

February

digital issue



BY GLORIA COPELAND

GOD'S COMMAND TO LOVE



God's will is that His love be the distinguishing mark of every believer. The world does not see love between the believer and the Father, but the world does see the love between the believer and his brother. You have been given the love of God with which to love one another. ¶ The new commandment of love was given to you personally by Jesus: "That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). You have been commanded to love as Jesus loved. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love" (verse 9). Jesus loved like the Father, now we are to love like Jesus loved.

Only the Father and His children have in their power the ability to operate in this kind of love. It is the God kind of love revealed from the Greek word *agape*. This word for love is only used in connection with the family of God.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7). God's nature is love. It is imparted to you when you make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (verse 8). This God kind of love is not what you do but what you are. "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24). God is love and you are so created in His image. Your new nature is *agape* love. You are the love of God.

What a privilege that God would make us His love. No wonder Jesus said that all men would know us by this new kind of love. This love had never been manifest to the world before Jesus came in the flesh. They had never seen with their eyes the love of God until the Master walked among them.

The world is starved for love. God made man to receive love. The deepest yearning of every man is to be loved and cared for—a desire that can only be fulfilled through the love of God.

Every man on the face of this earth should experience the love of God. You are the open door into the love of God for the people with whom you come in contact. What an honor the Father has bestowed upon you, the ability to be loved with His love and the right to love.

If it were not possible for you to walk in God's commandment of love, He would not have given it. It is the love of the new creature. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Notice it says love, *do-not* love, *in*. The believer is love. The believer works no ill to his neighbor. When you obey the love law of the family of God, you are performing God's perfect will in your life! The world's idea of love does not compare with *agape*. It is a poor counterfeit for God's love. *Agape* is beyond human understanding. You must learn what God says concerning His love.

This Is Love
"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3). "And what this love consisteth in is this: that we live and walk in accordance with and guided by His commandments (His orders, ordinances, precepts, teaching). This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you continue to walk in love [guided by it and following it]" (2 John 6, *The Amplified Bible*).

God says His love is keeping His commandments—walking after His teaching. This brings love out into something tangible so you can know how to love as He loves. God has given us His love manual in black and white: Obeying God's Word is walking in God's love.

If you are born again, you are the love of God by nature. Faith is born into you when you are begotten of God, but until you begin to act on God's Word, that powerful force lies dormant. The same thing is true concerning the love of God. You can have the love of God abiding within you and be unable to allow this love to work through you and reach other people. Faith and love become active through knowledge of and acting upon the Word.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment" (Philippians 1:9).

The love of God is released in your life by acting on the knowledge of God's Word. Without revelation knowledge that is acted upon, love lies undeveloped, and selfishness continues to reign.

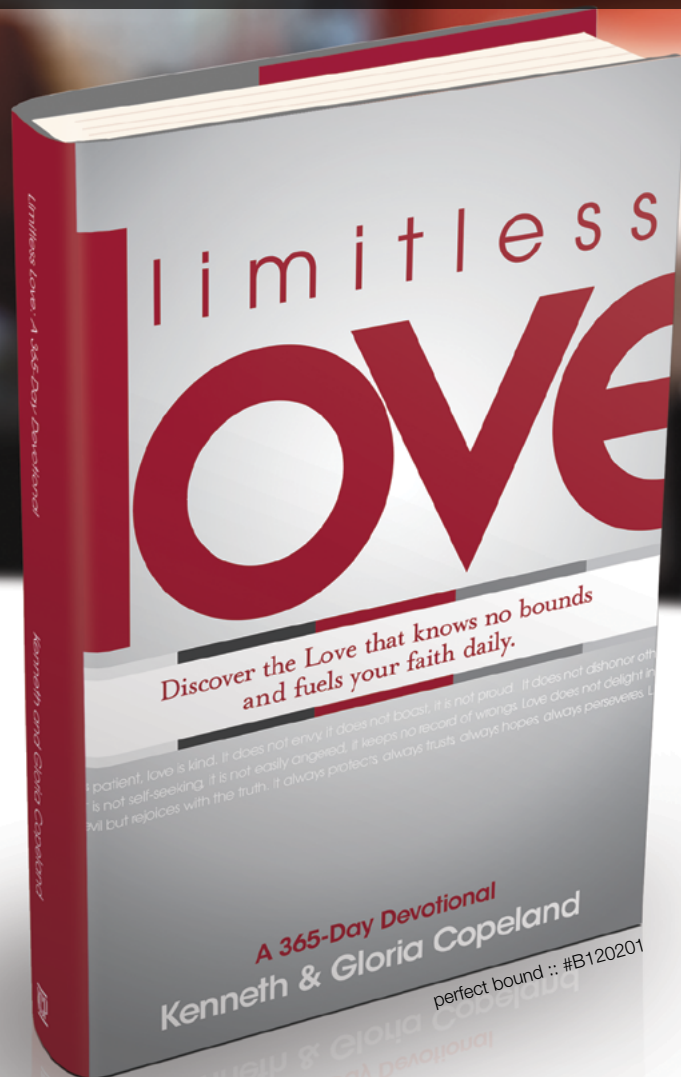
Perfected Love
"For whom he hath his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that hath his abode in him hath himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:5-6).

As you act on God's Word, the love of God is perfected in you. Through His Word the Holy Spirit manifests the love nature of the Father in you. As you adhere to the message of love, love will flow from you to others.

You are a love creature. You can love the love life. God not only re-created your spirit in the image of love, but He also sent His love Spirit to live in you and teach you how to love as He loves (Romans 8:5). *ccw/1502*



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February

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 39 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



articles
features



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BY KENNETH COPELAND

Get Ready to HEAR *from* GOD

What are you hearing from the Lord right now? :: If your answer is, “Not much!” I want you to know, that can change today. What I’m about to say can help you open your spiritual ears and position you to receive the divine wisdom you need to flourish in every area of life. It can free you from the confusion of this sin-darkened world and give you the confidence that comes from receiving supernatural light. :: As a born-again believer, you have a right to such light. It’s your inheritance in Christ and you’ve already been made a partaker of it. As a disciple of Jesus, you’re one of those about whom He said, “It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 13:11).

You don’t have to stumble around on your own trying to figure out what’s going to happen next and how to handle it. Granted, that’s what people who’ve rejected the gospel have to do. It’s their only option. They can’t open the Bible and get the revelation they need, or hear the voice of the Holy Spirit telling them about things to come. Calloused by their unbelief, their hearts have become hardened. As Jesus put it: “They seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. Their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them” (verses 13, 15).

Notice it’s not God’s fault that unbelievers aren’t enjoying His BLESSING in their lives. He’s laid out the principles of it plainly in His Word. He’s guaranteed that anyone, anytime, who sees and hears what He’s said and gets converted (or makes the decision to believe and act on The Word), will receive the results He promised. They’ll succeed and prosper in the kingdom of God.



The problem is, people who haven’t received Jesus as their Lord are spiritually blind and deaf. They can’t see what God is showing them or hear what He’s saying. If you’re saved, however, you don’t have that problem anymore! Jesus has said to you the same thing He said to His disciples in Matthew 13:16: “Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.”

I can almost hear what you’re thinking. You’re wondering why, if that’s the case, you’ve been asking...and asking...and asking God for direction in certain areas of your life and still haven’t heard anything from Him.

Let me assure you, it’s certainly not because He isn’t saying anything. He’s talking all the time. Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit would guide us into all truth and teach us all things. “For he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you” (John 16:13-15).

Do you seriously think Jesus, who has accepted the



Do you seriously think Jesus, who has accepted the responsibility of being your Lord and Savior, is going to forget to tell the Holy Spirit what you need to hear to walk in victory—spiritually, physically, relationally and financially?



You must become aware not only of what God is saying to you but of how you're hearing it, because

the way you believe, interpret and apply it will determine how it comes to pass in your life.

responsibility of being your Lord and Savior, is going to forget to tell the Holy Spirit what you need to hear to walk in victory—spiritually, physically, relationally and financially? Do you think He's going to stay quiet while you get in trouble even though you're looking to Him all the while for guidance?

Of course not! The very idea is ridiculous. Jesus is always faithful to fulfill His responsibilities and He always keeps His word. He said that He'd give us His divine wisdom liberally (James 1:5) and that's exactly what He's doing. All the time.

The reason we don't always hear Him is because we haven't taken possession of an open ear. We haven't taken hold by faith of what He's already given us through His written Word.

Releasing the Power of 'Have'

A couple of years ago, I got a refresher course on that subject when the Lord woke me up in the middle of the night. The minute I opened my eyes, I saw Jesus standing at the head of my bed and He was holding—of all things—a tray heaped high with cookies. (Normally, I don't eat cookies. But I figured if they came from heaven they'd be all right.)

Looking at me with an intensity that let me know He was about to teach me a serious lesson, He said, "Have a cookie!"

Startled speechless, I just stared at Him. So He spoke again. "Your response is: I believe I will. I take it. I have it. Thank You for it. I forgive," He said.

I knew right away He was referring to Mark 11:22-25. I'd been studying that passage and meditating on what it says about how to receive by faith through declaration, prayer and forgiving others. His command to "have a cookie" reminded me of verse 22 that says, "Have faith in God."

As I laid there in my bed thinking about the similarity of the two statements and looking at Jesus holding that tray, it suddenly hit me: He wasn't just instructing us in that verse to *have faith*, He was actually making that faith available to us! He was giving us His own faith as a gift and telling us to *have* it, to take possession of it the way we would take possession of one of those cookies, by saying, "I believe I will! I take it. I have it. Thank You!"

Ever since I received that revelation, I've had a greater

appreciation of the power of *have*. (Not the power *to have* but the power *of have*.) I've realized that when Jesus said something like He did in Matthew 13:11 and 16—"It is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear"—He wasn't just communicating information. That's not how He primarily uses words. He uses them, as He did in Genesis 1, for creation. He uses them to deliver supernatural power, faith, love, joy, peace and everything else heaven has to offer.

To receive what He's delivered to us, however, we have to do something. We must take possession of it by faith and say, for instance, "I believe I will take those mysteries of the kingdom, Lord. I believe I will take those seeing eyes and hearing ears. They're mine. I have them now! Thank You, Sir!"

Once we've done that, we should never speak otherwise. If we're reading along in the Bible and we find something we don't fully comprehend, instead of talking about how confused we are about it, we should say, "I have the gift of knowing the mysteries of the kingdom of God. Thank You, Lord, I have insight about that. I believe I understand what You're saying there." Then as we go on about our reading and studying, Jesus will see to it that the enlightenment comes.

Same thing holds true when we're praying for God to give us wisdom for a specific area of life. Instead of saying things like, "I just don't know why I can't seem to hear from the Lord about this. I'm not picking up any direction from Him at all," we can declare, "I have ears to hear what God is saying to me and the Holy Spirit is guiding me into all truth. I have divine wisdom and I have it now."

"But Brother Copeland, I don't feel like I do!"

What do your feelings have to do with it? Jesus gave it to you and you took it, so you have it!

Pay Attention to How You Measure It

Once you've taken possession of an open ear, you must become aware not only of what God is saying to you but of how you're hearing it, because the way you believe, interpret and apply it will determine how it comes to pass in your life. It's going to come back to you the way you measured it. In

Mark 4:24, Jesus put it this way: "Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given."

I found out how true that is in the early years of this ministry when I was believing God for the money for our first television broadcast. It was going to cost us \$50,000 which, back then, seemed like an impossible amount. One day I was in my car sitting at a traffic light, thinking my own unenlightened, Babylonian-style thoughts about the problem—halfway complaining and halfway praying—and I muttered, "How on earth am I ever going to get that kind of money?" Overwhelmed, I leaned my head on the steering wheel.

"I don't have any idea how I'm going to do this!"

Yes, you do! the Lord answered.

I sat up straight, shocked by His quick response.

"How?" I asked.

Give and it will be given to you again, He said.

"Oh, yeah...." I knew the Bible said that but I'd let it slip my mind, so I stirred up my faith again and said, "OK, Lord. I receive Your direction about what to give, how to give and to whom. I believe it's mine. I have it and I thank You for it."

Over the next week as I traveled and preached, I got up early every morning and prayed about it with Jerry Savelle, who'd just begun working for us at the time. Together we laid out the scriptures the Lord had given us and made our petition. Before the week was out, the word of the Lord came: *Sow the airplane you've been flying into Brother So-and-So's ministry and believe for the money to do the TV broadcast.*

Jerry admitted that his first thought was, *How are we going to get home without that airplane?* I laughed when he said it but then I caught myself thinking, *How am I going to get to my next*

meeting? I cast that thought down and focused my faith back on what God had said, because now I was not only believing for the money for the TV broadcast, I was believing for the replacement of the airplane.

By today's standards, the airplane wasn't worth much. We'd only paid \$25,000 for it but in those days that represented 75 percent of the assets of this ministry. What's more, we were flying it night and day. It was wearing out fast. At the rate we were going, the engines would need a major overhaul within the next 12 to 18 months.

I wasn't going to sow an airplane in that kind of

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condition! It represented my seed!

God had said to me, “Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again” (Luke 6:38). I was expecting a return on this seed. I didn’t want to end up with a worn-out, used-up harvest. That’s not the measure I wanted to use. So I put the airplane in the engine shop and had both engines and props overhauled, and then sowed it as the Lord had directed.

A few days later, Gloria and I took a good friend of ours to the airport and just as he was about to board his Cessna 414 (which is bigger and better than the Cessna 310 I’d been flying), he got a peculiar look on his face.

“Kenneth, I just got the strangest feeling that I’m getting into your airplane!” he said. “If I didn’t owe money on it, I’d give this plane to you free and clear right now because I have no doubt it belongs to you. It’s worth a lot more than I owe on it, though, and I’ll give you everything I have in it if you want it. You can just pay off the note and it will be yours.”

I told him I’d pray about it. I did, and then rolled the care of it over on the Lord. I didn’t try to come up with ways to get the money for that airplane. I didn’t try to figure out how I could manipulate the circumstances and make the deal work out for me. No, that kind of stuff weakens you morally and depletes your spiritual energy, so don’t mess with it. My seed was in the ground and I knew that’s what counted, so I just praised God and thanked Him that what He said was done.

The next week, someone walked into our office with a \$250,000 check. I’d never seen a check that big in my life! When I looked at it, I kind of stuttered and thought, *Is that for real?* Sure enough, it was—and it covered the cost of the television broadcast with enough left over to pay the balance on the Cessna 414!

From Teaspoons to Dump Trucks

Can you see now why Jesus said, “Take heed what you hear?” Can you see why He

told us to pay attention to the way we measure what we’re hearing? If we measure it out in teaspoons, we’re going to get it back in teaspoons. If we measure it in dump-truck loads, we’re going to get it back that way!

If you’re expecting to receive just a little bit of what God has said, a little is what you’re going to get. But if you’ll expand your expectancy (or your hope) by paying closer attention to The Word, by giving it more thought and study, you can use the same amount of faith and get greater results.

That’s why it’s so important to spend adequate time

meditating The Word and building your petitions before God. Don’t just use someone else’s petition and copy it. Faith comes while you’re gathering the scriptures God is quickening to you. Your spirit gets stronger and stronger as you put them together, take heed to them and bring them to the Lord in prayer. As you see with your own eyes what’s written in the Bible and hear for yourself what the Holy Spirit is saying to you through it, you get to the place of revelation. You gain the assurance in your own heart that you’re praying according to 1 John 5:14-15, which says: “This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.”

If you’ve just taken someone else’s petition and filled in your name, you won’t have that kind of knowing. All you’ll have is secondhand information, and you don’t have to settle for that! It’s been given to you to know the mysteries of God’s kingdom firsthand, for yourself. You have spiritual eyes that see, ears that hear and the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth.

So take what Jesus has given you! Release the power of *have* and say, “I believe I will. I take it. I have it. Thank You, Lord!” If you have anything against anyone, forgive them. Then start listening. Meditate on The Word until your measure becomes bigger... and bigger...and bigger.

Get rid of the teaspoons, get out the dump trucks and get ready to receive from God. **VICTORY**

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.

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BY RONALD C. JORDAN



Larry Joe & Linda Wright



Larry Joe Wright laid down the huge shovel, pulled a wrinkled handkerchief from his back pocket and wiped his brow.

Then, he wiped away the tears that streamed down his flushed cheeks. It was only 6:45 a.m., and already the tedious chore of cleaning out horse stalls piled ankle-deep with mud and manure had caused him to work up a sweat. :: But more than that, it had caused Larry Joe to take a long, hard look at himself for what seemed like the millionth time. :: *God, there's got to be more than this*, he thought.

The Right Decision at Center Aisle

And there was. Larry Joe already knew it. He had experienced it just a few years before while living out one of his favorite scriptures—3 John 2: “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”

Prosperity, good health, success. They had all been a big part of life for Larry Joe, his wife, Linda, and their three children for years since he first got saved in 1970 and started Larry Joe Wright Evangelistic Association.

“We had about \$250,000 a year coming in during that time,” Larry Joe recalls. “There was money in the bank, all our bills were paid, and we were preaching the gospel all over the country and seeing people saved and healed.”

For a while in the early 1980s, his ministry had even brought him right here to California—not far from where Larry Joe now stood cleaning up after horses. Then, Larry Joe and Linda were holding monthly meetings at the Sheridan Universal Hotel and even ministered to people from the movie industry. More than 200 people came to know the Lord through those meetings, including actor Vic Morrow, whom Larry Joe led to the Lord in 1982—just two weeks before Morrow and two small children were killed in a tragic helicopter accident during the filming of a movie.

What happened to bring me to this point? Larry Joe wondered halfheartedly. Part of the answer he knew. The

other part truly was a mystery.

“In 1981, God had given me direction where our ministry was concerned and I didn’t follow it,” Larry Joe said. “I had 14 people on the road, I was under tremendous pressure and frustrated. The Lord had spoken to my heart to quit.”

But reasoning that if they ended their ministry people would think they were backslidden, Larry Joe and Linda decided to continue. That’s when trouble started.

“I thought God wanted me to quit the ministry,” Larry Joe said. “But that’s not what He meant. He just wanted me to quit running up and down the road. You can miss the mark by making a wrong choice, and I made a wrong choice.”

From Renegade to Preacher

For 19 years, life had been good for Larry Joe and Linda. Linda had committed her life to the Lord at an early age, but Larry Joe was more the renegade.

“I grew up in the Church, but I was a heathen who got saved probably 200 times before I really got saved,” he says. It wasn’t until he was 28 that Larry Joe got serious with God. Even then, true salvation came under desperate circumstances.

Larry Joe had auditioned in Las Vegas for a singing job when a man threatened him with a gun. Seeking revenge,

I didn't understand any of what was going on at that point in my life,

Larry Joe says. But he knew the Bible. He knew what God starts, He finishes.

Larry Joe recruited the help of a friend.

"We had guns, and were driving back to Las Vegas when all of a sudden the roof of my car seemed to become transparent," Larry Joe recalled. He heard a voice.

Larry Joe, give Me your life or I'm going to take it.

"I cried out to God that night and He saved me and filled me with the Holy Ghost," Larry Joe said.

Within weeks, Larry Joe Wright Evangelistic Association was founded. With two buses, a truck and a staff of 14, Larry Joe, Linda and their three children began crisscrossing the country—singing, preaching and teaching the gospel.

"For 13 years we lived on the road," Larry Joe said.

In 1982, they built their first home in Red Oak, Texas, just south of Dallas.

Effects of a Scandal

It was smooth sailing for the Wrights and their ministry. Then, two well-known TV evangelists were implicated in separate sex or money scandals. A number of ministries, including the Wrights', felt the impact.

"No one wanted to trust evangelists," Larry Joe recalled.

With no meetings, it wasn't long before financial troubles hit and Larry Joe turned to a minister friend for help.

"He offered to loan me \$120,000 at 32-percent interest," Larry Joe said. But the man wanted collateral, and Larry Joe had none.

"What about your house?"

It was the only thing they owned, but getting back on track seemed more important at the time. Besides, God had always provided for them. They could get another house.

"In a year and a half I had repaid \$67,500 and still owed more than I had borrowed," Larry Joe said. "I was letting everything else go to pay him. Finally, I came to my senses and realized I was getting ripped off."

A lawyer suggested Larry Joe sue the man for usury, a term which describes the practice of lending money at an exorbitant interest rate, or in excess of the legal lending rate.

"We thought the lawsuit was the answer," Larry Joe reflected. Soon, they learned differently.

Rebuilding a Ministry, Changing a Life!

Their day in court didn't turn out the way Larry Joe and Linda had expected.

Seated behind the big, shiny table, his attorney at his side, nothing inside the stately courtroom, ornately adorned with distinguished portraits and aristocratic regalia symbolic of the American judicial system, could distract Larry Joe from the words he had just heard in his spirit.

"The Lord just told me not to do this," Larry Joe whispered to Linda. "He said not to take this minister before these unjust people. Just give him the house and walk out of here."

It wasn't what Larry Joe wanted to hear.

But this man is a crook, Larry Joe thought. He's a thief and a robber!

That's My business. Give it to Me. I'll handle it.

"Whatever you want to do, I'm with you," Linda responded.

In the few moments it took for the judge to turn over their \$375,000, nearly 5,000-square-foot home and seven acres to the man, Larry Joe and Linda sat quietly. Their life, it seemed, was going up in smoke and there was nothing they could do about it.

In two weeks, they moved out. "Driving out of the driveway that final time, I said 'Lord, it looks like they beat us.'"

In his spirit, Larry Joe knew he had done the right thing. But everything in the natural spoke to the contrary. It didn't feel good at all.

Where to From Here?

Larry Joe and Linda left court that day with no direction. Soon after, Larry Joe left his family behind and returned to California to try to re-establish his ministry.

"I ended up cleaning horse stalls for two years, then I cleaned toilets for a year," Larry Joe said. Finally, he was able to move his family to California. But things were still rough. Despite it all, Larry Joe and Linda held on to the one thing they knew God had given them—a call to minister.

"I never stopped crying out to the Lord," Larry Joe said. "I needed to know if He was done with me."

One day some friends from Texas came to visit.

"They knew us when we had money, and we were not about to let on that we were broke," Larry Joe said.

When the couples finally met, Larry Joe's friend knew immediately something was wrong.

"Why don't you come back to Fort Worth and I can help you get a *real* job?" the man told Larry Joe.

"I have a job. I'm a full-time evangelist."

"Yeah, but you're a broke one."

Reluctantly, Larry Joe accepted the offer and within days was back in Texas, working in the plumbing section at The Home Depot.

"I didn't understand any of what was going on at that point in my life," Larry Joe says.

But he knew the Bible. He knew what God starts, He finishes.

It was no mistake that Larry Joe Wright had been saved at age 28. It was no mistake he married Linda and launched a traveling ministry of healing and deliverance that saw hundreds and thousands of people set free.

What was about to happen to Larry Joe—right there in the center aisle of The Home Depot—was also no mistake.

How Did He Get in Here?

It was around noon, and Larry Joe was returning to work after lunch when he rounded a corner and came face to face with one man he thought he never wanted to run into—Kenneth Copeland!

Good night, there's that heathen, Larry Joe thought. *They let that man in here?*

In the denomination Larry Joe associated with, Kenneth Copeland and his teaching on prosperity were frowned upon. But despite knowing that, Larry Joe sensed a need to speak.

"You're Kenneth Copeland."

"Yeah, and who are you?"

"It doesn't matter who I am. I need to talk to you."

Brother Copeland stepped across the aisle and up to Larry Joe.

"I've been in the ministry 23 years, and three months ago, I found myself working at this store and I don't understand what's going on," Larry Joe said. "I don't particularly like you. I've watched your show two or three times. I've never sent you a dime. But I'd like you to pray for me!"

What happened next completely surprised Larry Joe.

"He looked at me, smiled and said 'That's all right.' Then he grabbed me and started praying." Gloria Copeland, who had been shopping nearby, saw what was going on and joined her husband in praying for Larry Joe.

When the Copelands finished praying, Gloria looked at Larry Joe and said, "Let me tell you something, boy. God's got a ministry in you."

"I set myself in covenant agreement with you," Kenneth added. "I don't know what *you're* going to do with it, but *I* don't change."

Gloria told Larry Joe about Eagle Mountain International Church, on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, and invited him to an upcoming conference, and then the Copelands left. Minutes later, Brother Copeland returned saying he forgot to shake Larry Joe's hand.

"He left a \$100 bill in my hand," Larry Joe said. "I didn't have two nickels to my name and he gave me \$100!"

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Larry Joe and Linda Wright had been successful in ministry for 23 years when they lost everything. A "chance" encounter with a man he didn't want to know—Kenneth Copeland—helped Larry Joe and Linda get back on the path God had for them.

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A New Phase of Life!

The following Sunday, Larry Joe visited EMIC and in January returned for the conference. When the meeting broke for lunch, Larry Joe found himself amidst a sea of ministers, all neatly dressed and being served a fine catered meal. Larry Joe's bluejeans, sweat shirt and worn-out cowboy boots didn't qualify him to sit with the elite in this crowd, he thought.

"Hey, Larry, you better turn around here and look at me, Brother," a voice yelled.

It was Kenneth Copeland!

"I never told him my name that day at The Home Depot," Larry Joe said. "He remembered it from reading my name tag. He was sitting with Mrs. Copeland, Jerry and Carolyn Savelle, and Jesse and Cathy Duplantis, and he called me over to give him a hug."

Larry Joe excused himself, walking away quickly so no one would see the tears welling up in his eyes.

What kind of people are these? he wondered. For years, he had been guilty of criticizing them. But from what he was experiencing, there was never any reason.

God, what are You doing?

That evening, Larry Joe and Linda returned for the service. During praise and worship Brother Copeland's voice rang out again.

"Larry Joe...are you here tonight, Brother? I've had you on my heart ever since the afternoon service. Come on up here right now."

Surprised that he was being singled out, Larry Joe moved hesitantly toward the front. Then Brother Copeland called for Linda. Once there, Brother Copeland prayed for the couple, and then told them God had raised them up for healing and deliverance through the laying on of hands. Their ministry, Brother Copeland said, would evolve in three phases.

Brother Copeland ended the service that night by taking up an offering. Larry Joe and Linda gave all they had—\$5. Then, Brother Copeland asked Larry Joe to pray over the offering. Afterward, Brother Copeland added to the prayer, asking the Lord to bless the offering as it was being sown to Larry Joe and Linda to help establish their new ministry.

What did he say? They're giving the offering to us?

"That offering was \$17,640.76!" Larry Joe said. "In all our years of ministry we never had another minister give us his offering. We shouted all the way home."

For a while after that meeting, Larry Joe and Linda returned to ministry, traveling the country preaching God's Word and seeing hundreds healed and delivered. Then in June 1998, while attending a KCM meeting in

Anaheim, Calif., Brother Copeland again spoke to Larry Joe and Linda about change in their ministry.

"Not long before, I had been watching the news when I heard that 50,000 children in the Dallas/Fort Worth area go to bed hungry every night," Larry Joe said. That report stuck with him and resurfaced with Brother Copeland's words about change.

In November 1998, Larry Joe decided to do something about those hungry people. Visiting two local grocery stores, he bought food vouchers and distributed them in the most poverty-stricken areas of Fort Worth, so families could have Thanksgiving dinner. He did the same thing in December for Christmas. But when he gave a voucher to an 80-year-old woman, she told him, "I'll need transportation to get to the store."

I appreciate what you've done, but this is not what I want you to do, Larry Joe heard the Lord say.

An Abundant Supply

At that point, Larry Joe shifted his strategy and began buying and delivering food instead of vouchers. When he learned that his cousin's former employer occasionally gave food to the needy, Larry Joe approached the company with a request for help.

The company started out providing Larry Joe with 75 cases of food a month, then increased to somewhere between 10 to 12 truckloads a year. In no time, Larry Joe was receiving donations from so many sources that he had to find space to store it.

The Lord directed the Wrights to a 12,000-square-foot warehouse in north Fort Worth, which not only provided space to house their inventory, but office space and an area where they could minister and share the gospel as well.

In October 2000, Larry Joe was attending another KCM meeting when Brother Copeland had yet another word for him from the Lord. *Something outstanding is waiting right in the wings, ready to step out center stage in your ministry because of your obedience, because you were willing to change your heart and change your direction.*

Just what that "something outstanding" would be was not clear to Larry Joe and Linda. But they continued doing what they knew God wanted them to, confident He had their future in control.

In the aftermath of the tragic events of 9/11, the Wrights were forced to vacate their warehouse space when donations and contributions to their ministry started to decline. Businesses that normally donated to them had shifted their giving to help those in need in New York, Linda explained.

But in the midst of what seemed like another dark

Put the Devil on the Run!

period for the Wrights, God's plan was still in full operation.

"We moved out of this building in 2003, and had to operate out of a smaller location for a while," says Linda. "Meanwhile, this building remained vacant the entire time we were gone. Our signs were never taken down from outside the building. Even some of the sticky notes I had left on the wall in my office were still there."

Five years later, the Wrights relocated the ministry back to where it started.

"The day we came back to lease the building, a man drove up and said *he* was interested in leasing it. But it was already taken."

Two years ago, the Wrights began operating a thrift store in the warehouse where they sell new and used items donated from local businesses like Wal-Mart. All the proceeds from the sales are used to purchase food and other items for distribution. The thrift store operates three days each week—Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Food giveaways are each Thursday.

Larry Joe estimates that in the 13½ years the center has been open, more than 500,000 people have passed through their doors. This past year alone, they provided food to over 18,000 individuals.

"We've experienced phenomenal growth because of support from organizations like KCM and EMIC," Larry Joe said. "And every bit of what we are seeing happen, we believe, is a direct result of the relationship we have with KCM. They have been with us every step of the way.

"This is confirmation that God wanted us here, doing what we're doing."

Today, Larry Joe and Linda realize what true obedience to God means. And while they are still not certain if they are in the final phase of the "new ministry" Brother Copeland spoke of, they know what it means to be truly in God's will. And there is one thing the couple is sure about: "Life is all about choices," Larry Joe confirmed. "I made the wrong choice that day when I decided not to do what the Lord told me to do. But I made the right choice that morning in the center aisle at The Home Depot. And I made the right choice when I decided to go to that meeting." VICTORY

Jesus is the Christ. The Greek word *Christ* means "the Anointed One." And since Isaiah 10:27 tells us the yoke of the devil is destroyed by the anointing, we don't have to run scared when the devil comes against us, our loved ones or our nation. We can put him to flight with the blood of the Lamb, the word of our testimony and the yoke-destroying Anointing of Jesus Christ Himself!

That's what Jesus expects us to do. He has already taken care of every kind of trouble that could ever come to the human family when He was put on the Cross, raised from the dead, and glorified at the right hand of the Father. He spoiled the principalities and powers of darkness. He triumphed over them and made an open show of them (Colossians 2:15). He stripped the devil of every last vestige of power.

Jesus has done His part. He has taken back the devil's authority over the earth and He has given it to us. Just before He ascended to heaven He said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore..." (Matthew 28:18-19). He delegated His power and authority to us—His Church—then "after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, [he] sat down on the right hand of God; from henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool" (Hebrews 10:12-13).

He expects us to stand up in the midst of the storms of life

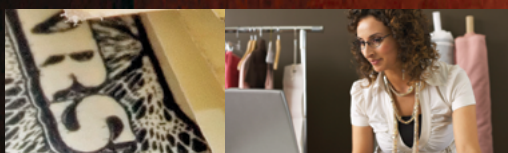
"And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."
Isaiah 10:27

and dominate those storms with faith-filled words. He expects us to look sickness and lack and terror in the face and say, "You get under my feet in the Name of Jesus!"

I realize you may not feel like you can do that today. You may be facing the greatest struggle of your life. It may be really hard right now. But, regardless of how you feel, if you're a born-again child of God, you can do it because the Bible says, "Whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith" (1 John 5:4).

You are destined to overcome. You have that anointing—the Anointed One—residing on the inside of you if you are born again. Stir up that anointing. Stand up in the midst of the storm. Speak to it with all the power and authority that's been given to you. If you'll do that, you'll dominate the storm and put the devil on the run! VICTORY

(This article was reprinted from the devotional book by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, *Pursuit of His Presence*. To order a copy of this faith-filled devotional, please log on to **kcm.org** or call 800-600-7395. You can also read the daily devotion online by going to **kcm.org**.)



walking on water—the secret to Fulfilling Your Call

BY GLORIA COPELAND

How many of you feel God has called you to do something that is absolutely impossible? That was the question I asked a group of ministers one time. The number of hands raised in response was many. Almost every one of them felt God had called them to do something they didn't have the ability to do.

Chances are, if you've been seeking God and asking Him to show you His plan for your life, you've run into the very same thing. Whether you are called to the fivefold ministry or to serve in some other capacity in the Body of Christ, the vision God has given you is most likely something completely out of reach. Something bigger than you

ever dreamed you could do.

If that's the case, I want to encourage you today. I want to share something God told me years ago that took a great deal of pressure off me in the area of ministry. It was this: *Everything God calls us to do is impossible to men.*

Now, doesn't that make you feel better? It did me. When God said

that to me, I suddenly realized He didn't expect me to know how to do His work. He didn't expect me to have the natural ability or strength to accomplish it.

It lifted the pressure off me to realize that what I have to do in God is impossible anyway. If He doesn't do it through me, it's not going to get done.

Just think about it. You can't lay hands on the sick and have them recover without the Anointing of God on you. You can't cast out devils without the Spirit of God

From the BVOV Archives: This classic teaching originally appeared in November 1991.

God is not broke.

What stops us is taking our attention off Jesus and putting it on our circumstances.

moving through you. You can't even speak in tongues unless the Spirit gives you utterance.

Everything we're called to do in God is impossible with men. Once I realized that, it took the pressure off me—and put it on God. I no longer looked to my ability, or lack of it, but to God's ability.

When God gives us an assignment, He's not depending on us to use our own intelligence and power to complete that assignment. In fact, the Bible says He actually chooses us considering our lack of intelligence and power. First Corinthians 1:26-29 says:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in his presence.

God knew you weren't smart enough or strong enough to do His work when He called you. That's *why* He called you. He knew you would have to depend on Him. And, believe me, He knows exactly how to get the job done.

I remember, years ago, when we were living in Tulsa, Okla., and Ken was a student at Oral Roberts University. One day he went down to the riverbed behind our house to pray and God spoke to him about ministering to nations.

Now at that time in our lives we could hardly afford to get across town. But God said, *You are going to minister to nations*. That was so impossible. No one even knew who we were. We didn't have any money. Just getting to Texas to visit Ken's parents was a big deal—and God was talking about *nations*!

We've been in the ministry 48 years now. In January 1990, God spoke to Kenneth again and told him, *You're just now in position to do the main work I've called you to do*.

Now things are happening in the nations. Nations are opening up to us. We're going on television in the Baltic States. We're also on the air in the Scandinavian countries. Doors are opening everywhere.

We're not trying to do it. God is taking care of it all. It thrills me to think of that!

He didn't expect Ken and me to know how to reach

nations. He knew we didn't have an extra \$15 to get from one state to the other when He told us to go into all the world and preach the gospel. But God is not broke. He had the money. He knew where it was.

He has paid every bill all these years. We didn't need it in the bank. He had it!

God doesn't expect us to have the resources or the know-how to do His work. Do you know what He expects from us? He just expects us to take the next step.

All He wants is for us to spend time with Him, pray and find out what He wants us to do next. He'll always reveal to you the next step to take. He may not show you any more than that, but you can be sure He will tell you the next step.

I like to compare it to walking on water like Peter did in Matthew 14. You know, walking on water is an impossible thing to do! Peter had absolutely no ability to do it. Yet, Jesus said to him simply, "Come," and Peter jumped over the side of that boat and started walking. When he did, sure enough, the power of the word of Jesus took hold of him and held him up.

But then something happened. Verse 30 says, "But when he [Peter] saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me."

Take note of that. Peter was walking on the water just fine until he took his eyes away from Jesus and started looking somewhere else. He started looking at the size of the waves. He started looking at the circumstances. And he started to sink.

Every failure you've ever had in your Christian life has come exactly that way. It has come because you quit looking at who called you, quit trusting in His Word and started focusing on the problems around you instead.

That is what stops the people of God. It's not the lack of God's power. It's not that He is unwilling to move and do supernatural things on our behalf. What stops us is taking our attention off Jesus and putting it on our circumstances.

"Oh, but Gloria," you may say, "you don't understand how really bad my circumstances are."

It doesn't matter how bad they are! For years the Apostle Paul was faced with the worst circumstances you could imagine. He was imprisoned, beaten, shipwrecked and abused in almost every way imaginable for preaching the gospel. But those things didn't stop him. At the end of his life he was able to say, "I have finished my course."

Paul fulfilled an impossible call in the midst of impossible circumstances. How did he do it? He tells us in Philippians 3:13-14: "...This one thing I do, forgetting those things

which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”

Paul had his eyes on the prize. He was looking ahead. He wasn't looking at today. He wasn't looking at his problems. Paul focused his eyes on Jesus and on the goal Jesus had set before him. That focus carried him through in triumph.

The same thing is true for us today which was true for Paul. If we're going to do the impossible, there's only one way to do it—by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the One who is Lord over this universe.

One thing you need to be aware of, however, is this: It's not always the *problems* of this life that distract us. Sometimes it's the *pleasures*. Sometimes we just allow the natural things of living to draw us off course. If you're going to run your race effectively, you'll have to lay aside some things.

Hebrews 12:1 says, “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”

Weights and sin are not the same thing. Most of us are willing to lay aside sin. But we're reluctant to let go of those “harmless” things that just weigh us down. Things which occupy the time we need to be spending in prayer and the Word, for example. Things that hold us down and keep us in the natural realm instead of allowing us to soar in the Spirit.

Weights like that won't just go away by themselves. They have to be purposely laid aside. God won't lay them aside for you. You have to do it

It's not easy to finish your course. It is easier to fall by the wayside, to let some distracting circumstance or some lying devil talk you into giving up by making you feel inadequate and alone.

If that has happened to you, let me tell you something today. In yourself, you *are* inadequate. But you're not alone! That makes all the difference.

When God spoke to the faith heroes in the Old Testament, men like Moses and Joshua, He would always say, “Don't be afraid, for I am with you. It doesn't really matter who you are. It is who is with you that counts!”

God didn't expect Joshua to be able to knock over the

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walls of Jericho with his own strength. Those walls were going to come down supernaturally. All Joshua had to do was trust God and take the next step. God told Joshua, "...Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

He's saying the same thing to you today. "Don't be afraid. Be strong. Be courageous for I am with you!" That's the thing we have to remember. God is in us. He is with us.

If God has given you an impossible assignment, don't worry about it. He knows exactly how to complete it. And He intends to complete it through you.

It's the Anointed One in you who is going to do the work. It's the Spirit of God who will bring those impossible things to pass. All you have to do is take the next step.

Of course, you will have to do some things to find out what that next step is. You'll have to spend time in the Word, time praying in the spirit, time listening for and expecting to hear His direction.

But don't expect Him to give you 10 steps at one time. He rarely does. He just tells you what you can do today.

The secret is to be trusting and simple, to come as a little child before the Lord and hear from Him every day. Don't try to figure out all the things you need to do and how to do them. Just listen day by day, take one step at a time, and you will come to the place where God wants you to be. You will finish your race.

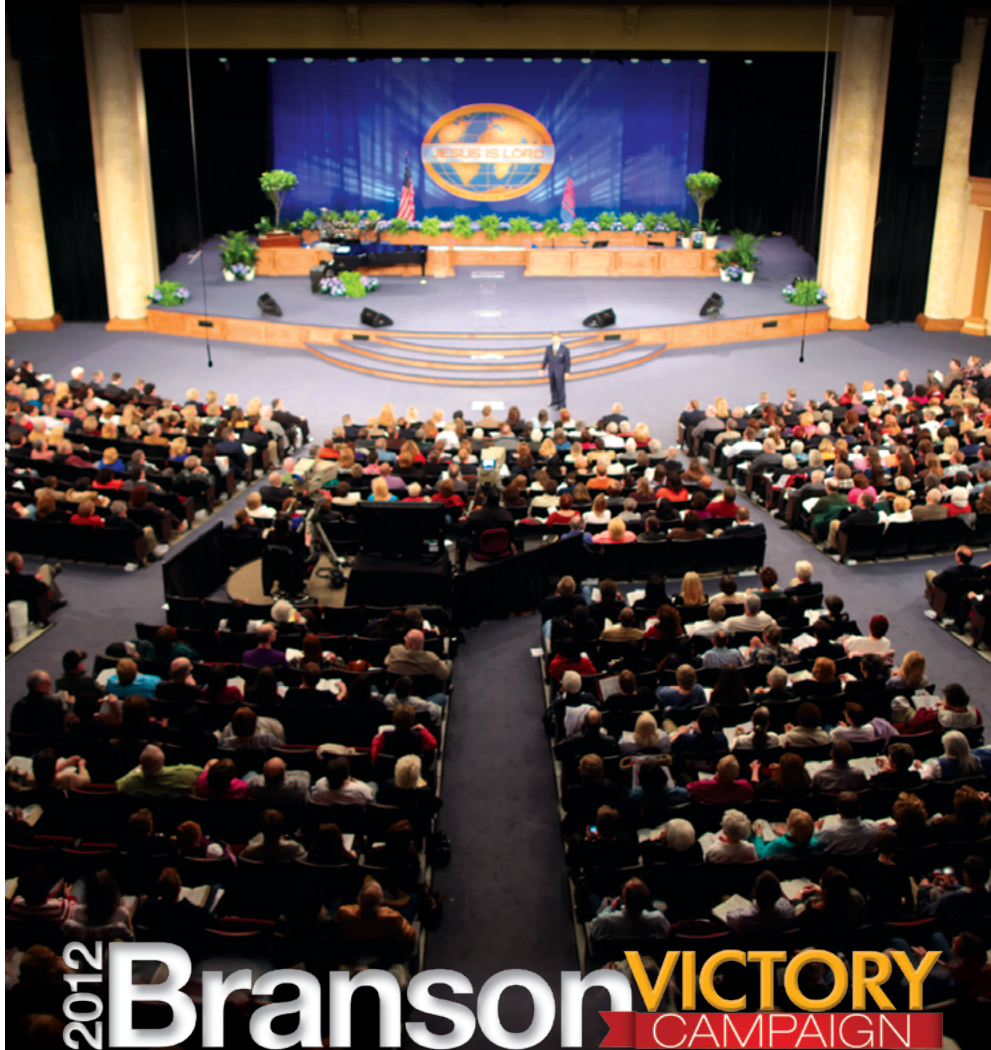
In the meantime, don't be weighed down with the need to get everything done right now. Don't struggle along, trying to hurry up the process. Learn to obey and day by day, let God get it done on His schedule.

Kenneth Hagin prophesied not too long ago that days of preparation are never wasted days. So if you feel like you haven't arrived yet, relax. You *haven't* arrived yet! But if you're out there walking on the water with your eyes on Jesus, taking one step at a time, you're well on your way. **VICTORY**



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—Kenneth Copeland



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Christian Life Center | 3489 Little York Road | Dayton, OH 45414 | united.edu

Annual Word of Faith Convention: June 8-9

Word of Faith International Christian Center | 20000 W. Nine Mile Road
Southfield, MI 48075 | 248-353-3476 | woficc.com

Upper Midwest Faith Explosion: August 23-24

Living Word Christian Center | 9201 75th Ave. N.
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428 | 763-315-7000 | lwcc.org

Prayer Mountain Annual Prayer Conference: October 25-29

(Billye Brim Ministries) | Hilton Branson Convention Center
200 Sycamore St. | Branson, MO 65616 | 417-336-4877 | billyebrim.org

Terri Copeland Pearsons

Prayer Conference: March 30-April 1

La Bonne Nouvelle Church | Nice, France | +33 (0) 6-58-73-62-84
elbnfrance.com

Dr. Stephen and/or Kellie Swisher

Inaugural Summit for Religious Freedom: February 16

Word of Life Church | 11675 Pratt Ave.
El Paso, TX 79936 | 915-855-9673 | tbn.org

Grace Festival Crusade: February 17-20

Ambon, Indonesia | Contact: World Impact Ministries
P.O. Box 968 | St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 6Z4 | Canada
905-346-4828 | peteryoungren.org

New Creation Fellowship: February 26

3325 Genessee St. | Cheektowaga, NY 14225 | 716-631-8595 | ncfwny.org

Victory Christian Center's Women's Conference: March 2-4

Victory Christian Center | 11520 Ellerslie Road SW
Edmonton, Alberta T6W 1A2 | Canada
(Please contact church to register.) | 780-988-5433 | vcc.org

Kern Christian Center: March 24-25

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

New Life Family Church: April 1

202 S. Gilbert Road | Gilbert, AZ 85296 | 480-456-9200 | newlifeaz.cc

Brand New Life Christian Church: April 15

1110-B W. Taft Ave. | Orange, CA 92865
714-974-7031 | brandnewlifechurch.com

Riley Stephenson, KCM's Evangelistic Outreach Minister

House of Glory for All Nations Church: January 27-29

Morris Quality Inn | 200 Gore Road | Morris, IL 60450
815-651-8564 | houseofglory@gmail.com

Grace Christian Center: March 2-4

700 Cottonwood Road | Harrison, AR 72601 | 870-741-9099 | greatgrace.org

Agape Life Fellowship: March 11

6185 W. State Highway 266 | Springfield, MO 65802
417-831-2333 | agapelife fellowship.org

Big Shanty Outreach: April 18-22

Harvestfire Church International | 975 Cobb Place Blvd., Suite 205
Kennesaw, GA 30160 | 770-944-9377 | harvestfirechurch.org

Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons

BEHOLD Conference: May 10-12

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GoodNewsGazette

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I called for prayer a few months ago, got the job and started within a few weeks. The job sought me out, I didn't seek it and the owner of the company is a wonderful Christian man. I wanted to thank KCM for praying.

K.G. :: Virginia

Peace in My Family

I am 80 years old from South Africa. I receive your *BVOV* magazine every month, and my life has changed dramatically since I became your Partner in 1996. All my children have been taught by the Word of God since then and great is their peace. My son-in-law has started a church from what he has learned from Kenneth and Gloria Copeland.

P.N. :: South Africa

God's Way Is the Best Way

Recently, my neck and back had become so sore and stiff that it was making everyday chores like getting dressed, doing my hair or sitting at my desk for work really uncomfortable—and sleeping at night was just as challenging. In hindsight, this was the same period of time that I'd been really dissatisfied with my role at work. I'd been believing God for over a year that He would show me where “my place” was (whether that was my current role/job, or a new one). But events at work had taken such a turn that I had taken my eyes off God and was trying to prove myself in my own strength—and it wasn't working. I had also started openly being critical of my boss, something I know is wrong, but because I'd taken my eyes off God I told myself that under the circumstances it was justified.

One morning I was in so much pain that I got in the car with a heat pack for my shoulders and just went driving. I started listening to the SWBC session from Wednesday 10 a.m. where Kenneth Copeland was preaching from Galatians 5. God used this word to grab my attention and direct me back to meditate on Galatians 5:1 where I saw that I am to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made me free, and that even the Word says “...be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage....” And my recent actions constituted “my choice” to go back to that bondage by my behavior which contradicted Matthew 6:33-34 and Matthew 7:1-2.

God then directed me to 1 Peter 2:1, 10-25 and when I asked God's forgiveness for my behavior that had been so contrary to the Word of God, and received my forgiveness by faith, ALL THE PAIN LEFT my shoulders and my back. Glory to God, I am healed! Although I know that in the natural I can't see any way out of my work situation at the moment, it's not up to me to find that way. My “calling” as an heir of God is to seek first His way of doing and being right and He will order my steps.

A.D. :: Australia

KCM Showed Me They Care

When my father died from cancer, I had a nervous breakdown and was unemployed. I came across the *BVOV* broadcast and called for prayer. KCM sent me books and showed me they genuinely cared about me as a person.

I am now healed, I have a job and I'm working toward owning my own home. I am very grateful to have KCM in my life.

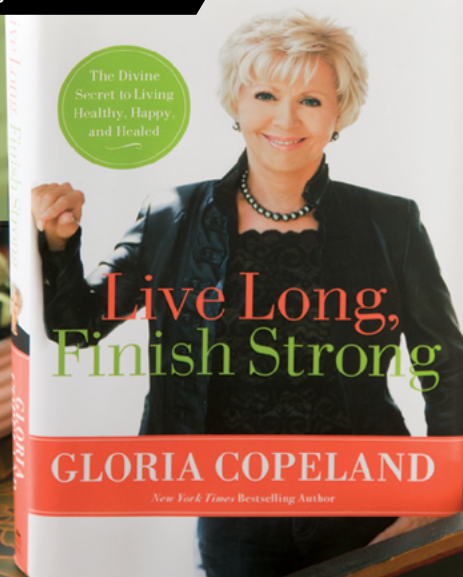
Nikki :: Alexandria, Va.

Renewed Hope

My great-granddaughter is coming home! The doctors initially gave up on her because of knotted intestines and premature lungs. However, after performing surgery, the doctors were astonished to see a full recovery. God's goodness never fails!

G.H.
Alabama

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Thank You!

I'm writing to say thank you for bringing me to Jesus Christ. I was Catholic and attended Mass on Sundays, but came away feeling empty and lost. I was searching for answers that my religion was not providing.

One summer day in 1999, when it was raining and I couldn't go for my usual walk, I settled in front of the TV with my cup of tea. While surfing the channels I ran across the *BVOV* broadcast; I paused and thought, *Here's just another televangelist*. But I watched for a while and was amazed that some of my questions were answered in such a short span of time. Brother Copeland, you were alone that week teaching in such a basic, down-to-earth way that I understood for the first time in my life. I watched *BVOV* all that week and became born again by Friday. I have not looked back since.

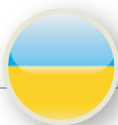
Thanks to you and Gloria, I've learned and grown in Jesus Christ. My vocation became more Christ-directed also. I felt I was doing what He'd called me to do. Since then I've been blessed beyond measure. Accept my undying gratitude for the work you do. May God bless you and your team. Continue the great work that saved me and countless others.

H.H. :: Canada

Living Free From Pain

I walk with a cane and have been in pain since a fracture over three years ago. I attended the LIVE IT East Coast Faith Conference last September and went through the prayer line. Dino prayed with me and I've been pain free ever since! And the swelling in my leg has been going down every day. It is a miracle!

L.D. :: Pennsylvania



KCM Ukraine

Miracles Happen!

On April 21, 2009, after having an MRI, I was told I had a tumor near my bladder and it was cancer. Doctors told me to go to the hospital immediately. Everybody stood for me and prayed for me—I believed that Jesus took all my sicknesses and carried all my diseases. Day and night I listened to tapes of *BVOV*. Praise God I had been recording them since 2003.

Thank you for your magazine, because in the first lines I read: "For God it is as easy to heal from cancer as it is from a headache." I took hold of it immediately. Thank you for your Partner support. In four weeks I was healed without any injections and the tumor went out of my body. Doctors examined me for several weeks and found nothing. The doctor who examined me said, "Miracles happen!"

L.P. :: Russia



The Word Works

Some months ago, I took time to go on a short holiday and spend time with the Lord. One evening, as I went for dinner, a persistent and painful throbbing kicked up in my leg. This had been happening for months and I usually tried to ignore it, but that night it became very painful. I had with me the current edition of the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine. I have been a Partner for a few years now and love receiving the magazine. I even take a copy with me to work. That night, as I sat at dinner, I began reading the "Good News Gazette" and as I read, something in me said, *Enough*. I put my hand on my leg where the pain was and commanded the pain to leave my leg, in Jesus' Name. It left immediately. Praise God! My legs are now in perfect working order and pain no longer bothers me. His Word is true.

M.T. :: Australia

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God Said It—I Believe It

I caught cold and had a complication in my left ear. I ended up having only 30 percent of my hearing. I was only 40 years old. Doctors told me the hearing loss could not be restored, and that I had to take treatment to stop more hearing loss. I had no money and no work at that time, so I accepted the thought that I would live without hearing in my left ear.

But when I listened to Kenneth and Gloria's sermons I was surprised at the fact that people were healed. Then, I started calling things that are not as though they were. I started praying and believing God that I have 100 percent of hearing. This year, I passed all medical examinations and I can hear with my left ear!

V.P. :: Ukraine

Thankful for God's Healing Power

There was a time when I was very sick. I had cancer. Gloria's book *God's Will for Your Healing* helped me and I got strength in my spirit and was healed. God completely healed me and I'm very thankful to Him and Sister Gloria for sowing into us faith in God's healing power.

L.M. :: Russia



TAKING OWNERSHIP

Years ago, I built what people have called a campus. It includes an executive office for our ministry,

television and recording studios, a church building and a production/distribution center for products. I built it debt free and under budget. There were many opportunities to fail, but I didn't take any. :: When everything was finished in 2000, I was so excited. I started walking around our ministry, taking it all in, praying in the Holy Ghost and thanking God that the project was finished. :: As I was walking around, the Lord spoke to me: *Boy, Jesse, your buildings are beautiful.* :: "What did You say, Jesus?"

I asked. :: *Your buildings,* He said, *they're beautiful.* :: "Well, thank You." I thought it was kind of odd, so I said, "Did You say, 'My buildings?'" :: *Yeah, your buildings. They're beautiful, Jesse.*

BY JESSE DUPLANTIS

Just as Adam needed to step up and take ownership
of what was his, we need to do the same—by faith.

It's our NATURE to take ownership and to rule.



"Jesus, these aren't my buildings," I said.

Whose name is on them?

"Jesse Duplantis Ministries."

Then they're yours.

"No, Lord," I said. "They're *Your* buildings."

Whose name is on them? He asked again.

"Well, my name."

Then they're yours. What are you going to do with them?

I thought about it a minute and said, "I'm going to give them to You."

Then He said, *And there's no devil in hell that will ever invade it.*

That conversation made me realize that until that moment, I hadn't taken ownership of what God had given me. I also realized that if we, in the Body of Christ, don't take ownership of what God gives us, someone else—namely Satan—*will*.

Taking Dominion

Psalm 115:16 says, "The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord's; but the earth hath He given to the children of men."

At the time of Creation, God gave the earth to mankind. Think about that. The Lord doesn't own everything, because He has already given it to us. If He still owned it, there would be no reason to sow a seed because everything would still belong to Him. And if we had no seed to sow, we would have no harvest to grow.

Now you may ask, "What about Psalm 24:1, which says, 'The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein?'" Well, that verse *was* correct, but then the Lord created Adam and gave him "dominion over the works of [His] hands" (Psalm 8:6). Sadly, Adam never took authority over it. He never took ownership over what rightfully belonged to him.

Look at Genesis 1:27-30:

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold,

I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.

God gave "dominion and authority over all the works of My hand" to Adam. He told Adam, "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it." Notice the word *subdue*. That word wouldn't have been used if it had been a perfect society. Something was going to get out of line, and when it did, Adam would need to put it down. The Lord was saying, "The devil is coming...the snake is coming."

The Double Fall

Genesis 2 starts off going into more detail about what had happened in Chapter 1. In verses 16-17 it says, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

Notice that when God said this, Eve had not yet been created. This conversation—this covenant—was between God and Adam. So it was Adam's responsibility to stand up for it. Adam later told Eve that they could eat of every tree except for the tree of knowledge of good and evil, but she received that information secondhand.

After God told Adam to subdue the earth, the snake came. The devil attacked (or took control of) the snake because the first fall to happen in the Garden of Eden was not Adam and Eve. It wasn't the fall of the human kingdom. It was, in fact, the fall of the animal kingdom. The snake, which was the subtlest of the creatures, lent his body to Satan. The devil approached the best of the animal kingdom to make it fall because he knew the rest of the animal kingdom would fall in line.

Genesis 3:6 details the Fall of Man. It says, "And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her."

Read that last paragraph again. Genesis 3:6 states Adam was “with her.” Adam heard every bit of what was happening but he refused to step up and take ownership of what was his. He never said a thing to stop what was happening. He took the fruit from Eve and ate it. By the time the devil was finished, Adam had lost everything. All he had left was a piece of half-eaten fruit and a naked woman!

Created to Rule

Just as Adam needed to step up and take ownership of what was his, we need to do the same—by faith. It’s our nature to take ownership and to rule.

Picture a baby. At some point, that baby will look at you funny when you tell him to do something. He’s not being stubborn—he just wasn’t created to be ruled over. When this happens, he is exercising his dominion. It’s a gift that has been given to every person on this planet. If you don’t teach a baby how to handle dominion, he can become rebellious. But just like you and me, he was created to rule. It is our nature, our prerogative and our glory.

When God gave Adam dominion over the earth, God was essentially saying, “I need a partner. I want you to dress My creation, keep it and take care of it. I’ve got other things to do.” And guess what? God is still looking for partners—people He can trust spiritually, physically and financially to stand in faith and obey His Word.

The world was given to mankind so we could develop spiritually, physically and financially in it. It was also given so we could worship the Father on it, around it and in it. That’s why we can’t take God out of society. If we do, there will be anarchy.

The Church is the most important entity in the community. If we were doing our job—if we were taking ownership of what is ours—then people would be getting saved instead of acting crazy and committing crimes. We are the Church, and the Church sets the morality of this planet. But if we don’t even control ourselves, how are we going to control anything God gives us?

Master Yourself

That’s exactly what happened to Adam. He never mastered himself. Before you can master nature or your environment, you must master *yourself*. If you can’t control yourself, God will never put you in a position to control or dominate anything else.

Why?

You and I—all men and women—are made in God’s image. We’re God’s junior partners in the lordship of creation. We’ve been called to step up in faith, to submit and dedicate our lives, our work and our finances to the Lord.

Thankfully, it’s never too late. Even if you’ve let the devil rule you until now, even if you’ve done things you did not want to do, it’s not too late. Before I was saved, I didn’t take ownership of my life. That’s why I drank a bottle of whiskey a day. Satan controlled me. He owned me. He had no right to own me, but I let him do it.

If you find yourself in that same place, then make the choice to dedicate your life to God. Take ownership today, and let your life grow. When you do, it’ll touch your family. It’ll help get them saved, healed and blessed. Just like Adam was supposed to do in the Garden of Eden, when we—the Body of Christ—take ownership, our influence will totally and completely fill the earth.

If you need to take ownership of what God has given you, either by accepting Jesus for the first time or standing for the rights you already have, then take a moment and pray this prayer. Your life—and this world—will never be the same!

Lord Jesus, I ask You to come into my life and forgive me of all my sins. I confess my sin before You this day. I denounce Satan and all his works. I confess Jesus is the Lord of my life. Thank You for saving me and bringing me back to where I once was. I believe with my heart and I confess with my mouth that Jesus rose from the dead. I am saved. Write my name in the Lamb’s Book of Life.

Today I control myself; I control my environment. This day I have my dominion working spiritually, physically and financially. I have ownership. No devil will be able to invade my life in any area. I commit and dedicate myself to the Lord Jesus Christ. In Jesus’ Name. Amen! **VICTORY**

Jesse Duplantis is president and founder of Jesse Duplantis Ministries, with international headquarters in Louisiana and additional offices in the U.K. and Australia. He is a best-selling author and hosts a weekly television program. For ministry materials and information, write to Jesse Duplantis Ministries, P.O. Box 1089, Destrehan, LA 70047; call 985-764-2000; or visit jdm.org.

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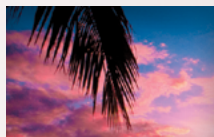
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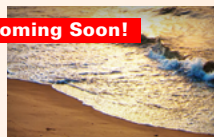
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BY GLORIA COPELAND



Enjoying Life

“One of the first things you’ll notice after you’ve been filled with the Spirit is God’s written Word coming alive to you as never before.”



I LOVE EVERY VERSE IN THE BIBLE. But if I had to pick a favorite, it might be John 10:10 where Jesus said: “The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)” (*The Amplified Bible*). >> That’s not just a Bible verse to me, it’s something very personal. It’s Jesus telling me that He came so that I, *Gloria Copeland*—could have and enjoy life. >> I don’t know about you, but I like to enjoy life. So for almost 50 years now, I’ve believed what Jesus said and expected to have

a good time. I've thanked Him for a merry heart and a life overflowing with joyful abundance. Sure enough, He's given it to me. Every day with Jesus has gotten more wonderful; and today I can say that I've never enjoyed living as much as I do right now.

I realize, however, that not everyone has that testimony.

Great numbers of lost people (and even many Christians) are missing out on the enjoyment Jesus came to give. They want to be happy but they're not...and they don't really know what to do about it.

So I've put together a simple checklist that can help. It includes all the steps that are necessary to have and enjoy life—spirit, soul and body. Steps that can take you from this day forward into the life you've always wanted to live.

Step One: You Must Be Born Again

Although it's not considered politically correct to say this these days, there's only one way to have real, eternal, abundant life, and it's through Jesus. He said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6), and whether the world likes it or not, it's the absolute truth.

As long as we're without Jesus, our spirits are "dead in trespasses and sins" (Ephesians 2:1). We're held captive under the devil's authority. Because his goal is to kill, steal and destroy, we can never truly enjoy life as long as we're in bondage to him.

But, thank God, Jesus paid the price to free us from that bondage. He made it possible for our spirit to be redeemed, our soul to be restored and our body to be healed. So the first thing we must do if we really want to live is put ourselves into His hands by receiving Him as our Lord and Savior.

As Jesus said to Nicodemus, we must "be born again" (John 3:3).

That's not something that happens to us automatically just because we go to church. It's a personal choice each one of us must make.

You see, unlike the devil, Jesus doesn't come into our life without our consent. He doesn't try to trick us into receiving Him as Lord. He just says, "I'm here for you. I'll give you abundant life. I'll give you life you can enjoy if you'll receive Me." Then He lets us make the decision.

If we decide to give our hearts to Him, He does a supernatural work inside us. We become "a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

When that happens, the person we used to be—the sinner we were before we were saved—dies. We're delivered from the despicable, selfish, unholy, unrighteous nature we had when we were without God. We're remade spiritually in Jesus' image. We're re-created to be like Him on the inside. We're made the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Years ago when I married Ken, I didn't even know the new birth was available. I'd never heard anything about

it. A newlywed, living in a little house with no furniture, sleeping on a rented rollaway bed and sitting on lawn chairs my mother had given us, my life was far from abundant. I'm a naturally optimistic person, but it was tough for me to enjoy life when I didn't even have a refrigerator or a stove and had to cook potatoes for supper in a coffeepot!

But my life changed one day when I picked up a Bible Ken's mother had sent him for his birthday. Inside the front cover, she'd written these words:

"Ken, precious, Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33."

I'd never read that scripture before, but it sounded good to me. I definitely needed some things to be added to my life! So I turned to Matthew 6, began reading and got a brand new revelation. I found out that God cares about the birds, that He feeds them and provides for them. I thought: *If He cares about birds then He must care about me!*

Right then and there I said, "Lord, take my life and do something with it." I put myself in Jesus' hands and got born again. I took the first step into the supernaturally enjoyable life God had for me.

Just a short time later, Ken did too.

Step Two: Be Filled With the Spirit

As wonderful as it was for us to be born again, that was just the beginning. We didn't make much progress in our lives until we took the second step and were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Some people might find that surprising, but I don't. After all, the disciples in the book of Acts had the same experience. In fact, Jesus gave them clear instructions after His resurrection not to even try to do anything until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. "You'll receive the power to be My witnesses," He said.

Obviously, if the early disciples needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit to do anything worthwhile for the Lord, we do too! We need Him to live inside us and be our Teacher. We need Him to guide us into all truth. We need Him to empower us and strengthen us to do all Jesus has called us to do.

Without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, believers are seriously impaired. So I'm surprised when, instead of eagerly receiving, some Christians opt to argue about it or put it off. How absurd is that? Here is God offering to pour Himself out in them and upon them in fullness and power, and their response is, "Oh, I don't know if I'm ready for that. Maybe I'll receive it next year."

They may not know it, but what they're really saying is, "I want to keep living a powerless life. I don't want the Greater One to come in and flood me with His ability, His wisdom and His leadership. I'd rather struggle along on my own."

Why would intelligent believers take such an attitude? Don't they realize that if God promised to fill us with the Holy Spirit, it must be important?

"But Gloria," you might say, "I know some believers who were Spirit-filled and started acting strange."

Well, I know people who aren't filled with the Spirit who act strange, so don't get hung up on that. Keep moving forward with God. Go ahead and receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

If you're uncomfortable with the idea of speaking in tongues, I assure you, it's not strange. It's wonderful!

The Bible says that when you speak in tongues, you speak mysteries to God (1 Corinthians 14:2). You pray out beyond the limits of your intellect and pray the perfect will of God for your life. You build yourself up "on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit" (Jude 20, *AMP*).

The ability to speak in other tongues is one of God's

greatest gifts to us.

You don't want to turn it down!

Step Three: Put God's Word First Place

One of the first things you'll notice after you've been filled with the Spirit is God's written Word coming alive to you as never before. The Holy Spirit, who is the divine Teacher, will give you fresh revelation and understanding each time you read it. To get the maximum benefit from His ministry, however, you must take the third step on our checklist.

You must make a quality decision to put God's Word first place in your life.

What do I mean by putting it first place?

For one thing, I mean spending quality time in it on a consistent basis. I know you're busy, but if you don't make time for the Word, you won't be a healthy, vibrant believer. Your faith won't be strong because "faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).

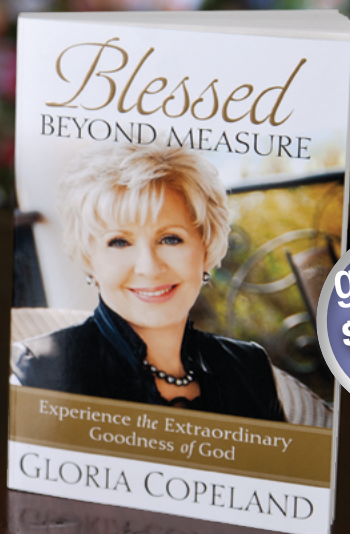
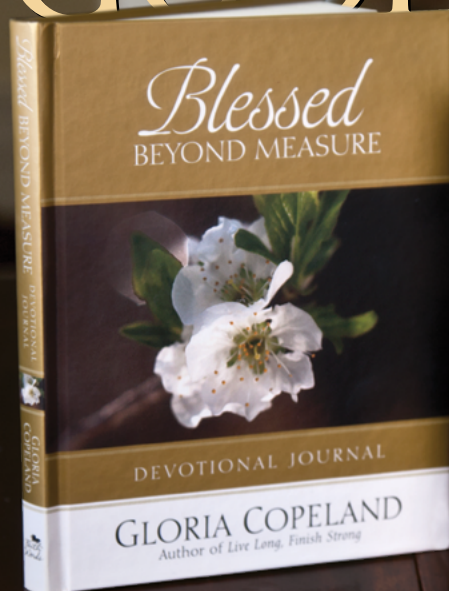
Strong faith is essential to enjoying life because faith is "the victory that overcometh the world" (1 John 5:4). Faith is what enables us to "reign as kings in life" (Romans 5:17, *AMP*) instead of sitting around helplessly while life rains on us! Faith in God's Word is what gives us the ability to lay hold of the inheritance that belongs to us in Christ (Acts 20:32).

Ken and I know that from experience. We didn't fully take off into the marvelous things God had planned for us until we began to find out and have faith in what God says in the Bible. We stayed spiritual babies until we began to feed on the Word. But once we committed to give it our time and attention, and do what it says we should do, we started growing and increasing. Life got exciting. Instead of losers in life we became winners.

You can have the same experience! God is no respecter of persons. But the choice is yours. God won't make you put His Word first place. You don't have to do what He says.

He has a wonderful life prepared for you. He has a magnificent calling for you to fulfill and blessings in abundance stored up for you. But you don't have to follow

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Him. You can ignore Him. You can busy yourself with your own life and your own ways, neglect to spend time in the Word, and live just like normal people live.

To me, that would be a tragedy. I think it would be a terrible curse to live “normal.” Everyone knows that Ken and I aren’t normal. We aren’t trying to be, either. We’re trying to follow God. We’ve found that the more we give of ourselves to Him—to hearing and obeying His Word—the more we receive from Him. We’re on an adventure that gets better and more exciting all the time!

Step Four: Obey the Leading of the Spirit

In Exodus 19:5 (*AMP*), God made a statement to the Israelites that reveals another essential element of an enjoyable life. He said, “If you will obey My voice in truth and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own peculiar possession and treasure from among and above all peoples....”

Notice, God mentions two kinds of obedience in that verse: Keeping His covenant (or His written Word) and obeying His voice. Over the years, Ken and I have found that it’s possible to do one of those things and not the other. It’s possible to act on what you see in the Bible to a certain degree and yet neglect to do what the Spirit of God tells you on the inside.

We made that mistake in our early years as believers. Back then, the Lord was leading us to move to Tulsa so that Ken could go to Oral Roberts University. Ken was reluctant to obey that leading because he couldn’t see how he could do it. After all, he was 30 years old at the time, with no money and a mountain of debt. He needed to keep working to pay the bills. How could he just move his wife and two little children to Tulsa and become a student?

“Gloria, we’d go broke if we did that,” he said.

“We’re going broke now,” I replied.

Eventually, he agreed and we took a step of faith. Sure enough, God worked things out.

That’s when we began to realize that if God gives us an assignment, we’re not to look at it in light of what we can do under the present circumstances. Our circumstances are no problem for God. He is well able to deal with them. If necessary, He can do for us what He did for the Israelites when they needed to cross the Jordan to get to the Promised Land. He can part the river of contrary circumstances so we can walk across on dry ground!

But He won’t do it while we’re standing on the riverbank just hoping and praying. He won’t do it while we’re just thinking about how we’re going to get across. He’ll do it for us like He did for them—when we step out by faith and put our foot in the water!

We’ve seen it happen in our lives time and again. When God first told us to go on television, for instance, we didn’t have extra money in the bank to pay for TV broadcasts and airtime. But the leading kept coming up in our hearts anyway. *Go on television. Go on television.*

So we put our feet in the water. We began to take steps to start the television ministry and here we are many years later, preaching on TV all around the world for more than 30 years, encouraging multitudes of people with the Word of God and having the time of our lives.

If you’re walking with God, He’ll give you the same kinds of inner leadings. You’ll just keep getting a direction on the inside. God might repeatedly say to you, *Lose 20 pounds*. Why would He care how much you weigh? Because He wants you healthy! He might say, *Be sweeter to your wife. Stop being so grouchy*. He might say, *You’re called to the ministry*.

Pay attention to those promptings. Take a step of faith and do what you know to do to move in that direction. Put your foot in the water. Then keep praying in the spirit and ask God for wisdom every day. Keep listening, obeying and walking by faith.

It won’t always be easy, but I assure you, the outcome will be great. You won’t be bound to a dull, normal existence anymore. You’ll find yourself living the supernatural life God planned for you before the foundation of the world—born again, filled with the Spirit, putting the Word first place and obeying the voice of God.

Now that’s the kind of life you can really enjoy! **VICTORY**



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BY GLORIA COPELAND

GOD'S COMMAND TO LOVE



God's will is that His love be the distinguishing mark of every believer. The world does not see love between the believer and the Father, but the world does see the love between the believer and his brother. You have been given the love of God with which to love one another. ¶ The new commandment of love was given to you personally by Jesus: "That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (John 15:12). You have been commanded to love as Jesus loved. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love" (verse 9). Jesus loved like the Father, now we are to love like Jesus loved.

Only the Father and His children have in their power the ability to operate in this kind of love. It is the God kind of love translated from the Greek word *agape*. This word for love is only used in connection with the family of God.

"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4:7). God's nature is love. It is imparted to you when you make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love" (verse 8). This God kind of love is not what you do but what you are. "And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness" (Ephesians 4:24). God is love and you are re-created in His image. Your new nature is *agape* love. You are the love of God.

What a privilege that God would make us His love. No wonder Jesus said that all men would know us by this new kind of love! This love had never been manifest to the world before Jesus came in the flesh. They had never seen with their eyes the love of God until the Master walked among them.

The world is starved for love. God made man to receive love. The deepest yearning of every man is to be loved and cared for—a desire that can only be fulfilled through the love of God.

Every man on the face of this earth should experience the love of God. You are the open door into the love of God for the people with whom you come in contact. What an honor the Father has bestowed upon you, the ability to be loved with His love and the right to love.

If it were not possible for you to walk in God's commandment of love, He would not have given it. It is the law of the new creature. "Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law" (Romans 13:10). Notice it says love, *his*—not love, *its*. The believer is love. The believer works no ill to his neighbor. When you obey the love law of the family of God, you are performing God's perfect will in your life! The world's idea of love does not compare with *agape*. It is a poor counterfeit for God's love. *Agape* is beyond human understanding. You must learn what God says concerning His love.

This Is Love

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his command-

ments: and his commandments are not grievous" (1 John 5:3). "And what this love consists in is this: that we live and walk in accordance with and guided by His commandments (His orders, ordinances, precepts, teaching). This is the commandment, as you have heard from the beginning, that you continue to walk in love [guided by it and following it]" (2 John 6, *The Amplified Bible*).

God says His love is keeping His commandments—walking after His teaching. This brings love out into something tangible so you can know how to love as He loves. God has given us His love manual in black and white! Obeying God's Word is walking in God's love.

If you are born again, you are the love of God by nature. Faith is born into you when you are begotten of God, but until you begin to act on God's Word, that powerful force lies dormant. The same thing is true concerning the love of God. You can have the love of God abiding within you and be unable to allow this love to work through you and reach other people. Faith and love become active through knowledge of and acting upon the Word.

"And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment" (Philippians 1:9).

The love of God is released in your life by acting on the knowledge of God's Word. Without revelation knowledge that is acted upon, love lies undeveloped, and selfishness continues to reign.

Perfected Love

"But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked" (1 John 2:5-6).

As you act on God's Word, the love of God is perfected in you. Through His Word the Holy Spirit manifests the love nature of the Father in you. As you adhere to the message of love, love will flow from you to others.

You are a love creature. You can live the love life. God not only re-created your spirit in the image of love, but He also sent His love Spirit to live in you and teach you how to love as He loves (Romans 5:5). **VICTORY**



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FEBRUARY

Broadcast Calendar

Jan. 30-Feb. 3

God's Plan for a Glorious Church

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Feb. 6-10

Take Your Place of Authority

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

Feb. 13-17

Look What Victory We Have

(Partnership Special)

Kenneth and Gloria Copeland

Feb. 20-24

The Conversation Between Grace and Faith

Jeremy Pearsons

Feb. 27-Mar. 2

Knowing the Thoughts and Plans of God

Jeremy Pearsons

Sunday, Feb. 5
Be Empowered by
THE BLESSING
Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, Feb. 12
Doing the Lord's Work Together
(Partnership Special)
Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, Feb. 19
Walk in the Power of
THE BLESSING
Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, Feb. 26
Living Blessed in the
Kingdom of God
Kenneth Copeland