomes evident to us and to those around us. We will walk out our lives as the new creatures we are—totally changed into the image of God’s dear Son! Our attitudes will line up with the Holy Spirit and the Word, and our actions will reflect God’s

heart of love. Every connection we make in the little things will lead to our connecting with the big things in our lives, and we become living proof that His will is being done in our lives and in our world!

Stay Sober

Romans 12:3—“For by the grace (unmerited favor of God) given to me I warn everyone among you not to estimate and think of himself more highly than he ought [not to have an exaggerated opinion of his own importance], but to rate his ability with sober judgment, each according to the degree of faith apportioned by God to him.”

We should never overestimate ourselves. Yes, we are born again and we are God’s children. Yes, we are filled with the Spirit of the living God. Yes, we are transformed by our renewed mind. And yes, we should be living every day in the perfect will of God.

Now, that might be enough to give someone a pretty big idea of himself. Then we remember that greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

We can’t look at ourselves in pride and say, “I’m really sharp. You know, I’m really spiritual. I’m on top of it all. I am God’s man of the hour.” Each of us has been brought from the lowest place to where we are today by His Spirit, seated with Christ Jesus in heavenly places (Ephesians 2:6). Thank God He didn’t leave us the way He found us!

And, yes, He has gifted each of us with special skills and abilities. None of us was saved without His having a purpose for us and without His equipping us to fulfill His perfect will for us. And the purpose of all our giftings is to fulfill what He has called us to be and to do.

Just like Jesus ministered both to crowds and to individuals—saving, healing and delivering—we do the same today because God has given us the skills of His Spirit to do what He did. Everything we are and have today is a gift straight from our heavenly Father. All we have to do to possess anything He has for us is to simply receive it through faith...find out what the Word and the Spirit have to say to us and do it!

Even our faith is a gift from God. By His Word, He has supplied us with all the faith we need to live in His will every day. And His purpose will be fulfilled for each of us when we all work together, sharing the gifts with the people He brings into our lives. That is why being in partnership with the Body of Christ is so critical. God designed His plan to include all of us, working together, connected in the little and the big things, to accomplish His will for all our lives and ultimately for the world!

God is totally committed to each of us individually and to all of us corporately. We are one Body! The very life of the

Spirit is in us all! None of us can fulfill His perfect will for Christ's Body alone.

As we live our daily lives individually, every little thing we do within God's will has an effect on the rest of the Body. And all the little things that connect us and make us the

glorious Body of Christ walking the earth today ultimately lead us to the big things He has in mind for the Church.

Find out what the Word and the Spirit have to say about God's perfect will for you. Discover the great adventure He desires your life to be and get on with it! **VICTORY**

Believer's Voice of Victory Broadcast Calendar

December



Kenneth Copeland



Gloria Copeland



Jeremy Pearsons



Sarah Pearsons

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! For 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.

SUNDAY

5

Gloria Copeland

Faith—This Is How to Live

See how spending time in the Word keeps your faith strong...and faith pleases God!

12

Gloria Copeland

Take and Receive Your Healing

We are *not* the sick trying to get healed. We are the *healed* and Satan is trying to take our health away from us. Discover how to take hold of your healing and not let go!

19

Kenneth Copeland

Seek the One Who Loves You

God isn't need minded, He's seed minded. See how to seek Him by planting seeds of faith in all you do.

26

Kenneth Copeland

The Word Is Final Authority

God is always on the increase; darkness is always on the decrease. Stand on the final authority of His Word for your increase today!

DAILY

29-3

Tradition or Revelation:

The Difference Between What You've Heard and What You Know

When you *know* what the Bible says, you won't be misled by the traditional thinking of the world. Join **Jeremy** and **Sarah Pearsons** this week and learn how to put the Word of God in your heart so you're not deceived by the traditions of men.

6-10

A Revelation of the Word: Seed That Produces Results

Jeremy and **Sarah Pearsons** continue their series, showing how receiving a true revelation of God's Word trumps traditional knowledge and brings victory.

13-17

Be Free From the Curse and Live Healed

Every sickness and every disease is under the curse...and we have been redeemed from the curse! **Gloria Copeland** demonstrates through the Scriptures how your healing *is* God's will...*today*.

20-24

Rejoice in the Anointed One and His Anointing

Celebrate THE BLESSING this Christmas with **Kenneth** and **Gloria Copeland** and invite His presence into your gift giving.

27-31

A Blessed Ending, a New Beginning

Bring in the new year with FAITH! Join **Kenneth** and **Gloria Copeland** for a look ahead at what God is doing now and in the days to come through an active, faith-believing people.

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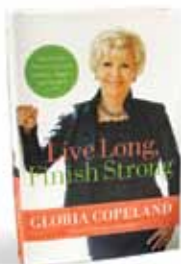
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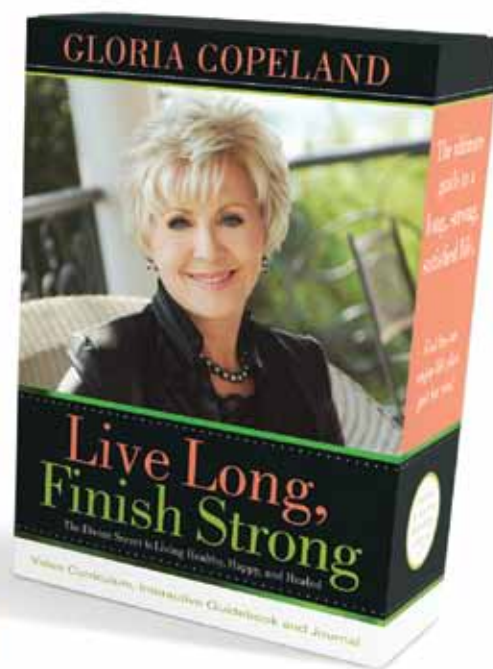
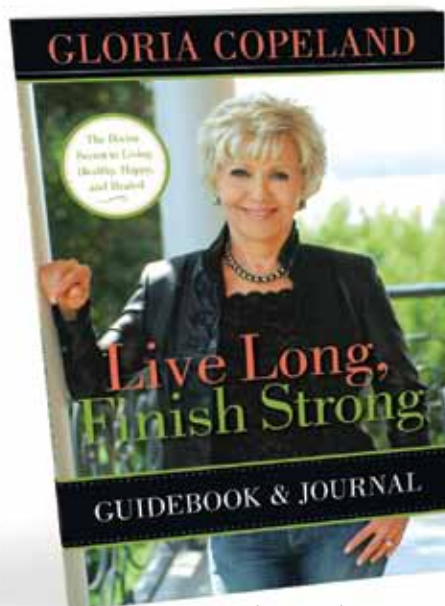


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