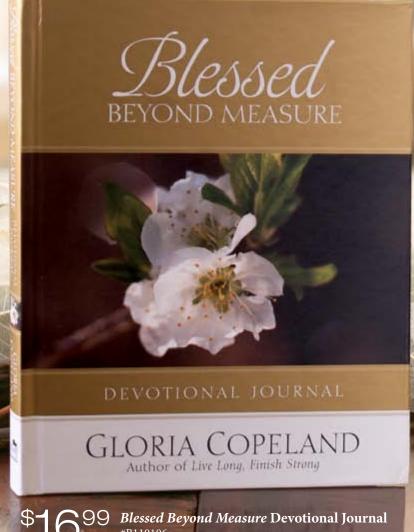
Believer's Voice of

January 2011

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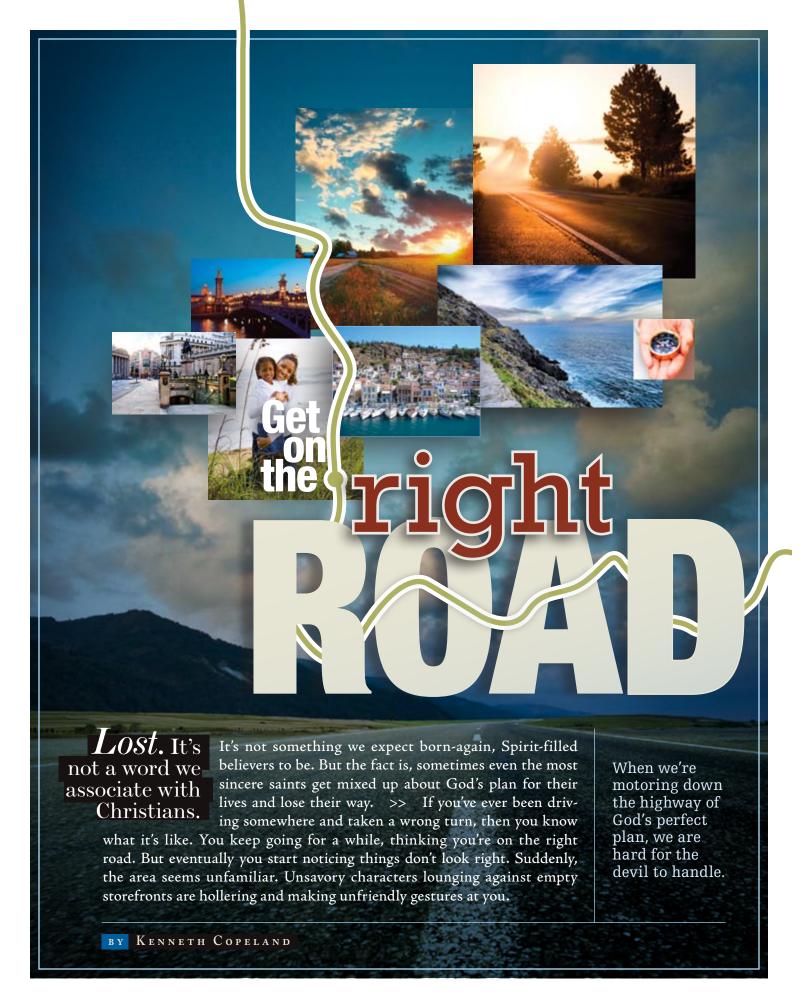
contents



When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the Believer's Voice of Victory magazine, He said: This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it. For 38 years it has been our joy to bring you good news through the teachings of ministers who write out of living contact with God, and the testimonies of believers who took God at His Word and experienced His victory in everyday life.

-Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY VOLUME 39 NUMBER 1 January 2011 BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY is published monthly by Eagle Mountain International Church Inc./Kenneth Copeland Ministries Inc., a nonprofit corporation, Fort Worth, Texas. © 2011 Kenneth Copeland Ministries Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part without written permission is prohibited. BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY and the logo on the back page are registered trademarks of Eagle Mountain International Church Inc./Kenneth Copeland Ministries Inc., in the United States and international countries where BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY circulates. Printing and distribution costs are paid for by donations from KCM Partners and Friends. Printed in the United States of America. For a free subscription write to Kenneth Copeland Ministries, Fort Worth, TX 76192-0001 or sign up online at kcm.org. Because all BELIEVER'S VOICE OF VICTORY issues are preplanned, we are unable to accept unsolicited manuscripts. Communications Manager/Cindy Hames Advertising Coordinator/Leah Lee Managing Editor/Ronald C. Jordan Editors/Deborah Ide Camille Wilder Writers/Darlene Breed Gina Lynnes Christopher Maselli Proofreaders/Jean DeLong Michelle Harris Eileen Hooley Senior Designer/Michael Augustat Designers/Wendy Hannon Larry Warren Project Manager/Deborah Brister Type Coordinator/Joyce Glasgow



If you didn't know it before, you know it now—you're in trouble.

Why? Because you're on the wrong road. You've gotten lost and wound up where you don't belong.

That's exactly what happens sometimes in the lives of believers. Somewhere along the way they make a decision that is contrary to the will of God. For a while they might not even realize they've wandered away from God's plan. But over time it dawns on them: They're doing something they were never called to do. They're working a job because it offered a good salary but they don't enjoy it. Nothing about it fits them.

Although they're still reading the Bible, going to church and endeavoring to do the will of God, they're running into more than their share of trouble. They're miserable and everything seems out of kilter. Instead of enjoying the abundant life Jesus promised, they encounter frustration, failure and confusion at every turn.

All because they're on the wrong road.

It's Not Rocket Science

Don't misunderstand. I'm not saying that if we get on the right road our lives will be trouble free. As long as we live in this world, we have to fight the good fight of faith. The devil will see to it. But we can overcome everything he throws at us if we know who we are, what God has called us to do and where we're supposed to be.

When we're motoring down the highway of God's perfect plan, we are hard for the devil to handle. But to stay on that highway, we have to know what God has called and created us to do. We have to understand He didn't wait until we were born to figure out where to put us. He didn't just say to us one day, *Hey, come over here and do this*.

No, God chose each of us in Christ "before the foundation of the world" (Ephesians 1:4). He created us "in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10). That means God called every one of us something—a businessperson, a musician, a pastor, an attorney, a writer or whatever—long before we were ever born. Before the world began, God called and planned a blessed, extravagant, fulfilling life for each of us.

Whatever God calls something is what it is throughout eternity. He has never changed His plan for us and He never will. We just have to find out what it is. Somehow, we've gotten the idea it's hard to do, but it's not. God doesn't hide His plan for us and then dare us to find it.

No, the only reason God hides His plan is to keep the devil out of our business. His plan is hidden *for* us, not *from* us. So we don't have to be super spiritual to discover it. We just have to say, "Lord, Your will be done in my life. Your

will is Your plan. So I receive that plan and declare that I am stepping into it now, in Jesus' Name."

God Can Get It Done

"But Brother Copeland, you don't understand how badly I've missed it. I've been out of God's plan for so long I have no idea how to get back on track."

Figuring out how to get back on track is not your job. Your job is to take the first step; and the first step back into God's plan is the step of faith—not faith in yourself and your own ability, but FAITH IN GOD.

Let me ask you something: Do you believe God can take you from where you are right now into His perfect will? If you're not sure, look at what the Bible says.

- Ah Lord God! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee. (Jeremiah 32:17)
- With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible. (Matthew 19:26)
- If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. (Mark 9:23)
- For with God nothing shall be impossible. (Luke 1:37)

Those four verses easily settle the fact that none of us is big enough to mess things up so badly God can't fix them. His power and desire to overcome sin in our lives is far greater than our power and desire to sin. Where sin abounds, His grace does much more abound.

It doesn't matter whether you veered intentionally off course or you just made a wrong turn by accident. God can take you from where you are right now—even if you are way off, out in left field somewhere—and put you back into the center of His perfect will for your life. The second you believe that truth, the worst is behind you and you're headed in the right direction.

"But how can I be sure of that? I don't even know where I'm supposed to be going!"

Don't worry about it. Just keep walking in faith and the Lord will direct you. Keep saying, "Lord, Your will be done." Keep confessing, "God is working in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure. I will to do the will of God. He is directing my will. He is building my will. My will is in partnership with Him. I prayed for His will and His plan to be done in my life, so as far as I'm concerned I am in the perfect will of God."

Kill That Cow

Some believers would never dream of saying such things. They have the idea their will needs to be broken down, not built up. They assume God's plan for them is going to be so unpleasant they'll have to override their own will to follow it. Religious correctness has taught them that anything they deeply desire couldn't be God's will because they would enjoy it.

If that's the way you've been thinking, stop it! Kill that religiously correct old cow and butcher her where she stands.

God created you to be what He called you to be. Therefore, when you are functioning in that calling, you're full of joy. You're fulfilled and delighted with life because you're not doing what Momma or Auntie Big Mouth or anyone else said you should do. You're doing what you were born and graced by God Himself to do.

"But what about the guy who just wants to sing and play the guitar all the time?" you might ask. "How will he ever make a living?"

I reckon Elvis Presley's mother used to wonder the same thing. Talk about someone who was born to play the guitar and sing! Elvis is a prime example of a man who discovered his God-given gifts but failed to use them the way God intended. He was called to preach and sing in church and he knew it. He admitted it to some people who were close to him just before he died.

People who don't know any better just assume Elvis had a natural gift for music. But there is no such thing as a natural gift apart from God. Every talent and ability we have

comes from Him. He created nature and natural things.

That's why it's so enjoyable to walk in God's plan for our lives. When we're doing what He called and created us to do, the gifts and graces that come naturally to us start flowing. Life seems easier and more fun.

Yes, fun! God's not against fun. It was religion that told us He didn't want us enjoying anything. Religion convinced us that if we weren't squalling and bawling and crying in church we weren't doing it right. But that's not true!

The Bible says in 1 Timothy 6:17, the "living God...giveth us richly all things to enjoy." So if you've committed yourself to God and you're not enjoying your life, ask Him about it. Stand in the place of faith, believing all things are possible with God, and seek His face. Go to Him and say, "Lord, what is it? Am I out of my place?"

Then expect Him to answer you. Be confident that because you belong to Him you can hear and recognize His voice (John 10:27). Trust in the ability and faithfulness of the Holy Spirit to teach you all things (John 14:26).

I can assure you both from the

Scriptures and from personal experience, if you'll do that, God will tell you what you need to know.

I'm With God

"Brother Copeland, I believe God has spoken to me," you might say. "I believe He has shown me what I'm supposed to do and where I should be. But I can't see how to get there from here."

Don't sweat it. It's not your place to work it out. That's probably what got you off-track in the first place. Just agree with God and declare by faith that you are headed to where He has called you to be, and as far as you're concerned, you're there! Then trust God to bring it to pass.

He has the resources, wisdom and power to do it.

I found that out more than 40 years ago in my early days of ministry. When God called me to preach His uncompromised Word on every available voice, from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around, I didn't have enough money to get out of sight much less go around the world. I had no idea how I was going to carry out God's plan. All I had was faith enough to say, "Yes, Lord. I'll do it."

I figured if He called me, He'd be with me and in me helping me get the job done. I also took to heart a lesson I learned from my dad when I was a boy. He was an excellent businessman who never went a day without a job even during the Great Depression. He traveled a lot, working first for Draughn's Business College and then for National Old Line Insurance Company, and I liked going with him. I learned from watching him how to shake hands with a man and honor someone with whom you're getting acquainted.

I was always impressed by the way he could walk up to a complete stranger with confidence, extend his hand and say, "My name is A.W. Copeland. I'm with Draughn's Business College," or, "I'm with National Old Line Insurance Company."

When I was just getting started in the ministry, those words came back to me with fresh power. One day I was talking with a man I'd just met, someone who didn't know who I was or what I did. After we visited for a few minutes, he said, "Who are you with?"

I immediately remembered how my dad used to answer that question.

"My name is Kenneth Copeland," I said. "I'm with God."

The man laughed about it, but I wasn't joking. I was serious because I understood the root of the

question. When people in business ask who you are with, they're actually saying, "Who do you represent? Is it just you I'm talking to or is there someone bigger backing you? Who am I dealing with when I'm dealing with you?"

How thrilling it is to be able to answer those questions by saying, "I'm with God! The God who can do all things! The God for whom nothing is impossible! He's the Creator of heaven and earth, and nothing is too hard for Him!"

Cheer Up and Sail On

"Yeah, but what about the economy? What about the people who are trying to stop me from doing what God's called me to do? What about the devil? What about all the mistakes I've made?"

None of it matters!

If you're with God, nothing is big enough to stop you. If you're with Him and you know it, no person on earth, no force of nature and no devil from hell can thwart His plan for your life.

The Apostle Paul proved that beyond a shadow of a doubt. God's plan for him included traveling to Rome and testifying about Jesus before Caesar. The devil did everything in his power to stop him from fulfilling that plan. He put stubborn people in Paul's way who wouldn't listen to anything he said. He stirred up a hurricane that kept Paul's boat going in circles for two weeks and eventually smashed it to smithereens. (See Acts 27.)

What did he do about it? After two weeks of pitching around in hurricane-force winds, and watching sailors puke on the deck, he stood up and told everyone they'd survive and declared that he would finish what God had called him to do. He said, "Sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me" (verse 25).

Sure enough, everyone on board got out alive. The hurricane blew Paul into the middle of a healing meeting, and he ended up in Rome because God's plan for him was bigger than the storm.

The same is true for you. God's plan for your life is bigger than everything that is coming against it. So cheer up! Even if it feels like you're caught in a storm and can't see where you're going, take your stand of faith. Say, "I'm not lost! I'm in the perfect will of God. He's working in me both to will and to do of His good pleasure. His plan for me is in me and there is an abundance of grace to carry it out. Nothing is impossible with Him!" **VICTORY**



BY MELANIE HEMRY

Angels Assignment

Moose! Moose! Moose! The word kept racing through Mikael Mantyla's mind as the stripes on the road flashed in his headlights. Everything beyond the beams disappeared in the indigo ink of the Canadian night. With no other cars in sight, Mikael blasted his horn. Any animal on the road would surely turn toward the sound. He watched for the gleam of eyes in his headlights but saw none. Driving slower than usual, he scanned the area for signs of the wildlife that roamed throughout northwest Ontario at night.



I should have been dead or paralyzed, and yet I'd been walking around my room wearing only a neck brace.

It was Sunday, Dec. 6, 2009. That morning Mikael had preached to his congregation in Atikokan, and then spent the afternoon and early evening at home with his wife, Valerie, and their son and daughter, Joshua and Jenell. He had postponed leaving as long as possible before starting the 3½ hour drive to the construction site where he worked four days a week. During that time he lived in a cabin with two men who fled anytime he opened his Bible. It wasn't the best of circumstances, but he was grateful for the job and extra income.

The journey he'd traveled to get to this point in his life was much longer than the winding road behind him. A troubled youth, at 13 he decided to commit suicide. Alone in his bedroom, he had combed the sharp edge of the knife along his skin, ready to plunge it into an artery.

"Mikael!" his mother called outside his door. He dropped the knife at the sudden interruption.

"What do you want?" he called, trying to sound normal.

"Just checking to see if you're alive," his mother said with a smile in her voice.

A few weeks later, Mikael planned to shoot himself. On the day of his planned suicide, his best friend showed up and told him about Jesus. Before he could even think about pulling the trigger, Mikael had given his heart to the Lord and joined a word of faith church. A year later, God called him into the ministry.

Mikael's parents were immigrants from Finland, and he had dual citizenship. After high-school graduation, he traveled to Finland to attend Bible college, then returned to Canada to complete his education. The church God called him to pastor was small, but the people experienced many healings and miracles. Over the years Mikael led more than 100 youth in the community to the Lord. Twenty people in nursing homes, some only days away from eternity, gave their lives to Jesus. The kingdom of God was being advanced and the works of darkness destroyed.

A pastor who'd ministered to a demonized man said to Mikael, "The devil sure hates you."

"Yes, he hates the righteous."

"You don't understand," the pastor explained, "the demon in that man mentioned you by name and said he was going to kill you."

Moose! The word flashed through Mikael's mind again. It was the last thing he would remember about that night.

The crash happened so fast Mikael never saw the moose that ran full speed into the driver's side of his car, flipped through the windshield and crushed the roof. Metal screeching against metal, the car skidded to a halt. Wolves broke off their chase and the forest fell into a hushed silence.

Divine Protection

"It was 2 a.m. when police knocked on the door and told me about the wreck," Valerie recalls. "No one knows for sure how long it was before Mikael was found, but the first two people on the scene were off-duty paramedics. The third person to arrive was a trauma nurse."

The car was so mangled they had to wait for the fire department to cut him out. Studying the scene, the tow-truck driver said it looked like wolves may have chased the moose headlong into Mikael's car.

Paramedics rushed him to a hospital 20 miles away and then flew him by helicopter to a hospital in a large northern city.

"It was two days before Mikael was aware of his surroundings," Valerie remembers. "When he regained consciousness, the first thing he said was, 'By His stripes I was healed!' His head had been split open, his neck injured, his wrist broken, his hand was swollen to twice its normal size and nurses were picking glass and moose hair from his face and head for days."

Pain screamed through every nerve when a physiotherapist made Mikael get out of bed and walk. Sensing that something was wrong, Valerie tried to stop them. After the second time Mikael was forced to walk, the doctor took a closer look

enjoyed the LifeLine Kits on Healing & Wellness, Financial Breakthrough and Relationships.

In fact, we're using them as ministry tools. When someone in my congregation is struggling to receive healing, I help them work through the Healing & Wellness workbook.

at the X-rays of his neck and determined Mikael had a broken neck.

"One wrong move and you're a dead man," the doctor said.

Doctors and nurses made similar comments every time they walked into Mikael's room. "It's a miracle," one nurse said, shaking her head.

"Someone's looking out for you," another said. "You should be dead."

Mikael finally asked why everyone kept making those comments. "I was told that the higher the break happens in your neck the more dangerous it is," Mikael explains. "Breaks at C1 or C2 often result in instant death. At best, the victims are usually quadriplegics. My neck was broken at C1, C2, C6, C7 and the disc between C6 and C7 was ruptured. With a break at C1 and C2, I should have been dead or paralyzed, and yet I'd been walking around my room wearing only a neck brace. Doctors put me in a metal halo that didn't allow my neck to move."

Lying in the hospital bed, and thinking back to the day of the accident, Mikael realized the Lord had given him numerous warnings to leave early that day. The morning of the accident, two words had whispered through his mind: Leave early. Valerie, who always asked him to stay with the family as long as possible had said, "You need to leave early today."

"Somehow in the hustle and bustle I missed the message," Mikael says. "I heard but didn't perceive what the Holy Spirit was saying to me. It wasn't until I woke up in the hospital that I remembered that before my parents flew to Finland the week before, my mother also warned me to leave early. God tried to prevent the accident, but when that failed He saved my life.

Jesus Carried Our Pain

"The second week of my hospitalization, the pain was still excruciating. We were a long way from our congregation but a woman who used to attend my Bible study came to visit. Years before, the Lord had given me words of knowledge about different problems in her body. I prayed for her and she was healed. I had no idea she'd been given six months to live. Now, years later, she came to visit me."

"I just thought we'd do Communion," the woman said as she laid out the elements.

Mikael read Scripture and thanked the Lord for taking all his pain. He thanked Him for bearing his sickness, disease and sin.

"The moment I put the bread in my mouth it felt like a veil lifted off me," Mikael remembers. "Instantly, every pain fled from my body. I never took another pain pill."

Joshua and Jenell prayed and released their faith for their dad to be home for Christmas. On Christmas Eve, Mikael's doctor released him and he was taken home by ambulance.

"Home never looked so good," Mikael recalls. "Valerie, Joshua, Jenell and our two dogs met me at the door. The Christmas tree was lit and the house festive with decorations. That evening we got news that my brother-in-law had been rushed to the emergency room with a heart attack. I was so mad at the devil! Furious, I got my family together and we commanded every symptom to leave his heart, lungs, arteries and veins. We decreed that he would leave the hospital. All the symptoms left as fast as they had come on him, and he was discharged that same evening."

Never Alone

Although Mikael's recovery had been nothing short of miraculous, he developed numbness and tingling in his arms and hands. The doctor looked at the X-rays of Mikael's neck and said, "The numbness and tingling is from damage to your spinal cord. You'll have to live with it."

When the doctor was called out of the office, Mikael looked at the X-rays and then at Valerie. "I'm not moved by what I see," he said, nodding toward the X-rays. "I'm not moved by what he says. I'm moved by what God says. He says that by Jesus' stripes I was healed."

Back home, Mikael and Valerie had received a copy of Kenneth Copeland Ministries' Healing & Wellness LifeLine Kit. They began pouring over the scriptures and workbook morning and evening. On the fourth day, all numbness and tingling were gone.

Follow-up visits showed that although C1 and C2 healed spontaneously, C6 and C7 required surgery. Months later when the family left home to drive to Fort Worth, Texas, for the Southwest Believers' Convention, Mikael still wore a neck brace. His neck was stiff and sore, and he could hardly move his head. Along the way, they stopped in Minneapolis and visited Mac and Lynne Hammond's church, Living Word. Toward the end of the service, the Lord said to Mikael, Move your head. Mikael was able to move his head left, right, up and down.

Take off the brace. You won't need it anymore.

"Valerie and I were laughing and crying," Mikael says. "We'd been expecting another miracle but that didn't lessen the awe when it happened."

The following week they sat among 9,000 people at the Southwest Believers' Convention and celebrated the goodness of God. Canada had been a spiritually hard place to minister, but sitting in the convention center Valerie and Mikael looked at one another and said, "We're not alone."

An Encouraging Word

"If it weren't for partnership with KCM, we wouldn't be in ministry today," Mikael admits. "There have been so many times when, through the magazine, TV broadcast, books or CDs, KCM has spoken into our circumstances just when we needed an encouraging word. It helps to know that someone else stood on the Word and God pulled them through.

"One of my favorite teachings is the Faith Series. I'm on my sixth time listening to all 14 CDs. We've also enjoyed the LifeLine Kits on Healing & Wellness, Financial Breakthrough and Relationships. In fact, we're using them as ministry tools. When someone in my congregation is struggling to receive healing, I help them work through the Healing & Wellness workbook."

Today, Mikael has resigned his second job and works full time as a pastor. In spite of the reduced income, he and Valerie are blessed financially. Recently, Mikael held a Friday evening service for youth and several teens received miraculous healings. During the service, Mikael was stunned to see men with glowing faces walking back and forth in front of the windows—windows that were 14 feet off the ground.

Following the service, one of the teens bolted and started running home.

"What's wrong?" Joshua called.

"Don't you see those guys?" he asked. "They're about 14 feet tall! And they glow!"

Mikael smiled as the Lord reminded him of Psalm 34:7, "The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear Him, And rescues them" (New American Standard Bible).

Mikael has no doubt they were the same angels who'd ministered life to him on that lonely stretch of road long before any human arrived on the scene. What God did for Mikael Mantyla, He'll do for you. Wherever you are, the angels of the Lord are camped around you. Rejoice! victory

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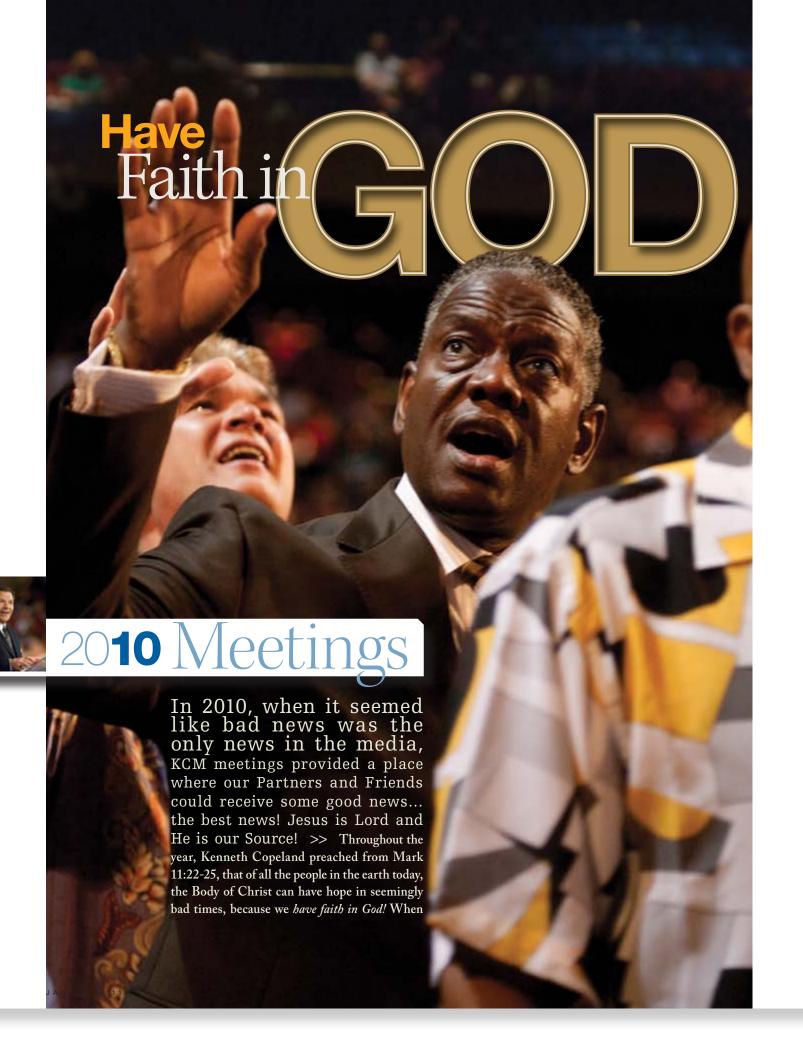
You're Never Alone!

consistently received through their partnership with Kenneth continue to live out their faith drawing on the resources KCM has made available.

blessings of partnership and enjoy the love and support of KCM's ministry team...us you to become a Partner with KCM—you don't ever have to



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we believe God's Word, we receive His promises. We have all Jesus has provided for us, and we thank Him for it, and walk in forgiveness. With our faith in Him working mightily in us, we can do whatever He tells us to do!

Kenneth said, "God has planned a place for you where He needs you. It is your wealthy place—your power place. You'll go from that place all over the world with THE BLESSING of God. The plan God has for the whole Body of Christ is for Him to bless us and for us to be a blessing to this earth."

And the entire Copeland family joined Brother Copeland in 2010, preaching the word of faith!

Behind the Mission Weekends— Up Close and Personal

We kicked off 2010 with the first of three Behind the Mission Weekends. We were up close and personal with our Partners and Friends when we got together in Scottsdale, Ariz., in February; Chicago, Ill., in June; and Orlando, Fla., in September. These weekends were hosted by Dr. Stephen and Kellie Swisher, with Strand of Pearls sharing in sweet times of special music. John Copeland joined the weekend activities in Scottsdale, and Kenneth Copeland ministered a strong word of faith in Orlando!

During each weekend, Steve and Kellie shared an update on ministry activities. Kellie shared her perspective on partnership: that just as Jesus did with His disciples, He has partnered with His people today, resourcing us in every way to have our own needs met and freeing us to do the work of His ministry.

Partners had the unique opportunity to ask questions about KCM. And on Saturday mornings Steve and Kellie prayed for everyone, asking the Lord for "notable healings and miracles for our Partners and Friends." And many received answers to that prayer. One lady emerged from the healing service, announcing to everyone that she had "left her wheel-chair behind."

Faith for Our Nation and the World!

Kenneth and Gloria's children and grandchildren are all anointed to share the message of faith in God through their own unique ministry gifts. And they shared those gifts with our Partners all year long.

from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around





Kenneth said, "We are excited for you to receive from this powerful generation of leaders who have grown up praying with us for our Partner family."

In July, the family joined our Partners and Friends for the Victory Long Beach Copeland Family Meeting. Steve and Kellie, Pastors George and Terri Pearsons, John and Marty Copeland, and Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons came together to encourage the Body of Christ to receive all their needs met by the Word of God, which provides for total victory and prosperity.

The family also committed to full personal meeting schedules in 2010.

Pastors George and Terri traveled extensively in 2010, going across the U.S. and into Canada, Ukraine and Austria, sharing their messages of victory in the Lord Jesus through relentless faith and a prayer-directed

lifestyle. As Jeremy and Sarah prepared for the birth of their baby (the first Copeland great-grandchild), they ministered God's Word on grace and faith in local churches across the nation. And Steve and Kellie preached the uncompromised word of faith in churches, conferences and on television programs in the U.S., Canada, Australia and Fiji.

An Explosion of Faith and Victory!

In March, Kenneth and Gloria preached the Branson Victory Campaign at Faith Life Church, where Keith and Phyllis Moore pastor. Kenneth preached from Jeremiah 17 declaring that the one who puts his trust and faith in God shall be like a well-watered tree that always yields fruit...a tree that is always a blessing! Gloria explained how the body armor of faith and love stops the devil in his tracks.

In September, Kenneth traveled to Maracaibo for the second Venezuela Victory Campaign. The Lord ministered to hundreds of believers who were Scottsdale
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Orlando
Long Beach
Branson
Columbia
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Branson Victory Campaign

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Canada Victory

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Southwest Believers' Convention

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November 10-12

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Covenant Life Church Family

Worship Center: February 5-6 10755 Highway 78 | Summerville, SC 29484 843-875-1794 | clcfamilyworship.org

Inspirational Baptist Church—City of Destiny: March 13-14

513-961-3060 | inspirationalbc.com

West Houston Christian Center: March 19-20 11300 Wilcrest Green Drive | Houston, TX 77042 713-954-9422 | westhoustonchristian.com

The Lamb's Chapel Women's Conference: April 1-2

415 Roxboro Road | Haw River, NC 27258 336-578-0291 | thelambschapel.org

New Life Family Church: April 10 202 S. Gilbert Road | Gilbert, AZ 85296 480-456-9200 | newlifeaz.cc

Hope and Healing Christian Church: April 16-17 LOCATION: Buena High School Performing Arts Center 5225 E. Buena School Blvd. | Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Living Word Church: May 1

2112 Market St. | Wheeling, WV 26003 304-233-5830 | Iwobc.com

Celebration Center: May 7-8

1944 Washington Blvd. | Belpre, OH 45714 740-423-9673 | belprecelebrationcenter.com

Only Believe Ministries Christian Center: May 11 13815 Botkins Road | Botkins, OH 45306 937-693-3554 | obmcc.org

Kern Christian Center: May 14-15

4701 Gosford Road | Bakersfield, CA 93313 661-664-1000 | kernchristiancenter.org

Souls Harbor Word of Faith Church: May 21-22 110 Evergreen Road | Canton, GA 30114 678-644-5217 | soulsharborchurch.com

Word of His Power Faith Christian Centre: July 30-31 108-4053 Meadowbrook Drive | London, Ontario N6L 1E8 Canada | 519-709-2167 | wohp.org

Brand New Life Christian Center: August 7 1110-B W. Talt Ave. | Orange, CA 92865 714-396-8674 | brandnewlifechurch.com

Dunamis Power Ministries: August 7 2000 W. Olympic Blvd. | Montebello, CA 90640 562-688-4974

(meets inside the Evangelical Christian Church)

New Life Fellowship: September 11-13 1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501 712-332-1982 | gotnewlife.org

"Christmas in November" Women's Luncheon: November 5

Redemption Church | 3550 Pleasant Ridge Road Knoxville, TN 37921 865-521-7777 x229 (Katy Blackburn) kblackburn@redemptionchurch.com redemptionchurch.com

The Welk Theatre: November 11 1984 State Highway 165 | Branson, MO 65616 800-808-9355 | welkresortbranson.com



hungry to receive the message of God's love and provision for His people.

In October, Chaplain A.L. Downing and Bill Winston joined Kenneth for Word Explosion 2010 in Columbia, S.C. Hundreds of people, both military and civilian, packed the conven-

tion center to have their faith built up as they heard God's Word preached in power!

And in November, Kenneth and Gloria joined thousands of faithful Partners and Friends for the Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign. This meeting wraps up each year on a note of encouragement and prayer, as together we take a stand for our nation and faithfully declare that our trust is in God!

In the largest meeting of the year, Partners and Friends from across the U.S. and around the world gathered in Fort Worth, Texas, for Homecoming 2010—celebrating 30 years of the Southwest Believers' Convention.

We registered a total of 10,267 people at the meeting, with all 50 states and 42 nations represented. Online streaming connections averaged 9500 per day. Everyone seemed to really enjoy this grand Homecoming event!

Every message centered on breaking out of our limited thinking, seeing ourselves as God sees us, and being empowered to be THE BLESSING He intends us to be!

Kenneth expanded on his preaching from Mark 11 and Jeremiah 17, declaring that we, the children of the living God, are bearers of the good news and that bad news has nothing to do with us! We are citizens of the kingdom of heaven and operate out of heaven's economy, not the world's system.

Gloria taught a faith refresher course, laying a solid foundation for her message that God's people have every right, and should expect to live long and finish strong-

Jesse Duplantis spoke on a different topic each day expanding the vision of God's people for His kingdom's work here on earth. Jerry Savelle also opened up our thinking as he preached "No Boundaries." He encouraged us to lay aside small, negative thinking, so we can enjoy life as children of the King-with no limitations! And Creflo Dollar followed suit with themes of enlarging our vision and fighting the battle of containment. He declared that being rooted and grounded in love, which

> gives the enemy no place to get a foothold in our lives, is key to breaking out and being free to do everything God calls us to do.



What is the main thing God has called us to do? Well, He answered that question before the first word was preached at Homecoming 2010. The moment Kenneth Copeland took the platform Monday morning, the Lord spoke this prophetic word to His people:

Have you not understood and realized by now that My goodness and My mercy and My love and My care for you far surpass anything you can possibly imagine or think? Don't you remember in My Word where it says, I am able to do exceeding abundantly above everything you can ask or think? Don't you know that's why I do everything—because I love you? I love you. I love you. I love you. And I want you far more than you have ever understood. Don't cut Me short any longer when it comes to My desire to bless you and not hurt you. My plans for you are magnificent. So rise up in them and receive My love,

please. Receive My love, saith the Lord. Receive My love, please. I have shed it out and borne it out and shed it abroad in your heart by the Holy Ghost. And if you will learn to say what Jesus said, Your will be done; Your plan be done. Oh! I can do exceeding things. I can do great and marvelous things. When He said, Your plan be done, it was a horrible thing but that ended all of My horrible plans so that you don't have to have a horrible end but a grace and glorious and great outcome and inheritance. No. Not heaven...not yet. But it'll seem like heaven right here on the earth holding forth the word of life to a perverse, crooked and depraved generation. I'll raise you up. I'll do things for you, you didn't even know you could do because I love you, saith the Lord.

Now, who wouldn't have faith in our God who loves us like this? victory

We're Here for You!

Meeting You Face to Face

In 2010, every time the Partners and Friends of Kenneth Copeland Ministries gathered together at an event, we were loaded with all the benefits of God's partnership with us—healing, deliverance, financial freedom, strengthened relationships—delivered to us by the anointed Copeland family and partner ministers!

And in 2011, we look forward to coming together at every opportunity to once again be face to face with Kenneth and Gloria and all the ministers who join us. We can expect to hear life-changing preaching and teaching, to meet and greet our fellow family members, and to enjoy times of good fellowship around the Word!

We have some great meetings planned for 2011, including the Branson Victory Campaign scheduled for March 3-5, and the Southwest Believers' Convention, which will be held in July rather than August this year. The weeklong convention will take place July 4-9, at the Fort Worth Convention Center

in downtown Fort Worth, Texas. Then, the Washington, D.C. Victory Campaign will be Nov. 10-12, in Woodbridge, Va.

International meetings will include the Vancouver Victory Campaign with Kenneth and Gloria, set for May 19-21. And in September, Pastor Terri Copeland Pearsons will be joined by Patsy Cameneti in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, by direction of the Lord "to move things along" in His plan regarding the Great Awakening. In directing her to conduct the Toronto Spirit-Led Prayer Conference, the Lord said to Terri: Something happens when people who know how to use their faith gather to pray—call them to Toronto.

"I have studied the Word about prayer and I pray. But the Lord has not often given me words to share what I know about prayer; instead, it's evident He has given them to my daughter Terri," said Brother Copeland. "What Brother Kenneth E. Hagin often said about prayer is true: 'Some things are better caught than taught.'

"Patsy Cameneti was not only mentored in faith by Brother Hagin personally for over 20 years, but worked closely with him in prayer. Terri was at my mother, Vinita Copeland's side in her

prayer room before the age of 5. I have personally witnessed the results of what Terri and Patsy have caught from those two prayer generals. Without doubt, I believe God is sending them together as apostles to assist the church in using their faith to change things through prayer."

The meeting will be held September 28-30.

Regarding upcoming KCM meetings, Brother Copeland has declared: "It is time. There is a call for people of faith to move to a higher place in prayer and partner together for this end-time awakening and outpouring." So, we realize the importance of preparing places of meeting to gather the Body of Christ in the days ahead!

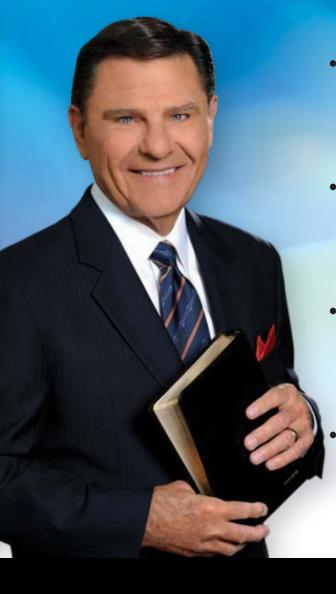
We invite you to pray about joining us and being part of a Victory Campaign, the Southwest Believers' Convention or one of the many personal meetings you'll find listed on our meeting itinerary. Go online to kcm.org for a list of upcoming meetings.

Be assured that when you leave the place of meeting with God, you will be a different person than when you came. You will know that God is your partner in life and ministry. You will know how much He loves you! victory

Don't just hear it...

Get Behind the Mission

with Kenneth Copeland Ministries



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- Receive
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 for restored
 relationships.
- Experience God as your partner in life and ministry.

April 8-9 Begins at 7 p.m. Charlotte, N.C.

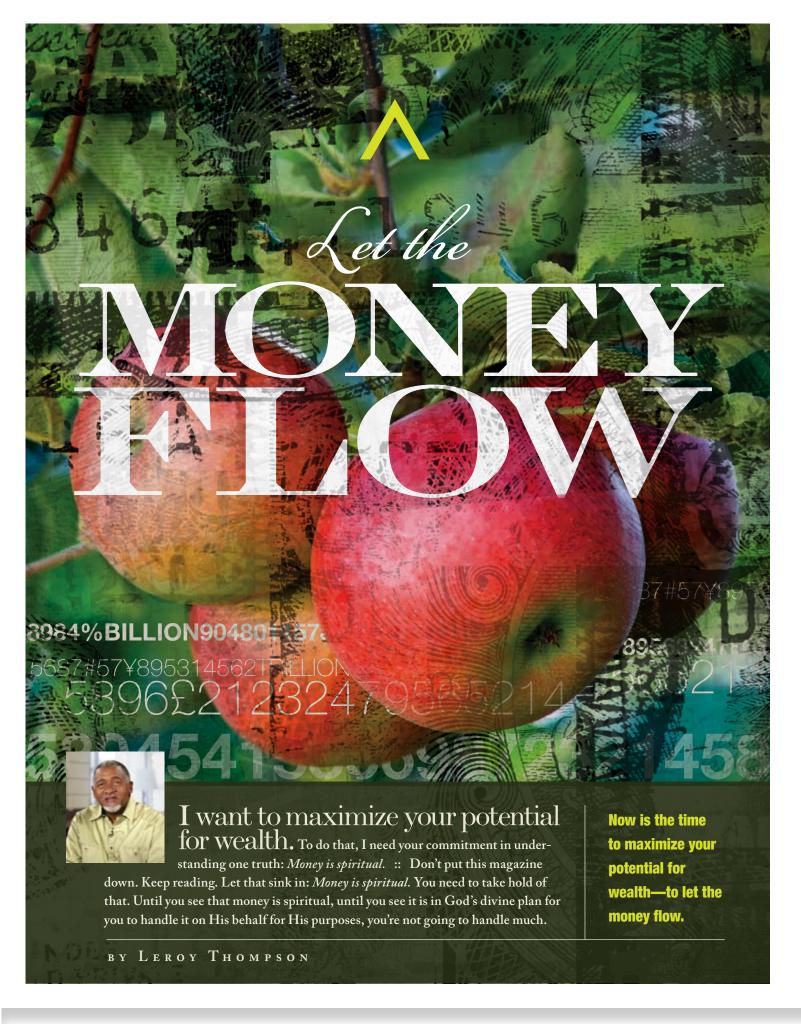
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Featuring
Kenneth Copeland
With Your Hosts



Dr. Stephen and Kellie Swisher

16 | B V O V | J A N U A R Y ' 1 1



Why is money spiritual? Because you are a spirit being with spiritual authority. And when money is laid in your hands, it takes on your character.

Over the years, I've learned some things about godly financial operations. One of those things is that you must recognize that you are an inlet and outlet for God to express Himself. You are the only spiritual expression God has to communicate with and through whom He can express Himself.

One way God wants to express Himself through you is by letting money flow through you. It's time churches started preaching that. The average church has left prosperity out of its message. They teach that God wants to express Himself through you in every way. But with your money? No way. According to Lamentations 3:17, prosperity has been forgotten. Read what it says: "And thou hast removed my soul far off from peace: I forgat prosperity."

But it's time to let God move through *every* part of your life. It's time to let the money flow! Don't *make* the money flow, *let* it flow. Let yourself become a conduit for God to flow His blessings through.

Your life should be a testimony to all those who have laughed at you because you're following God. Your life should demonstrate to your relatives that God is bigger than their plans. Your life should demonstrate to the dope dealers that God pays more than drugs. That would get them saved! They've got to know God is bigger than their ideas. He's a creative God and He's given His people a creative flow. A demonstrative flow. A money flow that's coming through you—His inlet and outlet.

Money-Flow Blockers

"Wait a second," you say, "I'm not seeing any flow. What's the problem?"

Well, maybe there's something blocking your flow. When water won't flow down your sink drain, what do you do? You check to see if the pipe is blocked. It's time to check and see if your spiritual pipe is blocked by looking for the things that will block the flow of money into your life.

I call them money-flow blockers.

The first money-flow blocker is *fear*. In Matthew 25, Jesus tells the parable of three servants who were given talents by their master. To one the master gave five talents, to another he gave two and to the third he gave one. After a while, the master returned to see what the servants had done with the talents he left with them:

After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant:

thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord (verses 19-23).

Do you see how these first two servants chose to handle what had been entrusted to them? They invested the money and, as a result, saw it double. When the master heard the report of their increase, it pleased him. But look at what happened regarding the third servant.

Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou

Salvation Prayer

Jesus

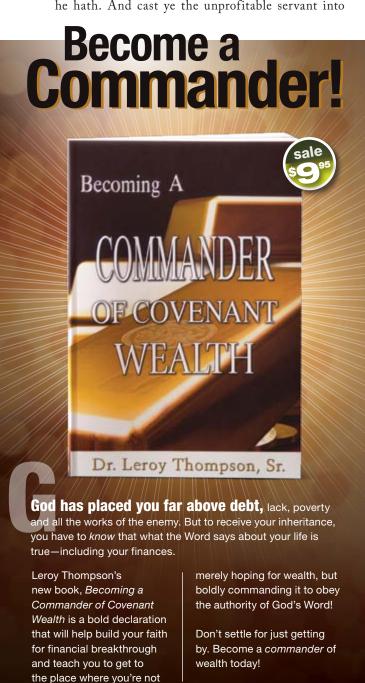
as your Savior and Lord, simply pray the following prayer in faith, and Jesus will be your Lord!

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 me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13;

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.

wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into



outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth (verses 24-30).

What was the third servant's mistake? Fear. He blocked the money flow because he was afraid. Not only that, he made a wrong assumption about his master, who, in this parable, is a picture of God. He called him a "hard man" who wasn't really concerned about others. What a stupid thing to say. If the master was so hard and thoughtless, why would he have given this servant anything in the first place?

That master did care. And so does God.

God cares whether or not you have money. All through the Bible He talks about prosperity. He wants it to flow to you. Why? Because when money flows, prosperity flows.

Money-flow blocker No. 2 is *greed*. Do you remember the rich, young ruler? He asked Jesus, "Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18).

Jesus told him to obey the commandments, and the young man said he did. Then Jesus said, "Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me" (verse 22).

You know the rest of the story: "And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich" (verse 23).

Greed blocks the flow of money. You must be willing to share.

Recently, my wife and I were in a restaurant waiting area and a little boy was running around. His momma said he had been waiting a long time and it was his birthday.

I reached into my pocket and took out a \$10 bill. I said, "Your birthday, son? Go get you something."

His mother said, "Oh! You don't have to do that."

But the little boy was so happy—over a surprise \$10 gift from a stranger. It was special. And that boy was blessed because I didn't let greed block my money flow.

Selfishness is the third money-flow blocker. You can't be selfish. If you only want money so you can do what you want to do, it won't come. If you won't listen to God after you get money, the flow will stop. Take a moment and read the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. The younger son wanted his money to spend on himself, but he didn't want instruction. He was selfish, and look at what happened to him. The money flow dried up, and soon he was eating with the pigs.

The fourth money-flow blocker is *ignorance*. You see this in the story of the prodigal son as well. While he was out being selfish and having fun, his older brother stayed home...and showed his ignorance regarding his father's goodness to him. When the younger son came

home, their father threw a celebration—and the older son became angry:

He was angry, and would not go in: therefore came his father out, and entreated him. And he answering said to his father, Lo, these many years do I serve thee, neither transgressed I at any time thy commandment: and yet thou never gavest me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends: But as soon as this thy son was come, which hath devoured thy living with harlots, thou hast killed for him the fatted calf. And he said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine. It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad: for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again; and was lost, and is found (verses 28-32).

The older son was so focused on how his father was reacting to the return of his brother, he totally overlooked and disregarded how good his father had been to him. You've got to avoid ignorance or it will stop the money flow cold. If you're ignorant of the Father's goodness, it will be easy for some unbelieving, unanointed preacher to talk you out of prosperity. He'll tell you prosperity is everything *except* money. But that's not true—that's ignorant.

The father said, "Look, boy, *all I have* is thine." Be aware of your heavenly Father's goodness...a goodness that is available to you at all times.

No More Restrictions

Now is the time to maximize your potential for wealth—to let the money flow. Get rid of the moneyflow blockers in your life once and for all.

Take the limit off your finances today. See yourself entering the money flow and God flowing through you. See yourself totally trusting God to bring you into the divine flow of increase, abundance, overflow, prosperity and wealth.

As a covenant child of the Father, you have a right to operate in two worlds—heaven and earth. See the covenant manifest in your life, demonstrating God's provision. See the creative ability of God at work in *all* your financial situations. See opportunities open up as you put your trust in Him and become God's conduit, expressing Himself to this world. When you do, the money will begin to flow...and it won't stop! **victory**

Leroy Thompson is pastor and founder of Word of Life Christian Center in Darrow, La. For more information or ministry materials, write to Word of Life Christian Center, P.O. Box 7, 40066 Highway 22, Darrow, LA 70725; visit the website at www.eiwm.org; or call 225-473-8874.



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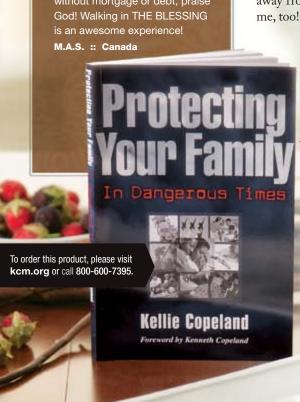
GoodNewsGazette

"The mouth of the [uncompromisingly] righteous man is a well of life..." (Proverbs 10:11, The Amplified Bible)

Walking in THE BLESSING

For several years I have been believing God for a home. Through the teachings of this ministry I have learned to stand on God's Word, to pray, believe to receive, plant faith seeds, stand with other believers and be patient. You have stood in prayer with me. I thank the Lord for KCM and THE BLESSING God has given me.

Today, I am thrilled to tell you that my prayers have manifest into a beautiful new home. I will be moving from an apartment into that home! The Lord's blessing is rich and He adds no sorrow with it. My home will be without mortgage or debt, praise God! Walking in THE BLESSING is an awesome experience!



God Has a Master Plan

I watched your program for the first time. I am from Kenya and I've also rededicated my life to Christ. I feel very humble and thank God for what happened to me.

My life was a wreck and I was on a suicide mission. I took an overdose of drugs, but thank Jesus, I am alive and I now see the sense of living after watching your program. I understand God has a master plan for my life and that is to live for Him and serve Him wholly with my body, soul and heart.

I am delighted to share this praise report, for I know He who created me has big plans for my future. I am delighted to watch your ministry and may the Almighty God bless you and increase you!

E. :: Kenya

"I Have Hope"

Thank you both for all the good work you do to get the Word out to people who don't understand what love is.

I'm 46 years old and I have never been one to sit down to read anything. But since I've been reading the Bible and the books you've sent me, I really do enjoy reading. Truly, you are a godsend and I have hope now! I understand more than I ever have before. I always knew Jesus was with me, but it was like I was running

away from Him. But now I realize He was running with me, too! He didn't give up on me. And He knew one day

I would find my way back to Him and give Him my heart, soul and whole life.

Thank you for your prayers. Your books give me encouragement every day, along with hope and faith that I can fight the devil—always!

C.B. :: Kentucky

Powerful Protection

Kellie's book *Protecting Your Family in Dangerous Times* was a godsend. My dad was driving home from church and swerved the car to prevent an accident. I had been pleading the blood over my family and me.

My dad is a recent widower and my mom is with Jesus. So, thank You, Jesus, for protecting and comforting my dad at this time. Because of KCM I am walking out the Word of God. My son hears the Word from us and we are seeing God bless us enormously!

A.R. :: Florida

Vision Restored

My son was diagnosed with astigmatism. He was told to wear glasses and a patch over the "lazy" eye. Because we had discovered this problem so late the doctors were doubtful the eye would improve much.

Three months later we took him to Children's Hospital and they told us to quit using glasses and the patch because his good eye is 20/20 and his "bad" eye is 21/20 or nearly perfect. We had agreed for his healing and God gave it to us. God bless you richly.

P.M. :: Canada

Jesus—The Great Physician

We truly serve a living and prayer-answering God—hallelujah! First of all let me thank you for your prayers for me, all the time, and in particular this time for my daughter.

We went to the hospital where she was admitted for a minor operation. I was told she'd be discharged in the afternoon after a 30-minute operation. Two hours later, she came back to the room, tired, but we talked. We had to wait to see the doctor, who would eventually discharge her. When the doctor came into the room, he announced he found nothing. And there I was shouting, "Thank You, Jesus!"

"What my heavenly Father did not plant there is uprooted in Jesus' Name," was my prayer since the day she announced to me the doctors said they found something. And I started speaking to that mountain to shrink and be removed by the blood of Jesus. I prayed and asked you to agree with me and Master Jesus did it. Praise the Lord!

J.L. :: France

A Father to the Fatherless

Although I've been a Christian for 13 years now, I've had a hard time trusting God as my Father because of the way my biological father treated me. In Nigeria, where I'm originally from, boys are more valuable than female children. Although I was sent to expensive schools, nobody ever told me I was worth anything. I put myself under pressure to prove that I was as good as any boy and drove myself to the brink of a breakdown.

When my father was assassinated 10 years ago, I felt like I had lost my chance to prove to him that I was worthy of his love. Somewhere in my subconscious, I carried this attitude toward God as well, and actually cringed every time anyone referred to God as the "Father of the fatherless." I was invited to a prophetic weekend, where the minister talked about God as Father. I thought it was ridiculous, but as I was prayed for, I genuinely felt the love of God. The minister told me to not be afraid because God is my Father and would never let me be humiliated. I was also told that God saw me as intelligent and an asset to the edification of the Body of Christ.

Since then, I've been praising and just thanking Him because I know deep down that He's answered my prayers. I'm no longer overwhelmed by a feeling of hopelessness. My heart has been light and filled with praise!

C.N. :: England

Believe and Receive

A couple of months ago someone from KCM called asking if I needed prayer. At the time I desperately needed a car. I just wanted you to know that one has been given to me. It came at the end of

the week that Keith Moore was preaching about receiving by grace.

Praise God and thanks for your excellent timing!

D.H. :: North Carolina



The Blessed Life

Thank God for how He has used your ministry time and again to bless my life. Recently, I was so discouraged due to the challenges my husband and I were going through financially. I called your ministry and prayed with one of your prayer ministers and he gave me some scriptures on finances.

God moved, and things took a turn in our finances. God opened a supernatural door of financial blessings which enabled us to have all our needs met—glory be to God! We decided to sow our tithes from this money that God blessed us with to KCM to help in reaching out to more who are in need like we were, and bring hope to them like you brought hope to us in our darkest moment.

J.F. :: Germany

Prayer I Our Priorit

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

BVOV Magazine Is a Blessing

I sent some *BVOV* magazines to a little church for the homeless that meets on the beach. Everyone reads them and already two people have gotten jobs, found places to live and signed up to receive their own *BVOV* magazines.

C.W.A. :: Florida

God Brought It to Pass!

We were believing for all our heifer calves to bring top dollar at a sale: \$600 per head (we had prayed over the phone with a prayer minister). We believed it, received it and thanked God. Our praise report is that it came to pass—all the heifers sold for \$600 a head.

T.F. :: Nebraska



I became so engrossed in the article I forgot I wasn't on a private plane. Without holding anything back, I boldly shouted, "That will not affect me!"

Everyone around me jumped. When I realized what I had done, I apologized.

The guy next to me put down his paper. "What won't affect you?"

I pointed to Page One. "This article." I read it to him.

He asked, "So what does that have to do with you?"

That's when I revealed that I was a minister. He looked at me as if I had the botch of Egypt as I explained, "I know this is real—their so-called experts did a lot of research, and a lot of people are being affected by this recession. But it won't affect *me*."

"Why wouldn't it affect you, too? What makes you so special?"

"The Word of God," I said. "It's the highest form of reality that exists. Philippians 4:19 specifically states that my God supplies all my need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus—and it doesn't say that *only* happens during good times."

He responded with, "Whatever." He became so upset that he put his paper in front of his face and didn't say another word to me for the next eight hours.

But here's the kicker: After a few days of very busy ministry work in Tanzania, my daughter Terri received an email from our accountant. It said, "Dear Terri, just thought you'd like to know that while you're over there blessing humanity, we just received one of the largest contributions the ministry has ever been given."

Praise God! I wanted to find that guy who looked at me like I had the plague and shout, "Whatever!" right back!

What makes me different? Page One is not the final authority in my life. *The Word of God* is. I don't have to allow what's happening to the rest of the world to happen to me, because I am not of this world...and neither are you.

In the World, but Not of It

In John 17:14, shortly before Jesus went to the cross, He prayed to the Father, "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world" (New King James Version).

Jesus said it: *We're not of this world*. The Word separates us from it. Those in the world don't know the Word. I can't imagine living like that.

Forty-one years ago, I was a mess. I was without hope—sick, broke and depressed like the world. Then—thank God—a man named Kenneth Copeland came to my hometown and preached the Word. I got hold of it and my whole life changed!

A lot of Christians have an "escape mentality." Their prayer is, "Come quickly, Lord! Get me out of this mess!" But Jesus thought differently. He didn't pray that we'd escape this world. In John 17:15, He said, "I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one" (NKJV). How does God do that? By giving us His Word. God's Word makes it so this isn't such a bad place to live.

It's by the Word that we live differently than our neighbors. Our neighbors constantly scream about how bad it is and they don't understand why we're not pulling our hair out, too. And they *sure* don't understand the smiles on our faces, the dance in our steps, and the joy in our hearts. Why? Because most of our neighbors—whether or not they're Christians—don't know the Word. They're conformed to this world.

Renew Your Mind

What causes someone to be conformed to the world's way of living?

It's certainly not God. He's the One who says, "All things are possible to him who believes" (Mark 9:23, *NKJV*), and that you "can do all things through Christ who strengthens" you (Philippians 4:13, *NKJV*).

The fact is, most of our limitations are self-induced. We've conformed to the world's way of living and have accepted its boundaries.

Thankfully, there is a way to break out. Paul said, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2, *NKJV*).

You have to *renew your mind*—and that's something you're going to be doing for the rest of your life. I've been working at it for 41 years and I'm not done yet!

There's a great picture of this in Exodus 16, when God supplied manna for the Israelites in the wilderness. They had to gather it every day. They couldn't just grab a heap and expect it to last a year. They had to get fresh manna *daily*.

To renew our minds, we, too, need fresh manna daily—and this is it: the Word of God.

Who Told You That?

Think about the seeds that have been planted in your life—seeds planted by the world, the environment and the culture around you.

Who told you that you couldn't be something?

Who told you that you couldn't have something?

Who told you that you couldn't live somewhere?

Who told you that you couldn't make a certain amount money?

Those limitations didn't come from God. They came from

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the world you grew up in...an environment without the living Word.

My mom and dad were good, Christian people but they didn't know the Word like we do today. As far as my family was concerned, if things were going bad in the world, it was going to be bad for us, too. Their minds were not renewed. They didn't know the things I'm endeavoring to share with you.

Whatever limitations they said I had, I just accepted. If they said, "No one in our family has ever had a job like that," I believed it. If they said, "No one in our family has ever paid cash for an automobile," I figured it would be that way for me, too.

When I was 17, my dad took me to the First National Bank in downtown Shreveport to introduce me to the man who helped *him* get into debt. Before the meeting was over, I was in debt for college with my '57 Chevrolet as collateral. I didn't even really understand what was happening and yet I was flowing right into the culture without a second thought.

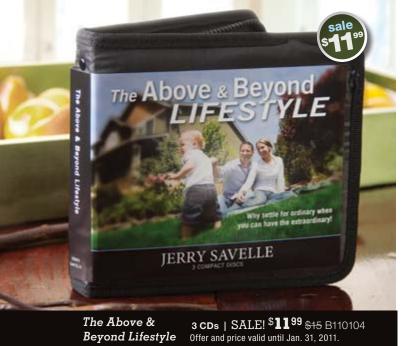
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My family lived in debt and I had a mentality forged in me that said, If I need anything, the only way to get it is to borrow.

I borrowed personally. I borrowed for my business. When I couldn't pay my bills, I took out another loan.

But then in 1969, I got hold of the Word of God. I found out that I am not of this world. I do not have to accept their restrictions and I don't have to live within their boundaries! That was the beginning—I started breaking loose.

It didn't happen in a day. It took years to turn things around. But I'll never forget the first time Carolyn and I walked into a dealership, picked out a car and paid cash for it. Then the day came that I was even able to buy someone else a car with cash!

What happened? I broke out of the conformity of this world. I broke through those boundaries. The Word separated me! (And as the years passed, I was able to share this truth with my parents and watch their lives change, too!)

Not Defined by the World

The Message translates John 17:16 this way: "They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world."

We're not defined by this world. We are not marked by its boundaries. We don't have the restrictions and confinements this world has. We're not of it!

If the word on Page One is that "everyone" is going to be affected by something (like this recession), then I know immediately the so-called experts aren't talking about me. They don't define my boundaries—the Word does!

When that becomes a revelation to you, then no matter what they're saying, you can maintain your joy, your focus and your faith and know for a fact God will come through for you. His Word has separated you from the world and it will pull you up to God's level.

"You're saying you are on God's level?"

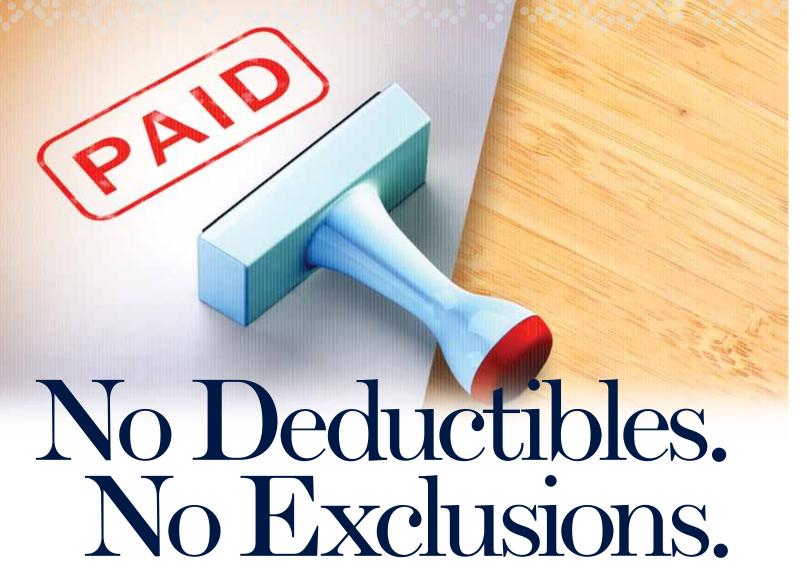
I'm working on it! I'm renewing my mind. I'm endeavoring to get there. Are you? God said, "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:9). But that wasn't the end of the story. He then went to great lengths to put His thoughts into print in His Word...so we could spend quality time with it, meditate on it and renew our minds to it.

Page One doesn't surprise God. He's not worrying about it. The good news is that if we renew our minds to His Word, we don't have to worry either. When we see Page One, we won't be shaken—we'll just be pleased to see what we've been redeemed from, and then move on to the sports page. VICTORY

Jerry Savelle is president and founder of Jerry Savelle Ministries International and founding pastor of Heritage of Faith Christian Center. For information or ministry materials write to Jerry Savelle Ministries, P.O. Box 748, Crowley, TX 76036; visit the website at jerrysavelle.org; or call toll free 866-576-4872.



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That's what living in His perfect will is all about! It's what living this great life adventure of faith is all about.

As we look at Romans 12, I believe we find keys that give us a great starting place to help every born-again child of God connect to God's perfect will in their everyday living!

Building Life on God's Perfect Will

Romans 12:1-3 helps us step right out onto the foundation from which we can build our lives of faith in God's perfect will. (I am using *The Amplified Bible* as our translation for this study to help us get a clear picture of what these scriptures are saying to us. Also, to get a fuller picture of Romans 12:1-3, you may want to go back and read my article, "Living Every Day in God's Perfect Will," in the December 2010 *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine.) Look at Romans 12:1-3:

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. 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]. 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.

First, we see in verse 1 that purposing to dedicate our bodies as an expression of worship toward God is foundational. We commit to being in constant, living contact with our heavenly Father, just like Jesus was. As He simply walked out His daily life, Jesus expressed God's love to people. He served people...touching them and changing their lives. Whether we touch people's lives in big ways or small ways, that's absolutely God's will for us, too. That's dedicating our bodies to His service.

In verse 2, we see that our renewed minds—minds that have been transformed by the Word of God and His Spirit inside us—have the potential to be living proof of God's perfect will to the world! How marvelous is that? You and I can be true expressions of God's will by how we think and talk about Him, and how we demonstrate His love to others. We actually become models to others, showing them

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how much God loves them and how they, too, can live in His perfect will every day.

God Gives Us Everything!

The Body of Christ is the full expression of God's love in this world. Together, we make up every function that worked through Jesus when He walked the earth. And God has graciously given each of us a part to play—a work to do, and the gifts and abilities to do that work.

No one person in the Church can do it all or be it all to everyone. God needs each of us, and He has equipped us to fulfill His perfect will in the world today.

Romans 12:4-8 lays out the plan for the Body of Christ to function together:

For as in one physical body we have many parts (organs, members) and all of these parts do not have the same function or use, so we, numerous as we are, are one body in Christ (the Messiah) and individually we are parts one of another [mutually dependent on one another]. Having gifts (faculties, talents, qualities) that differ according to the grace given us, let us use them: [he whose gift is] prophecy, [let him prophesy] according to the proportion of his faith; [he whose gift is] practical service, let him give himself to serving; he who teaches, to his teaching; He who exhorts (encourages), to his exhortation; he who contributes, let him do it in simplicity and liberality; he who gives aid and superintends, with zeal and singleness of mind; he who does acts of mercy, with genuine cheerfulness and joyful eagerness (The Amplified Bible).

Whatever we are called to do in the Body of Christ, we give ourselves wholeheartedly to it. God has graced us to do it—He has given us the ability! You know what is in your heart. You know what your gift or talent is. It's inside you. If you're not sure, ask the Holy Spirit to show you.

Living our lives by the Spirit, putting our whole heart into our God-given gifts and abilities, is key to being effective in life and knowing we are fulfilling His will for us. We are fulfilled as individual members of the Body. The whole Body is complete and equipped to minister by the gifts God puts in us, and people are blessed...that's the purpose of God for us all!

God Gives Himself

True fulfillment comes when we give ourselves to others just like He gave Himself in Christ Jesus for us. And through us His giving goes on...He gives Himself again and again... to everyone! We are His "living sacrifices" (Romans 12:1). Jesus Christ, His ultimate sacrifice, lives in you and in me!

Read Romans 12:9-21 and see just how God fulfills His perfect will, living and giving Himself through us. Each verse is a snapshot of how Jesus lived His life, and how He loved everyone. Read them slowly, and as you read, open your ears to hear and your eyes to see yourself in each one. Receive faith to walk out your life as a child of the living God.

[Let your] love be sincere (a real thing); hate what is evil [loathe all ungodliness, turn in horror from wickedness], but hold fast to that which is good. Love one another with brotherly affection [as members of one family], giving precedence and showing honor to one another. Never lag in zeal and in earnest endeavor; be aglow and burning with the Spirit, serving the Lord. Rejoice and exult in hope; be steadfast and patient in suffering and tribulation; be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people [sharing in the necessities of the saints]; pursue the practice of hospitality. Bless those who persecute you [who are cruel in their attitude toward you]; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice [sharing others' joy], and weep with those who weep [sharing others' grief]. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty (snobbish, high-minded, exclusive), but readily adjust yourself to [people, things] and give yourselves to humble tasks. Never overestimate yourself or be wise in your own conceits. Repay no one evil for evil, but take thought for what is honest and proper and noble [aiming to be above reproach] in the sight of everyone. If possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave the way open for [God's] wrath; for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay (requite), says the Lord. But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals upon his head. Do not let yourself be overcome by evil, but overcome (master) evil with good (AMP).

You Are the Perfect Will of God

I know as you read those verses, faith came into your heart to believe and receive God's perfect will. Faith came for you to see yourself as God re-created you to be. Your mind was transformed as you read the truth about what your life is to be. You were humbled, knowing only Christ living in you by His Spirit can actually live out God's will for your life.

Living out Romans 12 is not an overnight process. Yes, the power of God's Spirit is within you all the time...all the power you will ever need to do it! But it is a day-by-day process that you take one step at a time. You know better than anyone how often you have opportunity to live God's perfect will in the small things. The opportunities are always there for you.

As you see Him living through you in the small things, you can be sure He is directing you in the big things in life. You can live in His perfect will. It's the only way to really live. And our prayer is that you take hold of God's Word and live your life every day in God's perfect will! VICTORY

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