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Believer's Voice of

VICTORY

December 2014



articles
from

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Pearsons

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Pearsons

MERRY Christmas

digital issue
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Dear Partners and Friends,

Merry Christmas!

As we celebrate this year, let's be reminded that Jesus' birth was the fulfillment of God's promise! Back in Genesis, God declared that a son would be born in the earth who would crush the head of man's enemy (Genesis 3:15, *New International Version*). And, just like God promised, the Son was born and the enemy's defeat was inevitable! Glory to God!

The promises of God are our foundation for life—always have been, always will be! And the life of Jesus is living proof that we can depend totally on our heavenly Father to give us the blessed life. As we allow the Holy Spirit—also God's promise to us—to open our ears to hear what our Father is saying and open our eyes to see what He is doing, living a life that glorifies God becomes a great adventure. It's a glorious life that we live by every promise God has spoken.

Let's praise Him right now together!

Oh, how we love You, Father. How we adore You, Jesus. How we cherish You, Holy Spirit. Oh, how grateful we are for the promises of The WORD of God! Hallelujah!

As we step across the threshold to the year 2015, we look back on 2014 and see how the love of God has been manifested in all our lives. We rejoice that the fear of death has been overcome. And it's all been possible because Jesus came to demonstrate God's love and to destroy the power of death. Now that's something to celebrate—and we do!

We have prepared this Christmas issue of *Believer's Voice of Victory* believing it will bless you. Our family has prepared articles with the prayer that you will see God's love for you from a new perspective, and His plan for you will become clearer as we go forward into the great days ahead. We believe that the days in which we live are destined to be the most glorious the earth has ever known, as we prepare for the soon return of Jesus—as promised.

You know you will be in our hearts and prayers when the Copeland family gathers for this year's Christmas celebration. Every activity will be a reminder of the importance of family—of you.

As we join hands and thank our Father for every blessing, you—our worldwide family of Partners and Friends—will be at the top of our list. We join with you in love, faith and prayers that you have a marvelous Christmas and a glorious new year!

We love you! Merry Christmas!

Kenneth & Gloria

December

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by Kenneth Copeland

from sand rats to the Supernatural

In the early 1970s Kenneth Begishe dug a hole in the Arizona desert and stuck a sign in the ground announcing *White Post Church*. At the time, there wasn't a building in sight...or much of anything else either, except sand rats.

On the Navajo Indian Reservation people were scattered so far and wide that for the most part the land looked uninhabited.

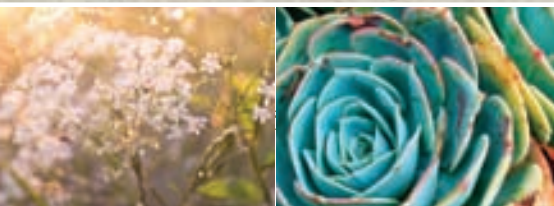
But that didn't bother Kenneth Begishe. He was a faith man.

He'd gotten hold of some of our tapes and heard The WORD of God. He believed it, and as far as he was concerned it was all he needed. So, after staking out his spot in the middle of nowhere and saying, "This is White Post Church!" Brother Begishe started traveling from one Navajo hogan to another telling people about Jesus and getting them born again.

In 1973, he invited Jerry Savelle and me to come and help him conduct the first word of faith convention ever held on an Indian reservation. By then, White Post Church was a lot more than a sign. It was a growing church of 250 people.

I'll never forget the meetings we had there! Before they began, Brother Begishe filled me in about what to expect—particularly at offering time. "Brother





He doesn't want us looking on the outside to people and governments and economies for the resources we need to carry out His will. He created us to live from the inside out.

Copeland,” he said, “our people have been taught never to come before The LORD empty-handed, so they always bring an offering. But it isn't always money. Sometimes they give little polished stones they've found on the ground, a favorite shirt that's been washed and ironed, or a favorite piece of jewelry.”

I thought that was great. But what really thrilled me was what he said next.

“When our church first got started, no one who attended owned a car or a pickup truck. Everyone walked, rode a horse, or traveled by horse and wagon. But I began to teach them The WORD of God, and now every member of my church has either a car or a pickup. We're prospering.”

I knew when I heard that, it was nothing short of supernatural. The area was famous for being one of the most scarcely populated, poverty-stricken places in the nation. Yet this church was not only flourishing, the people in it were too—even though they had nothing to put in the offering but rocks!

What made such a thing possible? Where did the resources come from?

I'll tell you this, the government didn't

provide them. Neither did the bank. They didn't come from the thriving local economy because there wasn't one. In fact, the resources for White Post Church and its congregation didn't come from this natural world at all.

They came from The WORD of God through people who dared to believe that what Jesus said in Matthew 4:4 is the absolute truth: “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” Their faith brought prosperity to the Navajo Nation. The nation did not bring prosperity to them.

Part of the Problem or Part of the Answer?

“Brother Copeland, that's great,” you might say, “but not all of us are called to do what Kenneth Begishe did.”

Sure we are. God might not tell us to start a church like he did, but we're all

called to do the works of Jesus in one form or another. We're all called to hear what God is saying to us, “receive it, and bring forth fruit” (Mark 4:20). That's how God's will gets done on earth as it is in heaven. God says it, we believe His WORD and speak it, then the Father within us does the work and brings it to pass.

That's the process God used all the way through the Bible. It's what He did at Creation and recorded in Genesis. It's what Jesus did throughout the Gospels; and it's what God intends us to be doing every day to manifest His BLESSING in and through our lives.

He doesn't want us depending on the world and its systems. He doesn't want us looking on the outside to people and governments and economies for the resources we need to carry out His will. He created us to live from the inside out. He desires us to be dependent on no one but Him!

Instead of being subject to the problems in this world, we're supposed to draw on The WORD and the Spirit of God within us and bring forth the answers!

Although we've done this to a certain extent, we haven't yet

scratched the surface of God's plans for us, and here's why: We have vastly underestimated our spiritual capacity. With some help from the devil and traditional religious ideas, we've continued to think of ourselves as "only human."

"Well, aren't we human?" you might ask.

Yes, but we aren't *just* human. We're joint heirs with Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He is both human and divine. He is fully man and fully God. As believers, born again in His image, we're just like Him. We have his spiritual DNA and His spiritual capacity because "as he is, so are we in this world" (1 John 4:17).

Once we realize this and start following His example, we can do what He did and get the same results. So let's look at exactly what He told us in the New Testament

about His method of operation. He said:

"I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." (John 8:28)

"I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak." (John 12:49)

"The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." (John 14:10)

One day when I was praying over these verses, meditating on the fact that we have the capacity to hear and speak God's WORD just like Jesus did, it hit me that He said we live by "every word that proceedeth out of

the mouth of God." *Every* word!

Suddenly, I started thinking about how many words that might include. I'd read somewhere there are well over a million words in the English language. About 175,000 of them are currently in use. The conversational vocabulary of the average person is between 75,000 and 80,000 words. *How many words does God know?* I wondered.

As I pondered the question, The LORD spoke to me. *Kenneth, I could speak continually one word right after the other throughout eternity and never say the same word twice.*

That's amazing, isn't, it? Our God is BIG and He has a lot to say! But what's even more amazing is this: We're created in His image, so if He can say it, we can hear it. If we can hear it, it will build faith in us. If we'll release that faith by speaking His words, He can bring them to pass and we can have whatever He says. We're only one word behind God!

A Glorious Heritage

I realize that to many Christians this sounds like some kind of far-out idea we faith folks came up with, but it's not. This was God's plan for mankind from the beginning. In fact, if you'll go back and really read Genesis 1, you'll see this is how man was created. "God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion..." (verse 26).

A lot of people read that verse with the idea that God was simply describing what He planned to do. They have the impression He was just saying, "I have an idea. I think we should make a man."

But that's not accurate.

What God was doing was continuing the same process He'd already begun in Genesis 1:3 where He said, "Light be!" and light was (which is literally how the verse reads in the Hebrew language). He was continuing with the method He had used in verses 6-7 and 11 where He said, "Let there be a firmament...and it was so," and "Let the earth bring



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forth grass, the herb yielding seed... and it was so.”

God wasn't just communicating in those verses. He (God the Father) was actually creating with His words; and He wasn't the only One involved in the process. Jesus was too.

“What?” someone might say. “I never heard that before!”

Then you need to read your Bible more closely, because John 1 identifies Jesus as “the Word...made flesh” (verse 14), and says: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made” (verses 1-3).

This is the way all matter came into existence! God gave words to His Son, a future man, who spoke those words and they became this universe. The same thing happened when God created man. He did it through His Son. As Genesis 2:7 says, “The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.”

Because the English translation of that verse says God “breathed” into man's nostrils, it's easy for us as English-speaking Christians to get the wrong picture of what happened there. We tend to imagine God blowing into Adam's nose inflating him like a balloon. But that's not at all how it reads in Hebrew. In Hebrew the word translated *breathe* also means *spirit*, so a better translation would be: “The Lord *spirited* into man's body the *spirit* of life.”

Since Jesus said, “The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63), this is what we really see happening in Genesis 2:7: God and Jesus are standing in the Garden of Eden, holding Adam's lifeless body by the shoulders. It's just hanging there, limp and colorless. Jesus is looking at that body eye to eye because in form, the body is the same shape and size Jesus is. It's been made to look exactly like Him in every

way because it's been designed for beings who will be kings, under God, on the earth.

Suddenly, God gives the word and Jesus says, “Man be in our image, and have dominion!” Then the Holy Spirit who's been there hovering over Adam's inanimate body goes into action, brings that word to pass and, as the Hebrew Bible puts it, “man became a living, speaking spirit just like God.”

Talk about a glorious beginning! This is our heritage. This is what you and I were created by God to be. We were made to be like Him, look like Him, fellowship with Him, and co-create with Him by following His example and using the same process He used to create us—hearing, believing and speaking the words of God!

As If We'd Never Sinned

Of course, the devil and religion won't tell you this. They'll tell you the opposite. They'll try to degrade you and mock you because you're *only human*. They'll say, “You're nothing but an unworthy worm.”

But you're not a worm and neither am I. We're in the God class! We're just as truly God's sons and daughters as Jesus Himself. As 1 John 3:1 says, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.” And *The Amplified Bible* affirms it: “And so we are!”

“But what about sin, Brother Copeland? What about the Fall of Man and the curse?”

Jesus took care of it for us. He paid the price so that God's grace could abound toward us and He could treat us as if we'd never sinned. That's why the Apostle Paul could write these thrilling words in the New Testament: “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus

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Christ. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, 21).

Can you see this? The same thing happened to you when you were born again that happened to Adam when God said, “Man be in our image and have dominion!” Only this time you got to be involved in the

process. You received Jesus by hearing, believing and speaking God's words. In response, the Holy Spirit—who was hovering over your body just like He once hovered over Adam's—went into action and a new man was born on the inside of you. Old things passed away, all things became new, and you were re-created in the very image of Jesus. His Spirit came alive in you and you received the capacity to hear and live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

That's what happened to Kenneth Begishe! He got born again and heard what God had to say about creating a WORD-believing church full of Navajo Indians. When he heard that word, faith sprang up in his heart and he painted a sign and planted it in the ground. He said, in essence, “White Post Church, be!”

Sure enough, the Holy Spirit moved to bring the word to pass, and before long there was church on that once-vacant patch of desert. Where there'd been nothing but sand rats, God's WORD was being preached, people were getting born again and prospering.

That's the kind of thing that happens when believers start living from the inside out. 🙏



New Year's Eve Service with Kenneth Dec. 31

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I find NO FAULT in you

Christmas at the Copelands. There is nothing quite like it.

Being part of this amazing family, I have the joy of attending our Copeland Christmas Eve gatherings every year. Allow me to take you on a personal tour of this glorious evening.

Upon arrival, we unload presents, carry them into the house and place them underneath the Christmas tree. Almost instantly, the aroma of delicious food and desserts lures us straight to the kitchen.

“Come on, let’s see what’s cooking.”

The kitchen is filled with serious chefs on the move. Be careful where you stand. You might get run over! All the “womenfolk” are scurrying about, stirring pots and preparing the meal. All the “menfolk” stand around waiting—everyone except me. I have my own special assignment.

I’m the designated turkey carver.

I don’t remember exactly when it happened, but some time ago, that honor was bestowed upon me. So, I grab a plate

and the electric carving knife and away we go! Of course, I must sample the turkey as I go, to make sure it is carved to perfection. It’s a perk that comes with the job.

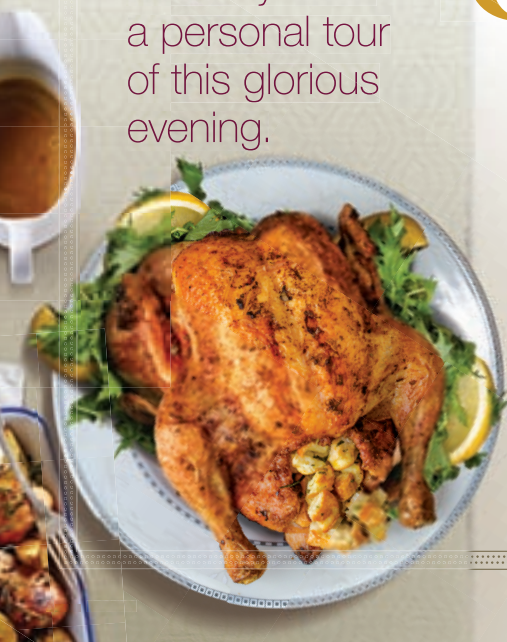
It’s Time to Eat!

When the food is finally ready, Brother Copeland calls the family together to pray. We stand in our traditional circle, holding hands, and give thanks to God for all He has done throughout the year.

“Amen” is declared. Now, it’s time to eat!

Where to eat? We have choices: the kitchen counter, the den or the dining room, and when we’re ready, we can go back for seconds—and thirds!

Even though “Ma Dear,” (Gloria’s mother, Mary) has been in heaven for



a few years, her delicious “Turkey and Cornbread Dressing” is a family favorite. The menfolk are so glad she gave the recipe to the womenfolk.

After dinner, we adjourn to the living room where it’s now time to open gifts.

Everyone takes their places.

Kenneth and Gloria have their honored seats by the fireplace.

Several of us are designated as gift distributors, myself included.

After the gifts are all handed out, one of my favorite things to do is to stand back and watch as the activity unfolds. Everyone is appreciating their gifts, hugging and sharing with one another.

It really is a sweet sight to behold.

Then comes the part of our evening that I really look forward to.

Brother Copeland reaches for his Bible and prepares to minister to the family.

That’s why I always bring my Bible and notebook. His topics range from what he is seeing for the new year to what The LORD is doing in our nation. Sometimes, we receive a preview of the assignments The LORD has for KCM.

I’m always prepared, and ready for the prophet to declare The WORD.

I recall one particular Christmas Eve, it seemed to take an especially long time for the gifts to be unwrapped. The evening was running quite late, and I found myself wondering if we would even have our “Christmas word from the Prophet.” We also had a tremendous snowstorm that day, and the snow had begun to pile up. Some of us had our coats on, ready to leave. The children were tired and ready for bed.

A Confirming Word!

All of a sudden, a strong presence of The LORD entered the room. Something in the spirit shifted as we began talking about the things of God. We discussed previous spiritual moves in the earth. We talked about the increasing manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit and demonstrations of the supernatural in the Body of Christ.

The conversation got deeper and deeper.

Then it happened.

The room got very still.

Brother Copeland quietly surveyed the faces of each individual in the room. He expressed love and appreciation for his family. He then looked tenderly and lovingly at each one of us in turn.

“Kellie,” he said, “I find no fault in you.”

“Terri, I find no fault in you.”

Looking squarely at each person in the room, he repeated those words: “I find no fault in you.”

When he turned to me, Brother Copeland looked me in the eyes and said, “George, I find no fault in you.”

It’s difficult to describe exactly what I experienced in that moment. Something heavy lifted from my heart. I sensed that I had come face to face with the very love of God Himself. Those six words had such impact, such a marked effect on my life, they continue to ring in my spirit to this day. I was loved, accepted and found faultless.

I later learned that it was Gloria who first ministered those very words to Brother Copeland. He had been struggling through a very challenging situation, and was praying about what to do when Gloria walked up behind his chair, placed her hands on the back of his head and began to pray.

Then she looked at him and said, “Kenneth, I find no fault in you.”

As Brother Copeland shares this story, he said those words melted his heart. The grace of God flooded his being. All of a sudden, he had no problems.

Since that time, God has instructed him to minister these same words to others, especially those under a strong spirit of condemnation. In doing so, he would just smile, pat them on the cheek and say, “God loves you, and I love you, and I find no fault in you.”

The results have been astounding.

What transpired that Christmas Eve lives continually with me. It has changed my relationship with Brother Copeland, my dear father-in-law and spiritual father. Even

though we work together in ministry, we may not see or speak to each other for weeks at a time because of our schedules. It doesn’t matter. Because of that Christmas Eve, I know everything is all right between us.

This is a picture of how our heavenly Father sees us. Because of Jesus, you and I have been made the righteousness of God. We now have the freedom to stand before our loving Father without any sense of fear, guilt or condemnation. Whenever we do get off course, all we have to do is ask His forgiveness and we are right back on track.

Picture the Father saying this to you: “I find no fault in you.”

Isn’t it wonderful to know that He has canceled the debt of sin and sees you as a parent sees his child?

While meditating on this, The LORD graciously gave me two scriptures from the *New Living Translation*.

First, Colossians 1:20-22:

And through [Christ] God reconciled everything to himself. He made peace with everything in heaven and on earth by means of Christ’s blood on the cross. This includes you who were once far away from God. You were his enemies, separated from him by your evil thoughts and actions. Yet now he has reconciled you to himself through the death of Christ in his physical body. As a result, he has brought you into his own presence, and you are holy and blameless as you stand before him *without a single fault*.

Then, Ephesians 1:4 tells us, “Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and *without fault in his eyes*.”

This Christmas, receive the overwhelming love and grace of the Father. Receive His gift of righteousness through Christ as you hear Him say: “I find no fault in you.” 📖



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

Heaven's Plan



I am a traditional kind of girl. I like new things too, but I never stray too far from old-fashioned when it comes to Christmas. I never tire of hearing the same carols that have been around since my childhood, “Silent Night” being a prime example. It just says, “Christmas” like no other.

Who doesn't like the thought of a newborn sleeping peacefully? However, there is a downside to that sweet little lullaby. If the picture portrayed in “Silent Night” actually overrides the entire course of events leading up to the

manger scene, we surely will miss so much of the intense and daring faith that preceded it. Let's look at some verses in Luke and consider them in a realistic way.

Righteous and Blameless

First is Elizabeth, who became pregnant in her old age, after the word of the Lord came through an angel to her husband, Zacharias. Luke 1:24 tells us she hid herself until Mary came to visit her. Why? Consider her mindset. Elizabeth may have believed, like many religious people of her day, that her barrenness was punishment for failing to satisfy some demand of the Law. It is true there was a curse awaiting those who failed to stay under the umbrella of the Law's blessing, but verse 6 tells us she was righteous and walked blamelessly in all the commandments. Also consider that only in recent years has pregnancy for someone well into their 50s become socially acceptable, especially if it is a result of medical (or even supernatural) intervention. Other people's condemnation can transfer shame onto us, even if we would otherwise be happy.

So, whether Elizabeth felt guilt or others imposed it on her, shame was most likely her constant companion. But doesn't the pregnancy fix that problem? Well, only if the pregnancy doesn't fail. That would be double shame! So fear drove her into seclusion. But that's not the end of her story.

Mary, her cousin, faced a similar situation.

First, she is visited by an angel. You would think that would be a positive thing, but not always. As a young child I had a vision and, even though I was careful about who I shared it with, it caused some turmoil for me—even years later. Mary could have argued with the angel as Zacharias did, but instead quickly and boldly accepted the will of the Lord. What faith to believe she could and would become pregnant before being with a man! It was only a short time before everyone would see that she was with child. That's when the real pressure came. It wasn't just a matter of facing innuendo and disgrace, but she could be forced into exile—or even face death if she was found to be guilty of sexual unfaithfulness to Joseph. No matter what, she and her unborn child would be “rejected among men.” Mary's acceptance of the angel's decree was a life-altering step of faith that had to be walked out through her entire life, until Jesus' resurrection.

Unlike Elizabeth, Mary didn't hide but went quickly to her cousin solely on the angel's report that she too was pregnant. The moment she walked into

God's will is accomplished when someone is believing for it to be....

Elizabeth's presence their faith connected. Immediately the baby leaped in Elizabeth's womb, she was anointed by the Spirit and began to prophesy—a rare occurrence in her day for anyone, especially a woman. By the Holy Spirit, she threw off any shame that was on her or Mary, and proclaimed the blessing of the Lord to be at work. The Spirit's move upon her ignited a flame in Mary and she too prophesied, revealing to them both, and all generations to follow, the purpose of God's salvation plan. The Word of God that flowed through her confirmed His hand in all that was happening in their lives.

Make Way for God's Provision

What about Joseph? The Bible states that he was a just, upright man, clearly with a tender heart. But because he was upright, he couldn't marry Mary. It would be crosswise with all he thought true. Yet, through a dream Joseph was told to marry her. Joseph immediately recognized God to be the source of the dream. His faith was unwavering, responding quickly and decisively to every order that came through this and other God-given dreams, no matter if it made sense or was at considerable financial cost.

Later he was told to take his young family into Egypt. Imagine him suddenly uprooting to go into a foreign country with an unpleasant history for Jews, without any guarantee of what lie ahead. And what about a threat to the child? Who would have reason to harm this little child? But God said, "Go," so he went, putting all his trust in God, believing he was accurately following His lead.

God's will is accomplished when someone is believing for it to be, trusting Him with all his heart and leaning "not unto his own understanding" (Proverbs 3:5). I believe

Joseph's strong faith is what made way for God's provision. The trip to Bethlehem was secure. When it seemed there was no room for them, room was found. When the wise men came with their abundant treasures, it financed the young family's flight into Egypt, providing for them until their return into Israel. What a man of faith! What a wonderful example for us to follow.

And what about Simeon's faith? He is one of my personal favorites. He was finely in tune with God! He knew the coming of the Lord's Christ (Anointed One) was so imminent that he would see Him before his own death. At the precise moment Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the Temple for circumcision, Simeon was there to take the baby and declare, for all to hear, exactly who he held in his arms. Within moments Anna, an elderly prophetess who had spent over 80 years daily praying in the Temple, was telling everyone about Jesus. Word of Simeon's prophecy had spread quickly! Simeon and Anna had faith to wait. They had faith to watch and recognize the Lord at His coming.

The Bible records people of great faith who connected with heaven's plan for the first coming of the Lord. During this Christmas season, determine to follow their examples and become a bold person of great faith, connecting with heaven's plan for the *second* coming of the Lord! 🕊



Terri Copeland Pearsons is the eldest daughter of Kenneth Copeland. Since 1993, she and her husband, George Pearsons, have served as senior pastors of Eagle Mountain International Church at Kenneth Copeland Ministries in Fort Worth, Texas. For information or ministry materials go to terricopelandpearsons.com.



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by Marty Copeland

FOCUS

on what is truly important

It can sometimes be a challenge to balance the demands of the Christmas season and stay focused on the things that really matter—things like celebrating the birth of Jesus, recognizing His love and presence in our lives, and having memorable times with family and friends. So, I want to help you find a way to do those things, as well as maintain your health and fitness goals.



You can have a terrific time this season without piling on extra weight and the guilt that comes with it. These few tips

have helped me over the years, and I trust they will do the same for you.

It's All About People

I've learned that reminding myself of what's really important helps me stay focused on my health

and fitness goals, even when catching up with friends and family and attending Christmas parties. My purpose for attending these gatherings is to interact with *people*—not with *food*.

If you decide before you go to a Christmas party that your reason for attending is to celebrate Jesus, and love on people rather than eat without control, it will make all the difference! One way to do this is to pray and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to encourage others. Expect the Holy Spirit to draw you to the people who may be struggling in their lives, so you can speak words of life to them.

Proverbs 25:11 (*The Amplified Bible*) says, "A word fitly spoken and in due season is like apples of gold in settings of silver." There is nothing more satisfying than being able to bless someone. What a great gift to give during Christmas! It's true that



My purpose for attending these gatherings is to interact with *people*—not with *food*. One way to do this is to pray and ask the Lord to give you opportunities to encourage others.

“in giving you receive.”

Holiday gatherings are such a perfect time to nurture relationships. Take the time to really listen to people and interact with them; reconnect with old friends, make new friends and help them feel valued and loved. As you focus on people, you won't even notice you are not eating all that much. You'll be having too much fun to be concerned about food! And, at the end of the day, you will feel guilt free and experience the joy that comes from having self-control, and the ultimate joy that comes from loving others.

Indulgence Boundaries

I realize that part of the enjoyment of celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas is having those once-a-year family favorite foods. Rather than deny yourself completely, set boundaries. Decide what indulgences you do not want to go without. Then, have a plan in place to compensate for those extra calories. For instance, plan an extra workout the day before a big meal. If possible, take a walk in the park or around the block after a big meal is over, and invite others to join you.

Usually, I determine that Christmas Eve is my “treat” time because it is a big celebration for our family. To offset the extra calories I know I'll consume, I exercise a little harder and eat a little lighter the day before.

On Christmas Day, I do

enjoy *some* treats. But the day after Christmas, I'm committed to a long workout to compensate for the extra calories and give my metabolism the boost it needs.

Staying Active

During this busy season it's important not to slack off on being active! Find creative ways to get the exercise you need. For example: Squeeze in shorter workouts with greater intensity levels. Take the stairs instead of the elevator. Consider parking in the back lot and walk farther to your destination. Burn calories by walking faster while shopping, carrying your own packages. And, *never* go to the mall hungry! Take a healthy snack and a bottle of water with you.

So this Christmas season, let's focus on what is truly important by remembering how tremendously loved and blessed we are because of the greatest gift and blessing God gave us in Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Have a very blessed and happy Christmas! I hope you are able to fully enjoy the season with your family and friends. And, I pray you experience the peace and joy of our Lord during this special time of year. 🍷

About

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



“It's interesting how people think that what these kids need is our 'stuff,' when, in reality, the only thing they need is to be introduced to the love of God. Reaction Tour is an opportunity to reach kids at a much higher level than the world is familiar with. What seems like a simple sports camp is an avenue for lives to be changed and reborn, and hearts to be touched like never before!”

~Courtney Copeland

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Be a part of Reaction Tour today, as you pray for its success.

visit today!

In the closing scenes of the movie *Schindler's List*, Oskar Schindler is shown saying farewell to the Jews he saved from certain death during the Holocaust of World War II. He looks at his shiny, luxurious automobile and some other possessions for a moment. Then he says, "I could have done more. I should have sold this car... I could have saved 10 more. This pen, it would have been five more.... This ring, the gold in this ring, I could have gotten two...."

We're here, for you!

Through your connection with Kenneth Copeland Ministries, you are reaching the world! Your faithful support in prayer, giving of your time and finances is enabling us, together, to bring into the Kingdom another two, another 10, and in some cases even another million souls. I cannot tell you how thankful Mom and Dad, our KCM staff and I are for the faithfulness of

those around you. And what greater blessing than to share the good news of Jesus?

I think we all see that the Lord must be coming very soon. And you're probably just like me, thinking: *What can I do to help get 10 more, five more, even two more into the kingdom of God?*

Mom and Dad have that kind of urgency. It's not just about getting the Word out, but about helping every Partner do his or her part because the end is so near. They know they can't do it alone. The answer is for every Partner—every believer—to walk in the fullness of his or her calling.

Of course, that's exactly what partnership is about. It's a covenant. Covenant has always been about joining with someone to accomplish together things you could not do alone.

There are things God wants accomplished in this earth through KCM that Mom and Dad cannot do without you and me. And

there are things God wants us, as Partners, to do that we cannot do without Mom and Dad—without being Partners in the anointing and sharing the grace for ministry that is on their lives.

I believe we all desire to do our part. We desire to prosper in every area of life so others will see and desire the healing, the peace and the victory we have. We desire to grow financially so we can support the fivefold ministry in these last days. We desire to lay hands on the sick and see them recover, to minister the reality and power of God's Word to those around us every day.

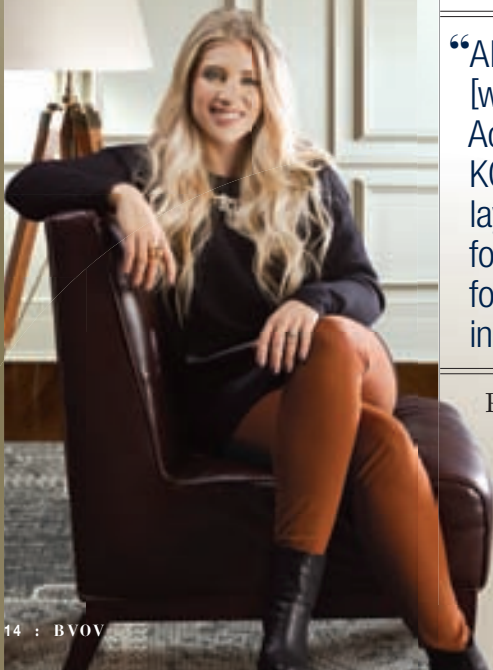
We're in a spiritual war. The time is short and we need to bring everyone into the family of God that we possibly can. To do that, each of us must do his or her part.

I encourage you to take the KCM ministry tools that have changed your life and use them to introduce as many people as possible to the message of all the rights and privileges that are theirs as believers. Give the *BVOV* magazines, ministry CDs, DVDs or books that have changed your life to someone else who needs that same encouragement. Boost the hope of a friend or neighbor by introducing him or her to the *Believer's Voice of Victory* broadcast, our meetings and our Internet site. By each of us bringing just one person into partnership with KCM in the coming year, we will be well on our way to a million strong, changing the world together as living displays of God's love. And we don't have to do this alone...we can do it together.

"All those years [with Superkid Academy and KCM] were laying the foundation for ministry in my life."

Dara Maclean Petty
Partner since 1998

Partners and Friends like you. This *BVOV* magazine is designed to be a blessing to you—to teach, train and inspire you—so you can bless



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We are now distributing **10,000** Spanish *BVOVs* every month.



I often describe this ministry the same way I describe my parents. It is a ministry built on the Word of God and faith—one that represents steadfastness, commitment and integrity. You won't find any two people more sold out to God and His call on their lives than my parents. And you won't find a ministry more determined to fulfill its commission to preach the gospel to the nations than Kenneth Copeland Ministries.

I want you to know Kenneth Copeland Ministries is here for *you*. We really care about what's going on in your life. We are here to meet your needs in every way God has equipped us. We want to help you deal with the issues you are facing, find the answers you need in God's Word, and teach you how to lead a victorious life in Christ Jesus.

You're the reason we do what we do.

Our Internet website, the television broadcasts, the meetings we hold throughout the year, the CDs, DVDs, the books—as well as our presence in the various forms

We're in a spiritual war. We want to help you deal with the issues you are facing, find the answers you need in God's Word....

of social media—are all tools designed to bring you, our Partners and Friends, to that place of maximum effectiveness in the kingdom of God. I encourage you to take advantage of these resources.

Whether you call, write, request agreement in prayer, order products or research kcm.org—we want to help meet your needs!

Your partnership has helped us go.

Now tell us how we can help you grow. ♡

God wants you to be part of something big—right where you are.

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



John Copeland is CEO of Kenneth Copeland Ministries and the son of Kenneth and Gloria Copeland. He lives in the Dallas/Fort Worth area with his wife, Marty, and their three children.

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GoodNewsGazette

“Then [the Samaritans] said to the woman, ‘Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world.’”

John 4:42, *New King James Version*

My Children Are Delivered

I first addressed you when my husband died in 2002. My son became drug addicted and my daughter had serious depression. I wrote you about it. After getting your answer I went to church. I

continued receiving directions and instructions from you, and I prayed according to them. As a result, my son is now delivered from drugs, and my daughter from depression.

G.S. | Kotovsk, Ukraine

Miraculous Recovery

Yesterday, after I have sent KCM the fax letter and asked you to pray for my mother, I got to know that my mother started talking and her body started getting stronger. My Jesus did a miracle and I want to thank God. T.R. | Sri Lanka



Debt Cancellation

My husband and I have just written a check to pay off the last of a \$61,400 credit card debt in just two years. The amazing thing is my income was just \$30,000 a year. We want to say thank you to KCM for the teachings we've received that enabled us to stand for this debt cancellation.

Clare Y. | Florida



watch the *BVOV* broadcasts on demand
bvov.tv

Debt-Free Renovation

First we want to thank you for your Partner gift of the powerful New Year's message from EMIC. Wonderful prophetic word! Our praise is that our church was given a building, over 40,000 square feet, appraised at \$1.3 million. It sat empty awhile and was vandalized; but we are so blessed to have it. We have been remodeling it as God provides and it will be awesome when it's finished! The roof units had been stolen and we were given four roof units!

Also, another church gave us a gift of \$50,000 to get us started on the reconstruction! We know God is in this and we are excited. It's taking a while to get it up and going, but we are debt free all the way. Please agree and praise God with us for the provision we *have* to finish this! Thanks and God bless!

Chris P. | Illinois

Delivered From Debt

My road to God started with KCM nine years ago. We had difficult times financially. We had debts for the flat and I was thinking about money all the time. Once I just fell on my knees and pleaded with God, "Lord, I am so tired of thinking about money. I don't want to think about it. I want to think about You instead. Help me!"

The prayer was short and simple but since that time I don't worry about money.

I started tithing to KCM. And that is when we started getting out of our debts. We got in debts when we had two salaries in our family (my husband's and mine). But we got out of the debts when I was graduating from the institute and didn't make money. God is very merciful and good. I know it for sure! Z.K. | Uzhgorod, Ukraine

Restoration!

I am currently incarcerated, and my relationship with my father has been restored after asking for prayer from KCM. A.W. | Virginia

Hungry for God

To be honest, everyone on the *BVOV* broadcast changed my life. The Word of God is communicated in such an easy way that it brings revelation knowledge. My Christian walk for many years has been a "hit and run" process. But once I heard life-changing messages from Brother Copeland and his guests, it has brought a hunger for more of God's Word. Thank you to KCM for investing into my life.

G.F. | United Kingdom

From Death to Life

Once I wrote to you with pain and sorrow about my lost son. I thank you for your support, your prayers and priceless advice. Now I want to testify—God is omnipotent! No one could help me, no doctors, no sorcerers...no one. All proclaimed death over him. But thanks to your broadcasts we went to our local church and believed in Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Now my precious son has got deliverance from tobacco, alcohol, drugs, stealing and so on.... Praise God! His life changed greatly. He is a leader of a home group, and ministers in prison. He has something to tell those guys. And he has plans for the future!

L.B. | Berdyansk, Ukraine

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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!

web kcm.org/salvation

phone **1-800-600-7395** (U.S. only)
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'Cancer Free'

I received the words "cancer free" from my oncologist on Feb. 20, 2014! I am a very happy, rejoicing believer. The messages on healing and booklets by Gloria were very encouraging and helpful. Thank you for praying for me. God bless you all. I'm really getting stronger. E.B.

by Kellie Copeland Swisher

the perfect GIFT



Christmas. It's my favorite time of the year.

It's a common sentiment, but true for me as well as for millions of others around the world. A time of year that brings people together—worshiping, laughing, cooking and spending time together.

For our family, it is a time to slow down and enjoy each other and the many blessings the Lord has poured out on us. Of course there are the more “busy” things of the Christmas season that must be done. Things like cleaning and decorating, traveling and shopping.

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

My thoughts went back to a timeless classic Christmas tale. *The Gift of the Magi* is the story of a poor, young couple who were so eager to please each other that they sold their most beloved possessions to buy a gift

for each other—she, her beautiful hair to buy him a watch fob; and he, his pocket watch to buy a comb for her lovely hair.

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

Set Aside His Position in Heaven

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

Philippians 2:6-8, *NLT*, says, “Though he was God,

he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,



he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross."

Jesus gave up His place in heaven as the Son of God—equal to God, and all the divine privileges—to come as a servant.

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

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

when we are being tested by circumstances (Hebrews 2:14-18).

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

So Here We Are...

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

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

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

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

As His people, you and I are called to be His representatives to the world. We can take up our position in the kingdom of heaven "as God's partners"—His representatives—to bless, to heal, to love people into the kingdom of God. What better gift can we give our families than to be their servants—to love and bless them and let them see Jesus in our every word and action? What better gift can we give to our heavenly Father

than to be His accurate representative in the earth—revealing Him as a loving, giving and kind Savior?

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

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

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

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

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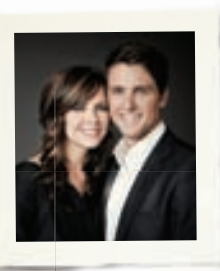
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Kellie Copeland Swisher is an outreach minister at Kenneth Copeland Ministries and developer of the Superkid Academy curriculum. Through her ministry and as "Commander Kellie," she fulfills the mission of drawing people of all ages into a personal,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

You're Worth It!



she pulled the house apart looking for it. When she finally found it, she rejoiced—not

at the recovered value, but at the signified worth of having all of these coins, of having her symbol of something far greater than a monetary value restored.

Jesus tells us the kingdom of heaven is like that.

He tells us we're worth paying the highest price imaginable—everything.

You are worth His very life. He paid the costliest price for you.

Jesus is the measure of your worth. He set your worth as the price of His own life when He paid for you by dying. And remember, the price paid determines the value.

The Image of God

So many people don't understand the worth Jesus set on their lives by the price He paid. They think poorly of themselves, of their worth. They see the field and think it's not worth it. They see the pearl, and they can't imagine why the guy paid everything for it. They see the one coin, and they don't understand why the woman would search so frantically or why she was so excited when she found it.

They don't understand the worth.

They don't understand that the treasure hidden beneath the surface made selling everything worth it to the guy who bought the field. They don't see what he saw, the deep treasure that made every penny worth spending.

Jesus is the Son of God. You probably already knew that. But what else is He? A lot. Jesus is the Word made flesh. Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy. Jesus is your teacher, preacher and healer. Jesus is your gift from God. Jesus is the measure of your wealth. Jesus is the measure of your strength. Jesus is the measure of your ability. And Jesus is the measure of your worth. Jesus is all of this and so much more.

In Matthew 13, Jesus gives some very interesting examples of what the kingdom of heaven is like. In verse 44, He likens it to a man finding treasure in a field and then selling all he has to buy the field. He also said the kingdom of God is like a pearl merchant who finds a uniquely valuable one and sells all he has to purchase it, in verses 45-46.

I find this similar to the parable in Luke 15. Jesus first talks about going to find one lost sheep, and the joy of finding it. Then He tells this story:

Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and neighbors together, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have

found the piece which I lost!" Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents (verses 8-10, *New King James Version*).

You may find it interesting to do a little study into this time and culture in the Middle East. You may also discover what the coin in that story would've meant to the woman who lost it. Young women in this area and in this era were not wealthy, generally. They would save and save, from their early teens until they got married, because they were going to wear a headdress that was very much like a wedding ring. It signified they were married. And it was made up of 10 silver coins.

In terms of value, the lost coin was worth a lot to the woman in Jesus' story. To her, it was priceless—what it signified was far greater than the dollar value. So



They don't understand that the uniquely incomparable beauty made the pearl worth it to the merchant. They don't see its priceless splendor the way he does.

They don't understand the significance the woman put on that one coin and what finding it restored to her. They don't know what all the celebrating is about.

They don't understand that their lives are worth so much more than the world tells them. They don't see the worth Jesus put on them, the great value He placed on each of us by willingly giving His life as the price of our redemption.

There is a treasure within you—the very image of God looking out from your eyes, walking around in your skin. The treasure within you was worth it to Him. There's a priceless beauty within you that He saw and recognized long before you were even born, before you took your first step or ever did anything, good or bad. Able to look into your heart, your hidden depths, He saw your buried treasure.

You are the most beautiful thing He has ever seen and ever will see. How can that be? It is because to Him, you look just like Jesus. And because of the beautiful, precious treasure that He sees when He looks at you, He declared, "You're worth it!" He paid the highest price for you and the price paid determines your value.

Jesus called your worth—the significance of a right relationship between you and your Father—worth dying for. He recognized that restoring you to God was worth the ultimate price. It was worth the stripes on His back, the nails in His hands and feet. You were worth the crown of thorns!

Jesus is the measure of your worth.

You meant something to Him far beyond monetary value. Just like the coin that meant something to that woman, He saw your worth. You represent something—the original plan. You represent unbroken fellowship with His creation, into whom He infused life with His breath. You represent the being He made to fellowship with, and He said Jesus was the measure of your worth—Jesus was the price worth paying for you.

What you've accomplished or what you've failed at isn't the measure; how pretty you started or the scars you've picked up aren't the measure. His blood is the measure of your worth.

That's who Jesus is. Jesus is the Word of God made flesh. Jesus is the prophetic Word fulfilled. Jesus is the most wonderful teacher, the most exciting preacher, the most gracious healer. Jesus is the measure of your wealth. He's the measure of your strength. He's the measure of your ability.

Jesus is the measure of your worth. ♡



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About

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.

Schedule is subject to change without notice.



the LONG JOURNEY

Fourteen-year-old *Enrique Nuñez* felt his heartbeat quicken to keep pace with the throb of the music and the quiver of violence in the air. On the north side of Fort Worth, Texas, gang members were like superstars and gang fights as addicting as heroin.



“I was just a Mexican kid who’d never been outside the boundaries of North Side of Fort Worth when I found myself speaking at some of the ritziest places I’d ever seen.”

Trinique, a young gang member

whose street name was Slick Rick, watched, enraptured, as the face-off began in the local dance hall. Standing alongside other gang members with handles like Lurch, Ram, Bibo and Eddie the Dog, Rick was sure this clash would be explosive—the carnage too awful to miss. He clenched his fists and felt blood pound in his temples as one of his heroes dropped like a falling star when a rival gang member stabbed him eight times.

High on adrenalin, Rick slipped outside and walked home, replaying the drama like a movie clip in his mind. He looked up at the night sky, knowing that his parents would rage at him for roaming the streets again. Smelling paint fumes, he glanced down and saw Fuzzy, his next door neighbor’s cousin, sniffing from an aerosol can.

Fuzzy was the coolest, baddest gang member Rick had ever met. A member of the 18th Street Gang in Los Angeles, he was in Fort Worth laying low from the law.

“Look at this,” Fuzzy said, handing Rick a copy of *Life* magazine. It featured a story on gang life, including a full photo spread. In one picture, a guy wore dark sunglasses and held a yellow speedball between his teeth. The ball held a mixture of heroin and cocaine.

Gang members who served time in prison, or had killed someone, had teardrops tattooed at the corner of their eye. Fuzzy had two teardrop tattoos. He took another hit of paint fumes and said, “Look Rick, one of these days you’re going to have to decide what you want in life.”

Intoxicated with excitement, Rick realized that he already knew. He was tired of just watching the superstars. He wanted to become one.

An Early Start

“Gangs don’t have to recruit kids,” Rick explains. “Hollywood did that for them. In 1979, the movie *Boulevard Nights*, while portraying the dangers of street violence, also glamorized the commitment to brotherhood and survival. After seeing that movie, huge numbers of kids wanted to join street gangs. They weren’t looking to get into trouble. They just wanted to be cool.

“A lot of gangs began with a noble purpose. In the 1970s and early ’80s, Fort Worth’s North Side was a mixture of different cultures that didn’t get along. So for protection, when kids went to school or to the park, they traveled in groups. Back then even fourth- and fifth-graders wanted to be in gangs. Gang leaders drove the coolest cars, wore the coolest clothes and dated the prettiest girls.

“In my neighborhood, by the age of 9 or 10, kids

were using drugs and being promiscuous. I was a late bloomer and didn’t smoke pot until I was 11. I didn’t sniff paint until I was 12 because my parents kept tabs on us. But after meeting Fuzzy, I hung out on the streets more often.

“Schools were playgrounds for gangs,” says Rick.

“We left class to go use drugs in the park. As our drug use escalated we began cutting class to rob houses to support our habits. Before long I began attending my friends’ funerals.”

One hot summer night, Slick Rick, Little Black, Ram and Bibo sold stolen goods and bought LSD to take with their beer. Rick and his friends were all 15, except Little Black, a short, dark-skinned Hispanic boy who was only 13.

They all were hallucinating when Bibo suddenly grabbed a guy by the throat. Then, they all beat the guy down, Rick said.

Rick and his fellow gang members were still drunk and high on acid a short while later, when the guy they had beat up returned. He had about 10 guys with him.

“Run!” Rick shouted.

Moments later he was stabbed in the stomach. Looking down through glazed eyes, he watched blood bubble up through his shirt.

Giving Him Back to God

A year later, at age 16, Rick was expelled from school.

“KCM has been a life support system to me. I’ve learned so much, it’s like attending faith university. They taught me that I’m not just some kid from North Side.”

“If your son shows up at any school in Fort Worth, we’ll call the police,” his parents were told.

Rick’s mother took him to talk to a nun. She prayed with him in front of a statue. But nothing changed. At her wits’ end, his mother prayed: “God, if You’re really there, do what You want with his life. I give him back to You.”

Once he had been expelled, Rick spent even more time on the streets. Now, he had graduated to using cocaine and had gotten hooked on crystal meth. He met a girl whose mother was a Christian and she invited him to church. Rick had visited many different kinds of churches over the years, he said, so he didn’t mind visiting another.

“The first thing I noticed when I got to Teaching Word Faith Center was that everyone was happy,” Rick recalls. “But the big draw for me was the music. In the past, no matter what kind of church I visited, the music was slow. This music was bouncy and *loud!* I loved it! I understood the sermon, and for the first time God seemed real to me. From then on, I led a double life. I went to church on Sundays and ran the streets with my gang the rest of the time.”

Set Free

On the Thursday night before Good Friday in 1988, the police raided a bar and caught Rick drinking beer. The beer gave them probable cause and they searched him and found residue of crystal meth. He left in handcuffs, and soon an iron jail door slammed shut behind him.

Alone, depressed and coming off a high, Rick realized that at 18 his life had come to a screeching halt. He’d been expelled from school. He couldn’t keep a job. He and his father hadn’t spoken more than five civil words in a year. Now, his parents refused to bail him out of jail.

Lying on a cot in his jail cell, Rick prayed: “God, if You’re there, give me something for my future.”

The afternoon of Good Friday, a guard called his name.

“Someone posted your bond,” he said. “You’re free to go.”

Rick looked around, confused. His bond was \$4,000.

“Who paid it?”

“I don’t know. Check with the bail bondsman. His office is down the hall.”

The office was dark, the door locked. Another officer passed by.

“The bail bondsman didn’t come in today. His office is closed for Good Friday.”

Rick asked everyone he knew if they’d posted his bail. No one had.

Touched by God

Although he continued his life on the streets, Rick started having vivid dreams. In one dream, he saw himself killing a man during a robbery. Rick also saw himself kneeling before Jesus and hearing Him say, “Don’t be afraid of Me. I didn’t come to scare you. I love you.”

In another dream, Rick heard his father speaking perfect English, although he only spoke Spanish. In the dream, Rick’s father said to him: “Your heavenly Father loves you. Look to Him.”

When he went to church the next Sunday, the pastor taught on Daniel and Nebuchadnezzar’s dreams. That day, Rick rushed to answer the altar call.

“I thought my friends would make fun of me for being born again,” Rick admits. “I told them, ‘You are my friends, my brothers, and I love you. But I need to follow God.’ They were cool with it. One of them asked jokingly, ‘Hey, Pastor Rick, do you want a beer or do rabbis not drink?’ Believe it or not, that was the extent of my persecution.

“By then, a lot of my friends were getting arrested and going to prison. I would have gone too, except they covered for me. I heard that someone was getting paid to earn his GED and I went to sign up. They asked if I wanted a GED or a diploma. I didn’t know a diploma was even an option so I chose it.”

Rick was given an entrance exam, and the results of his testing stunned

DECEMBER

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

everyone. "You scored at a college level!" he was told.

The lure of the street life pulled at him, but now Rick had no time for it. He attended summer school during the day and night school in the evening. By the time he did his homework he had no time to party. He started back to school in early 1990, and by the spring of 1991, he had earned his diploma.

A Future and a Hope

A local radio station hosted a college scholarship program. When Rick heard he could enter simply by writing an essay on why Hispanics need higher education, he thought, *What could it hurt?* He wrote an essay...and won the scholarship. Then, he was asked to speak at a luncheon at upscale Las Colinas in Dallas.

"I was just a Mexican kid who'd never been outside the boundaries of North Side of Fort Worth when I found myself speaking at some of the ritziest places I'd ever seen," Rick remembers. "I stood there looking around and wondering how I'd gotten there. Then the Lord said, *Remember when you asked for your future? This is it.*"

Rick attended Tarrant County College and earned an associate degree in criminal justice. In 1994, he married his pastor's niece, Rosalinda. Rick's parents let them move into one of their rental properties, which the young couple fixed up.

One evening, Rick's friend Ram and some of the gang members dropped by to visit. They were drinking beer.

"Come inside," Rick invited. "Let me show you around."

"We would never disrespect you by taking beer into your house!" Ram said. They left their beer outside and Rick took them inside and showed them all the improvements he'd made to the house.

"This is what God does in your heart," he told them.

An Open Door

In 1995, Rick went to work in the Partner Services department at Kenneth Copeland Ministries. He had

learned about the ministry through his pastor, who was a KCM Partner and taught on faith. A year later, he was transferred to the Prayer department where he worked as a Spanish proofreader. Soon afterward, Rick became a full-time prayer minister in the prayer department where, for a number of years, he ministered to children and teens through letters, emails and phone calls.

Since that time, the Lord has opened several doors for Rick to minister the gospel.

In 1999, a pastor from Ohio flew Rick and Rosalinda to South America where Rick translated for him. While there, Rick spoke at three churches and traveled to Brazil where he stood in front of breathtaking waterfalls.

"Lord, I'm just a Mexican kid from North Side," Rick remembers telling God. "How did I get here?"

Remember when you asked for a future? This is it.

Back home, one of Rick's friends from the gang was getting married and asked Rick to perform the ceremony. Afterward, the friend met Rick in the hotel lobby.

"Ricky, I've done some really bad things in my life."

"I know."

"Can I be forgiven and go to heaven?"

"Absolutely."

"Then I want to get saved. And I want you to baptize me."

After that friend's conversion, another friend asked Rick to lead him to the Lord.

Back in the Park

"We started having rallies in the park with music and snow cones, free food and free prize giveaways" Rick recalls. "We offered resources for a variety of things like how to get your GED. When I gave the altar call I said, 'There's hope for you just like there was hope for me.' Over the past seven years, we've had more than 1,000 salvations. I'm more of a leader now than I was back then."

Eddie the Dog

said, "Ricky, I don't believe in God, but please take my daughter to church with you. I'm so proud of you. You're the only one of my friends who made it."

Before his death, Eddie the Dog accepted the Lord and made peace with God. Angels sang and all of heaven rejoiced.

"KCM has been a life support system to me," Rick says. "I've learned so much, it's like attending faith university. They taught me that I'm not just some kid from North Side. I'm a joint heir with Christ."

Today, Rick and Rosalinda Nuñez have one son, Marc Anthony, who is 10. Rick, the boy from North Side, now ministers to KCM's Partners and Friends who call for prayer. He has traveled all over the country with KCM, and at times has assisted with Spanish translation. But the longest journey he has ever taken was the journey of faith. During that journey, he has never expressed anything except unconditional love to his friends from the gang. And that's what they've always offered him.

In addition to working at KCM, for several years he also worked in the evenings with a gang intervention program in Fort Worth. Assigned to the neighborhood he grew up in, he worked in the youth development program where he taught life-skills and GED classes, organized various athletic tournaments, took the young people on field trips, did one-on-one counseling and prayed with them.

The movie *Boulevard Nights* got one thing right, says Rick. What was portrayed in the movie that drew hundreds of kids was a chance at love, friendship, camaraderie and loyalty. In Christ, Rick Nuñez not only found those things; he got what no gang could ever offer... forgiveness, deliverance, joy and eternal life. 🍷



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Rich

IS NOT A DIRTY WORD

Ever since the Garden of Eden, the devil has been trying to steal God's Word from people. And over the past few generations there's one word in particular he's endeavored to take away from the Church.

It's the word *rich*.



The devil has done his best to convince believers that word belongs to him. He's told so many lies about it and given it such a negative connotation, many Christians today would be as uncomfortable saying, "I'm rich," as they would be to curse. The devil has actually deceived them into believing that *rich* is a dirty word.

In reality, it's the exact opposite.

Rich is a Bible word. It's a blessing word. It's God's word.

That's right. God is the One who first came up with the idea of financial riches. He's been making His people rich ever since time began.

It must have been God who told Adam and Eve, for instance, about the gold in the Garden. If it hadn't been for Him, they might not have even realized it was precious. They might not have known it was valuable.

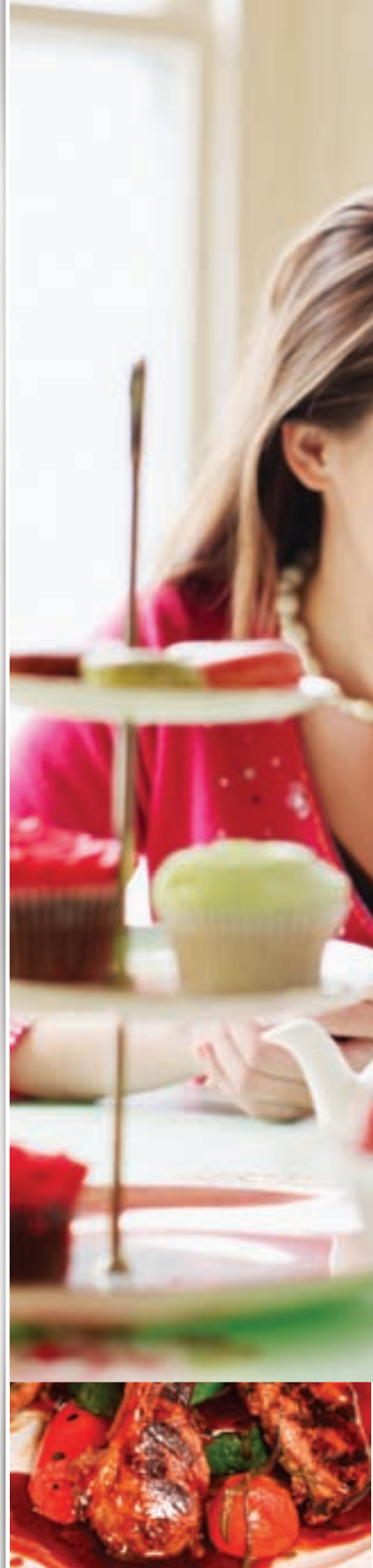
Even after Adam and Eve sinned, and opened the door for the curse to come on the earth, God still kept finding ways to make His people rich. He made covenants

with them and promised if they'd only obey Him, He'd protect them from the curse and BLESS them.

To make sure we understand material wealth is included in that BLESSING, God later spelled it out in the Bible. He said: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it" (Proverbs 10:22).

Clearly, God wouldn't have said that if rich were a dirty word. If He were opposed to riches, He wouldn't have made Abram "very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold" (Genesis 13:2). He wouldn't have BLESSED Isaac with "more and more until he became very wealthy and distinguished" (Genesis 26:13, *The Amplified Bible*). He wouldn't have increased Jacob so much that he "became exceedingly rich, and had many sheep and goats, and had many sheep and goats, and maidservants, menservants, camels, and donkeys" (Genesis 30:43, *AMP*).

If being rich was something harmful or to be ashamed of, God most certainly wouldn't have done what He did for Solomon.





Even after Adam and Eve sinned, and opened the door for the curse to come on the earth, God still kept finding ways to make His people rich.



Have you ever read what happened to him? After he became the king of Israel, God appeared to him one night and said, "Ask what I shall give thee."

And Solomon said unto God, Thou hast showed great mercy unto David my father, and hast made me to reign in his stead.... Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great? And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart...wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have

had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like (2 Chronicles 1:7-12).

This is the only safe way to be rich: wisdom and knowledge first, then riches.

Overwhelmed by God's Goodness

Notice, God *volunteered* to make Solomon rich. Solomon didn't ask Him to do it. He just asked for wisdom and knowledge, which was a smart thing to do because, according to the Bible, godly wisdom is the principal or most important thing in

life. It's what opens the door to things like honor, long life and riches.

Since wisdom and riches are connected, if God considered it a bad thing for His people to be rich, His response to Solomon's prayer would have been very different. He would have said, "I am not going to give you wisdom and knowledge because then you'd end up wealthy. Instead I'm going to leave you ignorant. I'm going to make you the poorest of the poor. I'm going to bless you so much you'll be the brokest king anyone has ever seen."

But, of course, that's not how the conversation went. On the contrary, God told Solomon that He would

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not only give him wisdom and knowledge, He would make him wealthier than any king ever had been or ever would be.

From that moment on, there was an anointing on Solomon to prosper. He kept getting richer and richer because of the word the Lord had spoken over him. According to the Bible, the gold that came to him in one year was “six hundred and threescore and six talents” (2 Chronicles 9:13).

I once asked Kenneth to figure up on his calculator how much that would be in the current economy. At the time (which was about 15 years ago) gold was \$300 an ounce, so 636 talents equaled about \$150 million. Right now, I think gold is selling for about four times that amount. So today Solomon’s yearly income would total about \$600 million!

I think God did very well keeping His word to Solomon, don’t you? Most of us could probably get by just fine on that kind of income. Even ministries that are spending a fortune preaching the gospel and ministering to people all over the world could get by on half a billion dollars a year!

“But Gloria,” you might say, “I’m not sure being that rich is a good testimony to others. I’m not sure it glorifies God.”

It certainly did in Solomon’s case. Consider the effect it had on the Queen of Sheba, for instance. When she heard what God had done for Solomon, she was so impressed she came to see it for herself. He shared his wisdom with her and gave her a tour of his palace. When she saw “the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and his ascent by which he went up into the house of the Lord; there was no more spirit in her” (verse 4).

In other words, the Queen of Sheba was so overwhelmed by the manifestation of God’s goodness in Solomon’s life, she fainted!

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if we as God’s people had that effect on unbelievers today? Wouldn’t it

be great if they were absolutely overwhelmed by the BLESSING of God they see on our lives? Imagine having to say to people when we invite them to our house, “I have to warn you, God has been very good to me. My house is a really magnificent place. So when you see it, don’t faint!”

Granted, that would aggravate the religious hypocrites, but the people who are really honest and spiritually hungry would respond the same way the Queen of Sheba did: She gave glory to God! “She said to the king, It was a true report which I heard in mine own land of thine acts, and of thy wisdom: Howbeit I believed not their words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the one half of the greatness of thy wisdom was not told me: for thou exceedest the fame that I heard. Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy

servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the Lord thy God, which delighted in thee to set thee on his throne, to be king...” (verses 5-8). The Queen of Sheba praised the Lord.

This was true in Solomon’s day and it’s true in ours: God wants all of us as His people to be living billboards on the earth that reveal His goodness and power. He wants those who don’t know Him to look at us and say, “I need to find out more about the God those Christians serve. He’s generous and loving and kind. His people are really BLESSED!”

The Safeguard on the Storehouse

If the wealth God gave Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Solomon isn’t proof enough for you that rich isn’t a dirty word, there are plenty of other Bible

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verses that confirm it. Consider these, for example:

Proverbs 10:4: "He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich." (If God didn't want us to be rich, He wouldn't encourage us to be diligent. He'd tell us just to go ahead and be lazy.)

Ecclesiastes 5:19: "Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God." (Obviously, if riches were of the devil they couldn't be called the gift of God!)

Psalm 104:24: "O Lord, how manifold are thy works! In wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches." (Who do you suppose the Lord had in mind when He put His riches in the earth? Certainly not the devil and his crowd. God put His riches in the earth for His own sons and daughters, for born-again believers like us!)

"Well, if all this is true then why aren't more of God's people getting rich?" you might ask. "Why are so many struggling financially?"

In some instances it's because they haven't heard and believed God's Word about prosperity. But in many cases it's because they haven't qualified for it.

To qualify for godly riches we must put God and His kingdom first place in our lives. We must make attending to His Word and doing what He says our No. 1 priority. We must stay connected to Him and dedicate our lives to Him.

We can't just live like the world and then expect God to prosper us anyway. It won't work. The only way to gain access to the wealth He has "laid up" for us (Psalm 31:19) is through faith and obedience.

This is the safeguard on God's storehouse. It's what protects us. If we have our hearts set on Him and

Enjoy your prosperity

and enjoy giving millions of dollars toward the work of God's kingdom.

we're living like He tells us to, we'll know how to handle godly wealth when it comes. We won't be doing drugs with it. We won't use it to pursue immoral activities and harm ourselves with it. We'll use it to do good and serve the Lord.

God is so good and generous, He's searching all the time for people who qualify to receive His riches. As 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, "The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him." The *James Moffatt Translation* puts it this way: "The Eternal's eyes dart here and there over the whole world, as he exerts his power on behalf of those who are devoted to him."

The word *devoted* means "faithful, loyal or consecrated." It speaks of someone who loves God with his whole heart and keeps His Word. If that's you, then God is looking for you; and He always finds the one He's looking for. He doesn't miss anyone. You could be in the deepest part of the jungle, and if you have faith in what God said about your prosperity and you've put Him first in your life and obey Him, He will not miss you. He'll find you and make you rich.

This is good news, isn't it? And you can get in on it if you want!

But you can't fake your way through it. You can't just join up with a good church that preaches prosperity, keep living a carnal, disobedient life, and think God's riches are going to fall on you supernaturally. It won't happen.

God looks at the heart. He sees

our thoughts and our affections, and He's saying to us, as believers today, essentially the same thing He said through Moses to the Israelites in the Old Testament: "What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the Lord, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?" (Deuteronomy 10:12-13).

When you have that kind of wholehearted devotion toward God, you want to do more than just go to heaven when you die. You want to be a good witness for the Lord right here on earth. You want to live in victory and BLESSING, and do everything you can to spread the word about Jesus.

That's why you need to prosper! It's not just about you and your family and your needs. It's about advancing the kingdom of God. It's about being a billboard of His goodness and having plenty of resources to do whatever He says needs to be done.

God has preachers and missionaries He wants to send out. He has nations and people He wants to reach with the gospel. He has churches that need to be supported, and buildings that need to be built.

It's going to take a lot of money to do in the kingdom of God what we have to do between now and the time Jesus returns!

So throw aside the traditions of men that have made you feel badly about believing in prosperity. Forget what the religious crowd is saying about you. Who cares what they think? Just go ahead and believe God.

Take Him at His Word, receive the wealth He has laid up for you, and laugh all the way to the bank. Enjoy your prosperity and enjoy giving millions of dollars toward the work of God's kingdom.

Sure, it will make the devil mad because he wants the money. But it doesn't belong to him. It belongs to God and He wants us, as His sons and daughters, to have it. He wants us to know that rich is *not* a dirty word. ❶

points to get you there

the riches of God

The devil has convinced great numbers of believers that the material riches on earth belong to him. He's given financial wealth such a negative connotation that many Christians today actually believe that *rich* is a dirty word. But rich is a Bible word. It's a blessing word. It's God's word. So go ahead and receive the wealth God has laid up for you. Here are a few points to get you there:

1

Ever since the days of Abraham, God has prospered His covenant people.

Genesis 13:2: "...Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold."

2

Material wealth has always been a part of God's BLESSING.

Proverbs 10:22: "The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

3

God was the One who made Solomon the richest man of all time.

2 Chronicles 1:12: "...I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like."

4

Love for God and wholehearted obedience to His Word is what qualifies us to receive His riches.

Deuteronomy 10:12: "What doth the Lord thy God require of thee, but to fear the Lord thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul."

5

If you believe God and put Him first in your life, He will find you and prosper you.

2 Chronicles 16:9: "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him."



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