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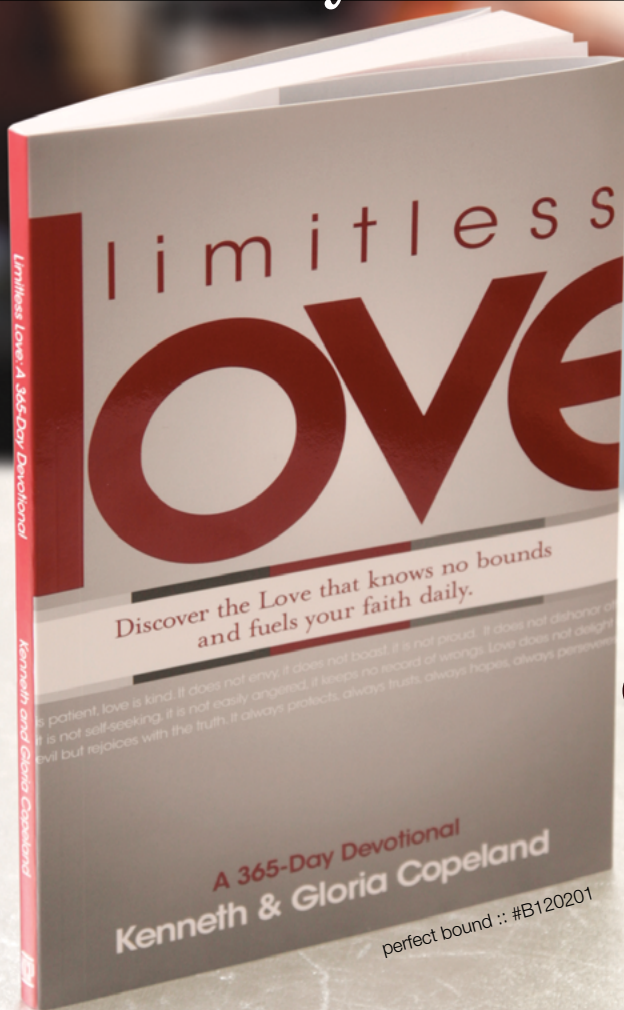
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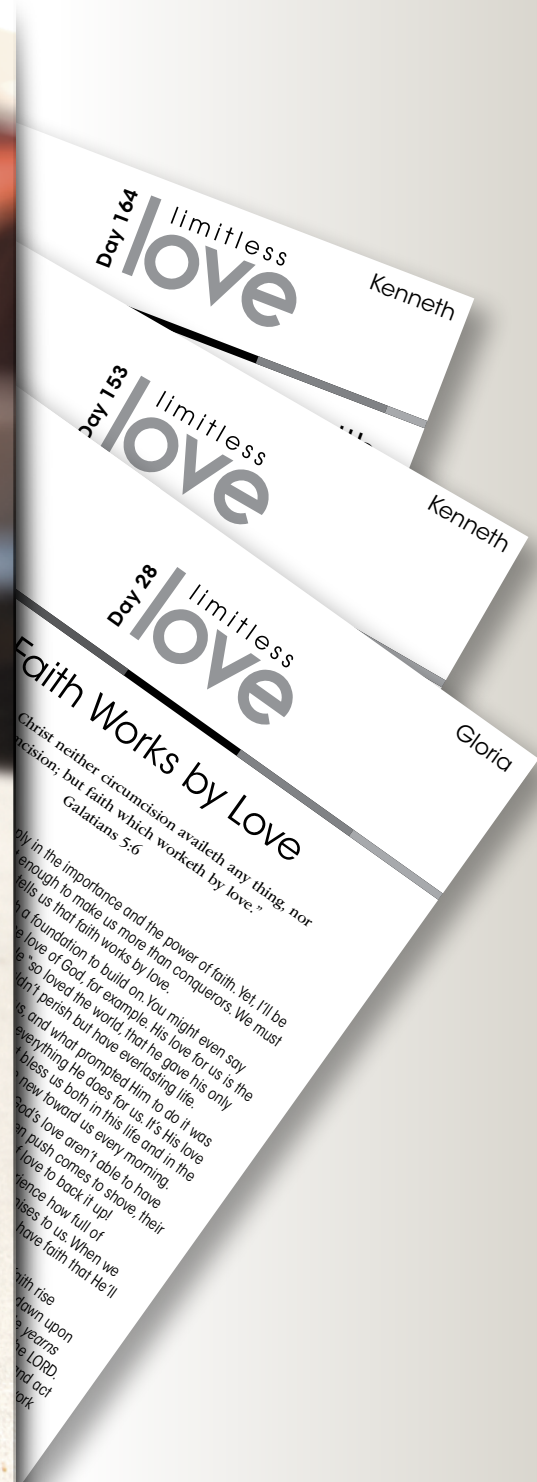
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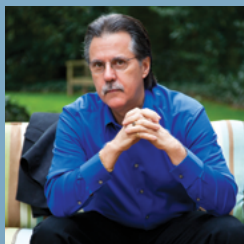
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A Better Business

by Melanie Henry
Blaine Smith, 20-year-old entrepreneur, had planned to expand his illicit drug business by growing his own "magic mushrooms" when he heard God's voice and received healing in his body. Shortly thereafter, he surrendered his life to Jesus, met his wife, Anita, and in obedience to the Lord, they moved to North Carolina where they now pastor a church.

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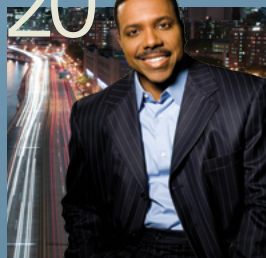
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by Gloria Copeland

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When the Lord first spoke to us about starting the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine, He said: *This is your seed. Give it to everyone who ever responds to your ministry, and don't ever allow anyone to pay for a subscription to it.* For 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.

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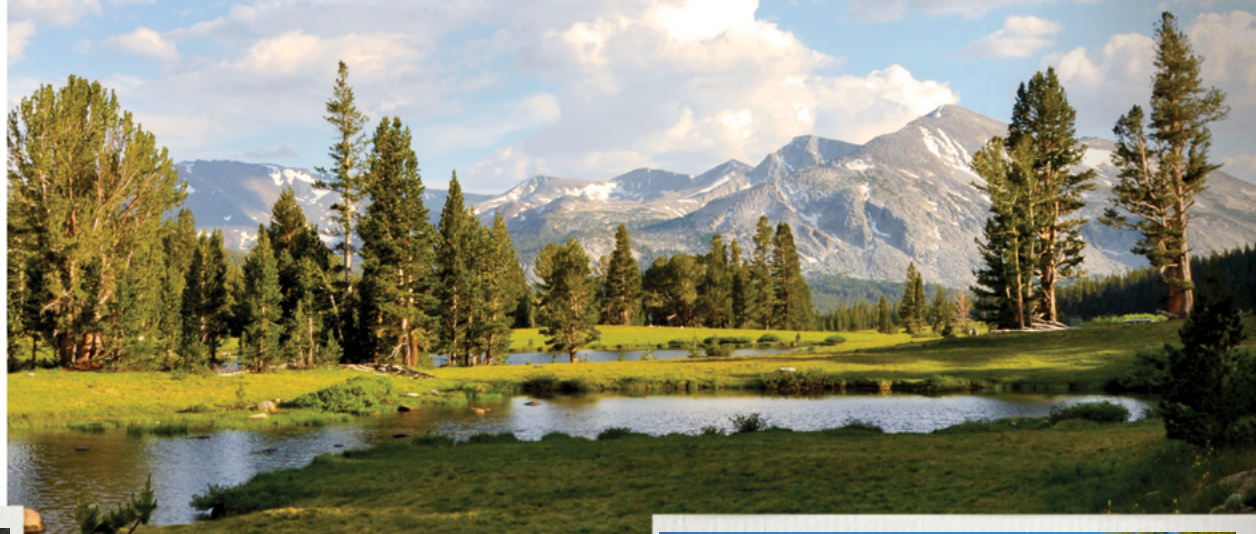
Read about real-life faith triumphs from people just like you.

the FAITH of Abraham

BY KENNETH COPELAND



This article was adapted from Kenneth Copeland's new book, *THE BLESSING of The LORD Makes Rich and He Adds No Sorrow With It Proverbs 10:22*.



The first question that comes to mind once you grasp the awesome magnitude of THE BLESSING is this: *How do I get it to operate in my life?*

That's something we all need to know because, as we've seen, incorporated in that BLESSING is everything we'll ever need: health and healing, victory and dominion in every area of life, abundance—spirit, soul and body, and the power to be a BLESSING to all the families of the earth.

All those things became ours the moment we were born again because that's when THE BLESSING of Abraham came on us through Jesus Christ. That's when we were "BLESSED...with all spiritual BLESSINGS in heavenly places in Christ."

Christianity is God and His family—

a family made up of people who are saved, made righteous and BLESSED *through faith*, that lives, not by a set of religious rules, but by the love of God and the same kind of faith Abraham had.

As joint heirs with Jesus, we are—*right now*—co-possessors of everything in heaven and earth. Every promise God ever made to Abraham and his Seed has been fulfilled in Christ Jesus and deposited into our heavenly account. What we must find out is how to exercise our checking privileges and get those promises from heaven to earth.

The Bible explains it to us with one short phrase in Galatians 3:14: We receive the promise of the Spirit *through faith*.

Those two simple words are the key to THE BLESSING door.

It's *through faith* we are born again and become the seed of Abraham.

It's *through faith* we become legal heirs of THE BLESSING.

It's *through faith* we release its operation in our lives.

The *faith* of Abraham is what originally activated THE BLESSING of Abraham, and it still does. That's why God said that "without faith it is impossible to please him." It's been His will from the beginning for us to live in THE BLESSING, and because faith is what connects us to it, we can't please Him without it.

"Well, I don't see it that way," someone might say. "I think being blessed has more to do with keeping God's rules than with faith. If you keep His rules, you'll be blessed. If you don't, you won't."

Thinking that way won't get you very far because no matter how hard you try, you'll never be able to work your way into THE BLESSING. It's God's gift to His children, and it can't be earned.

I can understand this to some degree through my relationship with my son, John, and my daughters, Terri and Kellie. They can't earn my BLESSING. They already have it. They have it because they're my children, and nothing can change that.

I sat down with John one day when he was about 16 years old and told him that straight out. He'd done some things he wasn't too proud of and I'd been put out with him about them. He knew I was aggravated and, as a result, he had misgivings about where he stood with me. When The LORD showed me how he was feeling (and corrected me for being hard on him instead of extending love and mercy to him, as I should have) I went to him and cleared things up.

I said, "Son, you listen to me and never forget what I'm about to say. If you committed the most heinous crime in the history of mankind and they threw you so deep into prison that you couldn't see the light of day, you'd still never get rid of me. If you get yourself into trouble, I'll pray for you and help you in every way I can. I will never leave you nor forsake you even to the end of the world. You'll never get away from me because I'm yours and you're mine. We're not just father and son, we are brothers in Christ."

That kind of relationship isn't something you can earn. It's a blood covenant relationship. It has served us well, too. Today, John and I are the best of friends, and he is head of all the business affairs of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. He's a good man. He's matured in The LORD, works hard and does what's right in his service for the ministry. But he doesn't do those things to earn my BLESSING. He does them knowing he already has it.

As God's children, we ought to be the same way. We should do what's right, do it because it's right and then do it right—but not in an effort to earn our Father's BLESSING. We should do it in joy and love, knowing that we're already BLESSED. That's the way Abraham lived. He walked in THE BLESSING by simple faith, not by keeping a list of religious rules.

For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God. For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness. For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. For if they which are of the law be heirs, faith is made void, and the promise made of none effect (Romans 4:2-5, 13-14).

Although I'm very much in favor of obeying God's commands (more about that later), the fact is, if someone just keeps rules without faith, their rule-keeping doesn't do any good. No one can keep God's commandments

without faith, anyway. They might be able to obey a few of them for a while and be nice when everyone is looking, but if they're not living by faith, they'll fail before sundown.

That's why religion doesn't work.

"Why, Brother Copeland, how can you say that? Christianity is a religion!"

No, a religion has been made out of it, but true Christianity is God and His family—a family made up of people who are saved, made righteous and BLESSED *through faith*, that lives, not by a set of religious rules, but by the love of God and the same kind of faith Abraham had.

Galatians 3 says it this way: "The scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be BLESSED. So then they which be of faith are BLESSED with faithful Abraham. But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith" (verses 8-9, 11).

Transferring Things From Heaven to Earth

It's safe to assume that if God wants us to live by faith as Abraham did, He will tell us exactly how to do it. For Him not to do so would be unjust. So, it's no surprise that the whole Bible is filled with revelation about faith.

It tells us, for example, that "through faith... the worlds were framed by The WORD of God." That fact alone reveals just how important and powerful faith actually is. The whole physical universe is made from it. Everything that exists was transferred from the realm of the spirit into the realm of the natural by faith. Everything God created—from the grass to the trees to the cotton in your shirt—is faith turned into a material reality.

It's all a manifestation of the faith of God released through His WORD. In Genesis 1, when God said, "Let there be light," He said it by faith. When He said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters," He said it by faith. When He said, "Man, be created in Our image," He said it by faith.

God's faith-filled WORD is the carrier mechanism that transfers spiritual things from heaven's storehouse and brings them into the earth where we can use them. His WORD of faith is the conveyance. That's why, in the

Hebrew language, the word for *thing* and *word* are the same. To God, the *word* is the *thing* because when He speaks, His WORD becomes the thing that was spoken. As John 1 says:

In the beginning was The WORD, and The WORD was with God, and The WORD was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him [The WORD], and without Him nothing was made that was made. And *The WORD became* flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth (verses 1-3, 14, *New King James Version*).

Look again at the first few words of the last verse. "The WORD became." That phrase is so vital that I want you to imprint it on your mind by saying it out loud right now: "*The WORD became.*"

If we want to follow in the footsteps of Abraham and operate in faith like he did, we must realize that's what God's WORD always does when it is spoken in faith. It *becomes*...and it does so because it actually contains the power to bring itself to pass. God's WORD contains the creative energy of God Himself.

When you speak it by faith, that WORD releases the same force that made the dust of the earth from which Adam's body was formed. The WORD takes things that exist in heaven that are tangible and real in the realm above the light line, and slows them down to the point where they manifest in this natural realm, below the light line.

If you think that sounds too wild and far-out to believe, I have news for you. As a born-again child of God, you've already proven it's true. That's how you got saved! You confessed God's WORD about salvation by faith, that WORD *became* salvation to you, and you were born again. Simply by believing in your heart and speaking with your mouth the lordship of Jesus, you brought heaven's power to earth and became a whole new creature.

Romans 10:6-10 makes that very clear:

The righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:) Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the

dead.) But what saith it? The WORD is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth The LORD Jesus [who is The WORD], and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Or, as 2 Corinthians 5:21 says it: "He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might *become* the righteousness of God in Him" (NKJV).

Your Christian life began the moment you spoke the word of faith. It began when you released the same action, the same miraculous force that created the universe. When you confessed The WORD by faith and said, "I receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior," that WORD *became* righteousness in you.

As I said before and will say again: That's what The WORD of faith always does—it becomes. The WORD *becomes* healing. The WORD *becomes* deliverance. The WORD *becomes* prosperity. The WORD of BLESSING *becomes* THE BLESSING in our lives.

"But, I thought God is the One who BLESSES us."

He is. And He does it through His WORD!

That's why your Bible should be the most precious thing in your life. It's not just "the Good Book." It is THE BOOK! It is so far above every other book that it can't even be compared. Some have found the Bible to be true even when it is read backward. It contains codes that just stagger the human mind.

It doesn't matter which way you look at it, the Bible is alive! It's not just a book about Someone. It *is* Someone. It is God manifesting Himself through His WORD so we can read it, believe it and speak it.

Your Manufacturer's Handbook: The Final Authority

I have such respect and reverence for The WORD of God, and such absolute faith in it, that some people accuse me of putting *too* much emphasis on it. "Now, Brother

Copeland," they say, "what we need is to have faith in God Himself. The Bible takes second place to His sovereignty."

That may sound like a very spiritual perspective, but it's totally unscriptural. The Bible says that God has magnified His WORD *above* His Name. That means He has chosen, *in His sovereignty*, to put Himself under the authority of His own WORD.

What's more, it's impossible to have faith in anyone (God included) without knowing what they've said. That's just common sense.

If someone decided, for example, they would put faith in me to pay their rent, it wouldn't matter how many times they confessed, "I have faith that Kenneth is going to pay my rent." If I never promised it, that person has no right to believe I will do it. He has no basis for true faith.

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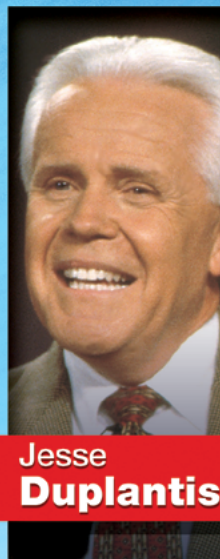
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If, on the other hand, I'd drawn up a contract with that person, stating I would pay his rent, his faith would be well-founded. Had I signed that contract and then, in blood-covenant fashion, cut my arm and let my blood drip down on that piece of paper, he'd have absolute assurance that his rent was as good as paid. He'd have every reason to have faith in me and the promise I had made to him.

That's exactly what God has done for us. He has given us His WORD that He will BLESS us. He has given us His blood-sworn oath that through our union with Jesus, everything He promised to Abraham is ours in full. He has entered into covenant with us and guaranteed that every promise in the Bible (all of which were directed toward Jesus) belongs to us because Jesus is our blood Brother.

I don't know if that means as much to you as it does to me, but it absolutely thrills me because I am part American Indian. (I realize the correct term is *Native American* but I prefer to call myself Indian.) Maybe, because it's in my background, I've always had a great respect for blood covenants. Even as a little boy, I wanted a blood brother so badly, I could hardly stand it.

When I found out the Bible is a blood-covenant book, and the New Testament is actually the New Covenant in Jesus' blood, my faith in God skyrocketed. The more I found out what He had said to me in the book of His blood-sworn oath, the more my ability to believe in Him and what He would do for me soared.

That's when I began to experience the truth of Romans 10:17: "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by The WORD of God."

"I don't understand that," you might say. "I've read the Bible my whole life and it hasn't inspired that much faith in me."

I had the same experience until I made a quality decision (a decision from which there is no retreat and about which there is no argument) to make The WORD of God final authority in my life. That's the first step to unlocking its power. You must settle in your heart once and for all that you will believe and act on whatever it says.

You must decide that from this point forward, instead of adjusting The WORD to fit your lifestyle, you will adjust your lifestyle to fit The WORD. If you think a certain way, and then find The WORD says something different, your own preferences and opinions don't matter. The WORD is right. It is what you live by. **VICTORY**

(For more information, or to order your copy of *THE BLESSING of The LORD Makes Rich and He Adds No Sorrow With It Proverbs 10:22*, go to kcm.org or call 800-600-7395.)

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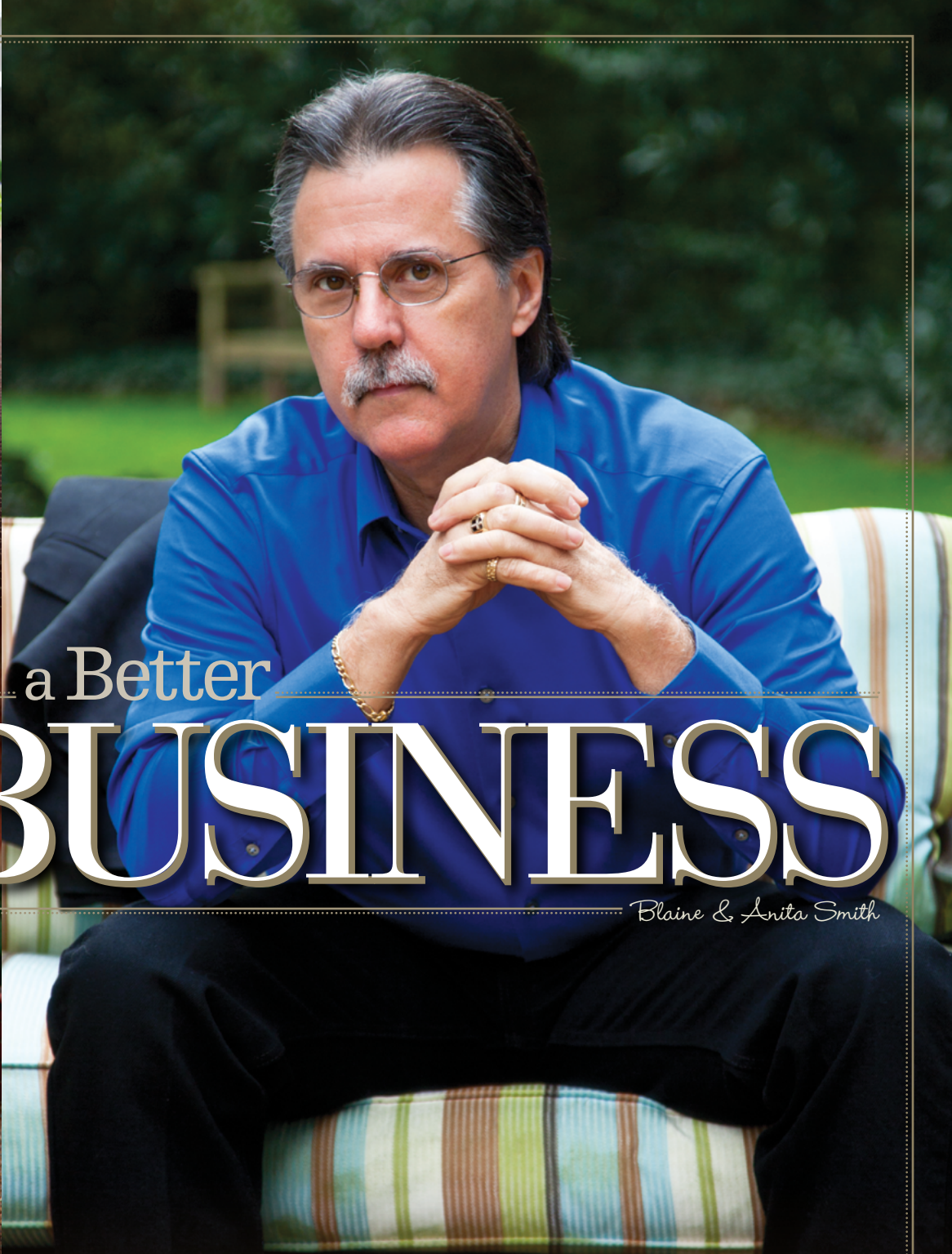
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a Better BUSINESS

Blaine & Anita Smith

“I literally felt a weight lift from me, and for the first time in my life I wept for joy.”

Blaine Smith rolled out of bed, stumbled to the refrigerator, and pulled out a beer. After taking a long swig, he lit a joint. On a health kick, Blaine's karate instructor had told his students to fast food for two days. This was his second day without a meal. :: *Good thing my morning routine doesn't include food*, Blaine thought as a smile tugged the corners of his mouth.

BY MELANIE HENRY

When construction of the 3400-square foot house was completed, not a penny was owed on it, nor the five acres it sat on.

After two hours of intense karate, he drove to the gym and endured a long, hard workout. Then he set out to run two miles. The steady pace numbed his body, but his mind whirled with plans to build a new barn. At 20, Blaine had prospered far beyond his salary at General Motors. Selling drugs allowed him to write a check for almost anything he wanted—including new cars, new trucks and motorcycles.

In his most lucrative business venture yet, Blaine planned to build a 20-foot-by-40-foot barn where he would grow psilocybin mushrooms. Called “shrooms” or “magic mushrooms,” they offer a psychedelic trip similar to LSD. After spending hours researching in the library at Michigan State University, he had realized he could grow six pounds of mushrooms per square foot.

Pounding out the second mile, Blaine calculated the profit. Too bad all that money couldn’t buy him what he wanted most.

Sobriety.

When he’d first started messing around with drugs and alcohol as a teenager, it had been fun and games. He had never intended to get hooked on the stuff. Not that he hadn’t tried to quit. He’d tried dozens of times, but couldn’t make it through a single day without a hit.

Nearing the end of his run, Blaine felt kind of strange. It was as though his body wasn’t *him*. His body felt like something hanging over the real person—like a coat. After cooling down, Blaine climbed into his truck. He had to think. If his body wasn’t *him*, what would happen to the real Blaine after he died?

Blaine needed an answer, but there was no one he could turn to. All of his friends were drug users just like him. They’d probably laugh him off the planet, he thought.

In the midst of his probing thoughts, a nagging backache that had been caused by an old karate injury flared up again. Blaine sensed someone speaking to him. Only no one was around.

“If you believe you’re healed, I’ll heal you,” he heard a voice say.

Trying to imagine being free from back pain forever, Blaine responded out loud: “I believe!”

The moment he spoke those words, he felt a sensation like a fireball strike the back of his neck and roll down

his spine. Every trace of pain, soreness and stiffness disappeared.

What’s happening?

Light by the Stars

“I had no frame of reference for God. I’d never even heard the term ‘born again,’” Blaine recalls. “Something odd was happening to me and I wanted to discuss it with someone. I finally decided to tell a guy from my karate dojo who didn’t use drugs.”

“Sounds like God’s dealing with you,” he said.

Blaine responded by cursing at him.

The following week, the man handed Blaine something in a brown paper bag. Blaine’s cheeks flushed when he looked inside.

A Bible.

One evening after work, Blaine arrived home around midnight. He lived in the country where there were no street lights to obstruct the stars. Looking up at the Milky Way, millions of stars glimmered and winked at him. In a flash, he knew.

There has to be a God!

Standing under the stars that night after stepping out of his truck, Blaine had his first conversation with God. He spoke 13 words that would change his life forever.

“Now that I know You’re real, what do You want me to do?”

There was no quick answer. But a month later, as he was reading his Bible during a break at work, someone walked up to Blaine and asked what he was reading.

“The Bible.”

“Are you saved?”

“I don’t know.”

Taking out his own Bible, the man turned to the book of Romans and showed Blaine how he could become a born-again Christian. Then, he led Blaine to the Lord.

“I literally felt a weight lift from me, and for the first time in my life I wept for joy,” Blaine explains. “I went to church with that man, who was called ‘Preacher Bob,’ and I was filled with the Holy Spirit.

“I was delivered from alcohol and drug addictions instantly! I had no desire for them, I suffered no withdrawal and I’ve never relapsed. My friends asked me

to get high with them and I told them the truth: ‘What I have is better.’”

Follow Me

Soon after, in 1976, Preacher Bob introduced Blaine to the ministries of Kenneth Copeland and Kenneth E. Hagin.

“The first tape series I heard by Brother Copeland was titled *Freedom From Fear*,” Blaine recalls. I wore those tapes out! I spent the entire year feeding on the Word of God day and night. I didn’t watch TV or listen to my rock music. I just stayed in the Word.”

One day while reading the Bible, Blaine heard the Lord ask, *Do you believe what you’re reading?*

“Yes, Sir.”

Then quit your job and give away everything you own. I’ll rebuild your life the way it should have been.

Desiring to be obedient to the Lord, Blaine gave away all his belongings and moved to Florida, where he quickly connected with a church. The pastor of the church was a former skid-row drunk from Los Angeles who got saved in a street meeting. The church was small, but they held services six days a week and prayer meetings every day at noon. Blaine pitched a tent behind the church building.

“I wasn’t homeless,” Blaine says, “I was learning to be led by the Spirit and live by faith. I had planted a lot of vehicles, so when I prayed in faith someone gave me a car.

“That first year I had to deal with depression, worry and fear. I was used to living well. I also felt ostracized. No one wanted to have anything to do with me. But the more I grew in God, the more the Word drove those things out of my life.”

One day Blaine overheard a handicapped woman telling someone she wanted to go to Melbourne, Fla., to attend a particular church.

You drive her, Blaine heard the Lord say.

When they stepped inside the church, Blaine felt like he was home. He felt even more comfortable after meeting the pastor’s daughter, Anita. Not long after that, Blaine moved to Melbourne and connected with the church. When he was approached and asked to teach the adult Sunday-school class, Blaine gladly accepted. He taught what he’d been putting into his heart for the past couple of years—the uncompromised Word of God he had learned from Brother Copeland.

Building by Faith

In April 1979, Blaine and Anita were married, and

for the next several years they remained in Melbourne and helped at the church. In 1987, the Lord directed the couple to move to North Carolina and build a house without debt.

“We moved to North Carolina in obedience to God,” Blaine recalls. “We had no money, no jobs, no business and no friends. But we had planted the Word of God in our hearts regarding prosperity. We put a small down payment on five acres of land and rented a little mobile home nearby, surrounded by a cow pasture.

“I wasn’t sure how I was supposed to build a house without money, but by faith I took the first step. I cleared the land by hand. Soon after, someone wrote us a check for \$40,000 and said, ‘Start your house.’

“Anita went to work for an insurance company, and I went to work on the house. That same year, the Lord told me to start a construction company.”

The following year, in 1988, Hurricane Hugo ripped through the area, leaving massive destruction in its path.

“My business exploded,” Blaine explains. “I made a lot of money and was able to finish work on our house.”

When construction of the 3400-square-foot house was completed, not a penny was owed on it, nor the five acres it sat on.

Next, the Lord instructed Blaine to start a church. In 1994, the couple started an inner-city church in a 7,000-square-foot warehouse rent free. They didn’t even have to pay utilities.

With the struggle for a debt-free home now out of their way, the couple set their focus on building a debt-free church when they became distracted.

Fight for Life

In 1998, Anita began feeling pressure in her head that quickly escalated to constant headaches. Weakness washed over her and she lost her appetite. The left side of her body went numb. Then she had vision problems.

“Doctors said I had the symptoms of multiple sclerosis,” Anita recalls. “I got Gloria’s healing video and began watching it every day. I also got two of her books, *God’s Prescription for Divine Health* and *Activate the Healing Power of God* that came with the *Healing Confessions* CD and pored over them.

“One of the scriptures Gloria mentioned was Isaiah 41:10. I was reading that verse one day in *The Amplified Bible* when the Lord highlighted verses 11 and 12 which say, ‘Behold, all they who are enraged and inflamed against you shall be put to shame and

confounded; they who strive against you shall be as nothing and shall perish. You shall seek those who contend with you but shall not find them; they who war against you shall be as nothing, as nothing at all.'

"As the doctors prepared to run a series of tests, the Lord said, *They will seek for this but they won't find it.*"

The brain scan and MRI showed nothing, just as the Lord had said. However, Anita's condition continued to worsen. At times, she became so weak Blaine would have to hold her up so she could play the piano at church during praise and worship.

In spite of her condition, Anita clung to the Word of God and continued watching Gloria's healing video every day.

"You'll never be normal again," the doctor explained.

"That's not what God says," Anita replied.

"I wasn't afraid of dying as much as I was of living in that condition," Anita says. "It took all of my faith to get out of the car and walk up the stairs. Months passed and the symptoms worsened. I realized that my husband couldn't help me. My parents couldn't help me. Medicine couldn't help me. If I didn't make a faith connection with the Word of God, I wouldn't make it."

Eventually, it became very difficult for Anita to even walk. But she refused to give up. She refused to accept anything less than what God's Word promised. Holding on to the Word of God like a lifeline, she gradually began to improve. After a two-and-a-half-year battle, in 2000, Anita was healed and working out at the gym!

Paradigm Shift

In October 1999, Blaine and Anita moved their church out of the inner city and started building on four acres. When someone wrote them a personal check for \$50,000, they realized God had given Blaine his first year's salary. In May 2001, they moved into their new building—debt free.

"The Word of God we learned through Brother Copeland has changed our lives forever," Blaine explains. "Even though we've been Partners for years, it wasn't until last year that we understood how God ordained partnership. The Lord impressed me to study Hebrews 13:7: 'Remember your leaders who taught you the word of God. Think of all the good that has come from their lives, and follow the example of their faith' (*New Living Translation*).

"I had a paradigm shift while meditating on that verse. I stopped focusing so much on our assignment and vision, and instead said, 'Lord, what can I do to honor Brother Copeland and help him complete *his* assignment?' We're investing more faith, more prayer and more resources to help KCM fulfill the vision God has given them. That's true partnership."

Today, God has instructed Blaine and Anita Smith to enlarge their territory by planting another church in Mountain City, Tenn., believing the whole region will be impacted by the power of God.

Blaine Smith never did build a barn, or grow psilocybin mushrooms as he had intended. Instead, he found a business venture that is far more productive and provides far greater dividends. He discovered the rewards of planting the Word of God in the rich soil of the hearts of men. **VICTORY**



KCM&You

Partners in the Father's Business

Blaine and Anita Smith gained faith for divine health, debt freedom and their life's work through the Word of God taught by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Today they are more committed than ever in their partnership with KCM... partnership with God in the business of planting His Word in the hearts of men!

We invite you to become a Partner with KCM as we all work together in the business of our heavenly Father. Ask the Lord if now is the time for you to join us in covenant partnership—together we will complete the work He has called us to do!



Inside your Partner package:

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

- ▶ Brother Copeland's personal letter of welcome
- ▶ **THE BLESSING of The LORD** book
- ▶ **God Needs Your Voice** CD
- ▶ **Your Victory Around the World** DVD
- ▶ **The Partnership Exchange** book
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- ▶ Exclusive online **BONUS** teaching

The Faith Journey Continues



Happy

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARY



God has a divine plan and purpose for every person ever conceived on this earth. Some discover that plan. Others don't. ∴ By his own admission, left to himself Kenneth Copeland would never have gone God's way. He never would have lived out God's plan for his life. But thanks to a praying mother who loved God, and was doggedly determined from the day her son was born that he would serve God, Kenneth wasn't left to himself.

Happy Birthday Wishes! Congratulations to Gloria Copeland, who celebrated her 70th birthday in February.



“All the time I was growing up, she and my daddy saw to it that I went to church,” Kenneth would recall later in life. “I wasn’t grateful. In fact, I fought it the whole time...I didn’t like being cooped up in that musty, old church house.... Other kids would be playing ball and having fun, but I was stuck inside learning memory verses that I didn’t understand.”

In the years that followed, Kenneth would realize that the words of those verses he was made to memorize carried power—God’s power! He would come to understand them, and discover they were true. And he would learn that when you mix faith with God’s words they can change your life, your circumstances or anything else that needs changing.

It’s been more than 45 years now since Kenneth stood in the dried-up Arkansas River bed and received God’s call to ministry. And this year marks 45 years since the founding of Kenneth Copeland Ministries, the ministry through which Kenneth and Gloria Copeland have been able to obey God’s commission to preach the uncompromised Word from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around.

But none of this was ever envisioned before the day Kenneth Copeland stood on the front porch of a small framed house in Arkansas and asked 19-year-old Gloria Neece to become his wife.

This month, as Kenneth and Gloria celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary, they also celebrate the change God brought to them through His Word. They celebrate the moments, years ago, when God revealed His love for them and they each received Him into their hearts. They celebrate the transformation God has made in their lives and THE BLESSING that has accompanied each step they’ve taken along their journey of faith.

From the day Kenneth and Gloria married, that is exactly what their lives have been—a true journey of faith that has required commitment to and trust in God every step of the way. It’s been a journey as real as the one the Israelites took from Egypt to their Promised Land.

Today, we, the staff of Kenneth Copeland Ministries, honor our leaders for their faithfulness—to each other and to the work God has called them to. They have been steadfast and immovable, never compromising on what they believed and never laying down their faith. They have stood the tests of time and life, daring to believe God and follow Him by faith.

As a result of living their lives on the integrity and authority of God’s Word, millions of lives have been touched and changed.

Truly, their lives have been, and continue to be a journey of discovery...a journey of destiny...a journey of faith!

The following are personal accounts from Kenneth and Gloria of how they met each other, their brief courtship and subsequently their marriage. These accounts are taken from the book *A Journey of Faith: The First 30 Years* which was published 15 years ago in recognition of the 30th anniversary of KCM.

Gloria

I was so particular about the boys I dated in college, that the girls in my dorm used to tease me about it. The young men were nice enough, I just didn’t like any of them in a special way. On one particular weekend, I had a date to go to a University of Arkansas ballgame in Little Rock. My parents had a function to attend in Little Rock, so they met me there for the weekend. That night I went to the game, and they went to their party. The next morning Daddy said, “I have somebody I want you to meet. He’s an entertainer, he’s had a gold record, and he’s a pilot. He was the life of the party last night.”

I was not interested in Daddy’s friends.

“I don’t want you to marry him. I just want you to meet him,” he insisted.

“We’re taking him to the airport tomorrow morning,” Daddy said, “just go with us to the airport.” I agreed to go, and the next day we went to pick Ken and his father up from the insurance company’s penthouse where they were staying.

When Ken came to the door, I noticed that there was light all around him, and I assumed that he was standing in front of a window. While everyone else talked, Ken took me out to the terrace and showed me the view of the city. He was very romantic, and endeavored to sweep me off my feet.

When we arrived at the airport, Ken took us all for a ride in an airplane, which was a big deal for me. I’d never met him before that morning, but when he left I patted him on the back, and talked to him like I’d known him forever. I didn’t spend much time thinking about him after that, because I was busy at college and my life was full. Then, about two months later, I was home for the

weekend and my parents decided to go to Little Rock. They invited me to join them.

“No,” I said, “I’d rather stay here.”

It was the strangest thing. I had a knowing that the guy I’d met in Little Rock was going to call me that weekend, and I wanted to be home for the call. I hadn’t heard a word from him in two months. I had no reason to think I’d hear from him again, but I knew he was going to call. Sure enough, he did.

He came over and took me out on our first date. Here I was just a kid (19), and he was a mature man of the world (25), but do you know what happened?

On the front porch of our house, just before I said “Good night,” he proposed!

The only thing more shocking than that was when I heard myself say, “Yes.” *Why did I say that?* I wondered. I didn’t even know this guy. Besides, I didn’t want to get married! *Well*, I thought, *I’ll get out of this later.*

Thirty-five years have come and gone, and I’ve never tried to get out!

When I got back to the dorm after our first date, the girls gathered around and asked, “Well, did you like him?”

“Yeah,” I said, “I did.”

They were astonished that I’d found someone I actually liked.

Ken and I started seeing each other every weekend. He had just started work at an airport only about 40 miles from my school. He would fly his old, rickety airplane over and buzz the dorm, and I would go meet him at the airport. All the girls were really impressed.

The next semester I quit school, moved to Little Rock and got a job. I lived with my grandmother. Ken moved to Little Rock and went to work until we were married at his boss’s home less than six months after our first date. He borrowed \$100 and took me all the way to Hot Springs, Ark., 53 miles away.

Years later, I was back at that penthouse in Little Rock where I’d first met Ken. While I was there, I noticed the strangest thing. There wasn’t a window that could have caused the light I’d seen around him. In fact, there was no source of light that explained that glow. Ken later told me that there was a light around me when he opened the door. I’ve wondered many times over the years if it was a sign from God. There’s certainly no question that when Ken and I married, we began a journey that led us both to the Light of the world.

Kenneth

I fought deep, dark depression for years before I was born again. The oppression finally became so heavy that

I had no emotional response to anyone in my life. I didn’t have any expression of love toward anyone. Not even toward my parents! There was nobody on the face of the earth that I had any emotional feeling for.

I was mad at the world, and mad at my parents. I didn’t want them coming around. I didn’t want *anyone* hanging around. Now, if someone wanted to brag on me, I’d tolerate them for a while. But the first time they crossed me—they were history.

Don’t misunderstand, I told people I loved them. But it was a con. I might tell a woman I loved her, but I would *never* sing to one. I could stand up on a stage and sing to a crowd, but the thought of singing to a woman was beyond me.

Why?

Because it was an expression of love.

Back then I honestly believed that there was no such thing as real love. In fact, just a few days before I met Gloria I said to someone, “I really don’t believe love is a real thing. I think it’s just some kind of state of mind. And if it *is* real, then I’m incapable of it.”

There’s no such thing as a human being incapable of love. That’s a spiritual impossibility, but I didn’t know it.

A few days later, I met Gloria and fell in love with her the minute I saw her. *This is different!* I realized.

Every idea I’d ever had about love flew out the window.

On my first date with Gloria I found myself *singing* to her.

Whooh! Man, this is something. I thought when I caught myself. I hadn’t planned on singing. I wasn’t trying to impress her or con her into something. I just couldn’t help it. I knew right then that I wanted to marry this woman. I figured it would take me a year to talk her into it, so I decided to get an early start. I didn’t know what it would take to get her to marry me, but I was ready to lie, cheat, steal or con to make it happen.

I really thought, *This is going to take a long time—maybe years—to win her over, so I’m going to ask her now.*

After our date, I walked her up to the front porch and opened the door.

“Gloria,” I said. She turned around and looked at me. “Will you marry me?”

She said, “Yes—I will.” Then she turned around and went inside the house and closed the door.

Left me standing there stammering and muttering in disbelief.

God opened the door of my heart with love.

When I opened my heart enough for Gloria, Jesus came knocking. Sure enough, not too long after that, I let Him in. **VICTORY**

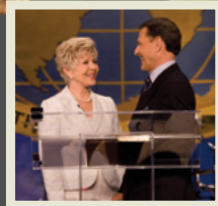
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IT'S NOT QUITTIN' TIME

A number of years ago, Gloria and I hosted a ministers' conference during a time when there was tremendous pressure bearing down on men and women in ministry—pressure like I had never seen before.



There was pressure on Gloria and me. There was pressure on everyone we knew. And I remember all of us dragging ourselves into that meeting. It seemed like we could barely pick our feet up and walk because of the

heaviness we were feeling.

If you had taken a poll, probably most of us would have been willing to quit and go dig ditches—anything just to get out from under the pressure we were experiencing.

Actually, a lot of the people who showed up at that meeting were on the verge of quitting. And had they not heard from God, they probably would have.

Well, we didn't quit. The power of God swept through those meetings and we recommitted ourselves with an even greater resolve to finish our course. We reloaded our guns and went at it again.

Bulldoggin' the Devil

Today the pressure is back—and I'm not just talking about preachers this time. Believers everywhere are under pressure like never before.

That's why I want to encourage you...*Don't quit!*

No matter how intense the pressure gets—remember this: If you don't quit, you won't fail.

I know from my own life and ministry, when pressure like what we're seeing today starts building and building, that's the time we're tempted to ease up on The Word of God, relax our faith and back off from God's plans for our lives.

Don't do it!

The pressure we're seeing is just the devil trying to steal The Word, contaminate our faith and cut our lives short (see Mark 4).

With all the pressure Jesus experienced during His walk on this earth, the Bible talks about Him setting His face like a flint (Isaiah 50:7; Luke 9:51). Nothing, especially no devil from hell, was going to keep Him from fulfilling His destiny.

If anything, this is the time to press in harder. Double up on The Word, increase your giving, recommit yourself to the task God has set before you. As you do, you will find yourself stepping up to a higher place in God...a higher place in power.

I remember what my grandfather told me over 60 years ago.

I was on his farm in West Texas, chopping cotton with him one day. He had hired a bunch of people to help us work his crop.

As usual, my grandfather was outworking and outpacing every one of us. I was a young boy, he was up in years, but I still couldn't keep up with him.

In fact, one of the hired workers asked me, "When does the old man fall down?"

Well, he didn't. He never did. And it was a mystery to me.

So, I asked him that day, "Papa, how come I can never stay up with you?"

"You really want to know?" he said.

"Yes," I replied.

"Because you've never learned to set your jaw. You'll never keep up until you learn to set your jaw in a way that nobody but you can open it."

Setting your jaw...that's another way that we as believers could say, Clamping our teeth around whatever God's called us to do—and woe be to anyone who tries to take it away from us!

It's like a bulldog with his teeth wrapped around a bone. The only reason he would let go is to bite the fool who tries to mess with that bone.

That's how we ought to be with the devil. And when he does make his move against us, we just do what Jesus did—knock him in the head with The Word, and he *will* flee (Matthew 4:1-11).

So, make the quality decision to never quit. Say this confession out loud, over and over, until it renews your way of thinking:

I commit myself to God. I commit myself to His Word. I commit myself to His purposes for my life. I refuse to quit. I refuse to bow to any pressure, to any unbelief. I refuse to compromise through doubt.

I am fearless. I am steadfast in my Father's love for me. There is no fear big enough, high enough, broad enough, deep enough, or bad enough, to stop what God has called me to do. His plan for my life is not unto my death. It is unto my life. And I refuse to let go of it.

God never fails. His WORD never fails. His love never fails. Therefore, I will never fail.

Now reload your faith gun—and don't give up!

GOD'S 'CAN DO' FOR YOU

In 1967, Dr. Oral Roberts told me something that set the course of my life and ministry.

"Kenneth," he said, "people will always tell you, *You can't do that!*"

Then he gave me three principles that would guarantee success in any endeavor in life—every time.

1. Find out the will of God in the matter.
2. Once you know His will, confer no longer with flesh and blood.
3. Then get your job done at any cost.

The point is this: When you're seeking God's will in a situation, that's the time to fast and pray. That's the time to search The Word. That's the time to ask questions. But once you know God's will in the matter, question time is over. Don't go around asking everyone what they think.

For 45 years now, Gloria and I have lived and ministered by these principles. They work. **VICTORY**

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This past year has been very full—with both good and bad. On the one hand, THE BLESSING has been at work greatly in the lives of believers all over the world. Everything we've been preaching and everything we've been talking about for the past several years has arrived—healing, deliverance and prosperity. They're here!

While I've seen God move in great ways, I've also seen some things I hope I never see again. My heart has gone out to my brothers and sisters of faith who quit, let go of the Word and settled for less. They chose to accomplish what *they* believed they could do instead of what *God* called them to do.

As I reflect on the wickedness I have witnessed, I realize there's a common thread: Each incident is a tactic of the enemy to stop God's people from doing what He

has called them to do and receiving what He has provided for them.

Ephesians 6:11 says, "Put on God's whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies], that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil" (*The Amplified Bible*).

As we complete the missions God has for us, we must be prepared and stand strong with our armor—the



It is “a feeling of
discontentment or covetousness
with regard to another’s advantage, success or possession.”

Word of God. If we’re going to be successful against Satan’s strategies—and yes, they are specific, targeted strategies—then we must make sure that we abide in the Word and the Word abides in us.

We are where we are today because we have relied on the Word of God in the past...but we can’t rest. We must continue to hold on to God’s Word, and protect ourselves and protect THE BLESSING in our lives.

Obedience and Blessing

One of the enemy’s weapons that can prevent us from walking in all God has for us is envy. In Genesis 26:1-6, we read:

And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. And the Lord appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; and I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. And Isaac dwelt in Gerar.

Notice that Isaac’s obedience gave birth to his blessings. Meditate on that a moment: *Obedience gives birth to blessings*. God will bless His people when we are obedient to Him and His Word.

In this example, God told Isaac to leave his home, pack up his family and everything he owned, and move. He also told him not to go to Egypt. Instead, God directed him to the land of Gerar. Isaac obeyed, and guess what? God blessed him.

But let’s keep reading: “Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the Lord blessed him. And the man waxed great,

and went forward, and grew until he became very great” (verses 12-13).

Isaac planted in that land, and he received one hundred times as much as he planted. The Lord favored him with blessings. Take a moment and receive that *rhema* word for your situation.

Isaac walked in obedience, and God blessed him. He walked in THE BLESSING, and that same BLESSING is still available to you, me and every other covenant-believing, faith-walking, Word-speaking man and woman. Whatever is happening in this world is not strong enough to stop the operation of THE BLESSING in your life.

Seeing the Stuff

“For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him” (verse 14). Notice that none of them had a problem with Isaac until they saw his stuff.

The same happens with us. Other people don’t have a problem with us believing in THE BLESSING of the Lord until we begin to prosper. When that happens, we have to make up our minds. Either we can handle the manifestation of THE BLESSING, or we can back up because we don’t want anyone talking about us.

If no one is talking about you yet, it’s only because THE BLESSING is still developing roots. It’s working, but like a strong tree, the roots have to grow before the branches and leaves flourish.

From personal experience, I can tell you that when THE BLESSING becomes visible, the haters show up. No one was gossiping about me when I was only pastoring eight people. No one was tweeting lies about me when I was holding services in the Kathleen Mitchell Elementary School. And no one was writing negative articles or jumping out of corners demanding interviews. But when they could see the effects of THE BLESSING—when they could see the *stuff*—they got mad. They became envious.

Envy and Jealousy

Envy is a tool of the enemy. It is “a feeling of

discontentment or covetousness with regard to another's advantage, success or possession." It's that sick feeling that comes when one sees another's success. It's similar to jealousy, which the enemy also uses to create confusion and destroy relationships. To be jealous is to resent what someone has or what has happened in his life. Like envy, jealousy wants to *have* what someone else has.

Look at what envy caused the Philistines to do in verse 15. "For all the wells which his father's servants had digged in the days of Abraham his father, the Philistines had stopped them, and filled them with earth."

They envied Isaac and wanted to deprive him of what he possessed. If you continue reading in that chapter, you'll see that Isaac moved and dug new wells, and those new wells flowed. In a land where it was often difficult to find water, Isaac's wells flowed. The Philistines couldn't stop THE BLESSING. The envy of others couldn't keep THE BLESSING from Isaac...and it can't keep THE BLESSING from you.

Eventually, the Philistines admitted that Isaac was, indeed, blessed. They told him, "We saw certainly that the Lord was with thee: and we said, Let there be now an oath betwixt us, even betwixt us and thee, and let us make a covenant with thee; That thou wilt do us no hurt, as we have not touched thee, and as we have done unto thee nothing but good, and have sent thee away in peace: thou art now the blessed of the Lord" (verses 28-29).

There will come a time when those who hate, envy and try to deprive you will admit you're blessed. Now, that's good news!

Destructive Companions

Envy is not some simple, innocent emotion. It keeps seriously destructive company. Galatians 5:19-21 says, "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like."

These companions were apparent in Acts 13 when the Jews began speaking against Paul. "And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming" (verses 44-45).

Envy moved the Jews to speak negatively, contradict and blaspheme. The Jews wanted to deprive Paul of THE BLESSING that flowed through his life and ministry. If you are in ministry, then envy will move others to try

to stop you from preaching the gospel, too. That's the enemy's ultimate goal. He wants to do whatever he can to stop the gospel from going forth and changing lives.

Recognize and Stand

As men and women of faith, we must stand against envy with the Word of God. We must recognize when envy is coming against us and even when the enemy tries to infect us with it.

First Corinthians 3:3 says, "For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

To have a carnal mind is to have a mind that opposes the Word of God. That is *not* us. We're changed. We're saved. We're spiritual. We have a kingdom mindset.

Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him show out of a good conversation [lifestyle] his works with meekness of wisdom. But if you have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work (James 3:13-16).

Some Christians take envy lightly, thinking, *It's not such a big thing*. But if it can be a foundation for every evil work—and if it can block THE BLESSING—then you don't want to tolerate it for one moment. You have authority over it by the Word of God and in the Name of Jesus.

Romans 13:13 says, "Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying."

Right now, take a moment to consider the situations in your life and even to examine your own heart. Is envy a motivator? If so, take authority over it. If you've been persecuted for it, stand in faith against it. If you've been a perpetrator of it, repent and receive forgiveness.

Don't let anything keep you from God's goodness. He's ready to explode THE BLESSING—and all that it brings—into your life. Recognize this strategy of the enemy—in those around you and even in yourself. The blessings of God are running over. Don't let *anything* prevent you from receiving them! **VICTORY**

Creflo Dollar is the founder and senior pastor of World Changers Church International in College Park, Ga.; World Changers Church-New York; and several satellite churches across the country. For more information, visit creflodollarministries.org.



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May 10-12 | London, England

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June 15-16 | Honolulu, Hawaii

SOUTHWEST Believers' Convention

July 2-7 | Fort Worth, Texas

GREAT LAKES Victory Campaign

August 9-11 | Milwaukee, Wis.

LIVING VICTORY East Coast

September 14-15 | Orlando, Fla.

VENEZUELA Victory Campaign

September 28-29 | Maracaibo, Venezuela

Preregistration is not available for this meeting.

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Kenneth and/or Gloria Copeland

Faith Conference: April 26

Abundant Life World Outreach Church
955 Mt. Cross Road | Danville, VA 24540
434-799-8213 | abundantlifeworldoutreachchurch.org

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

Father's Day: June 17

Word of Life Church
544 Queen St. | Honolulu, HI 96813
808-528-4044 | wordoflifehawaii.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

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

Spirit Food Christian Center: April 8

20550 Roscoe Blvd. | Winnetka, CA 91306
818-785-7712 | myspiritfood.com

Brand New Life Christian Church: April 15

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

Dunamis Power Ministries: April 15

200 W. Olympic Blvd. | Montebello, CA 90640
562-688-4974 | 562-965-3007
dunamispower247@yahoo.com

Glory House of Prayer: April 21-22

1869 Central Ave. | Albany, NY 12205
518-986-6755 | gloryhouseofprayer.org

Jasper Christian Center: April 29

12696 Highway 78 East | Jasper, AL 35501
205-221-1747 | jasperchristiancenter.org

Living Word Bible Church: May 9-10

3520 E. Brown Road | Mesa, AZ 85213
480-964-4463 | livingwordonline.org

The 21st Annual TBN Eurospirit Convention: May 16-18

Victory Outreach Auditorium | Amsterdam, Holland
H.J.E. Wenckebachweg 117 | eurospirit.nl

New Life Fellowship: June 3-5

1211 N. 24th St. | Council Bluffs, IA 51501
713-322-1982 | gotnewlife.org

Only Believe Ministries: June 27

(Botkins Campus) | 13815 Botkins Road
Botkins, OH 45306 | 937-693-3554 | obmcc.org

Only Believe Ministries: June 28

(Kenton Campus) | 809 S. Detroit St.
Kenton, OH 43326 | 419-675-0027 | obmcc.org

Word of His Power Faith Christian Centre: July 21-22

108-4053 Meadowbrook Drive
London, Ontario N6L 1E8 | Canada | 519-709-2167
wohp.org

Hope and Healing Christian Church: August 12

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635 | 520-417-2468
hhconline.org

Riley Stephenson, KCM's Evangelistic Outreach Minister

Big Shanty Outreach: April 18-22

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

Victory Life Fellowship: April 28-29

1635 Bertram St. | Kelowna, BC V1Y 2G5 | Canada
250-862-3044 | victorylifefellowship.net

The Family of Faith Church: May 2

5833-53 Ave. | Red Deer, Alberta T4N 4L4 | Canada
403-340-3880 | 866-740-3880 | familyoffaith.ca

Bonnaroo Outreach: June 5-11

Sojourner's Fellowship | 911 McArthur St.
Manchester, TN 37355 | 800-391-6944
sojournershush.org

Jasper Christian Center: June 22-24

12696 Highway 78 East | Jasper, AL 35501
205-221-1747 | jasperchristiancenter.org

Jeremy and Sarah Pearsons

BEHOLD Conference: May 10-12

Beyond Church | 4510 Highway 71 N.
Alma, AR 72921 | 479-632-2340
BeholdTheLove.com

Venezuela Victory Youth Campaign: August 24-25

Sports Center "Pedro Elías Belisario Aponte"
Ave. 25 con Prolongación Circunvalación 2, con Ave. 5
de Julio | Maracaibo, Estado de Zulia, Venezuela
kcm.org/es

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REAL PEOPLE. REAL NEEDS. REAL VICTORIES.

GoodNewsGazette

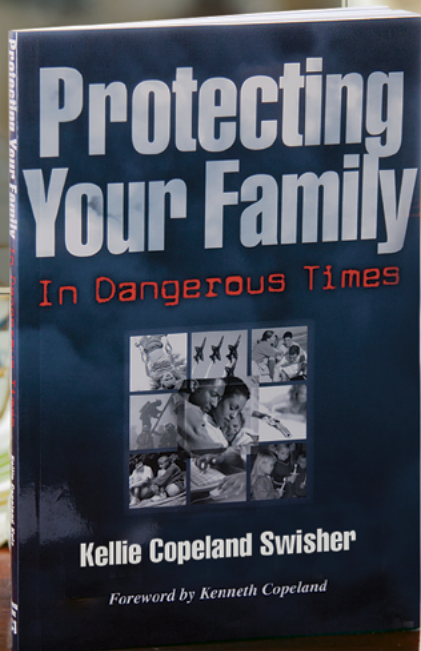
A New Revelation of Faith

My knees were healed at the 2011 Canada Victory Campaign in Langley, B.C.

The first day Gloria was teaching I got a new revelation of faith—overcoming faith. My knees were sore and I had pain and had to pull or push myself up. When Gloria spoke on faith, I just applied faith for healing to my knees and they felt 50 percent better. Then on Saturday at Healing School, Kenneth prayed and said knees were being healed. I just had a knowing the healing was complete.

Sure enough, when I walked up and down those long stairs at the Langley Event Centre, there was no pain and I could squat and stand up quickly without pulling myself up or bracing for pain!

C.Q. :: Canada



“And Jesus, replying, said to them, Have faith in God [constantly].” (Mark 11:22, *The Amplified Bible*)

God Kept Me From Death

I'm 86 years old. One evening I thought I had turned off the kitchen stove. I slept all night with the gas stove on, because it was broken and I didn't know it. And I have allergies, so I could not smell the gas. My neighbor woke me up the next morning because she smelled the gas right away.

I just finished watching the broadcast and heard Brother Copeland say how he prays for his Partners every day and pleads the blood of Jesus over them. I was overwhelmed by that statement because I know that Brother Copeland prays over me every day and pleads the blood of Jesus over me. God kept me from death and I'm praising God that I am alive!

W.L.M. :: Texas

The Word Works

I was rereading the letters you wrote to me after I had written to you about my biggest problem at the time. My son was addicted to drugs. You told me that my son could be delivered by the Word of God. I remember how I was reading the letter and crying. It seemed to me that it was for others, not me. But deep inside I didn't agree that my son would be an addict for the rest of his life.

Two years have passed since my son was delivered from drugs and now he is serving God. He stayed in the rehab and started working there. They are building the second floor of the center and he is very busy and active now.

L.N. :: Russia

Supernatural Safety

I am a Partner and very thankful for Kellie's book *Protecting Your Family in Dangerous Times*. The book inspired me to believe for God's protection for my entire family. My eight children and I were at home when 10 gunshots were fired and all 10 bullets went through our windows and walls, but everyone was kept safe! I am rejoicing that the Lord gives His angels charge over us.

C.M. :: Arizona

A New Beginning in Christ

I was really a bad drunk in the old days. I never missed work and thought it was OK, because I provided for my family. One day my drinking buddy and I were sober enough to turn the TV on and who should be preaching but Kenneth Copeland. That was the beginning of my life.

I am now a longtime Partner and so glad to be associated with this ministry. I wanted Brother Copeland to know, and to tell him to keep preaching. I'm

sure there's someone else out there who needs to hear you preaching the Word, too.

F.R. :: Alabama

Seed Planted Produces Quick Results

A few months ago I was one of a group of people who were laid off at work. At that time my husband was not working, so I was the only income for our household. Having a six year old and a one year old and not knowing when a job would show up, I quickly planted my seed and meditated on the Word day and night.

Ten days later I was contacted by my former employer to see if I wanted to come back with the same salary, benefits, etc. I'm the only one of the whole group to be hired back. I know it's because of the seed that was planted and my partnership with this ministry. I appreciate KCM very much.

Kim Ashley :: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

God Is Good, Real and Faithful

Early last year I experienced a severe heart attack, which I believe was Satan's plan to kill me. While in the hospital God told me to write out various verses of scripture to use as a confession of faith.

My wife contacted your office requesting prayer for me, which you responded to with a gracious letter and two minibooks. Both had a profound effect on my recovery. They were *God Has Your Miracle on His Mind* by Gloria Copeland and *God's Creative Power for Healing* by Charles Capps. I used the confessions for the heart, blood, arteries, cells and immune system every day while waiting for and following my operation. The results were that I came through the surgery and made such a quick recovery that I was released from the hospital in five days.

After six weeks I had a follow-up meeting with one of the surgeons who operated on me. During the meeting he mentioned that part of my sickness was an irregular heartbeat which could not be cured and required taking a particular drug for the rest of my life. However, he could now find no trace of it. He was astounded at my progress and said further visits were not necessary.

Through the teaching I had received as a Partner with KCM and by having faith that the words of my confession would bring me through this trauma, both my wife and I had complete peace. I believe God has kept His promise of a new heart and now I am determined to keep my side of the agreement—to declare His wonderful works. Our God is good, real and faithful—just as Kenneth and Gloria teach. Thank you for your faithfulness.

D.G. :: United Kingdom

Sweet Freedom and Deliverance

I've been watching the broadcast for a while now and want to share my testimony. The Copelands and the broadcast have helped me in so many ways. I have now been drug and alcohol free for over a year and owe it all to this ministry.

R.C. :: Wisconsin

Heartfelt Thanks

One day I was listening to one of your radio broadcasts. After the broadcast they gave the website address for KCM and I visited. It was just amazing how from that moment everything fell into place. I've known and always had Jesus in my heart but as a 19-year-old, you sometimes feel you're off track and that Jesus is far away. The salvation prayer in one of your monthly magazines was so inspiring I couldn't stop reading.

I also followed the steps in getting my free copy of the book *He Did It All for You*. KCM, you are the first ministry I came across that sends people a free book and on top of it your monthly magazine. As a young student still learning what the Word says and what to believe, I am very impressed with what you do as a ministry. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

T.B. :: South Africa

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Blessed by the Teachings

Thank you, George and Terri Pearsons, for the 10 days of healing teaching on the *BVOV* broadcast. You are an inspiration to us and we so appreciate all you are doing for the Body of Christ. Thank you, KCM, for the *BVOV* magazine and daily broadcasts. It is just awesome to see your beautiful family on the cover. We are so privileged to be part of your family.

B.F. :: Australia

Refused to Fear

Back in July 2011, I was told I had breast cancer. So, I called KCM to sow a \$100 seed and for prayer of agreement for my healing.

The doctors told me I could die if I did not take conventional treatment, and fear tried to creep in. I stood against the fear and went to a different doctor who offered the services I wanted without chemo, radiation treatments and surgery. Recently, I had an MRI and the results came back **SUCCESSFUL**. NO further treatments necessary, so it's gone!

Patricia Carr :: Tallahassee, Fla.



Our willingness
to give means
far more to
God than the
amount of our
offering.



AN Offering of Worship



When Ken and I left Anaheim and headed for Pomona that Sunday morning in July of 1989, I just couldn't shake my sense of disappointment. It was strange, really. I should have been rejoicing. :: After all, the Believers' Convention we'd just completed was one of the best ever. People had flocked in by the thousands, hungry for the Word. The spiritual atmosphere had been wonderful. :: Still, something bothered me. :: *The offerings.*

They'd exceeded the budget for the meeting but they hadn't been enough to cover the huge, unpaid television bill waiting for us back in Fort Worth. Fussing at myself for letting such a thing suppress my joy, I determined to roll the care of it over on the Lord. He knew how much we needed. He'd supply it one way or the other.

Gloria, you shouldn't be worrying about finances! I said to myself. *Let it go!*

Normally, that would have been the end of it. But the Lord was moving on me, setting me up for a revelation I was about to receive, so my heart remained heavy. As we drove toward Charles and Carolyn Harrell's church, where Ken was scheduled to preach, my mind kept going back to those offerings. I thought about the fact that even though the people had given generously, we hadn't really done anything to make the giving special. The offering times had seemed almost...routine.

Memories flashed through my mind. I thought about a camp meeting some years earlier when people gave so hilariously and the offerings were so full of joy that everyone wanted to get in on them. I remembered a service when Ken sang *Bread Upon the Water* and people literally danced to the altar because they were so thrilled to be able to give. Afterward God had moved marvelously, working miracles and healing people.

Recalling those delightful times, I wondered if it was really the amount of the offerings at Anaheim that was weighing on me, or the feeling that we'd somehow missed out on God's best.



I didn't have to wonder for long. When we arrived at the church less than an hour later, the Lord told me what I needed to know—through Carolyn Harrell. As it turned out, He'd spoken to her as she was driving to the service about the very thing that was troubling me. In a nutshell, this is what He'd said:

It grieves Me when the Church takes offerings. I said to worship Me. Don't take from the people but let them bring their gifts and worship Me. Then they will see the fruit of their giving.

When I heard those words, I knew right away the disappointment I felt about the convention offerings wasn't just natural concern. I was sensing the heart of the Lord. He wanted to draw us higher, to help us learn how to “*excel in the grace of giving*” (2 Corinthians. 8:7, *New International Version*).

To be clear, giving had always been important to us. Ever since we started this ministry, we'd always surrounded our finances with faith. We'd never pulled on people for money or pressured them for offerings. But when Carolyn shared what the Lord had said, it hit me as a revelation: Giving is a form of worship! There's a right way to do it, and a wrong way to do it.

I'm never again going to give or officiate over another offering except in worship, I thought. *I'm never going to do it just to get the bills paid!*

Now, 23 years later I can tell you, I've kept that commitment. From that day to this, I've taken giving more seriously. Whether Ken and I are bringing our offerings before the Lord privately at home, or whether

we're giving in a meeting alongside other believers, we treat them as something special. We make it a point to present our offerings in worship to the Lord.

Heaps of Blessing for Everyone

Although many believers don't realize it, the way we give matters a great deal to God. The Bible leaves no question about it. There are times in the Scriptures when the Lord was so grieved by how certain offerings were given, He actually refused to receive them.

Take Cain's offering in the book of Genesis, for instance. It was a total disaster. Instead of bringing the Lord the first of his increase like Abel did, Cain brought his leftovers—and God didn't appreciate it. It's impossible to please God without faith; and since Cain didn't have to use any faith to give his leftovers, God "did not respect Cain and his offering" (Genesis 4:5, *New King James Version*).

In fact, He rejected it. When Cain pouted about the rejection, the Lord rebuked him. "If you do what is right, will you not be accepted?" He said. "But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door..." (Genesis 4:7, *NIV*).

The people in Malachi's day received a similar rebuke. They offered to God the wounded and blind of their flocks—animals that were useless to them—and the Lord treated it as an insult. "You're not honoring Me!" He told them. "You're showing Me no reverence!"

Thankfully, as New Testament believers we don't have to worry about God rejecting us. Since Jesus has become the ultimate, perfect Offering on our behalf, we can give to the Lord with confidence knowing that He has already "made us accepted in the beloved" (Ephesians 1:6)!

That's good news, for sure, but we shouldn't use it as an excuse to be sloppy in our giving or treat it like an imposition. On the contrary, we should rejoice over God's willingness to receive our offerings. We should see giving as a great privilege—especially since our tithes and offerings open the door for God to get involved in our finances and cause us to prosper!

Rather than being like Cain and the people in Malachi, we should be like

the Israelites in King Hezekiah's day. Even though they were under the Old Covenant, they jumped at the opportunity to give to God. Hezekiah called for them "to contribute support for the priests and the Levites, that they might devote themselves to the Law of the Lord. As soon as the commandment was circulated, the children of Israel brought in abundance the firstfruits of grain and wine, oil and honey, and of all the produce of the field; and they brought in abundantly the tithe of everything. And the children

of Israel and Judah, who dwelt in the cities of Judah, brought the tithe of oxen and sheep; also the tithe of holy things which were consecrated to the Lord their God they laid in heaps" (2 Chronicles 31:4-6, *NKJV*).

Isn't that wonderful? Those people were so excited about giving toward God's work, they brought Him an abundance of their very best resources! They piled it up so fast it accumulated in heaps!

Do you know what happened as a result?

Everyone prospered—the king, the ministers and the people. As the chief priest told Hezekiah, "Since the people began to bring the offerings into the house of the Lord, we have had enough to eat and have plenty left, for the Lord has blessed His people; and what is left is this great abundance" (verse 10, *NKJV*).

Grinches Don't Prosper

Today, just as in Hezekiah's day, God appreciates people who give to Him gladly with the right heart. In the New Testament as in the Old: "...God loves (He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, 'prompt to do it') giver [whose heart is in his giving.] **And** God is able to make all grace (every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation]" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8, *The Amplified Bible*).

Salvation Prayer

If you do not know

JESUS

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

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" and "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" (Acts 2:21; Romans 10:9). You said my salvation would be the result of Your Holy Spirit giving me new birth by coming to live in me (John 3:5-6, 15-16; Romans 8:9-11) and that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Spirit and give me the ability to speak with other tongues (Luke 11:13; Acts 2:4).

I take You at Your Word. I confess that Jesus is Lord. And I believe in my heart that You raised Him from the dead. Thank You for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised, and for being Lord over my life. Amen.

If you have just prayed this prayer, please contact us and let us know of your decision. We have a **Free Gift** we would like to send you to help you begin your new life in Jesus! Go to kcm.org and type Salvation Package in the search box, check the box on the response form in the center of this magazine or call 800-600-7395.

Notice the word “**And**” near the beginning of that passage appears in bold type. I wanted to emphasize it because it’s so important. It ties together our attitude in giving with the abounding blessings of God. It reminds us that if we want to enjoy the maximum harvest on the financial seed we sow into God’s kingdom, we should examine ourselves before we give and make sure our heart is right. We should check to see if we need to make any adjustments in our attitude or life.

Right attitudes aren’t always automatic, you know. Even believers who love God with all their heart sometimes slip into bad habits when it comes to giving. That’s why the Apostle Paul dedicated two entire chapters of the New Testament (2 Corinthians 8 and 9) to helping the Christians in Corinth prepare their hearts for an offering. Paul understood that to give to the Lord properly, we have to purposely get our hearts ready for it.

Really, we all ought to come to church every week having prepared our offering in advance. We should think about it all week long. We should get in the car on Sunday morning rejoicing over the opportunity to give. We shouldn’t wait for the preacher to put a guilt trip on us at offering time and then reach with resentment into our pocketbook and pull out a few dollars.

The Lord doesn’t want offerings to be extracted like a dentist extracts teeth! Such giving doesn’t bless Him. What’s more, it doesn’t do us any good either—which is why He tells us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, *AMP*, “[Remember] this: he who sows sparingly and grudgingly will also reap sparingly and grudgingly, and

he who sows generously [that blessings may come to someone] will also reap generously and with blessings. Let each one [give] as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion....”

There may be a few preachers around who are so desperate for money (and so uninformed about faith) they’ll happily receive offerings of any kind even if they’re



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grudgingly given. But God isn't desperate for that kind of offering. He doesn't get any pleasure when we give to Him because someone pressured us. He'd rather we just keep our reluctant old money until we can give it from our hearts.

Our willingness to give means far more to God than the amount of our offering. As 2 Corinthians 8:12, *NIV* says, "If the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have." I'd rather give \$10 willingly than give \$20 and hurt. I don't believe it's scriptural to give to God "until it hurts." I think it ought to feel good to give to Him—every time we give. It ought to be a delight!

If we're about to bring a tithe or an offering to the Lord and we notice we're not fully willing to give it, we should stop and spend time in prayer until we get willing. We need to make a heart adjustment. Because if we give like a grinch, God will be disappointed...and when harvest time comes so will we.

Three Keys to Gracious Giving

If you're not certain how to go about getting your heart ready to give, here are three keys from 2 Corinthians 8 and 9 that will help you:

First, learn the secret of the Macedonians. According to the Apostle Paul, they excelled in the grace of giving because "they gave themselves first of all to the Lord..." (2 Corinthians 8:5, *NIV*). As a result, even though they were facing a severe financial trial themselves, their offering was so generous that Paul was reluctant to receive it from them. They actually had to plead with him to take it.

I read this quote somewhere and it's absolutely true: "The man who will give himself to God first is able to give his offering in the right way."

Second, when you're preparing your offering, stir up your gratitude about what the Lord has done for you. Remind yourself of "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich" (verse 9, *NIV*).

Our God is worthy of our worship! He's been so good to us. He saved us from sin, spiritual death and hell through the blood of Jesus. He has blessed us for eternity in Christ with every blessing heaven has to offer. If we'll truly consider all He's given to us, we'll be eager to show our appreciation by giving something back to Him.

Finally, when you're gearing up to give, rejoice over God's promise of provision! Take the time to declare over yourself and your household what the Word says about your prosperity as a covenant child of God. When you are a cheerful giver, God makes "(every favor and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance" (2 Corinthians 9:8, *AMP*). Praise Him by faith that "you will be enriched in all things and in every way, so that you can be generous" (2 Corinthians 9:11, *AMP*).

That's the kind of life God wants to provide for you! He wants you to have all your needs met so you'll have enough to enjoy with plenty left over to give. He wants you to "abound" with blessings. I looked up the word *abound* and found it means "to be crowded or thick with." Doesn't it make you happy to think about giving to a God who has promised to so crowd your life with blessings that you have to give some away just to make room for the next batch?

Sure it does! So think about it next time you're getting ready to bring your offering to the Lord. Celebrate His promises of prosperity. Remind yourself that because you're in Christ Jesus you belong to God and He has a good track record of providing for His own.

Then, give with a willing heart full of worship for Him! **VICTORY**



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APRIL

Broadcast Calendar

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Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, April 8
Jesus Came to BLESS You
Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, April 15
Receive by Faith
Gloria Copeland

Sunday, April 22
Follow God's Kingdom Plan for Your Life
Kenneth Copeland

Sunday, April 29
Obey God and Live the Good Life
Kenneth Copeland

April 2-6

Speak THE BLESSING

Kenneth Copeland and Bill Winston

April 9-13

THE BLESSING Is Love Manifested

Kenneth Copeland and Bill Winston

April 16-20

Why Do the Wicked Prosper? The Place of Understanding

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

April 23-27

Practicing the Presence of God: Living in Closeness With Him

Gloria Copeland and Billye Brim

April 30-May 4

The Unforced Rhythms of Grace: Walking in the Power of God

Kenneth Copeland and Rick Renner