

Believer's Voice of

KENNETH
COPELAND
MINISTRIES



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VICTORY

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MERRY Christmas!

MERRY
CHRISTMAS!
WHAT A
GLORIOUS
TIME TO
CELEBRATE
JESUS!



Dear Partners and Friends,

Jesus came into this earth according to God's WORD! Beginning in Genesis 3:15, God declared Jesus' coming. The Old Testament is full of God's declarations about His Son's life and work. He spoke to His prophet Micah who declared over 700 years beforehand that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-3). And when Mary heard Gabriel declare God's WORD that the Son of God, the Savior of the world, would be conceived in her, her response was a faith-filled, humble, "Be it unto me according to thy word" (Luke 1:38).

When we hear God's WORD and speak in agreement with it, His Spirit is free to place faith in His promises in our hearts, and birth them right into our lives! And the key to an ongoing BLESSED life in the Spirit is to keep His WORD uppermost in our hearts and our minds, and to declare continually that our lives are "according to thy word!" That's the way Jesus lived and brought God's life right into every place He set His feet—teaching, preaching, healing and loving! He made every day a day to celebrate, and He still does! Glory to God!

As we cross the threshold of time into the year 2017, we will remember the days of 2016 and their significance. As His children, we can know that as far as the past days concern us, we declared God's plan according to His WORD. We prayed in faith and followed God's direction, reaching out to people in love—speaking The WORD and touching their lives, just like Jesus has always done! As we walk through the days ahead, and continue to live according to His WORD and His Spirit, wherever we set our feet, lives will be changed and God will be glorified! Every day will be a day of celebrating Jesus!

We believe the days ahead in the kingdom of God will be the best days of our lives, as we look forward to Jesus returning to our earth! We have God's WORD on it and we speak according to it!

The Copeland family will enjoy being together this Christmas season just as you will with your family and friends! And, because you are our worldwide family, we will be thanking our heavenly Father for you each time we gather. We speak God's BLESSING over you and yours! You know we always hold you in our hearts. We love you!

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Kenneth & Gloria

December

4

"I MAKE IT
MY AIM TO
GET RID
OF EVERY
UNTRUTH
AND SPEAK
ALL THE
TIME WITH
ABSOLUTE
INTEGRITY."

—Kenneth
Copeland



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Renée and Jeremy decided to start a family in 2000, but years later had not been able to have a child. They were ready to give up trying and adopt. Sowing their entire savings into a Chinese orphanage was one step of obedience that finally resulted in their having two children.

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We don't have time to straddle the fence between the flesh and the spirit. God wants to reveal His glory through the Church as never before. So let's invite Him into our midst and let Him do it.



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"If we hadn't
become Partners
with KCM and
learned to live by
faith, we wouldn't
have these children
today."

—Jeremy Silbernagel

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PARTNER,
FOR HELPING
us spread the
uncompromised
WORD of faith
around the world!



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Speak LIFE!

by
*Kenneth
Copeland*

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED THAT, AS HUMAN BEINGS, WE INSTINCTIVELY SEEM TO KNOW WE'RE SUPPOSED TO HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY ABOUT EVERYTHING?

THERE'S A REASON FOR THAT... AND IT'S NOT JUST BECAUSE WE'RE BLABBERMOUTHS. IT'S BECAUSE FROM THE BEGINNING, SPEAKING WAS MAN'S ORIGINAL JOB. IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN, GOD GAVE ADAM AUTHORITY AND COMMISSIONED HIM TO CONTROL THE EARTH BY USING THE SAME FORCE THAT CREATED IT—THE FORCE OF FAITH-FILLED WORDS.

People have been talking ever since, because it's part of our dominion. It's the way God planned for us to perpetuate His BLESSING on this planet. We're supposed to hear from Him and say whatever He says about every situation. We're supposed to use His words to dominate everything on this earth



(except other people), so His will can be done and the kingdom of heaven can increasingly manifest on earth.

“Well,” someone might say, “that may have been God’s original plan, but you have to remember Adam messed up that plan. He handed his authority over to the devil, so words just don’t work the same way anymore.”

Yes, they do.

This is still a word-created, word-operated system. God set it up that way and there’s nothing the devil can do to change it. He’s stuck with it and he knows it.

That’s the reason he showed up in the Garden determined to get Adam to commit spiritual treason. He knew if he could separate mankind from God, he could hijack their authority. He could separate them from God’s words of life and faith, get them to speak his words of fear and death, and through their darkened hearts and mouths, he could become the ruler of this world.

What the devil did *not* know in the Garden, however, was that God (as always) was way out ahead of him. Before the foundation of the world, He’d already designed a plan for mankind’s Redemption—a plan that would unfold, from first to last, by the power of His words.

In Old Testament times God got those words into the earth through the prophets. Their job was to give the people something to say. Back then people weren’t born again so they couldn’t hear personally from God, but if they’d listen to the prophet and say what he said, they would prosper. In spite of the curse that had come on the earth through sin, they’d walk in a measure of BLESSING because faith-filled words dominate the laws of sin and death.

I want to say that again, because it’s vitally important: *Faith-filled words dominate the laws of sin and death.*

Think about that! Even on the lips of Old Testament believers who were not born again, God’s WORD carried so

much power that nothing could stop it from coming to pass. When the Old Testament prophet Micah said the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2-3), for instance, the most determined efforts of the devil himself couldn’t keep it from happening. Because Micah heard it from God, believed it and said it...715 years later, Caesar passed an edict that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem and that’s where Jesus was born.

Words Work—For Better or for Worse

Once Jesus came on the scene, of course, the plan of God unfolded even further. He spoke God’s words and exercised dominion over the law of sin and death at a level that had never been seen. He didn’t do it by the power of His divinity, either. He did it operating as the Son of man.

What’s more, He told His disciples that we, as believers, would do the same thing: “The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself,” He said, “but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do” (John 14:10, 12).

How can we possibly do the works of Jesus? you might wonder.

By using the process He did. By hearing and speaking the words of the Father.

“Well, I don’t really think my words make all that much difference, Brother Copeland.”

Then you need to think again. You need to study it out in the Scriptures, because they’re clear about this: Our words are going to work...either for better or for worse, either for us or against us.

In the Gospels, Jesus said it time and again:

“Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the

POINTS TO GET YOU THERE



As believers, God has given us dominion and authorized us to exercise it by speaking faith-filled words. Here are some points to get you there:

1

We live in a world that was created by words.
Genesis 1:1, 3

2

God gave mankind dominion over the earth so that he could control it the same way it was created—with faith-filled words.
Genesis 1:26

3

Jesus taught us that speaking God’s WORD is the key to walking in His power.
John 14:10

4

Your words will work, either for you or against you.
Matthew 12:36-37

5

Consistently speak God’s WORD by keeping your thoughts in line with The WORD.
2 Corinthians 10:5

DECEMBER

		Old Testament	Psalms
Thu	1	Dan. 9-10	Ps. 119:73-96
Fri	2	Dan. 11-12	Ps. 119:97-120
Sat	3	Hos. 1-3	Ps. 119:121-144
Sun	4	Hos. 4-5	Ps. 119:145-176
Mon	5	Hos. 6-7	Ps. 120
Tue	6	Hos. 8-9	Ps. 121
Wed	7	Hos. 10-11	Ps. 122
Thu	8	Hos. 12-13	Ps. 123
Fri	9	Hos. 14; Joel 1	Ps. 124
Sat	10	Joel 2-3; Amos 1	Ps. 125-126
Sun	11	Amos 2-3	Ps. 127
Mon	12	Amos 4-5	Ps. 128
Tue	13	Amos 6-7	Ps. 129
Wed	14	Amos 8-9	Ps. 130
Thu	15	Obad.; Jon. 1	Ps. 131
Fri	16	Jon. 2-3	Ps. 132
Sat	17	Jon. 4; Mic. 1-2	Ps. 133-134
Sun	18	Mic. 3-4	Ps. 135
Mon	19	Mic. 5-6	Ps. 136
Tue	20	Mic. 7; Nah. 1-3	Ps. 137
Wed	21	Hab. 1-3	Ps. 138
Thu	22	Zeph. 1-3	Ps. 139
Fri	23	Hag. 1-2	Ps. 140
Sat	24	Zech. 1-3	Ps. 141-142
Sun	25	Zech. 4-5	Ps. 143
Mon	26	Zech. 6-7	Ps. 144
Tue	27	Zech. 8-9	Ps. 145
Wed	28	Zech. 10-11	Ps. 146
Thu	29	Zech. 12-13	Ps. 147
Fri	30	Zech. 14; Mal. 1	Ps. 148
Sat	31	Mal. 2-4	Ps. 149-150

day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.” (Matthew 12:36-37)

“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil:

for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.” (Luke 6:45)

“Whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.” (Mark 11:23)

The New Testament epistles add:

“We having the same spirit of faith...believe, and therefore speak.” (2 Corinthians 4:13)

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus...[and] let us hold fast our confession.” (Hebrews 3:1, 4:14, *New King James Version*)

Add to those verses a few like these from Proverbs, and there’s no way to argue about it:

“A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth....” (Proverbs 13:2)

“A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.” (Proverbs 15:4)

“A fool’s mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.” (Proverbs 18:7)

“A man’s belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.” (Proverbs 18:20)

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.” (Proverbs 18:21)

Don’t ever let the devil convince you that your words don’t make any difference. From beginning to end, the Bible teaches us that faith-filled words are the key to everything!

Start With a Quality Decision

How can you make sure you’re consistently speaking faith-filled words?

First and foremost, since faith comes by hearing The WORD of God, you have to open up your Bible and take time to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit. You have to find out what God is saying to you and get your thoughts in alignment with His: “Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (2 Corinthians 10:5).

“Brother Copeland, that sounds hard!”

It would be if you had to do it by yourself, but you don’t. The Holy Spirit will be right there to help you. He’ll lead you and back you up with His power every step of the way once you make a quality decision to think and speak and live by faith.

A quality decision is a decision from which there is no retreat and about which there is no more argument. It’s the kind of decision Gloria and I made many years ago about our children, for example. They were very young when we went into the ministry and, because we’d seen the devil go after other ministers’ children, we spent three or four days at our prayer cabin seeking God about them.

We didn’t pray about anything else during that time. We just got our Bibles and preaching tapes and piled them up all around us. Then we read, listened, made notes and prayed in the spirit. Once we knew our hearts and minds were in agreement with God, we made our declaration: “We are not losing our children! We have made the decision; as for me and my house, we will serve The LORD!”

The LORD immediately responded. *I’ll take care of it*, He said...and He absolutely did. Today not only are all three of our children working with us in the ministry, we have 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren—and all of them are serving God. It didn’t just happen automatically, though. It happened because we stood fast on God’s WORD and refused to let it depart from our mouths.

Even at those moments when things looked a little rocky, we never once said, “Oh dear, we just don’t know

what these kids are coming to." No, we knew exactly what they were coming to. They were coming to God because we'd said what He says about them and we remained confident He would bring it to pass.

Over the years, I've learned not only with regard to my children but in every other area of life to be diligent to watch over everything I say. I make it my aim to get rid of every untruth and speak all the time with absolute integrity. Like a fighter stripping every ounce of fat off his body, I endeavor to strip out of my vocabulary anything I don't intend to come to pass.

Is that kind of diligence really necessary?

It is if you want what you say to have maximum impact. God can't keep the power turned up on your words as long as you're going around saying things like, "That just scared me to death. I thought I'd die." For one thing, statements like that are actually lies. For another, using death to express yourself one moment and trying to speak faith and life the next just doesn't work.

It takes a no-compromise attitude for your words to be consistently full of faith and authority. You have to get honest with God and with yourself about what you've been saying. You have to identify where you've been missing it and repent.

If you do that, you'll get to the place where, instead of changing your confession when the devil pressures you with some kind of fiery trial, you'll keep right on speaking The WORD. Like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who refused to bow to the king's idol, you'll refuse to bow to the pressure and, just like they did, come out of the fiery furnace completely unsinged and smelling like a rose!

Every Step a Step of Faith

I remember one time early in my ministry, in the latter part of 1967, when I first began to learn this. I was in Oklahoma City preaching a series of meetings and I woke up one morning before the service so sick I physically couldn't get out of bed. I knew I needed to get up and get ready but I literally couldn't do it. Every time I opened my

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dufresneministries.org

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Dean Sikes Ministries 25th Anniversary
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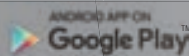
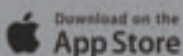
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words on faith

With God's WORD on your lips, you can do the works of Jesus and come through every challenge as more than a conqueror.

WHEN JESUS WAS ON EARTH, HE DID EVERYTHING BY THE POWER OF GOD'S WORDS.

John 5:19, 8:28, 14:10

AS A BELIEVER, YOU'RE CALLED TO DO THE WORKS OF JESUS BY USING THE SAME PROCESS OF HEARING AND SPEAKING GOD'S WORDS.

John 14:12

TO RECEIVE GOD'S WISDOM, SIMPLY ASK FOR IT IN FAITH.

James 1:5-6

SPEND TIME IN THE WORD AND IN PRAYER, BELIEVING TO RECEIVE REVELATION FROM THE LORD.

Mark 11:24

YOU CAN HEAR WHAT GOD IS SAYING ABOUT EVERY SITUATION BECAUSE THE HOLY SPIRIT IS DWELLING WITHIN YOU. John 16:13

eyes the room whirled around.

I was clear, of course, on what God's WORD says about my body. It says I was healed by the stripes of Jesus (1 Peter 2:24). So, determined to go to the meeting, I asked Gloria to give me some help. She got up in the middle of the bed with me, caught me by the hair to keep me upright, and shaved my face with an electric razor. Then she got me dressed and, with a little help from the friends with whom we were staying, she got me to the car.

When it came time for me to preach I had to hold on to the pulpit so I wouldn't fall down. I read the text for my message, which was on healing (What else am I going to preach on at a time like that?). Then I stopped and said to the congregation, "I'll be right back."

While they waited and wondered what was going on, I went into the choir room right behind the auditorium and hammered satan with The WORD. "You can't put this on me," I said. "I am in Christ and He is in me and I am the healed of The LORD!" Then I prayed briefly in other tongues and went back into the service.

Grabbing the pulpit again, I started preaching and before long every symptom was gone! I preached on healing for over two hours that morning. Since I knew that's what satan was trying to stop, I not only put him under my feet but I stomped around on him for a while and thoroughly enjoyed it. Actually, like the scripture says, he fled!

This is how we as believers are supposed to live—with The WORD of God on our lips and every step a step of faith!

"But I tried that faith stuff, Brother Copeland, and it didn't work."

On the contrary, that faith stuff tried you and you didn't work.

I don't mean that as an insult. It's simply the truth. God's WORD will work for anyone who will put it to work. He'll move heaven and earth if necessary to bring it to pass. So forget the failures of the past and stick with His program. Find out what He's saying and keep saying what He says.

Your faith-filled words *will* make things happen. They *will* dominate the laws of sin and death! 🍷

MARKED SAFE!

BY PASTOR
GEORGE
PEARSONS

IT WAS A DIABOLICAL ATTACK FROM THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS. BASTILLE DAY, JULY 14, 2016, WAS INTENDED TO BE A DAY OF CELEBRATION IN FRANCE. IT TURNED OUT TO BE A DAY OF ANGUISH AS A TERRORIST DROVE HIS TRUCK THROUGH THE MAIN STREET AND SIDEWALKS OF NICE.



OVER 80 people were killed that day. Countless others were injured. Multitudes of families and friends were affected.

Once again, the world stood still as it watched a nation under siege.

Immediately, our prayers were directed toward our dear friends

in Nice. In March, Terri and I had spoken at the annual European Prayer Conference, hosted by Pastor Marie-Hélène Moulin. We had walked that very street!

The moment we heard the news, we immediately called Pastor Moulin. We encouraged her in The WORD and took our

Terrorism is a curse. Jesus was born into this earth to redeem us from the curse of terrorism.





You can view
the clip from
our July 17
service on
emic.org/markedsafe.



stand together in faith over the city of Nice.

Our daughter, Aubrey, had also ministered with us during that prayer conference. Since that time, she had stayed in contact with many of her new friends. I took special notice that she had responded to the attack on social media. She posted a beachfront sunset of Nice, and wrote a beautiful prayer for the people.

However, her writing began with something I had never heard of before. It said, “Yet another attack in France. Nice, France, is dear to my heart. I’m thankful to see so many friends marked safe.”

Marked safe, I thought. *What is that?*

I called my “social media savvy” daughter, and she explained.

I discovered that, through social media, if people are in an area where disaster strikes they can communicate their status by using the words, “Marked Safe!” By doing so, family and friends can quickly know they are safe without having to wait for extended periods of time.

When I told Aubrey what a great sermon title that would make, she replied, “It would be a good message on the blood of Jesus.”

Marked by the Blood

Wow! That really struck my spirit.

Why? Because we, as believers in Christ, are *marked safe* by the blood of the Lamb.

Hebrews 9:12 tells us it was “not with

the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption” (*New King James Version*).

This eternal Redemption was obtained for you and me. Galatians 3:13-14 says, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith” (*NKJV*).

Terrorism is a curse.

Jesus was born into this earth to redeem us from the curse of terrorism. He defeated the ultimate terrorist in the pit of hell. He was raised from the dead and took with Him the keys of death, hell and the grave. Those keys have been given to us. We now have complete authority and dominion over terror and its collateral damage. Because of Him, we can walk in a continual state of protection. Why? Because we are marked safe by His blood.

“In righteousness you shall be established; you shall be far from oppression, for you shall not fear; and from terror, for it shall not come near you. Indeed they shall surely assemble, but not because of Me. Whoever assembles against you shall fall for your sake” (Isaiah 54:14-15, *NKJV*).

Exodus 12 is an Old Testament picture of what Jesus, our spotless

Lamb, has done for us. This was the first Passover celebration before the children of Israel left Egypt. God gave them explicit instructions. They were told to eat *all* of the lamb. “All of the lamb” represents partaking of everything Jesus has done for us. That includes total health, prosperity and protection. They were then told to paint the blood of the lamb around the doors of their homes. The blood of the sacrificial lamb was so powerful that death passed over them.

What we do today when we receive Communion is the same thing the children of Israel did when they painted the doorposts. By faith, we are painting the doorposts of our heart with the blood of Jesus. As a result, death, destruction, terrorism and disaster cannot touch us.

We have been marked safe because of what Jesus’ blood did for us in Redemption. First Peter 1:18-19, *NKJV*, says, “You were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”

A Marked Man

What does it mean when we say that someone is marked?

A mark is something that is clearly visible.

I shared the revelation of being “marked safe” with my church congregation following the Nice attack. A man came up to me after the service and shared what The LORD showed him about being marked.

He took me to Genesis 4, where Cain had killed Abel.

God said in verse 12, “When you work the ground, it will no longer yield its crops for you. You will be a restless wanderer on the earth” (*New International Version*). Verse 15 says, “‘Anyone who kills Cain will suffer vengeance seven times over.’ Then the Lord put a mark on Cain so that no one who found him



George
Pearsons

He is senior pastor of Eagle Mountain International Church, located on the grounds of Kenneth Copeland Ministries. For more information or ministry materials go to emic.org.

would kill him" (*NIV*).

God was protecting him from his own curse!

I discovered that many commentators believe this sign, or marking, was not like a brand on the forehead. They say there was something awesome about Cain's appearance that made people dread and avoid him.

How much more are you and I marked!

Deuteronomy 28:10, *NKJV*, says, "Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they shall be afraid of you." What is it that causes the devil to dread and avoid us? It's the blood of Jesus! We are marked by the blood! We are marked for prosperity. We are marked for healing. We are marked for victory. We are marked for protection. We are untouchable because of Jesus' blood.

Forever Marked Safe

The blood and our confession of faith are an unbeatable combination! Revelation 12:11 tells us we have overcome the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. Let's release our faith now. Read this out loud:

Father, I come boldly to the throne of grace in the Name of Jesus. I declare by faith that my family and I are forever marked safe. We are marked by the blood of our LORD Jesus. Satan, you can't touch us. You cannot bring destruction into our lives. Psalm 103:4 says God has redeemed us from destruction. No matter where we go or what we do, we are totally marked by His blood. No evil or calamity will come near us. No weapon formed against us will prosper. With long life will You satisfy us and show us Your salvation.

This Christmas, let's celebrate the birth of our Redeemer, who rescued us from destruction with His precious blood. Thank God, we are forever *marked safe!* ♥

BY GLORIA COPELAND

WORDS ON PROTECTION

GOD HAS PROMISED
YOU THAT HE WILL BE
YOUR SHELTER AND
YOUR FORTRESS IF
YOU WILL ONLY TAKE
REFUGE IN HIM.

BUILD YOUR FAITH
FOR PROTECTION BY
FEEDING ON WHAT THE
BIBLE SAYS ABOUT IT.
ROMANS 10:17

DECLARE OUT
LOUD THAT GOD IS
YOUR REFUGE.
PSALM 91:2

BE STEADFAST AND
UNWAVERING IN
YOUR FAITH AND IN
YOUR WALK WITH GOD.
JAMES 1:6-7

STUDY THE WORD AND
FIND OUT HOW GOD
WANTS YOU TO LIVE.
JAMES 1:21

ABIDE IN THE SECRET
PLACE BY OBEYING THE
VOICE AND THE WRITTEN
WORD OF GOD.
JAMES 1:22



BY TERRI
COPELAND
PEARSONS

PERFECTING GOD'S GIFTS

THE BIRTH OF JESUS
IS NOT JUST CHRISTMAS
CARD FODDER. EACH AND
EVERY PART OF HIS
STORY IS RELEVANT NOW,
AND WILL BE FOREVER.
RELEVANCY IS GOOD NEWS!
IT MEANS ANGELS ARE
STILL RELEVANT; AREN'T
YOU GLAD?

OBEDIENCE IS RELEVANT.
IT PAID OFF FOR JOSEPH
AND MARY AND WILL FOR
US TODAY.

DIVINE PROTECTION
IS RELEVANT. IT COULDN'T
HAVE BEEN ANY MORE
DESIRABLE THEN THAN IN
THE WORLD WE LIVE
IN TODAY.

DIVINE PROVISION
IS CERTAINLY RELEVANT!
WHO COULDN'T USE A
CAMEL-LOAD IN THEIR TIME
OF NEED?

While the angels tend to get top billing surrounding the birth of Jesus, the prophets really should be hailed as the most valuable players.

When you think about the birth of the Savior, what prophets do you think of?

Most Christians recall the prophecies given by Zacharias, John the Baptist's father, and maybe even Simeon and the prophetess, Anna, who both recognized Jesus to be the Savior and spoke openly to others, proclaiming that He was.

Then there is the prophecy spoken through Isaiah declaring, "A virgin shall... bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel....

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..." (Isaiah 7:14, 9:6).

The truth is, every Old Testament prophet

prophesied of Jesus—not only His birth, but every detail of His life.

Matthew 1:22, *The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*, says, "All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet." Fifteen more times, Matthew says "that it might be fulfilled."

They spoke the Word of God that Jesus based every action of His ministry on. Furthermore, Jesus is the Word made flesh, right? What word? The Word spoken by the prophets!

Could it be that the ministry of the prophet is relevant for us today? Some say, "No, that's passed away." Others disagree, but don't really know how it is relevant and how to use their faith for this glorious ministry gift. Let's explore.

The Gifts Still Remain

First, let's establish that prophets did not disappear after the 12 Apostles went to heaven. They didn't end an era, they

began one! Ephesians 4:11-13 says, “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God” (*New King James Version*).

Who gave these gifts? Jesus.

Can we find any scriptural indication He has withdrawn those gifts? No.

Has the work of ministry assigned to the Church come to an end? No. If not, then why would He withdraw the gift He gave to equip us for that task?

Does the Body of Christ still need to be edified? Of course it does. We obviously have not yet come to the unity of the faith, so the tools Jesus placed in the Body to meet that assignment are still needed.

The next four verses go on to list the purpose for the five ministry gifts afore mentioned, including the prophet. These gifts are given to bring the whole Body unto a perfect (or mature) man measuring up to the full stature of Jesus and His Anointing. Ephesians continues to explain we are to grow past spiritual childhood and not be tossed to and fro. We are to be unaffected by men’s doctrines, firmly established in the Word, led by the Spirit, speaking only truth and always in love. Are we there yet? It would not appear so. Clearly, we need everything the Lord has provided for His bride so that we may become the glorious Church, without spot or wrinkle (Ephesians 5:27).

Some say that all this is a work of the Spirit, not men.

Everything good is a work of the Spirit, but not without men. God has chosen to work on behalf of men by most often working through them. Isn’t that the story of the Cross, that God became man so He could work the work of Redemption through a man?

Jesus said John the Baptist was the greatest prophet under the Old Covenant. That was true because of

the assignment he carried—he was to prepare the way of the Lord. Luke 3 and Matthew 3 show him carrying out that mission. His message brought revelation (an enlightened awareness) of the kingdom of God and a call for repentance so the people could embrace it.

The Scriptures mention that John had the attention of the religious, political, economic and military leaders, as well as the general population. God gave him an open door to speak not only into their individual lives but into the realms they represented. You do realize there is a political realm, economic realm, religious realm, etc. Men can get so caught up in their own way of thinking and doing that without God’s intervention they will destroy themselves. And how does He change those realms? By His Word spoken through the lips of men, specifically through the ministry of prophets.

Amos 3:7 says, “Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets” (*NKJV*). Does the kingdom of God need to be revealed to people today? Certainly.

Do each of these realms need to be awakened out of their self-dependent, destructive ways to the Lord? The sooner, the better!

The Anointed Prophet

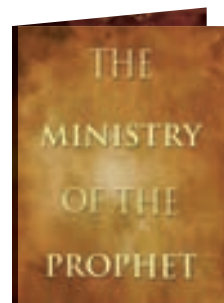
John prepared the way of the Lord. Is the Lord coming again? Yes, and very soon!

Then prophets are needed today. This doesn’t mean the Kingdom relies solely on the prophet’s ministry. Unlike the Old Testament where the anointing rested on the king, the priests and the prophets, the anointing is on the whole Body of Christ. We all have responsibility and authority in the Kingdom. But the anointing on the prophet is like a weapon the Lord releases to cause change. When the prophet speaks, his words become the voice of the Lord in the earth. Psalm 29 reveals the voice of the Lord is powerful and full of majesty, it destroys long-standing obstacles, and releases judgment; it makes way for the glory and

gives His people strength, blessing them with peace.

No wonder Paul so often asked the saints to pray for him that he would have a free flow of divine utterance. He knew his words, ordained and anointed of God, would not only affect each person who heard them, but alter the spiritual condition of every realm known to man—and angels (1 Corinthians 2:6). All this is only one aspect of the prophet’s ministry. Such a powerful spiritual weapon surely garners satanic opposition! The Bible tells of the pressure, and even horrible persecution, many of the prophets suffered. That same spirit tries to stop God’s voice to us today, but the prayers of covenant people, who hunger for this and all the ministry gifts to fully function, halt the effect of demon influence.

The Lord knows how to perfect the saints! He knows it will take all the ministry gifts—apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor and teacher—to get the job done. When, as 1 Corinthians 12:31 (*AMPC*) instructs, we desire, cultivate, love and pray for those ministry gifts among us, the kingdom of God will be magnified and His glory will fill the earth! The hidden things of God “are created now [called into being by the prophetic word]” (Isaiah 48:7, *AMPC*). ❶



Of the fivefold ministries, the office of the prophet is possibly the most misunderstood—yet so important. Modern-day

prophets of God have spoken the mysteries of the heavenly kingdom into the earth.

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**Terri
Copeland
Pearsons**

The eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland, she and her husband, George Pearsons, serve as senior pastors of Eagle Mountain International Church at Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth. For information or ministry materials go to terricopelandpearsons.com.



THE POWER TO CHANGE

BY
MARTY
COPELAND

WITH ALL THE CHANGE GOING ON IN THE WORLD TODAY, IT'S TIME FOR CHRISTIANS TO MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE EARTH. BUT TO WALK IN THE KIND OF WORLD-CHANGING POWER NECESSARY TO IMPACT OUR COMMUNITIES, OUR NATIONS AND THE WORLD, WE MUST ALLOW THE HOLY SPIRIT TO CHANGE US.

me change? we are forgetting that we were created out of Him. We were predestined before the earth was ever created to be like Him. His power is in us.

When we hear things repeated over and over they can become so familiar to us that we miss the revelation. One thing we often hear is that we are God's children and He is in us. But are we really getting it? When I look at my three children, I see in them a combination of my husband, John, and me. In one I see more of me, and in another I see more of John. They have our DNA—they're from us.


We Identify With Him

Because we are born of God we have *His* DNA. Our righteousness is not because of our works, but because of His goodness and because we are of Him. If we're going to change, we have to understand who God is because our identity is in Him.

We also have to know why we are here, and that He has a plan and purpose for our lives. Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." The *New International Version* says, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint." In other words, they run wild or fail to practice self-control. If we want to change, we must have restraint or self-control. If we don't know why we're here, what we're called to do or who we're called to be, we're not going to be restrained in our eating or any other area. But when we catch the vision of our purpose and destiny, it produces the restraint we need to bring change.

God's love has the power to change us. His love is the weight of His divine presence that resides inside us. It is a force that never fails, fades or becomes obsolete. It doesn't matter if trends change, or the economy fails. Love never quits because God never quits. If your life, family, job or whatever it is you're seeking God about is not changing, more than likely it's because you haven't experienced the love of God and His Anointing in that area.

If you're having financial trouble, the only way to enjoy the blessing of



WHAT DO WE NEED to empower us to change? Sure, we need knowledge, but knowledge alone isn't enough. We need the power of God that effects change. Take weight loss, for example. We all know how to lose weight: Move more, eat less. But how many are actually doing it? To be truly *free* from the bondage of weight we have to allow the Holy Spirit to change and empower us to go higher—spirit, soul and body.

Change is deep within the purpose of why God created us. The power to change is within His glory—His presence. A revelation of His glory, of His honor and of the power of His love is enough to change anything. That's what we need if we are to change.

We are from God. He created us in His image, so we come out of Him, just like natural children come out of their parents and are a combination of their DNA. When we wonder, *How do I get God to help*



Marty
Copeland

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

prosperity is to experience God and His love in the area of finances. Spending time with Him is spending time with the real Provider. Wealth is not a blessing unless you know God. It will destroy your life if you don't know Him—it will amplify your sin. God wants us to know Him.

Experiencing God's love and Anointing is how I got delivered from overeating. When I was at the lowest point in my struggle, after having spent most of my life defeated—doing diet after diet, failing, gaining weight, losing it and then gaining it back—I realized I was in bondage. Food had become an idol. I thought about it all the time. My self-esteem was based on how I looked and how much I weighed, and I judged my righteousness on whether or not I ate the right foods and exercised. On the inside I said, *God, if You will deliver me from this, I'll tell people how You did it.* I made a decision. I knew God was good and that my freedom was in His Word, even though it didn't specifically talk about losing weight.

A Revelation of His Love

By spending time with Him and in His Word, I found out that we are re-created in Him and predestined to be conformed to the image of Jesus the moment we are born again. I realized self-control was put into me by the Holy Spirit. It's who He is. God is self-control. If you can't control your eating, you haven't experienced His love and Anointing in the area of self-control. If you can't exercise regularly, you don't know God well enough in the area of faithfulness and endurance.

Second Corinthians 5:14 says, "The love of Christ constraineth us." Allowing His love and purpose—knowing who we are and who we're called to be—to rise up in us brings victory. Who *are* we called to be? We are called to be like Jesus—to sit with Him and to rule with Him in heavenly places. We have been crowned with His glory and honor.

I was with a wonderful Christian woman one time who was talking to

me about a challenge she was having. Because of an injury in her life and some things that had happened years ago, her self-esteem was so low she felt powerless to change what she knew needed to be changed in her life. A year or two before, we had had a similar conversation. Nothing had changed. She was continuing to face the same challenges, and her insisting, "I can't because..." was still holding her back.

The more you understand God's love and why you're here on this earth, the more you understand *His* power to change you—not what you can or can't do. Faith to change works by revelation of His love.

We live in a world of stress and pressure—all brought on by the cares of this world. Whether it's family matters, problems on the job, health issues or finances, they can all distract us and cause us to take our eyes off the true power source.

There is also good pressure. Good pressure is when you have to use your faith to believe for your victory.

Do you ever feel stressed out about finances or health issues? Not enough time? Too much to do? Life too fast?

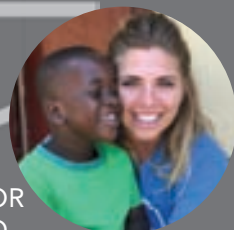
There are all kinds of pressures in parenting, for example. It's not easy to be a good parent. There's football practice, basketball practice, piano practice, cheerleading, grocery shopping, meal planning, dirty dishes, laundry. Need to clean the car, need to clean the house, need to lose 20 pounds, need to eat better, need to exercise more—pressure, pressure, pressure! But Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:30). To overcome stress and pressure, and to make our lives as easy and light as possible, we have to stay in constant communication with Him.

If we trust Him and don't quit, not only will we change, but things around us will change, too.

To truly change means we must first want to change.

Let the Holy Spirit reveal to you what changes are needed in your life. Then, release your faith and allow His power to change you. 🙏

2017 UGANDA



"IT IS AN HONOR TO RETURN TO UGANDA FOR OUR FIFTH CAMP. WHEN WE RETURN TO A LOCATION, WE GET TO ACTUALLY SEE THE HARVEST OF SEEDS THAT WERE PLANTED THE YEAR BEFORE—AND WATER THEM! FIVE HUNDRED YOUTHS WILL BE WITH US THIS YEAR TO WORSHIP, LEARN, COMPETE AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, TO HEAR FROM THE FATHER. BE PRAYING FOR US AS WE PREPARE TO DEPART ON DECEMBER 31!"

—COURTNEY
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR FAITHFULNESS

I want to thank you for your faithfulness in proclaiming God's Word to me as well as the nations. Your prayer ministers at both offices have been so faithful in praying the prayer of agreement for me when I've faced health issues.... Spring 2014, a CAT scan showed I had a kidney stone in my left ureter which was embedded, and likely going to cause damage. I didn't know it was there and the doctor figured it had been for quite a while, but there was no blood or pain. The doctor couldn't believe its size and said I would never pass it.

I called the U.S. office and a fellow prayed over me. I began trusting God's protection and my faith got revved up. The hospital called and canceled my surgery because I needed some tests, etc., and put it off for a week.

So, in that week, I just covered myself with the Word, lots of prayer and trusted with my faith.... The morning before my rescheduled surgery, I passed the stone without even realizing it. When I went to the hospital the next day, I took it with me and showed it to the doctor. She ordered an X-ray to verify that it was gone. The Lord is so good!
Jeannie F. | Bala, Ontario

MY HUSBAND GOT SAVED!

Hey KCM, I just wanted to thank you so much for your "Connect Meeting." I've been believing for my husband to be saved for a long time, and I brought him to the meeting in

Coventry. On the drive home, he told me he wanted to be saved! The next day at church we welcomed my husband into the family of God. Thank you! We couldn't have

gotten to this place without reading your LifeLine books and your teaching that Friday. Praise God, He is always good!

Hannah B.
Lincolnshire, U.K.

MY GRANDSON CAME HOME!

Thank you, KCM and Partners, for your prayers. I sent a letter on Jan. 13, 2015, requesting agreement in prayer that my grandson would be home soon. Thank You, Jesus, and prayer partners. This has come to pass in Jesus' Name as of April 6, 2016. We won! Father God spoke this to me April 5, 2015: *Lynn, I will not fail you—[your grandson] will return.* Praise God!

Lynn T. | Halifax, Nova Scotia

PRAYER OF PROTECTION—ANSWERED!

I am from busy Auckland, New Zealand, and was driving home last Friday whilst listening to Gloria on a podcast. She was just sharing how she always prays protection for family and she also said we don't have the time *not* to pray, as it saves us time when we don't get into a car crash, etc. I decided to pray right then for protection

as the pre-Christmas craze was hitting the roads. About a minute later, I found myself behind a driver showing strange behaviours, swerving, stopping without reason, etc. My natural instinct wanted to overtake the car and leave him behind, but the Spirit clearly told me to stay behind the car, as this is where I am in control. This barely ever happens to



me and praise God I listened. I even decided to remember the plate number. A minute later, the driver in front of me hit the car in front of him. I was so thankful to God I had listened. I was saved from wasting time and costly visits to the [car repair].

Thank you, Copelands, for continuing to speak truth into our lives daily. P.F.

New Zealand

'A YEAR OF VICTORY OVER DEATH'

Last year was truly a year of victory over death for me—the Lord delivered me from cervical cancer!

Then, I had some arrears of over £2,000 on my house rent and the landlord took the matter to court for eviction. I tried to borrow money but it didn't work out. I had nowhere to turn except God. At that same time, Pastor George and Mama Gloria were doing a two-week broadcast on supernatural provision. It was absolutely awesome because God proved Himself in my life again. I watched the broadcast several times on my iPad, taking notes and meditating on the scriptures. Before the court day, God had made a way for me. The housing benefit wrote to me about renewing my benefit application and from there on, they wrote about owing *me* money—so much that it cleared off all my arrears. In 2014, I called for prayer because I had been looking for a better job and was becoming overwhelmed. After I called, one of the agencies set me up for an interview. Within a week I got a new job with better pay.

I am so thankful for KCM, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, the Partner Letters which I look forward to every month, the KCM prayer ministers, and the other materials. I'm so blessed being part of this ministry. I'm expecting greater miracles, provisions and breakthrough this year!
O.O. | East London, U.K.



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.

connect with us

If you have just prayed this prayer, please let us know of your decision. We have a **Free Gift** to help you begin your new life in Jesus! kcm.org/salvation

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Samuel M.,
prayer
minister

'I BOUGHT MY CAR FOR CASH'

Some years ago I was watching Mama Gloria on BVOV talking about living a debt-free life, focusing on Romans 13:8. I asked God how I would own a car without borrowing and immediately I heard, You will buy your car for cash. I

learned to drive, passed my driving test and the battle began to get a car. There were many voices saying I could buy a car by borrowing as long as I could afford the payments. But the word of God wouldn't let me go, it rang continually in my heart and ears. I had to focus on the Word until it became the only way I could get my car. The prosperity/debt-free messages by Mama Gloria and Pastor George Pearsons helped to grow and strengthen my faith to believe. Glory to God! Two

weeks ago I walked into a dealership and bought my car for cash. It was such a joy. It really is a testimony of God's great grace upon my life.

Thank you so much, Papa and Mama Copeland and Pastor George Pearsons, for your faithful teaching on prosperity. I am so grateful. We serve an awesome God. I look forward to writing another testimony about my debt-free house.

O.O. | U.K.

1967 /// 2017



A HALF CENTURY IN THE MAKING!

IN JUST A FEW MONTHS KENNETH COPELAND MINISTRIES WILL MARK ITS 50TH YEAR OF MINISTRY. THAT'S 50 YEARS OF KENNETH AND GLORIA COPELAND, WITH THE SUPPORT OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PARTNERS AND FRIENDS AROUND THE WORLD, FAITHFULLY STANDING IN FAITH THAT JESUS IS LORD TO THE GLORY OF GOD.



For the last half century, they have remained steadfast and committed to obeying God's commission to preach the uncompromised Word from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around. It began as a journey of faith when, in March 1967, Kenneth stood in the dried-up Arkansas River bed and received God's call to ministry.

"He told me exactly what He was calling me to do," Kenneth would recall years later of the commission from God. "He was calling me to preach the gospel to the nations...He said nations would be won in a day—some of them even by this ministry."

Over the past 50 years, God has been faithful to help Kenneth and Gloria, and KCM fulfill that mandate. From its headquarters in Fort Worth, Texas, and through its six international offices in

Africa, Australia, Canada, Colombia, Europe and Ukraine, KCM has been able to extend its outreach with the Word of God. Using every available voice—from radio and television to conventions and meetings, from print media and product distribution to every form of social media—KCM is reaching around the world and seeing lives changed by the thousands.

It's been an exciting and rewarding journey. And we are thankful that you, our Partners and Friends, have been along to experience it with us.

Throughout 2017, the *Believer's Voice of Victory* magazine will pay tribute to KCM by taking a look back, through words and pictures, over the past 50 years and reminding ourselves of God's goodness and His faithfulness to this ministry. We'll remember some of KCM's historic moments, from the beginning of the TV ministry to the start of the children's ministry, and on into our entrance into the world of the internet and





social media.

We'll look at the growth of the ministry in areas such as meetings and evangelism, and our disaster relief efforts providing humanitarian aid and follow-up outreaches to some of the hardest hit areas nearby. And we'll remind ourselves, and share with you, some little-known facts in KCM's history, like how the slogan "Jesus Is Lord" came to be; that Kenneth spoke prophetically about the collapse of the Berlin Wall before it actually happened; when and how Kenneth began writing his Partner Letter; and the fact that Kenneth had an accomplished music career that included a single that was ranked high on the charts alongside songs by Johnny Mathis and Elvis Presley.

We'll also revisit some of

the timeless teachings written by Kenneth and Gloria down through the years, and share with you the first articles ever published in *BVOV* by some of the ministers who are longtime contributors to this ministry—people like Jerry Savelle, Jesse Duplantis, Creflo Dollar, Billye Brim, Keith Moore, Happy Caldwell and Dennis Burke.

For 50 years, from the top of the world to the bottom and all the way around, KCM has proclaimed, and continues to proclaim that Jesus is Lord. We're grateful that you have been part of it all. As we prepare for the next 50 years, join us for a look back and enjoy all that God has done for us, and for you, through KCM.

Ronald C. Jordan // Editor



Partnership is more than just commitment—it's a covenant relationship.

Our Partners mean the world to us!

The whole basis for us being in this ministry and on this earth is to teach people, primarily born-again Christians, how to live a victorious life in Christ Jesus. That's our calling. The mission is to help people realize who they are in Christ and understand the authority they've been given. Our goal is to love people—to meet their needs. Love is what makes the difference. We believe God can change someone's life through faith and love.

John Copeland
CEO

Become a Partner with us today.

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‘LET
IT BE
DONE
UNTO
ME’

Renée Silbernagel sat transfixed as Ginger Ziegler taught a Bible study at Embracing His Grace Ministries. Ginger had a gift for making the Bible come alive while sparking faith in those who listened.

by *Melanie Hemry*

“I feel led to share a prayer request with you,” Ginger explained. “One of my friends is a missionary who runs an orphanage in China. A demonized man



who lives nearby on the side of a mountain is torturing the children. My friend has decided to move the orphanage to a safe location and needs a certain amount

of money to do it. Let's pray and ask the Lord to provide the funds."

The hair on the back of Renée's arms stood at attention when Ginger

shared the amount of money needed to move the orphanage to a safe location.

It was the exact amount she and her husband, Jeremy, had in savings.

Are we supposed to sow that amount?

The next morning as Renée drove to work at Kenneth Copeland Ministries, she listened to a sermon by a local pastor, Robert Morris. He taught on the importance of sowing into widows and orphans.

Was the Lord trying to get her attention?

Once she arrived at work, Renée called Jeremy.

"Remember when Ginger mentioned the amount of money needed to move that orphanage in China?" she asked.

"Yeah."

"That's the exact amount of money we have in savings. Jeremy, I think we're supposed to sow it into that orphanage and help those children."

The presence of God fell in Jeremy's car with such power that he had to pull off the road. He knew beyond a doubt that God was confirming to him that they were to give the full amount.

"You're right," Jeremy said. "Let's sow it."

Neither of them stated the obvious.

It would deplete their savings.

Sowing Seed for Children

"It was challenging to give away everything we had," Jeremy admits, "but we did it. That was in 2003. By 2004, God had not only restored our savings, but we took a trip to Hawaii and paid for it with cash.

"At the time, we were just

obeying God," Jeremy recalls. "We had no idea what we were sowing into. We'd only been walking with the Lord for a few years."

In the spring of 2000, while living in Chicago, a couple of friends asked Jeremy and Renée to attend a Bible study in their home. The couple had already introduced them to the message of faith through teachings by Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. Shortly thereafter, Brother Copeland spoke at a church in the area near where they lived, and at that meeting Jeremy and Renée decided to become Partners with KCM.

That same year, they decided to start a family.

A year later, in 2001, Renée still hadn't gotten pregnant, recalls Jeremy. The Lord directed them to move to Fort Worth, Texas, and attend Eagle Mountain International Church, on the grounds of KCM.

"I was working with a pharmaceutical distribution company in Chicago, and was able to transfer to Texas. Then in 2002, Renée went to work at KCM," said Jeremy.

"Three years later, in 2005, we still didn't have a baby. I was given a spiritual promotion when I was brought on staff at EMIC. As wonderful as that was, it had been five years since we'd started trying to have a family. We were so sad and frustrated that it almost stole our joy. That same year, we agreed to try artificial insemination."

The negative report from the fertility specialist left Renée feeling empty. They'd tried artificial insemination, certain that it would result in a baby. While it had been expensive, it had given them soaring hope. And now, crushing disappointment.



After five years of an emotional roller coaster, she was ready to adopt.

“Renée had always had a heart for orphans and was open to adoption,” Jeremy recalls. “It wasn’t until November 2005 that I first felt a leading to start the adoption process. We decided to adopt a baby from China because there were so many who needed homes. We applied through a wonderful agency and were told that the process would take 18 months to two years. It was expensive and required a lot of paperwork.”

Two years later, Chinese adoptions had stalled. Renée learned that no one on the list ahead of them had adopted yet.

“It looks like it might take four to five years,” she was told.

God Establishes Order

Seven years.

That’s how long it had been since they’d started trying to have a family. Seven years with no baby in her arms. All her friends were growing their families while she and Jeremy were left behind.

“I was so depressed and angry at God,” Renée admits. “It had been seven years and everyone else seemed to be getting the answers to their prayers. I’d done everything I knew to do, including sowing a lot of baby showers.”

Feeling broken, Renée grabbed a box of tissue and crawled into her closet. There she poured her heart out to God.

In the midst of her deep sorrow, Renée felt a nudge from Him.

His words whispered across her mind like angels’ wings.

This isn’t about you. This is about the generations to come.

In the spirit, Renée glimpsed a desolate Abraham looking up to the stars. Almost as if she were standing beside him, she considered the sweeping grandeur of the universe. Then she heard the

Lord speak again.

God establishes order. He sets order in place—including the order of families. Stand on Abraham’s promise!

Wiping her eyes, Renée sat up. “OK,” she said, “I’ll serve You, Lord, and stand on Abraham’s promise. But I’m not going to hold this in my soul. Here, I’m handing my dream to You.”

Mourning and Laughter

Another year went by with no pregnancy and no movement from the adoption agency. By September, Jeremy faced his own struggle. He felt like he was on the verge of burnout and cried out for a touch from the Lord. He then had a conversation with a fellow pastor late one evening. This pastor shared how he had watched a DVD from a guest minister. “I can’t quit crying,” he said.

“Can I borrow it?” Jeremy asked. “Right now?”

That night and again the next morning Jeremy watched the DVD and took notes.

Nothing.

Then he realized that he hadn’t let it play through the prayer at the end of the message. The man said, “If you don’t have a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus....” At those words, Jeremy jumped to his feet and raised his hands. The power of God hit him with such force that he fell to the floor and wept for hours.

“It felt like love walked into the room,” Jeremy remembers. “It radically changed my life. I’d always loved Renée, but nothing like I loved her after that experience. For years afterward, all I had to do was think of Jesus and I wept.”

Almost eight years into their quest for a family, Jeremy and Renée were still childless, living in a house too quiet for comfort. During fall 2008, two men came to Jeremy and three women to Renée. Each of them had a word, a vision or a dream, but the message was all the same. *You’ll soon have a baby.*

The church was festive with gold glimmering against green boughs when Jeremy and Renée walked into a service just before Christmas. The pastor taught about Mary’s response to the angel Gabriel. The name caught Renée’s attention. For years she and Jeremy had gotten one name. Gabriel. Were they going to have a son?

“Pay attention to how Mary responded,” the pastor urged. “She said, ‘Let it be done unto me.’”

The Lord quickened those words to Renée, urging her to let it be her profession of faith.

“I started confessing those words,” Renée recalls. “Let it be done unto me.”

One Word From God

At the end of 2008, during the New Year’s Eve service, Kenneth Copeland released a prophetic word for the coming year: *Things in 2009 that you thought were absolutely never, ever going to come to pass are going to happen so smoothly and so easily you’re going to say, ‘My, my, my, I don’t see why I ever was disturbed about that....’ This is the way 2009 is going to be—it is going to be the biggest year you’ve ever had in your life!*

Jeremy and Renée knew instantly that prophetic word was for them.

Three weeks later, both Renée and Jeremy had flu symptoms they couldn’t shake. So miserable, in fact, that Renée went home from work halfway through the day. Renée felt like crawling into bed. Instead, for some reason, she took a home pregnancy test.

Positive!

She stared at the result and blinked.

Could that be right?
“Jeremy,” she later told her husband, “I think I know why I’m so sick.”

“Really? Why?”

“I think I’m pregnant!”

Both Renée’s family doctor and her obstetrician confirmed that her symptoms weren’t the flu. “It looks like you got pregnant on Dec. 31,” her obstetrician said.

Renée and Jeremy couldn’t stop laughing with joy. They’d never been so happy. But five weeks later, she started cramping and spotting. The next morning, she and Jeremy sat at the kitchen table in silence. An oppressive heaviness in the atmosphere. The voice of the Lord cut through the quiet.

I don’t give broken gifts.

“That word from God changed everything,” Renée recalls. “From then on when issues came up, we dismissed them.”

On Sept. 14, 2009, nine years after trying to start a family, Renée gave birth to Jemma Grace. She was born one month before Renée’s 40th birthday.

“We were perfectly content with one child,” Jeremy explains. “But when Jemma was 2 years old, Renée woke me one morning and showed me a positive pregnancy test.”

Cohen Gabriel was born Oct. 27, 2011, at a whopping 9 pounds.

These days, Jeremy is on staff at Gateway Church in Southlake, Texas, and Renée still works at KCM. Jemma is 7 and Cohen is 5. The children are inseparable.

“If we hadn’t become Partners with KCM and learned to live by faith, we wouldn’t have these children today,” Jeremy says. “It was no accident that Renée got pregnant with Jemma on New Year’s Eve 2008. We were covenant Partners with the prophet who released that word at the same time Renée had been saying, ‘Let it be done unto me.’ That powerful word brought forth a child.

“Looking back, we realized that God knew the fight of faith we’d have to endure to bring our children into the world. That’s why He had us sow our best seed—everything we had—into that Chinese orphanage. We had no idea we were sowing into our own family, but God knew and He blessed us with children of our own.”

THE ABIDING LIFE

by
Jeremy
Pearsons



I NEVER AGAIN WANT TO SEE THE LOOK I SAW IN THE EYES OF MY PRECIOUS LITTLE GIRL THE NIGHT SHE SUDDENLY CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM A SICKNESS THAT MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR HER TO BREATHE. SHE’D COMPLETELY LOST HER VOICE, TOO, BUT SHE DIDN’T HAVE TO SAY ANYTHING, BECAUSE THE PANIC IN HER EYES TOLD THE WHOLE STORY.

Doing her best to sleep, she lay in our bed and I lay right beside her with my hand gently on her back.

“In the Name of Jesus,” I said, “little lungs, you be free and clear.”

I must have said those words a hundred times or more, in addition to the many scriptures I read over her through the course of that night. I wasn’t scared at the presence of sickness in my home. I knew better than to yield to fear. But I was, however, frustrated by the total lack of power I sensed in my words and my prayers

EXPECTING TO BEAR
THESE KINDS OF FRUIT
WITHOUT MAINTAINING
A LIVING COMMUNION
WITH JESUS WILL SERVE
ONLY TO FRUSTRATE
OUR FAITH.

over her. My words were good, but something was missing, and I knew it.

All through that night, the Lord was so merciful to us, and to Jessie. After a visit to the family doctor the next day, she bounced right back



and began doing much better. But I was still very aware that something was seriously wrong, not with her but with me. I needed to be able to lay hands on my daughter with confidence, knowing that what was in me was greater than what was against me. Over the next 24 hours, I came face to face with the answer to my problem, and I’m thankful it



didn't take any longer than that to see how to fix this serious lack of power.

Check In, Not Out!

Several months before this ordeal, the Lord had begun to deal with me about spending a little extra time with Him and His Word. For me, this meant one very clear thing: I was going to have to turn the television off. Without realizing it, I was watching two or more hours of TV every day, and most all of it was at night when I got into bed.

You see, by the end of the day, I would be so tired in my mind and in my body that all I wanted to do was turn

speaking to me.

Before I got home, I called my wife, Sarah, and told her we'd be shutting off the television and the movies, and we'd be getting into the Word again. I deleted all the TV and movie-watching apps from my iPhone and iPad.

I was serious...sort of.

Despite my best intentions, three days later, I had added back all the apps and was lying in bed again, tired from the demands of family and ministry, trying my hardest to drown it all out with an hour or two of television.

Now, please don't misunderstand me. I was still reading my Bible, and I was

Several other significant challenges arose during the same time that Jessie got sick, and I began to see clearly why Jesus had started months before calling me back into the abiding place. He knew I was going to need to bear some pretty big fruit, and there was no way I'd be able to do that without abiding in Him.

A Living Communion

To *abide* simply means "to stay, remain, or continue in one place." Jesus said in John 15:4 (*Wuest*), "Maintain a living communion with me." This train of thought began in John 15 by Jesus identifying Himself as the vine and us

WHAT WOULD I BE GOING BACK TO THAT WOULD BE WORTH SEVERING MY CONNECTION WITH HIM? MORE MINDLESS TV WATCHING?

my brain off and "check out" as they say. I distinctly remember reaching for the remote on several occasions and hearing that familiar voice on the inside say, *Jeremy, it's time to press in*. I knew exactly what it meant, but in my mind, opening the Bible meant I would be preparing messages, which meant I'd be working; and I was too tired to work. Time and again, I ignored the voice.

Then, one day in October, I went to have lunch with my grandfather, Kenneth Copeland. As we sat there and talked, he began to tell me how the Lord had been correcting him about how much TV he, too, had been watching. He told me that he wasn't going to be feeding on anything but the Word of God night and day with the same sense of urgency and expectation he had decades ago. Clearly, he had heard the exact same voice I'd heard; only he responded to it much more promptly than I did. I left lunch that day knowing this was God once again

still praying; but the Lord was calling me deeper, yet I wasn't yielding. In the time that I was spending in the Word, I was led again and again to John 15:7-8: Jesus says, "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples" (*New King James Version*). I knew Jesus was calling me back into a life abiding in Him, but my flesh was determined not to go there. Then came that night in December when Jessie, my sweet little girl, could barely breathe. And though my confession was good, I felt powerless against the attack.

The next day, I asked the Lord what the problem was. I heard that voice again.

Jeremy, He said, you're trying to bear fruit without abiding.

That was all I needed to hear. I turned off anything and everything that was not going to feed our faith, and this time I did it for good!

as the branches. As long as the branch stays connected to the vine, it's going to bear fruit, because in that connection is a living communion between the two. Everything that branch needs to survive and bear fruit is flowing to it from the vine. But in the moment the branch is disconnected and that communion is lost, so is all the life that branch needs to survive. Jesus said it this way: "The branch cannot bear fruit of itself" (John 15:4). You've never once seen a dead stick lying on the ground with a ripened piece of fruit on the end. For that branch to have any fruit on it, it must stay connected to the tree. Jesus went on to say, "neither can you [bear fruit] unless you abide in Me" (*NKJV*). A Christian who won't abide in Jesus is as powerless to bear fruit as the stick that's been disconnected from the tree. But if you will abide, then you will abound. It really is that simple.

Praying for the sick and seeing them recover is major fruit. Stopping a deadly

disease in its tracks with our God-given authority is the kind of fruit we are called to bear and the kind of fruit that glorifies God. But expecting to bear these kinds of fruit without maintaining a living communion with Jesus will serve only to frustrate our faith.

To abide in Jesus is to stay in His Word and let His Word stay in you.

The first thing we did after we turned off the television was turn on the preaching. I am of the opinion that every believer should be listening to at least one faith-filled, Jesus-magnifying, anointed sermon every single day. Making this adjustment is easier than you may think. You could easily listen to at least one whole message just in the time you spend getting ready for school or work, driving to and from the house, or getting ready for bed.

At the beginning of this year, Sarah and I committed to giving a tithe of our time back to God. He so graciously gives us 24 hours every day, so we are giving 10 percent of that to prayer, reading our Bibles, and listening to men and women of God preach the Word with passion, boldness and sincerity. Making this simple change has not only increased our faith, it has also introduced a whole new level of peace and calm in our home. With a 5-year-old and a 2-year-old in our house, we welcome all the peace and calm we can get.

In these verses, Jesus not only instructs us to abide in His Word but to also abide in His love. This, of course, is accomplished in part by reading and meditating on scriptures that reveal the unsearchable depths of the love that God has for us. But according to Jesus, we maintain a living communion with His love by loving others. Here it is important to note that everything Jesus said in John 15 led into one very powerful statement in John 16:1: "These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended." One of the meanings of the word *offended* is "to be separated." Is that not a picture of what happens to people who were once close to each other but have allowed something to come between them? If their

differences are magnified and allowed to grow, the space created by offense will sever their living communion and the relationship will be fruitless.

It is especially sad to see a husband and wife, who were made one in the sight of God, allow offense between them that gives way to separation and divorce. It is literally a tearing apart, and the fruit they were called to bear together will never be born. With the fruit that we know we are called to bear, Sarah and I have resolved together to give no place to strife in our marriage. There will always be opportunity for it but, for the sake of our children, our ministry and our calling to each other, we refuse to allow anything to create space between us. I have found that since I started giving more of my day to God's Word, my love for my wife is fueled by a deepening revelation of God's love for me.

Jesus said in John 8:31 that a disciple is simply someone who will abide or continue in His Word. After preaching what many of Jesus' disciples considered to be a hard word, John 6:66 (*NKJV*) says, "From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more." When I read this, I have to ask, what did they go back to? And what would I be going back to that would be worth severing my connection with Him? More mindless TV watching?

When Jesus turned to His disciples and asked if they were planning on bailing out, too, Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (verse 68, *NKJV*).

After you've had a taste of the fruit that comes from abiding in Jesus, you'll say the same thing Peter said: "There is no place I'd rather be, Lord, than right here with You. And I am determined that by Your grace and with the help of Your Holy Spirit, I am never again going to allow anything to create space between You and me. I have entered into the abiding life, and I am not coming out." 🍷



WITH THE FRUIT
THAT WE KNOW
WE ARE CALLED
TO BEAR, SARAH
AND I HAVE
RESOLVED
TOGETHER TO
GIVE NO PLACE
TO STRIFE IN
OUR MARRIAGE.



Watch Jeremy & Sarah on bvov.

See info on back cover.



Jeremy Pearsons

Jeremy and his wife, Sarah, are founders of Pearsons Ministries International. They travel to preach Jesus to congregations across the U.S. and around the world. For more information, visit them online at pearsonsmministries.com.

PARENTS, THIS IS A
GREAT FAMILY ACTIVITY.



MY CHRISTMAS LIST

WHEN IT'S
CHRISTMASTIME,
IT'S LIST TIME!

MY LISTS ARE MANY THIS TIME
OF YEAR: GIFT LIST, TO-DO LIST,
SHOPPING LIST, PACKING LIST,
MENU LIST, DECORATING LIST.
SO MANY LISTS!

ANY LIST BEGINS WITH A NEED,
SUCH AS THE NEED TO EAT
OR CELEBRATE, TO CLEAN,
OR TO ORGANIZE. MANY
OF MY LISTS COME FROM A
PLACE OF EMPTINESS, LIKE MY
REFRIGERATOR OR THE PANTRY.
OR A CHRISTMAS TREE WITH NO
GIFTS UNDERNEATH!

IT TAKES A GOOD PLAN FOR THE
ACTIVITIES OF THE CHRISTMAS
SEASON TO COME TOGETHER.
AND A GOOD PLAN NEEDS
A GOOD LIST.

Superkid, God our Father is the
ULTIMATE Planner! He has a plan for
this world and He has a plan for YOU.
So, of course, there is a LIST!

There's a perfect list for Christmas
found in Psalm 92. I call it the HEART-
CHECK LIST.

THE NEED:

We all need to do a checkup on our
hearts. People can become so self-
centered, they tend to focus on the
annoying things that occur in a day
instead of noticing the ways God loves
us. Everything He does is because
He loves us. The more we notice, the
more grateful we are for His love and
the more we worship. The more we
set our minds on Him, the easier it is
to enjoy being His kid! When you have
a loving heavenly Father, even when
hard things happen, you can relax in
His love for you, knowing He will take
care of you. When we have difficulty
with this truth, it's always a heart
issue. So...we need a list!

THE LIST

Doing a HEART CHECK is good
anytime, but these to-do's from
Psalm 92:1-5, *New Living Translation*,
will make your Christmas a joy-filled
one! As you check off these five
things, don't just think about giving
glory and thanks to the Father, His
Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit.

Give thanks and praise to those
around you who give you their heart,
love, time, effort and gifts.

**Verse 1: It is good to give thanks
to the Lord, to sing praises to the
Most High.**

Tell your heart, your soul, to take
notice of the wonderful things the Lord
does for you. God does favors for
you and He loves you through other
people every day. So take notice and
say, "Thank You." This is not about
singing a song (more on that later),
but BEING SPECIFIC! Tell God how
great He was to help you with your
grades, or to earn money so you could
buy Christmas gifts. Tell your sister
how great she did at her Christmas
concert, or tell your dad how much it
means to you that he helps you with
your homework. "Mom, the Christmas
tree looks great!" Saying, "You're
awesome," is just an empty statement
until you make the effort to THINK
and SAY why. That kind of praise
turns your heart toward that person or
toward the Lord.

**Verses 2-3: It is good to proclaim
your unfailing love in the morning,
your faithfulness in the evening,
accompanied by a ten-stringed
instrument, a harp, and the melody
of a lyre.**

Remind yourself every day, *The
Lord loves me*, and think about what
that means. There is nothing His
love won't help you overcome! You
have His favor, and His love! Say,
"My friends and family love me, too!"
So, even if they correct you or get
irritated with you, it's OK. They love
you! When night falls, thank the Lord
for His faithfulness, and again, be
specific. Say things like, "Lord, You
didn't let me down on my test today!"
"Mom, Dad, you helped me today
and you stuck with me. Thank you!"
Ending your day like this will cause
your sleep to be sweet, especially if



Kellie Copeland



An outreach minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries, she is the developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal, growing and powerful relationship with Jesus Christ.

you play soft worship music as you talk to Jesus, Mom and Dad. Good things happen in your soul while you sleep with this bedtime routine!

Verse 4: You thrill me, Lord, with all you have done for me!

Be easily thrilled and easy to please with the smallest gesture or gift. Being content with what is given to you will set you up for a satisfying life ahead! Our heavenly Father delights in the smallest details of our lives. It blesses others to know we are satisfied with the things they do for us.

Verse 4: I sing for joy because of what you have done.

This Christmas, sing your heart out! God made our hearts and souls to be lifted with songs! Singing really changes us, so worship the Lord and sing and be happy! Don't be too cool to join in the singing. You'll see. It will bring joy.

Verse 5: O Lord, what great works you do! And how deep are your thoughts.

Know how much you are loved. As you check your heart, you will realize how deeply and how often God thinks about you. The devil would love to convince you that you aren't loved and no one cares about you. That's not true, Superkid! YOU are one of the great works He talked about in verse 5. The God of the universe does think about YOU!

Consider this HEART CHECK with every Christmas activity, party or gift you receive. And remember the best gift of all—your heavenly Father loved you so much that He GAVE His Son to die for you. As you check off your list this Christmas, you'll hear your heart say, "Thank You, Father, for loving me so much. I love You!" And in your heart you'll hear Him say, "I love you, too."

Have a very Merry Christmas, Superkid! ♥

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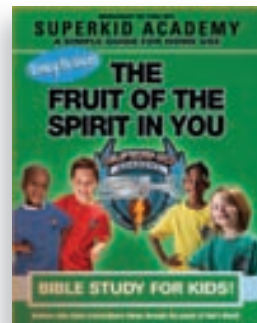
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I'm totally convinced the revival the Lord has planned for us in these days is going to be talked about for all eternity. In the ages to come it's going to be remembered as—

THE BIG ONE

by
Gloria
Copeland

One thing I've learned over the years about the Holy Spirit is that He's not pushy. He doesn't just barge in on our lives or our church services and do whatever He chooses. If we want Him to move among us in power, we have to recognize His ministry and be willing to wait on Him.

We have to invite Him into our midst and give Him place.

He doesn't do things just between 11 and 12 o'clock on Sunday

mornings. It just doesn't work that way with God.

The Lord knows what people really need, and what it takes to get it to them. So, when He's ministering to us by the Spirit (whether it's on Sunday morning or any other time), He expects us to be patient. Rather than us always being in a hurry, He expects us to allow Him to finish His work.

A praying friend of mine once told me this is why we have to pray and intercede for the

spiritual outpouring God has for us in this day. It's not because we have to talk God into giving it to us. It's because the Body of Christ must be prepared to receive it. We must come to the place where, more than anything else, we desire to let the Holy Spirit move.

As the Lord explained it to my friend, *If I'm moving during a service and people get restless, if they start thinking about getting to the cafeteria before it gets too crowded, or getting home to watch the evening news, it grieves My Holy Spirit. It puts limits on Him and He's not free to do all that He wants to do.*

You might wonder, "What exactly does the Holy Spirit want to do in this hour?"

He wants to pour out God's power and manifested presence in the greatest measure this earth has ever seen. He wants to work signs and wonders and miracles in unprecedented numbers. He wants to come upon all flesh and bring into God's kingdom the end-time harvest of souls that's been prophesied about for years.

I'm totally convinced the revival the Lord has planned for us in these days is going to be talked about for all eternity. In the ages to come it's going to be remembered as *The Big One!* It's going to be more astounding than the parting of the Red Sea and even more magnificent than the events recorded in the book of Acts.

God has saved His best for last—and we have the opportunity to be in on it!

To take full advantage of this opportunity, however, we have to learn to keep our attention on the things of God and stir up our hearts so that we desire Him more than we desire the things of the world. We have to open the door for the Holy Spirit to have full liberty among us by treating Him with the utmost reverence.

In our generation, we

sometimes forget the importance of reverence. We think of God only in very familiar terms as our heavenly Father. We major on the facts that we are His children and He loves us very dearly. Yet, while those are thrilling and absolutely true, we need to remember that our heavenly Father is also the Lord God Almighty. He's the Great I Am, and we should come before Him with honor and great, reverential respect.

Walking in the Fear of the Lord

Often in the Bible this kind of reverential respect is referred to as "the fear of the Lord." That's actually a wonderful phrase! When properly understood, it doesn't carry a negative connotation. It doesn't mean you should be frightened of God. It simply means you should esteem Him so highly that you always put Him first place and yield to Him in all things.

When you combine the fear of the Lord with faith in His Word, the Holy Spirit can work powerfully in your life. He can move on you, for you, and through you in marvelous and supernatural ways.

The book of Proverbs even connects the fear of the Lord with divine healing. Proverbs 3:5-8 says: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones."

Although those verses apply to each of us personally, they can also apply to the Body of Christ as a whole. In meetings and church services when we come together as a group, we become the "habitation of God" (Ephesians 2:22). We provide a

Church meetings and services are not just for our entertainment. They're sacred assemblies where we honor God and participate with Him.



place where He can dwell and work not only within us, but among us.

During our Believers' Conventions, for example, when people come together for Healing School, in every single service the Holy Spirit moves and people get healed. Afterward they often testify that they'd been struggling with sickness for years. For some reason, just at home on their own, they couldn't get a breakthrough. But during the meeting, the Word they heard preached and the collective faith of their fellow believers opened the door for the Holy Spirit to go to work on them and they were able to receive their miracle!

I'm convinced we'd see even more of those miracles if the Holy Spirit had His full way. But sometimes He doesn't. Sometimes He's hindered because, while He's moving, especially if the service goes a little long, people in the congregation let their flesh distract them and they get to thinking about going to lunch or whatever. A few of them will even leave their seat, go out to the convention center snack bar, and come back carrying a hot dog and a soda, as if they're at a ballgame.

Bless their hearts! I'm not being critical of those people. I'm just saying that tells me we have a problem in the Body of Christ. Not everyone realizes that, although we're supposed to have a good time when we get together, church meetings and services are not just for our entertainment. They're sacred

POINTS TO GET YOU THERE



You can help open the door for the outpouring of the Spirit. Here are some points to get you there.

1

The Holy Spirit isn't pushy; He waits for you to invite Him in and give place to Him. Luke 11:13

2

God wants to pour out the power of the Holy Spirit in these last days in the greatest measure this earth has ever seen. Acts 2:17, 19

3

Keep the door open for the Holy Spirit to move by cultivating great reverence for the Lord. Acts 9:31

4

Train your flesh to submit to the Spirit by spending time in fellowship with God and obeying Him every day. Galatians 5:16

5

Increase the level of your spiritual desire by giving God and His Word more of your attention. Colossians 3:2

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assemblies where we honor God and participate with Him as He carries out His plans and purposes in people's lives. They're gatherings meant to be marked by a corporate sense of the reverential fear of the Lord.

"But Gloria," someone might say, "I've always thought of the fear of the Lord as an Old Testament concept. Does it really apply to us as New Testament believers?"

Absolutely! It not only applies to us, we should be known for it. We should be like the believers in the early Church. Acts 9:31 says they were edified and multiplied, "walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost."

Notice, according to that verse, even in New Testament times the power of the Spirit and the fear of the Lord go together. They work hand in hand. Therefore, if we want to experience an increasing measure of the Holy Spirit's supernatural comfort and power, we must make sure we're walking in the reverence of the Lord.

"How do we cultivate that kind of reverence?" you might ask. How do we overcome the pull of our flesh and its tendency to distract us? How do we discipline our physical body so that, whether we're in our prayer time at home or assembled with other believers at church, we can give God the honor and the undivided attention He deserves?

One way we do it is by practicing.

An Uncomfortable Dilemma

Our physical body is trained by practice. It's naturally wired to develop

habits as a result of doing things over and over. Think about what you were like before you were born again and you'll understand what I mean. As an unbeliever, you had a habit of sinning. You didn't have to try real hard to do it. You could sin without even thinking about it because you'd practiced all your life. You were well developed in it.

When you put your faith in Jesus, although your spirit instantly became a new creation, your body didn't. It still had the same old bad habits you'd practiced when you were in your unsaved condition. As a result, in the early days of your Christian life, while your heart was pulling you toward the things of God your flesh was still pulling you in the opposite direction.

That's a very uncomfortable way to live! When we're first born again, it presents all of us as believers with a real dilemma. The Word of God, however, gives us the solution. It says, "Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh" (Galatians 5:16).

When we practice walking in the spirit, we turn the habit-forming bent of our body to our advantage. By spending time every day in fellowship with God, praying and feeding on His Word and doing what He says, we retrain our flesh. We bring our natural, physical body into subjection and develop new habits that reflect the righteousness that's in our reborn spirit.

This is the way we, as believers, are designed to operate! It's the reason God gave us the New Covenant. As Romans 8:4-5 says:

So that the righteous and just requirement of the Law might be fully met in us who live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit]. For those who are according to the flesh...set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit...set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit (*The Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

To be clear, those verses don't say we'll get to the point where we've spiritually arrived and we don't have to deal with the flesh anymore. No, as long as we live on the earth we have to keep practicing putting spiritual things first. Otherwise, we'll get our attention back on natural things and fleshly desires, and we'll lose some of our hunger for God.

I'll never forget the moment back in 1977 when I realized that very thing had happened to me. At the time, I was listening to a prophecy given by Kenneth E. Hagin. He was prophesying about believers in the last days who will march out into the world like a great spiritual army, doing the works of Jesus.

"You can be part of that army if you desire," he said. "So purpose in your heart that you'll not be lazy, that you'll not draw back. Purpose in your heart that you will rise up and march forward and become on fire."

When I heard those words, I realized something about myself I hadn't previously noticed. After 10 years in ministry, I wasn't as on fire for the Lord as I had once been!

In 1967, when Ken and I had first started learning about faith and the integrity of God's Word, I'd been so spiritually hungry that the things of God had absolutely consumed my thinking and my life. I didn't give my attention to anything else. Partly because we were in such a desperate situation back then—broke and saddled with a mountain of debt—I saw God as my only hope. So other than taking care of my children and doing my duties at home, I spent my time with

Him in the Word.

By 1977, however, Ken and I had grown some in the Lord and our situation had changed. We were blessed, debt free and prospering. Busy with ministry matters and life in general, natural things had increasingly begun to absorb my attention. As a result, my passion for the things of the Lord had cooled off. Although I was still putting the Word in my heart every day, I was doing it out of discipline instead of desire.

That day, as I was listening to Brother Hagin, I decided to make a change. I purposed in my heart to do what he said and become spiritually on fire again. I made a commitment to give less of my time to all the other things I'd been doing—things that, although they weren't wrong, had begun to occupy too important a place in my life—and give more of my attention to prayer and God's Word.

Sure enough, before long the hunger in my heart for things of God began to return!

My desire for Him increased. My passion for the move of His Spirit heated back up again. Why? Because it's a principle: Our desire follows our attention. The more we attend to the things of the flesh, the more we desire and follow after the flesh. The more we attend to the things of God, the more we wholeheartedly desire and follow Him.

Colossians 3:1-2 says: "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Those are God's marching orders to us as believers—and they are especially vital for those of us who are living in the last of the last days. We don't have time anymore to straddle the fence between the flesh and the spirit. The biggest spiritual outpouring this earth has ever seen has already begun. God wants to reveal His glory through the Church as never before.

So let's invite Him into our midst and let Him do it. Let's give Him first place in our lives and our church services. Let's reverence Him above all, bring our flesh into submission, and throw the door wide open for the Holy Spirit to do everything He wants to do! 🙌

DECEMBER BROADCAST CALENDAR



Kenneth &
Gloria Copeland



George Pearsons



Billye Brim

Nov. 28-Dec. 2

Saving This Generation Through the Authority of the Believer

Gloria Copeland
and Billye Brim

Sun., Dec. 4

How Faith Thinks

Kenneth Copeland

Dec. 5-9

Saving This Generation Through the Power of God

Gloria Copeland
and Billye Brim

Sun., Dec. 11

Faith Is a Decision

Kenneth Copeland

Dec. 12-16

God's Healing Power Working in Me

Kenneth Copeland
and George Pearsons

Sun., Dec. 18

Access Your Heavenly Grant

Kenneth Copeland

Dec. 19-23

What Is Christmas?

Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

Sun., Dec. 25

The Power and Light of God's Spirit in You

Kenneth Copeland

Dec. 26-30

The Amazing Thing About God

Kenneth & Gloria Copeland

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